## Technology in Support of Wildland Fire Research and Management
**http://frames.nbii.gov/**

### About FRAMES

The Fire Research And Management Exchange System (FRAMES) is a systematic approach for cataloguing wildland fire data, documents, metadata, tools, and other information resources. The goal of FRAMES is to make these content resources easy to find, access, distribute, compare, and use.

Through FRAMES, content can be exchanged and transferred between researchers, managers, and other stakeholders. FRAMES may host content resources or provide common access to resources managed by other organizations on their systems. FRAMES also provides additional services including threaded discussions, announcements, calendars, and file sharing for project management and other collaborative efforts that can help eliminate redundancy, reduce costs, and promote increased productivity and efficiency.

FRAMES infrastructure is designed to provide services and deliver content within project level, regional, and national contexts. Content is organized by subject categories and can be managed for public or limited access. FRAMES is currently working with others to develop a Northwest Portal and a Southern Fire Science Portal. Portal content is aggregated geographically and conforms to the Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) boundaries of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG).



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### FRAMES and NBII

FRAMES has teamed up with the USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII). NBII is an electronic information network that provides access to biological data and information on our nation's plants, animals, and ecosystems.

Like FRAMES, NBII provides common access to data and information that is maintained by and resides with a variety of agencies and organizations. NBII has made a significant investment in information infrastructure and is making their resources available to FRAMES. Together, FRAMES and NBII are developing complimentary systems.

NBII is also helping FRAMES meet federal information technology (IT) requirements. The FRAMES and NBII partnership is an excellent opportunity to share expertise, leverage technical capabilities, and demonstrate the value of connecting tools, information, and people.

### FRAMES Funding and Development

FRAMES development has been supported by research dollars. FRAMES and our partners have received funding from the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) in 2002 and 2004. In 2005, FRAMES received its third congressional earmark of approximately $200K. FRAMES has also been supported by the USDA Forest Service's Fire Sciences Lab in Missoula, Montana and FRAMES was contracted to provide on-line training for the Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC).



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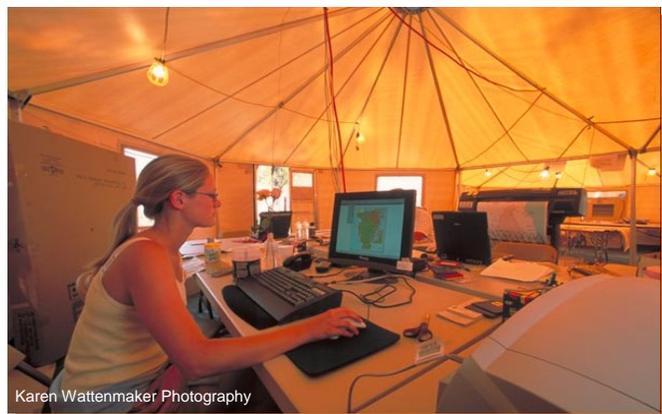
Funding has supported infrastructure and content development. Infrastructure includes the costs to design, implement, update, and maintain the technology and personnel necessary for the delivery of wildland fire content. Content development includes the costs to find, describe, input, update, and maintain wildland fire-related content. Over the next two years, infrastructure costs are expected to decrease slightly while content development costs will rise.

## FRAMES Today and Next Steps

FRAMES currently describes and provides access to over 100 tools and over 150 supporting documents. FRAMES supports posting of 8 different types of notices. FRAMES is hosting the Fire Effects Monitoring and Inventory Protocol (FIREMON) website and is arranging to host websites for two JFSP funded projects. Five project teams are using FRAMES project management services and discussions are underway with other researchers to provide access to or host their data, documents, tools, and websites. FRAMES is working on a second version of FRCC on-line training and is helping to deliver courses for fire professionals seeking to meet academic requirements for GS-401 series/IFPM.

FRAMES continued success depends on the ability to develop infrastructure and content that supports the informatics needs at the intersection between wildland fire research and management. A five year strategic plan for FRAMES that considers development, administration, funding, and marketing is desirable and necessary. NBII has promised to help develop a strategic plan, but FRAMES needs participation and commitment from its partners in fire research and management. FRAMES is poised to begin the transition from a research project to an operational program that supports the needs of the wildland fire research and management communities.

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## Partners

## For More Information

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