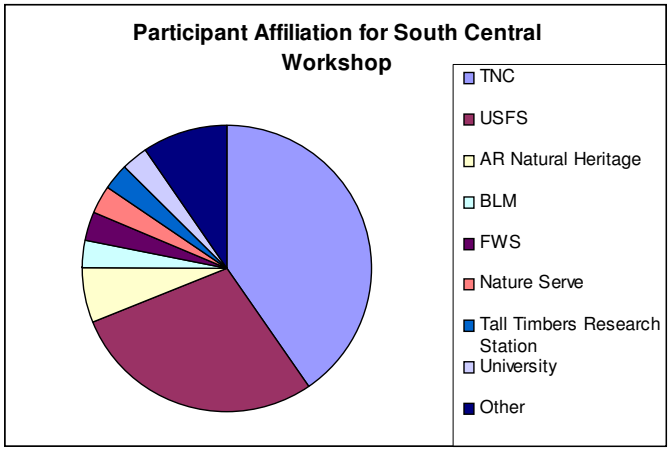
LANDFIRE

LESSONS LEARNED: Issue 8

Arkansas Weighs in with Update on RA Workshop

Thirty-two ecologists and fire managers from the Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, academia, and other institutions met in Little Rock, Arkansas on January 30 – February 4, 2005 to contribute their expertise to the LANDFIRE project. Using their knowledge of ecosystem structure, succession, fire history and behavior, and disturbance dynamics, participants from across the United States developed models and descriptions for 23 potential natural vegetation groups (PNVGs) covering the South Central zone. PNVGs described at the workshop ranged from Southern floodplain to desert grassland.



The Rapid Assessment map of fire regime condition class will be available in summer 2005.

Lessons Learned in the SC

- In-workshop peer review of models is the best way to test a model. Feedback from the other participants on models is a learning experience for everyone.
- Attendees with experience in multiple PNVG's facilitated the completion and review of many models.
- Information provided about the LANDFIRE application process during the workshop helps to demonstrate its use at a local scale.

LANDFIRE's objective is to provide consistent, nation-wide fuels and vegetation data to help:

- Identify areas at risk due to accumulation of hazardous fuels
- Prioritize hazardous fuels reduction projects
- Improve hazardous fuel treatment coordination between agencies
- Model real-time fire behavior and strategically plan fuel treatments for the restoration of ecosystem integrity in fire-adapted landscapes

For more information:

Ayn Shlisky
ashlisky@tnc.org
720-974-7063

Jim Menakis
jmenakis@fs.fed.us
406-329-4958

Kelly Pohl
kpohl@tnc.org
720-974-7059