**Subtheme 5 – Oral Presentation**

**Perspectives for Integrated Fire Management in Brazilian Public Policies**

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This study aims to assess the national policies that are addressing wildfires, considering that the regime and severity of fires have been altered because of climate change, land-use change and socioeconomic developments. The legislation and the way that managers and society view the role of fire in ecosystems have a core importance in supporting and institutionalizing integrated fire management. The early Brazilian legislation encourages the approach of fire management, including the use of prescribed fire, and directs that fire management should be integrated into the overall planning process of the agencies and coordinated among them. In spite of that, policy-makers and managers still seem to emphasize the suppression of fire, i.e. the exclusion of fire from ecosystems, considering fires as always detrimental and ignoring the fact that in some ecosystems there are significant fire adaptations and tolerances and even the need for fire occurrence at science-defined intensities, times of year and recurrence intervals. This caution reflects political / institutional aversion to risk, as well as concerns about the need to develop the technical skills of agency personnel, to improve state-of-the-art knowledge about fire effects and fire behavior. Therefore, implementation of actions beyond those of suppression has proceeded slowly. Recently, the discussion on the issue, the increasing knowledge and the understanding that fire can result in a positive effect on wildland resources are redirecting institutional actions. Fire specialists have directed big efforts on the development of fire management projects to build a national empirical and science-based strategy which will enable agencies to better utilize the available information and pursue the overall objectives of creating a national expertise on the matter. We believe that the outcomes of these projects will clearly show and convince the opposing party that integrated fire management is the proper strategy for facing the current and future challenges of wildfires. Therefore, we expect great improvements in the actions of the fire agencies and a new political/institutional view on the issue that integrate social, economic and ecological needs across administrative boundaries and broad landscapes.

***Keywords:*** *fire policy, integrated fire management, prescribed fire*