

## Fuel Characteristic Classification System and GIS Data Layers

The FERA team at the Pacific Wildland Fire Sciences Lab in Seattle, Washington, is pleased to announce that the first version of the Fuel Characteristic Classification System (FCCS) is now available for downloading off our website. As a comprehensive software system to build, characterize, and classify fuelbeds, it accurately captures the structural complexity and geographical diversity of fuel components across landscapes and provides the option to assess elements of human and natural change.

The FCC system reports the assigned and calculated fuel characteristics for each fuelbed component chosen by the user, including the trees, shrubs, grasses, woody fuels, litter, and duff. The system will also calculate a surface fire behavior, crown fire, and available fuel potential index between 0- 9 for each FCCS National or customized fuelbed.

In addition to the system, a map and accompanying GIS data layers of FCCS fuelbeds at 1-km resolution across the contiguous United States has just been posted.

The FCCS was sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station; USDA/DOI Joint Fire Science Program; National Fire Plan; Bureau of Land Management; National Park Service; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Scientific development of the software may be credited to Roger Ottmar, Cynthia Riccardi, David Sandberg, Susan Prichard, Jennifer Key, and Geoff Cushon.

To learn more about either product, or download the software, visit:  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/fera/fccs/>