

FIRE PANELISTS

TJ Clifford recently joined the BLM Fire program at the National Interagency Fire Center in his new position of Deputy Division Chief of Fire Planning and Fuels Management. He has accumulated nearly three decades of experience in managing federal lands, with his previous role being the oversight of the resource and planning staff teams at Boise National Forest. This team comprised more than 40 employees across various sectors such as Timber, Silviculture, Range, Planning, Hydrology, Fisheries, Wildlife, and Ecology. TJ's journey in federal service began as a firefighter with the Forest Service in Arizona back in 1991. Since then, he has held multiple land management positions within the Forest Service and BLM in southwest Idaho, notably working as a hydrologist for a decade and contributing to the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) program. Throughout his career, TJ has been actively involved in the BAER program and has served as a National Interagency BAER Team Leader for both DOI and USDA for the past 25 years, overseeing more than 150 BAER assessments.

Dr. Jen Pierce is a Professor in the Department of Geosciences at Boise State University. Her research focuses on wildfires, landscape response to climate change, and carbon storage in soils. She is committed to improving climate science education and outreach and is the director of the Idaho Climate Literacy Education Engagement and Research group (i-CLEER). Dr. Pierce grew up in the mountains of Colorado and Wyoming. She received her undergraduate degree from The Colorado College, her master's degree from the University of Oregon, and her PhD from the University of New Mexico. Dr. Pierce serves on the Board of Directors for Friends of the Teton River, is the president elect for the Geological Society of America Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology division, and a Fellow of the Geological Society of America.