



Background

LANDFIRE is a five-year, multi-partner wildland fire, ecosystem, and fuel mapping project. This project will generate consistent and comprehensive maps and data describing vegetation, fire, and fuel characteristics across the United States. These maps can assist in prioritizing and planning hazardous fuel reduction and ecosystem restoration efforts. The consistent and comprehensive nature of LANDFIRE methods ensures that data will be nationally relevant, while the 30-meter grid resolution assures that data are applicable at regional and subregional scales. LANDFIRE meets agency, partner, and stakeholder needs for data to support landscape fire management planning, prioritization of fuel treatments, collaboration, community and firefighter protection, and effective resource allocation.

Executive Oversight Committee

The Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) is a group of managers representing the agencies and entities that will benefit from LANDFIRE's products. The committee is responsible for LANDFIRE Project oversight, including assisting in decisions regarding scope, time, quality, and budget; ensuring congressional mandates and agency policies are fulfilled; and providing strategic business direction. The EOC will conduct a management review of the LANDFIRE Project in May of 2006. The focus of this review will be to evaluate the project's success in the following four categories: project objectives, schedule and budget, data development, and data use.

LANDFIRE Rapid Assessment

The LANDFIRE Executive Oversight Committee has reviewed, accepted, and approved the release and delivery of the Rapid Assessment products. In addition, The "Rapid Assessment Rollout Conference," hosted by The Nature Conservancy, is being held in Memphis from 28 February through 1 March 2006. The conference is designed to continue the engagement of key scientists and managers in the accomplishment of LANDFIRE Project deliverables. One of the key objectives of the conference is to demonstrate applications of LANDFIRE Rapid Assessment (RA) data.

To test applications of RA data, three "breakout" groups worked independently to create presentations that demonstrate methods of RA data analysis to meet predetermined objectives. Each group represents a specific case study. For example, Case Study 1, located in Color Country, Utah, has the stated objective of illustrating the differences in



Rapid Assessment Case Study 1 area

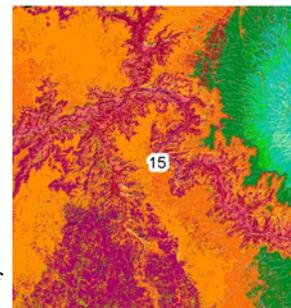
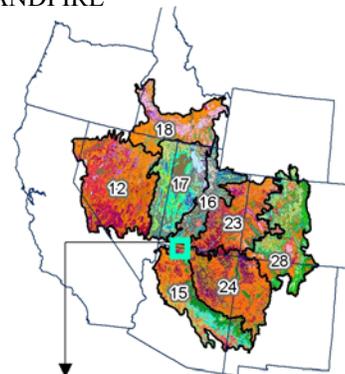
classification resolution between LANDFIRE Rapid Assessment and LANDFIRE National. Case Study 2, located in Gila, New Mexico, will summarize a comparison of the Gila fire regime condition class (FRCC) results to the RA FRCC layer to test the latter's utility. Lastly, Case Study 3, located in Onslow Bight, North Carolina, has the objective of evaluating the applicability of regional-scale RA data in local applications. At the conference, each of the three case study presentations will communicate objectives and results of RA data analysis as well as other potential uses of the data.

Rapid Assessment spatial data are currently available in the "Products" section of www.landfire.gov. For each reference condition model, the user can download the model description and/or the actual model in VDDT (Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool) format. The entire suite of LANDFIRE RA spatial products will soon be available through the USGS National Map LANDFIRE. This data distribution site provides a dynamic online map interface for data viewing or downloading and can be accessed via the "Products" section of www.landfire.gov. Lastly, a general technical report describing RA data and methods will be forthcoming.

LANDFIRE National Products

As of February 2006, products are available for the first eight LANDFIRE mapping zones through the USGS National Map LANDFIRE, which can be accessed via the "Products" section of www.landfire.gov. This data distribution site provides technical descriptions of, metadata for, and access to the various LANDFIRE

products. Data for the following mapping zones can be viewed, queried, or downloaded: Western Great Basin, Utah High Plateaus, Eastern Great Basin, Snake River Plain, Mogollon Ridge, Colorado Plateau, Navajo Plateau, Southern Rocky Mountains, LANDFIRE National products comprise a set of maps and associated metadata describing vegetation composition and structure, wildland fuel, and current departure from simulated historical vegetation conditions. A full list of LANDFIRE deliverables can be viewed in the "LANDFIRE



Existing Vegetation Type:
a LANDFIRE product



(National Products, cont.) National Products” section of www.landfire.gov. If you have questions about the data, please contact the LANDFIRE helpdesk at helpdesk@landfire.gov. If you have problems viewing or downloading products, please contact EROS Customer Services at custserv@usgs.gov.

Data for new mapping zones are released approximately every three weeks, and data for the western United States are scheduled for completion this year. The LANDFIRE team will then turn the focus eastward, first completing zones adjacent to the western U.S. region and then begin mapping Florida, where high priorities exist for obtaining and using LANDFIRE data. The rest of the conterminous U.S. is scheduled for completion in FY 2008, and Alaska and Hawaii are scheduled for completion in FY 2009. Please visit the “Schedule” section of www.landfire.gov for additional details and contact the LANDFIRE helpdesk at helpdesk@landfire.gov with any questions.

Technology Transfer

The focus of the LANDFIRE Technology Transfer (LFTT) will be to implement a national training program. The goal of LFTT is to integrate LANDFIRE data and maps into land management agency culture and processes using computer applications such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and models such as FlamMap and FARSITE.

The National Interagency Fuels Technology Team (NIFTT), chartered under the National Interagency Fuels Coordination Group (IFC), has partnered with the LANDFIRE team to provide trainings on LANDFIRE and associated applications of LANDFIRE data. NIFTT has created two courses: an online course entitled *FOR-437 LANDFIRE: Concepts, Data, and Methods* and a subsequent workshop course entitled *FOR-438 Fuel Assessment Techniques Using LANDFIRE Data*.

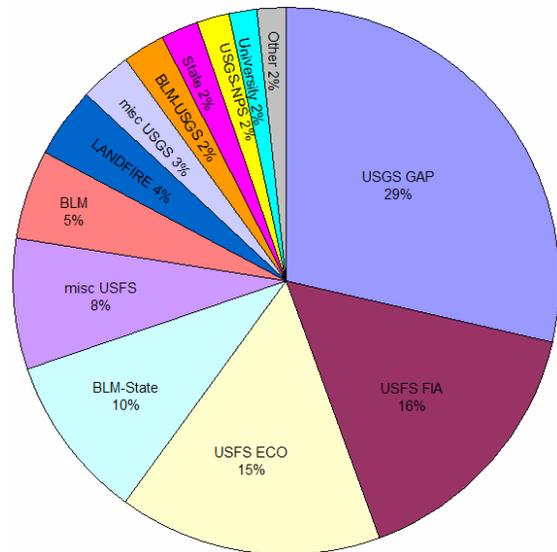
The FOR-437 online course is sponsored by LANDFIRE and is designed to introduce participants to the LANDFIRE Project, LANDFIRE data, and associated topics. Successful completion of this course will provide the participant with the basic knowledge to understand and apply LANDFIRE data in day-to-day work situations and functions as a prerequisite to the subsequent workshop course. FOR-437 will be an online training hosted by the University of Idaho. Interested individuals will be able to register for the training at www.frames.nbi.gov in spring of 2006.

To conduct the FOR-438 workshops (which are sponsored by the IFC), the NIFTT team will travel around the U.S. to train managers in fuel assessment techniques using ArcGIS spatial application tools. The team will use LANDFIRE data in conjunction with these tools to provide examples of ways to prioritize and plan hazardous fuel reduction and ecosystem restoration efforts.

Please visit the “Technology Transfer” section of www.landfire.gov for details regarding registering for either the upcoming FOR-437 online course or the FOR-438 workshops. Please contact the helpdesk at helpdesk@landfire.gov with questions.

Reference Database

The LANDFIRE reference database is an extensive collection of field-collected vegetation and fuel information that is used to develop and evaluate the project’s ecosystem and fuel maps.



Reference database breakdown by source

As of February 2006, approximately 375,000 candidate records of geo-referenced, plant-community, or fuel data have been acquired from throughout the U.S. to support LANDFIRE National. Of the records contributed, 114,231 were located within the first 13 mapping zones and met the initial quality criteria to inform LANDFIRE maps of potential and existing vegetation. Sources of these data include the USGS/BRD/GAP Analysis Program, the USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) and Ecology programs, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), state natural heritage programs, the USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program, and university research programs. Additional data were collected specifically for LANDFIRE by field crews from Utah State University and the Student Conservation Association.

Data acquisition from the 24 western mapping zones is largely complete, and the reference database team is currently seeking data from the western Great Plains and the southeastern U.S. Examples of data that meet our needs are listed in the “LANDFIRE Activities” section of www.landfire.gov. If you can contribute existing data that suit our needs, please contact Karen Short at (406) 549-7478 or kshort@landfire.org.

More Information

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