LANDFIRE Prototype Information Bulletin # 1

March 14, 2002

Research and development has begun on the LANDFIRE project for 18,200,000 hectares in two prototype areas: central Utah and northwestern Montana.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Fire & Aviation Management, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS), US Geological Survey (USGS), and National Fire Plan Coordinators representing USFS and Department of Interior (DOI) have agreed to an interagency partnership and financial support of the project. Fire Scientists at the RMRS Fire Science Laboratory in Missoula, MT, and Remote Sensing Scientists at the USGS EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, SD will prototype LANDFIRE cooperatively.

Scope

LANDFIRE will develop a comprehensive package of spatial data layers, models, and tools in support of analyses for prioritization and planning to initiate the implementation of the National Fire Plan, both at the national and local level.

LANDFIRE is a mid-scale project targeting map accuracies of 60 to 80 percent for the sub-watershed level (10,000 to 40,000 acres). The spatial datasets for LANDFIRE will be maintained at a 30-meter pixel size.

LANDFIRE is intended to be the safety net for land management agencies that do not have local-scale information, and the project is not a substitute for finer scale, local mapping efforts. It is intended to be scalable from sub-watersheds to a national level.

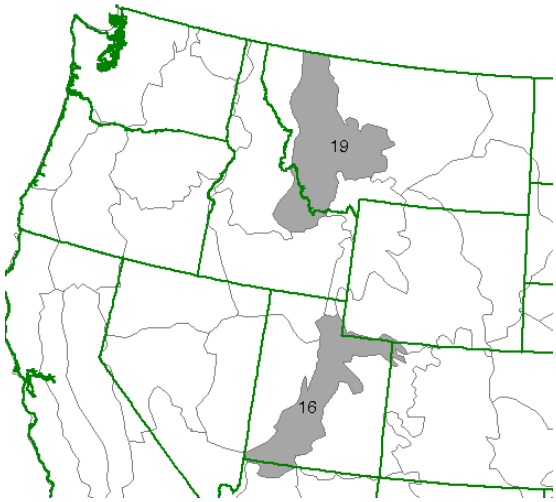
While LANDFIRE will develop many layers that will be key for mapping the wildland/urban interface, LANDFIRE will not create a wildland/urban interface map.

Pilot Areas

The pilot areas were selected from the USGS Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics (MRLC) 2000 mapping units based on ecological diversity, extensive plot data, and previous/ongoing work. Special care was taken to include both forested and non-forested ecosystems.

Pilot Area 16 – located through the central Rockies of Utah. Over seven million hectares composed of 55 percent forests and 45 percent non-forested land. Primary prototype area used to develop and demonstrate all maps, models, and other products.

Pilot Area 19 – located in the central Rockies of Montana and north central Idaho. Ten and half million hectares composed of 65 percent forested lands and 35 percent non-forested lands. Secondary prototype area used for additional research and development of most of the products.



Schedule

LANDFIRE Prototype is a three-year project starting in February 2002 with the prototype effort scheduled for completion in March of 2005. Intermediate components/products will be available starting in the Summer 2002.

Cost and Funding

LANDFIRE Prototype will cost two million dollars a year for three years. Funding for LANDFIRE comes 60% from the Forest Service and 40% from DOI.

Deliverables

LANDFIRE will produce:

Digital databases consisting of:

- Historic Natural Fire Regimes
- Fire Regimes Condition Classes
- Biophysical Settings
- Potential Vegetation Types
- Current Vegetation Types
- Structural Stages
- FARSITE data layers
- Fire Potential
- Ecosystem Status

Computer models for:

- Landscape simulations (LANDSUM)
- Biogeochemical model (LF-BGC)
- Fire potential model (FIREHARM)

Ancillary utilities and products:

- Comprehensive field plot database
- Series of publications
- Interactive website
- Tools allowing managers to scale the datasets
- Tech transfer

Further Information

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Visit:

www.landfire.gov