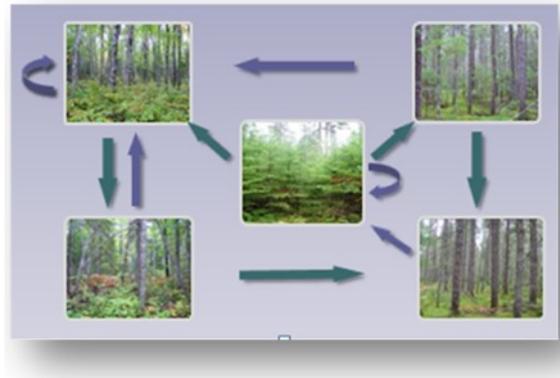


# Vegetation Dynamics Learning Pathway



Welcome to the Vegetation Dynamics Learning Pathway. The following set of courses and resources are designed to help users learn to use vegetation modeling with ST-Sim\* to address resource management problems. The purpose of this type of modeling is to estimate the proportion of different vegetation states/succession stages on the landscape over time and the occurrence of associated transition events, such as fire or other disturbances.

The potential applications of the tools presented in this pathway are diverse. For example, they can be used to compare alternative wildlife habitat management strategies, to predict the impacts of climate change on a protected area, or to inform wildland fire and fuels planning. This pathway—with components ordered to facilitate the learning process—also explains how participants can take advantage of the vast array of models and data available from the LANDFIRE Program to address current resource management problems.

\* Note: ST-Sim is the successor to the VDDT and Path modeling software. Some materials in this pathway refer to the older VDDT and Path tools, but ST-Sim will replace these tools as of 2013. Click [here](#) for more information.

<p><b>Step 1</b></p> <p>Presentation: Introduction to the Vegetation Dynamics Learning Pathway</p>	<p>The purpose of this introductory presentation is to explain how this learning pathway can help users to solve problems in their day-to-day work. The presentation's purpose is to help participants decide whether the skills taught in the pathway will benefit them and how they can best make use of the resources contained in the pathway.</p> <p>Click <a href="#">here</a> to view this introductory presentation.</p>
<p><b>Step 2</b></p> <p>Course: LANDFIRE: Overview, Applications, Methods, and User Resources</p>	<p>The following modules from this course are recommended for participants of the Vegetation Dynamics Learning Pathway: LANDFIRE Overview, Existing Vegetation Layers, Ecological Systems and NVC Exercise, and Biophysical Settings (BpS) Models. These lessons provide background on the LANDFIRE Program that helps students understand why and how the LANDFIRE vegetation dynamics models and associated modeling techniques were developed. Other modules that will be helpful for participants who plan to use the LANDFIRE models in their work include Accessing the LANDFIRE Products, Data Versions, User Guidance, and Example Applications.</p> <p>Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information and to register for this online training course.</p>
<p><b>Step 3</b></p> <p>Course: Predicting Vegetation Change</p>	<p>This course provides an overview of common approaches to predicting vegetation change at the landscape level. It puts the modeling approach taught in this pathway into context and explains what questions this type of modeling is best suited to answer.</p> <p>Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information and to register for this online training course.</p>
<p><b>Step 4</b></p> <p>Resources: Intro to Vegetation Dynamics Modeling (State- and-Transition Modeling in ST-Sim)</p>	<p>This document provides a learning framework for non-spatial ST-Sim/Path. It includes a series of learning steps with associated online resources that can help familiarize a vegetation model user with the most recent incarnation of the public domain software platform utilized by LANDFIRE.</p> <p>Click <a href="#">here</a> to access the document.</p>
<p><b>Step 5</b></p> <p>Course: Working with LANDFIRE Vegetation Dynamics Models</p>	<p>This course provides more detailed information that participants would need in order to work with the LANDFIRE models, including the basic structure of the models and the rules and assumptions behind them.</p> <p>Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information and to register for this online training course.</p>