Risk Assessment and Mapping for CWPP’s

2008 Collaboration WUI Conference
March 3, 2008

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Thanks to Kathy Lynn, Resource Innovations, c/o Institute for Sustainable Environment, Andy Herstrom, Vince Pile, Emmor Nile, Mike Schuft, Chris Bradberry, Lisa Zwart (ODF)
Outline

◆ Lesson’s learned
◆ Resources and tools
◆ Pitfalls
◆ Key Messages
◆ FOCUS: Large and Small Scale
Lesson’s Learned
Regardless of Scale

“All models are wrong, some models are useful”
George Box

Risk Assessments are a model:

- A simplification of a complex real world
- The likelihood of an event occurring X the loss if it does occur
Scale Matters!

◆ Statewide/regional
  - Assesses communities and large watersheds
  - Limited by what data is consistent over large area
  - Ignore very good local data
  - Struggle with defining “community”
Scale Matters!

◆ Statewide/regional
◆ County
  – Assesses communities, neighborhoods, project areas
  – Limited by what data is consistent countywide
  – Ignore very good local data
Scale Matters!

- **Statewide/regional**
- **County**
- **Neighborhood**
  - Assesses homes
  - Identifies specific projects
  - May not be consistent with county or state assessments
Resources

❖ LandFire
  – www.landfire.gov
  – FlammMap
    • Flame length
    • Crown fire activity
    • Rate of spread

LANDFIRE National products will be delivered on an incremental basis:
- 2006
- 2008
- 2009
Resources

- LandFire
- States
  - GIS data, GAP
  - State CAR
  - State and local fire data
- Counties
  - Tax lots, zoning…
Resources

- LandFire
- States
- Counties
- Regional Assessment
  - Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment
  - http://www.southernwildfirerisk.com
  - West-Wide Assessment
Resources

- LandFire
- States
- Counties
- Regional
- Federal fire data
  - http://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/
Resources

- LandFire
- States
- Counties
- Regional
- Federal fire data
- Census
  - www.census.gov
Resources

- LandFire
- States
- Counties
- Regional
- Federal fire data
- Census
- Silvis Lab
  www.silvis.forest.wisc.edu/projects/WUI_Main.asp
Pitfalls

- Trying to fit a large scale assessment to the local community
  - Redefine the assessment thresholds
Pitfalls

- Trying to fit a large scale assessment to the local community (continued)
  - LandFire
    - Even though 30-meter cell size, not intended for community/neighborhood
    - Non-Burn Ag class includes pasture and grass
  - Census and GAP
    - Line locations not accurate at small scale
Pitfalls

- Trying to fit a large scale assessment to the local community
- Inconsistent data

Avoid the temptation

Examples:
- Input from community & neighborhood mtg
- Local assessments
- Fire district records
- Combining large and small scale data
Pitfalls

- Trying to fit a large scale assessment to the local community
- Inconsistent data
- Mission creep

- Remember – what is useful?
Key Messages

- Keep assessment useful!
  - Consider social-economic data
Key Messages

- Keep assessment useful!
- Watch out for mission creep!
Key Messages

- Keep assessment useful!
- Watch out for mission creep!
- Just because you can, doesn’t mean you should!
Key Messages

- Keep assessment useful!
- Watch out for mission creep!
- Just because you can, doesn’t mean you should!
- Know limitations of data used