



International Association of Wildland Fire

www.iawfonline.org

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Position Paper: Climate Change

The International Association of Wildland Fire Board of Directors, in recognition of recent assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), considers the potential impacts of climate change on wildland fire to be a significant scientific and management focus for the 21st century. We anticipate that many key issues of importance to the IAWF – including firefighter and civilian safety, fire management expenses, the wildland urban interface, and our core understanding of fire science and management -- will require greater understanding and recognition of the role of climate change in the years ahead.

As with all wildland fire issues, the IAWF will continue to provide its members with developing information concerning climate change and its impacts and address the challenges ahead by:

- Continuing to publish the highly respected International Journal of Wildland Fire and other educational materials,
- Sponsoring and organizing science, policy, and educational conferences that provide networking opportunities and forums for member interaction,
- Serving as a resource for informed science and policy concerning climate change impacts on wildland fire to our worldwide membership, educational and professional organizations, decision makers, and the public,
- Promoting research and development on climate related impacts on wildland fire and wildland fire impacts on climate as a worthwhile investment of public funds,
- Assuring a continuing high level of scientific integrity in our publications and academic meetings for knowledge and policy decisions,
- Improving media access to subject matter experts to promote informed public understanding of wildland fire issues, and
- Fostering interactions with other disciplines where these are needed to address vital questions in our field.

Members are encouraged to enter suggestions for how they would like their professional society, IAWF, to be involved in climate change issues in our newly established Climate & Fire Bulletin Board. The shortened version of the web address is:

<http://tinyurl.com/2dyegu>