

UTAH STATEWIDE FIRE ASSESSMENT

Sheldon Wimmer

U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111, 2303

John C. Shive

U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
82 East Dogwood Ave., Moab, Utah, 84532
Phone: (435) 259-2113
E-mail: jshive@ut.blm.gov

Jack Sheffey

U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111
Phone: (801) 539-4213
E-mail: jsheffey@BLM.GOV

ABSTRACT

Utah's wildland fire managers face a triple threat:

1. Increasing Fire Intensities.
2. Continued Residential Growth into Wildland Fire-prone Areas.
3. Increasing Firefighting Costs.

In response, fire managers joined forces to develop a process to assess fire hazards and risks, and the values to be protected, utilizing GIS and Remote sensing products. This process, called the Utah Statewide Fire Assessment, provides managers with a strategic view of the state to improve public safety and reduce risks.

Assessment Benefits

The Fire Assessment promotes efficient, safe management of the fires by helping managers to:

- Rapidly identify areas that may require additional tactical planning.
- Access a common data base for interagency planning.
- Work together to better define priorities and improve emergency response.
- Develop refined analysis of complex landscape and fire situations using GIS and GPS.
- Increase communication with local residents to address community needs.

Assessment Objectives

The purpose of the Fire Assessment process is to:

- Identify the potential for serious fires within the state.
- Identify general areas within the state where more detailed inter-agency planning may be needed.
- Provide a model for more detailed analysis on smaller (local) scales.
- Prioritize those areas where tactical analyses/treatment may be necessary.
- Provide a visual display of fire concerns within the state of Utah to support fire management funding.

Communicate wildland fire management concerns to Utah publics.