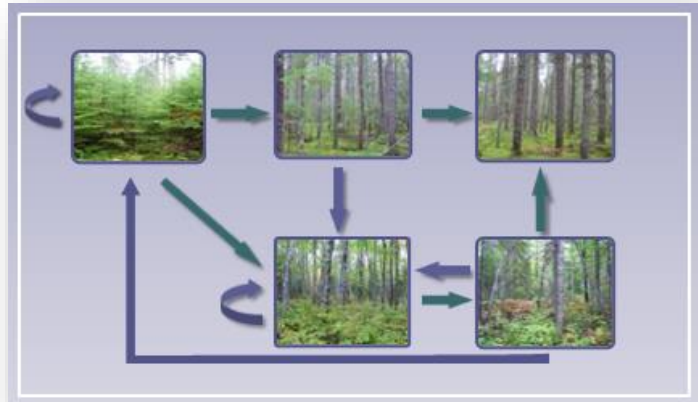# Working with LANDFIRE Vegetation Dynamics Models

Course Syllabus

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Working with LANDFIRE Vegetation Dynamics Models is a course in the Vegetation Dynamics Learning Pathway series produced by the National Interagency Fuels, Fire, and Vegetation Technology Transfer (NIFTT). This course provides an introduction to the LANDFIRE models.

The Vegetation Dynamics Learning Pathway
The pathway includes five main steps. More detailed descriptions of the steps can be found on the NIFTT website at www.niftt.gov.

Vegetation Dynamics Learning Pathway

Working with LANDFIRE Vegetation Dynamics Models

This *Working with LANDFIRE Vegetation Dynamics Models* course constitutes Step Five in the pathway. It is recommended that beginning modelers take this course *after* they have completed Step Four, by taking either the online course *Introduction to Vegetation Dynamics Modeling with Path* or the equivalent live course offered by ESSA Technologies. Experienced modelers may want to begin with this course and continue on to the advanced material in Step 6.

The first objective of this course is to explain how the LANDFIRE vegetation dynamics models were created, including the rules used in their creation; what information the models contain; and how they differ from other state-and-transition models created using the Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool (VDDT) or the Path Landscape Model (Path). The second course objective is to provide insight into how the models can be adapted for use in research or management scenarios related to current or future landscapes.

This course is designed for students who have some familiarity with modeling using VDDT or Path but do not have extensive experience with the LANDFIRE vegetation dynamics models or would like a better understanding of the LANDFIRE models. If you have not used Path or VDDT before, it is recommended that you complete the previous course in the Vegetation Dynamics Learning Pathway: *Introduction to Vegetation Dynamics Modeling with Path*, or take an equivalent classroom-based course (see www.pathmodel.com/courses) before beginning this course.

The course content is divided into the following main sections:

- Introduction to LANDFIRE models & how they fit into the state-and-transition modeling framework
- How the LANDFIRE models differ from other state-and-transition models and how modelers need to consider the distinctive characteristics of these models when adapting them for new uses
- LANDFIRE modeling rules
- Getting started: A summary of what you will need to get started adapting and using these models
- Course quiz

Thank you for your interest in NIFTT's Vegetation Dynamics Learning Pathway!