Installation Guide FlamMap6
August 2020

1. FlamMap6 is designed to run in a 64-bit Windows Operating System only.
2. Once you have verified your operating system type download the program installation package available from here: [FlamMap 6.0 Installation File and Instructions](#)
3. The installation package for FlamMap is a common zip file and includes:
   a. Program installation file,
   b. Installation guide and,
   c. Installation files are zipped (compressed) files. Extract the files prior to installing them

3. In some instances, **Administrator Rights** may be required to properly install the program. Follow your respective agency protocols for installing the software.

4. Recent changes in how the Forest Service Chief Information Office (CIO) is managing IT applications is affecting the ability of Forest Service employees to install FlamMap and other fire-related software on Forest Service hardware. For example, PowerBroker, the utility which provided the "install elevated" and "run elevated" options for software installation and execution, has recently been removed for many USFS users.
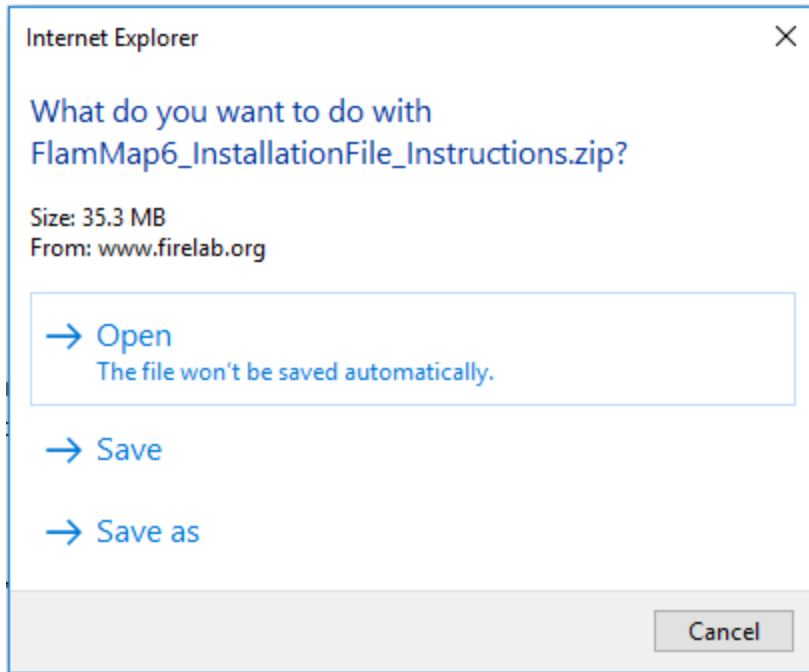
To facilitate the installation of FlamMap6 without the need to request assistance from the USFS Computer Helpdesk please follow the USFS Specific installation instructions document.

5. You do not need to uninstall any previously installed versions of FlamMap5 or FlamMap6. The current install will not overwrite and update the current installation for **FlamMap6 ONLY**. It will not erase any saved data, or FlamMap projects.

6. The default installation location for FlamMap6 is: **C:\Workspace\FlamMap6**. You can change this location. **HOWEVER,** you must ensure that any area you install the program has **Full Control and complete Read/Write access** or FlamMap6 will not run. In most cases you should accept the default installation location.

For Questions Concerning the FlamMap6 Program Contact:

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Installing FlamMap6

Attempting to install from the web without downloading may or may not work depending on your individual security settings and what permissions are operational to you. Also, every browser may work differently on how it downloads and saves files to your computer. It is recommended that you download and save the program to your computer first. The installation zip file in most cases will be saved to the defaulted location for downloading files in your browser settings. Clicking on the web link in Internet Explorer will open the following window.
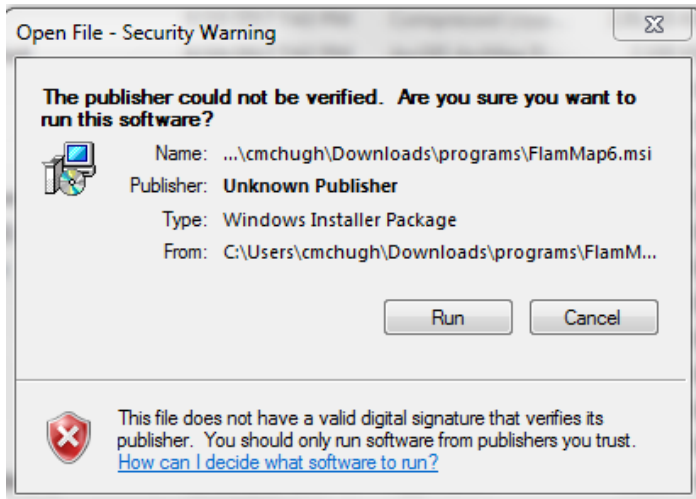

Select "**Save As**" and follow the subsequent prompts to download the zip file. Remember where you saved the file to. The final file size for the program should be approximately **36,173** KB.
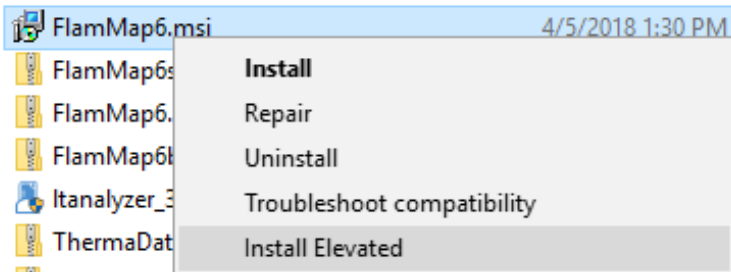

The installation files are zipped (compressed) files. Extract the files prior to installing them.

Depending on installation permissions and controls instituted by various IT departments you may be able to just Double-click on the FlamMap6.msi file and install. **It is recommended to** ACCEPT **THE INSTALLATION DEFAULTS.**
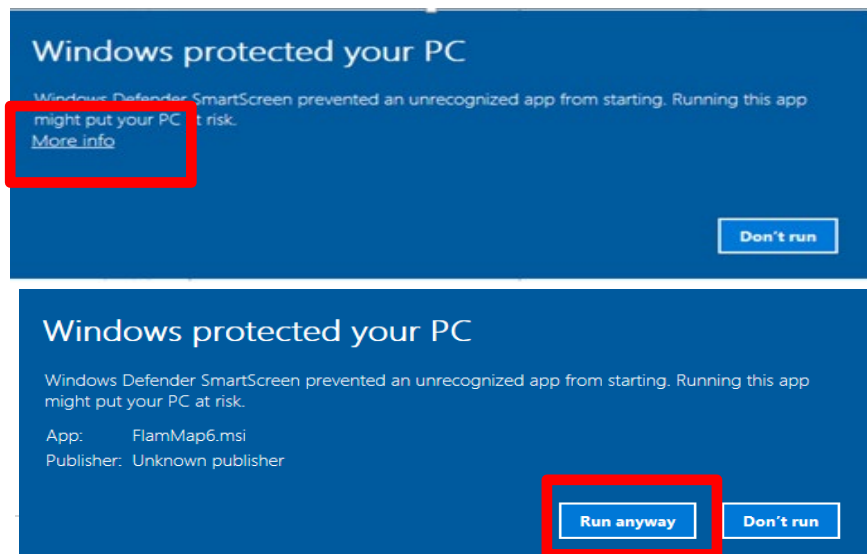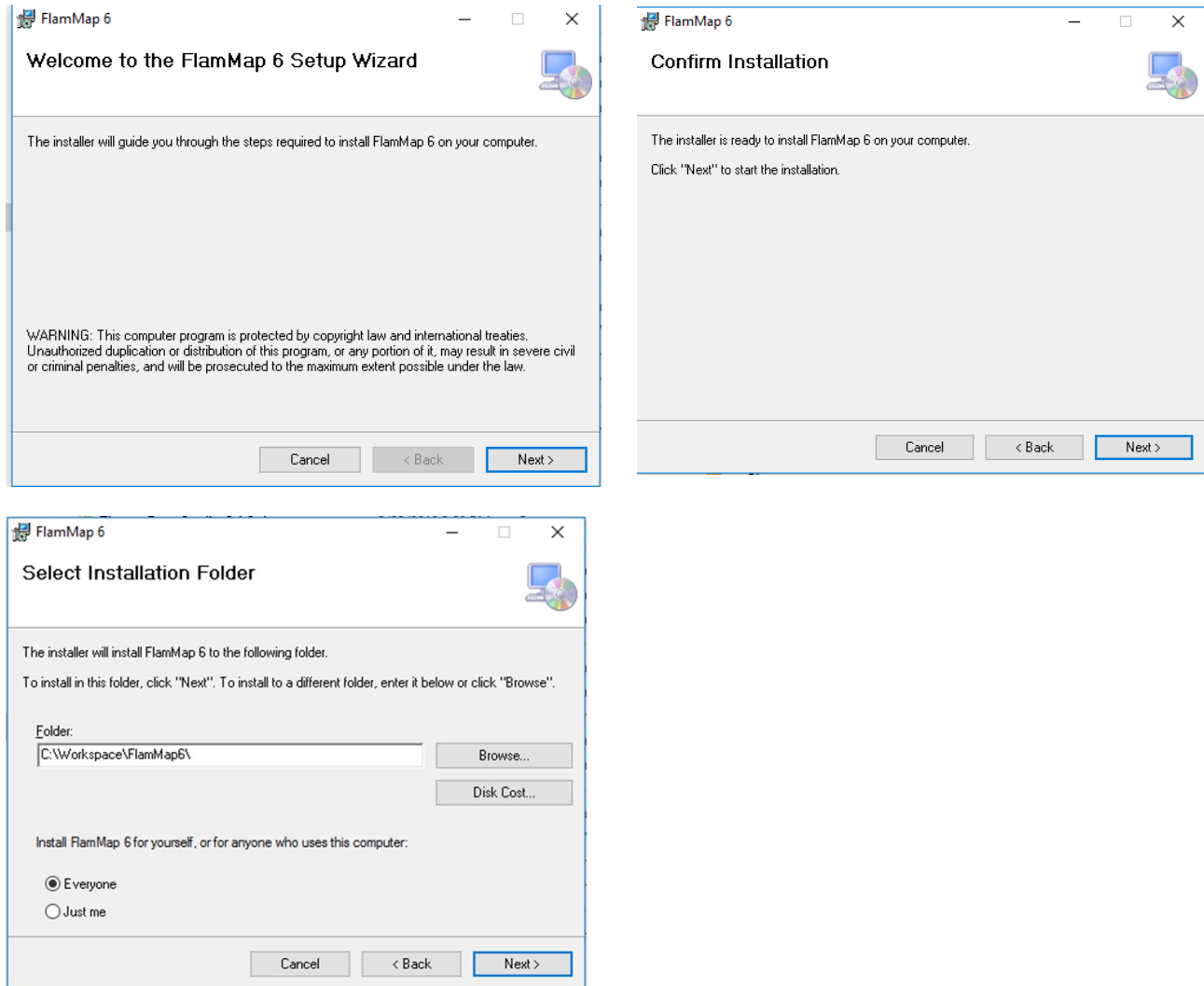
If you get this warning message click RUN

1. For most Federal Agency computers, you may have to do the following. For USFS users please refer to the **"USFS Specific Installation Document" included in the downloaded zip file.**
   a. Highlight the FlamMap6.msi file
   b. Right click and select **Install Elevated**

Upon Install the following window may pop-up. Select **"More info", "Run anyway"**

Once the program starts to install you should see the following standard Windows Installation pop-up windows. Click **Next** on all. **It is recommended to accept the defaulted installation folder**

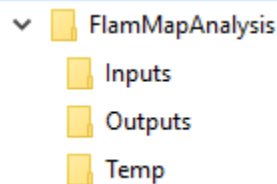
Recommended to install to the defaulted location.
- **DO NOT** install in Program Files or Program Files (x86) [Often blocked to write temporary files to]
- **DO NOT** install on Desktop [creates long pathname issues]
- **DO NOT** install in My Documents [creates long pathname issues]

IF you choose to install in a Different location it must be to an area with Read/Write Access as FlamMap requires an area that it can write and store temporary files to.

Data File Management

While this seems rather remedial it is an important topic. With FlamMap and multiple runs you can generate a lot of outputs and depending on your landscape size, data spatial resolution these can be many, many megabytes to GB in size! File management and organization is important. Some items to consider.

1. **DO NOT** create your project folders on your **Desktop**, yes, it is the Easy Button! But it tends to create a long pathname (c:\users\cmchugh\documents\ for example) to your folder often including special characters like % signs that you do not see.
2. **DO NOT** create your project folder in **My Documents**. Same as above with creating your work area on your **Desktop**.
3. **DO NOT** use, access or acquire data across a Network. Always keep the program and data installed locally on your computer. Certainly, back up your data onto a network or other reliable storage area. But the program is not designed specifically to operate in this manner.
4. Safest to create a workspace on the largest drive on your computer and do all your work there. Make sure you have read/write access to these areas.
5. You can use an external type hardrive as your workspace/work area. A word of caution here though as if you use multiple external drives and attach them in different order the drive letter designations may change. Not a big deal if you can access Disk Manager and rename the drive letter.
6. Keep pathnames and filenames short.
   a. Follow old style DOS naming conventions
   b. Don't use spaces use underscores (_)
   c. Don't include special characters such as @, #, $, %, &, *, /, \
   d. Example Workspace might be: C:\WorkSpace\FlamMapAnalysis\ with several subfolders underneath it. For example:
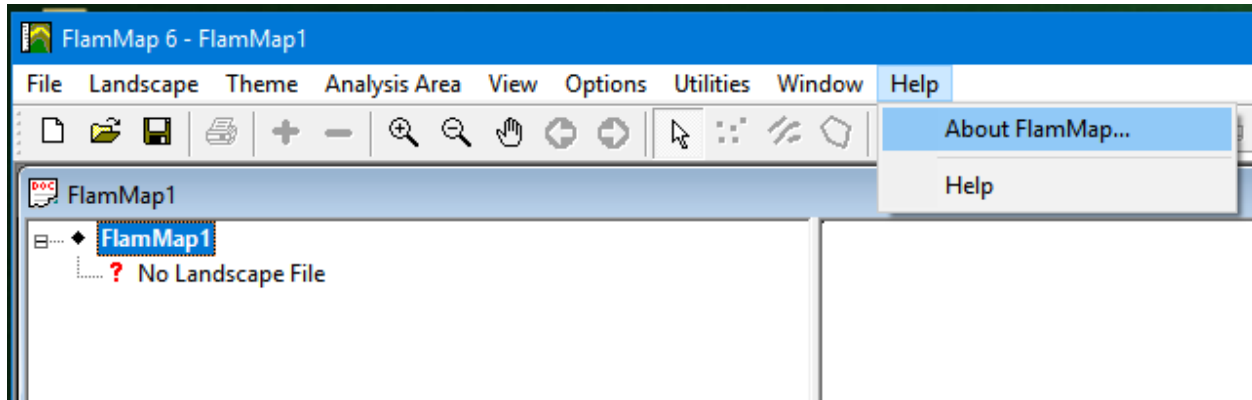

   e. Because of the ability to use really long names and characters (item c above) if you use ignition files, barrier files, or other geospatial information from the WFDSS application it is recommended to rename and shorten them prior to use in FlamMap.
7. Use FlamMap's **Archive** function to save and backup and share your FlamMap projects. **IT IS the ONLY** method to ensure that all your settings and data will be stored and shared with the project. Currently, the one exception to this is **Landscape Edit Rules**. Those are currently not saved with the FlamMap Archive file.
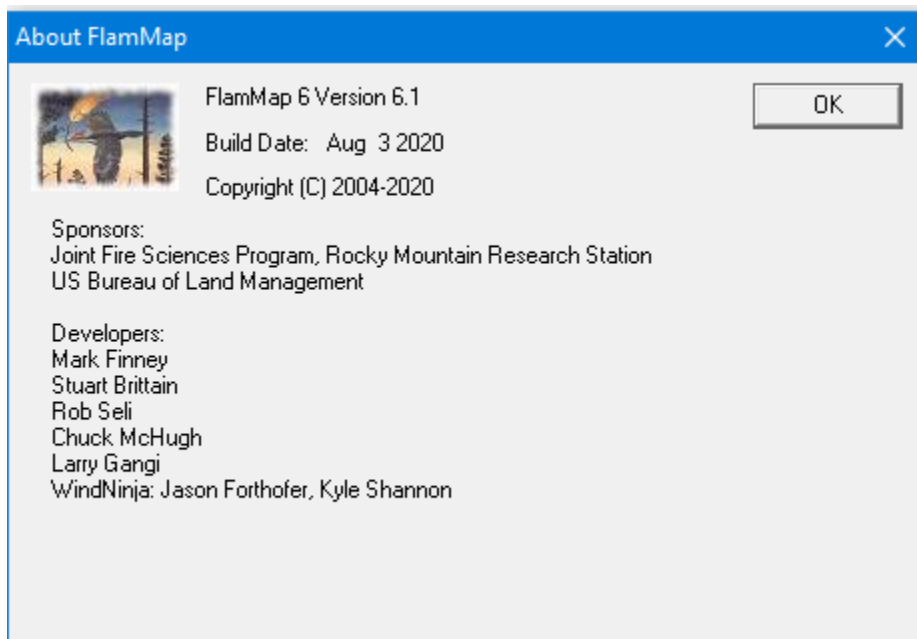
Practice organized file and data management and you will be much happier in your geospatial analysis future.

FlamMap General Information

General Information about the application and how to access the Help is discussed here. Open up FlamMap and look at some general information about the application. On the **Menu** bar click the **Help** button. This will open the following drop-down menu of options.
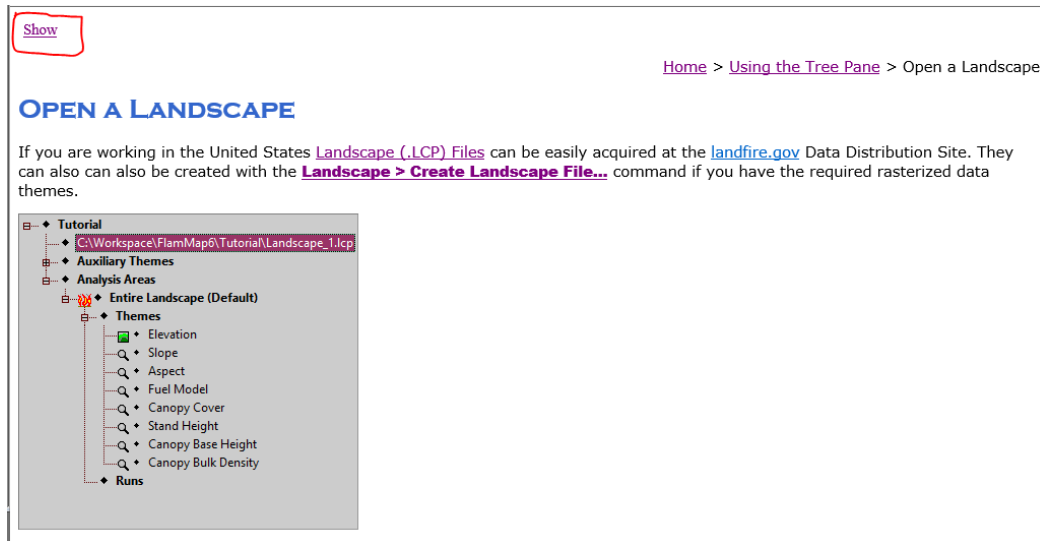

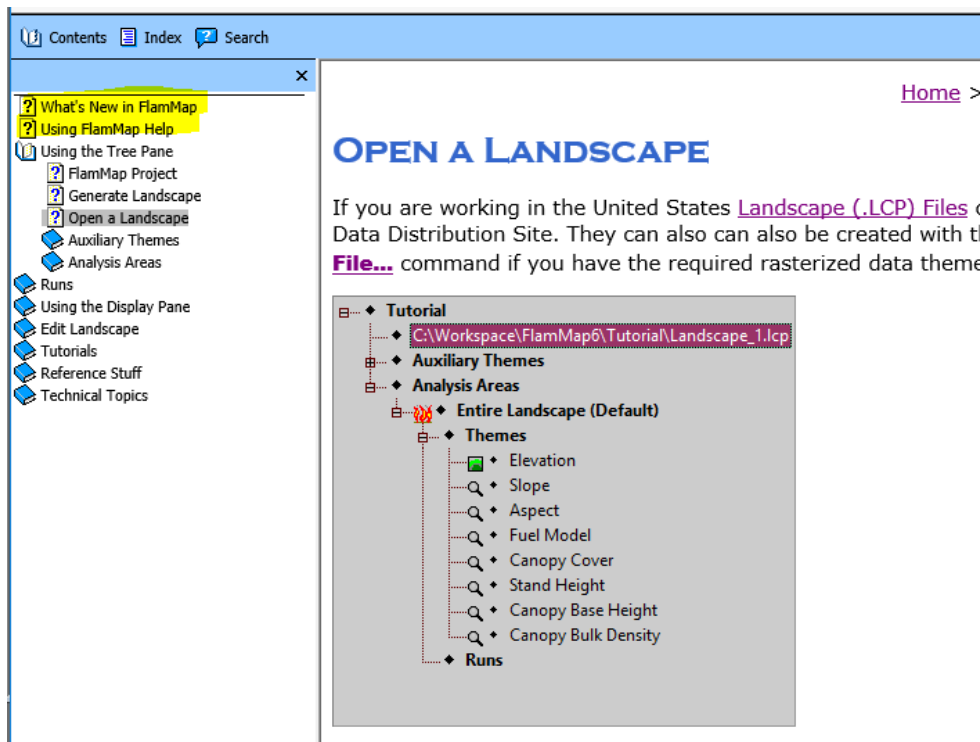Now click on the **About FlamMap** and you should see the following information:

This will provide you information regarding the version you are using and the build date. You may be asked for this information during troubleshooting issues with FlamMap.

FlamMap Help

The **Help** in FlamMap exists in the program as an embedded and content linked **Help** that can be opened separately or accessed by clicking on any of the **Help** buttons in the FlamMap dialog boxes which will take you to that specific location of the **Help.** When you first access the **Help** file the screen will look like the following.
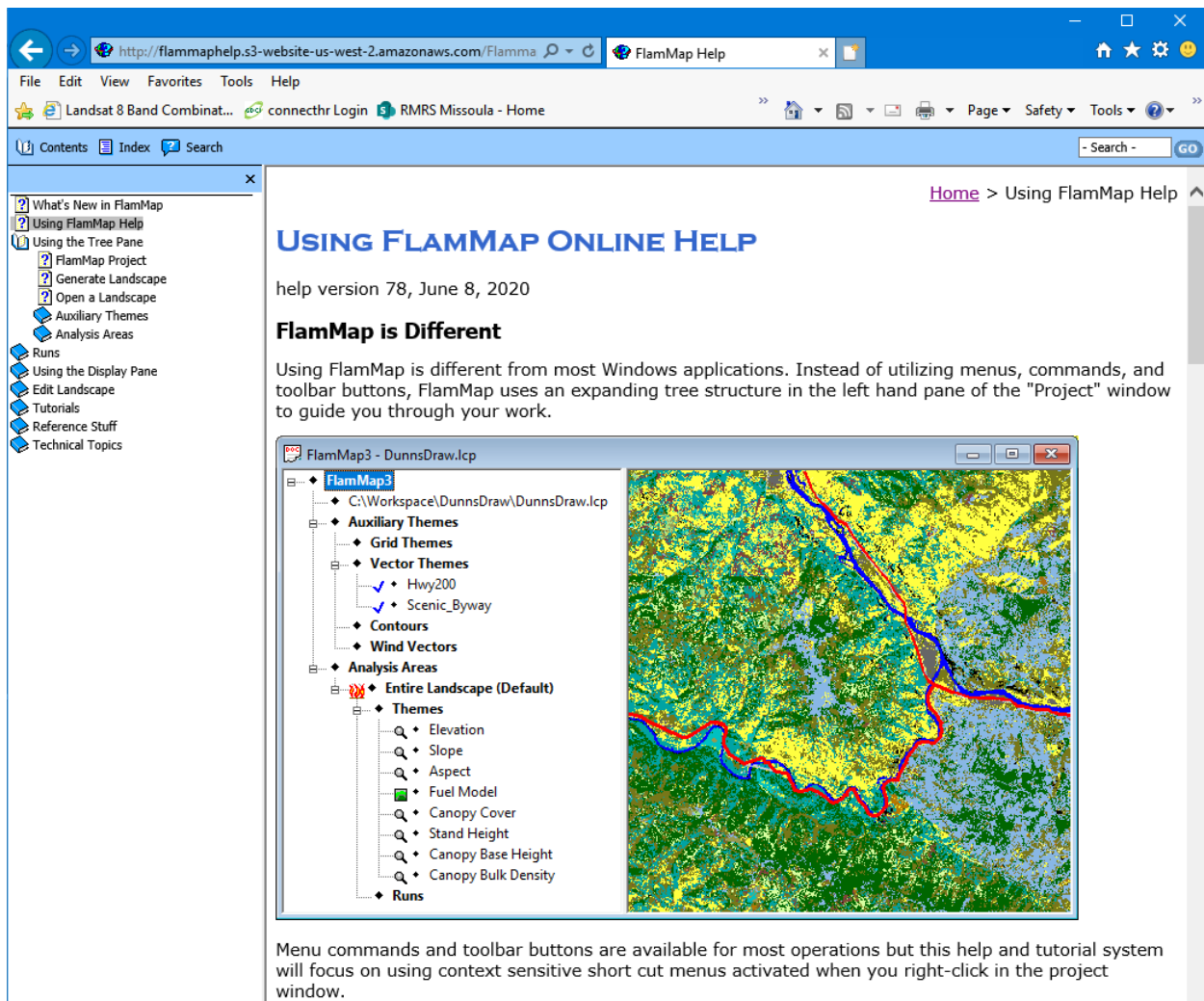

Clicking on the **Show** button will expose the table of Contents in the left pane and a more robust Contents, Index and Search function.

- Selecting **What's New in FlamMap** will provide a general list of updated and new features within the program.
- Selecting the **Using FlamMap Help** will display the Help file Version Number and its current date.

If you have an active internet connection, you can access the **Help**. This new version and delivery method of the **Help** allows for a living document that is continually being updated with new information being added. The Current Help File Version and Date will be visible as well. It can be accessed from the Menu bar **Help > Help.** Selecting the online Help should open the Help System in whatever your default browser is. While we cannot keep up with all manner of browsers FireFox or IE10 or newer will work. You can also bookmark the URL in your Favorites as well: http://flammaphelp.s3-website-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/