



The Natural Fuels Photo Series

<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/fera>

The Natural Fuels Photo series are a set of photographs with accompanying fuelbed characteristics data from sites where no recent management activity has occurred. They are used to make quick, easy, and inexpensive determinations of fuel quantities and stand conditions when less precise estimates are acceptable. The Natural Fuels Photo Series currently includes 19 volumes representing various regions of the United States and one volume each from Brazil and Mexico. There are one to four series in each volume, each having four to 19 sites. Sites include standard, wide-angle, and stereo-pair photographs. Each group of photos includes inventory data summarizing vegetation composition, structure, and loading; woody material loading; density by size class, forest floor depth, and loading; and various site characteristics.

The photo series are important land management tools that can be used to ecologically assess landscapes through appraisal of living and dead woody material and vegetation biomass (fuels) and stand characteristics. Once an ecological assessment has been completed, stand treatment options such as prescribed fire or harvesting can be planned and implemented to better achieve desired effects while minimizing negative impacts on other resources.

| Volume | Region | Fuelbed Types |
|--------|-----------------------|---|
| I | Pacific Northwest | Mixed-conifer, western juniper, sagebrush, grass |
| II | Alaska | Black and white spruce |
| IIa | Alaska | Hardwoods with spruce |
| III | Rocky Mountains | Lodgepole pine, quaking aspen, gambel oak |
| IV | Southwest | Pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, chaparral |
| V | Central & Lake States | Red & white pine, northern tallgrass prairie, mixed oak |
| Va | Lake States | Jack pine |
| VI | Southeast | Longleaf pine, pocosin, marshgrass |
| VIa | Southeast | Sand hill, sand pine scrub, hardwood with white pine |
| VII | West Coast | white oak, deciduous oak, mixed-conifer with shrubs |
| VIII | Northeast | Hardwoods, pitch pine, red spruce/balsam fir |
| IX | Southwest | Oak-juniper woodlands and savannahs |
| X | Montana | Sagebrush with grass, ponderosa pine-juniper |
| XI | Washington & Oregon | Sagebrush-steppe and spotted owl nesting habitat |
| XII | Southeast | Post hurricane fuels in forests of the southeast |
| XIII | West Coast | Grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, eucalyptus |
| Hawaii | Hawaii | Grassland, shrubland, woodland, forest |
| Brazil | Brazil | Cerrado (savannah) |
| Mexico | Mexico | Pine and oak |

The photo series is useful in several branches of natural resource science and management. Inventory data such as these can be used as inputs for evaluating animal and insect habitat, nutrient cycling, and microclimate. Fire managers will find these data useful for predicting fuel consumption, smoke production, fire behavior, and fire effects during wildfires and prescribed fires. In addition, the photo series can be used to estimate carbon sequestration, an important factor in predictions of future climate, and to link remotely sensed signatures to live and dead fuels on the ground. The Natural Fuels Photo Series continues to evolve and grow as land managers, researchers, and policy-makers identify ecosystems for which vegetation and fuel inventory data are needed.

For More Information Contact:

Roger Ottmar
Fire and Environmental Research
Applications Team
U.S. Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Research Station
Pacific Wildland Fire Sciences Laboratory
400 North 34th Street, Suite 201
Seattle, Washington 98103
Office phone: (206) 732-7826
Cell phone: (206) 849-3172
E-mail: rottmar@fs.fed.us

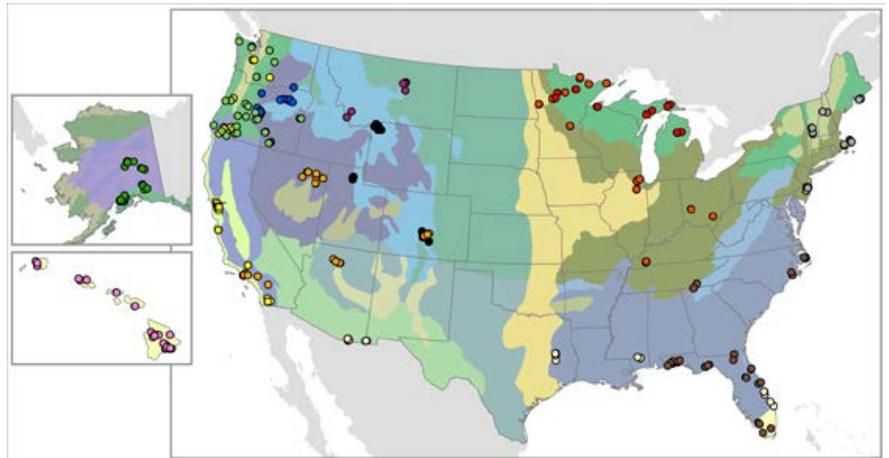


Photo Series Tutorial

Photo series are simple tools, however, it is important to use them correctly to achieve the best results. Learn how to use the photo series by completing the online tutorials.
<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/fera/research/tutorials/photoseries.shtml>

Visit the Photo Series Website:

<http://depts.washington.edu/nwfire/dps/>

Ordering the Natural Fuels Photo Series:

Copies of all Volumes are available at no charge upon request from Roger Ottmar.

Copies of the Mexico photo series are available at no charge upon request from Ernesto Alvarado (alvarado@u.washington.edu).

