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Project Identifier: **01.PNW.C.1**--Ground Based Support for Assessing Fuel and Fire Hazard

Project Narrative 2003 Highlights, Accomplishments and Activities

Land managers require detailed and precise knowledge about the characteristics of fuels for assessing hazard risk and effects associated with wildland fire. Most managers have little available fuels data of the extent, detail, or resolution needed for these critical situations because measuring fuels is difficult and takes several days to complete. To assist managers in completing fire plans, large environmental and fire hazard assessments, and fuel treatment decisions, two fuels assessment projects are continuing under the National Fire Plan Initiative.

The first project is the continued development of fuels photo series in conjunction with the Joint Fire Science Program. Two photo series volumes have been published during FY 03 including Volume IIa: Hardwoods with spruce in Alaska and Volume Va: Jack pine in the lake states. Two other volumes are in draft form. Finally, 40 photo series sites in the northeastern States have been photographed and inventoried. A poster and paper have been prepared for presentation in October.

The second project is the design and development of the Fuels Characteristic Classification System. This system will provide fuels data to a large number of people over a broad geographical area for large-scale fire risk assessments where less precise fuel knowledge is required. The system will be available for down load from a website in November 2003. A poster, proceedings paper, and a pamphlet have been prepared for presentation in October and November.



Figure 1. Measuring tree diameter for photo series plot.



Figure 2. Natural Fuel Photo Series publications

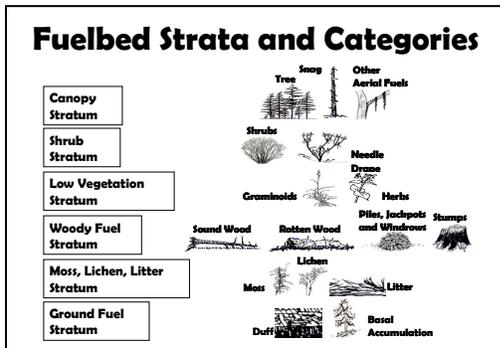


Figure 3. Fuelbed strata and categories for the Fuel Characteristic Classification