

## High-Tech Partnership Improves Fire and Smoke Management



Partnership

### Snapshot: Real-Time Smoke and Weather Forecasts for Fire Managers

The Rocky Mountain Center (RMC), located in Fort Collins, Colorado, and administered by the Rocky Mountain Research Station, provides round-the-clock, comprehensive, real-time, high-resolution fire and weather data and smoke forecasts for the western United States. Through continuously developing and posting this information, the RMC aims to:

- Help accomplish agency prescribed burning targets.
- Help prescribed fires burn safer and cleaner while avoiding air quality problems.
- Help combat wildfire with real-time weather intelligence.
- Facilitate rapid implementation of new weather information products.

### Program Highlights

The RMC website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/rmc/>) offers a variety of weather products and tools for fire and smoke managers. They can accurately assess fire danger, plan prescribed burns, allocate firefighting resources, and measure smoke impacts from prescribed burns and wildfires. Products include

geographically-based hourly information about current and future weather values such as air temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, cloud cover, wind speed, and wind direction as well as several fire indices.

### Science-based Collaboration Improves Fire Management and Air Quality

The RMC works to solve fire and smoke management problems by providing regional simulations of fire danger, fire behavior, smoke dispersion, and other weather or weather-dependent phenomena. The fire and smoke management community frequently looks to the RMC for highly customized weather products and timely responses to field-users' requests for weather intelligence. Increasingly, other users such as the outdoor recreation industry depend on RMC data to plan activities and manage enterprises.

State: Colorado

Unit: Rocky Mountain Research Station

Partners: The Rocky Mountain Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, Environmental Protection Agency, state agencies and universities

FS Funds Used: \$68,000

Partner Funds: \$15,000

Other Funds: \$289,000

*Fire and smoke managers frequently look to the Rocky Mountain Center for round-the-clock, real-time weather products and tools to help plan prescribed burns.*

