

FRCC Guidebook Version 3.0 Highlights

Following is a list of changes that have occurred since FRCC Guidebook version 1.3.0 was released in 2008.

- **Refined FRCC Methods:** FRCC version 3.0 incorporates two important algorithm changes. First, Stratum FRCC is now determined by *averaging* the vegetation and regimes departures instead of using the highest departure between those two sets of variables. And second, new Stand FRCC thresholds have been established in response to user feedback and subsequent sensitivity testing (see chapters 2 and 3).
- **New Biophysical Settings models:** In early 2010, the LANDFIRE Project completed its reference condition modeling for the entire U.S (models are available at www.frcc.gov). In addition to the LANDFIRE National models, a refined set known as the LANDFIRE Refresh models will be available in 2011.
- **Revised Data Fields & Forms:** Standard Landscape Method data fields have been added, deleted, or renamed; in addition, all data forms and associated summary graphs have been updated and streamlined (see Chapter 3 and Appendix A)
- **Revised FRCC Software Application & User Guide (version 3.0):** The FRCC Software Application (FRCCSA) has been substantially upgraded. For example, the input data pages have been redesigned to make the program more user friendly, new reporting functionality has been added, and several sets of default biophysical settings models for conducting FRCC assessments are now embedded in the software. In addition, a new user's guide has been developed (see Chapter 4). Both the software and user's guide are available at www.frcc.gov under Tools & User Documents.
- **Revised FRCC Mapping Tool & User Guide (version 3.0):** A new version of the FRCC Mapping Tool (FRCCMT) has been designed for ArcGIS 9.3 and later versions. The mapping tool now incorporates the new FRCC algorithms mentioned above, the outputs menu includes several new data layers, and a new FRCC Mapping Tool User Guide has been developed. In addition, a new tool called the Fire Frequency & Severity Editor has been incorporated into the mapping tool that allows users to generate current fire frequency and severity data and associated input rasters (see Chapter 4). Both the software and user's guide are available at www.frcc.gov under Tools & User Documents.
- **Updated References:** Numerous literature citations have been added throughout the Guidebook.
- **Revised Glossary:** The FRCC glossary has been updated (see Glossary).

- **New Frequently Asked Questions section:** This section provides answers to common user FRCC-related queries (see Appendix D).
- **New Overview of LANDFIRE FRCC Geospatial Products section:** The LANDFIRE Project has continued producing FRCC-related GIS layers since the last FRCC Guidebook release. For example, biophysical settings (BpS) and succession classes (S-Class) layers are now available for the entire U.S., as are subsequent maps depicting fire regimes and FRCC status. In addition, the LANDFIRE Refresh mapping phase is producing a set of streamlined biophysical settings models and a succession classes layer that will be available in 2011, both of which can be used for FRCCMT assessments (see Appendix E and www.landfire.gov for details).

