

**Comparison of LANDFIRE Project Milestones:  
Rapid Assessment and LANDFIRE National**

**LANDFIRE** is a five-year, multi-partner wildland fire, ecosystem, and fuel mapping project. The Rapid Assessment is one of the project major milestones, and is designed to be a first pass, regional scale assessment for the conterminous United States. The Rapid Assessment is designed to fill data needs prior to the release of LANDFIRE national products. For more information about the LANDFIRE Project major milestones and products, please visit [www.landfire.gov](http://www.landfire.gov).

<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Rapid Assessment</b>	<b>LANDFIRE</b>
<i>Production Schedule</i>	1-year 2004-2005	5 years 2005-2009
<i>Extent</i>	Conterminous 48 United States	Entire 50 United States
<i>Appropriate Application Scale</i>	National to regional levels	National to landscape levels
<i>Examples of Potential Applications</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National and regional strategic planning</li> <li>Regional/state prioritization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National and regional strategic planning</li> <li>Regional/state prioritization</li> <li>Fire management planning</li> <li>Conservation and ecosystem management plans</li> </ul>
<i>Product Depth and Scope</i>	7 primary products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential Natural Vegetation Groups</li> <li>Reference Fire Regimes</li> <li>Fire Regime Condition Class</li> <li>Fire Regime Departure</li> <li>Succession Classes</li> <li>Reference condition model descriptions (aspatial)</li> <li>Reference condition models (aspatial)</li> </ul>	20 or more primary products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biophysical Settings</li> <li>Fire Regimes (5 layers)</li> <li>Fire Regime Condition Class (2 layers)</li> <li>Vegetation dynamics models (2 aspatial data sets)</li> <li>FARSITE &amp; Fuel Data (10 layers)</li> <li>Existing Vegetation &amp; Structure and Succession Classes (4 layers)</li> </ul>
<i>Existing Vegetation Maps</i>	Created by compiling available maps of existing vegetation to classify satellite imagery.	Created from plot data, biophysical gradient modeling, and satellite imagery.
<i>Base data for Potential Natural Vegetation (PNVG)/ Biophysical Settings (BpS)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expert input on mapping rules</li> <li>Ecoregions</li> <li>Elevation, aspect, slope</li> <li>Soils</li> <li>Precipitation</li> <li>Growing degree days</li> <li>Landforms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extensive plot data from numerous sources</li> <li>Over 40 biophysical gradient layers, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elevation, aspect, slope</li> <li>Soils</li> <li>Climate</li> <li>Biogeochemistry</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Map Units for PNVG/BpS</i>	238 Potential Natural Vegetation Groups (PNVG) created with expert input.	Over 500 (estimated) Biophysical Settings (BpS) developed systematically via Ecological Systems <sup>1</sup> .
<i>Reference Conditions for PNV/BpS</i>	Developed from aspatial VDDT <sup>2</sup> models using expert input.	Developed from aspatial VDDT <sup>2</sup> models using expert input and simulated with the spatial disturbance and succession model, LANDSUM <sup>3</sup> .
<i>Expert Workshops</i>	Twelve workshops completed for conterminous U.S.	Over 70 workshops expected for the entire U.S.

<sup>1</sup> Comer, P., D. Faber-Langendoen, R. Evans, S. Gawler, C. Josse, G. Kittel, S. Menard, M. Pyne, M. Reid, K. Schulz, K. Snow, and J. Teague. 2003. *Ecological Systems of the United States: A Working Classification of U.S. Terrestrial Systems*. NatureServe. Arlington, Virginia. Available at: [www.natureserve.org/getData/ecologyData.jsp](http://www.natureserve.org/getData/ecologyData.jsp).

<sup>2</sup> ESSA Technologies Ltd. 2005. Vegetation dynamics development tool, User's guide, Version 5.1. Prepared by ESSA Technologies Ltd., Vancouver, BC. 188 pp. Available at: [www.essa.com](http://www.essa.com).

<sup>3</sup> Keane, R.E., Parsons, R., Hessburg, P. 2002. Estimating historical range and variation of landscape patch dynamics: limitations of the simulation approach. *Ecological Modeling* 151: 29-49.