



Southern Fire Risk Assessment System – SFRAS

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: March 4, 2008

This document provides responses to frequently asked questions about Sanborn's SFRAS application delivered as part of the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment project.

What is SFRAS?

Developed on ArcGIS v9, the Wildland Fire Risk Assessment System (WFRAS) is Sanborn's framework for wildfire risk assessment and analysis software tools. SFRAS is the latest implementation of WFRAS delivered as part of the SWRA project.

SFRAS encapsulates the Sanborn Wildland Fire Risk Assessment model and project Published Results. This model was customized and enhanced for use in the SWRA project. SFRAS represents the final deliverable of the SWRA project.

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. SFRAS is a key deliverable in the Technology Transfer task of the SWRA project.

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).

Third parties can also obtain a license for SFRAS from Sanborn for a licensing fee. Contact Sanborn at SFRAS-support@sanborn.com for more information.

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

What is the latest version of SFRAS and how often will updates be released?

As part of the SWRA Maintenance Program, an enhanced version of SFRAS for ArcGIS 9.2 has been released as of March 4, 2008. This new version, SFRAS 9.2, operates on ArcGIS 9.2 SP4. This version replaces the final release of the SWRA project from November 30, 2006 (i.e. SFRAS v1.3 that operated on ArcGIS 9.1).

SFRAS 9.2 is distributed with complete documentation and help via the SFRAS download web site (<http://gis.sanborn.com/SFRAS>). A list of all enhancements is presented in this document.

Will SFRAS be supported and maintained?

A formal support and maintenance agreement is in place to support continued development of the SFRAS product. This maintenance contract covers email, phone, individual project support, and training. SFRAS support is available for all current registered users of the software. New releases are available at no cost to SWRA participants as part of the SWRA maintenance program. Contact Tom Spencer at tspencer@tfs.tamu.edu if you require more information about the SWRA Maintenance Program.

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.

What fixes or enhancements are included in this version of SFRAS v9.2?

A final list of all bug fixes and enhancements have been defined for SFRAS development as part of the SWRA final deliverable. In addition, all reasonable bug fixes will be addressed as they are reported in the future. Sanborn is committed to supporting SFRAS in the future through standard support and maintenance contracts. The list of enhancements for v9.2 includes:

Release 9.2 – March 4, 2008

| SFRAS Tool | Type | Description |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| New SWRA Web Site | Information | The SWRA project web site has been updated and transitioned to a new domain. This site is http://www.southernwildfirerisk.com |
| ArcGIS 9.2 Compatibility | New | Upgrade SFRAS to be compatible with ArcGIS 9.2, Service Pack 4 (SP4). |
| AOI – Open Data Frame | New | Modified Open Data Frame tool to allow user to select one or more individual Published Result districts for loading in the data frame. Includes a checkbox to select all districts. |
| AOI – Open Data Frame | New | Added a checkbox to reload map layers if a data frame already exists in the map document. |
| Analyze – Impacts – Areas of Concern | New | Enhanced existing Communities at Risk tool to be an Area of Concern tool. User can select any polygon data layer (GDB or shapefile) to use as the input layer for averaging risk for the area surrounding (buffer) the polygon feature(s). This includes the ability to select specific polygons from an input data layer and the ability to digitize one polygon on screen to support “one time shot” analysis. An option to run analysis without a buffer was also added. |
| Tools – Preferences – | New | Users can define the path for Published Results data in the preferences menu. This enables users to store data in different locations and switch |

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| SFRAS Tool | Type | Description |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Miscellaneous | | between data subsets. This is ideal for multiple users accessing a single installation of the Published Results datasets over a network. |
| Tools – Preferences – Map Layers | New | Users can select from a series of check boxes which map layers they would like to be loaded automatically when a data frame is loaded. This selection is applied to both Published Results and AOI data frames. This reduces the amount of time it takes to load districts and the amount of clutter in the Table of Contents. |
| Create – Indices – WFSI | Bug | Resolved recurring WFSI bug from version 1.3 |
| Documentation | New | Help and supporting documents have been updated |
| Help | New | Complete on-line application software help module. |

How do I get support on SFRAS?

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

What version of ArcGIS do I need to run SFRAS?

The current release of ArcGIS required for SFRAS is ArcGIS 9.2 with Service Patch 4. Spatial Analyst is also required to operate the analysis and modeling functionality within SFRAS.

The following table provides a summary of SFRAS functions that require Spatial Analyst. The primary capabilities to generate maps and reports from Published Results data do not require Spatial Analyst. However, all modeling capabilities do require Spatial Analyst.

| SFRAS Main Menu | Tool | Requires Spatial Analyst Extension |
|------------------------|--|---|
| <i>AOIs Menu</i> | Define AOI | Yes |
| | Remove AOI | |
| | Import AOI | |
| | Export AOI | |
| | Open Data Frame | |
| <i>Create Menu</i> | Maps | |
| | Reports | |
| | Indices/WFSI | Yes |
| | Indices/LOC | Yes |
| | Indices/FRAI | Yes |
| <i>Analyze Menu</i> | Mitigation Measures/IDL | |
| | Mitigation Measures/Fuel Treatments | Yes |
| | Impacts/Areas of Concern | Yes |
| <i>Tools Menu</i> | Preferences | |
| | Import Published Results Data | |

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What data do I need to run SFRAS?

You will need a delivery of SWRA Published Results data. This data has been provided tiled by District on a statewide basis. Data can be obtained from the state SWRA representatives. Data is loaded into the application using the Tools-Import Published Results Data tool.

Who do I contact to get more information about SWRA or SFRAS?

For more information about SWRA please contact Tom Spencer at the Texas Forest Service at tspencer@tfs.tamu.edu. For more information about SFRAS contact SFRAS Support at Sanborn at SFRAS-support@sanborn.com

How do I get enhancements or custom tools developed for SFRAS?

Sanborn is committed to SFRAS as the platform for continued development of the SWRA wildfire risk assessment model and related tools. It is expected that some users may want the software customized to meet specific needs and use custom data. Some of this customization has already occurred to accommodate Emergency Contact Information for the South (USFS). Sanborn can accommodate software enhancements on a time and materials basis or under a maintenance contract. If you have requirements that need to be addressed please contact David Buckley at dbuckley@sanborn.com to discuss.

Many thanks to the Southern Group of State Foresters, the Texas Forest Service, the SWRA Steering Committee, and the State representatives for the SWRA project for their continued commitment to the SWRA project and the SFRAS software. Without this commitment SFRAS would not be possible.