



# National Fire Plan

## WILDLAND FIRE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Briefing Paper

October 18 2011

**Topic:** LANDFIRE – National Interagency Vegetation/Ecosystem and Fire/Fuel Mapping Program.

**Issue:** Re – Chartering LANDFIRE

### Background:

LANDFIRE is an interagency partnership that produces consistent and comprehensive maps and data describing vegetation and wildland fire characteristics across all 50 United States. It was sponsored and chartered by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council in May 2004 involving the FS, DOI/USGS, and The Nature Conservancy as major developers costing \$40 million. Although FS is the managing partner with LANDFIRE, DOI leadership wanted the investment managed as a major investment (exhibit 300). As LANDFIRE worked through and reported this information, it was apparent that it was more of a data buy / data processing initiative, so DOI CIO in coordination and consultation with OMB removed LANDFIRE from the capital planning and investment portfolio in 2007. In February 2010, the LANDFIRE project was reviewed, accepted, and closed-out by the Executive Oversight Committee which was designated by WFLC. Since that time LANDFIRE has been managed by USDA FS Fire & Aviation Management and DOI Office of Wildland Fire as it transitions to update and refresh the data products from the production phase into a long-term operations and maintenance (O&M) program to update changes from a variety of disturbances and vegetation changes.

LANDFIRE, also known as the Landscape Fire and Resource Management Planning Tools, is being used both for Fire and for Resource Management applications (Bighorn Sheep Habitat Analysis, Sage Grouse Assessment, Landscape and Wildland Fire assessments). LANDFIRE data products include layers of vegetation composition and structure, surface and canopy fuel characteristics, and fire regimes data at the landscape level. LANDFIRE methodologies are science-based and include extensive field-referenced data [including Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) data]. LANDFIRE data products were designed to facilitate national- and regional-level strategic planning and reporting of management activities. Data products are based on Landsat satellite imagery and created at a 30-meter grid spatial resolution. LANDFIRE products are not a substitute for finer scale, local mapping efforts, but do provide a comprehensive, standardized, nation-wide data set. Additional information is available at [www.landfire.gov](http://www.landfire.gov).

### Key Points:

- The LANDFIRE data products are being used by the National Wildland Fire Cohesive Strategy in the science analysis, Fire Program Analysis (FPA) in budget formulation and Allocation, Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) in geospatial data for spread and probabilities, and Hazardous Fuel Prioritization and Allocation System (HFPAS) to coordinate hazardous fuel funding. LANDFIRE data products are also being used by state, local and private entities including research and educational institutions.
- Re-charting is needed for sponsorship and governance structure to continue to provide critical data which supports maturing fire management programs and multifaceted natural resource management programs across the country that use the best available science and technological data to manage resources effectively and efficiently.

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