



LANDFIRE Receives 2017 Environmental Achievement Award from Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Environmental Achievement Awards (EAA) recognize employees, teams, and partners who have attained exceptional environmental achievements that go above and beyond their regular, expected duties.

On May 31, 2018, the DOI announced that the [LANDFIRE](#) (Landscape Fire and Resource Management Planning Tools) Program was selected for the 2017 "Environmental Dream Team" award. The award acknowledges the inter-agency team for being environmental champions and agents of change. The team works across organizational boundaries to enhance environmental stewardship, create efficiencies, improve communication, avoid or address conflict at the lowest levels, and reduce environmental review times.

The LANDFIRE Program, led by the DOI and the USDA Forest Service (USFS), in collaboration with [The Nature Conservancy](#) (TNC). This team effort provides a partnership that leverages key data and information to support wildland fire and land management. The 20+ geospatial mapping layers and databases created by the Program serve as an "encyclopedia" of biological and ecological information. The data have been used in wide variety of public and private applications since LANDFIRE's inaugural data delivery in 2010. LANDFIRE data were leveraged in more than 35 specific environmental projects in 2017.

The inter-agency nature of LANDFIRE supports work across organization and landscape boundaries, making the data products beneficial and useful in environmental compliance work.

Specific criteria were met to receive the award. The LANDFIRE Program:

1. is unique in its approach and/or highly effective at employing proven strategies.
2. demonstrates clear results in improving DOI operations.
3. is being replicated elsewhere or has high potential for replication across the DOI.
4. meets the category (Protection, Champion, Dream Team, Justice, Partnership, etc.) elements.

The EAA include individual, team, and partner awards, which are broken into categories like Cultural Resources Protection, Environmental Champion, or Environmental Partnership. The "Environmental Dream Team" award highlights work that improves collaboration and efficiency across organizational boundaries. To earn the distinction, the LANDFIRE team demonstrated that the program was unique in its approach and produced clear results that are repeatable at a national scale.

LANDFIRE Business Leads noted in the nomination form that “LANDFIRE data provide for environmental benefits with efficiencies in analyses, costs, and reviews through a comprehensive all-lands national data set that is updated regularly, and its value and results have transformed land management supporting environmental work.”

[Team members](#) use remote sensing, ground plot data, and ecological modeling to produce the geospatial map layers, which include vegetation, disturbance, and fuel characteristics. The publicly-available data are used by the USFS, the Bureau of Land Management, and numerous other agencies each year.

As LANDFIRE’s name suggests, its products are closely associated with wildfire management, thus “Fire;” however, the products’ utility extends "beyond fire" for all “Lands” that fall within natural resource management.

The team will continue to improve and update the products in the future. For example, LANDFIRE’s reference group collected 40 events databases with a lot of different datasets. Once processed, the data presented 600 fires across the Western U.S. This endeavor was accomplished for LANDFIRE Remap, a vegetation and fuels mapping effort to produce new LANDFIRE base data.

LANDFIRE’s program managers view the award as a recognition of the hard work, dedication, and commitment to make a suite of consistent and comprehensive products that are a reliable source of biological and ecological data that have national scale application.

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