

## THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S LANDFIRE TEAM

**Jim Smith** (second from left) is the TNC LANDFIRE Project lead. Jim earned a BS in Timber Management and MS Forest Biometrics from the University of Georgia, and a PhD in Forest Biometrics and Remote Sensing from Virginia Tech. He spent the next 13 years on the Forestry faculty at Virginia Tech. Jim has also worked in the commercial sector, and was the head of Forest Information Systems development for Champion International Paper Company. He has published in such prestigious journals as *Fire Ecology*, *Forest Science*, *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing*, *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* and the *Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing*. Among his many professional awards is the 2009 John Wesley Powell Award from USGS, Special Achievement in GIS Award from ESRI, John I. Davidson Award for Practical Papers from the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, and a University Certificate of Teaching Excellence from Virginia Tech. In 2014, the International Spatial Accuracy Research Association presented the first "James L. Smith Early Career Scientist Medal," named after Jim in recognition of his early work on spatial uncertainty in natural resource data bases. Jim lives in Jacksonville, FL.



**Kori Blankenship** (far left) joined TNC in 2005 when she was hired to facilitate the creation of thousands of vegetation dynamic models for ecosystems across the US. She earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in Geography from Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environment; graduate research investigated seasonal changes in fire behavior and effects in the dry forests of north central Washington State. Kori worked as a GIS specialist at the Missoula Fire Sciences Lab and as a wildland firefighter in Washington and Colorado for the NPS and USFS. Her current focus is on taking the results of the first five years of the LANDFIRE project and applying the processes and products toward addressing conservation challenges on large landscapes and ecosystems. Kori lives in Bend, OR.

**Randy Swaty** (second from right) joined the TNC Michigan Chapter after growing up in Little Rock and receiving his BS/MS at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. His scientific specialties span spatial scales, ranging from community genetics to mycorrhizal ecology and landscape-scale planning. When employed as Michigan's Forest Ecologist, he worked with a variety of large landowners to promote sustainable management and was the Great Lakes LANDFIRE modeling lead. Additionally, he has worked to improve forest certification standards, participated in Conservation Area Planning, served on TNC's Conservancy's Forest Management SOP team, participated in the Global Fire Assessment and directs workshops and seminars on the use of LANDFIRE data and products. Randy works to develop vegetation models and to apply LANDFIRE products within and outside of the Conservancy. He lives and works in Michigan and Illinois.

**Sarah Hagen** (third from right) has been with TNC in varying capacities since starting as an intern with the Wisconsin chapter in 2005. Sarah's undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin earned her a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Ecology, as well as a certificate in Environmental Studies from the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. Her graduate certificate in Geographic Information Systems was awarded from the University of Wisconsin. Sarah worked for the stewardship and land protection departments of the Wisconsin Chapter of TNC until September of 2007 when she took a position as the GIS Analyst for the Central Region of TNC. Sarah divides her time between the Illinois Chapter science team and the LANDFIRE team. Her primary focus with LANDFIRE is analyzing National Datasets within various geographies across the Continental United States. Sarah lives in Minneapolis, MN.

**Jeannie Patton** (third from left) joined The Nature Conservancy in 2004 when she was hired to manage outreach and training activities for the Global Fire Initiative and the LANDFIRE Project. She earned her M.A. in Literature at the University of Northern Colorado and has been a journalist; magazine, web, and newspaper feature writer; marketing and public relations specialist; editor; and college instructor in journalism, composition, research and literature. She is an award-winning author of 150+ newspaper and magazine articles ranging from skiing and outdoor sports to western ecology and social commentary. At the University of Colorado, Jeannie provided administrative and communications support to the Natural Resources Law Center, and was the Assistant to the Dean of the School of Law. She manages and writes for LANDFIRE's internal and external websites, leads communications and outreach projects, and provides enthusiastic editing and administrative support. Jeannie lives in Boulder, CO.

**Kim Hall** (far right) was the Great Lakes Climate Change Ecologist for TNC's Great Lakes Program 2008 to 2015. She joined the LF team in 2015, and also manages two climate change adaptation projects. As project manager for the "Conserving Nature's Stage" project, she coordinates efforts to map resilience to climate change, and patterns of landscape connectivity in the Great Plains and Great Lakes regions. She also co-leads a "Science for Nature and People" working group focused on updating natural resource management to account for changing patterns of drought. Kim represents TNC on the Federal Advisory Committee for the National Climate Science Centers, and serves as Program Committee co-chair for the National Adaptation Forum. She is based in Lansing, MI.