The Natural Fuels Photo Series

The Natural Fuels Photo series are a set of photographs with accompanying fuelbed characteristics data from sites where no recent management activity has occurred. They are used to make quick, easy, and inexpensive determinations of fuel quantities and stand conditions when less precise estimates are acceptable. The Natural Fuels Photo Series currently includes 15 volumes representing various regions of the United States and one volume each from Brazil and Mexico. There are one to four series in each volume, each having four to 17 sites. Sites include standard, wide-angle, and stereo-pair photographs. Each group of photos includes inventory data summarizing vegetation composition, structure, and loading; woody material loading; density by size class, forest floor depth, and loading; and various site characteristics.

The photo series are important land management tools that can be used to ecologically assess landscapes through appraisal of living and dead woody material and vegetation biomass (fuels) and stand characteristics. Once an ecological assessment has been completed, stand treatment options such as prescribed fire or harvesting can be planned and implemented to better achieve desired effects while minimizing negative impacts on other resources.

Volume	Region	Fuelbed Types
I	Pacific Northwest	Mixed-conifer, western juniper, sagebrush, grass
II	Alaska	Black and white spruce
IIa	Alaska	Hardwoods with spruce
III	Rocky Mountains	Lodgepole pine, quaking aspen, Gambel oak
IV	Southwest	Pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, chaparral
V	Central & Lake States	Red & white pine, northern tallgrass prairie, mixed oak
Va	Lake States	Jack pine
VI	Southeast	Longleaf pine, pocosin, marshgrass
VIa	Southeast	Sand hill, sand pine scrub, hardwood with white pine
VII	West Coast	white oak, deciduous oak, mixed-conifer with shrubs
VIII	Northeast	Hardwoods, pitch pine, red spruce/balsam fir
IX	Southwest	Oak-juniper woodlands and savannahs
X	Montana	Sagebrush with grass, ponderosa pine-juniper
XI	Eastern Oregon	Sagebrush
XII	Southeast	Post hurricane fuels in forests of the southeast
Hawaii	Hawaii	Grassland, shrubland, woodland, forest
Brazil	Brazil	Cerrado (savannah)
Mexico	Mexico	Pine and oak

The photo series is useful in several branches of natural resource science and management. Inventory data such as these can be used as inputs for evaluating animal and insect habitat, nutrient cycling, and microclimate. Fire managers will find these data useful for predicting fuel consumption, smoke production, fire behavior, and fire effects during wildfires and prescribed fires. In addition, the photo series can be used to estimate carbon sequestration, an important factor in predictions of future climate, and to link remotely sensed signatures to live and dead fuels on the ground. The Natural Fuels Photo Series continues to evolve and grow as land managers, researchers, and policy-makers identify ecosystems for which vegetation and fuel inventory data are needed.

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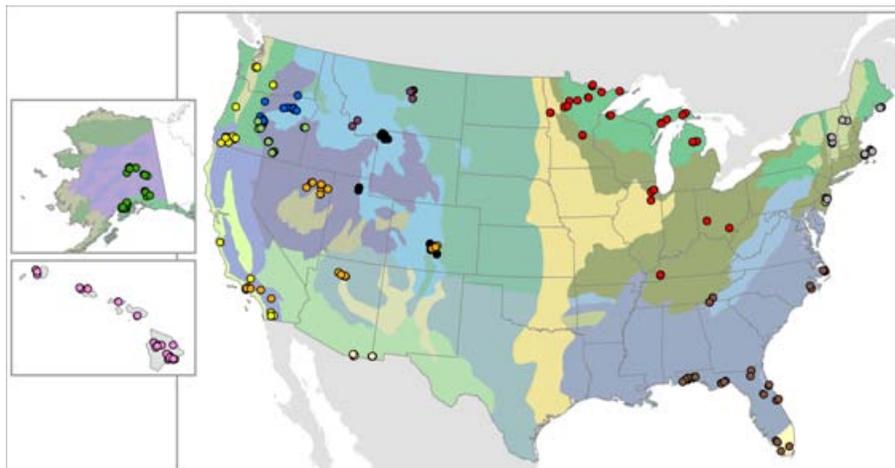
Visit the Photo Series Website:
http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/fera/research/fuels/photo_series/

Ordering the Natural Fuels Photo Series:
Volumes I through VIII are available for ordering by fax from the National Interagency Fire Center (208-387-5573/5548). See their website for ordering instructions (http://www.fire.blm.gov/gbk/publications.html)

Volume XI can be printed from the Digital Photo Series (http://depts.washington.edu/nwfire/dps/). No printed copies are available.

Copies of Volumes IX, X, XII, Hawaii, and Brazil are available at no charge upon request from Roger Ottmar.

Copies of the Mexico photo series are available at no charge upon request from Ernesto Alvarado (alvarado@u.washington.edu).