

## **INFORMS Decision Support Using Most Similar Neighbor Analysis to create landscape data for NEPA Analysis.**

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**Abstract:** INFORMS is a decision support framework designed specifically for the Forest Service IBM platform. The acronym comes from "Integrated Forest Resource Management System." INFORMS was engineered to support planning tasks associated with watershed and project-level planning, and is used to assist forest/district-level users in resource project management to make decisions following the NEPA process.

Because INFORMS is designed for NEPA analysis in the Forest Service, one of the problems has been how to look at future conditions of vegetation with and without treatment. This was easily done for single stands using the Forest Vegetation Simulator ([FVS](#)) but unless there is a stand exam on each stand it could not be done for the landscape of vegetation data for the analysis area.

The solution to this problem is the use of the [Most Similar Neighbor Analysis \(MSN\)](#) technology. The INFORMS application team has found that by the use of these two technologies (FVS & MSN) integrated with Landsat image data. We can create high quality vegetative data sets to develop current and future conditions using these technologies.

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