

Forest Management Tech Tips

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Fuel Treatment Analysis

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In 2004, the San Dimas Technology and Development Center of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, posted this fuels treatment information on its internal Web site. The information recently was updated and reformatted for the Internet.

As part of “Fuels Planning – Science Synthesis and Integration,” the Pacific Northwest Research Station of the Forest Service developed a tool to assess fuel treatment alternatives. For information about the overall project, see: <http://forest.moscowfs1.wsu.edu/fuels/>.

For more specific information about the assessment tool “My Fuel Treatment Planner” (MyFTP), visit: http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/data/myftp/myftp_home.htm.

Provide feedback on this program to Dennis Dykstra at: ddykstra@fs.fed.us.

My Fuel Treatment Planner

In the face of rapidly changing public and political attitudes towards fire and fuel planning, one factor remains constant: The fuel planner is ultimately responsible for making decisions on the land. Of course, the planner works within the framework of the National Environmental Policy Act and other regulations to achieve objectives at the national, regional, and local levels, but the method of achieving those objectives (mechanical thinning or prescribed fire, for example) is often left to the planner’s discretion. In order to evaluate the range

of available alternatives, quality information about different treatment strategies is required, including estimates of how much treatments will cost.

My Fuel Treatment Planner (MyFTP) is a Microsoft Excel-based tool for calculating costs and benefits of fuel treatments. Designed for ease of use and integration with other available planning tools, the calculator can assist fuel planners in evaluating the economic costs of fuel treatments and other management activities. The planner also provides direction on how to think through economic analyses and a discussion of the environmental, social, and other values associated with fuel treatments.

Application

The overall project is targeted for the dry forest of the Inland West, but is often applicable across broad regions of the country. MyFTP is similarly targeted but may be applicable to other areas. Within the program, maps are available of the forest types, inventory areas, and component economic areas.

Use of the program outside the targeted areas may require that the user provide adjustments to data based on local variations. Familiarity with the program and understanding of the outputs are critical.



SDTDC's national publications are available on the Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/pubs/>.

Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management employees also can view videos, CDs, and SDTDC's individual project pages on their internal computer network at <http://fsweb.sdtc.wo.fs.fed.us/>.

For additional information on fuel treatment analysis, contact Bob Simonson at SDTDC. Phone: 909-599-1267 ext 242. E-mail: bsimonson@fs.fed.us

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