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**Type of Project (Partners or Cooperative): Cooperative**

**Project Title: 2007 EastFIRE Conference**

**UCAR Award No.: S07-66805**

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**Section 1: Summary of Project Objectives**

The 2007 EastFIRE Conference was held, as planned, June 5 - 8 on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. The theme of the Conference was consideration of the manifold consequences for fire management of anticipated 21st Century climate and demographic changes. The purpose of the 2007 EastFIRE Conference was to enable participants (in person and virtual) to share current knowledge for an inclusive array of studies and to reflect on future directions in consideration of the Conference theme.

**Section 2: Project Accomplishments and Findings**

138 Registered attendees had available 116 Presentations that were scheduled over 26 Plenary, Concurrent, and Poster sessions. In addition we highlighted information exchange about the 2007 eastern wildfire season in two special sessions. The Conference concluded with four Panels that synthesized information gained at the Conference and described future directions for fire management and research in view of climate and demographic change. Fire management clearly faces very difficult challenges associated with the twinned drivers of climate and demographic change. The eastern United States with over 70% of the U.S. population, over 50% of U.S. forests, a preponderance of Wildland Urban Interface lands, and consequential climate change impacts, will clearly experience a significant share of those fire management challenges.

**Section 3: Benefits and Lessons Learned: Operational Partner Perspective**

A number of NWS staff involved in fire weather operations and operationally-based research presented the special "NOAA Fire Weather" section and attended portions of the remainder of the Conference. The questions asked and suggestions made by attendees provided valuable feedback on user requirements which will be integrated into NOAA's project planning. For example, feedback on the need for additional probabilistic forecast products linked to critical fire weather variables validated current work already underway within NOAA.

**Section 4: Benefits and Lessons Learned: University Partner Perspective**

George Mason University reinforced its understanding of active cooperation with Federal technical

and scientific organizations by the joint planning and execution of the Conference. It is extremely beneficial to the University to have its faculty and students exposed to the operations and needs of our Federal partners. Our Graduate students gained a much improved perspective of relevant research activities they could potentially pursue.

#### **Section 5: Publications and Presentations**

Long term information delivery includes the Conference website (<http://eastfire.gmu.edu/efc07/>) which makes available the large volume of information available from the Conference; submittal of selected papers from Conference presenters to the International Journal of Wildland Fire Research (IJWF) and Journal of Applied Remote Sensing (JAR); placement of .pdf versions of Power Point presentations delivered at the Conference on the 2007 EastFIRE Conference website; placing video summaries of Plenary presentation and Panel discussions on the Conference website; and continuing to add information about the 2007 eastern fires.

#### **Section 6: Summary of University/Operational Partner Interactions and Roles**

The 2007 EastFIRE Conference was jointly conceived, planned and executed by the University and Federal partners. The NWS Fire Weather Program, in particular, had membership on the Conference Steering and Advisory Committees, thus having full input into the Conference. In addition, NWS Fire Weather organized a special session at the Conference that better informed the eastern U.S. fire management community about the NWS program. From a University perspective, our students gained a much greater appreciation of the applicability of their research to the needs of the Nation.