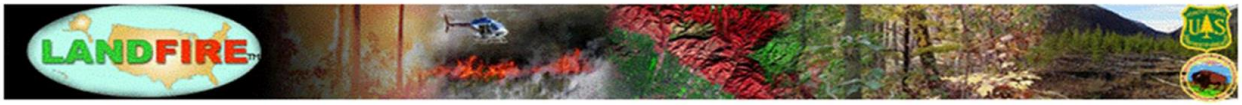


Opportunities to engage and provide feedback to LANDFIRE

INTRODUCTION:

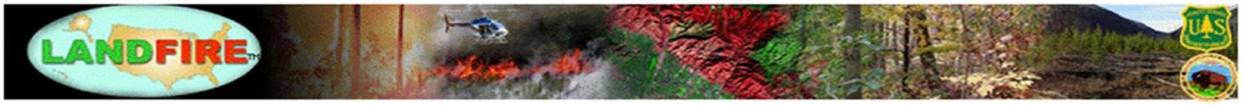
This document provides the LANDFIRE user community with a list of upcoming opportunities to engage in efforts of data reviews and ways to provide feedback to the LANDFIRE program. These opportunities may interest people involved with land management, vegetation, habitat, natural resources, fuels and fire management, or geographic information systems. This document will be posted on the LANDFIRE website and updated periodically. We will highlight the opportunities in the LANDFIRE bulletins and community calls as new efforts begin or as additional information is available. The opportunities are organized by addressing When, What, Why, and Who questions for each opportunity.

If you have additional questions after reading this or would like additional information, please "Contact Us" at http://www.landfire.gov/contactus.php .

This document is intended to be a work in progress. It will be posted on the LANDFIRE website and updated periodically.

REVISION HISTORY

Feedback Opportunities	Revision Date	Description of Change
0.1	August 2015	Initial Documentation
0.2	September 2015	Updates on the who, what, when, where types of information



1. Data Submissions (plots and polygons):

WHEN: Present to March 31, 2016.

WHAT: Contribution of data to the LANDFIRE program. Data may include: Plots, Polygons, Events, Exotics, and LIDAR data related to vegetation or fuels.

WHY: LANDFIRE always welcomes these data whenever it is convenient for people to share. LANDFIRE had targeted January 2015 as the key date with the upcoming remap effort but due to additional data advances with the USGS Land Change Monitoring, Assessment and Projection (LCMAP) effort, LANDFIRE is extending the beginning of the remap and extending the data call date. It would be great to get your data incorporated as part of this National data set to help the landscape data be as reflective as possible of on the ground conditions. Additional data about vegetation or fuels such as Plots, Polygons, Events, Exotics, and LIDAR are important. The LANDFIRE program expects the remap product will have a base-relevancy date of CY 2015.

WHO: Brenda Lundberg – LANDFIRE Data Administrator { blundberg@usgs.gov }. To learn more about providing data to LANDFIRE please visit:
http://www.landfire.gov/participate_refdata.php

2. Fire Regime Group (FRG) review:

WHEN: Present to September 30, 2015. Product expected by end of CY 2015.

WHAT: Potential updated Fire Regime Group (FRG) layer will be created from this review.

WHY: The FRG review is a short-term improvement for this data set. The data layer has not been updated since it was developed for LANDFIRE National. The updated FRG layer from this review will support management's needs until a new FRG layer is created as part of the LANDFIRE remap. The interim update may involve subdividing or reorganizing the current five (5) fire regime groups. LANDFIRE has invited over 50 people for this review and included a virtual webinar.

WHO: Dr. Wendel Hann of the Wildland Fire Research Development and Applications-Fuels and Fire Ecology - University of Idaho Unit { wendelhann@gmail.com }. To learn more about the FRG product and results from this review please visit:
http://www.landfire.gov/NationalProductDescriptions12.php

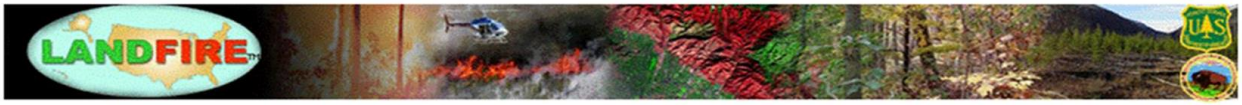
3. Biophysical Settings (BpS) Review:

WHEN: October, 2015 to July, 2016

WHAT: Streamline the total set of BpS models and improve their descriptions.

WHY: An initial BpS review was done as part of LANDFIRE 2008 data set. However it did not address some key elements and this effort will improve the quality and usefulness of the BpS models and descriptions by:

1) Locating and correcting obvious errors or information mismatches;
2) Appropriately "reducing" the model set by grouping/collapsing models that are identical in either model parameters or model description;



3) Improving the consistency of Succession-class definitions either by correcting errors in the rule set or soliciting and incorporating new science/new information;
4) Ensuring that metadata is appropriate and complete; and
5) Making the model materials/information more accessible, more reviewable and more editable by delivering online on a more user-friendly platform.

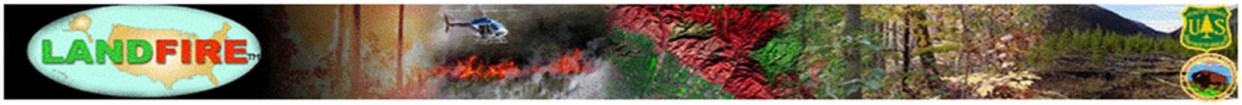
The streamlined BpS could also have implications for Vegetation Departure, Vegetation Condition Class, and the attributes of the BpS layer. This review will be primarily web-based and supplemented with in-person visits and webinars.
WHO: The Nature Conservancy; LANDFIRE team { landfire@tnc.org }. To learn more about this review please visit: *(the link will be www.landfirereview.org when we go live).*

4. Fire Behavior Fuel Model (FBFM) Guidebooks:

WHEN: October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.
WHAT: Development of Fire Behavior Fuel Model Guide Books for the US.
WHY: The LANDFIRE program has experienced firsthand the value of guidebooks during the Alaska FBFM calibration workshop. The LANDFIRE program envisions that FBFM guidebooks will improve remap and future update data products. These guidebooks may also be useful for other purposes such as site-specific project planning. In FY2016 LANDFIRE will be kicking off the development of Fire Behavior Fuel Model Guide Books (following the Alaska example). The primary focus will be on the conterminous United States, Hawaii, and potentially the U.S. affiliated insular areas / territories. These guidebooks may be organized by geographic areas or regions. LANDFIRE will be working with National Wildfire Coordinating Group subcommittees on this effort. Initial participants/contacts will be formed from previous contacts that participated in the LANDFIRE National calibration workshops. The approach may include the Joint Fire Sciences Program consortia structure for these area reviews.
WHO: Dr. Wendel Hann of the Wildland Fire Research Development and Applications-Fuels and Fire Ecology - University of Idaho Unit { wendelhann@gmail.com }. To learn more about this review please visit:

5. Seasonal Fuels Development:

WHEN: Present to December 31, 2017.
WHAT: Model-ready data that is responsive to seasonal changes in fuel conditions.
WHY: Users have expressed the need to have greater variability in surface fuel products due to seasonal variations that occur. These data will give users additional information that can be used in assessments and analyses to be more precise with fire behavior estimates. The LANDFIRE program has released (through the Wildland Fire Decision Support System) a



variant data set for the Southeastern US that is based on the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI). Initial response to the data has been favorable. In addition, draft products are being created in the Great Basin/Southwest region of the U.S. based on changes in herbaceous cover as a result of seasonal moisture fluctuation. These data are being analyzed by local fuels specialists and continue to be refined. The LANDFIRE fuels team is interested in working with users to further review and test products developed in these two areas and to develop similar seasonal fuels data for other regions.

WHO: Charley Martin { chmartin@usgs.gov } – LANDFIRE Fuels Team.

6. Vegetation/Disturbance Transitions Review:

WHEN: September 15, 2015 to May 6, 2016.

WHAT: Review and edit the rule sets for vegetation transitions following various disturbances.

WHY: LANDFIRE has begun distributing additional disturbance and vegetation transition data products. Vegetation and fuel transition databases define changes in vegetation and fuel types based on disturbance type, severity, approximate year of disturbance, or succession. Annual disturbance layers are derived through analysis of Landsat satellite imagery, local agency derived disturbance polygons, and other ancillary data to depict disturbance locations, type, and severity for disturbances occurring in each year. Vegetation and fuel disturbance are composites of the annual disturbance grids with the most recent disturbance taking precedence. Vegetation Transition Magnitude data represent the relative magnitude of change applied to a pixel during the LANDFIRE vegetation update process, and provides information regarding disturbance type and the resulting impact on vegetation life-form or tree canopy cover. Since several of these data sets are newly released, the logic and defined rules need broader input and review. These data are also being incorporated into the Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS) to help users evaluate pre- and post-treatment landscapes for planning and risk purposes. This review will largely be web-based individually and virtually through group webinars.

WHO: Don Long – Technical Lead LANDFIRE team { dlong01@fs.fed.us }. For more information and supporting tables, see:

See FVS analysis ready plot data at Forest Vegetation Simulator Ready Database (FVSRDB), or

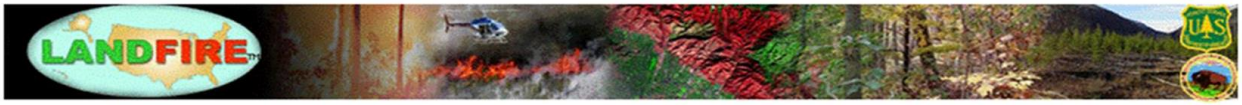
See Vegetation Transition Databases at http://www.landfire.gov/disturbance.php

7. FBFM Changes in WFDSS Reviews:

WHEN: Present to January 31, 2016

WHAT: Interpretation of changes made to LANDFIRE data by users within WFDSS,

WHY: The LANDFIRE program is evaluating structured review processes such as monitoring recurring edits to the same landscape in WFDSS, and editing and reuse of edited data.



LANDFIRE and WFDSS personnel will evaluate changes users made and assess value of implementing similar changes in updates or the remap.

WHO: Kurtis Nelson (USGS) – { knelson@usgs.gov }

As more is done with this review information will be posted at:

http://www.landfire.gov/fuel.php

POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES. The following are not yet ready for scheduling.

8. Future FBFM Calibration Workshops:

WHEN: TBD.

WHAT: Review and comment on rule sets and FBFM assignments based on consideration of existing vegetation, "normal" burning conditions, and local expertise.

WHY: The LANDFIRE program has acknowledges the value of conducting FBFM calibration workshops as part of LANDFIRE National and how important it is to have local input on this as well as all data layers. LANDFIRE recognizes that as a part of original workshops with LF National, unintended consequences such as; introducing artificial seam-lines occurred due to one specialist from one map zone making a particular FBFM call and another specialist from an adjoining map zone making a different FBFM call. Additionally specialists at the time were just learning about the new 40 FBFMs. The program also realizes the guidance to provide the average fire behavior conditions was not uniformly applied causing additional issues between map zones.

Depending on the success of the FBFM guidebooks (item number 4 above) there may, or may not, be a need for additional fuel calibration workshops. The LANDFIRE program is open to opinions on timing and usefulness.

WHO: TBD

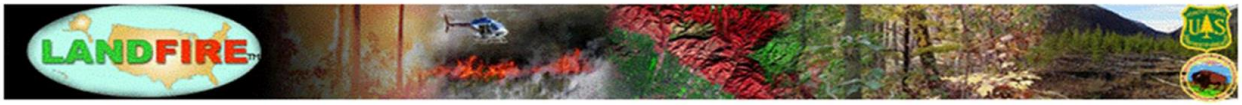
9. Training and Customer Service:

WHEN: TBD.

WHAT: Opinions on timing and usefulness of various training opportunities.

WHY: LANDFIRE is included in some of the NWCG training and has an on-line training curriculum. However, training is a dynamic and ongoing issue. On-site, classroom training is expensive and of limited utility. Advances in technology have evolved both the platforms for data use and the type of training venues. LANDFIRE also maintains a number of websites and a help desk function. The LANDFIRE program is open to opinions on timing and usefulness of various training opportunities. Reviewers might consider 1) What is the most efficient and feasible way to serve the users' training needs? 2) How can LANDFIRE's websites and helpdesk provide better service within the program's limited resources?

WHO: TBD



10. Data Improvements:

WHEN: TBD

WHAT: Interpretation of changes made to LANDFIRE data by users within specific applications.

WHY: The LANDFIRE program is evaluating structured review processes such as monitoring recurring edits to the same landscape in WFDSS (see item 7 above), and editing and reuse of edited data in IFTDSS across workflows or projects. While the program is making progress on how to gather and analyze user data from user applications like WFDSS and IFTDSS, the program needs help interpreting what changes the users made, why they made the changes, and what does that tell us about remapping, or updating, the base LANDFIRE data. LANDFIRE is grappling with providing additional direction on how users can provide input for future updates/remaps. Programs like WFDSS and IFTDSS are examples of real-world use of the LANDFIRE dataset. Can we get useful feedback about the data set from these examples? Current approaches on how users can submit data and provide feedback are listed in appendix via the link at landfire.gov.

WHO: TBD

10a. IFTDSS - future potential. – TBD

10b. Vegetation ? – future potential.,