

Core Science Forum Meeting Notes

Date: 12 April 2017

Participants: Bob Boyd, Louis Brueggeman, Scott Davis, Hal Hallett, Steve Tryon, Geoff Walsh, Ron McCormick, Kori Blankenship (TNC, presenter), Jim Smith (TNC), Randy Swaty (TNC), Jeannie Patton (TNC), Henry Bastian (DOI LANDFIRE lead)

[Kori Blankenship recorded this presentation](#) (doesn't include Q&A at the end).

The presentation covered some aspects of how BLM is using LANDFIRE and biophysical settings (BpS) in rapid ecological assessments, to support the sage-grouse plans, and to support shrub mapping efforts. LANDFIRE now has access to AIM data and expects to use it extensively to support the 2025 remapping effort.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) facilitates model development using local expertise. BpS modeling generates reference conditions and state class mapping rules and supports a number of spatial products and fire behavior fuel model mapping rules.

The BpS review is still on going, although the public review phase has ended. The current results presented are preliminary. The review covered both aspects of BpS – the written description and the state-and-transition model. BpSs have not been reviewed since 2009; purpose of the review was to correct errors, reduce redundancy by combining models where appropriate, incorporate new science, update event probabilities, and so forth. Very high participation for Alaska, not as much for most other states/map zones. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of Alaska's BpS were reviewed and approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of continental US BpSs were reviewed.

Presentation focused on review of rangeland BpSs given the emphasis on sage-grouse habitat in the Bureau. Conducted a big sagebrush macro review and got the Columbia and Great Basins covered but no review of the eastern range of sagebrush (Colorado, Wyoming, etc.). This macro review focused on big sagebrush steppe and big sagebrush shrubland. Lack of participation resulted in the priority range macro review, which is expected to start this summer. That review will also include montane sagebrush steppe, mixed salt desert scrub, and other rangeland BpSs.

One result of the big sagebrush macro review was a split in the big sagebrush shrubland to an upland BpS and a semi-desert BpS. This split changed estimated fire return intervals, fire regime classification, and state classes and successional pathways, and will require new mapping.

The LANDFIRE 2015 remap will include the updated models and may include some remapping of BpSs.

Future: hope to have continuous BpS review process, better integration with ecological site descriptions, inclusion and alignment with the Rangeland Vegetation Simulator (now a module in the Forest Vegetation Simulator), and develop ranges of variability for each state class (currently only show the average for each class).

LANDFIRE links:

BpS Review website: <http://www.landfirereview.org/>

Crosswalk between the National Land Cover Dataset and LANDFIRE existing vegetation data as of 2010: https://www.landfire.gov/documents/LANDFIRE_NLCD_Comparison_Final.pdf

LANDFIRE data product review website: <https://landfire.nkn.uidaho.edu/about>

Tells users how to participate in the review process (still open although no additional webinars currently scheduled)

Includes a link to set up an account to provide feedback on vegetation and fire behavior fuel model products

LANDFIRE Partners Collaboration link: https://www.landfire.gov/lfpartner_collaborations.php

LANDFIRE home: <http://www.landfire.gov>

Conservation Gateway: <http://nature.ly/landfire>

Tools for Landscape Planning and Management:

https://www.landfire.gov/documents/FINAL_LANDFIRE-Tools-Trifold-v7.pdf

The first 5 years of LANDFIRE:

https://www.landfire.gov/documents/The_LANDFIRE_Project_TNC_pub.pdf

The first 10 years of LANDFIRE: https://www.landfire.gov/landfire_10.php

The LANDFIRE team: https://www.landfire.gov/lf_team.php

Other connections, including AIM:

<https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/LANDFIRE/Applications/Pages/applications.aspx>

email: LANDFIRE@tnc.org

LANDFIRE Helpdesk: helpdesk@landfire.gov

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