



Vegetation Workshop for Hawai'i



Greetings:

In an effort to improve our understanding of management implications, disturbance ecology and natural ecological processes of ecosystems across the Hawaiian archipelago, we are inviting you to an ecosystem description and succession modeling workshop. The area of interest includes the eight main Hawaiian islands (Hawai'i, Maui, Kaho'olawe, Lāna'i, Moloka'i, O'ahu, Kaua'i, and Ni'ihau).

WHAT

A 3 day workshop with an objective to: 1) review and refine draft concepts of terrestrial ecological systems found in Hawai'i; 2) provide comments on the ecological systems classification to NatureServe and TNC; 3) finalize unresolved legend issues and; 4) describe and model historic ecological communities (Biophysical Settings) for the eight main Hawaiian islands. The products of this workshop are integral to LANDFIRE, a 5-year, multi-partner wildland fire, ecosystem, and fuel mapping project that will generate consistent, comprehensive, landscape-scale maps and data describing vegetation, fire, and fuel characteristics across the US (www.landfire.gov). Previous models and descriptions can be found at www.landfire.gov/reference_models.php. Current NatureServe Ecological System descriptions for Hawai'i can be found at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/>.

After the models and model descriptions have been developed, they will be used at a national level to develop a suite of spatial products as part of LANDFIRE National mapping effort. The models that you develop will also be extremely useful to forest and fire managers, land managers, researchers and conservationists.

WHEN

January 7-9th, 2009
Begin at 9 a.m. on the 7th
End at 4 p.m. on the 9th

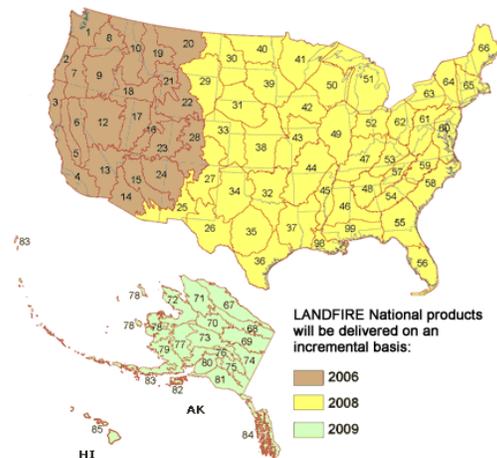
WHERE

Honolulu, HI
Details to follow

WHO

Specifically, for this workshop, we are recruiting experts in:

1. Vegetation ecology & botany
2. Disturbance ecology (fire, wind, insects, disease), or
3. Forestry (forest/wetland ecology & silviculture), or
4. Fire managers.



January 7th will be spent reviewing and refining the draft concepts of terrestrial ecological systems.

January 8th and 9th will be dedicated to developing reference condition descriptions and models.

NO MODELING EXPERTISE NEEDED! During the modeling component of the 3 day workshop facilitators will either guide you through the process or assign a modeler to assist you in incorporating your knowledge and expertise into a model and our database.

HOW

Please RSVP to Darren Johnson (contact information below) by **Monday, December 15th**, and do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any questions or concerns.

Please forward this invitation to anyone you feel would be interested, or to others if you are not the appropriate individual in your organization. Wide participation is critical to the success of these workshops, the LANDFIRE project, and ultimately to our understanding of the ecology of the Hawaiian islands, so please consider contributing to this important modeling effort.

Sincerely,

Sam, Jim, Marion and Darren

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