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Chemicals for Wildland Fire Management (§)

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Comment:

Wildfires are the toxic carbon polluters of emissions in air and water, Not oil or gas or Not agriculture, Not Mining, or Not farms, or Not industry, or Not cars. Humans and wildlife need the Local, State, Federal leaders to re think wildfire issues, Fight wildfires before they start; California Environmental activist must allow forest workers to reduce the fuel by cutting old growth and thin the brushes and dead trees. Many forests have had fires of unprecedented intensity and extent, and this situation is the result of forest management practices that have permitted decades of deadwood (fuels) to accumulate. Forests are over grown with dead trees in tinder-dry conditions more susceptible to intense fires. Must shifting fire policies from suppression to recognition that reducing fire fuel is an integral component of the landscape. Wildfire needs to be part of any Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) 2012 act which only cover 28 states but not California, Why? since the act was to address air pollution from states that send pollution across state lines and affects air quality in other states. Per the CDC web site : Wildfire smoke can harm you in multiple ways. Smoke can irritate your respiratory system, and worsen chronic heart and lung diseases. Wildfire smoke is a mix of gases and fine particles from burning vegetation, building materials, and other materials. Fires can significantly increased toxic co ozone gas, and particulate levels during fire events. Analyses of observations to further probe the magnitude of ozone, ozone precursor, and particulate matter enhancements due to fires. Since the lifetime of CO is long, even the magnitude of the observed enhancement ratios of black carbon and NOy are consistent with loss of less than one-half of the emitted black carbon and nitrogen oxides (i.e., very efficient long-distance transport of the fire emissions. For nitrogen oxides, it implies a potential for large-scale impacts on tropospheric ozone, since most of NOy is believed to be peroxyacetyl nitrate, PAN52,53, which thermally decomposes. If we are to protect wildlife and Humans, we must reconsider Wildfire Science has toxic chemical to the Ozone. California Wildfires are the result of decades of fire suppression, coupled with unprecedented fuel buildups due to a lack of forest management activity. Forests in the United States store an estimated 43,126 Tg carbon in live and dead biomass and soil organic matter. These catastrophic fires destroy valuable timber resources but also degrade many of the other uses of healthy forests. Because of the highly flammable nature of the understory vegetation as well as the canopy fuels, forest type represents a major portion of the area burned in a region. Due to the large amount of fuel stored in the organic soils of many forest stand types, forest floor fuel consumption can be very high. Typically the amount of carbon dioxide carbon monoxide (CO) and methane (CH4) released from fires can be estimated. By separating carbon pools and combustion type, these fundamental variables are accounted for within the model parameter set. The following equations are used. where: A = area burned (hectares, ha) Ca = carbon density of the aboveground component (assumed to be 0.5 of biomass; t ha-1),

Cg = carbon density of the organic material found in the ground-layer, which is composed of the litter and duff layers (t ha-1), a and g = proportions of the aboveground vegetation and ground-layer organic carbon, respectively, consumed in the burn, Efg = emission factor for each of three gas species, CO2, CO, and CH4 (in units of gas released per unit of carbon consumed) The analysis using (2) is carried out for each gas independently. The f and s subscripts on the emission factor terms in (2) refer to blazing and smoldering combustion, respectively. The first step in calculating total stand fuel consumption is to determine surface fuel consumption, represented by the sum of fuel consumed in organic soil (or duff), surface litter, dead and downed coarse woody debris (logs), and dead and downed medium woody debris (branches). Each of these stand components has a separate fuel consumption algorithm. Surface fire intensity is calculated by applying the total surface fuel consumption and fire rate of spread to intensity equation. CO is a predictor of other fire emissions products (regression r2 values were: 0.84, 0.98, 0.87 for CH4, NMHC, and PM2.5 respectively). The CH4 regression shows the characteristically high r2 value for these gases that has been observed for most prescribed a wildland fires measured in the contiguous United States. The r2 value of 0.98 indicates that variation in CO concentration highly predicts NMHC concentration. Can help in interpretation of atmospheric measurements of pollutants. **

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