

**Fire Interdisciplinary Research in Ecosystem Services: fire and climate change in  
UK moorlands and heaths (FIRES)**

**Seminar 4**

**Economic impacts of wildfires, wildfire policy and the  
use of adaptive land management to reduce wildfire  
risk and impact**

**13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

**Losehill Hall,  
Peak District National Park**

**Format**

In this final seminar in the FIRES series we will look at the economic impacts of wildfire, wildfire policy and adaptive land management to mitigate wildfire risk / impact. On day one there will be a series of talks that provide an overview of the costs of UK wildfires on ecological services, local economies plus the costs to suppress wildfires and restore wildfire sites. These presentations will be followed by discussion and questions to a distinguished policy panel. The aim of day is to provide comprehensive information of the 'costs' of wildfires to policy makers and hopefully initiate discussion on the importance of wildfires and potential policy reforms that address wildfire risk reduction and fire-fighting policy and resourcing. On day two we will turn our attention to adaptive land management. After an introduction to this management approach we will hold workshops in which we will address carefully selected current and aspirational policy and management scenarios to identify the data needs and changes in policy and working relationships and practices. At the end of day two, in the final plenary session of the seminar series, we will reflect on the seminar series, review what has taken place and discuss future directions for fire and climate change research on UK moorlands and heaths.

**Outputs**

With the permission of speakers, material presented on the day will be published on the website.

Rapporteurs are asked to produce a short report of their session for publication on the website.

**Sponsored by**



# Day 1 Programme – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009

## *Economic impacts of wildfires and wildfire policy*

**Chair:** Sean Prendergast, *Peak District National Park Authority*

11:00-11:45 *Registration*

11:45-12:00 **Summary of FIRES seminar series and introduction to seminar 4**  
Julia McMorrow, *University of Manchester*

### **Session 1** **Fighting UK wildfires**

12:00-12:20 **Wildfire risk and data**  
Cath Reynolds, *Department for Communities and Local Government*

12:20-12:40 **Fighting UK wildfires**  
Andy Elliott, *Dorset County Council*

12:40-13:00 **The role of the helicopter in moorland wildfire fighting**  
Chris Ruddy, *Pennine Helicopters*

13:00-14:15 *Lunch and poster session*

### **Session 2** **Economic impact of wildfires**

14:15-14:30 **Introduction to session and the Bleaklow 2003 fire case study**  
Sean Prendergast, *Peak District National Park Authority*

14:30-14:45 **Costs of suppressing wildfires**  
Jonathan Ayles, *University of Manchester*

14:45-15:00 **Economic impacts on local economy**  
Claire Quinn, *University of Leeds*

15:00-15:15 **Costs of restoring wildfire sites**  
Jonathan Walker, *Moors for the Future Partnership*

15:15-15:45 **Sum up and discussion of Bleaklow fire costs**

15:45-16:00 **The economic value of Ecosystem Services**  
Mette Termansen, *University of Leeds*

16:00-16:30 *Tea, coffee*

### **Session 3** **Policy Panel and discussion**

16:30-18:00 **Policy panel**

Mark Jones, Chair, *English Wildfire Forum*  
Trevor Johnson, Chair, *Scottish Wildfire Forum*  
Cath Reynolds, Senior Civil servant, *Department for Communities and Local Government*  
Malcolm Hay, Chairman, *The Heather Trust*  
Richard Campen, Director of Operations, *Peak District National Park Authority*  
Jon Stewart, Team Leader, National Upland SSSI Project, *Natural England*

18:30-19:45 *Dinner*

19:45-20:30 **Informal evening session**

20:30 *Close*

## Day 2 Programme – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May

### Discussion Seminar - By invitation

#### *Adaptive land management to reduce wildfire risk and impact*

09:15-09:30	<b>Introduction to the day</b>
09:30-10:30	<b>Adaptive land management and managing fire risk and impact</b> <i>Alistair Hamilton, Scottish Agricultural College</i>
10:15-11:15	<b>Workshop introduction</b> <i>Aletta Bonn, Moors for the Future Partnership</i>
11:15-11:45	<i>Tea and coffee</i>
11:45-13:00	<b>Workshop sessions</b>
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00-15:00	<b>Feedback from workshops and discussion</b>
15:00-15:30	<i>Tea and coffee</i>
15:30-16:30	<b>Plenary session and farewell</b>
16:30	<i>Close</i>
[16:30-17:30	<b>Steering Committee meeting]</b>