

Opportunities to engage and provide feedback

(Initial Documentation August 2015 – updated; February 16, 2016)

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

INTRODUCTION:

This document provides the LANDFIRE user community with a list of upcoming opportunities to engage and help with data reviews 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. 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>.

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 related to vegetation or fuels.

WHY: 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. For more details please visit: http://www.landfire.gov/participate_refdata.php

WHO: Brenda Lundberg – LANDFIRE Data Administrator { blundberg@usgs.gov }.

2. Fire Regime Group (FRG) review:

WHEN: Initial review and collaboration has passed, awaiting completion of the FRG report.

WHAT: An updated Fire Regime Group (FRG) layer to better support management’s needs.

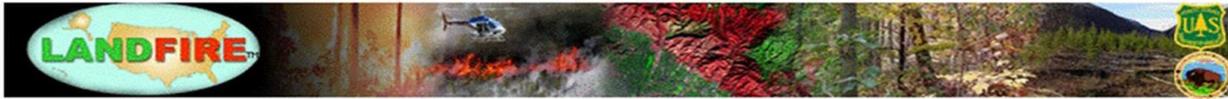
WHY: The FRG review is a short-term improvement for this data set.

WHO: Dr. Wendel Hann of the Wildland Fire Research Development and Applications-Fuels and Fire Ecology - University of Idaho Unit { wendelhann@gmail.com }.

3. Biophysical Settings (BpS) Review:

WHEN: October 2015 to July 2016

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



WHY: This effort will improve the quality and usefulness of the BpS models and descriptions. This review will be primarily web-based and supplemented with in-person visits and webinars. For more details please visit: <http://www.landfirereview.org>

WHO: The Nature Conservancy; LANDFIRE team {landfire@tnc.org}.

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 2016 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 the U.S. affiliated insular areas may be included. The reviews 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}.

5. LF Modeling Dynamic-Fuels with an Index (LF MoD-FIS)

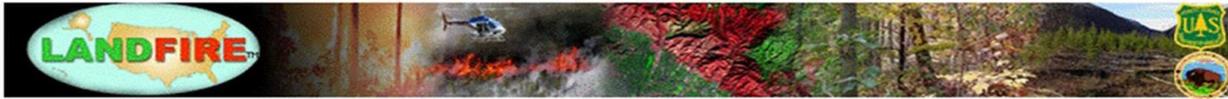
WHEN: Present to December 31, 2017.

WHAT: Model-ready data that is responsive to dynamic changes in fuel conditions. Dynamic changes could include seasonal variations or response to drought patterns.

WHY: Users have expressed the need to have greater variability in surface fuel products due to variations that occur. These data will give users additional information that can be used in assessments and analyses for more precise 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. The 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 an index system to model dynamic fuels data for other regions.

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

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



6. Vegetation/Disturbance Transitions Review:

WHEN: TBD.

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

WHY: LANDFIRE has distributed 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, disturbance polygons received from local agencies, and other ancillary data to depict disturbance locations, type, and severity occurring in each year.

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/lf_transitiontbls.php

7. Future FBFM Calibration Workshops:

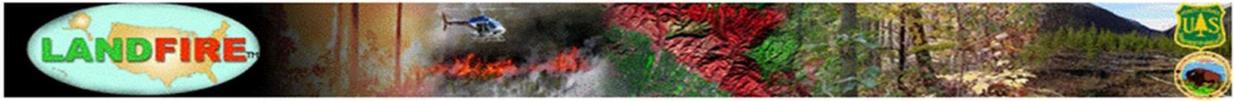
WHEN: TBD.

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 acknowledged 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



8. Training and Customer Service:

WHEN: On Going

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. Commenters might consider: 1) What is the most efficient and feasible way to serve training needs? 2) How can LANDFIRE's websites and helpdesk provide better service?

WHO: TBD

9. 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, 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. Can we get useful feedback about the data set from real-world use of Programs like WFDSS and IFTDSS? Current methods for users to submit data and provide feedback are found at this link: http://www.landfire.gov/participate_refdata.php

WHO: TBD

9a. WFDSS - Kurtis Nelson (USGS) knelson@usgs.gov

9b. IFTDSS - future potential. – TBD