

FRCC Guidebook Version 1.3 Highlights

Following is a list of changes that have occurred since FRCC Guidebook version 1.2 was released in May 2005.

- **Refined FRCC Concepts/Principles/Methods:** Although FRCC concepts, principles, and methods have not changed substantially, version 1.3 addresses issues raised about FRCC concepts, science background, and methods (see chapters 2 and 4 and Appendix C).
- **New Reference Condition models:** A new set of FRCC Guidebook Alaskan reference condition models were developed between 2006 and 2007 (see Chapter 2). In addition, the LANDFIRE vegetation, wildland fuel, and fire regime mapping project has produced numerous reference condition models since 2005, constituting a substantial refinement of the original FRCC Guidebook models. Note that LANDFIRE models are released upon completion of each mapping zone across the U.S., and the scheduled completion of the national mapping process is 2009 (see the Schedule section of www.landfire.gov).
- **Updated terminology:** The previous term *vegetation-fuel class* (VFC) has been changed to *succession class* (S-Class), and some FRCC Mapping Tool layer names have also been updated (see chapters 3, 4, and the Glossary).
- **Updated Glossary:** The FRCC glossary has been updated and expanded.
- **Refined Fire Regime Groups:** The severity definitions for several fire regime groups have been broadened to more adequately reflect natural variation (see Chapter 2).
- **Refined Analysis Scales:** Recommended analysis scales for each fire regime group have been refined (see chapters 2 and 4).
- **Updated FRCC Standard Landscape Worksheets:** Worksheets, field forms, and associated summary graphs have been updated (see Appendix A and Chapter 3).
- **Updated FRCC Standard Landscape Application (version 1.3.2.4):** The FRCC Standard Landscape Application (also referred to as the Standard Landscape Software) has been updated with the new terminology and now provides three sets of default reference condition models for conducting FRCC assessments (see chapters 2 and 3). Users can download the latest software version at www.frcc.gov.
- **Updated FRCC Mapping Tool and User Guide:** A new version of the FRCC Mapping Tool (2.2.0) for ArcGIS 9.2 will be released late 2007 / early 2008, and a new FRCC Mapping Tool User Guide is now available (see Chapter 4 and www.frcc.gov).
- **Updated References:** Numerous additional literature citations have been inserted throughout the guidebook text and in the References section.
- **Overview of LANDFIRE FRCC Geospatial Products:** The LANDFIRE Project has produced several sets of GIS maps related to FRCC. For example, biophysical settings (BpS) and succession classes (S-Class) layers are now available across much of the U.S., as are subsequent maps showing fire regimes and FRCC (see Appendix D and www.landfire.gov for details).