



Notes from Marquette

Building LANDFIRE Awareness - One Workshop at a Time

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WHAT HAPPENED?: Sometimes there’s no replacing an in-person workshop for accelerating real world understanding, especially when dealing with complex topics such as mitigating fire risk, managing for sensitive species, and updating forest plans. Inspired by Huron-Manistee Ecologists Sienna Falzetta and Jill Pritchett, TNC LANDFIRE Ecologist, Randy Swaty and Communications Lead, Megan Dettenmaier convened on the snowy shores of Lake Superior in late January to acquaint a group of enthusiastic natural resource professionals with LANDFIRE products. But first, we met up for a quick x-country/skate ski at what the locals affectionately call, the Fit Strip.



Left: Sienna Falzetta
Right: Randy Swaty

After a late afternoon of skiing, we parted ways and met up the following day on the campus of Northern Michigan University. Participants included federal and state natural resource specialists, most of whom were new to LANDFIRE. Despite this, attendees dove into the complex world of understanding and applying LANDFIRE products to meet their uniquely local needs.



From Left to Right: T. Wiltse, M. Dettenmaier, R. Swaty, E. Razenkova, C. Smith, R. Tarpey, N. Mouthaan, M. Wright, J. Pritchett, S. Falzetta, S. Majors, C. Henry, R. Ziel

WHY WORKSHOP? TNC’s LANDFIRE Team operates under a cooperative agreement with the USFS – in short, we are ready to help. We provide support to users ranging from geospatial guidance

to providing forest assessment previews using LANDFIRE data, to running collaborative ecosystem modeling workshops. This group of intrepid participants reached out to TNC’s LANDFIRE Team in late 2023 and following a few exchanges with Sienna and Jill, an in-person meeting emerged as the best way to transfer knowledge. Each attendee expressed their desire to better understand and apply LANDFIRE Products within the context of their work.

This 2-day workshop included:

- Exploring [LANDFIRE’s Biophysical Settings models and descriptions](#), [LANDFIRE departure](#), Existing Vegetation Type, Height and cover while integrating ArcGIS Pro and R.
- Presentations about [Wildfire Exposure Risk Mapping](#) and LANDFIRE Fuels Data
- Dedicated time to explore unique challenges by each attendee, exploring LANDFIRE with the understanding that LANDFIRE isn’t the answer to every natural resource question – for example one

participant was looking for ways to “better identify what to do where in terms of restorative fire treatments” Our quick, post-workshop evaluation indicated that if given the opportunity, 100% of the respondents would attend another LANDFIRE workshop in the future”.

TNC’s LANDFIRE Team is well suited to help (any) determined LANDFIRE user explore and appropriately use LANDFIRE Products. Our team is eager to find others interested in fast tracking their LANDFIRE competence – if your team (or just you!) want to find out how you can engage with our team, please get in touch: landfire@tnc.org.