Fire Planning and Mapping Tools Web Site

One of the goals of the California Fire Alliance has been to, "Assist communities in accessing appropriate planning data and resources." We are pleased to announce, after three years of effort by all involved, a Web site has been developed to accomplish this goal through collaborative efforts of state and federal resources.

To support pre-fire management efforts in California, Alliance members, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), the United States Forest Service (USFS), and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) have created an Internet Map Service (IMS). This service supports the basic GIS data needs for communities planning the mitigation of potential wildland fire disasters. This site provides public access to statewide spatial data in support of the California Fire Plan and National Fire Plan.

Cooperative fire protection in California relies on the interaction and cooperation of fire agencies to facilitate partnerships in operations and standards of operation. The California Fire Alliance envisions easy access by community-based fire protection planning groups to the California data, whether under the stewardship of federal land management agencies or management under private ownership. Critical to this access are the design, development and management of data, including information related to ignitions, weather, vegetation, fuels, assets at risk, level of service, and pre-fire projects under-way or proposed, irrespective of jurisdictional boundaries.

Background

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection adopted the California Fire Plan in September 1996 as a model for community-based fire protection planning. This Plan lays out a framework for reducing the cost and loss due to wildland fire while improving citizen and firefighter safety. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) has been implementing the framework in 27 administrative units (21 CDF units and 6 contract counties) throughout the state since 1996. The California Fire Plan requires community-based participation to develop a wildfire protection plan. The California Fire Plan is supported by a statewide Geographical Information System database, which is critical to community-based planning.

This tool promises to provide critically needed information in a timely fashion to meet the needs of your communities. This comes at a critical time, as community fire protection planning has become a requirement for receiving grant funding such as the Healthy Forests Initiative and Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

California Fire Alliance Leaders' Meeting
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In fiscal year 2001, federal appropriations authorized language and funding for the National Fire Plan. The National Fire Plan has five key points.   One of the key points directs federal agencies to fund and work with communities at risk from wildfire.

The Assets-at-Risk and Ignition Workload Analysis evaluations included in the California Fire Plan assessment process are key steps to identifying the problem and developing solutions. The California Fire Plan framework presents a consistent, statewide process for assessing wildfire potential while providing local information of relative importance to the proposed activities. The process brings forth projects based on local and statewide need. Implementation of this Web site has immediate local benefit as well as a cumulative long-term statewide benefit.

Scope

This Fire Planning and Mapping Tools Web site is a user-friendly Web site in which a person can create a map of an area, print and download data to the user's local PC to use with GIS software. The site has been funded for five years starting October 2004.

The site URL: http://wildfire.cr.usgs.gov/fire_planning/viewer.htm

California Fire Plan URL:
http://www.fire.ca.gov/FireEmergencyResponse/FirePlan/FirePlan.asp

This site will be linked to the Alliance Web site and the Fire Safe Council Web site.