

## Fire in the South 2

December 23, 2008

The South is one of the fastest growing regions in the nation, with an estimated population growth of 1.5 million people per year. The South also consistently has the highest number of wildfires per year. Population growth is pushing housing developments further into natural and forested areas where most of these wildfires occur. This situation puts many lives and communities at risk each year. For example, in 2006 most of the wildfires that occurred in Texas were less than two miles from a community. In that same year, the 10 year average of fires from October through March in a three parish area near New Orleans was 2,350 fires, which burned 27,000 acres.

To address this significant wildfire problem in the South, all 13 southern states and several Federal agencies pooled their resources to conduct a regional wildfire risk assessment. Some of the main objectives of the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment were to (1) identify areas most likely to have wildfires, (2) identify communities most susceptible to wildfire damage, (3) prioritize fuel reduction treatment programs and (4) help agencies work together to improve emergency response across jurisdictions.

Fire in the South 2 is a Southern Group of State Forester's publication, developed by InterfaceSouth and partners, that explains the objectives of the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment, presents the key findings, and demonstrates through case studies some of its practical applications. This publication was recently released in December 2008.

To view Fire in the South 2 visit: <http://www.southernwildfirerisk.com/reports/FireInTheSouth2.pdf>

To view the Executive Summary visit: <http://www.southernwildfirerisk.com/reports/FireInTheSouth2Exec.pdf>

To visit the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Web site visit: <http://www.southernwildfirerisk.com>