

Greetings:

We are currently seeking surface fuel data that will be used in the LANDFIRE Project. LANDFIRE is a multi-agency research project developing methods and products for mapping fuel, vegetation, and fire regimes across the entire U.S. The fuel data will be used to develop a set of *Fuel Loading Models* (FLMs). Fuel data will be analyzed using ordination procedures to identify natural fuel groupings. Each grouping will then be tested using the fire effects simulation model FOFEM, and fuel groupings that exhibit similar fire effects will be aggregated. Each aggregation will be one of the final FLMs.

Because of the extensive coverage of the final products and the inherently high variability of fuel, we need as many fuel plots as possible. We recognize that organizing and sending your fuel data will occupy valuable time. We hope, however, that representing local fuel conditions in the FLM and LANDFIRE maps will benefit you. We expect them to be widely used for a variety of applications.

Surface fuel data useful to LANDFIRE include the following:

Surface fuel data useful to LANDFIRE.

Fuel Type	Size (particle diameter)	Description
Moss, Lichen	Any	Biomass of live and dead moss and lichen
Shrub -- live	Any	Biomass of live shrub fuels
Shrub -- dead	Any	Biomass of dead shrubby material suspended above ground
Herb – live	Any	Biomass of live herbaceous plants including grasses, sedges, forbs, ferns, and lichen
Herb -- dead	Any	Biomass of dead herbaceous plant parts suspended above ground
Litter	<0.25 cm	Biomass of recently cast needles, leaves, cones, bark, buds, etc.
Duff	None	Biomass of partially decomposed litter
Needle Drape	Any	Biomass of conifer needles on regen, shrub and herb
Regeneration	Any	Trees per acre and typical crown length, by species, of live tree regeneration fuels (<6 ft)
Downed dead woody	0 to 0.24 in.	Biomass or counts of 1-hour timelag woody twigs and branches
	0.25 to 0.99 in.	Biomass or counts of 10-hour timelag woody twigs and branches
	1 to 2.99 in.	Biomass or counts of 100-hour timelag woody branches
	3 to 8.9 in.	Biomass or measurements of 1000-hour timelag branches and logs
	9 to 19.9 in.	Biomass or measurements of 10,000-hour timelag logs

Fuel Type	Size (particle diameter)	Description
	20+ in.	Biomass or measurements of 10,000-hour+ timelag logs

Because of the nature of the analysis and uses of the final products there are a number of additional data requirements. Data must be geo-referenced (for example, in UTM or lat-long coordinates with datum identified), and the data must represent fuel conditions at the sampling site (not for a larger polygon, such as a watershed). Most attributes should be reported as biomass (tons per acre preferred). We can calculate DWD biomass from raw data (Brown's transects) if needed. Tree regeneration should be summarized to density by species. Please include all associated sampling information such as plot size and transect lengths. We do not need data for each attribute listed in the above table but expect the data set to include all the components that would contribute significantly to the fire effects at the sampling point. If you have data that you think would be useful but do not appear to meet these requirements, feel free to contact us.

Please distribute this notice widely.

Thank you for your help. If you have questions, comments, or data to share, please contact:

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