Starting a Project and Creating a Landscape

Using Folders and Landscapes in IFTDSS

Project Folders: There is no formal definition of the term "Project" in IFTDSS. Instead, the term "*Project*" refers to the collection of landscape files, model runs, and associated data for your specific area. Many tasks in IFTDSS relate back to these landscape files and other information, so it is recommended that you start by creating a *Folder* to keep track of your files.

> 👍 Tip: Stay organized by creating a Folder each time you begin a project for analysis. Logical naming conventions for Folders include the geographic area being analyzed.

Landscapes: In IFTDSS, a landscape file refers to the spatial file that contains vegetation and fuels data. The user defines the extent of the landscape which should be large enough to cover the entire analysis area. IFTDSS currently generates all landscape files at 30m resolution and can accommodate large landscapes if necessary. The maximum area for a landscape is 12,188,160 acres (138 miles x 138 miles) but if you try that now, your instructor will not be pleased. If you follow along with your own landscape, limit the size to under 100,000 acres to reduce the processing times.

If you do not specify a folder to store data in IFTDSS, files will be saved to the "Playground" Folder by default. Currently, files cannot be moved from one folder to another.
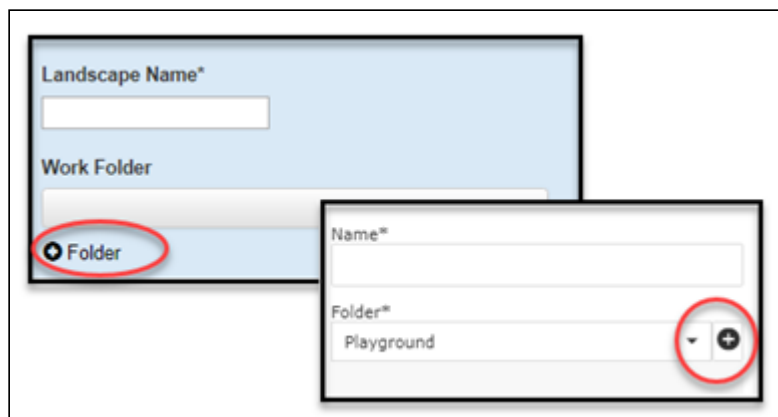
> ℹ️ Tutorial Information:
>
> If you wish to follow along replicating the exact steps captured by these tutorials, we have included that information (such as landscape coordinates, model inputs, etc), in blue highlighting throughout.
>
> You may also follow the general steps in these tutorials using your own landscape, in which case you may ignore the blue highlighted information.
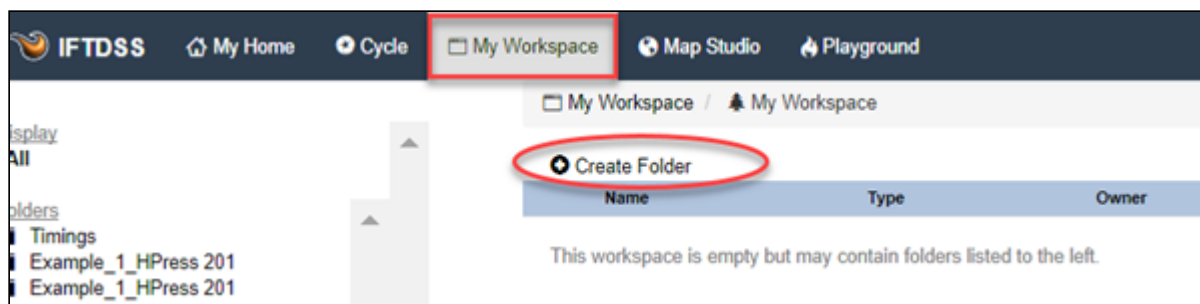
Create a Folder

Folders can be created directly in **My Workspace**. They can also be created while working in IFTDSS whenever you create a new landscape or shapefile, just look for the **Add New Folder** 🔳 button whenever you are required to specify a folder.
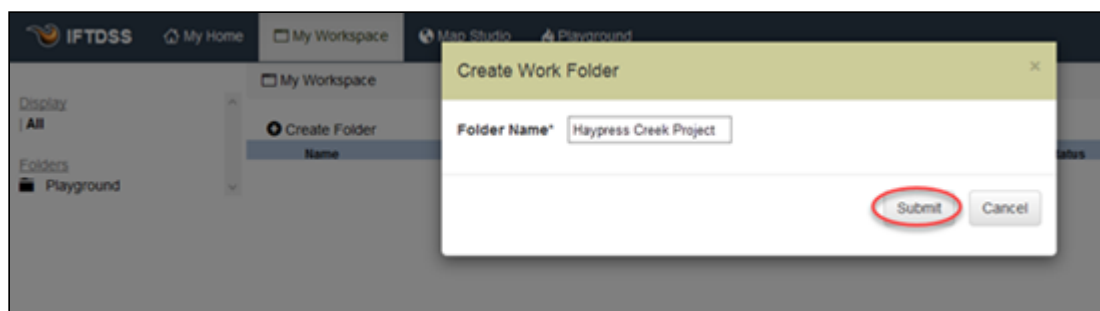

To create a new folder from **My Workspace**:

A. Access **My Workspace** from the top navigation menu of IFTDSS and create a folder by clicking the **Create Folder** option at the top of the **My Workspace** page.
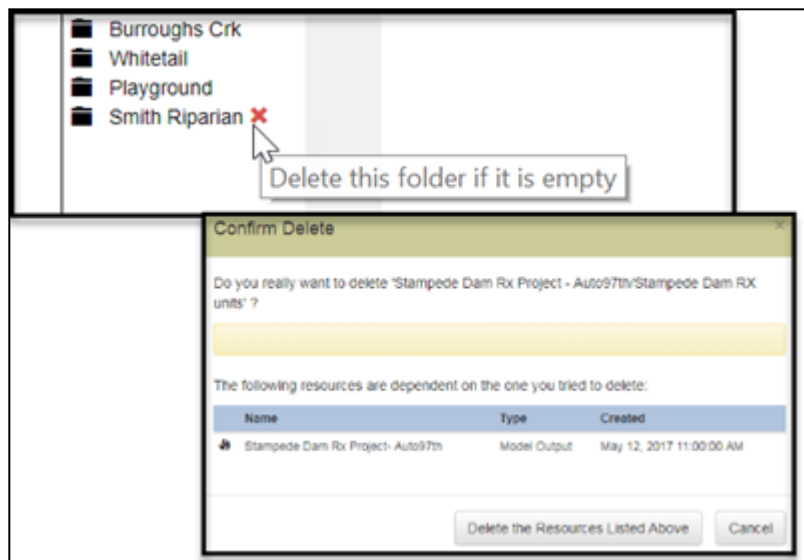

B. Give your folder a name and click **Submit**. For this tutorial we'll name it "Haypress Creek Project".

Deleting Folders: You can delete a folder in My Workspace if needed, but you must make sure the folder is empty first.

To delete a folder in **My Workspace**, hover over the folder name in the left panel, a red 'x' will appear to the right of the folder name. Click the red x and confirm your deletion when prompted.

To delete a folder with files, you must first open the folder and delete the individual files and then delete the folder. File deletions will come with a warning about any dependencies and ask for verification before deletion.

Create a Landscape

Landscapes in IFTDSS can be created from multiple locations. In most interfaces it is common to see both a drop-down menu for existing landscapes and options to create new landscapes within the interface or from Map Studio.
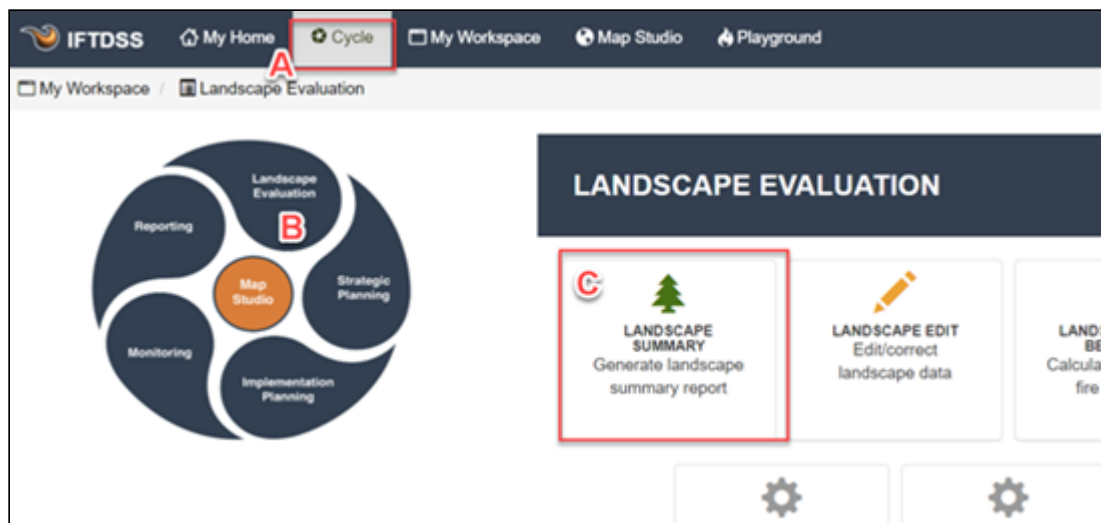
For this tutorial you'll create a landscape through the **Landscape Summary** task. This serves two purposes: to create a landscape, and to do so in an interface where you can easily create a downloadable summary report describing the
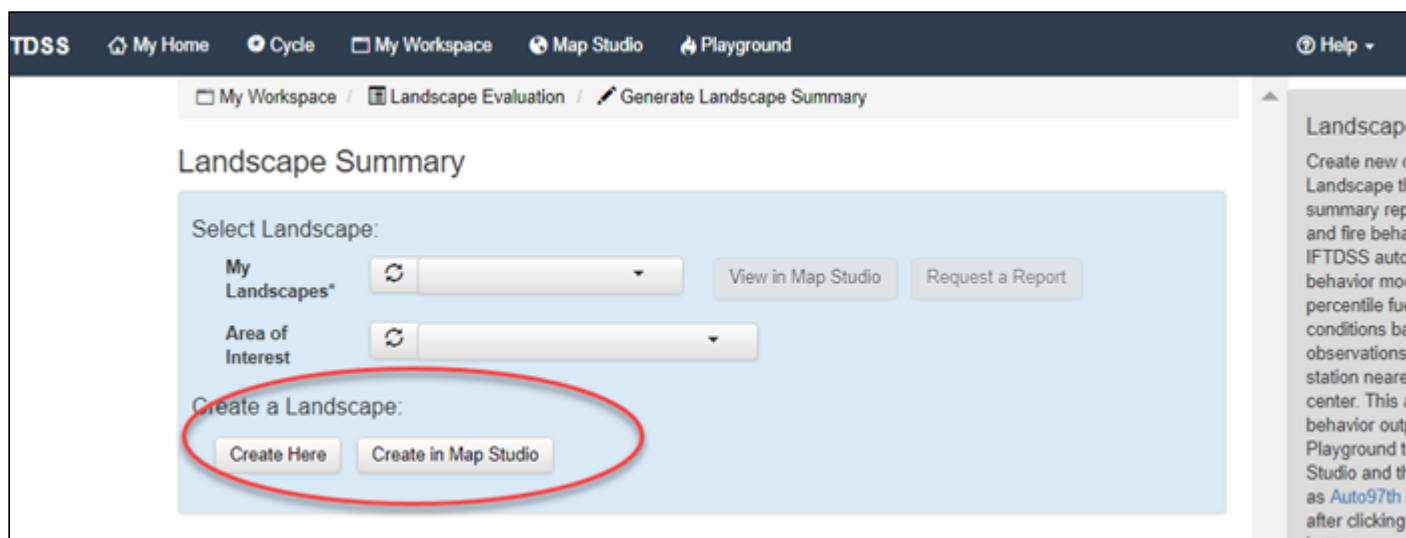
characteristics of your landscape.

> 👍 **Tip:** Landscapes created elsewhere in IFTDSS are available via the
> My Landscapes drop-down menu in the Landscape Summary task,
> so you can create summaries at any point in time.

Navigate to the Landscape Summary interface:

    A. Navigate to the Planning **"Cycle"** using the top navigation menu.

    B. Select the **Landscape Evaluation** stage of the Planning Cycle.

    C. Click the **Landscape Summary** task.

For the next steps we will outline creating a landscape using two methods: the **Create Here** option, and **Create in Map Studio** option. Briefly look at each option and follow along with the option of your choosing.

Method 1 - Creating a landscape from the Landscape Summary Interface

Selecting **Create Here** opens a small map window to zoom within, or enter coordinates.

Follow these steps to create a landscape:

A. Use the bounding box fields and enter the coordinates, in degrees, for the west, east, south, and north bounds of your area, or select the **Draw Tool** and click on the map to draw a box around your area. The dimensions of your selected area will be displayed to the left, or under your landscape coordinates, depending on what part of IFTDSS you create your landscape in.

We will choose a location: Tahoe National Forest, location bounds in degrees are:

West: -120.8856

East: -120.6044

South: 39.4463

North: 39.6149

B. Choose the version of LANDFIRE data you would like to use from the drop-down list. We chose Landfire 2012.

C. Choose the fire behavior fuel model (Fuel Model 40 or Fuel Model 13) to include in your landscape file from the drop-down list. We chose Fuel Model 40.

D. Give your landscape a descriptive name, this will be helpful as you accumulate more landscape files in IFTDSS. We named this "HaypressCrklf2012unedited".

E. Select the folder where you would like to store your landscape file, or click **+ Folder** to create and name a new folder to place your landscape file. We saved this in the "Haypress Creek" Project Folder.

F. Click **Create** to generate your landscape file.

Once you click **Create**, you will be returned to the Landscape Summary task, and the field next to **My Landscapes** displays the name of your newly created landscape with an hourglass ⏳ next to it. This indicates it is being created. Once created, the hourglass is replaced by a green checkmark. Use the **Refresh** ↻ button next to the landscape name to see the green checkmark.

For the rest of your activities in IFTDSS this landscape will be available in the folder you specified in **My Workspace**, and accessible in Landscape drop-down menus throughout IFTDSS. If you chose these steps to create your landscape, you may skip Method 2 below.
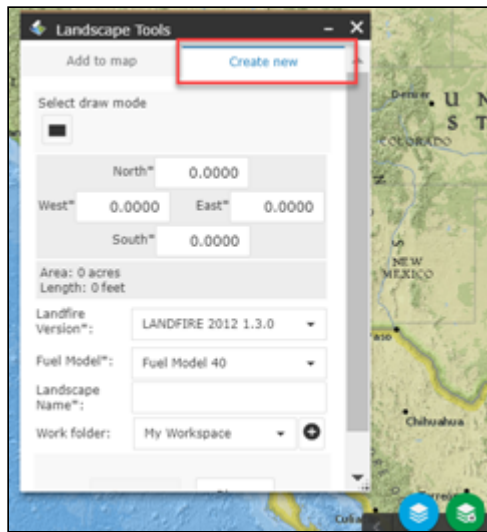
Method 2 - Create a Landscape in Map Studio
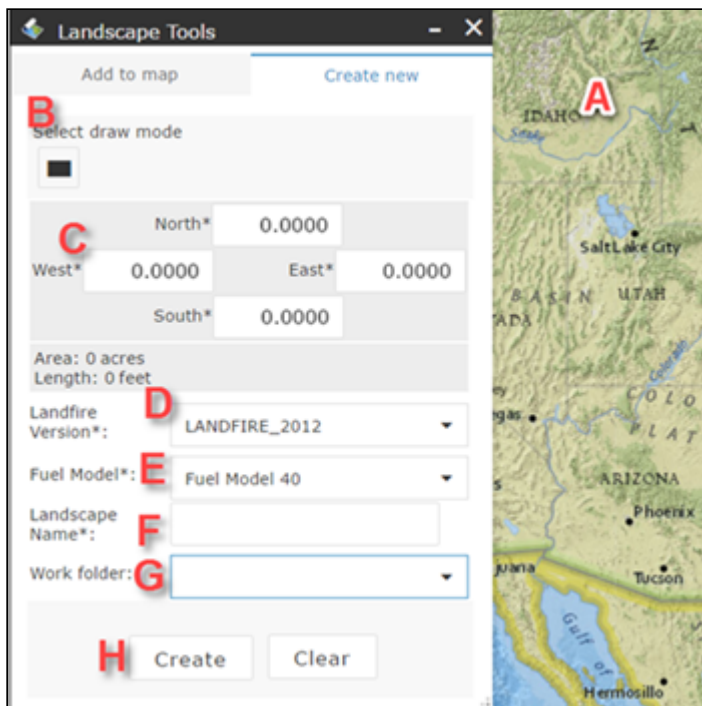
To create a landscape in Map Studio, click the Create in Map Studio button.

You will be taken to Map Studio, and the **Landscape Tools** 🌎 widget will automatically be opened. This displays the Landscape Tools interface and the "Create new" tab.
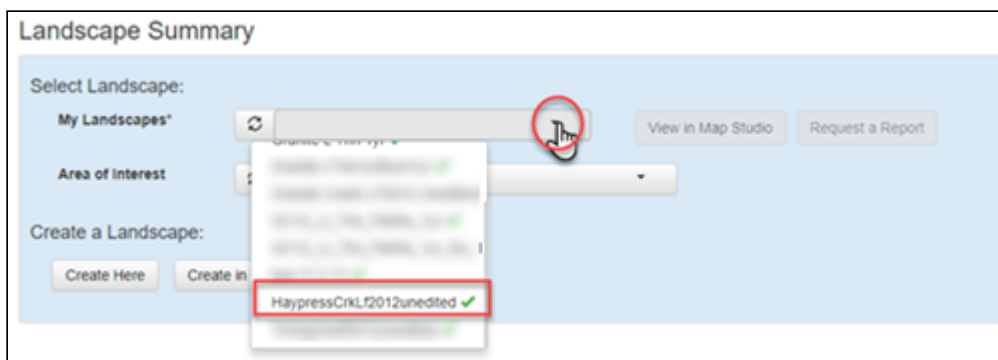
Next you will use **Landscape Tools** to create your landscape:

A. Use the Map Studio widgets such as zoom, Basemap Gallery, ESRI Search, etc. to locate your desired area.

B. If you want to draw your extent, click the **Select draw mode**, mouse to your location on the map, hold down the left mouse key, and draw a rectangle around your desired area, releasing the button when you are finished. Alternatively you enter your coordinates directly by using the method in step C.

C. If you want to enter coordinates directly, instead of drawing, you may do so by entering the coordinates, in degrees, for the west, east, south, and north bounds of your desired area. We will choose a location: We will choose a location: Tahoe National Forest, location bounds in degrees are:

   West: -120.8856

   East: -120.6044

   South: 39.4463

   North: 39.6149

D. Choose the version of LANDFIRE data you would like to use. We chose Landfire 2012.

E. Choose the fire behavior fuel model (Fuel Model 40 or Fuel Model 13) you would like included in your landscape file. We chose Fuel Model 40.

F. Give your landscape a descriptive name, this will be helpful as you accumulate more landscape files in IFTDSS. It can be helpful to specify the Landfire Version in the name and to say unedited if you anticipate that you will need to update this file. We named this "HaypressCrklf2012unedited".

G. Select the folder in which you would like to store your landscape file. We saved this in the "Haypress Creek Project Folder".

H. Click **Create** to generate your landscape file.

Next Steps

When your landscape is completed, navigate back to the **Landscape Summary** task, and select your new landscape from the drop-down menu.

You have successfully created your landscape from within the **Landscape Summary** interface. Stay on this task and go to the next tutorial, where you will look at the different types of summaries and finish this Landscape Summary. Note that your landscape has been permanently created, and will now be available for use throughout IFTDSS.