

"Fire Adds Richness to the Land": An Indigenous Model for Living with Fire

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Indigenous people have coexisted with flammable environments for millennia, often shaping their landscapes through fire use and wood harvesting. In this presentation, I describe a collaborative project with the Pueblo of Jemez in New Mexico that combines ethnography, oral tradition, archaeology, paleoecology, and computer modeling to analyze fire and land use at an ancient 'wildland-urban interface' that persisted for centuries. These lessons from Jemez provide much needed examples of how we might coexist with fire today.

Chris is originally from Cincinnati, OH, where he received his BA with high honors in anthropology from University of Cincinnati. He fell in love with the cultures and environments of the Southwest US while an undergrad and pursued his MA and PhD in anthropology from University of Arizona. He has been a professor at SMU in Dallas, TX since 2010 and has been collaborating with the Pueblo of Jemez since 2011.

