



Paul Hessburg Wins the Harold Biswell Lifetime Achievement Award

The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) is pleased to announce that Paul Hessburg has been awarded the 2023 Harold Biswell Lifetime Achievement Award for his significant contributions to fire ecology and management in the western United States.

Paul Hessburg has been actively studying the ecology of forests and rangelands and their disturbances since 1978. Paul is a Senior Research Ecologist with the USDA-FS, Pacific Northwest Research Station and is actively involved as an affiliate adjunct professor at several institutions, including Oregon State University, Washington State University, University of British Columbia, and University of Washington. As a leader in the field of landscape fire ecology, Paul has written seminal papers that have strongly shaped how many of us study fire ecology. Specifically, Paul's papers on mixed severity fire regimes offer guidance on restoration principles to foster resilient forest structure and composition from fine-grained patches up to large landscapes. His current research focuses on five themes: the landscape and disturbance ecology of western North American forests - past, present, and future; landscape resilience mechanisms and their application to management; the ecology and sociology of landscape restoration and adaptation; linkages between landscape vegetation conditions, wildfire vulnerability, hydrology; and terrestrial carbon sinks under current and future climatic conditions. Over his career, Paul has mentored over 40 graduate and postdoctoral students with an active role in shaping the next generation of landscape fire ecologists in western North America.

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.

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 of fire ecology and uses of fire in resilient landscape management. Our members include scientists, educators, students, managers, practitioners, policy-makers, and interested citizens. To learn more about AFE, visit www.fireecology.org.

"Although Dr. Hessburg's exceptional and innovative research program has had widespread impact on the scientific understanding and management of forest and non-forest ecosystems, the true legacy of his work is evidenced by his commitment to the training and mentorship of junior scientists. Paul has a genuine and authentic investment in graduate students and mentees that is rare."

