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Rocky Mountain
Research Station

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Fuels Planning: Science Synthesis and Integration

Economic Uses Fact Sheet: 4

My Fuel Treatment Planner



Rocky Mountain
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Pacific Northwest
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*Synthesizing
Scientific Information
for Fire and Fuels
Project Managers*

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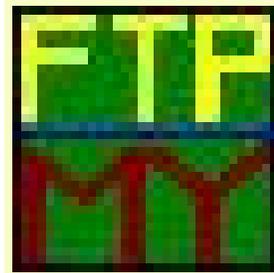
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Fuels planning: Science synthesis and integration, an interagency research/management partnership to support the Ten-Year Fire Plan, led by Russell T. Graham, RMRS, and Sarah M. McCaffrey, NCRS.

What is My Fuel Treatment Planner?



Every fuel reduction treatment has its price, and finding that price involves sorting through a confusing array of choices. Among them are which trees to cut, what material to utilize for forest products versus treatment in place, equipment options, and what types of stands to treat. My Fuel Treatment Planner (MyFTP) is a user-friendly spreadsheet application that provides a way to think about these important questions and to calculate cost or net revenue of treatments and fuel surface loads following treatment.

Intended Users

MyFTP was designed for fuel treatment planners including those with little or no background in economics, forest management, or timber sales. Its area of application is in the dry-forest types of the Western United States.

Intended Uses

MyFTP is best suited for helping to evaluate what treatments and what treatment areas will contribute to meeting fuel reduction program objectives. MyFTP can provide cost and revenue information for budget development and NEPA documents.

Required Inputs

The most important inputs are data on the trees to be cut (species, diameter, height if available, and number per acre), and which trees are to be chipped or cut into logs. Other inputs include State and County, pretreatment surface fuel load, harvesting system, size of harvest unit, slope, yarding distance, hauling distance, and prices for chips and logs. Additional inputs are required if cost estimates for mastication or prescribed fire are needed. Agency administration hours and cost per hour and the uses to which utilized logs would go are required if economic impacts of treatments are needed. Economic impacts are things such as the number of jobs and income generated in the economic area.

MyFTP Navigation	
Navigation Page	
Introduction	
1) Rules	
2) Enter Cut Tree Data	
3) Harvesting Cost	
4) Hauling Cost	
5) Mastication	
6) Prescribed Fire	
7) Log / Chip Prices	
Treatment Summary	
Comparison of Scenario Results	
Fact Sheet Library	

What the Model Does

MyFTP provides an estimate of costs, revenues, economic impacts, and surface fuels associated with fuel reduction treatments that involve the potential for product

Comparison of Scenario Results			
Print Report		Create TOTALS File	
Save Current Scenario Results		Load Comparison Scenario Results	
	Chip 5" plus per Acre	Chip 3" plus per Acre	
Financial Data			
Gross Revenue	\$1,306	\$1,439	
Harvest Costs	\$709	\$1,039	
Hauling Costs	\$269	\$335	
Prescribed Burn Costs	\$93	\$93	
Mastication Costs	\$0	\$0	
Other Costs (user specified)	\$10	\$10	
Net revenue	\$225	-\$38	
Log Volume (CCF)	8.4	8.4	
Fuels Data	Dry Tons / Acre	Dry Tons / Acre	
Cut Trees (Biomass)	21.0	21.0	
Logs Removed	11.2	11.2	
Chipped Trees	1.3	5.1	
Residue Collected	2.9	2.9	
Remaining Activity Fuels	5.6	1.8	
Pretreatment Surface Fuels	5.0	5.0	
Masticated Fuels	0.0	0.0	
Fuels Burned	5.9	3.6	
Surface Fuels Remaining After Prescribed Fire	4.8	3.2	

Sample screen showing a comparison of financial and fuels data for two different treatments.

utilization. It helps you to answer questions such as: “I have a lot of stands that look like this, I wonder what it would cost to treat them?” or “I wonder what types of stand treatments could pay for themselves on my district?” or “Can I combine mechanical treatments and prescribed fire to make treatments less expensive?” It provides for comparison of alternative treatments and alternative treatment areas. It also provides a limited ability to look at scenarios combined into projects.

What the Model Does Not Do

Although MyFTP allows for comparison of alternatives and some coimaging of scenarios, it is not intended to provide a site-specific appraisal for a project. MyFTP was designed to address treatment costs, potential for offsetting costs with product utilization, the effect of treatment on surface fuel loads, and the economic impact at the time of fuel treatment. Longer term economic impacts could occur if fuel treatment affects other forest uses such as recreation. Current research on the effect of thinning and prescribed fire treatments on recreation and other forest uses is too limited to provide the basis for modeling these effects.

How to Obtain the Model

MyFTP and all of the documentation needed to load it and use it can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/data/soft.htm>

Economics Team Fact Sheets

Look for fact sheet topics from the Economics Team including prescribed fire costs, harvesting, log hauling, NEPA and other regulations, wood utilization, economic impacts on communities, markets for wood, and harvest equipment requirements.

Fuels Planning: Synthesis and Integration

This fact sheet is one in a series being produced as part of a larger project supported by the USDA Forest Service to synthesize new knowledge and information relevant to fire and fuels management. Fact sheets address topics related to stand structure, environmental impacts, economics, and human responses to these factors. Information in the fact sheets is targeted for the dry forests of the Inland West, but is often applicable across broad regions of the country. For more information, please visit our Web site at:

www.fs.fed.us/fire/tech_transfer/synthesis/synthesis_index

The Fuels Planning fact sheets are based on preliminary findings. Information from fact sheets will be synthesized in an upcoming publication.