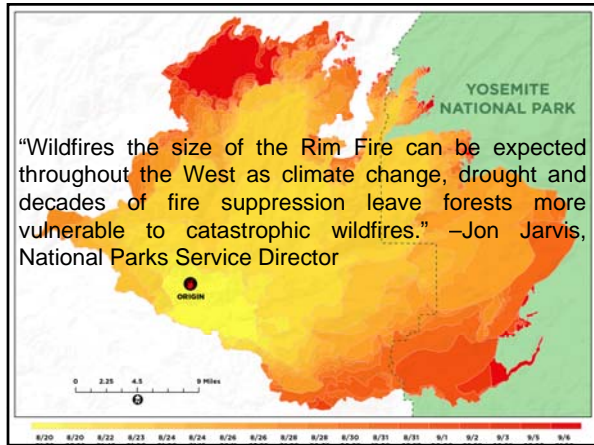







Understanding and Modeling Wildfire Risk

Howard Botts, PhD – VP, Chief Scientist
CoreLogic Spatial Solutions
CAS Conference - September 30, 2013

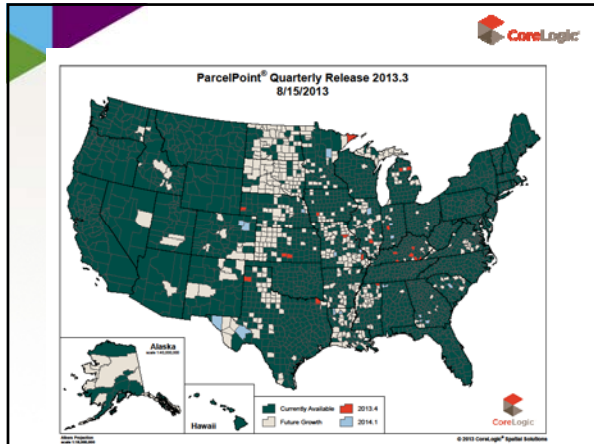


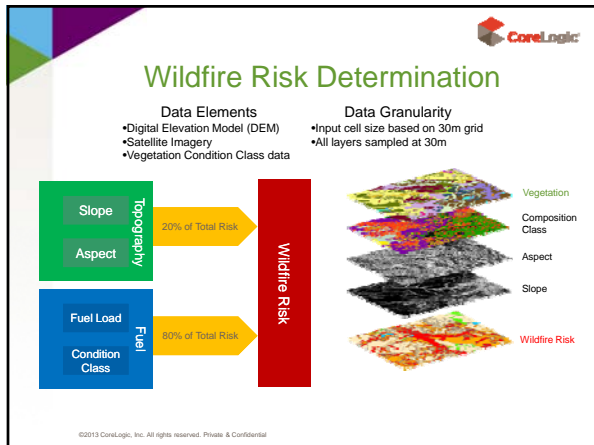
What is Parcel Data?

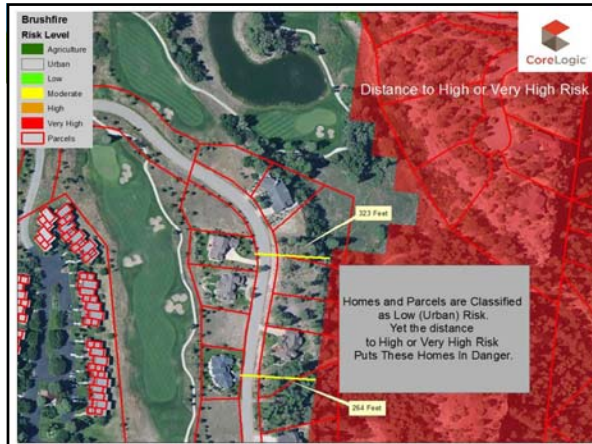
- Parcel boundary data represents the legal extents of each taxable U.S. property address.
- There are an estimated 144.3 million privately owned parcels in the U.S.
- CoreLogic has converted and normalized about 137 million parcels from state, county, city, and town sources
- As these digital parcel boundaries become available they are rapidly being incorporated into applications to enhance:
 - Geocoding accuracy
 - Risk assessment
 - Risk concentration
 - Many other uses where “granular” accuracy is important.

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The Impact of Windblown Embers

Approximately 55% of the properties lost in the Waldo Canyon fire were due to firebrands or (windblown embers)

Windblown embers ignited these structures – no evidence of fire moving at ground level. (Waldo Canyon, 2012)

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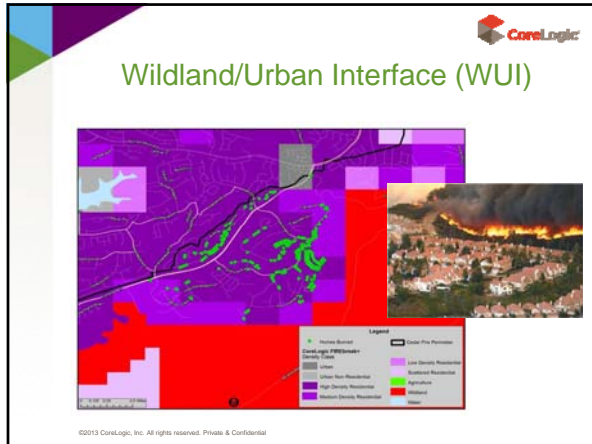
Wildland Urban Interface Classification

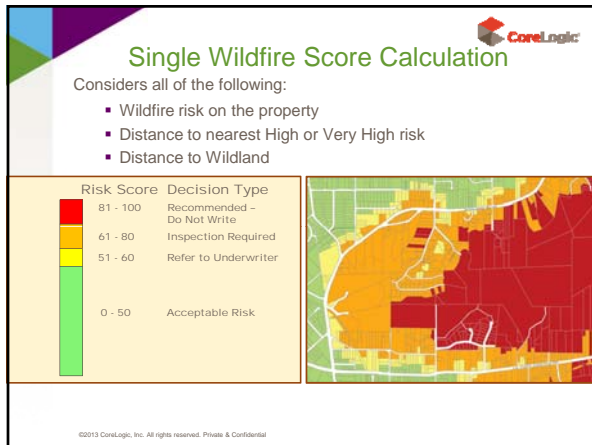
- Classification developed to identify Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- Residential density (houses per ¼ mile grid cell)

Classification	Definition	Importance
Urban	>160 households	Interface
High density res	41-160	Interface
Medium density res	9-40	Interface
Low density res	3-8	Interface
Scattered res	1-2	Interface
Wildland	0	Potential high fuel load



* Number of households per ¼ mile grid. 160 hh = 1 house per acre.

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Summary– The Importance of Wildfire Risk Modeling

Allows companies to create a proprietary set of conditional rules that enable them to more accurately define locations so they can:

- Supports by-peril risk underwriting and pricing.
- Write policies without extensive on-site investigation, e.g. dramatically reduce the number of house inspections required (cost per inspection ranges from \$50 to \$500 per house).
- Differentiate between policies in potentially high risk wildfire areas.
- Flag locations for on-site inspection where risk has been increased by surrounding (off-property) brushfire risk factors.
- Requires annual updates to account for changes in urban growth, previous year wildfires and other factors which influence an area's propensity to burn.
- Offers accurate identification of the Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI).

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