



What Fire Behavior Specialists Need To Know About WFDSS - 2014

This document is a quick reference for Fire Behavior Specialists to review recent enhancements, common problems, little known features, recommendations and things to consider that will help you use WFDSS more efficiently.

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New WFDSS Releases

The latest WFDSS release information is located in the upper right hand corner of the WFDSS Home Page under **Latest Information**. Release 4.10 was deployed late 2013 and release 4.11 was deployed early 2014. Below are a few highlights from these releases that may interest an analyst.

Feature	Description
Groups	Users can now create a collection of incidents and view analyses for two or more incidents on the same map page. This can be advantageous when you are monitoring several incidents that are in close proximity and/or you wish to evaluate the impacts of adjacent fires on one another. These groups can remain private or made public and shared with other users. See Creating a Group .
MODIS	From the map LayerSwitcher, you can now view information about MODIS 6 Hr., 12 Hr., 24 Hr., and Year-To-Date. See Active MODIS .
Uploading Shapes	WFDSS will accept uploaded shape files up to 1500kb. Uploading Shapes
Address Book	Address Book search performance has been improved. See Address Book .
Annotation	All WFDSS analyst assisted models provide the option of adding Notes to any input, landscape, or results page. You can add, edit or delete notes any time before an analysis is run or any time after, regardless of the status of the analysis. The entire list of notes for an analysis are now available from any page in an analysis. See Analyst Notes .
NFTB Hourly Weather Graphical Display	When viewing the Weather Summary Hourly Records a Graph View has been added to allow viewers to see Hourly data in a graphical



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	format. This feature can be valuable to those analysts who are visual minded to see the diurnal changes and how the indices relate to each another.
Basic Fire Behavior Hauling Chart	Basic Fire Behavior map results now allows users to display modeled flame lengths with the same breakpoints as the Hauling Chart (Fire Characteristics Chart). This feature allows for a quick assessment of areas of the landscape that may pose safety risks for firefighters and allow for planning of appropriate control tactics. Look for better graphics in near future WFDSS enhancements. See Analyst-Assisted BFB - Why use it
Results Landscape Features	Attributes for the landscape file used by an analysis are now available for viewing on the analyses results map page. Attributes such as slope, aspect and fuel model can be toggled on from the analyses results map LayerSwitcher. Clicking the down arrow next to Landscape in the LayerSwitcher reveals a layer transparency slider bar. With this tool, you can adjust the transparency of your selected landscape feature to better view your results layer underneath. This allows users to better assess areas of the analyses results that show increased fire spread or little or no spread to determine what landscape feature or features may have influenced the fire behavior.

New Data Layers

Data Layer	Description
LANDFIRE 2010	LANDFIRE 2010 version is now the default layer for all WFDSS incidents, as the landscape data source is now available for the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii.
USGS Base Map Layers	New USGS map layers are available to users: USGS Topos, USGS Imagery, USGS Imagery with Topo lines. USGS Topos is the default imagery for captured images; the base layer selection updates on the fly if you capture images using a Google base layer (Google ® images are licensed for viewing in WFDSS, but not saving or printing). You may change your default map layer preference from your My Home page. See System Preferences .



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New Training Aids

	Description
YouTube WFDSS Support Videos Channel	This channel provides training videos that walk you step-by-step through many common tasks. If you have a YouTube account simply search for WFDSS Support Videos. To view new videos as they become available, subscribe to this channel. http://www.youtube.com/user/WFDSSSupportVideos?feature=g-high-u

Little Known Features

Feature	Description
Help	WFDSS has an extensive Help system that can be accessed any time by selecting the Help icon  in the upper right corner of any WFDSS screen. You can find topics alphabetically in the WFDSS Help index, or look for information using the search feature. The help information is being updated constantly to keep up with program enhancements and in response to user feedback, so check often.
Results Downloads	The KMZ, ASCII, and Output files are an excellent source to use for displaying analysis results outside of WFDSS, but there are many other useful files located under Downloads on the Results Tab. FSPRO downloads include Fire Size Histogram, Event Coverage, and Daily Acres. These files can be useful to you as an analyst. For example the Event Coverage Report will give you the burnable and non-burnable days for your analysis; to help you understand how many days in the simulation the fire didn't spread. Daily Acres Report can give you information on daily spread also indicating how many burnable and non-burnable days your analysis had and when they occurred. See FSPRO Results Downloads and Near Term Results Downloads .
Analysis Details/ Analysis Report	From the Results tab selecting <u>Details</u> will give you not only Incident Information and General analyses Information but you can obtain Fire Size in acres by FSPRO Percentile or acres by Burn Period for Near Term Fire Behavior analyses. The Analysis Report can be obtained from the Analyses tab View Report button or by selecting Report on the Menu switcher tree. The Report provides the same information as the Analysis Details but this printable report also provides more details and some additional graphs and images including a wind rose. The Analysis Report includes a map image of the results. This Report can be an excellent tool to use for briefing a line office or fire manager on the analysis results particularly if you are working remotely and must email this information. See Viewing the Analysis Report .



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Landscape Critique	The Landscape Critique is an excellent tool to use when assessing your landscape before and after making landscape edits. The Generate LCP Critique button is available when on the Landscape page and becomes active when a landscape has been created. If the Generate LCP Critique button is greyed out a landscape has not yet been generated. Once the Generate LCP Critique button is selected it may take a minute to generate the report. Refreshing the page by clicking on Landscape in the Menu this will change the Generate LCP Critique button to Download LCP Critique. Clicking on the Download button will download a PDF critique report. This Critique provides numerical, image, and graphical information on the composition of the landscape. This information allows you to assess the composition of the landscape file in terms of percent of various fuel models, canopy characteristics, slope, aspect, and elevation. You may even assess fuel model distribution by slope, aspect, elevation and canopy characteristics. This is a powerful tool to assess if the landscape edits you made have had the desired effect on the landscape file before running the fire behavior simulation. See Generating a Landscape Critique .

Recommendations

Feature	Description
Sharing Analyses Results	You may share your analyses without accepting your analysis as complete. The Landscape Report allows you to capture a map image and title it as you would for a decision, and if you add a Report Name below the image capture description you can also generate a landscape mode.pdf report you can edit and print or email for review by other incident personnel. The Landscape Report displays only single map captures. See To capture map images as landscape-oriented reports .
Keeping Analyses up to date on active large fires	Increasingly, data from WFDSS is being used in ancillary intelligence sources. Having an up to date analyses on an active incidents that have been accepted (completed) helps to give a clearer picture of your incident's potential.



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Preseason Preparation Checklist (My Home tab)

✓	Feature	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	Passwords	<p>Users are allowed one account per person and it provides access to both WFDSS Production and Training sites.</p> <p>If you forget your password, you can request an automated password reset. An access key link is emailed to your primary email address. Click the link to reset your password. See Do-It Yourself Password Reset.</p> <p>Your password must be changed every 60 days. If you have not logged into WFDSS recently you may still be able to log in, but you will be required to change your password. If the system does not allow you to log in and more than 90 days have passed since your last log in, you are likely locked out. Contact the Help Desk (1-866-224-7677) and request a password reset. Do not request a new account; this will cause confusion when preparing decision documents and performing other WFDSS functions.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact Information	<p>Check your contact information and ensure that it is up to date. This information is used by the WFDSS system and WFDSS users to contact you for various reasons, for example if you are an incident owner you will receive confirmation when any fire behavior analyses are completed on your incident to the email address listed in your Contact Information. If you have changed jobs, geographic areas, or even agencies you can simply update your Contact Information. Do not request a new account! Your WFDSS account is designed to stay with you throughout your career. If you are on a fire assignment, you may want to change your contact information for the duration of that assignment so that people working with you in the WFDSS environment can contact you as needed. See Updating your Contact Information.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	User Roles	<p>Ensure that your User Roles are appropriate for your current position and job duties. To view your current User Roles select <i>My Home > User Roles</i>. See Requesting Additional System Privileges or WFDSS User Roles to learn more about user roles and privileges.</p> <p>User roles granted in Production are automatically carried over to Training but conversely, user roles granted in Training are exclusive to the Training site only.</p>



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✓	Feature	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Preferences	You may select preferred default settings to customize specific items, for example the default base map layer. New map layers are added periodically to the list of available Map Layers from System Preferences. The Map Layers listed in the right hand box will be available for display on WFDSS maps. All new available layers are now located in the right hand box, therefore available for viewing from WDFSS maps. Users must move those layers that are not needed back to the left hand box if they don't wish to display them on their WFDSS maps. See Changing your System Preference .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Address Book	Check your address book to ensure it is up to date. Preseason is an excellent time to customize your My Address Book. You can set up groups now for use on incidents later. See Address Book , or see the other WFDSS Help topics related to the address book such as, Creating a Group and Editing a Group .