

LANDFIRE: Mapping Fire and Fuels Characteristics for the Conterminous United States¹

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Introduction

LANDFIRE is research and development project that will develop a comprehensive package of spatial data layers, models, and tools in support of the National Fire Plan, both at the national and local level. The project is being developed cooperatively between fire scientists at the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station Fire Science Laboratory in Missoula, MT, remote sensing scientists at the USGS EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, SD, and vegetation scientists at the RMRS Forest Inventory Analysis Laboratory in Ogden, UT.

Methods

LANDFIRE is a mid-scale project targeting map accuracies of 60 to 80 percent for the sub-watershed level (10,000 to 40,000 ac). The spatial datasets for LANDFIRE will be maintained at a 30 m pixel size. LANDFIRE is designed to be the safety net for land management agencies that do not have local-scale information, and is not a substitute for finer scale, local mapping efforts. It is intended to be scalable from sub-watersheds to a national level.

Discussion

Research and development have begun on 18,200,000 ha in two prototype areas: central Utah and western Montana. LANDFIRE Prototype is a three-year project starting in April 2002 with the prototype effort scheduled for completion in April 2005. Intermediate components/products will be available starting in summer 2002.

Conclusion

The purpose of this presentation was to introduce the audience to the LANDFIRE project. For more information about this project, please go to the LANDFIRE web page (www.landfire.gov). This web page is updated regularly with latest research information and project status. For more information about historical natural fire regimes and fire regime condition classes, please go to the following web page: www.fs.fed.us/fire/fuelman.

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