**Increasing Prescribed Fire Capacity and Quality in a Changing World

Presenter's Name:** Sasha Ernst
**Presenter's Company/Employer:** Florida Park Service
**Presenter's Title:** Fire Management Coordinator
**Topic:** Managing fire regimes in a changing world (good fire/bad fire)
**Proposal Type:** Individual Presentation
 **Abstract:**The Florida Park Service (FPS) is a four-time National Gold Medal winning state park system consisting of 175 state parks, trails, and historic sites spanning nearly 800,000 acres. The FPS mission to provide resource-based recreation while preserving, interpreting, and restoring natural and cultural resources in Florida is quite a challenge to meet while also hosting over 30 million visitors in 2019. Florida is a major tourism destination, has a booming housing market and economy, and has an ever-increasing resident population of over 20 million people. Many state parks are in, or near, the wildland-urban interface providing significant challenges for engaging community support, smoke management, and ensuring public safety. Despite these challenges, records for total acreage burned have been set in the past three years, and last year was the FPS's most successful prescribed fire season ever resulting in 96,417 total acres burned. FPS is accomplishing on-average an approximately three-year fire return interval while actively managing nearly 300,000 acres of fire-dependent natural communities. We are increasing capacity (burning more acres) and focusing on quality (meeting ecological objectives) by optimizing cooperation, effective prescriptions, and implementation window management. I will explore some of the strategies, successes, and failures of FPS burning efforts in order to share lessons learned and contribute to initiatives to help other land managers realize our common goal of maximizing prescribed fire to promote healthy, fire-maintained natural communities.