

Fire Ecology Section

Introductory Remarks: Communication between Ecologists and Managers

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AN atmosphere of acceptance of fire management in public and private sectors pervades the atmosphere of this conference. Ten years ago at Tall Timbers Conferences this was not the case. This change is the result of effective two-way communication between managers and ecologists. Let me urge all managers to keep an open and enquiring mind towards what is new now in ecological research no matter how weird and useless it now seems. Something useful may be communicated in time. Communication between ecologists and managers always has been complicated. The list of pioneer U.S. fire ecologists reads like a who's who of plant ecology, Clements, Cowles, Hall, Ramaley, Cooper, etc. Their antecedents were and are doing a much better job of exchanging information with managers, e.g., Stoddard, Weaver, Curtiss, Biswell, Leopold, Stewart, Vogl, Sweeney, Komarek, Whittaker, Humphrey, to name but a few.

Today that communication about fire between ecologists and managers is a two way freeway. There is one forum that has been more important than any other in opening communication channels. That forum is Ed and Betty Komarek's Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Conferences and the uncensored proceedings so ably edited by Roy Komarek.