Verifying Mesoscale Fire Weather Forecasts in Near Real Time.

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The mission of the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station's Rocky Mountain Center, RMC, an FCAMMS regional center is: to provide 24/7 operational fire weather prediction; to improve understanding of how the atmosphere interacts with the physical, biological, and social components of ecosystems at multiple spatial and temporal scales; to provide new information related to the effects of atmosphereecosystem interactions on ecosystem processes and functions; to provide relevant atmosphere-ecosystem interaction information and tools to aid in the land management strategies particularly related to fire needs. In addition to continuing to provide the current services that provide comprehensive, real-time, high-resolution fire weather intellegence and smoke forecasts for the Interior West, RMC related research focusses on improving fire weather support to fire managers through generation of new products and continuing to adapt existing research technology, such as the Blue Sky Smoke Modeling Package and high-resolution MM5-weather analysis products. Verification of fireweather predictions at the point, landscape and regional modeling level are an integral part of the RMC progrm. This paper presents the results of RMC's approach to verifying fire weather forecasts.