

LANDFIRE APPLICATIONS IN SOUTHWEST UNITED STATES FOUR EXAMPLES



In the 10 years since inception, LANDFIRE has delivered a set of fire, fuel and vegetation related spatial data and ecological models that have proved useful for land management applications in the Southwest and elsewhere across the country. To be sure, LANDFIRE's dataset, like any dataset, has its strengths and weaknesses, but there are several factors that set LANDFIRE apart and have made it a good choice for certain projects. Take for example the following projects that used LANDFIRE data in the Southwest:

- BLM Rapid Ecoregional Assessments for the [Sonoran Desert](#), [Mojave Basin and Range](#), and [Colorado Plateau](#) rely heavily on LANDFIRE because it covers the entire analysis area and the suite of related data layers and reference condition models are suitable for many of the assessment needs.
- LANDFIRE reference condition models and fire regime condition class data provided a cost-effective and timely approach for developing ecological assessments as part of the [USFS Region 3 Forest Plan Revisions](#).
- The [Signal Peak fuels program planning and prioritization](#) project combined LANDFIRE vegetation and fuels data with local information on fire weather, fire occurrence and ecological condition modeling to develop management strategies and prioritize potential projects across a half-million acre landscape in New Mexico. LANDFIRE data made the assessment possible by providing the only continuous and consistent suite of mapped products (including vegetation, fuel and environmental information) covering the entire analysis area.
- [Upper Mimbres Watershed Landscape Assessment](#) used LANDFIRE data on a large, multi-ownership landscape in New Mexico to calculate fire regime conditions class, to model potential fire behavior and ultimately to help prioritize treatments areas in the assessment area.

These projects each had distinct goals and objectives but they chose LANDFIRE data in part because of the broad-scale, cross boundary nature of their work. Each project used LANDFIRE data in conjunction with local datasets and adjusted LANDFIRE data based on local knowledge for their particular application.

TUTORIALS – aka HUGS

LANDFIRE recognizes the need for local review and adjustment to its products and has just released two [How-to User Guides](#) (we call them HUGs) to help user do just that:

- [Reviewing and Modifying LANDFIRE Vegetation Dynamics Models](#), and
- [Reviewing and Modifying LANDFIRE Spatial Products](#).

The guides are accompanied by short videos and tutorials that provide step-by-step instructions on performing common data modifications. These materials build on existing [LANDFIRE courses](#). Need more help? Contact any member of The Nature Conservancy's [LANDFIRE Team](#) or the LANDFIRE helpdesk (helpdesk@landfire.gov).

As LANDFIRE moves into year 10 we will be working on additional user support materials to build on what we already have. LANDFIRE can't replace good local data but you may find it useful for filling gaps or supplementing local datasets especially when working across large landscapes. So, stay tuned for new offerings and let us know how we can better support your work.