

Global Distribution of MODIS Fire Products

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Abstract

This paper presents a NASA funded fire information system that is improving world wide access to satellite derived fire products. It also details impacts of improved delivery of fire information through use of regional case studies. Until recently, natural resource managers have faced considerable challenges in obtaining timely satellite-derived information on vegetation fires that are burning within and around their management area. To be of most value, natural resource managers require fire information to be delivered while fires are still burning, with minimal file sizes and in easy-to-use formats. These requirements are being met by the Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS). FIRMS is a NASA funded system that provides near-real time MODIS active fire products to natural resource managers around the world through the Internet and through email and text message alerts. FIRMS delivers active fire information through four services: by delivering fire alerts through emails and cell phone text messages; by providing MODIS active fire information via an interactive Web Mapping interface; by providing the locations of the latest fires that have been detected as shape, KML and text files; and by providing subsets of true color MODIS images. FIRMS currently delivers active fire information to users in more than 60 countries. FIRMS is transitioning NASA funded research results and observations to operational partners to support decision making for management of Protected Areas worldwide. The operational partners in for FIRMS are the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Conservation International (CI). This paper describes FIRMS, the advantages and disadvantages of a global delivery system and outlines some of the societal benefits that are emerging as a result of FIRMS.

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