

Stereo Photo Series for Quantifying Natural Fuels in the Americas¹

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Introduction

Photo series are useful tools for quickly and inexpensively evaluating vegetation and fuel conditions in the field. The natural fuels photo series is a collection of data and photographs that collectively display a range of natural conditions and fuel loadings in a wide variety of ecosystem types throughout the Americas from central Alaska to central Brazil. Fire managers are the primary target audience of the natural fuels photo series, although the data presented will also prove useful for scientists and managers in other natural resource fields.

Methods

Phase I included 18 ecosystem types in the United States organized geographically into six volumes. Phases II and III will add volumes for ecosystem types in Hawaii (grassland, shrubland, woodland, and forest) and the northeastern United States (pitch pine, balsam fir/red spruce, and mixed hardwoods).

Discussion

Ongoing and future work will supplement already published volumes with new series in new ecosystems or additional sites in already published series. Additionally a volume has also been produced for savannah (*cerrado*) ecosystem types in central Brazil and a volume is under development for pine forests in Mexico. Ten ecosystem types have been photographed and inventoried to date with publication anticipated in the next two years.

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