Wildfire Hazard Potential

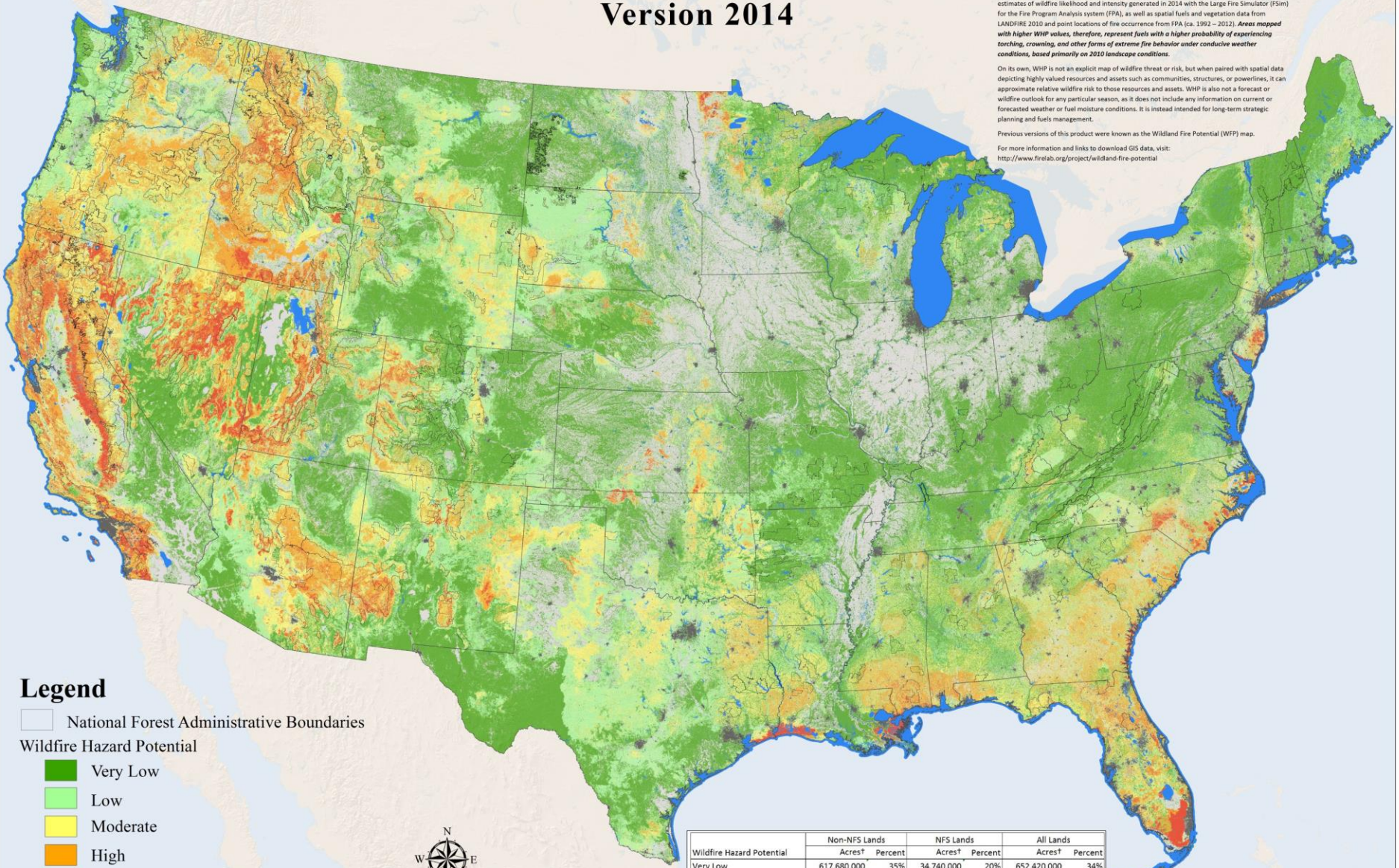
Version 2014

The wildfire hazard potential (WHP) map is a raster geospatial product produced by the USDA Forest Service, Fire Modeling Institute that can help to inform evaluations of wildfire risk or prioritization of fuels management needs across very large spatial scales (millions of acres). ***Our specific objective with the WHP map is to depict the relative potential for wildfire that would be difficult for suppression resources to contain***. To create the 2014 version we built upon spatial estimates of wildfire likelihood and intensity generated in 2014 with the Large Fire Simulator (FSim) for the Fire Program Analysis system (FPA), as well as spatial fuels and vegetation data from LANDFIRE 2010 and point locations of fire occurrence from FPA (ca. 1992 – 2012). ***Areas mapped with higher WHP values, therefore, represent fuels with a higher probability of experiencing torching, crowning, and other forms of extreme fire behavior under conducive weather conditions, based primarily on 2010 landscape conditions***.

On its own, WHP is not an explicit map of wildfire threat or risk, but when paired with spatial data depicting highly valued resources and assets such as communities, structures, or powerlines, it can approximate relative wildfire risk to those resources and assets. WHP is also not a forecast or wildfire outlook for any particular season, as it does not include any information on current or forecasted weather or fuel moisture conditions. It is instead intended for long-term strategic planning and fuels management.

Previous versions of this product were known as the Wildland Fire Potential (WFP) map.

For more information and links to download GIS data, visit:
http://www.firelab.org/project/wildland-fire-potential



Legend

- National Forest Administrative Boundaries

Wildfire Hazard Potential

- Very Low
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very High
- Developed Lands
- Non-burnable Lands*
- Water

N W E S

0 100 200 400 600 800 Miles

0 100 200 400 600 800 Kilometers

Wildfire Hazard Potential	Non-NFS Lands		NFS Lands		All Lands	
	Acres†	Percent	Acres†	Percent	Acres†	Percent
Very Low	617,680,000	35%	34,740,000	20%	652,420,000	34%
Low	331,950,000	19%	32,560,000	19%	364,510,000	19%
Moderate	211,170,000	12%	43,130,000	25%	254,300,000	13%
High	130,770,000	7%	37,200,000	22%	167,970,000	9%
Very High	40,750,000	2%	14,080,000	8%	54,830,000	3%
SUM of High and Very High	171,520,000	10%	51,280,000	30%	222,800,000	12%
Non-burnable Lands	383,650,000	22%	8,030,000	5%	391,680,000	20%
Water	36,970,000	2%	900,000	1%	37,870,000	2%
Grand Total	1,752,940,000		170,640,000		1,923,580,000	

†Acreage totals are rounded to the nearest 10,000 acres, and based on counts of 270-m pixels (each approx. 18 acres).

* Non-burnable lands include non-burnable agricultural fields, perennial snow/ice, and bare ground.

Map projection: CONUS Albers Conical Equal Area, NAD 1983

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