

# An Internet Based Portal for Fire Science and Management in the Southern Region

## Final Report: Deliverables Checklist JFSP Project 04-4-1-34 September 29, 2006

Proposed	Delivered	Status
<b><i>Task 1 – Organize a technical advisory team and host an initial workshop to explore methods for integrating FRAMES, TTRS, and ESFS websites.</i></b>		
Host initial Southern Fire Portal (SFP) team meeting	<p><u>October 17-29, 2004</u> -- Forest Service Southern Research Station (FS/SRS) and University of Georgia (UGA) hosted initial workshop in Athens, GA.</p> <p><u>July 25-27, 2005</u> -- The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Tall Timbers Research Station (TTRS) hosted a follow up workshop in Thomasville, GA.</p>	Complete
Establish a technical advisory committee	<p>Established with PI's and staff from organizations involved in the development of the Southern Fire Portal.</p> <p>This team met on a regular basis throughout the project period of performance to discuss technical issues, coordination across organizations, and integration of content.</p>	Complete
<b><i>Task 2 – Identify and acquire data, tools, and publications from funded JFSP and NFP projects working with the JFSP and NFP project databases and principal investigators. Also, when possible identify and acquire data and tools used and created by others in the wildland fire community including state agencies, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations.</i></b>		
Coordinate and confirm with JFSP and NFP representatives on projects and activities and participants in Southern region	<p><u>Fall 2004</u> -- TNC Lead Technician on the Southern Fire Portal was hired to coordinate with partner organizations and principal investigators.</p> <p><u>January 2005</u> -- Significant progress made in the acquisition of metadata for the SFP Project. Specifically, all Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) and National Fire Plan (NFP) projects were identified and inventoried in a working Southern Fire Portal Database (54 projects).</p> <p><u>January 24, 2005</u> – JFSP and NFSP principal investigators (PIs) were contacted and made aware of the effort to collect metadata for the SFP via an initial e-mail.</p> <p>Additional phone conversations and email inquiries were made on the following dates: 3/31/2005; 6/29/2005; 1/23/2006; 2/8/2006; 5/15/2006; 7/3/2006.</p> <p>We did not receive input from PI's on 21% of the projects identified (13 projects total) after repeated attempts to engage them.</p>	Complete
Identify data, tools, publications and other information resources (electronic and non-electronic) from JFSP, NFP, and other sources.	<p><u>September 2006</u> -- 64 projects were identified for the SFP (17 NFP; 46 JFSP; 1 other). 55 were identified to be part of the Southern GACC region while 9 were identified with other GACC regions.</p>	Complete
Acquire data, tools, publications, and other information resources from JFSP,	<p><u>September 2006</u> -- 750 resources have been acquired to date with another 122 planned. [Resources include 63</p>	Complete

<p>NFP, and other sources</p>	<p>datasets; 456 documents; 64 projects; 115 tools; 52 websites].</p> <p>26 (41%) of the 64 projects are complete while another 24 (38%) are noted as “on-going / planned” projects for which we anticipate completion in the next few months.</p> <p>Only 13 projects (21%) have seen no participation from the project PI.</p> <p>TNC efforts will continue until the end of contract period in December 2006 and then the NBII Southern Appalachian Information Node (SAIN) will assume lead responsibility for working with PIs, creating metadata, and adding content to the SFP.</p>	
<p><b>Task 3 – Develop and post online FGDC metadata records for all datasets from funded JFSP and NFP projects as well as key state information</b></p>		
<p>Identify metadata needs for all projects, develop metadata, and post in metadata clearinghouse</p>	<p><u>Fall 2004</u> – At the initial workshop, TNC, SAIN, NBII Program and Metadata Offices, University of Idaho, and TTRS identified the different metadata needs for the resources associated with SFP projects.</p> <p><u>September 2006</u> -- Each project resource has a metadata record associated with it that is available through the SFP website. <a href="http://frames.nbii.gov/southern">http://frames.nbii.gov/southern</a></p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Establish Southern Fire Portal metadata clearinghouse</p>	<p>August 2005 – the Fire Research Management and Exchange System Metadata Node with all Southern Fire Portal data went live on the NBII Metadata Clearinghouse Network. <a href="http://metadata.nbii.gov">http://metadata.nbii.gov</a></p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Input information about electronically available resources into the catalog database using FRAMES methodology</p>	<p><u>January 2005</u> -- A methodology was established to serve as interim solution for metadata creation and cataloging until a permanent relational database (<i>Resources Cataloging Database: RCD</i>) and on-line cataloging tool are developed. Anticipated completion of the RCD expected in January 2007.</p> <p>All resources except datasets were catalogued in an MS Access database called the <i>Resources Database: RD</i>. The database is replicated for multiple users and a process for synchronizing replicates was established. The database allows relationships between resources to be generated and creates unique id values for every resource.</p> <p><u>January 2005</u> -- A process for creating and delivering metadata on datasets was created. TNC and SAIN created the initial metadata record in the ARC Catalog tool and then submitted to the NBII metadata specialist for review and conversion to XML. Then, the record was sent to the NBII metadata quality review specialist to ensure the record met FGDC standard requirements. Once reviewed, the metadata record was submitted to the Fire Research Management and Exchange System Metadata Node on the NBII Metadata Clearinghouse Network. <a href="http://metadata.nbii.gov">http://metadata.nbii.gov</a></p> <p><u>January 2005</u> -- A process for cross checking SFP / FRAMES bibliographic citations with the TTRS Fire Ecology Database was established to identify citations held in common between the two systems. Selected</p>	<p>Complete</p>

	citations were added to the TTRS Fire Ecology database.	
Compile and post initial data, metadata and other products from JFSP and NFP and other sources	<p><b>September 2006</b> -- Metadata for data was created using the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Biological Data Profile standard [63 datasets]. These records are available at the Fire Research Management and Exchange System Metadata Node on the NBII Metadata Clearinghouse Network. <a href="http://metadata.nbii.gov">http://metadata.nbii.gov</a></p> <p>Metadata created for other resource types (e.g. documents, tools, web pages, projects) were created in the RD. To date, 686 (91%) of all resources in the RD have been crawled or uploaded into FRAMES. Because new content is always being created outside the FRAMES web portal and because projects are in different stages of completion, the RD always has more resources than are available through the SFP. This issue will be resolved with the release of the RCD and online cataloging tool.</p>	Complete
Compile and post all data and tools	The primary focus of this project was on metadata creation to help provide consistent information and relationships between resources. While the SFP project has the capability of hosting data and tools, most of the resources identified were already available electronically. SAIN plans to work with PIs beyond the original project timeline to determine if any resources need to be made electronically available through the SFP.	Complete
Complete and post all metadata	<p>FGDC compliant metadata for data has been completed and posted on the Fire Research Management and Exchange System Metadata Node on the NBII Metadata Clearinghouse Network <a href="http://metadata.nbii.gov">http://metadata.nbii.gov</a> and the Southern Fire Portal <a href="http://frames.nbii.gov/southern">http://frames.nbii.gov/southern</a>.</p> <p>Metadata for other resources (e.g. documents, tools, projects, and web pages) created within the RD has been completed and posted on the Southern Fire Portal <a href="http://frames.nbii.gov/southern">http://frames.nbii.gov/southern</a>.</p> <p>TNC efforts will continue until the end of contract period in December 2006 and then the NBII Southern Appalachian Information Node (SAIN)/Information International Associates, Inc. (IIa) will assume lead responsibility for working with PIs, creating metadata, and adding content to the SFP.</p>	Complete
Add new data, metadata and other components as they become available; Continue adding data, metadata and other products from JFSP, NFP, etc.	<p><b>December 2006</b> -- As new JFSP and NFP projects are funded, those metadata resources will continue to be created by The Nature Conservancy and the NBII SAIN/IIa.</p> <p><b>January 2007</b> -- With funding support from FRAMES and the NBII Southern Appalachian Node, these partners will assume the lead role for adding SFP resources beginning in January 2007.</p>	Complete This process is ongoing
Test cataloging and search tools, develop spatial query system	The permanent RCD and on-line cataloging tool is being constructed and is anticipated to be available in January 2007.	In Progress
<b>Task 4 – Expand the Encyclopedia of Southern Fire Science</b>		
Develop content on key topics for ESFS through authoring contracts and	US Forest Service Southern Research Station personnel established authoring contracts and coordinated peer	Complete

coordinate peer-review	<p>review of core topics for the Encyclopedia of Southern Fire Science (ESFS).</p> <p><u>May 2005</u> -- Authoring contracts were completed to add 400 pages of content.</p>	
Verify and review ESFS content and the content management framework	<p>Final editing and content review was performed by US Forest Service Southern Research Station personnel.</p> <p><u>June 2006</u> -- 600 pages had received final editing. Additional pages are undergoing final editing and will be uploaded to ESFS.</p>	Complete
Publish the Encyclopedia of Southern Fire Science	<p>ESFS was made available for all users. <a href="http://fire.forestencyclopedia.net/">http://fire.forestencyclopedia.net/</a></p> <p>ESFS core content consisting of more than 1000 pages of synthesized material is now available on the web. Additional pages will be added once review is completed. After the review is complete the first 3 levels of ESFS will be crawled into FRAMES.</p>	Complete This process is ongoing
<b><i>Task 5 – Identify, acquire, house and index publications from southeast region JFSP and NFP funded projects and key regional literature, incorporating the index into the TTRS Database</i></b>		
Index 500 publications including key regional literature for addition to TTRS Fire Ecology Database	<p><u>September 2006</u> -- 656 bibliographic records were indexed pertaining to research and projects in Southern GACC region.</p> <p>506 bibliographic records were indexed from JFSP publications. 382 documents from the 456 in the RD were identified during the metadata collection process in Tasks 2 and 3.</p>	Complete
Incorporate index of publications and key regional literature into TTRS Fire Ecology Database and ESFS	<p><u>September 2006</u> -- 19,550 records are in Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Database with more than 2,000 added during the SFP project.</p> <p><a href="http://66.0.227.170:83/rmwp?&amp;func=advSearch">http://66.0.227.170:83/rmwp?&amp;func=advSearch</a> is a new web address for Fire Database at the TTRS home page. The Database also accessible through FRAMES and SFP.</p> <p>Improved database searches for keywords and authors, retaining author-assigned keywords or other uncontrolled keywords on new records. Potential for more hot links in each new record.</p> <p>NOTE: Additional integration between the Tall Timbers Fire Database and FRAMES will be accomplished through the new RCD.</p>	Complete
<b><i>Task 6 – Develop and provide access to a thesaurus and key words about fire science and management</i></b>		
Develop fire science vocabulary and thesaurus	<p>TTRS compiled Keyword Comparison Spreadsheet with more than 3,000 terms from existing fire thesaurus, glossary, and keyword sources E.V. Komarek Fire Ecology Thesaurus, Tall Timbers Research Station; Fire Effects Information System (FEIS) Glossary; Northwest and Alaska Fire Effects Clearinghouse Glossary; National Wildfire Coordinating Group Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology; Encyclopedia of Southern Fire Science, and Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center Topics.</p> <p>The NBII Program is developing the integrated fire</p>	In Progress

	<p>thesaurus as part of the Biocomplexity Thesaurus <a href="http://thesaurus.nbii.gov">http://thesaurus.nbii.gov</a> using the TTRS Keyword Comparison Spreadsheet. The thesaurus is 80% completed as of September 30, 2006. Anticipated delivery by January 2007. The thesaurus will be available through the FRAMES on line metadata entry tool, Southern Fire Portal, and the NBII. A web service will also be available through the NBII.</p>	
<p><b>Task 7- Science Application and Delivery – Develop a strategy to extend the SFP technology and information to key individuals and communities.</b></p>		
<p>Establish initial web presence</p>	<p><u>December 2005</u> -- The Southern Fire Portal goes live at <a href="http://frames.nbii.gov/southern">http://frames.nbii.gov/southern</a></p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Completed Internet based Southern Fire Portal product available</p>	<p><u>November 2006</u> – While the site exists currently, the SFP team will debut the Southern Fire Portal product at the International Wildland Fire Congress <a href="http://frames.nbii.gov/southern">http://frames.nbii.gov/southern</a>.</p> <p>Additional content and resources will continue to be added after the completion of the JFSP grant period.</p>	<p>Complete This process is ongoing</p>
<p>Fulfill marketing and science delivery responsibilities</p>	<p><u>Fall 2005</u> -- Southern Regional Forestry Extension (SREF), University of Georgia developed the Southern Fire Portal Overview poster, SFP fact sheet and SFP branding (logos, graphics, banners).</p> <p>These materials were presented at:</p> <p><u>September 2005</u> – World Forestry Congress in Brisbane, Australia. SFP Partners from NBII presented the poster.</p> <p><u>October 2005</u> – NBII Annual All Node Meeting in Albuquerque, NM. SFP Partners from the NBII, SAIN, and FRAMES presented the SFP poster and distributed the fact sheet.</p> <p><u>November 2005</u> -- 22<sup>nd</sup> Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Conference in Bartlesville, OK. The TTRS Librarian attended conference, distributed PR materials, and represented SFP at poster session. In addition, TTRS developed a SFP tri-fold brochure and bookmark for the conference.</p> <p><u>November 2005</u> – JFSP Annual Principal Investigator’s Workshop in San Diego, CA.</p> <p><u>Fall 2006</u> -- Southern Regional Forestry Extension (SREF), University of Georgia developed the Southern Fire Portal tri-fold brochure, exhibit, and poster.</p> <p>These materials will be presented at:</p> <p><u>November 2006</u> – 3rd International Fire Ecology &amp; Management Congress</p> <p>TTRS Ron Masters, Director of Research, and Kevin Roberson, Fire Ecologist, will deliver a presentation about SFP.</p> <p>Cynthia Fowler, Chris Szell, Greg Gollberg, and Shelaine Curd-Hetrick will present a SFP poster.</p> <p>SREF Bill Hubbard and members of the SFP team will sponsor an exhibit booth to distribute outreach materials, discuss the project, and provide an on-line</p>	<p>In Progress</p>

	<p>demonstration of the SFP capabilities.</p> <p>Other marketing activities:</p> <p><u>April 2006</u> -- Chris Szell, TNC provided an overview presentation of FRAMES and SFP at the TNC National Burn Boss meeting, in Atlanta, GA and the First Southeast Regional Fire Learning Network Workshop in Point Vedra Beach, FL.</p> <p><u>June 2006</u> – Bill Hubbard, SREF presented at the Southern Group of State Foresters meeting in San Juan, PR.</p> <p><u>October 2006</u> – Dave Brownlie, FWS and Shelaine Curd-Hetrick, SAIN/Ila presenting a SFP poster at the Region 8 Prescribed Fire Meeting in Johnson City, TN.</p> <p><u>November 2006</u> -- Kevin Hiers, Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center will present the SFP poster to The Sixth Longleaf Alliance Regional Conference, Tifton, GA.</p>	
<p>Submit final report on analysis and description of the approach and process to JFSP; Submit initial Design Document on process and methodology to JFSP; Develop strategy for addition of new content over longer term</p>	<p>We are developing a project plan for the SFP that will extend into 2007 after JFSP funding is exhausted. The NBII SAIN has stepped up to provide resources to develop this plan and ensure continuation of adding related content through mid-2007.</p> <p>The plan will provide the most up to date processes and methodology used to integrate content across the southern region as well as provide a description of the approach used throughout this project. With FRAMES, NBII SAIN, and other SFP partners, a strategy for maintaining and enhancing the SFP will also be part of developing the report.</p>	In Progress
<p>Report status at annual JFSP meeting; preview and test Southern Fire Portal at the meeting</p>	<p>Presentation on Southern Fire Portal expected at Spring 2007 JFSP Annual Meeting.</p>	In Progress
<p>Develop strategy to further systematically integrate content</p>	<p>As part of a larger FRAMES effort, a requirements document and schema for the FRAMES resources cataloging database was developed that would allow for further integration between FRAMES, Tall Timbers, and research projects in the south as well as other geographic regions.</p> <p>Additional integration processes will be identified once the RCD and on-line cataloging tool have been completed.</p>	Complete
<p>Develop marketing and science delivery strategy with assistance from the Southern Regional Extension Forestry Office (SREF)</p>	<p><u>March 2006</u> – The SREF developed a marketing and science delivery strategy that outlines the materials to be developed, the audiences to be reached, and a timeline of conferences to attend to promote the SFP concept.</p> <p>While the strategy is in place, efforts to develop materials and present at professional venues will continue through March 2007 when the contract with SREF expires.</p>	Complete