



West Wide Wildfire Risk Assessment Project Update – September 2009

This update provides a summary of the current status of the West Wide Wildfire Risk Assessment (WWA) project being conducted on behalf of the Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) and the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC). Links to more detailed information are listed at the end of this update.

Questions may be directed to Jim Wolf, WWA Coordinator, jamesawolf@gmail.com, 541-324-3446,

For more information please go to <http://www.wflcweb.org/wwra/>

Highlights – Recent News

- **Project Kick-Off Meeting Scheduled for September 3rd:** A project kick-off meeting is scheduled for September 3rd in Portland, Oregon. *Sanborn Mapping* and primary subcontractor *Fire Program Solutions* will present their detailed work plan to the steering committee and partners and be available to answer questions and respond to requested changes. The steering committee needs to approve the work plan prior to *Sanborn Mapping* and *Fire Program Solutions* beginning work.
- **Steering Committee:** Dean Crowell, Chief of Planning and Risk Analysis for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), is replacing Ken McLean on the steering committee.
- **Partner State Points of Contact:** Contacts have been added for the Territory of Guam, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, American Samoa, and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

WWA Background

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), on behalf of the CWSF/WFLC, is conducting a wildfire risk assessment and report for the 17 western states and select Pacific Islands. The WWA will generate the following:

Wildfire Risk Assessment: Working with Partner States, *Sanborn Mapping*, and *Fire Program Solutions* is producing a wildfire risk assessment to quantify the magnitude of the current wildland fire problem in the west and provide a baseline for quantifying mitigation activities and monitoring change over time. The methodology implemented will be replicable, quantifiable and provide results comparable across geographic areas. This assessment will leverage LANDFIRE data and a methodology similar to the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment and Colorado Fire Risk Assessment System to minimize cost and maximize consistency. Since a significant part of the fire problem in the west is associated with federal land, and many of these fires affect state jurisdiction, the assessment will include all lands. The assessment and summary reports will be developed to allow comprehensive comparisons between regional geographic areas and to assist in quantifying risk and fire effects to aid in the mitigation of wildfire risks across the U.S.

Partner States

Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Kansas
Montana
North Dakota
Nebraska
New Mexico
Nevada
Oregon
South Dakota
Utah
Washington
Wyoming
Territory of
Guam
Republic of
Palau
Federated States
of Micronesia
American
Samoa
Commonwealth
of Northern
Mariana Islands

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Assessment Data and Model: Partner States will be provided risk assessment GIS data and tools, including training and support, to allow custom analysis.

Status Report: A summary of the risk assessment findings and a status report on the programs and processes in place to mitigate the risks will be included as companion documents.

WWA Steering Committee

Guiding this work is the WWA Steering Committee, composed of five state fire managers representing geographic areas of the west, a state forester, a federal liaison, a tribal representative, and a WFLC representative. Members include Chair Mike Dondero (NV), Don Westover (NE), Tracy Dunford (UT), Marc Lee (AK), Dean Cromwell, (CA), Vicki Christiansen (AZ state forester), Cathy Scofield (USFS), Jim Erickson (ITC), Dana Coelho (WFLC), and Morris Johnson (USFS alternate). The ODF is providing the grant administration, contract procurement and administration, and project management.

WWA Working Groups

In addition to the Steering Committee and ODF project and contract management, three working groups are anticipated to complete the project.

Partner State Points of Contact (POC): Each Partner State will provide a point of contact for providing fire ignition data, National Fire Plan accomplishments, input on weighting of *values at risk* and *suppression difficulty*, as well as review of key model inputs and outputs.

Partner State GIS Representatives: Each Partner State will provide a point of contact (may be the POC listed above) for GIS data acquisition and compilation, and support of the data and model transfer upon completion of the project.

Technical Committee(s): Some technical subcommittees and work groups will be required to support the development of key datasets and model parameters. A subcommittee(s) will be required to define the rule sets and guidelines for updating of the LANDFIRE data products to best reflect observed fire behavior, recent disturbance (e.g. insect damage, wildfires) and fire behavior where LANDFIRE data are not available. Other subcommittees may be required to support the Status Report preparation. Existing committees and groups may be used to improve efficiency.

Points of Contact /GIS Contacts

AK	Marc Lee / Gordon Worum
AZ	Glen Buettner
CA	Dean Cromwell
CO	Rich Homann / Skip Edel
HI	Wayne Ching
ID	Don Wagner
KS	Ross Hauck
MT	Will Wood
ND	David Geyer / Peter Oduor
NE	Don Westover / Joe Stansberry
NM	Don Greigo / Trent Botkin
NV	Mike Dondero / John Watermolen
OR	Teresa Vonn
SD	Steve Hasenohrl
UT	Tracy Dunford
WA	Darrel Johnston / Nicholene Eisfeldt
WY	Ron Graham

U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands

State Fire Asst Contact / Tech Fire Data Contact

Guam	Joseph D. Torres / David Q. Peredo
Palau	Ron R Ngirachereang
CNMI	Firefighter Combin I. Taisakan
American	Junior F.U. Tuiasosopo /
Samoa	Agavaa Afalava
FSM	Morris Buchun

Project Status

The project started early in 2008 and the following items have been accomplished:

- Project funding has been secured in the form of \$1.67 million of State Fire Assistance grant funds allocated to ODF to work on behalf of CWSF/WFLC.
- Governance and project management have been established for the project and a draft project charter developed. The steering committee has met via conference calls and corresponded via email to determine project scope and deliverables, score proposals, seek additional funding, develop working groups, and other business.
- A project kick-off meeting is scheduled for September 3rd in Portland, Oregon. *Sanborn Mapping* and primary subcontractor *Fire Program Solutions* will present their detailed work plan to the steering committee and partners and be available to answer questions and respond to requested changes. The steering committee needs to approve the work plan prior to beginning work. Webinar technology will be used to accommodate those members and state representative that can not attend in person.

Timeline and Next Steps

The WWA is expected to be a two-year project – planned to be completed by June 30, 2011. The specific timeline of contract deliverables will be finalized with the work plan at the kick-off meeting. The following timeline is expected:

September 2009 – Complete project planning: Approve detailed work plan and schedule; form additional working groups as needed.

October 2009 - July 2011 – Conduct Assessment: Establish project management; acquire, compile, and analyze data; and develop fire risk assessment and model.

July 2011 – Final Report: Complete and review final report and summary statistics; complete technology transfer to Partner States; and complete Status Report documents.

July - September 2011 – Fire in the West Documents: A separate contract/agreement will be used to complete “Fire in the West” type documents to summarize the assessment results, as well as describe the magnitude and characteristics of the problem, actions being taken by states and partners, potential solutions, and future issues.

Helpful Links

The West Wide Wildfire Risk Assessment project now has a dedicated web-page - <http://www.wflcweb.org/wwra/>

Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment project website for methodology and reports - www.southernwildfirerisk.com/

Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment - <http://demo.dtsagile.com/cofire/>

LANDFIRE project - www.landfire.gov

Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN) - orpin.oregon.gov

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