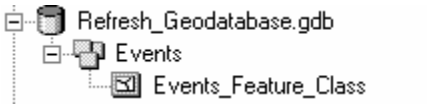
How to Load Local Geospatial Data into the Refresh Geodatabase

1. Download to your computer the Refresh Geodatabase located at http://www.landfire.gov/documents/Refresh_Geodatabase_v.1.gdb100608.zip. This is also the backup geodatabase. If for any reason you need to start over, you can always come back to this address to download another copy of the geodatabase.

2. Open ArcCatalog.

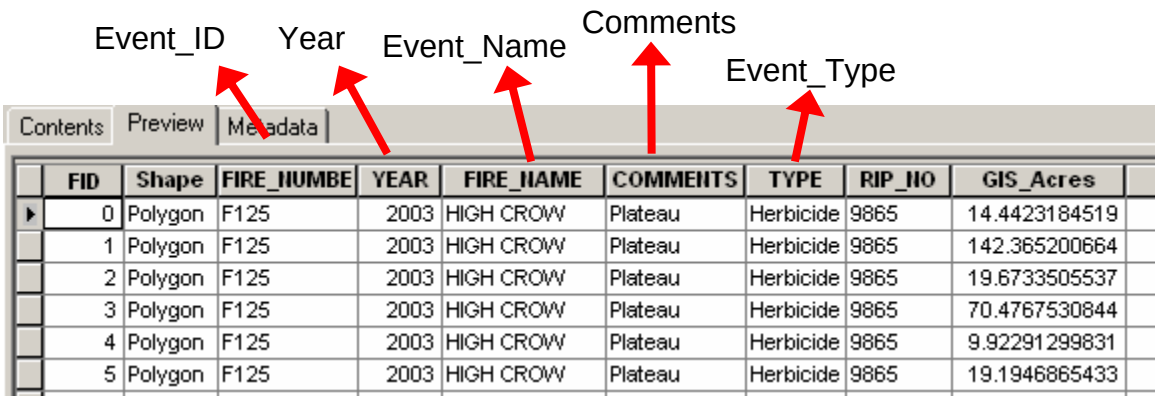
3. Confirm that your disturbance geospatial data layers are organized and retrievable in ArcCatalog. Also confirm that your data layers were prepared in accordance with the instructions at http://www.landfire.gov/participate_refreshevent.php, especially with regard to the assignment of a defined spatial coordinate system.

4. The Events_Feature_Class you will be loading your data layers into is found in the Refresh Geodatabase under the Events feature dataset, as shown below. Notice the Events_Feature_Class is empty. This is where you will load your data.



5. Familiarize yourself with the Events feature class attributes by highlighting and viewing in the Table view under the Preview tab in ArcCatalog. The attribute fields and their descriptions are listed in the Data Dictionary, which you can download from http://www.landfire.gov/documents/LF_REFRESH_dd_20080919.doc.

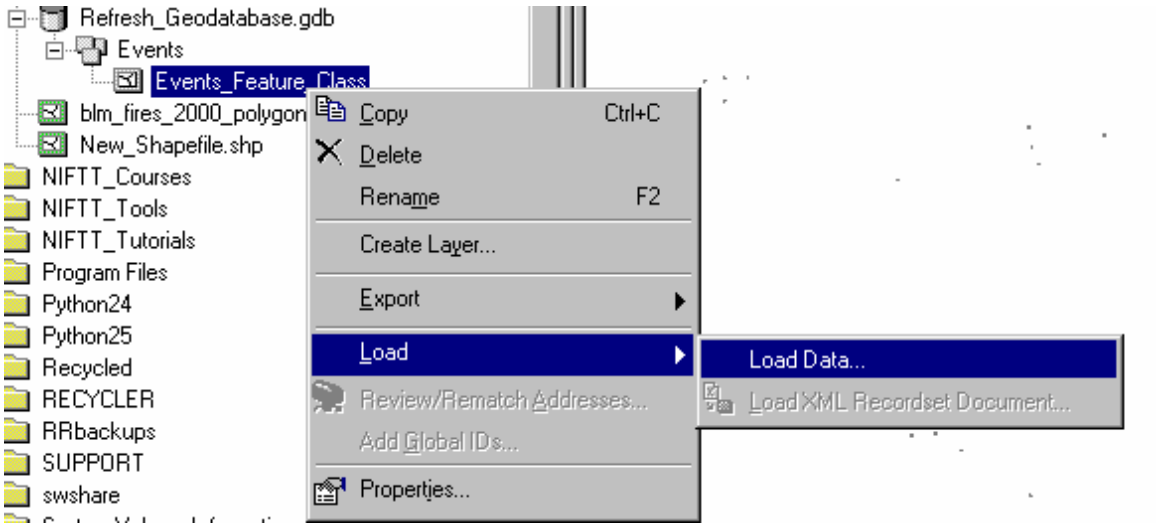
6. Next, you will need to know which field in your data matches which field in the Events feature class. Familiarize yourself with the attributes in your data to recognize the feature class field equivalent. In the example below, the field *FIRE_NAME* would correspond to the *Event_Name* field in the feature class.



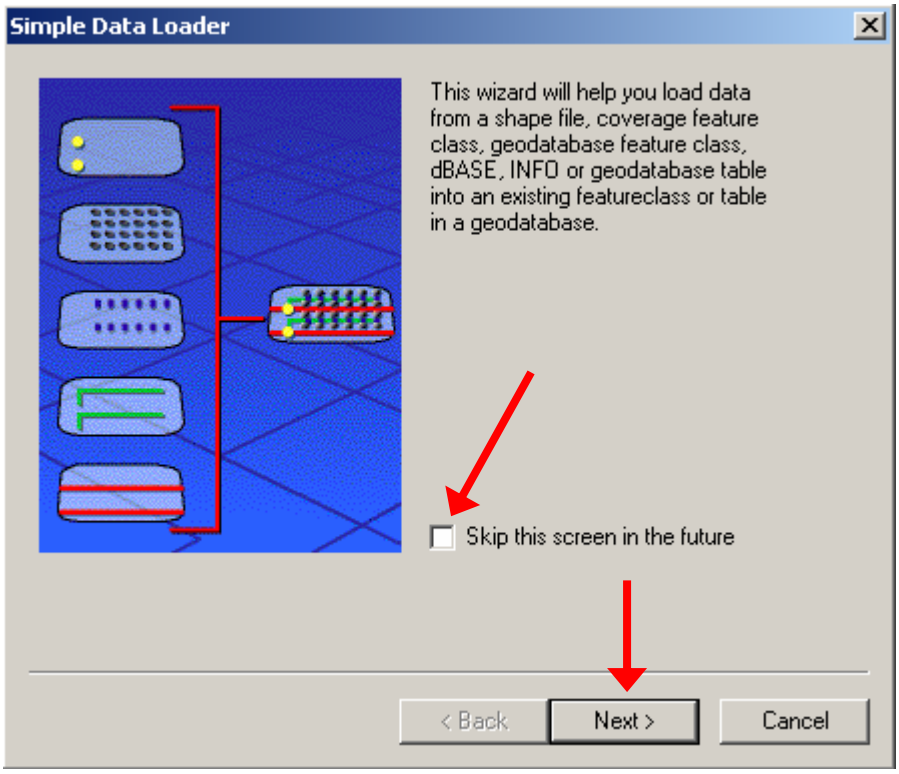
FID	Shape	FIRE_NUMBE	YEAR	FIRE_NAME	COMMENTS	TYPE	RIP_NO	GIS_Acres
0	Polygon	F125	2003	HIGH CROW	Plateau	Herbicide	9865	14.4423184519
1	Polygon	F125	2003	HIGH CROW	Plateau	Herbicide	9865	142.365200664
2	Polygon	F125	2003	HIGH CROW	Plateau	Herbicide	9865	19.6733505537
3	Polygon	F125	2003	HIGH CROW	Plateau	Herbicide	9865	70.4767530844
4	Polygon	F125	2003	HIGH CROW	Plateau	Herbicide	9865	9.92291299831
5	Polygon	F125	2003	HIGH CROW	Plateau	Herbicide	9865	19.1946865433

7. While all fields in the Events feature class may not have corresponding fields in your data layers, and will therefore be blank when the data is loaded, it is necessary that *Year* and *Event_Type* fields be populated to be useful to the LANDFIRE Refresh effort. *Severity* is also an extremely useful field for the project and should be filled in to the greatest extent possible.

8. To begin loading your data, right click *Events_Feature_Class* and select *Load* > *Load Data*… as shown below:



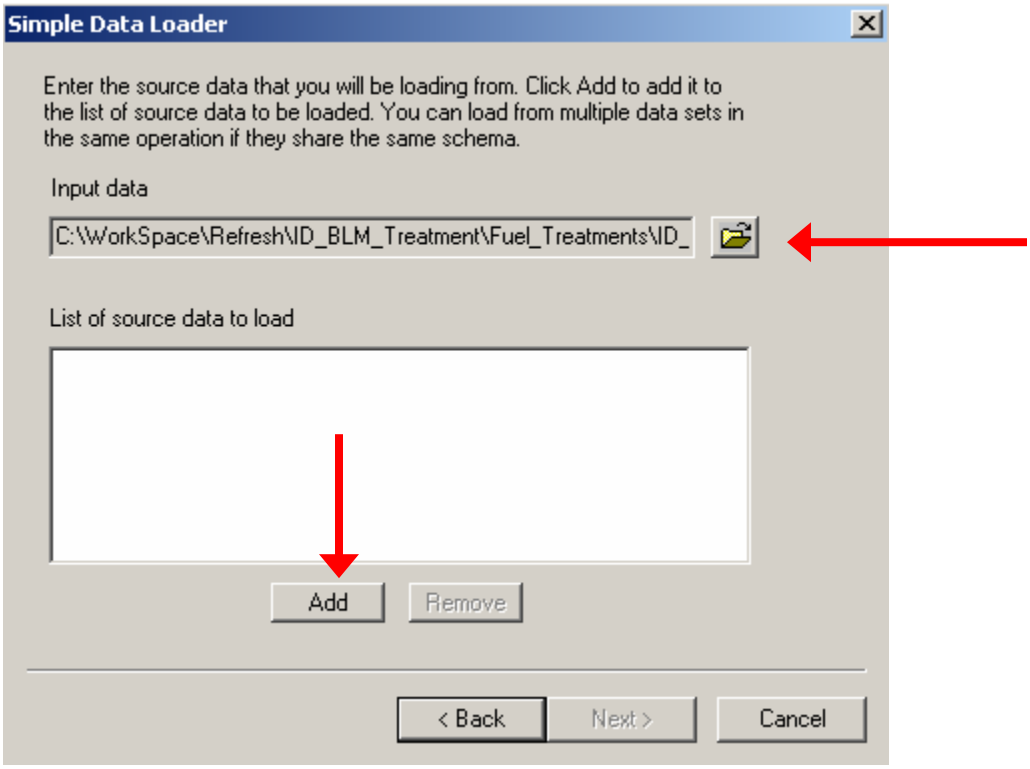
9. The Simple Data Loader dialog box opens. Check the box next to *Skip this screen in the future* and click *Next*.



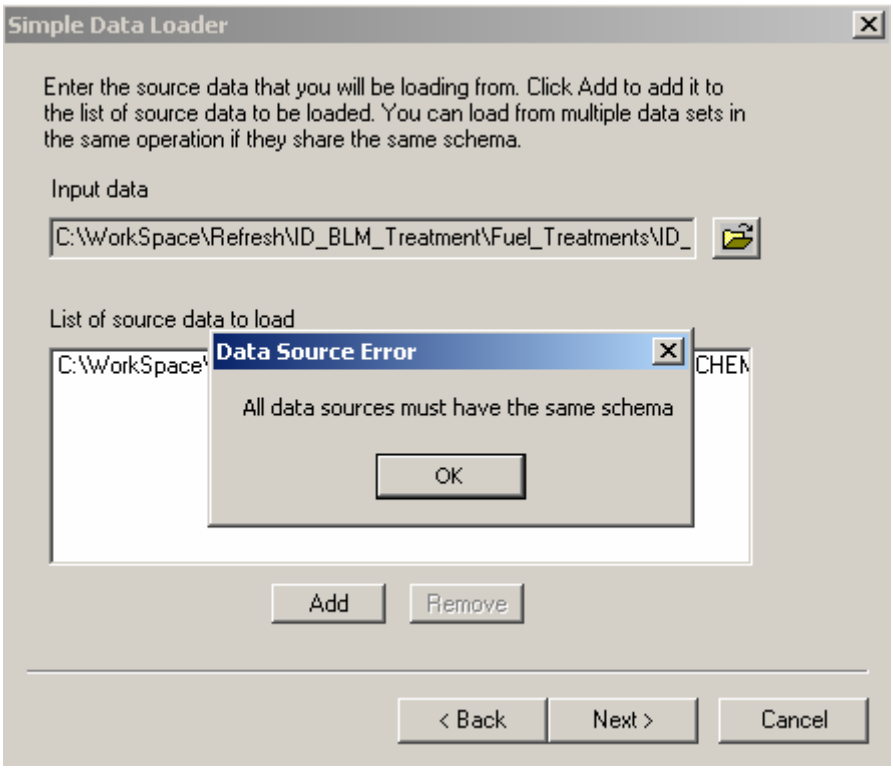
10. The Simple Data Loader will then ask you to load the data you wish to add to the feature class. In the next dialog box click on the browse folder, as shown below, and

navigate to the file. Click on the file, and it will appear in the space provided. Click *Add*, and it will appear in the box under *List of source data to load*.

Note: If the schema (fields, field type) are the same for all your input data, you can load all of these files at once. If they are different, you will need to load each data layer one at a time. **You can only load multiple data sets if they have the same schema**.

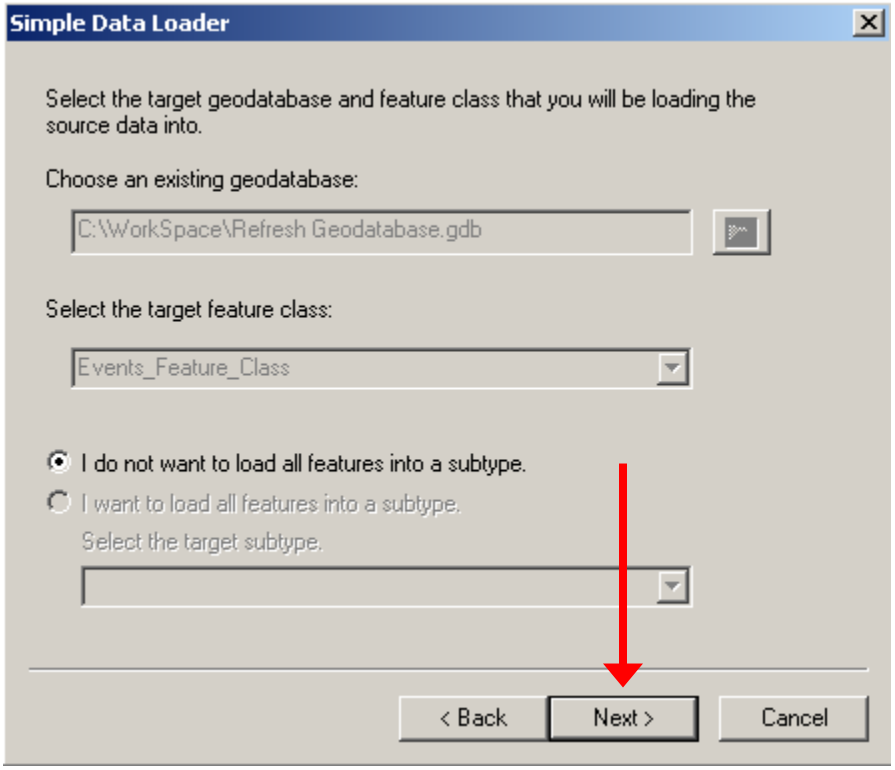


Note: If you try to add a file with different schema, the Simple Data Loader will give an error message as shown below.



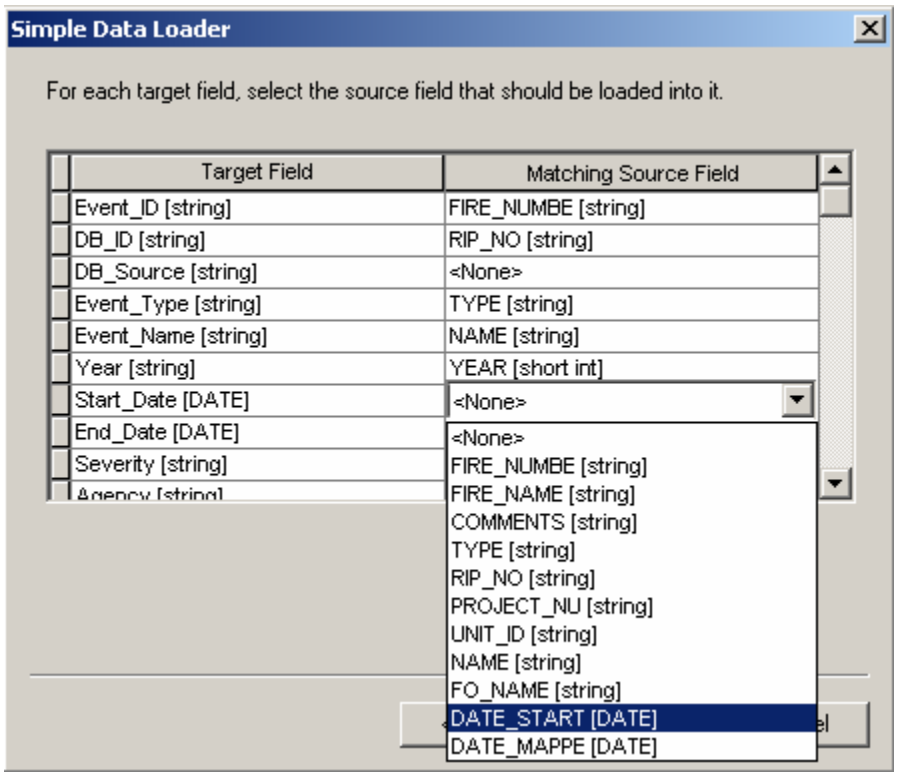
If each file has a different schema, you can only load one layer at a time. On the other hand, you could have two, five, or hundreds of files with the same schema that could be loaded at the same time. Once all data with identical schema are loaded, click *Next*.

11. Accept defaults on the next dialog box and select *Next*, as shown below:

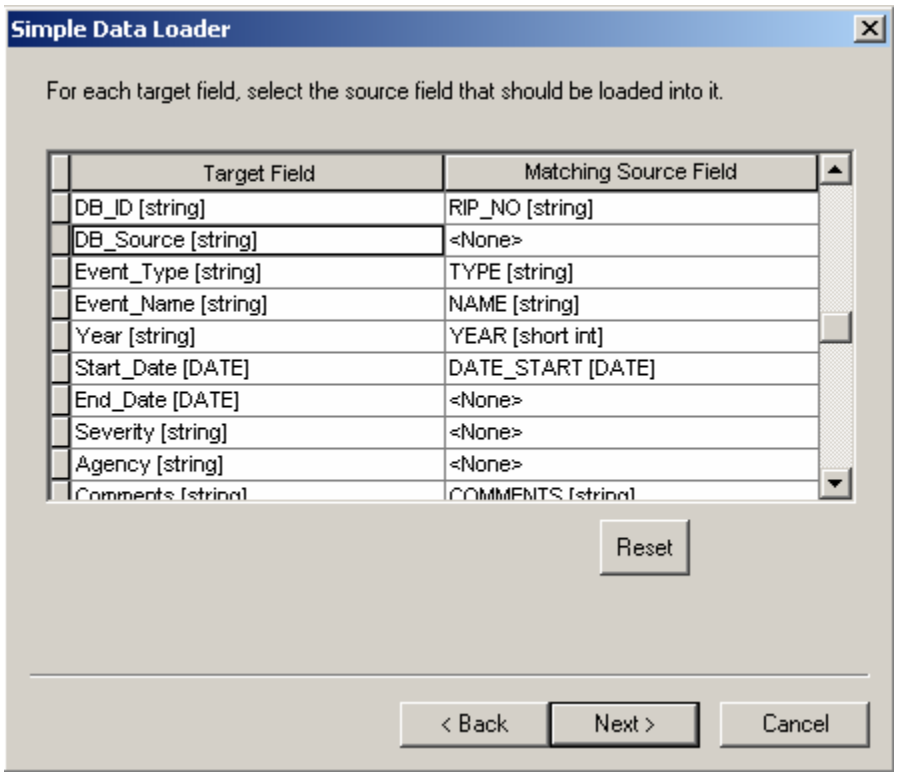


12. The next dialog box is the key step that allows you to match your data fields with those of the Events feature class you are loading the data into. In some cases, fields will automatically be matched. Review these to make sure that the fields automatically detected are correctly matched.

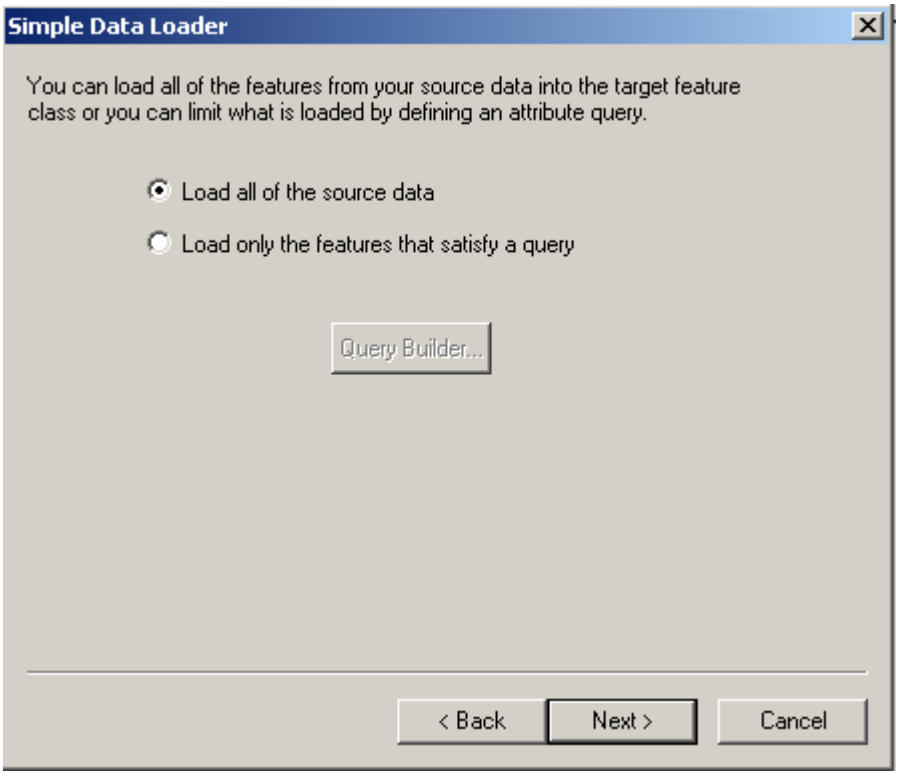
13. For those fields that did not match automatically, you will need to manually specify the matching fields. This is done by clicking in the *Matching Source Field* and clicking on the down arrow that appears after clicking in the field box. Click on the corresponding field. The example below shows that the Target Field *Event_Type* matches the Matching Source Field *Type*.



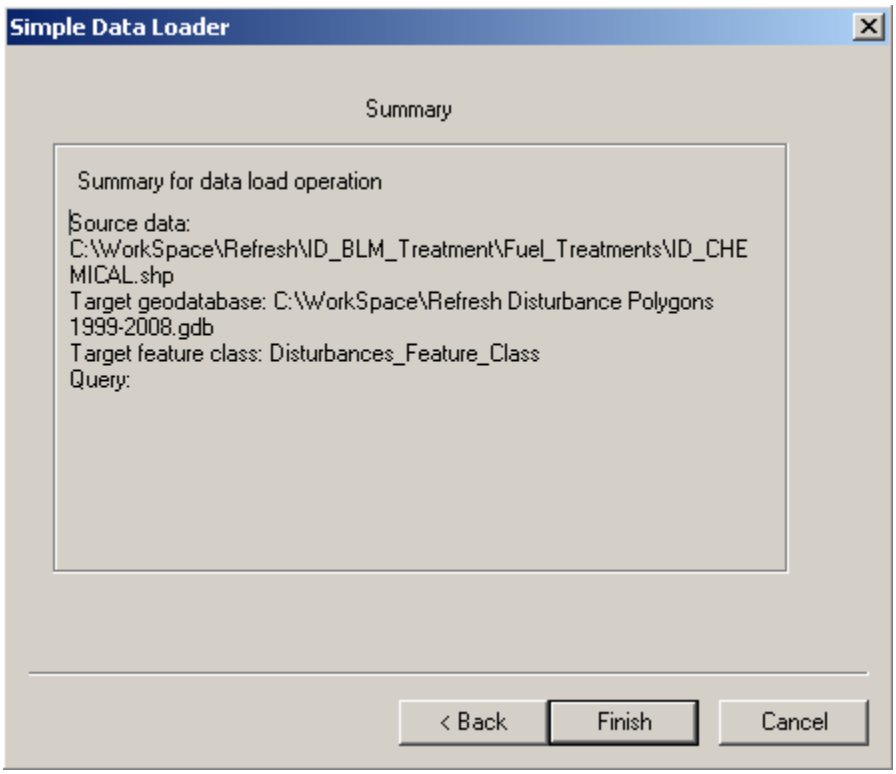
14. Remember that you may not have matching source fields for every target field, but at a minimum you need to have *Year* and *Event_Type*. *Severity* is also very important to match. The graphic below shows that a few Target Fields are unmatched, meaning that the source data do not have that type of field information. Once you have specified all fields possible, select *Next*.



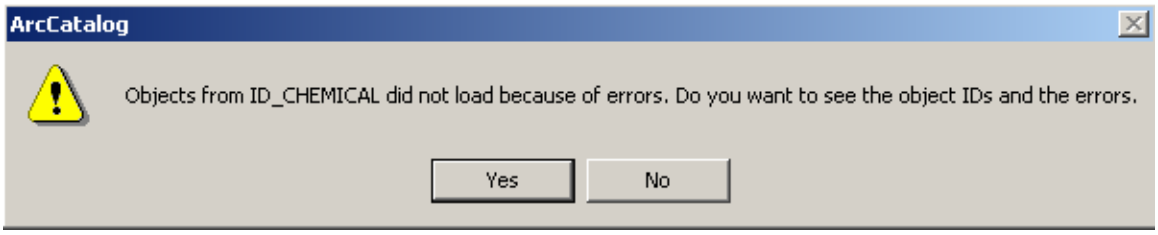
15. Accept the default *Load all of the source data* and select *Next* again.



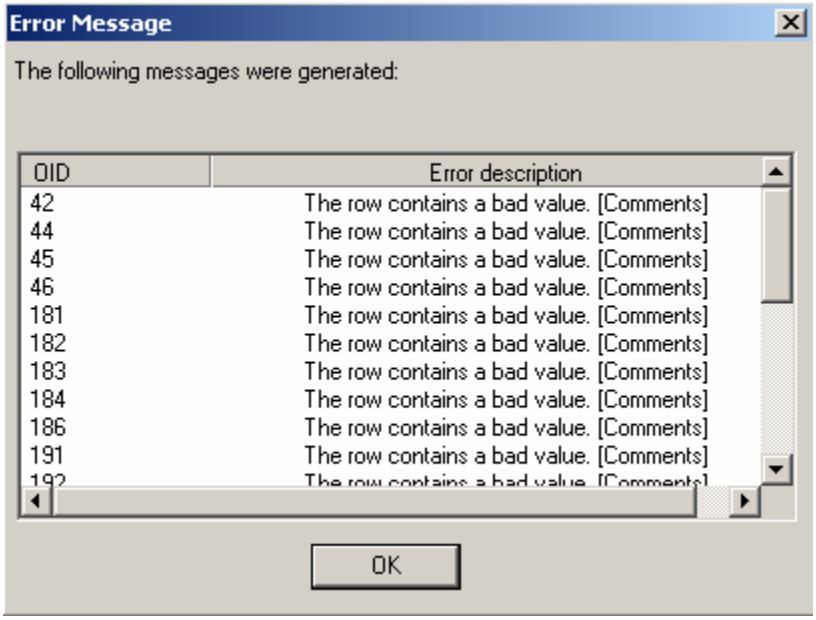
16. Click *Finish* on the Summary page. The time it takes for the data to load will vary depending on the number and size of files you are loading.



17. It is fairly common to get an ArcCatalog error message stating that there were problems loading the data, as shown below. Inconsistencies with the source data may prevent some records or parts of records from being loaded. If this happens, click *Yes* to determine what the errors are.



In the example below, approximately 20 entries in the Comments field were not loaded. Looking at the record number and going back to the source data reveals that the Comments in the source data was longer than 255 characters. The Events feature class Comments field is set at 255 characters. While the content in the Comments field is not incorrect as the Error Message states, it is merely too long. You will need to be the judge of whether the unloaded information is imperative or not. If you think too much is being lost or are just generally unable to load your data, you are welcome to submit your data in another format or to send it simply "as-is". Please go to http://www.landfire.gov/participate_dataasis.php for those instructions.



18. After the data load is complete, review the Events_Feature_Class layer in ArcCatalog to determine that your data loaded. Notice that any unmatched Target Fields will be blank, as well as any matched fields that had no data for that record. Bear in mind that the *Year* and *Event_Type* fields must have data to be useful to this project.

OBJECTID *	SHAPE *	ID	DisturbanceType	DisturbanceName	Year	Start_Date	End_Date	Acres	BurnSev
1	Polygon		Herbicide	HIGH CROW	2003			14.442318451	
2	Polygon		Herbicide	HIGH CROW	2003			142.36520066	
3	Polygon		Herbicide	HIGH CROW	2003			19.673350553	
4	Polygon		Herbicide		2003			70.476753084	
5	Polygon		Herbicide	HIGH CROW	2003			9.9229129983	
6	Polygon		Herbicide	HIGH CROW	2003			19.194686543	
7	Polygon		Herbicide	HIGH CROW	2003			27.393185408	

19. Repeat this process for all of your event data layers with unique schemas.

20. Zip the fully populated Refresh Geodatabase with your original data layers and the completed dataset information spreadsheet (LFRefreshDataLog.xls, which was included with the original geodatabase that you downloaded). If the zipped file is less than 10MB, you may send it via email to Karen Short, the LANDFIRE Reference Data Administrator, at kshort@landfire.org. If the file is larger than 10MB, you can mail it to:

    Karen Short
    Systems for Environmental Management
    315 S. 4th St. E.
    Missoula, MT 59801

    Alternatively you can ftp large data files. Please contact Karen at (406) 549-7478 or kshort@landfire.org for more information.

    For answers to **Frequently Asked Questions** about using the Refresh Geodatabase to transfer your local data, please visit http://www.landfire.gov/faq.php. For immediate technical assistance with regard to the instructions in this document, please email helpdesk@landfire.gov. A representative from the Refresh team will respond promptly with further guidance.