Explanation of Fuels Data sheet terms:

Plot: 50 foot radius plot located along transect.

Spp. Comp: Code describing dominant vegetation community.

Plot slope: Slope of plot measured in degrees using a

clinometer.

Landscape slope: Slope of visible landscape, average of above and below plot.

Aspect: Compass reading from plot center.

Shape: Code depicting shape of plot. Ranges from concave, concave

straight, straight, convex, and convex straight.

Position: Code depicting position in relation to landscape. Positions range

from: valley bottom, lower slope, middle slope, upper slope, and

ridge top.

Basal Area: Measurement taken from plot center using 10X prism.

% Litter: Approximate amount of ground in plot covered by

leaves, needles, or twigs.

% Leaf Cover: % of litter composed of leaves.

% Needle Cover: % of litter composed of pine or cedar needles.

% Herbaceous: Approximate amount of ground of plot covered by

herbaceous plants.

Snags >3”: Number of standing dead trees within plot with a diameter at breast

height (DBH) of 3 inches or greater.

Browns Line: 50 foot long, 6 foot tall line emanating from plot center measured

with tape measurer.

Brown Line Bearing: Compass bearing randomly selected that Browns line follows.

1 Hour Fuels: # of twigs 0-.25 inches diameter that intersect within the first

6 feet of Browns line. See rules for tallying.

10 Hour Fuels: # of twig .25 to 1 inches diameter that intersect within the first

12 feet of Browns line. See rules for tallying.

100 Hour Fuels: # of particles of wood 1 to 3 inches diameter that intersect the

entire 50 foot Browns line. See rules for tallying.

Fuel Depth: Three measurements taken at 3, 6, and 25 feet along Browns line.

Counted the highest fuel point within 6 inches of sample point.

Measurements taken with a ruler measuring vertical distance

from the bottom of the litter layer to the highest intersected

dead partical.

Litter Depth: Measurements taken at 3, 6, and 25 feet along Browns line. Litter

is the surface layer of the forest floor and consists of freshly fallen

leaves, needles, twigs, bark, and fruits.

% Bare: Amount of ground along Browns line that is bare of litter or

vegetation, bare rock, soil, or surface water for example.

>3”: Measurement of 1000 hour fuels. Fuel counted along entire 50

feet of Browns lines. Diameters of all 1000 hour fuels listed in

notes. See rules for tallying.

Rules for Tallying: 1. Particles qualifying for tally include downed, dead woody material (twigs, stems, branches, and bolewood) from trees and shrubs. Dead branches attached to boles of standing trees are omitted because they are not downed vegetation. Cones, bark flakes, needles, leaves, grass, and forbs are not counted. Dead woody stems and branches still attached to standing brush and trees are not counted.

2. Twigs or branches lying in the litter layer and above are counted. However, they are not counted when the intersection between the central axis of the particle and the sampling plane lies in the duff (forest floor below the litter).

3. If the sampling plane intersects the end of a piece, tally only if the central axis is crossed. It the plane exactly intersects the central axis, tally every other such piece.

4. Don’t tally any particle having a central axis that coincides perfectly with the sampling plane.

5. If the sampling plane intersects a curved piece more than once,

tally each intersection.

6. Tally wood slivers and chunks left after logging. Visually mold

these pieces into cylinders for determining size class or recording

diameters.

7. Tally uprooted stumps and roots not encased in dirt. Do not

tally undisturbed stumps.

8. For rotten logs that have fallen apart, visually construct a

cylinder containing the rotten material and estimate its diameter.

citation: Handbook For Inventorying Downed Woody Material.

James K. Brown, USDA Forest Service, General Technical

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