



James Furman Wins the Herbert Stoddard Lifetime Achievement Award

The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) is pleased to announce that James Furman has been awarded the 2022 Herbert Stoddard Lifetime Achievement Award for his significant contributions to fire ecology and management in the eastern United States.

Upon graduation from Auburn University in 1982 with a B.S. in Forest Management, James was a Forest Ranger with the Florida Division of Forestry where he was soon promoted to Forest Area Supervisor. In 1998, James accepted a position at Eglin Air Force Base as the Wildland Fire Program Manager and, in 2012 he became the Chief of the Air Force Wildland Fire Center, increasing its annual prescribed fire acreage from 38,000 acres/year to over 100,000 acres. He was Chairman of the North Florida Prescribed Fire Council from 2002-2003 and has always been a staunch supporter of the Prescribed Fire Training Center. James coordinated the first Rx-450 Smoke Management course in the eastern U.S. and is currently on the cadre for Rx-510 Advanced Fire Effects at NAFRI. He served as the Incident Commander for the first Prescribed Fire Combustion-Atmospheric Dynamics Research Experiment (Rx-CADRE) at Eglin in 2008 and 2011, which saw prescribed burns sampled at multiple scales by more than 95 researchers from multiple agencies.



“James has dedicated his 36-year professional career to the improvement of wildland fire management for ecological benefit in the Southeastern U.S., while providing fire-related insights and applications to managers throughout North America.”

James is currently the US Forest Service Liaison to the Department of Defense (DoD), serving on DoD’s SERDP/ESTCP Technical Committee. James created the Integrated Research Management Team (IRMT), coordinating SERDP prescribed fire experiments with host units. James is clearly the “poster child” among fire managers for co-production of science with researchers, including his recent role as PI on a \$1M+ DoD grant to explore the FIRETEC model for simulating ignition patterns on prescribed burns.

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 the eastern United States or in similar ecosystems internationally is named after wildlife biologist Herbert Stoddard. Stoddard spent decades studying and managing longleaf pine forests in Georgia and Florida in the 1900’s. He became an early advocate for the reintroduction of fire in southern ecosystems, and his forest management practices are still being used today.

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, policymakers, and interested citizens. To learn more about AFE, visit www.fireecology.org.

For more information, contact AFE at office@fireecology.net