NWCG Fuels Management Committee

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Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS)
Talking Points
5/4/2017

Business Need

- It has been recognized that the fuels community needs a web-based platform that integrates multiple planning, monitoring, and reporting functions into a single system to facilitate more efficient, effective and defensible fuels planning.
- The new version of IFTDSS represents the first step in a modern fruition of efforts initiated by the NWCG Fuels Management Committee, the Joint Fire Science Program and affirmed by an independent review by the Software Engineering Institute and user feedback supporting the original beta version of IFTDSS.

IFTDSS Release

- The newly updated Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS) version 3.0 was released to the interagency fire community on April 13, 2017.
- This first release provides users with the ability to evaluate, edit and asses landscape fire behavior for fuel activities. For example, summary reports can be generated to compare landscapes for strategic planning.
  - A more detailed list of current functionality in IFTDSS is available here: https://iftdss.firenet.gov/landing_page/release-notes.html
- Within the first two weeks of release, ~ 216 users have requested and have received accounts.
- This updated version of IFTDSS has been built on the most modern web application technology using an Agile software development process. Not everything in the release is perfect, but using Agile allows for short sprints, making changes and improvements often with updated functionality to the users quicker.
- The IFTDSS team is excited to show users the new system, but user feedback and suggestions are the key to continued development. Please provide input through the User Forums: https://iftdsshelp.freshdesk.com/support/home

IFTDSS Training/Outreach

- **Near Term:** (2-4 months) Summer 2017
  - Promotion videos, online help content and tutorials are currently available here: https://iftdss.firenet.gov/help/pageHelp/content/home.htm?cshid=1000.
  - IFTDSS team has recorded an "Introduction to IFTDSS" webinar located here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NTzYA4hlVg

- ○ Additional function-specific webinars on System Navigation, Map Studio, Landscape Editing and Comparing Treatment Alternatives will continue through the spring.
- ○ Additional briefings and presentations will occur upon request and the IFTDSS Team will continue to respond to user feedback through the online QA and Ideas Exchange forums within the IFTDSS system available at: https://iftdsshelp.freshdesk.com/support/home

- **Short Term:** Fall/Winter 2017 - 2018
  - ○ Continued development of online training materials; potentially an Online Course working through the various IFTDSS workflows.
  - ○ Face-to-face workshops need to be discussed as to feasibility based on travel and budget restrictions.
  - ○ Fall engagement of the JFSP Fire Science Exchanges to help with communication to the field and potential "train-the-trainer" opportunities.

Future Development

The next set of priorities for IFTDSS development include:
- **Bug fixes and defect repair** following the April 13, 2017 version 3.0 release.
- **Enhancement** of the Workspace feature, Modeling Playground, and Map Studio.
- **Full Integration of the Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring database (FTEM)** - the outcome of this will allow users to fulfill the requirement of entering information about fuel treatment-wildfire interactions into the database in a more user friendly map-based interface. Fuels Treatment data integration from FACTS and NFPORS along with wildfire data from GeoMac and IRWIN are being incorporated into this development.
- **Quantitative Risk Assessment** - Project level, single event scenario for evaluating modeled effectiveness of proposed treatments on reducing wildfire risk to identified values; Requirements are being developed and work is ongoing with experts from the Missoula Fire Lab on data and modeling needs, appropriate outputs and user instructional guides.
- **Implementation Planning** - Designing the requirements for the development of prescribed fire plans, treatment prescriptions (including an RX windows approach) and smoke modeling and management.

The specific details of how each of these segments will be developed are still being considered and discussed. Feedback from the field, Advisory Groups and funding sources will be taken under consideration when determining future development priorities. The extent and timing of any future development will depend on how much funding is available.