



2009-10 SWRA & SFRAS User Meeting & Training

Frequently Asked Questions

January 12 – 14, 2010

This document provides responses to frequently asked questions about the annual SFRAS User Meeting and Training.

1. *What is the SWRA?*

SWRA is the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment project. SWRA was completed on November 30th, 2006. Refer to the project web site at <http://www.southernwildfirerisk.com> for more information about the project.

2. *What is SFRAS?*

Developed on ArcGIS v9, the Wildland Fire Risk Assessment System (WFRAS) is Sanborn's software framework for developing custom wildfire risk assessment and analysis software tools. SFRAS is the implementation of WFRAS delivered as part of the SWRA project. It reflects a custom version of WFRAS tailored for the needs of the SWRA project participants.

SFRAS encapsulates the Sanborn Wildland Fire Risk Assessment models and project Published Results. These models were customized and enhanced for use in the SWRA project.

SWRA & SFRAS User Meeting

3. *When is the user meeting?*

The user meeting and training will be held from January 12 to 14th, 2010.

4. *Where is the user meeting?*

The user meeting and training will be at the Sheraton Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama. This is the same location as the 2008-9 user meeting.

A website has been setup by the Sheraton with information about the meeting and booking rooms.

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=0911042010&key=6BDB7>

5. *What is the agenda?*

- Monday, January 11th – travel day
- Tues, January 12th – User Meeting (all day)
- Wed., January 13th – Strategic Planning Session (morning only)
- Wed., January 13th – SFRAS Training (afternoon)

2009-10 SWRA & SFRAS User Meeting FAQ

- Thurs, January 14th – SFRAS Training (all day)
- Fri., January 15th – travel day

The User Meeting is scheduled for one day.
The Strategic Planning Session is a ½ day presentation.
The SFRAS Training is a 1 ½ day session.

6. *I want to present my SWRA/SFRAS project at the user meeting. Whom do I contact?*

We are actively looking for volunteers to present any projects they may have done or are working on that use the SWRA data or SFRAS. If you are interested, contact Tom Spencer (tspencer@tfs.tamu.edu) with your ideas. Almost any presentation can be accommodated. We expect presenters to use a Powerpoint for their presentation. Length of time for presentations is flexible.

SFRAS Training

7. *What do I need to bring to the training?*

Each user should arrive at the training with a laptop loaded with ArcGIS 9.2 or 9.3, the Spatial Analyst extension, and SFRAS v9.3. Each user will be provided with a CD with the tutorial datasets.

Each user should also bring a six foot power strip to ensure an adequate number of outlets.

8. *What are the minimum system requirements for running SFRAS on my laptop?*

Due to the processing requirements for the modeling functions, the following minimum computer specifications are recommended.

- Pentium M processor or better
- 1.2 GHz minimum (2 GHz or higher preferred)
- SVGA monitor resolution (1024 x 768) or higher
- 1 GB RAM (2GB or higher preferred)
- Microsoft XP or Vista operating system
- Minimum free disk space of 20 GB for training exercises

9. *Where can I get an evaluation copy of ArcGIS 9.3 or Spatial Analyst?*

You can request an evaluation copy of ArcGIS 9.3 or Spatial Analyst from ESRI prior to the training. <http://www.esri.com/apps/products/offers/av93dvd/index.cfm>
If you use an evaluation disc, please bring it to the training.

Note: Sanborn will not be providing evaluation copies of ArcGIS.

10. *What are the training prerequisites?*

Each user of the SFRAS should have a basic understanding of ArcGIS software. In particular, the user should understand the basic data organization of the Table of

Contents and the Data Frames in ArcMap. An understanding of generic ArcMap functions will also provide the ability to use ArcMap to enhance the review and analysis of the SFRAS data beyond the scope of the application.

11. Where can I download SFRAS?

You can download an evaluation version of SFRAS from Sanborn's GIS portal located at <http://gis.sanborn.com/sfras>. The evaluation version will operate for 15 days. You will need to request a license file for your computer from Sanborn for the software to operate beyond 15 days. An easy to use Update License tool is included with SFRAS to help users quickly update from evaluation to permanent licenses once they receive a valid license file. This process is documented in the SFRAS User Guide. There is no cost for the license file or the software for state and federal government project participants.

If you have already received a license for SFRAS, you do not need to request another. Simply reapply your license with the Update License tool after you install new SFRAS software.

12. How is SFRAS licensed?

SFRAS is licensed for use by SWRA project government participants at no cost. Licensing is included as a component of the Transfer Technology task in the original SWRA project. Participants will be required to obtain a valid license file from Sanborn to operate the software past the 15 evaluation period (see the instructions on the SFRAS Download Web page).

A 15 day evaluation version is available for download from the SFRAS web site.

13. What is the latest version of SFRAS?

As part of the SWRA Maintenance Program, SFRAS has been upgraded to be compatible with ArcGIS 9.3 and Windows Vista. This version, SFRAS 9.3 replaces the previous version, SFRAS 9.2.3, that was released in May 2009. SFRAS 9.3 is still compatible with ArcGIS 9.2 SP4+ and Windows XP or 2000.

SFRAS 9.3 is distributed with complete documentation and help via the SFRAS download web site (<http://gis.sanborn.com/SFRAS>).

14. What are the different Data Support Components for SFRAS?

Custom Data Support Components allow different users to use SFRAS with Published Results data that has been partitioned for different geographic areas. At this time, there are three versions of SFRAS Data Support Components available:

1. District – Original partitioning format for the SWRA Published Results that uses administrative fire Districts per state. These Districts were defined by the State agencies in 2006.
2. County – SWRA Published Results data partitioned by state by county and delivered to each state's Fire Chief in January 2009

3. Federal – SWRA Published Results data partitioned by federal ownership areas with a five mile buffer. These partitions are not limited by state boundaries and are intended for our Federal agency users.

All three varieties can be installed on the same machine, with one installation of the base WFRAS application. There is a preference in SFRAS that allows you to toggle which data set you wish to use.

14. How do I get support on SFRAS prior to the training?

If you have any questions about the SFRAS application or data, use the SFRAS help desk via email at sfras-support@sanborn.com

15. Whom do I contact to get more information about the user meeting or training?

A page has been setup on the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment project site, <http://www.southernwildfirerisk.com/mainprogram/usergroupmeeting.html>. This site will be updated as new information becomes available.

If you need help with your travel requests or have additional questions about the meetings, contact Tom Spencer (tspencer@tfs.tamu.edu).

16. Is travel reimbursement available?

Yes, funds have been set aside for reimbursement of approved costs for those attending from the thirteen southern states. The process will be the same as last year.

Tom Spencer will send out the reimbursement forms before the meeting and will bring some with him as well. If you need the forms sooner, contact Tom. (tspencer@tfs.tamu.edu).