

LANDFIRE Product Application Summary

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program Monitoring for Shortleaf Pine in the Ouachita National Forest of Arkansas and Oklahoma

Citation: This work is not yet published. More information on the Shortleaf Pine-Bluestem Community Project is available online:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/documents/cflrp/2011Proposals/Region8/Ouachita/OUACHITAShortleafBluestemCommunityCFLRP.pdf>

Authors: Rachel Worthen and Douglas Zollner, The Nature Conservancy in Arkansas

Application location:

Center Point in AR - 94°9'8.93"W, 34°47'57.049"N

Center Point in Ok - 94°39'34.597"W, 34°21'53.604"N

Objectives

The goal of the Short Leaf -Bluestem Community Project, funded by the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), is to restore large swaths of shortleaf pine-bluestem habitat on the Ouachita National Forest. The desired condition for this habitat includes mature pine trees and scattered oak with an understory of bluestem grasses and other prairie species. To monitor progress towards this desired ecological condition we are using LANDFIRE data and vegetation monitoring plots to track changes in the community over time.

Project description

We used LANDFIRE 2010 data in the Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) Mapping Tool to calculate a circa-2010 FRCC baseline for the entire project area. We will continue to analyze FRCC to track landscape-level conditions and changes using updated versions of LANDFIRE data throughout the life of the project.

The LANDFIRE data should allow us to show change at a broad scale given the size and length of the project. LANDFIRE data are not particularly sensitive to small-scale changes, but we hope it will be useful for tracking broad trends for the project area as a whole. We will use finer scale information from vegetation plots to supplement the course scale FRCC analysis.

LANDFIRE products used

The FRCC Mapping Tool 3.1.0 was downloaded from the Fire Regime Condition Class website (<https://www.frames.gov/partner-sites/frcc/frcc-home/>). Succession Class (s-class) and Biophysical Settings (BpS) data from LANDFIRE 2010 were downloaded from the LANDFIRE Data distribution site. The s-class and BpS data layers were cropped and cut to the landscape area of interest. Vegetation departure results were produced in Mapping Tool and symbology was used to separate the Shortleaf Pine BpS for mapping and visualization purposes.

Value of the work to the natural resource management/conservation community

Restored pine-bluestem woodlands are rare and provide habitat for a suite of rare, endangered, and sensitive species. We have garnered significant resources to implement this project. Being able to show that we are doing what we said we would do, and having the impact/results we said we would have at the landscape level is crucial to continued support.

Online resources

<http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/documents/cflrp/2011Proposals/Region8/Ouachita/OUA CHITAShortleafBluestemCommunityCFLRP.pdf>



Photo Credit: Douglas Zollner