Discussion # 4: the role of modeling in decision making

During this discussion I would like you to respond to the following two ideas.

1. I would like to propose two theories as to why fire behavior models do not accurately predict real fire behavior. First the models themselves are flawed that is there were errors and poor assumptions made in their development, or second the uncertainty in the input values is such that accurate predictions are hindered by our inability to know these values. Of these two theories which one do you think is more likely to be true and why? In addition do you think having more knowledge about the uncertainties involved with the models is helpful to you in making a better management decision?

2. In your readings throughout this course many have proposed that we need to be open about uncertainty in our models and clear about how and why decisions are being made. Please discuss how you think we could build upon these ideas in our jobs to improve both public understanding and our co-workers understanding of what and how we do things. Also what is your thought about changing terminology we use (i.e. validation and evaluation)? Will this help us communicate more effectively and ultimately lead to better decisions?