



2021 Fire Congress Summary

Quick Facts

- 4 day, virtual only event with 520 attendees
- Program included 5 keynote plenary presentations, 2 workshops, 4 virtual field trips, 7 fire circle discussions, and 420 oral and poster presentations made by 335 speakers.
- Congress was supported by 12 sponsors and exhibitors representing universities, agencies, non-profits, and other organizations.
- Several sessions, including all plenaries, were interpreted to Spanish and Portuguese.

Who Attended?

- 50% of attendees identified as researchers, 20% as students, 14% as managers.
- 46% of attendees are affiliated with university/college and 33% with a federal agency.
- The virtual format and support from USFS International Programs increased international participation. Attendees were from 25 countries, with about 20% of attendees were from outside US.
- Respondents represented a range of ages and years of experience, mostly self-identified as white or Caucasian, and are 46% female and 54% male.

Age (n=288)

18-29	24%
30-39	30%
40-49	25%
50-59	11%
60-69	9%
70 or older	1%

Years of experience (n=266)

5 or less	24%
6 to 10 years	20%
11 to 15 years	14%
16 to 20 years	17%
21 to 25	8%
More than 25 years	18%

Ethnicity and/or race, self-identified (n=271)

Caucasian, White	85%
Hispanic	5%
Mixed, Other Responses	5%
Asian	3%
Native American	2%

Gender (n=316)

Female	46%
Male	54%
Non-binary	0%
Self Identify	0%

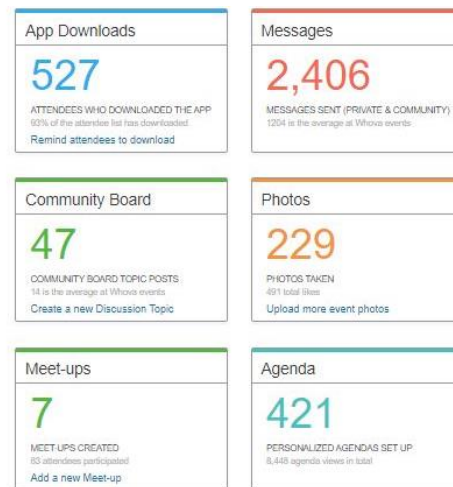
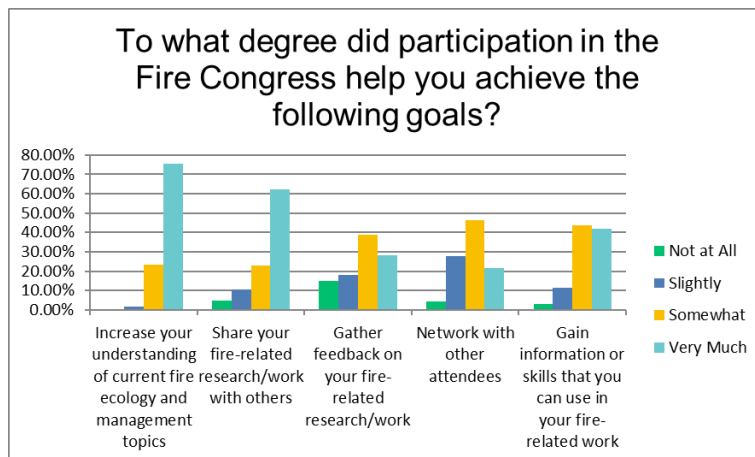
Post-Congress Survey

Who Responded?

- 69 respondents; 13% response rate.
- Almost 40% of respondents had not attended an AFE event before.
- Most respondents identified as a researcher/scientist (52%), manager/practitioner (14%), or student (14%).

Overall Satisfaction and Feedback

- Respondents would recommend attendance at a future AFE Congress to a colleague, with an average score of 9.3 on a scale of 1 (not at all likely) to 10 (very likely).
- Most report increased understanding of current fire ecology and management topics (75%) and having the opportunity to exchanging information with other participants (62%).
- Attendees had vibrant engagement in Whova throughout the duration of the 4-day Congress, posting 27 topics in the Community Board and using the app for to create meet-ups, ask questions, and message other attendees.



- Things respondents liked best about the Congress (top themes from open-ended comments):
 - Variety and quality of presentations
 - Including diversity of speakers, disciplines represented, and topics
 - The virtual format (as compared to canceling event)
 - Engaging event platform
 - Well organized event
 - Recorded presentations to access later
- Things respondents liked least about the Congress (top themes from open-ended comments)
 - The virtual format (as compared to in-person)
 - Challenges for presenters and moderators who needed to use both Whova and Zoom. Confusion around where to enter questions
 - The demanding schedule

"I thought the overall format worked pretty well for being able to attend as many talks / posters as possible, and interact with folks via the chat and Q&A features. I also liked the community discussion boards - I learned a lot from all the different topics and perspectives. I thought the schedule and platform were organized well and ran quite smoothly. I also appreciated the breadth of interesting talks and the awesome plenary sessions."