



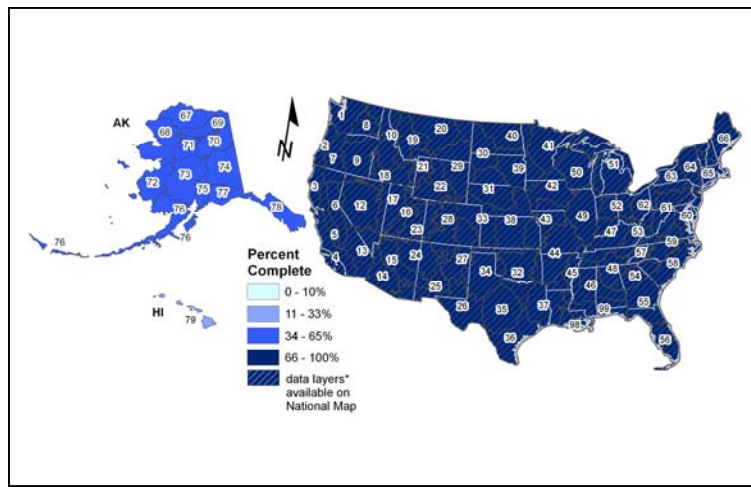
LANDFIRE Project to LANDFIRE Program

LANDFIRE continues to work through all of the necessary planning to ensure a smooth transition from a project focused on data product development to a program addressing operational data product delivery as well as data product maintenance, improvements and innovations. After completing a business case and technical plan to meet the requirements of the project charter and as part of the transition from project to program status, LANDFIRE management developed an implementation plan and is in the process of developing a work plan that addresses the technical and management approach to provide long-term program data updates. This work plan will follow the standard process of review and approval as it is finalized.

LANDFIRE Project Status

The LANDFIRE team is on track with the production and delivery of LANDFIRE National data products for the entire United States by the end of this calendar year. Data from completed mapping zones are currently available for download from the USGS National Map LANDFIRE. Visit the Data Products section of www.landfire.gov for information on accessing the products.

Work is currently under way on Alaska and Hawaii with incremental delivery of these products. In addition, the LANDFIRE Project has recently completed all milestones regarding the delivery of vegetation data products for the entire U.S.; these include: existing vegetation type (EVT), existing vegetation cover (EVC), and existing vegetation height (EVH).



LANDFIRE mapping zones % complete (July 2009). Visit the Schedule section of landfire.gov for the current status of LANDFIRE's mapping progress.

LANDFIRE Refresh Status

Overview – LANDFIRE Refresh (see www.landfire.gov, Data Products > Updated Products > Refresh) is focused on updating existing LANDFIRE vegetation and fire behavior fuel layers to reflect landscape changes that have occurred from 1999 to 2008. Essentially, almost all existing LANDFIRE products will be updated, using a wide range of data sources reflecting new data, landscape changes, and disturbance. A few examples of data sources (where available) include local field unit submitted polygons of fire and fuels treatment changes, insect and disease disturbance information, and remotely sensed change.

Schedule – The planned delivery schedule of Refresh products is currently being updated in conjunction with a revised project baseline. Production was slowed due to contract delays. Overall, the project experienced a production delay of approximately two months. The support contract has been re-established through a “stop-gap” contracting agreement, providing for continued services while a longer-term contract is put in place. As a result of the production delay, Refresh products for the Southeastern geographic region are now scheduled for completion in September 2009. Revised Refresh product delivery timelines for other geographic areas will be available in the near future as contract stability is ensured.

Contributed Data – The Acknowledgements section of the LANDFIRE website (see How to Participate > Updated Products) contains a list of the spatial polygon data sets we currently have on-hand to support Refresh. This list will be periodically updated so users and stakeholders can track data contributions.

Data Needs – The Refresh project continues to need field-referenced data describing vegetation condition, landscape changes, and disturbances that will be used for updating products. For more information, please visit www.landfire.gov, How to Participate > Updating Products > Refresh Data Needs.

LANDFIRE Data Improvement Proposal

A long-standing goal of the project has been to remain focused on scope (the development and distribution of data products), budget, and schedule in accordance with the project sponsors' strategic direction. At the same time, LANDFIRE management has received multiple comments and has long recognized the need to improve the quality of LANDFIRE products. The attempt to meet both goals of continued focus on scope, budget, and schedule as well as work on data product improvements has proven challenging to both the technical and project management teams.

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LANDFIRE Data Improvement Proposal, cont.

As the project is nearing completion, however, focus can now shift towards the improvement of existing LANDFIRE data products. The plan has been to begin these improvements as part of Refresh (see www.landfire.gov, Data Products > Updated Products > Refresh) as LANDFIRE transitions to longer-term program updates. This remains the plan; however, under the direction of the National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCWG), financial support has been given for some key improvements prior to the delivery of Refresh data products. These improvements will feed into the Refresh updates but will also constitute interim data products scheduled to be delivered by May 2010. The following improvement areas are:

Vegetation Map Units	Focus is on improving the quality of data related to burnable agriculture, burnable barren, burnable urban, managed plantations, exotics, etc.
Wetland / Riparian Map Units	Focus is on increasing the quality of these data products.
International Boundaries	Focus is on ensuring data products match Mexican and Canadian borders.
Vegetation Data Products	Focus is on improving the quality of the existing vegetation cover and height data products.
Vegetation Composition & Structure	Focus is on using high-resolution imagery for training sites to improve the suite of vegetation data products.

Coordination & Collaboration

The LANDFIRE Project team continues to work with related projects, coordinating the fulfillment of user needs. Following are two examples:

- **Fire Program Analysis (FPA) Project** – As one of LANDFIRE’s primary customers, FPA and LANDFIRE are coordinating as each completes its respective development phases and moves from project to program status to provide for operations and maintenance activities.
- **Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) National Vegetation Classification Standards (NVCS) subgroup** – With multiple partners, NatureServe has been tasked by LANDFIRE to align the Ecological Systems vegetation classification with the new NVCS; refinement is focused on the group, macro-group, and division vegetation levels within that hierarchy.

Following are a few additional organizations — of many — with which LANDFIRE is engaged in ongoing coordination and collaboration: National Land Cover Database (NLCD), Forest Inventory &

Analysis (FIA) / Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Applications Projects, and the USGS GAP Analysis. In addition, LANDFIRE is also collaborating with entities such as the carbon sequestration effort and the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS).

General Management Evaluation

As mentioned above, the LANDFIRE Project is in the process of completing the initial development and delivery of data products identified for wildland fire and resource management. As LANDFIRE transitions from project to program, a general management evaluation (GME) has been organized to investigate and evaluate three primary focus areas, looking principally towards the future of the program by relying on key lessons learned from the past. The three focus areas include: 1) project inception and sponsoring support, 2) project organization, and 3) project performance. An independent, third-party review team will conduct the GME. The team members have extensive senior-level management experience and a variety of resource and fire management expertise. The review team will provide recommendations on the following:

- How project inception and organizational support affected project completion
- How governance is affecting the transition of LANDFIRE from project status (development & delivery) to program status (operations & maintenance)
- How sponsoring organizations might best organize and support the future program
- How well project principals fulfilled their roles and guided the performance of the organization
- What should constitute future governance elements and how best to organize for the future with associated systems and programs

Recommendations and findings developed during the GME will be used to improve the effectiveness of program efforts and procedures across areas and departmental organizations.

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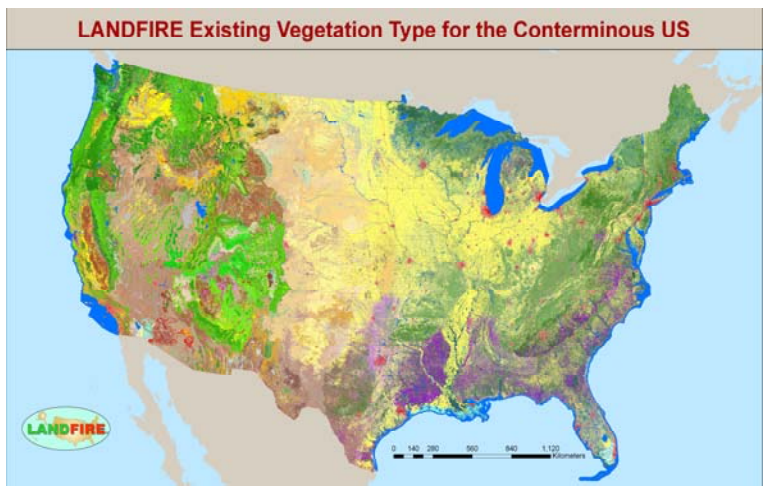


National-extent LANDFIRE Data

LANDFIRE is meeting a growing demand for LANDFIRE data layers with a national-extent. Federal and state agencies, regional offices, etc. thus far have had to piece together LANDFIRE mapping zones to conduct larger landscape analyses, such as hazardous fuels assessments. This approach has led to duplication of efforts and has resulted in inconsistent data. Data are being provided in this national-extent format to increase efficiency and allow for consistency between users. These data have now been mosaicked, packaged, and delivered to federal agency distribution centers. For further questions, please contact helpdesk@landfire.gov.

Data layers that are available in this format are:

- Existing Vegetation Type
- Existing Vegetation Cover
- Existing Vegetation Height
- Canopy Cover
- Canopy Height
- Canopy Bulk Density
- Canopy Base Height
- Fire Regime Condition Class
- Succession Classes
- 13 Anderson Fire Behavior Fuel Models
- 40 Scott & Burgan Fire Behavior Fuel Models



Please visit the various sections of www.landfire.gov for project details and LANDFIRE data products or communicate with the LANDFIRE team through the Contact Us link on the website's homepage.