

Tall Timbers SE FireMap Technical Oversight Team Update

April 23, 2020

BACKGROUND

The Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S Endowment for Forestry and Communities established the SE FireMap Technical Oversight Team (TOT) to serve as the advisory body for the proposed SE FireMap initiative. The TOT is comprised of subject area experts from a variety of organizations who expressed an interest in directly supporting the project.

Tall Timbers was selected to perform the scoping phase of the SE FireMap and is tasked with the following deliverables:

- 1) Up to 8 meetings, workshops, webinars or conference calls to convene partners and experts to discuss broadly the current data collection, technologies and/or mapping being conducted in the Southeast and elsewhere, with at least two such events focused outside the Southeast;
- 2) A summary report from each of the above events due within 1 week of the event;
- 3) A list with moderate detail describing the existing relevant mapping efforts, data collection and/or technologies reviewed as part of this Scoping Phase, including a brief assessment of their strengths and weaknesses as it pertains to the end-user (scale, coverage, accessibility, format, interface, etc.), and a contact person for each;
- 4) Clear, detailed recommendations for building a scalable SE FireMap database that depicts fire occurrences in the Southeastern U.S. at various landscape scales through a web interface that supports simple queries, reports and downloads as either Excel spreadsheets, pdf(s) or shapefile(s). Recommendations will include how to expand the SE FireMap to help ensure seamless fire planning at larger geographies of the U.S. (especially Western states, if there is interest in doing so);
- 5) An approximate cost range for developing the SE FireMap as described above;
- 6) Participation, as needed but at least bi-monthly, in conference calls or online meetings with the Technical Oversight Team convened to lead this project;
- 7) One in-person meeting of the Technical Oversight Team at the end of this project to discuss findings and final recommendations;
- 8) Status briefings, as needed and on request, for the Endowment or the Technical Oversight Team Coordinator to support their need to keep partners updated on status of the Scoping Phase.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

- On April 16th, 2020, the initial scoping meeting was held via GoToMeeting, this introductory meeting also served as the first Technical Oversight Team (TOT) meeting. (agenda and slides included in supporting documents)
- Bridgett Costanzo, USDA NRCS introduced the SE FireMap project, providing goals and vision for the project as well as the proposed timeline. Initial coverage of the SE FireMap will be set as the historic range of longleaf but is ultimately dependent on final scoping results and NRCS funding.

- Lucas Furman, The Longleaf Alliance, who is serving as the TOT coordinator, introduced the team, and team members provided background information about their interests and organizations they represent.
- Joe Noble, Tall Timbers presented the requirements and goals of the scoping phase of the project and talked about specific timelines for accomplishments and reporting. Joe highlighted the partnership with Southern Fire Exchange and how they will assist with webinars and technology transfer through the scoping phase of the project. Deliverable and meeting timelines will remain flexible due to COVID-19 but Tall Timbers will make every effort to keep the project on schedule. Realizing that it is very important to establish constructive feedback from the TOT, Tall Timbers and Southern Fire Exchange will create surveys to solicit and capture feedback throughout the process.
- Bridgett and Lucas provided an overview of the Landscape Partnership Portal. The Portal is a new product under development by NRCS and is intended to serve as a clearinghouse and networking tool. The Portal provides a variety of networking and collaboration tools, including private workspaces, discussion boards and data sharing. The Portal's framework is built from the Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative's old website. The vision for the new Landscape Portal is joint stakeholder buy in which will ultimately reduce the risk of information loss due to fluctuations in Federal and State program funding. The TOT has been assigned a private workspace on the Portal to facilitate a "one-stop-shop" platform for project management.
- David Godwin, Southern Fire Exchange, Joe, and Lucas conducted a Q&A session and addressed future engagement and next steps in the project. The importance of facilitating effective communication and feedback from the TOT throughout the project was discussed. Joe suggested that posting of relevant documents, papers, web mapping applications, etc. highlighting existing efforts might be helpful to stimulate discussion. The SERPPAS GoodMap white paper, Tall Timbers Mapping Fires in Florida and the NatureServe database were given as examples of content that could be posted to the Portal for review. Jim Smith about ability of the SE FireMap to integrate with and support current systems such as LANDFIRE. Jim commented, "SE FireMap is an integration opportunity among a lot of different efforts and an opportunity to increase "efficiency" and reduce duplication as well as filling in information gaps." Todd Hawbaker, USGS asked about the focus of active fire mapping vs. burned area mapping and how important fire history was to the NRCS objectives. Topics relating to efficacy of remote sensing vs. physical data collection processes and final product "usefulness" was discussed and earmarked for further review and discussion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Tall Timbers and Southern Fire Exchange will create TOT survey and feedback forms to focus webinars and facilitate feedback. Initial survey is located here: <https://forms.gle/4B9QeHvESUF4AvoAA>
- Discussion with TOT to understand different remote sensing fire detection products, their uses and appropriateness for project goals.
- Focus first webinar to focus on current mapping efforts and desired outcomes

Southeast Fire Map Introductory Scoping Review Meeting

12:00 – 1:30 PM CT

April 16, 2020

Agenda

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 12:00 – 12:10 | Southeast Fire Map Project
<i>(Introduction, goals and timeline)</i>
Bridgett Costanzo, USDA NRCS |
| 12:10 – 12:25 | Technical Oversight Committee Introductions
Lucas Furman, The Longleaf Alliance |
| 12:25 – 12:35 | Scoping Phase Project Introduction
<i>(Workplan)</i>
Joe Noble, Tall Timbers Research Station |
| 12:35 – 12:40 | Landscape Partnership Portal Introduction
<i>(Portal background, vision and utilization for SEFireMap)</i>
Bridgett Costanzo and Lucas Furman |
| 12:40 – 1:20 | Scoping Phase Project Facilitated Discussion and TOT Feedback
David Godwin, PhD, Southern Fire Exchange
Lucas Furman, Joe Noble <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Q & A• Future engagement and next steps |
| 1:20 – 1:30 | Wrap-up
<i>(Questions, Next Steps, Action Items)</i>
Lucas Furman and Joe Noble |

A photograph of a forest fire. In the foreground, there are green pine trees and bushes. In the middle ground, there is a large fire with bright orange and yellow flames. In the background, there are tall, thin trees and a thick layer of white smoke that fills the sky.

Southeast Regional Fire Tracking System

Scoping Kickoff Meeting

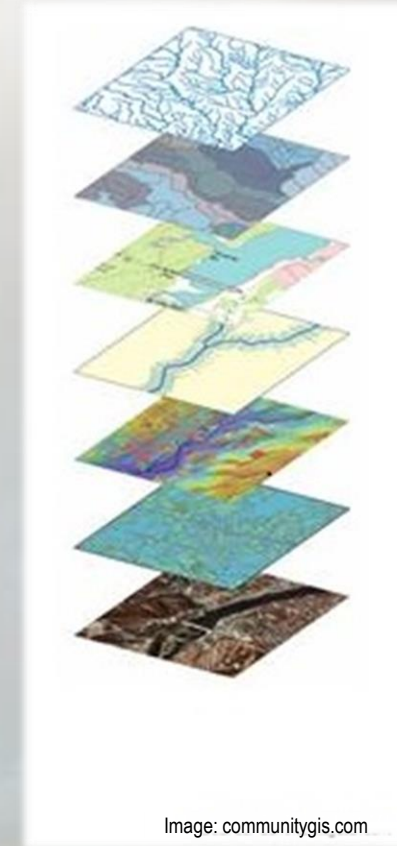
April 22, 2020

SE Regional Fire Tracking System

A “Mission Critical” Indicator

➤ Key Elements

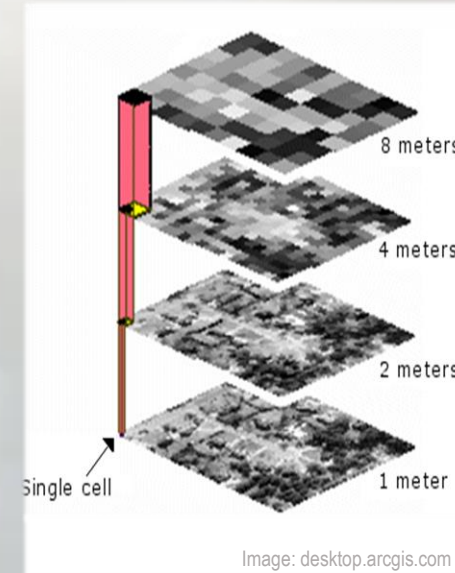
- Support multiple use-case objectives/missions
- Comprehensive coverage (public and private lands)
- Ability to connect and crosswalk
- Standard minimum data fields
- Improved spatial/temporal resolution
- Evaluate fire history in fire adapted habitats
- Ability to upload and view data – user friendly



SE Regional Fire Tracking System Expressed Need

➤ Current data shortcomings

- Lack coverage/resolution/scalability
- Non-cohesive
- Lack partnership support
- Not user-friendly/authoritative
- Multiple products, resolutions, coverages, etc.
 - LANDFIRE
 - MTBS
 - Agency/organizational databases
 - State burn authorization records



SE FireMap Overview

- **NRCS secured 1.3 M (LLPI)**
 - Awarded to an agreement w/Endowment for Forestry and Com.
 - Sub award to the LLA
- **Project funding period (2019-2022)**
- **SOI (May)**
- **TOT**
 - Technical guidance, communication/alignment, scoping, SOW
- **Partnership engagement**
 - SERPPAS
 - LPC
 - SGSF
 - SEAFWA
 - LCC
 - Etc.

SE FireMap Technical Oversight Team

➤ 10 members

- 6 Fed, 2 State, 1 NGO, 1 Fed Contractor
- Representation:
 - DOD
 - FFS/SGSF
 - USFS
 - SEAFWA/ALDCNR
 - USGS/EROS
 - USFWS
 - SERPPAS/LCC's
 - NPS
 - TNC



<u>Contact Name</u>	<u>Partner/Organization</u>	<u>Contact Type</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Brian Camposano	FFS/SGSF	TOT	Assistant Bureau Chief	(850) 681-5890	Brian.Camposano@FDACS.gov
Jim Smith	TNC	TOT	TNC LANDFIRE Program Lead	(904) 327-0055	jim_smith@tnc.org
Jon Wallace	USFWS	TOT	Deputy Fire Management Coordinator	(404) 679-7244	jon_wallace@fws.gov
Josh Picotte	USGS EROS - ASRC Fed. Data Solutions	TOT	Fire Specialist	(605) 594-2677	jpicotte@contractor.usgs.gov
Justin Shedd	NPS	TOT	Regional Fire GIS Specialist NCR, NER, SER	(919) 513-7532	justin_shedd@nps.gov
Keith Gauldin	SEAFWA/AL-DCNR	TOT	ADCNR Section Chief	(334) 242-3469	Keith.Gauldin@dcnr.alabama.gov
Mike Dueitt	USFS	TOT	AD for National Fire Plan and Incident Commander for the Southern Area Red Team	(404) 347-2034	michael.dueitt@usda.gov
Tony Davis	AEC	TOT	Geospatial Information Officer - Acquisition & Technology Branch	(785) 210-6963	tony.l.davis28.civ@mail.mil
Rua Mordecai	USFWS/SERPPAS/LC C	TOT	Coordinator, South Atlantic and Southeast Conservation Blueprint	(919) 707-0122	rua_mordecai@fws.gov
Todd Hawbaker	USGS	TOT	Research Ecologist	(303) 236-1371	tjhawbaker@usgs.gov
Lucas Furman	LLA	Project Liaison	GIS Coordinator	(850) 776-7288	lucas@longleafalliance.org
Bridgett Costanzo	NRCS	Project Lead	Working Lands for Wildlife Coordinator - Eastern U.S. NHQ Area-wide Planning Team	(804) 510-4936	bridgett.costanzo@usda.gov
Peter Stangel	U.S. Endowment	Project Admin		(404) 915-2763	peter@usendowment.org
Joe Noble	TTRS	Scoping Vendor	Geospatial/Information Technology Program Director	(850) 510-9248	jnoble@talltimbers.org
Eli Simonson	TTRS	Scoping Vendor	Lead Remote Sensing Analyst		esimonson@talltimbers.org
David Godwin	SFE	Scoping Sub award	Director at Southern Fire Exchange	(850) 893-4153 ext. 261	d.godwin@southernfireexchange.org

NRCS SE FireMap

- Description and discussion of contract deliverables
- Discussion of timeline



SE FireMap Deliverable 1

- **Up to 8 meetings, workshops, webinars or conference calls to convene partners and experts to discuss broadly the current data collection, technologies and/or mapping being conducted in the Southeast and elsewhere, with at least two such events focused outside the Southeast:**



SE FireMap Deliverable 2

- A summary report from each of the above events due within 1 week of the event



SE FireMap Deliverable 3

- A list with moderate detail describing the existing relevant mapping efforts, data collection and/or technologies reviewed as part of this Scoping Phase, including a brief assessment of their strengths and weaknesses as it pertains to the end-user (scale, coverage, accessibility, format, interface, etc.), and a contact person for each



SE FireMap Deliverable 4

- **Clear, detailed recommendations for building a scalable SEFireMap database that depicts fire occurrences in the Southeastern U.S. at various landscape scales through a web interface that supports simple queries, reports and downloads as either Excel spreadsheets, pdf(s) or shapefile(s). Recommendations will include how to expand the SEFireMap to help ensure seamless fire planning at larger geographies of the U.S.**



SE FireMap Deliverable 5

- **An approximate cost range for developing the SEFireMap as described above: An approximate cost range will be developed for building the SEFireMap as recommended**



SE FireMap Deliverable 6

- **Participation, as needed but at least bi-monthly, in conference calls or online meetings with the Technical Oversight Team convened to lead this project**



SE FireMap Deliverable 7

- **One in-person meeting of the Technical Oversight Team at the end of this project to discuss findings and final recommendations**



SE FireMap Deliverable 8

- **Status briefings, as needed and on request, for the Endowment or the Technical Oversight Team Coordinator to support their need to keep partners updated on the status of the Scoping Phase**



SE FireMap Assessment Timeline

- March 2020: Portal meeting Raleigh
- April 2020: Meet with TOT
- April 2020: TT to seek proposals from regional and national fire mapping efforts to present those efforts in webinar series
- May-July 2020: Conduct webinar series and follow up meeting
- June-Aug 2020: Conduct 1st Western focused meeting
- Aug/Sept 2020: Conduct final webinar/workshop to share findings
- Sept-Oct 2020: Conduct 2nd Western meeting is advised by TOT
- October 2020: Final project workshop and reporting



Landscape Partnership Portal

Issue: Wildland Fire

WILDLAND FIRE

Home Prescribed Burning Wildfire Fire Mapping Training Resources Fire Policy Research Partners News and Events Workspace

Info Welcome! You are now logged in.



Prescribed Burning

How the South fights fire with fire, and what the West can learn.

LEARN MORE

1 2 3

SE FireMap - Technical Oversight Team

by [Joseph Badash](#) — last modified Mar 20, 2020 06:35 PM — [History](#)



Photo credit: John McGuire

This is a private workspace for the SE FireMap Technical Oversight Team (Team), an advisory body to the current project funder, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, as well as its cooperative agreement partner the Endowment for Forestry and Communities and subawardee the Longleaf Alliance (these three collectively known as the Project Managers). In August 2019, applicants to the Team were solicited from partners and experts across the Southeastern U.S. Based on application forms and input from stakeholders, members were selected from among applicants responding to a Statement of Interest circulated by the Endowment for Forestry and Communities. The selected members possess relevant technical skills and experience, as well as networking capacity in the fire science community throughout the U.S., to support the SE FireMap project and ensure its success.



Need Help?

If you need help working in the group.

Full List of Workspace Content

To Add or Review content in the group click items in the table below.

Title	Description
Member Contacts	Contact information for members of this workgroup
Organized Meetings	Schedule and Set up GoTo Meetings
Calendar	Calendar for organizing Meetings, Document Versioning, Events
Meeting Records	
Assigned Tasks	
Reference Materials	
Discussion Thread	

SE FireMap TOT Calendar

- [Calendar](#)
- [Add Events](#)
- [Events List View](#)
- [Next 30 Days](#)

Group Email

Email members of the Group.

[SE FireMap - Technical Oversight Team](#)

Group Members

List of group members:

- [bcamposano \(Brian Camposano\)](#)
- [bcostanzo \(Bridgett Costanzo\)](#)
- [tdavis \(Tony Davis\)](#)
- [mduett \(Michael Dueitt\)](#)
- [LFurman \(Lucas Furman\)](#)
- [kgauldin \(Keith Gauldin\)](#)
- [tjhawbaker \(Todd Hawbaker\)](#)
- [rua.mordecai \(Rua Mordecai\)](#)
- [jpicotte \(Josh Picotte\)](#)
- [jmshedd \(Justin Shedd\)](#)
- [jimsmithnc \(Jim Smith\)](#)
- [jwallace \(Jon Wallace\)](#)

[Manage portlets](#)

SE FireMap

Next Steps

- ✓ RFP for Scoping Phase
- ✓ Selection of Scoping Vendor
- Scoping
 - National data/tech assessment
 - Utilizes most effective system
 - Regional planning workshops
 - Compatibility with partner needs/systems*
 - Budget and Timeline Development
- Scope of Work



SE FireMap

Action Items

- **Consider tools and functionality to align project with user group**
- **Recommended Tools/Data/Research to review in scoping**
- **Prepare feedback for TTRS***
- **Next TOT meeting**
 - Portal workspace overview
 - Review scoping progress/recommendations

Scoping Phase Project Facilitated Discussion and TOT Feedback

- Facilitate effective communication and feedback from TOT
- Communicate recommendations on specific mapping efforts or studies that might be included in webinar series
- Understand how organizations represented by TOT will benefit from fire history mapping and associated fire history metrics
- General questions about SE FireMap project



SE FireMap TOT Focus Survey #1

The purpose of this document is to solicit feedback and communication related to the scoping phase of the SE FireMap. The goal of the SE FireMap is to construct an improved, cohesive system to track both prescribed fire and wildfire activity on public and private lands will serve as a critical decision support tool to maximize the effectiveness of fire management practices – helping achieve the varied objectives of NRCS and its partners such as keeping working lands working, restoring the longleaf pine ecosystem, supporting DoD’s military and training mission, conserving listed and at-risk species, managing for wildfire risk, and minimizing the need to conserve species through regulation.

* Required

1. Name *

2. Email *

3. What are the top three questions the SE FireMap should be used to address?

- 4. Please list current fire mapping efforts you are familiar with or wish to explore as part of the scoping phase. If possible, please list the contact for each product or project as well.

- 5. How important will it be for the SE FireMap to have fire history included in the final mapping product?

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not Very Important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very Important

- 6. How many years of fire history data would be needed to assist with management decisions?

- 7. How important will it be for the SE FireMap to include active fire mapping?

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not Very Important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very Important

8. What temporal resolution do you need the SE FireMap to have? (How often do the data need to be updated to address your questions?)

9. Would a comparison of current active fire and burned area products be a helpful topic to discuss on a future TOT call?

Check all that apply.

- Yes
- Not at this time

10. Are there emerging technologies that we should learn about during the scoping phase? (Think about new or tangential technologies that could be relevant.)

11. What are the important reporting elements that should be integrated into the SE FireMap? For example, a report showing the year last burned for properties receiving assistance through cost share.

- 12. The goal of the SE FireMap is an system to track fire on both public and private lands and to serve as a critical decision support tool. How important is it that the final product be compatible with existing systems?

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Not Very Important Very Important

- 13. How might existing systems benefit from the SE FireMap?

- 14. The SE FireMap will consist of more than just a map. How do you envision the final product and database structure. For Example, Tall Timbers is currently focused on mapping fire and producing fire history metrics for our Longleaf Legacy Landscape. Our end user products will include a mapping viewer where fire history metrics can be queried against species and landcover and a reporting dashboard. The goal is for these products to support prioritization by our burn teams as well as evaluating treatment success and cost for management.

15. What questions do you have after the first TOT call and what topics or questions would you like to see included in the next focus survey?

16. Is there anything else you would like to share with the TOT or Scoping Team?

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