



Expanded Data Distribution Options

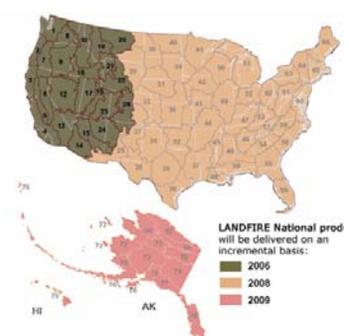
Users of LANDFIRE data products have different network capabilities, are interested in different products, and request data from different geographic extents. In addition, practical limits to the amount of data that can be downloaded through a network require consideration of the following criteria: number of geospatial products requested, geographic extent of the requested data, network speed and performance capabilities, and intended use of the data.

To meet users' varying needs, the LANDFIRE team has established four mechanisms for accessing or obtaining LANDFIRE data Products (see table below). Learn more about these four options and how to access them at www.landfire.gov in the Data Product Access section.

The USGS National Map LANDFIRE	This interactive, Internet-based tool enables the user to view, query, and download LANDFIRE data based on an area of interest without the need for GIS software.
Direct download using the LANDFIRE Data Access Tool	The tool allows users to interact with the LANDFIRE data distribution site (the USGS National Map LANDFIRE) and download LANDFIRE data directly from within ArcMap.
Physical delivery on request via DVD	This set of DVDs contains all data products for all mapping zones that are currently available on the USGS National Map LANDFIRE.
Electronic delivery via an FTP site	The same data available via DVD are maintained on an FTP site for users who find themselves in a rare, time-sensitive situation and cannot wait for mail delivery.

LANDFIRE National Vegetation Dynamics Models for Western U.S. Delivered Summer 2007

LANDFIRE National Vegetation Dynamics Models are created through a series of expert workshops and a review process that engages regional experts from around the country. A VDDT Model and Model Description are created for each biophysical setting (BpS) in each LANDFIRE mapping zone. Modeling products will be available on www.landfire.gov (Data Products > National section) for the western U.S. mapping zones in summer of 2007.



LANDFIRE Vegetation Models for the western U.S. mapping zones available summer 2007.

VDDT Models – Each BpS was modeled quantitatively using the

VDDT (Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool) software. VDDT is a public domain, aspatial, user-friendly modeling tool, available from ESSA Technologies. The VDDT data include quantitative information about the rates and pathways of succession and the frequency and effects of disturbances. Landscape reference condition percentages for each BpS are an important output of the model.

Model Descriptions – Each model includes comprehensive documentation that describes the vegetation, geography, biophysical characteristics, succession stages, and disturbance regimes of each BpS. Descriptions also document the assumptions behind, the outstanding questions about, the contributors to, the resources for, and the evolution of each model. In addition, model descriptions include the results of the VDDT modeling and can be used as reference conditions for Interagency Fire Regime Condition Class Guidebook procedures.

After Action Review

With the goal of improving fuel data for future use, the LANDFIRE team solicited feedback from individuals who had used LANDFIRE fuel data on incidents during the 2006 fire season. The review was held in December of 2006 at the Forest Service Missoula Fire Science Lab, and user feedback was sought on the following specifics:

- Were the fuel data compatible with the models and was the output reasonable?
- What aspects of the fuel data and modeling went smoothly?
- What aspects of the fuel data and modeling presented challenges?
- What was the magnitude and what were the implications of challenges encountered?

The group identified two areas in which LANDFIRE fuel data could be improved. Feedback indicated that rock, water, and barren areas were under-represented in the maps of existing vegetation and fuels. In response, the LANDFIRE team altered methods and re-mapped certain zones to better reflect these areas on the landscape.

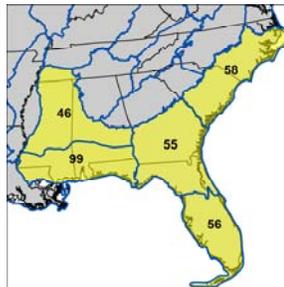
Additional input from the group suggested that, in particular areas, canopy bulk density estimates were too low and estimates of canopy base height and forest canopy cover were too high. The LANDFIRE staff was able to provide advice and methods for adjusting these or the models in which they're used to better reflect local characteristics. Advice and methods are available to all users of LANDFIRE data via the LANDFIRE website at www.landfire.gov (Data Products > Notices section).

The user feedback garnered from this After Action Review proved invaluable to the team and resulted in better products and service to the user community. Because of its success, the team will continue to make the review an annual and key component of the LANDFIRE Project.



LANDFIRE Vegetation Modeling Completed in Southeastern U.S.

The LANDFIRE vegetation modeling effort for the southeastern U.S., which began over a year ago, has now been completed. Regional modeling leads Chris Szell and Keith Fisher of The Nature Conservancy orchestrated the model development process. They hosted four workshops in three states (Florida, Mississippi, and North Carolina) over five months and traveled across the region to reach out to experts. Over 100 models were created and refined for the region, resulting in a comprehensive database of detailed information regarding the natural range of variability for pre-EuroAmerican settlement vegetation types in the Southeast. The models represent the combined effort of 41 experts from 17 organizations who provided input on how these systems should be modeled and described.



Southeastern LANDFIRE vegetation modeling zones.

These vegetation models will be used in LANDFIRE to help map biophysical settings and to calculate fire regime condition class. In addition, the models – which will be available online at www.landfire.gov – may be useful for a variety of other applications including: establishing a baseline for estimating current ecosystem status and trends, planning (local and regional), testing alternative vegetation management scenarios, and developing consensus and a shared vision of management objectives.

LANDFIRE Operations & Maintenance Plan

LANDFIRE's Executive Charter specifically identifies an "Operations and Maintenance Handoff Plan" as a project deliverable. Project management has been working on this plan, recognizing that the long-term usefulness of LANDFIRE products is dependent on regular updates. As such, a business case and technical plan were developed and presented to the Executive Oversight Committee (EOC). The EOC agreed with the conceptual approach and core elements of the plans. The Operations and Maintenance plans are being routed through a series of reviews and stakeholder meetings toward final review and approval.

Spatial Analysis & Editing Tools

Federal wildland fire management agencies are implementing a strategic landscape approach to developing long-term (10 to 15 years) work plans that guide the annual program of work for hazardous fuels treatments. This strategic approach is defined by the expectations of the National Fire Plan (NFP) and Healthy Forest Restoration Act / Healthy Forests Initiative (HFRA/HFI) and guided by the Agriculture and Interior agencies' "Cohesive Strategies for Restoration of Fire-Adapted Ecosystems," as well as by the agencies' fire, land, and resource management planning policies. The desired outcome is acres planned or accomplished using "strategic landscape hazardous fuels analyses."

In response, the National Interagency Fuels Technology Team (NIFTT), chartered under the National Interagency Fuels Coordination Group and functioning as the technology transfer arm of LANDFIRE, was tasked with developing spatial analysis and editing tools to facilitate achievement of this desired outcome. Use of LANDFIRE data with these tools allows analyses to be conducted on any combination of land ownerships. The four spatial analysis & editing tools can be accessed at www.nifft.gov.



FRCC Mapping Tool

This tool produces spatial layers depicting vegetation departure based on Fire Regime Condition Class methodology.



Fire Behavior Assessment Tool

This tool derives fire behavior characteristics that would potentially occur under user-specified environmental conditions



Multi-scale Resource Integration Tool

The primary functions of this tool are to summarize, integrate, and classify spatial data at a reporting unit level. These data can then be used to identify management priorities.



Area Change Tool

The primary function of this tool is to easily edit ArcGRID raster layers for pre- and post-treatment scenario evaluations.

Please visit the various sections of www.landfire.gov for project details and LANDFIRE data products or communicate with the LANDFIRE team through the Contact Us link on the website's homepage.

