

2024 Rocky Mountain Wildfire Smoke Symposium

Adapting to a future with fire: enhancing wildfire resilience in the Mountain West through community, state, and regional partnerships

Thursday and Friday, October 17-18, 2024

University Center Ballroom, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana

Thursday, October 17

- 8:00 – 8:30am Breakfast and opening remarks
- 8:30 – 9:10am Keynote address: Steve Running, University of Montana
- 9:10 – 10:30am **Session 1: Wildfires and their impact on health**
Moderator and speaker: Chris Migliaccio, University of Montana
Ava Orr, University of Montana
Jennifer Robohm, University of Montana
Emily Coyle, University of Montana
- 10:30 – 10:45am Break
- 10:45 – 11:30am **Session 2: Student Lightning Talk presentations**
- 11:30am – 5:00pm **Session 3: Community strategies for mitigating wildfire smoke exposure**
- 11:30am – 12:30pm *Session 3A: Recipients of EPA award on wildfire smoke preparedness in community buildings*
Moderator and speaker: BJ Biskupiak, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
Kristen Good, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Johna Boulafentis, Nez Perce Tribe Air Quality Program
- 12:30 – 1:30pm Lunch, with student Table Talks
- 1:30 – 2:50pm *Session 3B: Recommendations on exposure reduction in various community settings*
Moderator: Ethan Walker, University of Montana
Taylor Stewart and Jennifer Faiella, University of Montana
Luke Montrose, Colorado State University
Marcy Ballman, American Lung Association
Brandon McGuire, Colorado State University
- 2:50 – 3:05pm Break
- 3:05 – 4:25pm *Session 3C: Monitoring wildfire exposure in the community*
Moderator: Ethan Walker, University of Montana
Hoby Rash, Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Savannah D'Evelyn, University of Washington
Manuela López, Centro de Investigación en Ecosistemas de la Patagonia
Adrian Dybwad, Founder and CEO of PurpleAir
- 4:25 – 5:00pm **Panel discussion facilitated by Sarah Coefield, Missoula Public Health**
Panelists: Adrian Dybwad, PurpleAir
Johna Boulafentis, Nez Perce Tribe Air Quality Program
Kelly Dorsi, Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Luke Montrose, Colorado State University
Marcy Ballman, American Lung Association
- 5:00 – 7:00pm Happy hour and appetizers at University Center Ballroom
- Evening Disperse for dinner separately

Friday, October 18

8:00 – 8:30am

Breakfast and opening remarks

8:30 – 10:30am

Session 4: Adaptation strategies to promote public health while living with more fire

Moderator and speaker: Phil Higuera, University of Montana

Carl Seielstad, University of Montana

Kimberley Davis, Rocky Mountain Research Station

Jamie Peeler, University of Montana

10:30 – 10:45am

Break

10:45am – 12:00pm

Session 5: Bringing it all together

Panel discussion facilitated by Savannah D'Evelyn, University of Washington, on creating a more unified message and collaborating across disciplines to better prepare for a future with more fire.

Panelists: Erin McTigue, EPA

Fernando Sanchez, University of Montana

Paul Smith, University of Montana

Shawn Faiella, Lolo Interagency Hotshot Crew Superintendent

12:00 – 1:00pm

Lunch with closing remarks

Post symposium

Forum for initial 2025 meeting planning (closed meeting)

Organized hike up the "M" trail

Tour of [Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory](#)