



TASK #1 CHARACTERIZATION OF VEGETATION, CLIMATE, AND TOPOGRAPHY

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Characterization of Vegetation, Climate, and Topography

OBJECTIVE(S)

Upon completion of this lesson, participants will be able to:

1. Delineate polygons within the planning area which represent homogenous areas of vegetation, climate, and topography.

NARRATIVE

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of classification is to organize a set of data or information about something to effectively communicate it in an informative way. For the purposes of fire danger rating, the fire environment can be described by three elements: vegetation, climate, and topography. We can classify these complex variables with the aid of GIS to delineate large geographic areas. Before we delineate a fire danger rating area, we must be able to classify geographic areas with respect to climate, topography, and vegetation. We will do this exclusive of each other. In other words, a classification of topography should be independent of climate and vegetation; a classification of vegetation should be independent of climate and topography; a classification of climate should be independent of topography and vegetation.

As a reminder, please ensure documentation is included with the appropriate section of the FDOP or subordinate preparedness plans so that a reader could understand the rationale behind the lines drawn delineating areas of vegetation, climate, and topography. Document the resources and data used. Include maps (graphics) of the delineations drawn for climate, vegetation, and topography in the appendices.

II. TASK

Utilizing the NIFC AGOL analysis data and reference materials:

- A. Delineate homogenous areas of **vegetation**.
- B. Delineate homogenous areas of **climate**.
- C. Delineate homogenous areas of **topography**.

III. MATERIALS

- A. [Fire Danger Operating Plan Template](#)
- B. NIFC AGOL Account
- C. Project specific reference materials

REVIEW OBJECTIVE(S)

Upon completion of this lesson, participants will be able to:

1. Delineate polygons within the planning area which represent homogenous areas of vegetation, climate, and topography.

REFERENCES

- A. [TechTip LoggingOntoNIFC AGOL](#)
- B. [TechTip CharacterizingVegClimateTopoInNIFC AGOL](#)
- C. Lesson 7: Fire Danger Rating Areas
- D. Lesson 8: AGOL Demonstration