



New LANDFIRE Website

An updated version of the LANDFIRE website (www.landfire.gov) has recently been released. In addition to a refined interface and improved navigation, several new features have been implemented.

The "What's New" section – accessible from the homepage – provides news on the latest LANDFIRE happenings. Recent "What's New" topics include information on the availability of Rapid Assessment data products (see www.landfire.gov/new_ra.php) and on the "LANDFIRE Data Access Tool," which allows users to download data directly from the *National Map LANDFIRE* into ArcMap (see www.landfire.gov/datatool.php).

In addition, the updated LANDFIRE Schedule Map now provides important mapping and data submission dates for the entire conterminous U.S. Two new very important additions to the



website include sections on "Data Product Versioning" and "Data Product Alerts." These sections have been created to keep users up-to-date on the latest data product versions and to assist users with the implementation of LANDFIRE data products – please see related content below. And as always, users can find the latest workshop dates and locations for both vegetation modeling and training on the use of LANDFIRE data products. Other additions include new resources such as the LANDFIRE Fact Sheet and LANDFIRE-related technical papers (housed in the Documents section of the website).

Browse the new landfire.gov to find out what other resources are offered and watch for continued updates as well as new information and features.

Participating in the LANDFIRE Project

The LANDFIRE Project is based on the best available science and encourages wide participation. There are many opportunities to participate in the LANDFIRE Project and influence LANDFIRE products, including sharing field plot information and participating in vegetation modeling workshops.



First, the LANDFIRE Project relies upon geo-referenced field plot data. Field data is the primary source for most LANDFIRE spatial products, such as maps of environmental site potential, fuels, and existing vegetation type. The

LANDFIRE team encourages all individuals or organizations with geo-referenced field data to submit those data for inclusion in the LANDFIRE field reference database. Data submitted may be withheld from public distribution if desired or included in the LANDFIRE data sets. Please visit the LANDFIRE website for details on sharing your data

(www.landfire.gov/participate_frd_share.php).

Second, dynamic, state-and-transition vegetation models for major ecological systems across the United States are one of LANDFIRE's primary products. These models form the foundation for fire regime modeling and characterization and support other mapping processes, as well. Rather than developing these models "in-house," the LANDFIRE team is traveling around the country to engage local experts in this modeling effort. Participation in these workshops is open to all with useful knowledge and interest. Workshops are held in mapping zones several months prior to product delivery deadlines (see www.landfire.gov/schedule_map.php), and upcoming workshop locations and dates can be found at www.landfire.gov/participate_veg_workshops.php.

Data Product Versioning & Alerts

The LANDFIRE website features two new sections housing up-to-date information on data product versions and alerts in a running-list format.



Occasionally, certain data products need to be modified to improve quality. The Data Products Versioning page – at www.landfire.gov/attention.php – explains these changes to users and, when possible, provides estimates of when these data will once again be available. The method for documenting changes and notifying users will continue to undergo refinement.

The Data Products Alerts section – at www.landfire.gov/details.php – was created to help users implement LANDFIRE data products more effectively. Members of the LANDFIRE team examine helpdesk inquiries, customer feedback, and incident reports regarding LANDFIRE data and then discernable trends are reported to a team that maintains a running list of data product alerts. This team meets biweekly to assess the nature of the feedback and determine ways to make the data more useful. Please forward comments and/or information that you feel should be included in this "Alerts" list via the Contact Us link at www.landfire.gov.

Both of these important pages can also be accessed from the *National Map LANDFIRE* at <http://gisdata.usgs.net/website/landfire/>. Please check these pages regularly to ensure that you have the most current LANDFIRE data products.



Training & Technology Transfer

LANDFIRE'S technology transfer arm – the National Interagency Fuels Technology Team (NIFTT) – has developed and implemented a LANDFIRE introductory course entitled "LANDFIRE: Concepts, Data, and Methods." This course is offered online through the University of Idaho, and in the last nine months, over 150 students have participated. This course also serves as a prerequisite for "Fuel Assessment Techniques using LANDFIRE Data," a hands-on workshop that teaches students how to use models and computer applications to assist in prioritizing work and long term land management



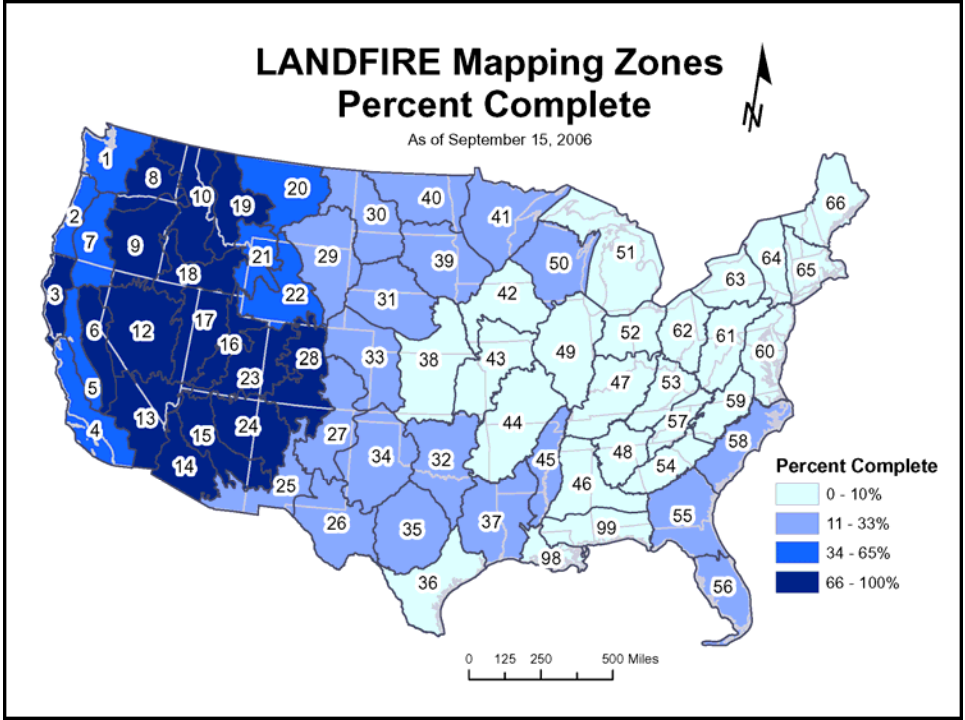
treatments. To date, seven workshops have been held across the West training over 200 students.

In addition, NIFTT has also participated in the use of LANDFIRE data on fire incidents in the 2006 fire season. The team plans to

build from this experience to develop and implement a course teaching students how to acquire, edit, and integrate LANDFIRE data for fire and fuels planning, both on and off incidents. To learn more about these and other technology transfer-related topics, visit the Training and Technology Transfer section of www.landfire.gov and NIFTT's website at www.frames.nbii.gov/nifft/.

LANDFIRE Schedule

The LANDFIRE Project continues to make progress. To date, the project has delivered data products for 15 of the 24 western mapping zones. Because zones are mapped and associated data products are posted gradually, not all areas of a geographic location will be mapped at once. Mapping progress is tracked by the percentage of the zone completed. Visit the Schedule section of the LANDFIRE website (www.landfire.gov/schedule_status.php) to view the incremental mapping progress across the United States. Data products from completed mapping zones are posted for download on *The National Map LANDFIRE* (<http://gisdata.usgs.net/website/landfire/>).



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.

