

Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment: Summary of Use – August 2008

This document provides a summary that describes how the Southern states and federal partner agencies are using the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment data and software. Information was compiled in August 2008 by David Frederick, Southern Group of State Foresters.

Agency	How SWRA is Currently Being Used	Planned Use of SWRA
Alabama	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As a basis for WUI competitive grants. 2. Layers are being used as base maps for CWPPs. 3. Maps used in presentation to Governor’s budget office on fire control needs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop localized CWPPs. 2. To help communities with Firewise planning. 3. To plan reallocation of suppression resources.
Arkansas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To focus hazard mitigation work and grant funding to communities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To use predictive components. 2. To focus hazard mitigation projects, prevention projects and increased detection.
Florida	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have primarily used the Florida Fire Risk Assessment to date, but hope to transition to SWRA in future. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To test incorporating into Southern Forest Assessment. 2. Good products for legislators.
Georgia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. During the Georgia Bay complex in 2007 the SWRA was used by both the Incident Management Teams and Regional Assessment Team to provide information on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Acres of WUI in the area b. Perimeter (in miles) of WUI in the area c. Acres of muck soils in the area d. Fuel model and muck soil map e. Plantations adjacent to muck soils map f. WUI adjacent to muck soil map 1. Used to help make decisions related to the relocation of county offices. The Fire Accessibility Index was used to look at fire response times from various locations. This was useful both tactically and politically. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To illustrate risk within each county as the centerpiece of countywide CWPPs. 2. To incorporate into each county’s wildfire section of the State Emergency Management Agency Mitigation Plan that is required FEMA.
Kentucky	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To identify CARs and provide information for CWPPs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop an updated CARs list to target Firewise, grant funds, hazard mitigation projects and CWPP development efforts.
Louisiana	Have not yet used SWRA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan to use SWRA when the GIS staff are hired. 2. Training planned for November 2008.

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Mississippi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After Katrina SWRA was used to identify those communities most at risk due to added storm debris. 2. To prioritize fire depts. for VFA grants. 3. To prioritize NFP Hazard Mitigation grants. 4. Information from SWRA is used in development of CWPPs. 	Same as current uses.
North Carolina	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Used for FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant application. 2. For prioritizing CWPP projects. 3. For working with at risk communities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Same as current use but more extensively. 2. To make presentations to the public, media and politicians.
Oklahoma	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have used WFSI as a fire risk rating for Wildfire Hazard Assessments 2. Have used SWRA maps for CWPPs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Would like to use SWRA to determine loss exposure for FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants. 2. To use LOC as a tool to focus wildfire mitigation efforts.
South Carolina	Have not yet used SWRA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To prioritize CWPPs and prevention efforts. 2. To justify budget request for additional resources. 3. To prioritize the location of suppression resources.
Tennessee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have produced some maps. 2. Have done some test hazard mitigation treatment analysis. 3. Not much use yet, still working on ground truthing CARs polygons. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify and prioritize communities for fire prevention and protection strategies.
Texas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To conduct community wildfire risk assessments with VFDs. 2. To conduct county level assessments. 3. To initiate discussions on fuels, WUI, etc. 4. To prioritize fire prevention outreach and mitigation efforts. 5. As the basis for the Texas Wildfire Protection Plan. This plan is used in: Budget request; Personnel needs; Fire suppression equipment needs; Infrastructure needs. 6. In the development of CWPPs. 7. SWRA has also helped in other ways: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Improved fire reporting; b. Helped justify use of GIS based systems; c. Decision making on placement of current fire fighting positions. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue current uses. 2. To compare the effectiveness of hazard mitigation treatments. 3. Generate more public awareness of wildfire risk through communication information staff. 4. Plan to train more field staff on SWRA so they can develop district and county prevention/mitigation plans.

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Virginia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To compare and validate state produced risk assessment. 2. To provide insight into the relative ranking of risk for states in the region. 3. Used to validate and update already existing CARs list for the state. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue current uses. 2. Promote the larger regional perspective and how Virginia fits into the picture.
U.S Fish & Wildlife	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To quantify risk level of communities using the CAR tool. 2. To generate maps of CARs, LOC and WSFI at the refuge level. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More of the same way it is currently being used. 2. To quantify the level of risk reduction associated with fuels treatments. 3. As a tool to prioritize projects for Fire. Management Plans. 4. To prioritize prescribed burns.
U.S. Forest Service	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Used to prioritize fuels treatments. 2. LOC & WFSI was used in making budget allocations for fuels treatment funds. 3. Used to justify emergency supplemental funding after hurricanes. 4. Used as input data for Farsite and FSPro fire models. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To prioritize fuels treatments at the district level. 2. To use fuels layer for regional smoke modeling. 3. Currently working on a project to quantify performance measures for federal grants to states. The fuels treatments tool will be used to quantify changes in risk for communities as a result of hazardous fuels reduction projects.
National Park Service	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop fire behavior analysis at larger scales for on-going incidents and for planning purposes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Same type of uses. 2. Large scale smoke and fire behavior modeling.
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Have not yet used SWRA	TBD