

Dave Calkin, PhD

Principal Calkin Wildfire Consulting LLC, Courtesy Faculty Oregon State University College of Forestry

In April of 2025 Dr. Calkin concluded a 23-year career as a senior scientist and team lead with US Forest Service Research and Development to pursue private consulting opportunities. His work focuses on the intersection of policy, organizational design and incentives, risk management, and decision making in wildfire management. While with the Forest Service, Calkin formed and led the Wildfire Risk Management Science team, an interdisciplinary team of scientists and fire managers that worked to improve risk-based fire management decision making through improved science development, application, and delivery. He and his team led the development of several of the most significant wildfire risk assessment tools and decision frameworks while examining factors that lead to ineffectiveness and inefficiencies in wildfire response.

In 2023 Calkin received the Ember Award from the International Association of Wildland Fire for sustained achievement in wildfire research. Additionally, throughout his career he earned four Chief's awards, the highest honor awarded within the US Forest Service. Calkin holds a PhD in Economics from Oregon State University, an MS in natural resources conservation from the University of Montana, and a BS in applied math from the University of Virginia. Post doctoral studies include coursework from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, North Carolina State University, and the University of Texas in structured decision making, systems thinking, data analytics, enterprise risk management, and AI for government leaders.

Current consulting projects include work with the Alliance for Wildfire Resilience, Resources Legacy Fund, Grassroots Firefighters, the University of Montana, and BurnBot.

Calkin has authored or co-authored over 170 articles. His Google Scholar profile is available at: <http://scholar.google.com/citations?user=pswd8h4AAAAJ&hl=en>