Dear Colleague,

We are writing to ask for your help in acquiring existing geospatial data for a national, multi-partner vegetation, fire regime, and wildland fuel mapping program. LANDFIRE is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) that is producing consistent and comprehensive maps and data describing vegetation and wildland fire characteristics across the United States. LANDFIRE is currently transitioning from production to a program of maintenance and product updates. Existing vegetation and wildland fuel layers are being updated through the "LANDFIRE Refresh" to 1) reflect changes resulting from recent (1999 or later) natural disturbances (such as wildland fires) and management activities and 2) address discrepancies that were detected after the initial mapping effort. LANDFIRE Refresh is being conducted by the National Interagency Fuels Technology Team (NIFTT), the Forest Service Remote Sensing Application Center (RSAC), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) and is supported by Fire Program Analysis (FPA) and Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) projects.

We are requesting your help because LANDFIRE Refresh will rely heavily on land-management professionals at agency field locations to supply the data needed for mapping updates. The LANDFIRE team plans to incorporate into a Refresh reference database all available spatial data depicting wildland fires and land-management activities, as well as information that can be used to improve the existing maps of vegetation and fuel for the nation. Examples of these data are listed in Table 1. Relevant attributes are listed in Table 2. The information must be associated with polygons on the landscape (rather than points) and must be from 1999 or later. Digital photos, vegetation or fuel plot data, and project descriptions or final reports are also valuable and likewise requested, if available.

If your organization manages spatial data consistent with the requirements of LANDFIRE Refresh as detailed in this letter, please contact Karen Short, the LANDFIRE Reference Data Administrator, at (406) 549-7478 (kshort@landfire.org). For general information about LANDFIRE and Refresh, please visit www.landfire.gov or email helpdesk@landfire.gov. Additional information regarding Refresh data needs and detailed instructions for data preparation and transfer are available from Dr. Short or from the LANDFIRE website. Further details, including deadlines for submitting these data, will be forthcoming.

Table 1. Types of spatial data needed for Refresh.

Category	Theme (polygon features only)
Fire	Wildfires Wildland Fire Use Prescribed Fires
Other Disturbances	Insects and Disease Weather Damage
Other Treatments	Harvest/Thinning Seeding/Planting Other Mechanical Chemical
Other Information	Burnable Agricultural Lands Exotic Plant Infestations

Table 2. Examples of attributes needed for Refresh.

Event ID
Event type
Event name
Year of occurrence
Start date
End date
Severity of event
Name of reporting entity (e.g., FS, NPS, BLM, FWS)
Notes or comments (e.g., effects on vegetation or fuel)

Thank you,

Henry Bastian   Dan Crittenden
DOI LANDFIRE Business Lead   Forest Service LANDFIRE Business Lead