May 4th, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Social Capital and Cross-boundary Collaboration in Wyoming Wildfire Management Networks

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Wildfire Collaboration: How do Social Connections Impact Action?

CoMFRT — CO-MANAGEMENT OF FIRE RISK TRANSMISSION

USDA — FOREST SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BACKGROUND

- Wildfire mitigation and response require cross-boundary coordination
- Collaborative management is often limited by differences in goals, financial obligations, and cultures
- Research Question: how does social capital impact cross-boundary collaboration in wildfire management networks?
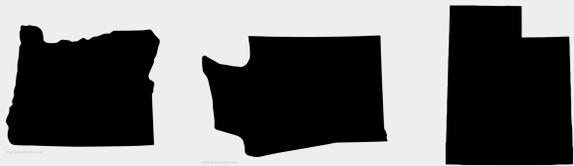
METHODS

- Survey wildfire practitioners in NW WY using snowball sampling
- Use social network analysis to create a network map
- Calculate social capital scores (degree and betweenness centrality)
- Identify central actors, peripheral actors, and brokers
- Compare network with similar data from UT and WA

Scan this QR code to see the project website with past results from WA and UT
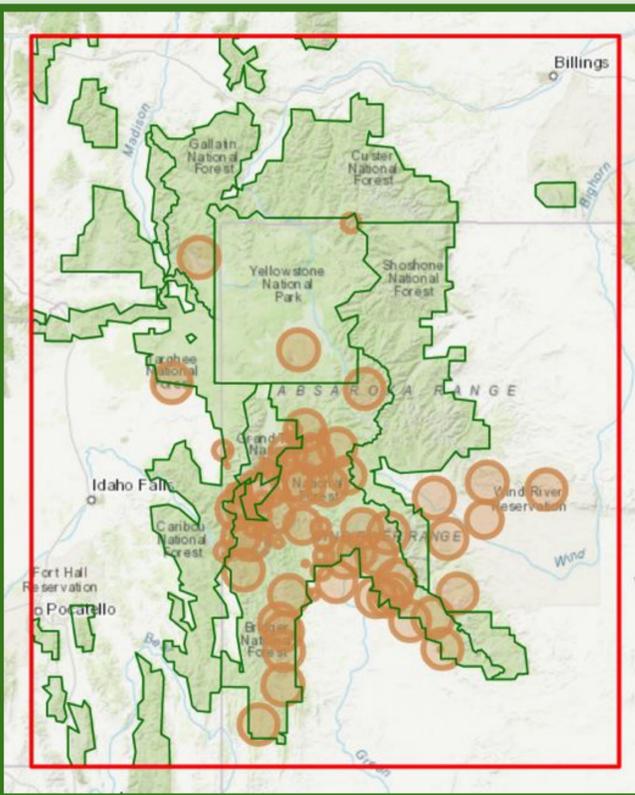
MAIN QUESTIONS

- **Who** works on wildfire in Northwestern Wyoming?
- What organizations **work together** and where is there division?
- How does the **social capital** of individual managers impact their **collaborative activities**?
- What **attitudes** do managers hold about wildfire and how could this impact collaboration?
- How do **jurisdictional and geographic boundaries** impact collaboration?

RESULTS

- 9 respondents
- 46 wildfire managers identified
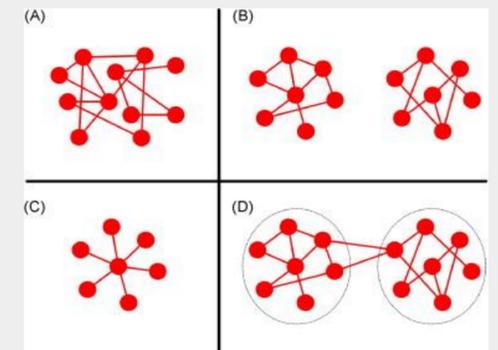- 23 different affiliations
- 105 locations

Map Key

- Local
- USFS
- State
- NPS
- Tribes
- BLM
- Private
- NGO
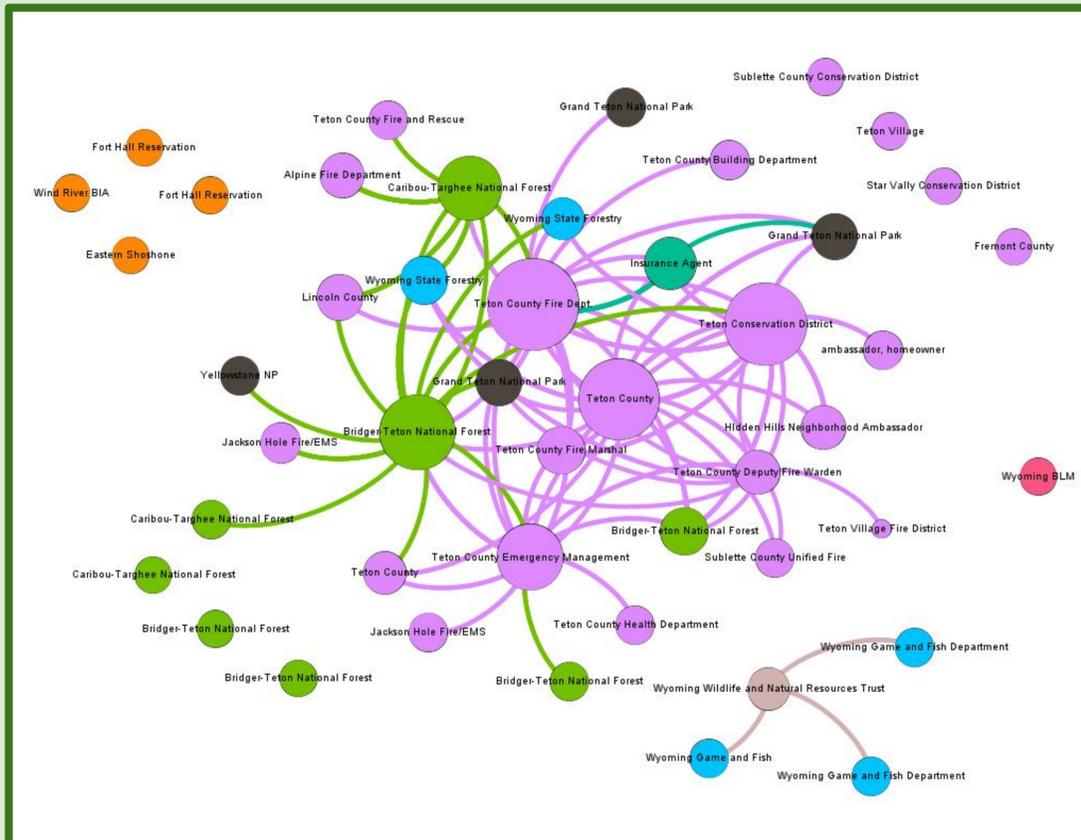
WHAT IS SOCIAL CAPITAL?

Networks, Norms and Trust

A. High cohesiveness
B. Low cohesiveness/high modularity
C. Highly centralized (node with high degree centrality)
D. High modularity, connected by bridging ties (node with high betweenness centrality)

COLLABORATION

Which of the following have managers engaged in **with members of other organizations** within the past two years?

- ❏ Shared information
- ❏ Participated in inter-agency meetings
- ❏ Collaborated on joint grant or funding proposals
- ❏ Collaborated to implement a project
- ❏ Participated in a wildfire-related interagency task force or partnership.
- ❏ Established or improved communication/collaboration mechanisms with other organizations
- ❏ Contributed to writing or updating a community wildfire protection plan
- ❏ Signed a memorandum of understanding regarding wildfire activities.

SOURCES

Bodin, Ö., & Crona, B. I. (2009). The role of social networks in natural resource governance: What relational patterns make a difference?

Schultz, C. A., McCaffrey, S. M., & Huber-Stearn, H. R. (2019). Policy barriers and opportunities for prescribed fire application in the western United States.

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