

BpS Review in the Northern Rockies What is it? Why does it matter? How does it work?

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Presented to

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LANDFIRE's mission is to provide agency leaders and managers with a common "all-lands' data set of vegetation and wildland fire/fuels information for strategic fire and resource management planning and analysis.



- -partner on LANDFIRE
- -education, outreach, bps models
- -small part of the overall LF team

Today's Agenda





A bit about the models

How models are used

Help us improve!



LANDFIRE is an innovative program designed to create and update vegetation, fire and fuel data for the entire United States. Leading partners are Department of the Interior, US Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy, along with collaborators in the natural resources world who contribute knowledge, data and technical expertise. LANDFIRE supports resource management activities across the country, with spatial data, vegetation models, and powerful user tools.

LANDFIRE Products

Spatial Data Sets

- Historic vegetation type (Ecological System)
- Current Vegetation
 - > Type (ES), height class, cover %
- Fire Regime information (Historic)
- Plot/Event Data Bases (LFRDB)
- Fire Behavior
- Disturbances
- Topographic



Tools and Support

Native Application Scale: National, Regional, and Large Landscape





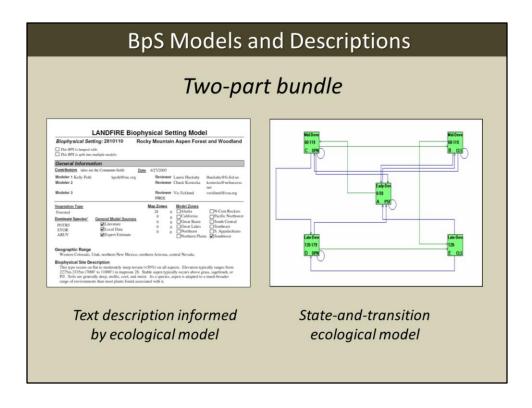
LANDFIRE uses peer-reviewed scientific methods, and delivers datasets of vegetation, fire, and fuels information for all land ownership types. Products include more than 20 geo-spatial layers and relational databases that support a wide range of analysis and modeling applications — whether fire-focused or not. And you can combine datasets to assess conditions on your own landscape.

Illustration ...comprehensive/compatible

• Biophysical Settings (BpS) spatial data



• BpS Models and Descriptions-linked by BpS Code



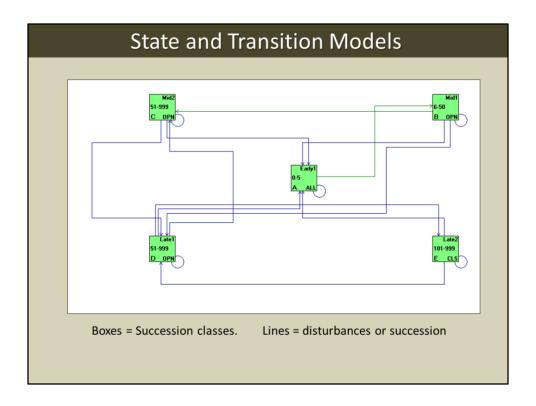
As we progress though the presentation today I will talk about BPS models and BPS descriptions. These are separate but linked items.

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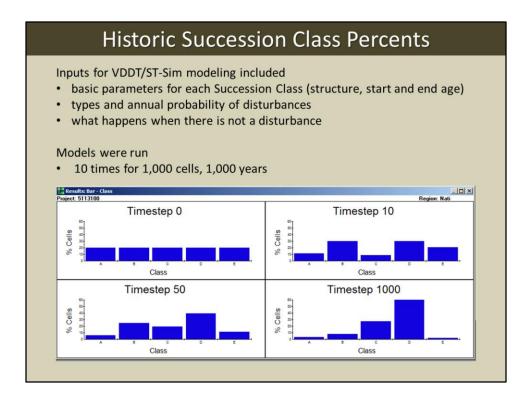
The description has multiple sections - I'll give you a quick tour of some of them today. In the "General" section or tab we find the basic information about a BPS-where it occurs, what the natural disturbance regimes were, a vegetation description and information on where the BPS would have occurred based on soils, surficial geology, climate, etc. This information was typed in by experts, Dr. Greg Nowacki in this case, often backed up by literature. These descriptions were originally developed in an Access database. That database and PDF documents of the descriptions are available on the Vegetation Tab of LANDFIRE.gov.

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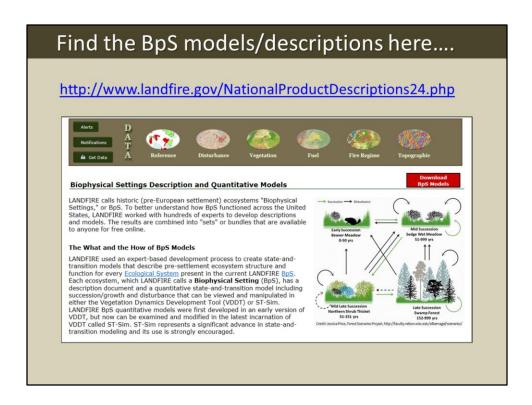
While the general information is interesting to me, the real value added in my mind is on the succession classes tab. For each LANDFIRE model and description we developed 5 or fewer succession classes or seral stages. We described them in terms of species, disturbance, canopy characteristics and percent of the landscape that would have been occupied by the succession classes under natural disturbance regimes. I've circled a couple of items here. While these succession classes shifted around the landscape historically due to disturbance so we did not develop a historic s-class map, but we do map these today. The canopy characteristic are important for that. Also, I wanted to point out that the percentages come from the modeling we'll discuss next.



To get an estimate of how much of each succession class would have been on the landscape we used state and transition models developed in Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool by ESSA technologies. While the modeling platform has evolved-we now use ST-Sim, the concepts are the same. Each box represents a succession class, the green lines that come out of the sides of the boxes succession and the blue lines coming out of the tops and bottoms disturbance. You'll also see the age ranges (such as 0-5), a box label (such as "A") and a broad structure label (such as "Open").



The experts looked to literature, personal experience and other data to come up with information to parameterize the models. The succession classes typically represent some sort of break in development of the BpS such as when shrubs start to fill in if there is no fire, when a dominant tree starts to bear cones or when the broad structural characteristics stabilize. The model is probabilistic so we entered an annual probability of a disturbance affecting a cell in a particular succession class and what happens to that cell. When a cell is not affected by a disturbance it succeeds to the next succession class. The models were run 10 times for a thousand years, which is long enough for them to stabilize.



After review and QA/QC we delivered the bundles to the LANDFIRE mappers who ingested them into their mapping processes. In many ways it was an insane time of life for people in the LANDFIRE project.

Find the models here				
1. Compiled databases in the Lower 48 States and Hawaii OR Alaska extents using links in the table				
Compiled BpS Databases Description Databases (Access) Lower 48 States and Hawaii Descriptions Alaska Descriptions Master ST-Sim Model Database				
2. BpS model information within individual map zones (click on the map below), including: BpS description as a PDF Reference condition summary table as a .csv file Metadata Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool (VDDT) model database 3. Spatial data - Jearn more				

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BpS Models/Descriptions Uses--Internal

Source of fundamental ecological information for BpS mapping

Fire Regime Attributes: Historic fire return intervals, fire severity distributions, fire regime groups, etc.

One component of the Fire Behavior Fuel Model ruleset

Pre-European Settlement Succession Class % for departure calculations

In addition to the mapping I mentioned earlier, planners in multiple agencies are using them as "starter models." They will take the basic LANDFIRE models, add in current management such as logging or fire suppression then develop optimization models to figure out land management strategies to get them to their desired future conditions. Also, I'll note that programs such as FSC certification refer to LANDFIRE as a place to get historic ecological information.



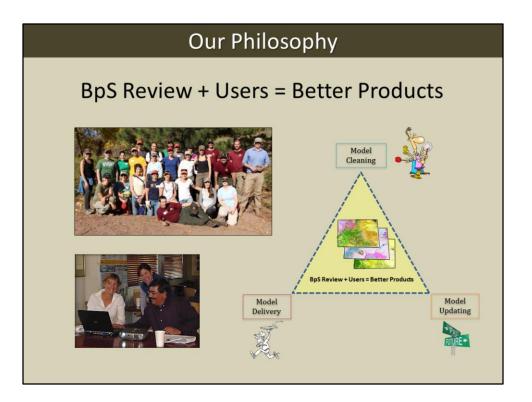
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Reduce duplication Fix "blunders" e.g. typos, inconsistencies, etc. Integrate new science and new experts. Ten years is a long time! Potential for creating a more useful delivery system Updated modeling software

There has been no comprehensive review of the LANDFIRE National model set since their original delivery from 2005 through 2009, only sporadic, ad hoc, inconsistent review based upon immediate opportunity. Since then, errors and inconsistencies have been discovered, and missing information identified. There is reason to believe that supporting science may have improved. Thus, the time is right to review and potentially revise LANDFIRE National BpS models. Leading the review process is The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) LANDFIRE team.



We are certain we can improve the BpS descriptions and bundles with your help, though not everyone agrees. Some feel that we will only make them different...We also know that there will be conflicting views. We will do our best to reconcile differences. We will try to make this process as painless and interesting as possible.

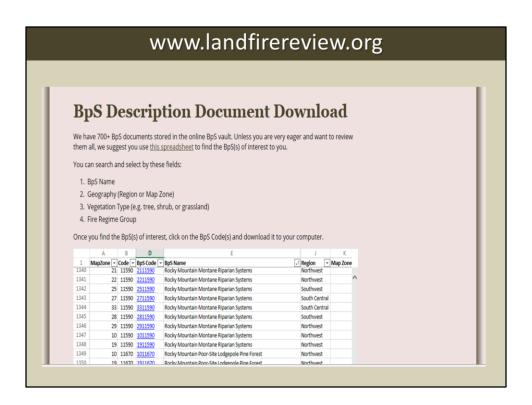
BpS Review Process

- · We have "cleaned" the BpS list by identifying and noting duplicates
- The documents are posted on the dedicated BpS Review website
- Contributors may review the Word document/description, the model, or both
- Most review is conducted in contributors' locations, e.g. office desk, laptop, etc., though the LANDFIRE team will hold WebEx training sessions and are available to help onsite in some cases

BpS review website: http://www.landfirereview.org/







www.landfirereview.org	
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Take-Home Messages

- WHAT: LANDFIRE BpS has three parts spatial data, text description, and quantitative state-and-transition models - all explicitly linked.
- WHY: LANDFIRE BpS models/descriptions are important to the LANDFIRE Program and to external natural resource communities.
- HOW: LANDFIRE BpS models/descriptions are being reviewed....and PLEASE participate.

http://www.landfirereview.org/

Online Connections





LANDFIRE Program Home http://www.landfire.gov



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



Twitter: @nature LANDFIRE



YouTube: LANDFIREvideo



Bulletins/Post cards via e-mail

- Opt in: http://eepurl.com/baJ_BH



Email: LANDFIRE@tnc.org

BpS model review website: http://www.landfirereview.org/

