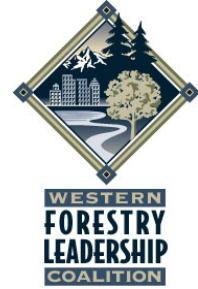




West Wide Wildfire Risk Assessment Partner Update



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).

Introduction

Wildfire risk in the western U.S. is increasing and becoming a more complex challenge that warrants coordinated assessment, planning and response. The WWA is unique because it assesses *all lands* across the West using consistent data and methods. It utilizes one standard method to model wildfire threat, fire effects, and wildfire risk, and summarizes the risk to communities. It is being completed at a scale compatible with state and community use – much finer than current national efforts.

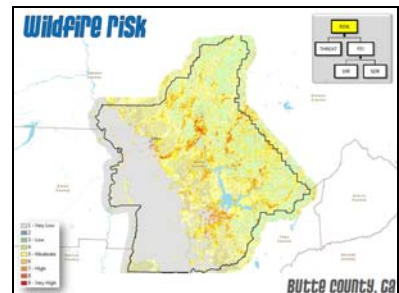
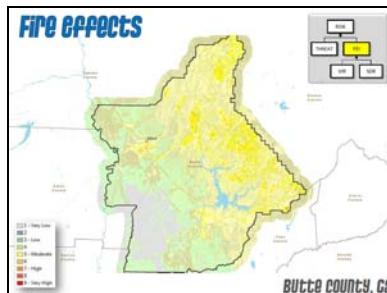
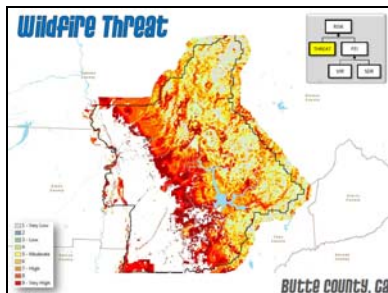
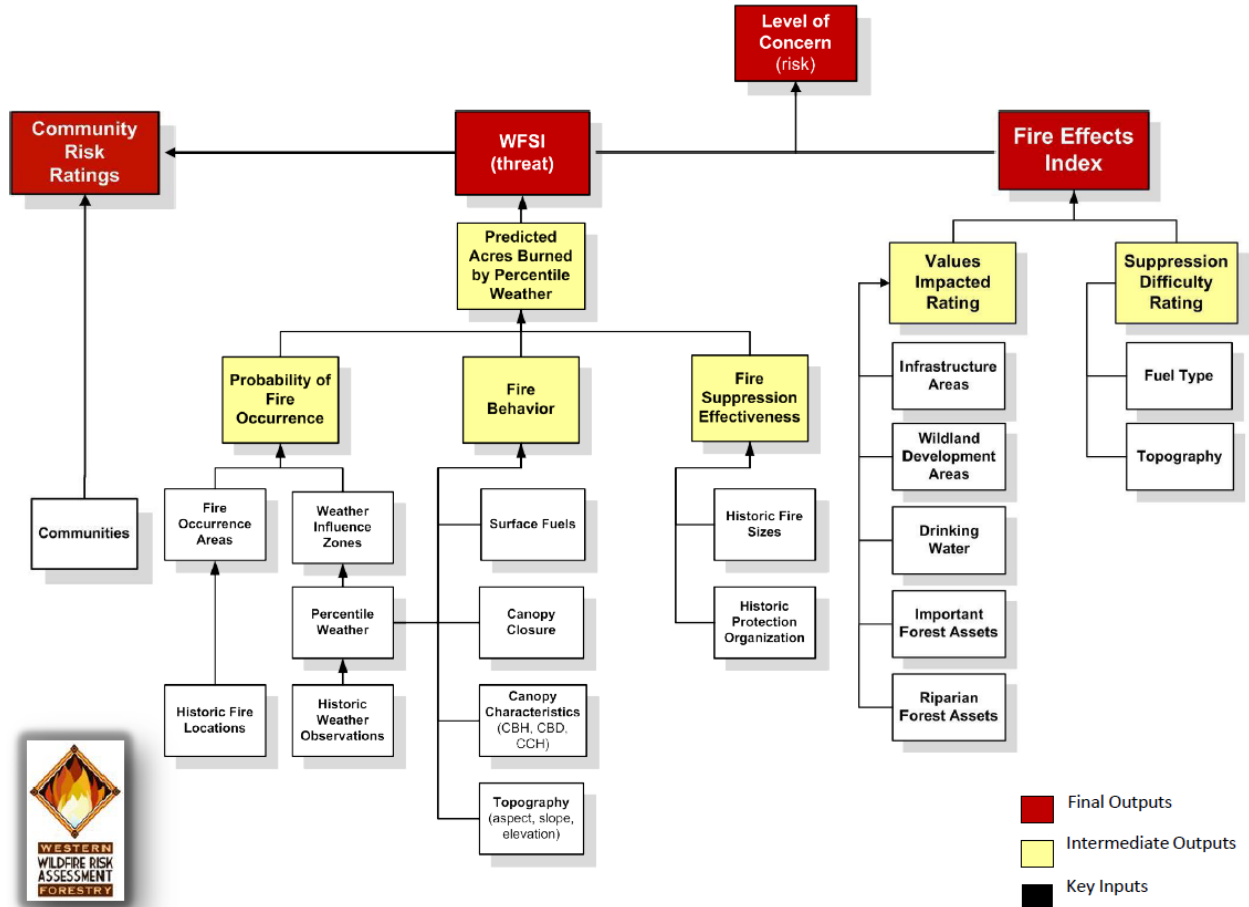
- *National/Regional Relevance:* The WWA will serve as a regional policy analysis tool that provides results comparable across the West. It is identified in Phase II of the Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy (www.forestsandrangelands.gov) as one input that will inform the Regional Strategy Committee (West) as they identify strategies to reduce wildfire risks.
- *State/Local Relevance:* Partner States will each receive assessment data and results, ideal for use in future Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy updates. The WWA is intended to complement, not replace, local and state products as a decision-making tool.

Project Components

The WWA comprises two models that work together to produce the overall risk assessment – wildfire threat (susceptibility) and fire effects (potential impacts). Data supporting the models include LANDFIRE “Refresh” (for the 17 western states included in the assessment) and Pacific Islands Imagery Consortium Vegetation Mapping and Monitoring (for the six pacific islands), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) LandScan, as well as state-contributed data on weather and fire occurrence. Several novel components of the fire effects index were developed as part of the project and are outlined below. The following diagram presents the WWA components, primary data inputs, and model outputs. The maps present examples of a pilot project conducted to refine the inputs to be used for the WWA Fire Effects model.

Fire Effects – Values Impacted

- *Wildland Development Areas (WDA)* - Interface areas are referred to as Wildland Development Areas to avoid confusion with the “wildland urban interface” (WUI) term used in legislation to allocate funding. DHS LandScan data are being used to define areas where people live.
- *Important Forest Assets (IFA)* - Forest values vary greatly from state to state across the West and Pacific Islands. LANDFIRE vegetation data will be used to identify important forest assets, classified according to fire susceptibility.
- *Riparian Forest Assets (RFA)* - The importance of forested riparian areas for water quality, water quantity, and other ecological functions is recognized by all western states. This sub-product of the WWA will be important for multiple stakeholders and assessments, including the Cohesive Strategy.



Partner States

Alaska - Arizona - California - Colorado - Hawai'i - 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

For More Information

www.westwideriskassessment.com