



Fire Generation Collaborative

Winter '23 Report

This work is supported in part by [Wonder Labs](#) through a [Reimagining 2025: Living with Fire Design Challenge](#) Award (2022-23 cohort)

A Few Thoughts from our Winter Team Reflection Survey

Favorite things about FireGen:

"energy, enthusiasm, vision, promise"

"creating a center of gravity and purpose...
in the face of uncertainty and harm"

"making connections with agency staff"

"our team, atmosphere, the work, flexible schedule"

Overall thoughts:

"We are set on a great path, not an easy one but a
very fulfilling one"

"This is one of the most audacious and exciting
things I've ever been a part of"

What can be improved:

"Presence of advisors/mentors"

"Funding in order to dream big, and
attract and keep talented people"

We're looking forward to:

website, research, our growing team, and more

Winter Impact Highlights

NWFP Application & Congress Support

The Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) is one of the most significant strategies in environmental management history. It is a pillar of federal land governance for 24.5 million acres of forests (an area over half the size of Washington state).

The plan spans forests from Northern California to the Washington-Canada border, and its legacy includes transforming the focus and priorities of agencies like the US Forest Service.

The Federal Government is now putting together a 2 year, 20 person federal advisory council to make the first major updates to the plan in nearly 30 years. Primary focuses include sustainability, climate adaptation, and wildfire resilience.

FireGen's Work

FireGen organized an application advocating for young generations and Indigenous communities to have representation in this body - the only application from a young person we know of.

Our efforts spanned the entire process, from initial policy briefs about NWFP, to writing the application, to gathering Congressional support. Our chosen representative is FireGen's Director, Ryan Reed! The Forest Plan includes the governance of Ryan's ancestral lands (Karuk, Yurok, Hupa tribes), and Ryan is a tremendous representative for his communities, cultural traditions, wildland firefighters, and our generation.

Congressional Support



After a campaign for support, Ryan received a letter from Representative Jared Huffman (CA-02), the Congressman who represents his homelands.

Logo and Identity Building



FireGen has developed mission and vision statements and a logo to provide an evolving foundation for the change we seek and the movement we envision.

We are developing our logo with artist Xatimniim Drake! Xatimniim is a 19-year-old enrolled member of the Karuk tribe, and is based out of Orleans, CA. She does various Native artwork/storytelling for issues including MMIW, fire, and women empowerment.

Mission Statement

The FireGeneration Collaborative aims to reimagine and transform fire culture, community governance access, and equitable solutions by centering Indigenous leadership and diverse young generations.

Read our complete mission and vision statements, and meanings of "FireGeneration" on [this document!](#)

FireGen joins Western Regional Strategy Committee



Photo from [WRSC Website](#)

This Winter, FireGen was invited to its first meeting of the Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC), a high-level group of government, tribal, and NGO leadership that is chartered by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) to discuss fire management in the West and implementation of the National Cohesive Strategy.

We are excited to have access to this body, and help connect and represent the next generation. Participation has already enabled us to plant seeds for collaboration and community access on policy and programs with leaders in the field from around the country.

Meetings with Forest Service Leadership



FireGen continued developing relations with US Forest Service leadership, and furthering our understanding of the agency. We met remotely in Winter with Associate Deputy Chief John Crockett, National Director of Fire and Aviation Jerry Perez, and Deputy Chief Jaelith Rivera.

We received more substantial commitments and interest from the agency for young generations' formal access to shaping fire governance and policy, and expressed future plans to develop a proposal along these lines for agency leaders.

We also received enthusiasm and connections for our research, and our project looking at how to expand fire resilience crews across school campuses. We will continue working toward equitable community involvement in fire and land policy, and we look forward to realizing the powerful potential here.



Clockwise from top right: John Crockett, Jerry Perez, and Jaelith Rivera.

Photo Credit: USFS, and Sarah Reingewirtz for Pasadena Star-News

Policy Recommendations for Wildland Fire Commission

In collaboration with our partners at Federation of American Scientists (FAS), FireGen made [policy recommendations](#) to the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission. The Commission was established by President Biden through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to Congress with a comprehensive path forward for fire management. Full FAS recommendations [available here](#).

We're excited to have provided input on empowering Indigenous leadership, expanding young people's involvement, creating a safer work culture for marginalized groups, and better supporting most-impacted communities.



Commission members at their first meeting in Utah. Photo Credit: Bill Gabbert, Wildfire Today

A Main Feature on Indian Country Today



On March 1st, Ryan was invited onto Indian Country Today's live newscast for the program's main spotlight in an 8-minute interview.

He discussed FireGen's background, timeline, importance, and relevance across Indian Country and other communities.

During the period of the interview, we were seeking new team members, so we plugged our involvement opportunities in the follow up article.

Photos from ICT's Newscast. See highlights from the interview [here](#).

Expanding our Group and our Community



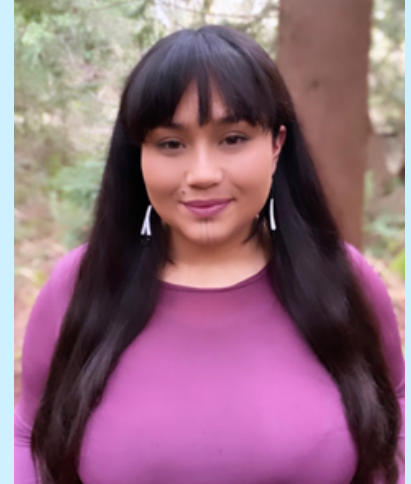
A screenshot from the Life with Fire Pod Instagram, a popular voice in the fire community who featured us [in a post](#).

Meet our Growing Team

New Team Members for Spring

Ayuthea LaPier, Communications

Dai Estes, Hello all! My name is Ayuthea LaPier, I am Hanis Coos from my maternal lineage and Amskapi Pikuni/Blackfeet as well as Tlingit (Chookeneidi clan) from my paternal lineage. My communities guide my work in cultural arts, organizing, and land management. As an Indigenous Fire Practitioner I believe in the power of fire to restore the health of the land, as well as the people. My favorite experiences have been witnessing youth reclaim these tools and find roles within restoration and conservation.



Ian Lau-Kee Browne, Policy

My name is Ian Lau-Kee Browne (he/him). I am a student finishing my undergraduate degree in Forest Conservation Science and Environmental Science at University of Toronto. I am particularly interested in, and studying, the relationship of Indigenous practices with fire regimes in Western North America. I am adamant about supporting the complex, reciprocal interactions of people, ecosystems, and fire that Western science and management has disregarded and dispossessed. I am also passionate about agro-ecosystems and building bikes, joy, and POC-spaces in Yelamu (San Francisco), where I am from and now reside.



Ilse Stacklie-Vogt, Development

My name is Ilse and I use she/her pronouns. I've grown up in Oregon, and am graduating Spring of 2023 from the University of Oregon's Clark Honors College with a B.A. in Global Studies and French and a minor in Food Studies. My background in my undergraduate work has been in food activism and agricultural movements. I'm passionate about climate justice and healing our relationship with the earth by fighting against colonialism and oppression. I'm thrilled to be working with FireGeneration because having a healthy relationship with fire on the land is essential to our coexistence with each other and the earth. Some fun facts about me are that I love playing soccer, and I speak French and Spanish.



Continuing Team Members

Ryan Reed, Director

Ayukii everyone! My name is Ryan Reed. I'm from the Karuk, Hupa and Yurok tribes in Northern California. In the Spring 2022 I received a Bachelor of Science Cum Laude in Environmental Studies at the University of Oregon. I'm an Indigenous Fire Practitioner, wildland firefighter, and pride myself as a Karuk Medicine person and strongly connected to my cultural practices and Pikyavish (World Renewal) ceremonies. I prioritize my inherent responsibility to center and elevate Indigenous Science and knowledge into fire policy and ecosystem management paradigms.

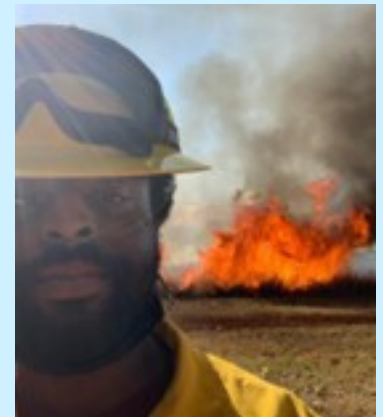


Kyle Trefny, Research

My name is Kyle Trefny (he/him). I'm a wildland firefighter, economics student, and award-winning organizer and artist, with work reaching millions of people, featured by Youtube Originals, Penguin Random House, the Getty Museum, Forbes, Amplifier Art and more. Behind what I do is the force of community, family, and other young creatives. I believe in solutions that work for most-impacted communities, the more-than-human world, and future generations.

Bradley Massey, Education

Hi my name is Bradley Massey from Madison, AL. I'm a forestry student at Alabama A&M University with a concentration in Forest Management. I'm the president of our Forestry Club and Co-captain of the A&M Firedawgs. As a student I have had the opportunity to become a certified type 2 wildland firefighter, USDA/1890 National Scholar, chainsaw certified. I believe in making things better for the next generation and as young people it is important that we work together around wildfire management and practices to provide ideas and solutions that will be beneficial for our future generations.



Alyssa Worsham, Research and Policy

My name is Alyssa Worsham (she/her) and I am a graduate student at Western Colorado University in Gunnison, Colorado. I am pursuing a Master's of Environmental Management with a focus on integrative and public lands management, and my research involves fire management policies and practices in designated wilderness areas. I am also an environmental planner at an engineering and environmental consulting firm where my work involves GIS mapping and technical writing for environmental documentation (NEPA, ESA, CWA, etc.).

Review of Expected Winter Work

Color Legend: Completed In Progress Efforts Beyond Expectations

- Organizational Development
 - Research and meeting for non-profit fiscal sponsorship
 - Internal organization and team-building
 - Develop FireGeneration Collaborative media platforms
 - Develop group identity via logo, mission, and vision statements
- Policy
 - Nominate a young person on the 2-Year Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Federal Advisory Committee
 - Make policy recommendation to the Wildland Fire Commission landscapes and workforce sections
 - Organize support for Wildland Fire Week on Capitol Hill
 - Develop Involvement in 2023 Farm Bill policy process
 - Rally Congress support for NWFP Application
 - Join WFLC's Western Regional Strategy Committee
- Research
 - Assemble research team in partnership with doctoral students
 - Develop plans and focuses for community surveys, interviews and reimagining exercises
 - Establish our research questions and background on existing literature and govt. understanding
- Education
 - March 2-5: Present at Public Interest Environmental Law Conference
 - Feb 1-3: In-Person Presentations to University Students
 - Main Story Interview on Indian Country Today TV Newscast
- Partnerships
 - Nomination to MegaFire Action Board
 - Partner with Life with Fire Podcast on outreach

Grant Spending Update

Paying our part-time team for work on our projects: \$5,932.80
Legal Services to get Fiscal Sponsorship: \$275
Administrative Services of Fiscal Sponsor to manage our budget:
\$1,000 (5%)
Total Winter Spending: \$7,207.80

Funding Need Areas

Staff and Culture

We seek funding to sustain the amazing and growing group we have, and expand capacity in policy, education, community-building, and conducting research. Being able to pay our group into and through the summer, and grow members from part-time to expanded or full-time work, would transform what we are capable of as a team.

Additionally, we believe it is necessary to challenge the burn-out culture in the social movement and non-profit worlds. We seek funding support so we can nurture those who make all this possible, by investing in our staff pay and in the culture of our team.

Website

We see making a website as creating a backbone for our identity, a primary interface and representation of our group to partners, funders, community, and more. We budgeted for a website within our initial grant from WonderLabs, but learned that it wouldn't be enough for the desired number of pages, functions, and professionalism. We are seeking grants or support that can help us have a powerful website on par with our team and our goals.

Research

Our research project plans to collaborate and engage with diverse communities of young people, developing insights into fire resilience involvement visions and preferences across backgrounds and geographies in our generation. The scope, and ultimately the influence of this research will be determined by the funding we have to distribute it. We are seeking grants or support that can support us make of this critical endeavor.

Research Update

Our Goal

Our primary goal is reimagining how to harness the power of young people to address catastrophic wildfire risk and harmful cultural dynamics in the wildland fire space. Specifically, our research will investigate community visions for scalable involvement structures around fire resilience and adaptation, and identify barriers, opportunities, and preferences for expanding on-the-ground engagement of diverse young people.

Our Methodology

We are conducting a literature and community knowledge review focused on barriers, opportunities, and pathways for involving diverse young people in fire-related work. We will focus our research on primary gaps in current knowledge.

We will then gather experienced community to envision scalable current models and alternative pathways to mobilize young generations in the fire world.

We will present these models through choice experiment surveys, interviews, and engaging case studies with diverse communities of young people, gathering preferences, visions and perspectives from young generations in rich qualitative and quantitative data.

This will lead to desired outcomes we will shape with the communities we engage, i.e. policy recommendations, a research paper, and more.

Our Team

Our research team has been growing! In addition to FireGen team members Kyle, Ryan, and Alyssa, we are joined by Meredith, Garrett, and Catalina, and a happily overwhelming interest in volunteer involvement.



Meredith Jacobson

[More about Meredith](#)

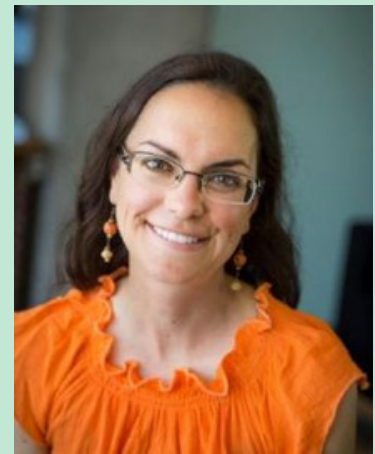
University of Oregon
Department of Sociology
PhD Candidate



Garrett Olson Stanford

[More about Garrett](#)

University of Oregon
Department of Economics
PhD Candidate



Catalina de Onís, PhD

[More about Catalina](#)

University of Oregon
Clark Honors College
Core Faculty

Photo of the Season



The FireGen crew gathers on Valentine's Day with cards to appreciate each other from around the country. At bottom is Tim Ingalsbee, Executive Director of FUSEE (FireGen's fiscal sponsor).

Stay connected!
Sign up for our [mailing list](#)
Contact and Follow Us:
firegencollaborative@gmail.com
Instagram: [firegencollaborative](#)