



June 2006 Update

FCCS Implementation and Application

LANDFIRE and the FCCS

Members of FERA (David L. Peterson, Roger Ottmar, and Cynthia Riccardi) met with LANDFIRE Business Leads (Henry Bastian and Dan Crittenden) and Program Manager (Kevin Ryan), in Portland, Oregon on March 28, 2006. We came to an agreement that **LANDFIRE will map FCCS Fuelbeds**. The current 216 FCCS Fuelbeds cover approximately 70% of the country. A follow-up project to build fuelbeds to cover the remaining 30% of the country is being planned. FERA will meet with LANDFIRE in Missoula to plan how fuelbeds will be mapped. FCCS Program Manager Cynthia Riccardi has drafted a 1-page leaflet that outlines the agreements reached at this meeting. This document has been distributed to LANDFIRE and FERA.

Roger Ottmar reviewed the draft LANDFIRE fuel load model manuscript by Duncan Lutes and Bob Keane.

Fire Program Analysis System (FPA) and the FCCS

FPA Core and Development Team requested that FERA team members David L. Peterson, Roger Ottmar, and Cynthia Riccardi attend the FPA prototype workshop April 25-27, 2006 in Boise, Idaho. FERA presented an overview of the FCCS and a demonstration on how it could be used to support and improve version II of FPA. Roger Ottmar was invited to attend the Science Workshop for FPA Concepts and Options on June 14, 2006 in Boise, ID.

Okanogan/Wenatchee FCCS Fuelbed Mapping Project

The Okanogan/Wenatchee project began on March 29, 2005. Since then, Richy Harrod (Fire Ecologist); Jim Bailey, John Barnes, and Rick Lind (Assistant Fuel Management Officers); Tom Leuschen (retired Fuels Management Officer); and Roger Ottmar (Research Forester) have been developing the fuelbed data set. Don McKenzie, Lara Kellogg, and Crystal Raymond (PNW) have been developing the FCCS fuelbed map layers (see handout "Mapping FCCS Fuelbeds on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests").

During the past 12 months the team has:

1. Developed 14 fuelbed pathways (see attached figs. 1 and 2)
2. Developed a list 187 fuelbeds necessary to provide wall-to-wall coverage of the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.
3. Built 150 of the 187 necessary fuelbeds.
4. Reviewed 60 of the fuelbeds required for fuelbed mapping.
5. Drafted a map of fuelbeds on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests.

To be completed by February 2007.

1. Building the remaining 37 fuelbeds.
2. Review of the remaining 127 fuelbeds.
3. Photographing sites that represent each fuelbed and enter photo images into the FCCS.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/pn/fera>

4. Complete an FCCS fuelbed map with fuelbed characteristics and FCCS fire potential layers.
5. Write the final assessment of fire hazard and treatment scenarios.

FCCS Tutorials

The FCCS learning tutorial has been completed. The tutorial packages includes a web-based tutorial with instructor and student guides, following the format the National Wildfire Coordinating Group requires for implementation into the national training curriculum.

Regional Fuels Workshops

FERA has completed 3 out of 7 train-the-trainer regional workshops that teach managers how to operate three national fire and fuel products distributed by the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station's Pacific Wildland Fire Sciences Laboratory. The 2 ½-day workshops are "hands on" with 1½ day in the classroom, and one day in the field. Products demonstrated include:

- Natural Fuels Photo Series. The natural fuels photo series volumes provide a quick, easy means for quantifying and describing existing fuel properties for selected sites across a landscape.
- Fuel Characteristic Classification System (FCCS). The FCCS is designed as a simple interactive program to build, store, catalog and calculate characteristics and fire potentials for both simple and complex fuelbeds across the United States including Hawaii and Alaska.
- Consume 3.0. This national software package was recently developed, and provides the ability to estimate fuel consumption and emissions produced from all types of wildland fire.

The fourth workshop is scheduled for Fairbanks, AK August 15-17, 2006. The remaining three regional workshops will be held in the Pacific Southwest, Northeast, and North Central regions of the United States in 2006 and 2007.

Fuel Course Curriculum at the University of Idaho

Penny Morgan of the University of Idaho requested our Regional Fuels Workshop curriculum to form the core of a 2-credit continuing education class, Forestry 451 Fuels Inventory and Mapping, to meet the new Interagency Standard for professional GS-401 Fire Management specialist positions. The course will include both a hands-on workshop and an online component. Roger Ottmar is working closely with the instructor, Chad Hoffman, to build this course.

Peer Review Panel Process

The FCCS has been through a rigorous peer review process above and beyond the normal peer review process required by refereed journals, and complies with General Accounting Office guidance on review of scientific information used in resource management. This is an additional step that enhances the rigor of peer review, solicits input from technical experts in the international scientific community, and ensures that our research products support management and policy action.

Written comments were provided by the reviewers in February 2006, and responses have been completed and are part of the public record.

