
Land Use v1.2 LANDIS-II Extension User Guide

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1 Introduction

This document describes the Land Use extension for the LANDIS-II model. Users should read the *LANDIS-II Conceptual Model Description* and the *LANDIS-II Model v6.0 User Guide* prior to reading this document.

This new extension allows users to incorporate a sequence of maps depicting changes in land use or land cover into LANDIS-II simulations. Maps can be developed manually in a Geographic Information System, or derived from an external program (e.g., Dynamica). Map values correspond to land use or land cover classes, and a change in map value at a site from one time step to the next indicates a change in land use or land cover.

With the extension, the user can model how cohorts will be removed if a change in the land use or land cover results in forest loss or disturbance. In the input text file where map values are identified, the user specifies the species to be removed, species to be planted, or if establishment of new cohorts is prevented.

These capabilities can be used to simulate, for example, total removal of cohorts and prevention of establishment of new cohorts as a result of a site being converted from forest to developed land. In addition, users can also specify whether or not a change in land use or land cover removes a site from consideration for timber harvesting in subsequent time steps, for example, as in the case of a new conservation easement or forest preserve being established.

1.1 Pause Functionality

Additional routines can be executed at the end of each timestep by specifying external scripting tools for performing additional transformations on landscape data. This can be accomplished two ways: by specifying a console command or providing PATHs to a scripting engine (.exe) and an eligible script file. These parameters are documented in section (2). Land-Use will ignore pause functionality if none of the pause parameters are specified.

1.2 Requirements

This extension is compatible with LANDIS-II version 6 series. This extension requires Biomass Succession version 3.2+^A and Biomass

A The notation “version X.Y+” means “version X.Y or a later (newer) version”.

Harvest version 3+. Output Biomass v2.1+ is required to output biomass maps.

1.3 Revision History

1.3.1 Version 1.2

v1.2 – official release (May 2017)

- Pause functionality for transforming data between model run timesteps was added.

1.3.2 Version 1.1

v1.1 - - official release (March 2016)

- The project was updated to work with the latest Biomass Harvest Library version (1.1).

1.3.3 Version 1

v1.0 – official release (November 8, 2015)

- The project was upgraded for the latest LANDIS-II version (6.1).
- The source code for the project was relocated to GitHub.

v1.0 – release candidate 1 (June 28, 2015)

The initial public release.

1.4 Acknowledgements

Funding for the development of this extension was provided by Harvard Forest, the Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems (CNH) Program of the National Science Foundation (USA), and the University of Notre Dame.

2 Input Files

This extension has two types of input files: a text file with input parameters (section 1.2) and a set of land use maps (section 1.1).

1.1 Land Use Maps

This extension requires a time-series of thematic raster maps. The maps represent the land uses for active sites throughout the simulation. One land-use map must be provided for each extension time step. In the map for time step t , the value at cell $(row, column)$ is the map code (section 2.2) for the land use at the site $(row, column)$ at time t . The initial land use for each active site is specified in the map for time step 0. The naming conventions for the maps are provided below in section 1.2.3.

1.1.1 Land Use Change Events

When reading the land use map for time step t , the extension determines if a site's land use has changed since the previous time step:

$$LU(site, t - \Delta t_{\text{LAND USE}}) \neq LU(site, t) \Rightarrow \text{land use change event at } site$$

When a site's land use changes, the extension applies the land-cover change (section 2.4) associated with the new land use, $LU(site, t)$, to the site.

1.2 Input Parameters

The text file with these parameters must comply with the general format requirements described in section 3.1 *Text Input Files* of the *LANDIS-II Model User Guide*.

1.2.1 LandisData

This parameter's value must be "Land Use".

1.2.2 Timestep

This parameter is the extension's time step, $\Delta t_{\text{LAND USE}}$. Value: integer > 0. Units: years.

1.2.3 InputMaps

This parameter identifies the time series of land-use maps. The value is a template for the file paths of the maps. The variable “{timestep}” must be included as part of the template; it is replaced with the current time step to generate the file path of the land-use map for the current time step (section 3.1.8.1 of *LANDIS-II Model v6.0 User Guide*). The image file format (e.g., .img, .tif, etc.) must also be included.

Example:

InputMaps ./land-use-{timestep}.img

In the given example, the series of maps (format is ERDAS IMAGINE) are stored in the current working directory as (assuming a 10-year time step): land-use-10.img, land-use-20.img, etc.

1.2.4 SiteLog

This is an optional parameter that is the file path of the extension’s event log file. If this parameter is present, a log file in CSV format will be written that identifies the 1) timestep; 2) row and column; 3) and biomass (g/m²) removed by species. **Warning:** This file can become extremely large.

Example:

SiteLog ./land-use/site-log.csv

1.2.5 ExternalExecutable

PATH to an executable (.exe) program for processing script files executed during pause functionality.

1.2.6 ExternalScript

PATH to a script file e.g. Python (.py), R (.r), Matlab (.m) to be executed each time step by the pause functionality. Errors will occur if script file does not match executable.

1.2.7 ExternalCommand

A string console command to be executed by the Windows Command Prompt each timestep in place of an executable. Offers more flexibility with the potential for specifying inputs from the command line. Overrides ExternalExecutable and ExternalScript if specified.

1.2.8 Land Uses

The rest of the input file is a list of one or more land-use definitions. The format of these land-use definitions is described in the next chapter.

2 Land Use Definitions

Each land use is defined by a block of parameters in the input file (section 1.2). The following sections describe the parameters that are required and optional for each land-use definition.

2.1 LandUse

This parameter defines the name of a particular land use. If the name includes more than one word separated by spaces, it must be enclosed in double quotes.

Example:

LandUse “Residential Development”

2.2 MapCode

This parameter is the unique value that represents the land use in input maps (section 2.1 above). Value: integer between 0 and 65,535 (16 bits).

Example:

MapCode 1,234

2.3 AllowHarvest?

This parameter indicates whether or not the land use allows timber harvesting. Valid values are *yes* or *no*, as described in section 3.1.6 of the *LANDIS-II Model v6.0 User Guide*.

Example:

AllowHarvest? no

Note: If given a value of *no*, those sites with this land use will be excluded from the calculation of StandSiteCount by the Base or Biomass Harvest extensions in later time steps. This will have the effect of reducing the calculated size of a stand, which may impact stand ranking within a management unit or achievement of size targets for individual harvests.

2.4 LandCoverChange

This parameter specifies the land cover change associated with the land use. The parameter indicates whether trees are removed from a

site when the land use is applied to the site. Valid values are:
NoChange or RemoveTrees.

Example:

LandCoverChange NoChange

If the value NoChange is specified, the land use definition requires no additional parameters.

2.5 Parameters When Removing Trees

If the LandCoverChange parameter is RemoveTrees, then the land use definition requires additional parameters.

2.5.1 Species List

A list of species to remove is required. This list must include at least one species. If there are multiple species, each is on a separate line. The species do not need to appear in any particular order.

After each species' name, the ages and age ranges that will be removed are listed. An individual age cannot be repeated in the list. Ranges cannot overlap nor include any listed individual age.

The user may specify a percent biomass to be removed after an age or age range. The percentage indicates what proportion of a cohort will be removed. The default percentage is 100%.

Example:

acersacc 1-40(50%) 50(65%) 65-70 71-107(15%)

2.5.2 Plant

This optional keyword indicates that which species should be planted at a site after trees are cut. Value: A list of one or more species names separated by whitespace.

Example:

Plant pinustro

2.5.3 PreventEstablishment

This optional keyword will prevent establishment within all sites selected for tree removal. However, any remaining cohorts on the site will continue to grow. The concept is designed to mimic the effects of

housing development when sites are fully or partially harvested and do not regenerate back to forest.

Note: once a land use with PreventEstablishment is assigned to a site, that site cannot revert back, in a later time step, to another land use that allows establishment. For example, a user cannot currently simulate conversion to agriculture then back to forest.

3 Example Input File

```
LandisData "Land Use"

Timestep 10
InputMaps land-use-{timestep}.img
SiteLog land-use/site-log.csv << optional: default = don't generate log

ExternalScript external_module.py
ExternalExecutable C:/Python27/ArcGIS10.4/python.exe
ExternalCommand "python external_module.py"

>>-----
LandUse forest
>>-----
MapCode 1
AllowHarvest? yes
LandCoverChange NoChange

>>-----
LandUse "Urban development"
>>-----
MapCode 2
AllowHarvest? no
LandCoverChange RemoveTrees
    PIST 1-300(100%)
    TSCA 1-300(100%)
    FAGR 1-300(100%)
    PreventEstablishment

>>-----
LandUse "Garden"
>>-----
MapCode 3
AllowHarvest? no
LandCoverChange RemoveTrees
    PIST 1-10(100%)
    Plant PIST

>>-----
LandUse "no-harvest easement"
>>-----
MapCode 4
AllowHarvest? no
LandCoverChange NoChange
```