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Arctic Wildland Fire Sharing Concept

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# Arctic Wildland Fire Sharing Circle



**17-18 Nov 2021 on Zoom**

Wildfires are increasing in frequency, severity, and area across the Arctic, bringing challenges as well as opportunities and requiring greater collaboration, knowledge sharing, and partnership. Gwich'in Council International (GCI) is leading two projects to advance work on wildland fires at the Arctic Council, in the CAFF and EPPR Arctic Council Working Groups. There are other Arctic Council Working Groups and Expert Groups with projects or activities related to fire in the Arctic, as well as non-Arctic Council projects focusing on fire with an Arctic scope.

EPPR and CAFF are organising a Sharing Circle scheduled for 17-18 November 2021 where projects and people can learn about work in progress. Sessions will be held on Zoom and begin at 0600AKST/1000EST/1500GMT/1600CET/1700 Helsinki/1800 Moscow/2200 Krasnoyarsk each day.

This document provides an overview of the event agenda, and registration instructions.

## Concept

- Organize a virtual event to bring together projects and people related to Arctic wildland fires, consisting of two approximately 4-hour sessions spread over two days, with optional breakout sessions at the end of each day.
- Enable projects and organizations to share, through presentations and written materials, highlights of their work, driving questions, and opportunities for involvement.
- Enable people to learn about different projects to assess their interest and capacity to participate, identify synergies and potential alignment of priorities and/or activities, and avoid duplication of work.

## Drivers

- Multiple existing projects led by Arctic Council working groups, with ongoing direction from the SAOs to work collaboratively
- Desire to engage Permanent Participants and incorporate Indigenous Knowledge in projects
- Awareness of non-Arctic Council-led projects related to fires in the Arctic, with overlapping involvement on project Steering Committees, and requests from some of these projects for involvement from Arctic States and Permanent Participants
- Limited capacity for everyone to participate in everything
- Desire to appropriately align resources and expertise with project goals

## Audience

We anticipate a diverse audience, from those with little-to-no expertise in fires who are interested in learning about what is going on, to those with much expertise interested in sharing and understanding how their knowledge/work fits with existing/planned activities. We welcome:

- Arctic Council States, Permanent Participants, Working Groups and Observers
- Project Leads and Committee Members
- Organizations and institutions holding knowledge relevant to understanding fire

## Desired outcomes

- Increase awareness and understanding of the ongoing work related to Arctic wildland fires
- Enable networking between projects where there are similar or overlapping objectives
- Identify if and how others can be involved and contribute to each other's work
- Produce a report containing a:
  - Summary of the workshop discussions (key points and suggestions); and
  - A summary of projects, including those presented at the meeting and others submitted to be shared

## Registration

Please [register here](#) for the event by 5 Nov 2021

## Translation

There will be translation for English-Russian for the main sessions (not breakouts) Nov 17 and 18. It is to be determined whether the workshop report will be translated.

## Submissions

- We ask people participating on behalf of Arctic wildland fire initiatives to [please submit here](#) [short](#) details on the project and/or data platform they are representing
- We will compile all submissions to share after the event, and will follow up with submissions invited to present

## Event Organizing Committee

- Edward Alexander and Devlin Fernandes, Gwich'in Council International
- Mike Young, USA
- Mia Rönkä and Tom Barry, CAFF
- Nina Ågren, EPPR
- Jessica McCarty, Miami University

## Links for more info

- Gwich'in Council International: <https://gwichincouncil.com/wildland-fire>
- CAFF: <https://www.caff.is/arcticfire>
- EPPR: <https://eppr.org/projects/circumpolar-wildland-fire-project/>