Robert E. Keane Wins the Harold Biswell Lifetime Achievement Award

The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) is pleased to announce Dr. Robert E. Keane has been awarded the 2019 Harold Biswell Lifetime Achievement Award for his significant contribution to fire ecology and management in the western United States.

Dr. Keane is a Research Ecologist for the U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station’s Fire, Fuel, and Smoke Program in Missoula, Montana. He earned a B.S. in Forest Engineering from the University of Maine, a M.S. in Forest Ecology from the University of Montana, and a Ph.D. in Forest Ecology from the University of Idaho. His research focuses on 1) developing spatially explicit ecological computer simulation models for exploring landscape, fire, vegetation, and climate dynamics; 2) sampling, describing, modeling, and mapping of wildland fuel characteristics; and 3) exploring the ecology and restoration of whitebark pine. Bob is involved in numerous professional organizations, including being an advisory board member for American Forests Association and the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation. He has been an AFE board member since 2010 and is currently Editor-in-Chief of the journal Fire Ecology. He has authored over 265 papers and written a book on wildland fuels. Bob has served as scientist-in-charge of the Tenderfoot Creek Experimental Forest, Project Lead for the LANDFIRE prototype project, Director of the Fire Modeling Institute, and Project Leader for the former RMRS Fire Ecology and Fuels Project.

AFE honors career achievements in fire ecology and management by recognizing the pioneers and early advocates in our field. Each year, lifetime achievement awards are presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to fire ecology and management and who have inspired and mentored a generation of fire ecologists. The award for individuals who primarily work in ecosystems found in western United States or in similar ecosystems internationally is named after Harold Biswell, a longtime faculty member at the University of California-Berkeley. Harold was a pioneer fire ecologist, conducting research on fuel hazard reduction and prescribed burning in California and teaching hundreds of students and managers from the 1950-80s.

Dr. Keane was presented with the Biswell Award at the 8th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress, November 18-22, 2019, in Tucson, Arizona. A list of all Lifetime Achievement Award winners is available at https://fireecology.org/afe-award-winners.

About AFE
The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the knowledge and use of fire in land management. Our members include scientists, educators, students, managers, practitioners, policymakers, and interested citizens. To learn more about AFE, visit www.fireecology.org.

For more information, contact Annie Oxarart, 541-852-7903, office@fireecology.net

“Bob is a true mentor, always willing to give freely of his time, ideas, and support. He is without bias in terms of gender, age, education, or experience, and daily demonstrates his belief in the abilities of his peers, co-workers, and colleagues. There truly is no one better we can think of to receive this year’s award, and who continues to so positively and powerfully influence the science and scientists of our wildland fire community.”

—Sharon Hood, Rachel Loehman, and Karin Riley, US Forest Service