



## Fire Congress Evaluation

### Who Attended the Congress?

- 517 attendees
- 65 field trip participants
- 33 Rx310 participants
- 90 students, 47 of whom were student volunteers
- 9 retirees
- 36 registrants from outside of US from 13 countries
- 106 registrants from Florida (21% of all participants)
- Most attendees were affiliated with a university/academic (42%) or federal agency (27%). Most represented federal agencies: US Forest Service (68), National Park Service (28), Bureau of Land Management (13), and US Geological Survey (11).

## Survey Summary

### Who Responded?

- 150 respondents; 29% response rate
- 59% of respondents were presenters at the conference
- Most respondents affiliated with university/academic (42%) or federal agency (28%).
- Most respondents identified as manager/practitioner (37%) researcher/scientist (34%), or student (14%).
- 66% of respondents are current or past AFE members.

How many Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) events have you attended in the past?	Percentage of Respondents
None, this was my first AFE event	40.3%
1-2 events	25.0%
3-5 events	22.9%
6 or more events	11.8%

### Conference Satisfaction and Feedback

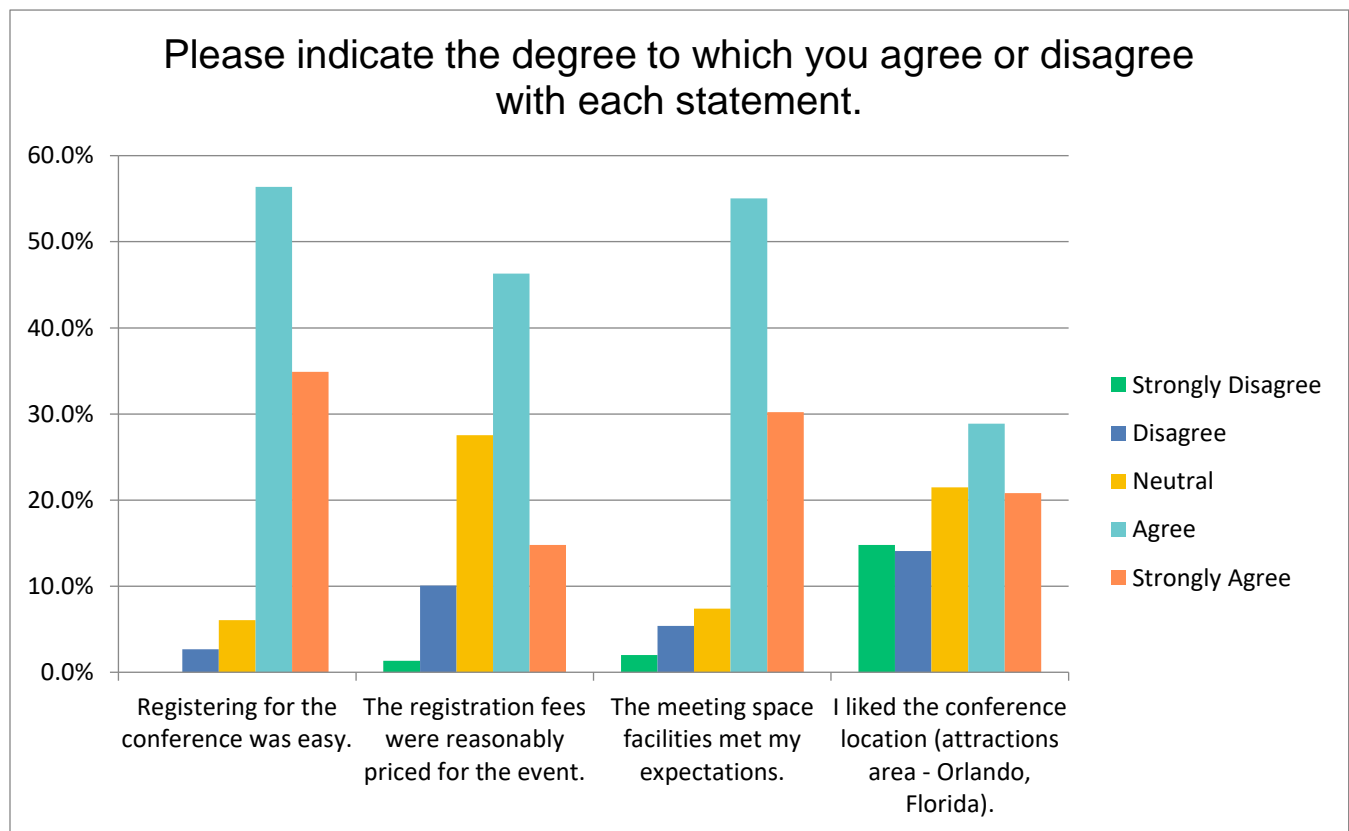
- On a scale from 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent), respondents gave the conference an average rating of 4.6.
- Respondents would recommend attendance at a future AFE conference to a colleague, with an average score of 8.7 on a scale of 1 (not at all likely) to 10 (very likely).
- Things respondents liked best about the fire congress (top 3 themes from open-ended comments): fire AFEx talks, networking, and field trips.
- Things respondents liked least about the fire congress (top 3 themes from open-ended comments): location, not enough time / too many presentations, awards luncheon too noisy to hear speakers.

- Respondents rated movie night, fire AFEx talks, and field trips the highest. The awards luncheon and membership meeting received the lowest ratings.

Rating of Specific Conference Elements	Average Rating (1 = Very poor; 5 = Excellent)
Movie Night: Hollywood in Flames	4.73
Fire AFEx Talks	4.56
Field Trips	4.51
Welcome Reception and Poster Session	4.49
Special/Concurrent Sessions	4.47
Opening Plenary Session	4.46
Closing Plenary Session	4.41
Workshops or Trainings	4.32
Fire Circles	4.13
Exhibit Hall	4.01
Awards Luncheon	3.77
AFE Membership Meeting	3.56

**Main themes from open-ended comments:**

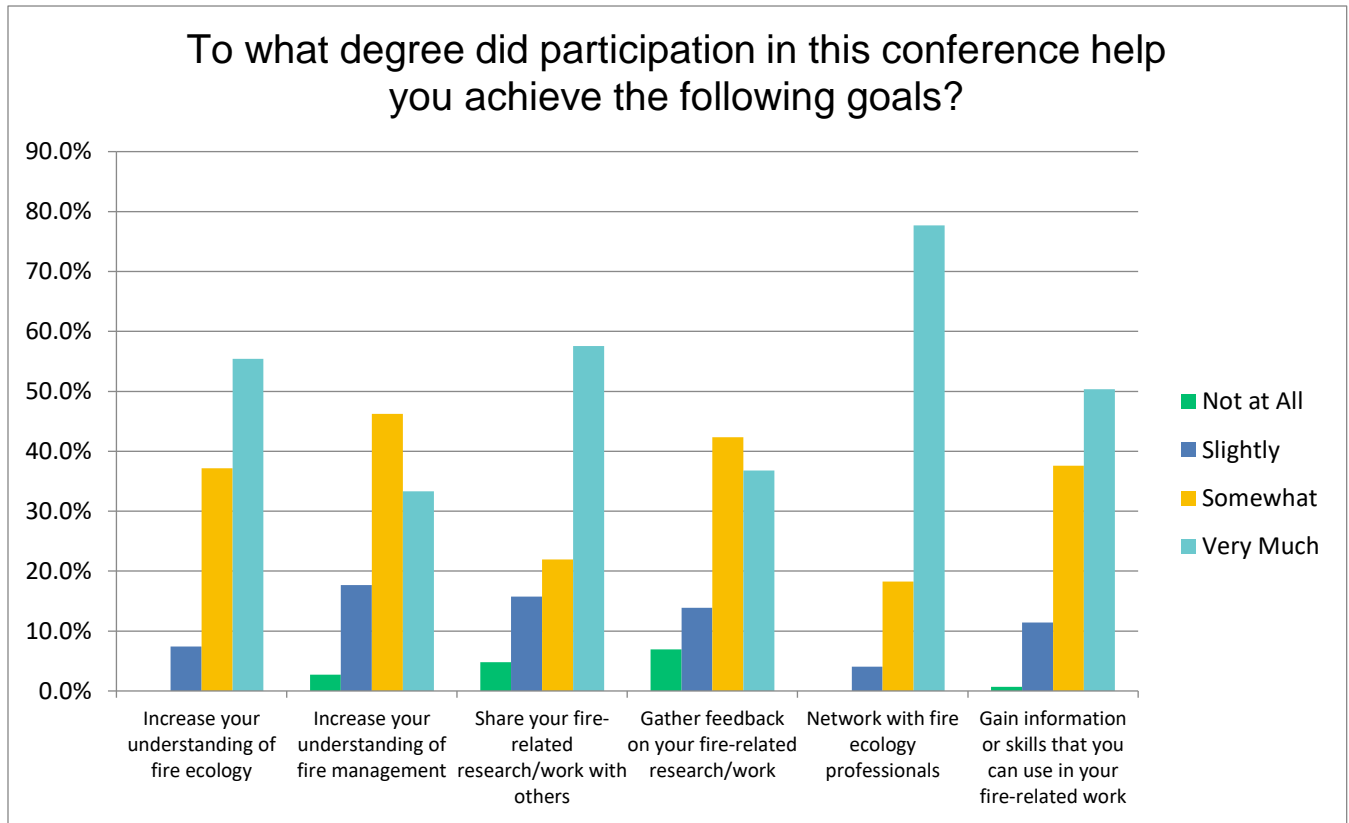
- Many positive comments about the event (e.g., great, fantastic, engaging, good content). Respondents liked the FireAFEx talks.
- Most frequent complaint was that the awards luncheon was too loud and that the schedule was too packed (too many concurrent sessions, along with competing choices for workshops and fire circles).



**Main themes from open-ended comments**

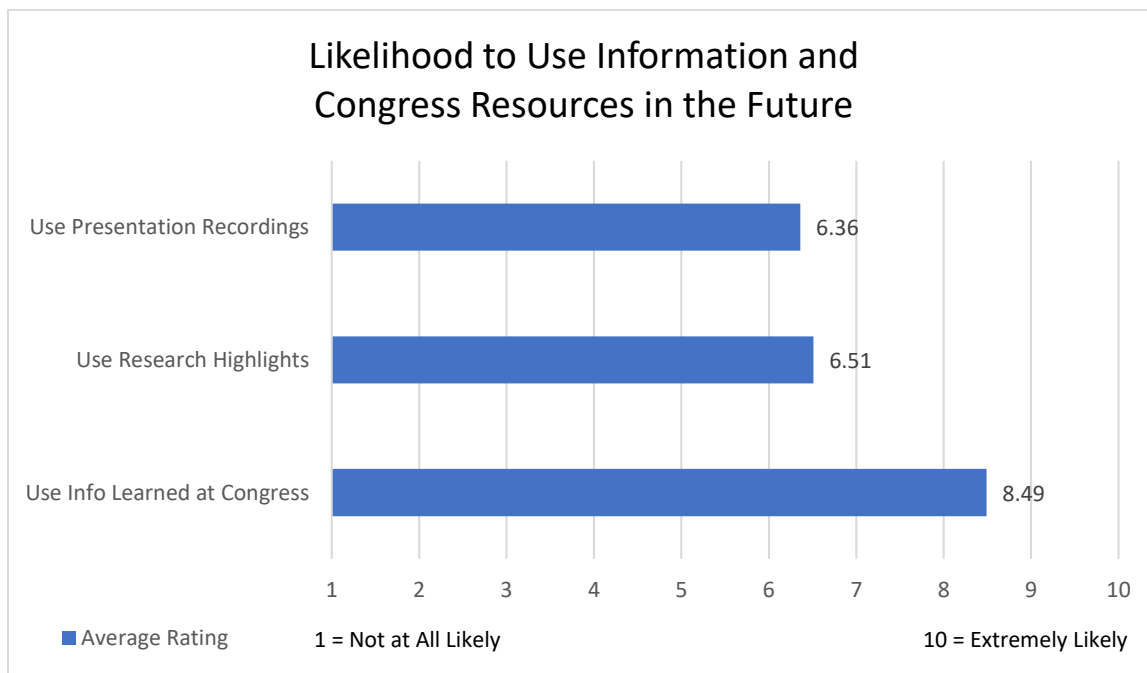
- The location was too expensive, touristy, not walkable, and there was no free wifi.
- The conference meeting space was nice, with rooms close together for moving between sessions.
- Registration was too expensive.

## Conference Outcomes



## Future Use of Information

Respondents reported being very likely to use the information provided at the Fire Congress in future fire-related work, and likely to use or view the videos of presentations and research highlights.



## Future Congress Recommendations

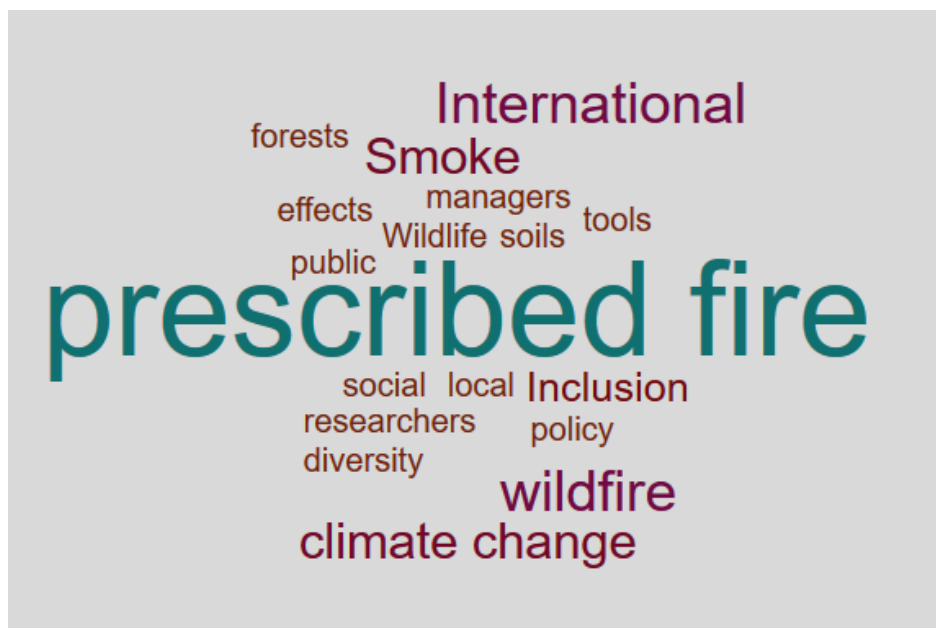
Do you think we should offer the following types of sessions at the 2019 Fire Congress in Tucson, Arizona?	Yes, definitely	Yes, with changes to timing or format	No
Poster Session	95%	4%	1%
Field Trips	92%	6%	2%
Special/Concurrent Sessions (oral presentations)	88%	12%	1%
Workshops, Trainings, Courses	84%	13%	3%
Opening and Closing Plenaries	84%	14%	2%
Fire AFEx Talks	83%	8%	8%
Attached Meetings	81%	11%	8%
Fire Circles (roundtable discussions)	69%	21%	10%

### Main themes from open-ended comments

- Have fewer concurrent sessions, and fewer or shorter plenary sessions.
- Don't have workshops or fire circles at same time as concurrent sessions.
- Need the same start and stop time for all concurrent sessions to make it easy to transition between talks.
- Need first and last names of speakers in printed program.
- Field trips could be in the middle of conference to break up the week.
- Need more international perspective in plenaries and concurrent sessions.
- Fire Circles need better descriptions, clearer goals, and better advertising.

### Suggestions for topics that should be emphasized or added to the program for future conferences

Word cloud of most frequent words in open-ended comments for (after removing common words)



## Congress Communications Feedback

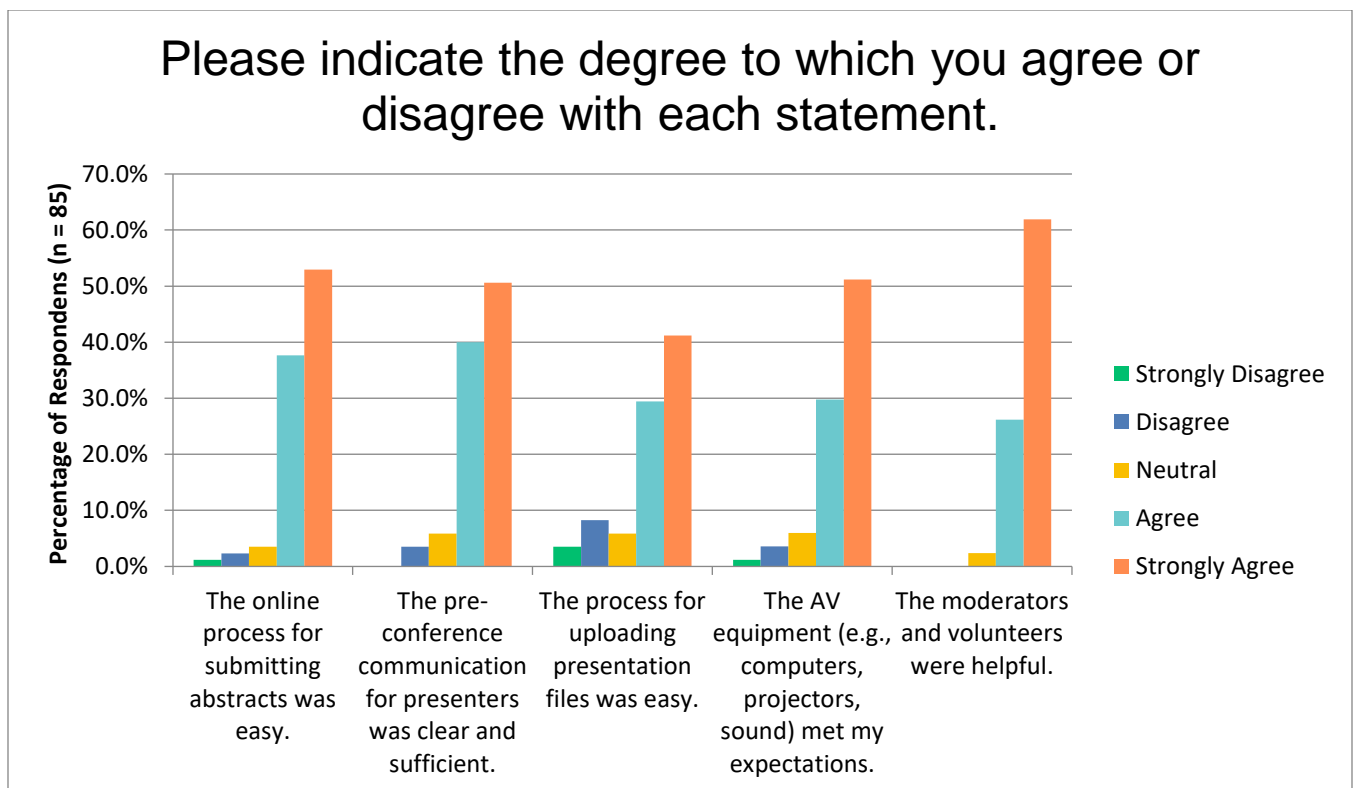
- Respondents found all the communications useful, with the printed program being most useful in comparison to other methods.
- The open-ended comments revealed that respondents felt there were too many pre-conference emails and that the printed program needs improvement (e.g., first and last names for speakers, better organization).

How useful were the following methods for receiving information about the conference?	Average Score, (1 = not at all useful; 4 = very useful)
Printed Program	3.54
Conference Website (afefirecongress.org)	3.41
Pre-conference Emails/E-newsletters	3.39
Wall/Door Posters in Conference Areas	3.28
Conference Mobile App (Whova)	3.19

### **Whova Mobile App Users: Likes and Dislikes from Open-ended Comments**

- Efficient, helpful for searching, nice to have abstracts.
- Some people couldn't figure out how to download/use.
- Whova sent too many emails to individuals.
- Don't get rid of the printed program.

## Presenter Feedback



## Student Feedback

- Very positive feedback on all student activities, especially the prescribed burn and student social. Suggestions for better food options and better advertising for student activities.

Student Activities	Average Rating, (1 = not at all useful; 4 = very useful)
Post-conference Prescribed Burn Experience	5
Student Social at the Disney Wilderness Preserve	4.71
Student Poster Contest	4.44
National SAFE Lunch Meeting	4.38
Student-focused Fire Circle	4

