2014 LANDFIRE User Questionnaire
Executive Summary

In the fall of 2014, the LANDFIRE user community was asked to share their experiences with LANDFIRE products and services. The questionnaire contained 40 questions, including 19 requests for comments and recommendations. There were multiple objectives: evaluate user satisfaction with products and applications, determine important product and service characteristics, and aid in planning for future development of LANDFIRE products and services. The majority of the more than 260 respondents were familiar with LANDFIRE with 68% reporting "over 5 years of experience."

User Satisfaction

Based on the "usefulness" of the data products; fuels, fire regime, and vegetation products had the most responses to "very useful" and "useful." Of the fuels products, the 40 Scott and Burgan Fire Behavior Fuel Models (FBFM40) was rated most "useful." Within fire regime, the Fire Regime Groups (FRG) was rated most "useful." The vegetation product rated most "useful" was Existing Vegetation Type (EVT). While reference products are critical in creating quality vegetation and fuels products, they had the lowest number of "usefulness" responses. However, reference products are critical in creating quality vegetation and fuels products, and are mostly used internally, so LANDFIRE customers may not be as familiar with them. Overall, three-quarters of the respondents would recommend LANDFIRE data to others and over 80% were likely to continue using LANDFIRE data.

There were some areas of concern, however. The most frequently expressed data concerns include: site-specific accuracy, regional differences in product quality (especially the eastern U.S.), and appropriateness of certain uses or applications of the LANDFIRE data. The LANDFIRE Team will review all comments and concerns and work to appropriately address them on future LANDFIRE versions.

Despite data concerns, one question received almost universal approval: 92% of the respondents said LANDFIRE should continue!

Product and Service Characteristics

LANDFIRE data can be described using a variety of characteristics. The user community was asked to rate "importance" of thirteen characteristics and respondents indicated "quality" and "currency of the data" as the most important. Users were then asked which characteristics LANDFIRE best accomplishes, and low marks were given for "quality" and "currency and high marks for accomplishing "resolution (30 meter)" and "comprehensive (all lands mapped)" with the products. Service is provided through the LANDFIRE website and respondents reported 2013 updates to the website were beneficial.

Future LANDFIRE Products and Services

LANDFIRE customers reported a need to, at least, maintain the current frequency of its products releases with 87% wanting to maintain the biennial update strategy and 26% requesting more frequent updates. LANDFIRE is planning a decadal remap strategy and when asked about the remap frequency, 43% said it was appropriate while 54% said they would like the remap frequency to occur more often. The two most popular suggestions for improvements were accuracy and finer resolution.