POSTER ABSTRACT

POSTER TITLE: STEREO PHOTO SERIES FOR QUANTIFYING NATURAL FUELS IN THE AMERICAS

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Estimating characteristics of fuels is a critical component that enables fire managers to estimate fuel consumption and fire effects of prescribed fire and wildfire. Photo series are useful tools for quickly and inexpensively evaluating vegetation and fuel conditions in the field. The natural fuels photo series is a collection of data and photographs that collectively display a range of natural conditions and fuel loadings in a wide variety of ecosystem types throughout the Americas from central Alaska to central Brazil. Fire managers are the primary target audience of the natural fuels photo series, although the data presented will also prove useful for managers, scientists, and researchers in other natural resource and science fields.

Phase I of the photo series included 18 ecosystem types in the United States organized geographically into six volumes. The volumes can be purchased from the Publication Management System at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho. The volumes in phase I included (1) Interior Pacific Northwest (mixed conifer with mortality, western sagebrush, western juniper, and grassland types); (2) Alaska (black spruce and white spruce types); (3) Rocky Mountains (lodgepole pine, quaking aspen, and gambel oak types); (4) Southwestern United States (pinyon-juniper, chaparral, and sagebrush types); (5) Central and lake States (red and white pine, northern tall grass prairie, and mixed oak types); and (6) Southeast United States (longleaf pine, pocosin, and marsh grass).

Phases II and III will add volumes for ecosystem types in Hawaii (grassland, shrubland, woodland, and forest), in the western United States (oak savanna and mixed conifer with shrubs), in the southeastern United States (mixed hardwoods with confer understory and sand pine with turkey oak), in Alaska (birch and aspen), and in the northeastern United States (pitch pine, balsam fir/red spruce, and mixed hardwoods). Ongoing and future work will supplement already published volumes with new series in new ecosystems or additional sites in already published series. Additionally a volume has also been produced for savannah (*cerrado*) ecosystem types in central Brazil and a volume is under development for pine forests in Mexico. Ten ecosystem types have been photographed and inventoried to date with publication anticipated in the next two years.

FOR MORE INFO

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Policies and strategies that guide use and management of lands in the Sierra Nevada ecoregion are dependent on objective scientific information. In recent years attention to this region has increased. Correspondingly, there has been much new information collected. Efforts such as the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Program (SNEP) illustrate both the great interest and effort that is devoted to collecting and using scientific information to support resource and land management in this region. Each year the array of decisions that affects lands and natural resources in the Sierra Nevada carry more weight; evidence the recent interest in the Sierra Nevada (National) Forest Plan Amendment. How do we, therefore, promote the development and communication of scientific findings to inform management and policy decisions?

No single meeting or institution is capable of providing thorough coverage of current scientific findings and insights. It is the intent of the organizing committee to provide a sampling of current scientific work, to enable access to more detail and other sources of information, and to put these findings into a context where such information can be synthesized and interpreted for applications in land and resource management.

This symposium was intended to promote the dissemination of scientific evidence to managers, policy-makers, other scientists and interested public, and, in turn, to inform policy decisions. Thus, the presentations will range from the discussion of recently gathered scientific knowledge to the integration of that knowledge into planning and management processes and tools. We support the many other efforts intended to achieve these and similar goals and acknowledge the need to coordinate all such efforts.

Continuing Education Credits - Symposium participants will qualify for :

- 16 CEU's for those that are Certified Professionals in Range Management by the Society for Range Management.
- 17.5 CEU's of Society of American Foresters CFE Category 1 credits.

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LOCATION

When:
Monday, October 7, 2002 (Field Trips)
Tuesday-Thursday, October 8-10, 2002 (Symposium)

Where:
North Tahoe Conference Center
Kings Beach, Lake Tahoe, CA

For information on the North Tahoe Conference Center, visit their website at:
http://www.northlaketahoe.net/conference.html

For information regarding Transportation in the Lake Tahoe area, visit the Tahoe Guide website at:
http://tahoeguide.com/tahoe/SITE/indexlisting.cfm/other/242/0/direct

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SYMPOSIUM CONVENORS