
INTRODUCTION TO FUEL LOADING MODELS

Typically, wildland fuel classifications use vegetation characteristics to assign surface fuel loading values or are limited to describing only those fuel variables used to model fire behavior. The need for a way to describe and communicate fuel loading using categories that are realistic, simple to use, consistent, identifiable in the field, and able to be used in fire effects prediction software lead to the creation of the Fuel Loading Model classification. The Introduction to Fuel Loading Models (FLMs) course will introduce students to this classification system – a surface fuel classification for predicting fire effects, such as smoke emissions and soil heating, from on-site fuels.



Lesson 1: FLM Overview

approximately 40-60 minutes

In this first lesson, you'll be provided with an overview of the Fuel Loading Model surface fuel classification system, including background information and discussion about what lead to the creation of the Fuel Loading Models. You will also learn what a Fuel Loading Model is and how the classes were developed. Then, you'll look at some tools that can help you identify Fuel Loading Models, and you will complete the Fuel Loading Models tutorial in which you will practice using Fuel Loading Model keys.

- Background
- Class Development
- Description and Hierarchy
- Identification
- Comprehension Check
- Tutorial

Lesson 2: FLM Applications

approximately 15-20 minutes

In Lesson 2, you will look at some applications of Fuel Loading Models, including their use as field plot data, inventory tools, map units, and software input data. We will conclude this lesson with some management advice and a quiz.

- Field Plot Data
- Inventory
- Mapping
- Software Input
- Management Advice
- Quiz