

ReadMe: Instructions for LANDFIRE Model Review

Thank you for participating in the peer review of LANDFIRE succession models! Your informed feedback is critical to the successful development of robust models that incorporate the best available science and knowledge to-date.

For each model you review, please complete a Model Peer Review Form. It is critical to the peer-review process and the incorporation of your input. Follow the instructions below to download the Model Peer Review Form and other model review tools.

Instructions

1. Download the review documents and model data.
 - *Documents.* Download model review documents from the private model review website provided by your regional lead or www.landfire.gov (click on Activities—Vegetation Modeling—Vegetation Model Peer Review). The list below describes the files you will need.

LANDFIRE model review documents.

Review Document	Description
ReadMe Instructions	Instructions to guide reviewers through the review process.
Model Peer Review Form	Form that allows reviewers to document their review of models. Please complete this form for every model you review.
Modeling Manual	Reference document explaining LANDFIRE vegetation dynamics modeling background, process, procedures and standards.
Draft Models	Draft models that need to be reviewed.
Maps	Maps of the LANDFIRE mapping zones with reference features.

- *Model Data.* Download your region's Model Data from the website provided by your regional lead. Select the link for the zone(s) you are interested in from the table on that website. This zipped folder contains the specific models for your region. Within each mapzone folder, you will find 1) a folder called PDFs which contains the PDF "Description Document" (*.pdf) for each model and 2) a MS Access database file (*.mdb) which contains the VDDT models for the zone.
2. Read Chapters 1 and 2 in the *LANDFIRE Vegetation Dynamics Modeling Manual* (Background and Overview of Vegetation Dynamics Modeling). See step one above for information on obtaining a copy of the *Modeling Manual*.
 3. Skim the rest of the *Modeling Manual* to become familiar with model capabilities and limitations.
 4. Determine whether you are going to perform your review via interactive modeling in VDDT (optional but preferred), or via review of BPS descriptions.

5. If you decide to perform the review using VDDT, download the Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool (VDDT) modeling software (www.essa.com). The software is free and you will find instructions for installing the software in Chapter 3 of the *Modeling Manual*. Chapter 5 of the *Modeling Manual* explains how to get started in VDDT.
6. If you decide to review the models using only the BPS Description Documents, read each document carefully. Contact your regional lead if you would like more information about the model that isn't contained in the description document.
7. Complete the *Model Peer Review Form* (see step one above). **It is crucial that you complete this form for each model you review.**
 - Rank your knowledge for each BPS reviewed, and document how your knowledge may vary geographically.
 - Answer questions provided about the BPS model inputs and description.
 - Contact your regional lead if you have any questions or if the process needs clarification.
8. By your regional deadline (provided by your regional lead) submit your reviews for each BPS electronically (email or CD) **via the provided form** (see step 9 above) to your regional lead.