

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RESOURCE KIT METRIC DICTIONARY

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INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS THE REGIONAL RESOURCE KIT EFFORT?

Reducing the risk of large, high intensity fire (and other mega-disturbances) through forest treatments has become a management imperative in California. A [Strategy for Shared Stewardship](#) (2018) and the USFS [Wildfire Crisis Implementation Plan](#) (2022) reinforce specific goals for pace and scale of strategic forest treatments over the next decade. Concurrently, the State of California has issued a new [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#) (2022), designed to strategically accelerate efforts to restore the health and resilience of California forests through a joint State of California - Forest Service framework to improve and enhance forest stewardship in California. The social incentives and the scientific knowledge to pursue meaningful restoration of forested landscapes in California are firmly established.

High quality geospatial data are an essential ingredient to address restoration/conservation of the broad suite of core socio-ecological values across landscapes, and to drive analytic tools for planning management investments. To support these initiatives an interagency team of scientists from the Forest Service/Pacific Southwest Research Station, California Natural Resources Agency/CALFIRE, and the University of California at Berkeley and University of California at Irvine collaborated on development of a comprehensive set of mapped data layers needed to accomplish large-scale landscape planning and restoration. Landscape level assessment using high quality data developed from ecological modeling techniques, informative analytical approaches and the resulting credible scientific outputs will be fundamental to inform and support large landscape restoration planning and execution.

The data layers included in this kit are meant to assist land managers in assessing their current landscape and plan for treatments to enhance resilience to human and natural disturbances. Thus, each layer represents what the interagency team believes are the most relevant and reliable geospatial data available at this time. Each layer has been examined by the team and is supported by published data and/or was developed using standard methods. The methods for developing each layer are documented in the metric dictionary; however, the accuracy of each layer has not been quantified. It is anticipated that all data layers will be updated and refined as methods and source data evolve and improve.

WHAT THIS DOCUMENT IS AND ITS INTENDED PURPOSE

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

This document has been organized to reflect the “Framework for Resilience” as set forth by the Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative (Manley et al. 2020, 2022). The framework is comprised of ten “**Pillars**” which support the full array of landscape management objectives that are inherently interdependent. Each pillar represents the desired long-term, landscape-scale outcome to restoring resilience. They include ecological values, such as biodiversity, as well as societal benefits to communities, such as water security. Within each pillar are “**Elements**” which represent the primary processes and core functions of that pillar, such as focal species, water quality, or economic health. Finally, within each element are the individual “**Metrics**” which describe the characteristics of elements in quantitative or qualitative terms. Metrics are used to assess, plan for, measure, and monitor progress toward desired outcomes and greater resilience.

The framework pillars are:

- **Fire Dynamics**
- **Forest Resilience**
- **Biodiversity Conservation**
- **Wetland Integrity**
- **Water Security**
- **Carbon Sequestration**
- **Air Quality**
- **Economic Diversity**
- **Fire Adapted Communities**
- **Social & Cultural Well-Being**

It is important to understand that while pillars and elements are consistent across California, the metrics used by a group may vary from region to region based on ecological and social differences (for example forest types or economy), available data, and the user preferences. It is equally important to recognize that due to the interdependent nature of the framework, some metrics overlap into multiple elements/pillars however have only been addressed a single time within this document. Each pillar represents a resource outcome associated with resilient forest landscapes.

Landscape level assessments, using high-quality data combined with decision support tools to help evaluate alternative treatment strategies, are fundamental to inform and support large landscape restoration planning. These data have been assembled in one place to provide comprehensive access for land managers.

METRICS

The metrics are organized under the 10 pillars. There are 99 metrics within the Northern California Regional Resource Kit. The Metrics describe the characteristics of the elements (key characteristics) of each pillar in quantitative or, in a few cases, qualitative terms. Metrics are used to assess current conditions, plan treatments, and monitor for, measure, and monitor progress toward desired outcomes and greater resilience. Metrics are selected to be informative, meaningful, and actionable to meet the needs of management.

The metrics included within this Northern California Regional Resource Kit are divided into three "tiers." Among all these metrics, some are created and relevant statewide. Additional metrics are more suited to issues/conditions within a given region. The "Tiers" for metrics included in each RRK:

Tier 1 - metrics that are a single, consistent data layer, developed statewide; they can also be clipped to the boundary of the Region so values within that Region are the only ones included for calculations or regional statistics. Example: Annual Burn Probability.

Tier 2 - metrics relevant to a single Region or relevant to multiple Regions but data layers differ among the Regions because of varied data availability (sources) across Regions. Example: California gnatcatcher habitat suitability.

Tier 3 - metrics are those that would be of interest to some land managers for specific applications but not included in the as a core metric in an RRK. Example: Distribution of the Quino checkerspot butterfly.

Some data layers within this kit contain null values. We point this out here so users of the data will be aware and take whatever measures appropriate as they use and analyze the data. For some raster datasets in the RRK, areas have been masked (blanked) out and have a cell value of NoData (also referred to as null, NaN or missing). We, as producers and users of the data, cannot ignore NoData or fill them with zeros, since zero is often a valid value for

some datasets. Removing NoData cells is not an option, a raster is a continuous grid. For users of the data performing further analyses and combining or "stacking" rasters, these NoData cells will mask out all values in that location in the output. To avoid this issue, the user must create values for the cells before combining them (i.e. 999 or any numeric value that is not real and clearly out of the range of the other values). Reasons for masking (blanking) out cells in RRK data include:

- Cells are located in water bodies (e.g., lakes, reservoirs, or large rivers)
 - Cells are located in urban areas
 - Cells are located in areas used for irrigated agriculture
 - Cells contain no information relevant to the dataset (e.g. for a streams data layer, areas outside of streams have NoData)
 - Area (cells) subject to fire or other disturbance but the post disturbance condition or value is unknown.
- Intended Purpose

Through this "metric dictionary," each metric has been defined to help end-users of the data (and for use with any decision support tools) to understand:

- What tier the metric is in (1, 2, or 3)
- Data vintage
- The definition meant by a given metric
- The expected use(s) of the metric
- The resolution of the developed data
- The data sources used to derive the metric
- The method of metric derivation
- The root file names

References have been included to help the reader understand potential methods for deriving metrics. It is our hope this information will help people make better use of all the assembled information and how it can best be used with various decision support tools. This dictionary will be updated periodically, as necessary.

Note that all metric data layers have been masked (i.e. blocked out) for open water (lakes, reservoirs) and a selected few have been masked for the urban and agricultural landscape (see the list of operational layers at the end of this document). This is done to avoid confusion with vegetation values coming from urban areas (e.g. city parks) or agricultural areas (e.g. irrigated farm land).

FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES

Wildfires are a keystone disturbance process in western US forests. However, the capacity for humans to coexist in the wildland urban interface (WUI) requires different restoration strategies aimed at the protection of life and property. This pillar evaluates the degree to which communities are living safely with fire and are accepting of management and natural ecological dynamics. It also evaluates the capacity for communities to manage desired, beneficial fire and suppress unwanted fire.

The definition of WUI used here, from Carlson et al 2022, adopts the definitions of interface and intermix WUI developed for previous census-based WUI mapping efforts based on U.S. Federal Register definitions (Radeloff et al., 2005; USDA & USDI, 2001). According to the definitions used for the building-based maps and for the census-based maps, WUI is where building density exceeds 6.17 units/km² and where land cover is either (1) at least 50% wildland vegetation (intermix) or (2) under 50% wildland vegetation but within 2.4 km (1.5 miles) of a patch of wildland vegetation at least 5 km² in area that contains at least 75% vegetation (interface). The distance selected for the interface definition is based on research from the California Fire Alliance suggesting that this is the average distance firebrands can travel from an active wildfire front (Stewart et al., 2007).

DESIRED OUTCOME: Communities have adapted to live safely in forested landscapes and understand the significance of fire to maintaining healthy forests. They have sufficient capacity to manage desired fire and suppress unwanted fire.

HAZARD

The fire hazard element characterizes the fire risk in the wildland urban interface (WUI) defense and threat zones.

STRUCTURE EXPOSURE SCORE

Tier: 1

Data vintage: 08/2023. Includes disturbances through the end of 2022.

Metric Definition and Relevance: This metric combines two data layers; one is the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) as defined by Carlson et al. 2022 (see [WUI definition](#) section for more information), and a second data layer, Structure Exposure Score (SES), developed by Pyrologix LLC. The WUI includes the intermix and interface zones which collectively identify areas where structures occur and/or where structures are within a 1.5 miles wildland vegetation (see definition above) . The distance selected for the interface definition is based on research from the California Fire Alliance suggesting that this is the average distance firebrands can travel from an active wildfire front.

Structure Exposure Score is an integrated rating of wildfire hazard that includes the likelihood of a wildfire reaching a given location along with the potential intensity and ember load when that occurs. SES varies considerably across the landscape.

Pyrologix uses a standard geometric-interval classification to define the ten classes of SES, where each class break is 1.5 times larger than the previous break. So, homes located within Class X are 1.5 times more exposed than those in Class IX, and so on. This metric represents SES for WUI areas only.

1. 1 (SES I): 0
2. 2 (SES II): 0.01 to 50

3. 3 (SES III): 50 to 75
4. 4 (SES IV): 75 to 113
5. 5 (SES V): 113 to 169
6. 6 (SES VI): 169 to 253
7. 7 (SES VII): 253 to 380
8. 8 (SES VIII): 380 to 570
9. 9 (SES IX): 570 to 854
10. 10 (SES X): 854+

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Relative index, 10 classes

Creation Method:

The current delineation of the WUI (Carlson et al. 2022) uses a mapping algorithm with definitions of the WUI; two classes of WUI were identified:

- the intermix, where there is at least 50% vegetation cover surrounding buildings
- the interface, where buildings are within 2.4 km (1.5 miles) of a patch of vegetation at least 5 km² in size that contains at least 75% vegetation.

Both classes required a minimum building density of 6.17 buildings per km² (using a range of circular neighborhood sizes).

This is a proprietary index developed by Pyrologix, representing the level of wildfire exposure for a structure (e.g., a home) if one were to exist on a given pixel. It is an integrated measure that includes three components: the likelihood of a wildfire of any intensity occurring in a given year (annual burn probability), potential wildfire intensity for a given pixel, and ember load to that pixel from surrounding vegetation.

SES data was produced by Pyrologix LLC, a wildfire threat assessment research firm, as part of a spatial wildfire hazard assessment across all land ownerships for the state of California. The ongoing work generally follows the framework outlined in Scott and Thompson (2013), with custom methods and significant improvements developed by Pyrologix. The project generally consists of three components: fuelscape calibration and updates, wildfire hazard assessment, and risk assessment. It utilizes a combination of wildfire models and custom tools, including the FSim large wildfire simulator (Finney et al., 2011), and WildEST, a custom modeling tool developed by Pyrologix (Scott, 2020). To date, this work has resulted in a wide variety of spatial data layers related to wildfire hazard and risk, including Structure Exposure Score (SES), representing landscape conditions prior to the most recent fire season data (prior to 2023). Work to date has been funded by the USDA Forest Service Region 5, the California Energy Commission, and the USDI Bureau of Land Management with data contributions from CAL FIRE.

For this project, the FSim large-fire simulator is used to quantify annual wildfire likelihood across the analysis area. FSim is a comprehensive fire occurrence, growth, behavior, and suppression simulation system that uses locally relevant fuel, weather, topography, and historical fire occurrence information to make a spatially resolved estimate of the contemporary likelihood and intensity of wildfire across the landscape.

WildEST (Wildfire Exposure Simulation Tool) is used to quantify wildfire intensity and ember loads across the analysis area. WildEST is a deterministic wildfire modeling tool developed by Pyrologix that integrates spatially continuous weather input variables, weighted based on how they will likely be realized on the landscape. This makes the deterministic intensity values developed with WildEST more robust for use in effects analysis than the

stochastic intensity values developed with FSim. This is especially true in low wildfire occurrence areas where predicted intensity values from FSim are reliant on a very small sample size of potential weather variables. It also allows for more appropriate weighting of high-spread conditions into fire behavior calculations. WildEST also produces indices of conditional and expected ember production from vegetated areas (pixels) and load to other pixels in the analysis area. Please reference the Pyrologix 2021 project report (Volger et al., 2021) for more information on WildEST analysis.

FSim was run for the CAL 2022 fuelscape at 120m resolution. WildEST was run for the CAL 2022 fuelscape at 30-m resolution. Both models utilized gridded hourly historical California weather data provided by CALFIRE. Results for annual burn probability (FSim), fire intensity (WildEST) and ember load (WildEST) were used to create Structure Exposure Score.

Data Source:

Pyrologix, LLC

WUI, Carlson et al, 2022

File Name: StructureExposureScore_WUI_202308.tif

DAMAGE POTENTIAL

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 08/2023. Includes disturbances through the end of 2022.

Metric Definition and Relevance: This metric combines two data layers; one is the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) as defined by Carlson et al. 2022 (see [WUI definition](#) section for more information), and a second data layer, Damage Potential (DP), developed by Pyrologix LLC. The WUI includes the intermix and interface zones which collectively identify areas where structures occur. The distance selected for the interface definition is based on research from the California Fire Alliance suggesting that this is the average distance firebrands can travel from an active wildfire front.

The composite Damage Potential (DP) dataset represents a relative measure of wildfire’s potential to damage a home or other structure if one were present at a given pixel, and if a wildfire were to occur (conditional exposure). It is a function of ember load to a given pixel, and fire intensity at that pixel, and considers the generalized consequences to a home from fires of a given intensity (flame length). This index does not incorporate a measure of annual wildfire likelihood.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Relative index, low to high

Creation Method: This metric represents DP for WUI areas only. DP values were binned based on the following ranges into 6 classes and assigned class names.

- 0 (None): Values = 0
- 1 (Very Low): Values 0.01 to 20
- 2 (Low): Values 20 to 35
- 3 (Moderate): Values 35 to 50
- 4 (High): Values 50 to 80
- 5 (Very High): Values 80+

The current delineation of the WUI (Carlson et al. 2022) uses a mapping algorithm with definitions of the WUI; two classes of WUI were identified:

- the intermix, where there is at least 50% vegetation cover surrounding buildings
- the interface, where buildings are within 2.4 km (1.5 miles) of a patch of vegetation at least 5 km² in size that contains at least 75% vegetation.

Both classes required a minimum building density of 6.17 buildings per km² (using a range of circular neighborhood sizes).

Damage Potential (DP) data was produced by Pyrologix LLC, a wildfire threat assessment research firm, as part of a spatial wildfire hazard assessment across all land ownerships for the state of California. The ongoing work generally follows the framework outlined in Scott and Thompson (2013), with custom methods and significant improvements developed by Pyrologix. The project generally consists of three components: fuelscape calibration and updates, wildfire hazard assessment, and risk assessment. It utilizes a combination of wildfire models and custom tools, including WildEST (Wildfire Exposure Simulation Tool), a custom modeling tool developed by Pyrologix (Scott, 2020). To date, this work has resulted in a wide variety of spatial data layers related to wildfire hazard and risk, including Damage Potential (DP), representing conditions prior to the 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 fire seasons. Work to date has been funded by the USDA Forest Service Region 5, the California Energy Commission, and the USDI Bureau of Land Management with data contributions from CAL FIRE. Please reference the Pyrologix 2021 project report (Volger et al., 2021) for more information about the project or WildEST analysis.

Damage Potential (DP) is a proprietary index developed by Pyrologix LLC representing wildfire's potential to damage a home or other structure if a wildfire were to occur (conditional exposure). It is a function of ember load to a given pixel and fire intensity at that pixel, and it considers the generalized consequences to a home from fires of a given intensity (flame length). DP is calculated based on two other datasets developed by Pyrologix: conditional risk to potential structures (cRPS) and conditional ember load index (cELI).

cRPS represents the potential consequences of fire to a home at a given location if a fire occurs there and if a home were located there. It is a measure that integrates wildfire intensity with generalized consequences to a home on every pixel. Wildfire intensity (flame length) is calculated using Pyrologix' WildEST tool. WildEST is a scripted geospatial process used to perform multiple deterministic simulations under a range of weather types (wind speed, wind direction, fuel moisture content). Rather than weighting results solely according to the temporal relative frequencies of the weather scenarios, the WildEST process integrates results by weighting them according to their weather type probabilities (WTP), which appropriately weights high-spread conditions into the calculations. For fire-effects calculations, WildEST generates flame-length probability rasters that incorporate non-heading spread directions, for which fire intensity is considerably lower than at the head of the fire.

The response function characterizing potential consequences to an exposed structure is applied to fire effects flame lengths from WildEST for all burnable fuel types on the landscape regardless of whether an actual structure is present or not. The response function does not consider building materials of structures and is meant as a measure of the effect of fire intensity on structure exposure. The response function is provided below:

- Flame length probability of 0-2 ft: -25
- Flame length probability of 2-4 ft: -40
- Flame length probability of 4-6 ft: -55
- Flame length probability of 6-8 ft: -70
- Flame length probability of 8-12 ft: -85
- Flame length probability of >12 ft: -100

These results were calculated using 30m fire-effects flame-length probabilities from the WildEST wildfire behavior results and then further smoothed.

cELI is also calculated in WildEST, and represents the relative ember load per pixel, given that a fire occurs, based on surface and canopy fuel characteristics, climate, and topography within the pixel. Units are the relative number of embers. cELI is based on heading-only fire behavior.

Damage Potential is then calculated as the arithmetic mean of cELI and cRPS for each pixel across the landscape as follows:

$$DP = cRPS + cELI/2$$

Although flame length and its potential impact to structures is a function of the fire environment at the subject location only, ember load is a function of ember production and transport in the area surrounding the subject location. A location with light fuel (and therefore low flame length) could still have significant Damage Potential if surrounded by a fire environment that produces copious embers.

Data Source:

Pyrologix, LLC

WUI, Carlson et al, 2022

File Name: DamagePotential_WUI_202308.tif

EMBER LOAD INDEX

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 08/2023. Includes disturbances through the end of 2022.

Metric Definition and Relevance: This ember load dataset represents the ember load index (ELI) per pixel, for a given pixel, based on surface and canopy fuel characteristics, climate, and topography within the pixel. The Ember Load Index (ELI) incorporates burn probability (BP). BP is incorporated into calculations of the ember production before the distribution of embers across the landscape to determine ember load. Given that ELI incorporates burn probability, this index can be used to identify where on the landscape hardening buildings may be needed to resist ignition and the priority for doing so according to the likelihood of the area being visited by fire.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Relative number of embers.

Creation Method: ELI is not simply the multiplication of ember load (ELI) and burn probability (BP). Rather, BP is incorporated into calculations of the ember production prior to the distribution of embers across the landscape to determine ember load. ELI is based on heading-only fire behavior.

Data Source: Pyrologix, LLC

File Name: EmberLoadIndex_202308.tif

IGNITION CAUSE

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 1992 - 2020

Metric Definition and Relevance: The original point layer (WildfireOccurrence_CA_1992_2020.shp) contains a spatial database of wildfires that occurred in the United States from 1992 to 2020. It is the fifth update of a publication originally generated to support the national Fire Program Analysis (FPA) system. The wildfire records were acquired from the reporting systems of federal, state, and local fire organizations. The following core data elements were required for records to be included in this data publication: discovery date, final fire size, and a point location at least as precise as a Public Land Survey System (PLSS) section (1-square mile grid). The data were transformed to conform, when possible, to the data standards of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), including an updated wildfire-cause standard (approved August 2020). Basic error-checking was performed and redundant records were identified and removed, to the degree possible. The resulting product, referred to as the Fire Program Analysis fire-occurrence database (FPA FOD), includes 2.3 million geo-referenced wildfire records, representing a total of 180 million acres burned during the 29-year period. Identifiers necessary to link the point-based, final-fire-reporting information to published large-fire-perimeter and operational-situation-reporting datasets are included. Short, Karen C. 2022. Spatial wildfire occurrence data for the United States, 1992-2020 [FPA_FOD_20221014]. 6th Edition. Fort Collins, CO: Forest Service Research Data Archive. <https://doi.org/10.2737/RDS-2013-0009.6>

Data Resolution: Vector(points) (1 layer) and 30m Raster (3 layers)

Data Units: Categorical

Creation Method: Rocky Mountain Research Station (U.S. Forest Service) scientist, Karen Short, is the principal creator of this data set. Points were converted to 30m raster cells using the “most frequent” function on the NWCG_CAUSE_CLASSIFICATION attribute (Broad classification of the reason the fire occurred) creating three rasters:

- Human caused ignition
- Lightning (natural) caused ignition
- All causes of ignition - Human or Natural and Missing data/not specified/undetermined

“MostFrqCau” indicates the most frequent cause of the fire in that location.. “FireCount” indicates the number of fires that occurred between 1992 and 2020, regardless of cause. It is noted that locations with hundreds of counts may be a result of the method of how ignitions are reported/recorded. Both the accuracy and precision of the location estimates are generally much lower than that implied by the stored coordinate information – which, for example, may have been calculated from a PLSS section centroid. Efforts were made to purge redundant records to the best of the authors’ ability. Despite this, some locations may have multiple records that may reflect redundant records or multiple reports of fires due to the imprecision of the location record, the reporting process of an individual authority, or the possible reality of multiple initiations at a given location.

Data Source: Rocky Mountain Research Station, U.S. Forest Service

File Name: WldfireAllCausesCount_1992_2020.tif; WldFireOccCause_Human_1992_2020.tif;
WldFireOccCause_Natural_1992_2020.tif; WildfireOccurrence_CA_1992_2020.shp

FIRE IGNITION PROBABILITY

Tier: 3

Data Vintage: 1992 to 2015

Metric Definition and Relevance: These rasters depict the predicted human- and lightning-caused ignition probability for the state of California.

Data Resolution: 1km Raster Data Units: Probability, 0-1

Creation Method: Maximum entropy models were developed to estimate wildfire ignition probability and understand the complex impacts of anthropogenic and biophysical drivers, based on a historical ignition database.

Data Source: Bin Chen and Yufang Jin, University of California Davis, bch@ucdavis.edu

[Spatial patterns and drivers for wildfire ignitions in California - IOPscience](#)

File Name: PredictedHumanIgnitionProb_1km_1992_2015.tif; PredictedLightningIgnitionProb_1km_1992_2015.tif

SOURCE OF EMBER LOAD TO BUILDINGS

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 08/2023. Includes disturbances through the end of 2022.

Metric Definition and Relevance: The ember transport model used in WildEST tracks the travel of embers from each source pixel to downwind receiving pixels. The relative number of embers landing on a given receiving pixel is summed across all potential source pixels. If the receiving pixel has a nonzero WRC Building Cover value (meaning the pixel is within 75 m of a qualifying building), then we separately sum the relative number of embers from the source pixel. The final SELB raster represents the expected annual relative ember production that lands on building cover across all weather types.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Relative index

Creation Method: The WildEST modeling contains a module for producing indices of conditional and expected ember production and load. The Conditional Ember Production Index (cEPI) is an index of the relative number of embers lofted at a given landscape pixel given the fire environment there, given that a fire occurs. Ember Production Index (EPI) is the expected value of cEPI; it is the expected annual relative number of embers lofted from a given landscape pixel.

The Conditional Ember Load Index (cELI) is a relative index of the relative number of embers that land at a given landscape location, including nonburnable pixels. Finally, Ember Load Index combines the conditional ELI and the likelihood of that ember load occurring. All ember characteristics are based on headfire behavior. These

The ember load indices represent relative ember load at a pixel. Similar to ember production, ember load is also based on surface and canopy fuel characteristics, climate, and topography at the pixel. Ember load incorporates downwind ember travel.

The Ember Load Index (ELI) incorporates burn probability; however, ELI is not simply the multiplication of condition ember load (cELI) and burn probability (BP). Rather, BP is incorporated into calculations of the ember production before the distribution of embers across the landscape to determine ember load. Given that ELI incorporates burn probability, this index can be used to identify where on the landscape hardening buildings may be needed to resist ignition and the priority for doing so according to the likelihood of the area being visited by fire.

Data Source: Pyrologix, LLC

File Name: SourceEmberLoadToBuildings_202308.tif

WILDFIRE HAZARD POTENTIAL

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 08/2022. Includes disturbances through the end of 2021.

Metric Definition and Relevance: Wildfire Hazard Potential (WHP) is an index that quantifies the relative potential for wildfire that may be difficult to control. WHP can be used as a measure to help prioritize where fuel treatments may be needed.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Relative index

Creation Method: Pyrologix calculated WHP following the methods established by Dillon et al. (2015) and Dillon (2018). The original methods utilize lower-resolution FSim inputs, while our approach uses higher-resolution inputs including 30-m CAL vegetation inputs (derived from LANDFIRE 2016), 30-m CAL fuel model outputs, 30-m CAL burn probability results, and 30-m CAL fire-effects flame-length probabilities from the WildEST wildfire behavior results.

Data Source: Pyrologix, LLC

File Name: WildfireHazardPotential_202208.tif

FIRE DYNAMICS

Fire dynamics reflect fire as an ecological process and the function that it performs. It can be broken into two key elements: functional fire and fire severity. Although fire dynamics pertain to the entire landscape, the ecological role of fire is most relevant to landscapes outside of the wildland urban interface (WUI). Within the WUI, protection of life and property takes priority over the role of fire as a process. As a result, this fire dynamics pillar pertains largely to areas outside of the WUI while the fire-adapted communities pillar pertains largely to areas inside the WUI.

DESIRED OUTCOME: Fire burns in an ecologically beneficial and socially acceptable way that perpetuates landscape heterogeneity and rarely threatens human safety or infrastructure.

FUNCTIONAL FIRE

Increasing the pace and scale of restoration on the landscape will require using a variety of tools to accomplish restoration targets. The use of prescribed fire and managed wildfires, where appropriate, can contribute to the restoration need. This is particularly true where fires burn at low and moderate severity, which we are referring to as “functional fire”. Functional fire is when fire burns in an ecologically beneficial and socially acceptable way, perpetuating landscape heterogeneity and rarely threatening human safety or infrastructure.

Updated FVEG; Methods for 2023 statewide updates to FVEG WHRtype, WHRsize, and WHRdensity

An accurate depiction of the spatial distribution of vegetation/habitat types within California is required for a number of the metrics included in this kit, particularly for some of the fire, forest and rangeland resiliency, and biodiversity metrics. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protections CALFIRE Fire and Resource

Assessment Program (FRAP), in cooperation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife VegCamp program and extensive use of USDA Forest Service Region 5 Mapping and Remote Sensing unit (MARS) data, has compiled the "best available" land cover data available for California into a single comprehensive statewide data set. The data span a period from approximately 1990 to 2014.

Because the source data are in many cases fairly old and there has been extensive disturbance, particularly from wildfire, over the last 25 years, we made some updates to the 2015 version of FVEG. The methods for making those changes are described here.

WHRtype update

FVEG’s WHRtype was updated with the LANDFIRE Existing Vegetation Type (EVT) data product version 2.2.0 (LANDFIRE 2020) and the Rangeland Analysis Platform (RAP) fractional ground cover data product version 3.0 (Jones et al. 2018, Allred et al. 2021). Pixels were considered for update where high severity wildfire occurred after the FVEG mapping date. High severity was defined as wildfire burned areas that experienced $\geq 75\%$ loss in basal area (Parks et al. 2018, Young-Hart et al. 2022) following the wildfire event. The type of update that occurred in each “high severity” pixel was dependent upon a lifeform conversion comparison (FVEG-to-LANDFIRE EVT), vegetation height (SALO 2020), and percent ground cover by annual and perennial grasses (RAP) (Table 1).

Table 1. FVEG-LANDFIRE update type for high severity pixels. Annual grass (AG) cover and perennial grass (PG) cover data were from the Rangeland Analysis Platform fractional ground cover data product version 3.0. Canopy height (CH) data were from the SALO forest observatory data product.

		FVEG Lifeform		
		<i>Herbaceous</i>	<i>Shrub</i>	<i>Tree</i>
LANDFIRE EVT Lifeform	<i>Herbaceous</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where AG cover >50%, update to “Annual Grassland” <u>WHRname (“AGS” WHRtype)</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where CH <1m & AG cover >50%, update to “Annual Grassland” <u>WHRname (“AGS” WHRtype)</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where CH <2m & AG cover >50%, update to “Annual Grassland” <u>WHRname (“AGS” WHRtype)</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where PG cover >50%, update to “Perennial Grassland” <u>WHRname (“PGS” WHRtype)</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where CH <1m & PG cover >50%, update to “Perennial Grassland” <u>WHRname (“PGS” WHRtype)</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where CH <2m & PG cover >50%, update to “Perennial Grassland” <u>WHRname (“PGS” WHRtype)</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otherwise, no update to <u>WHRtype</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otherwise, FVEG-LANDFIRE crosswalk update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otherwise, FVEG-LANDFIRE crosswalk update
	<i>Shrub</i>	FVEG-LANDFIRE crosswalk update	No update to <u>WHRtype</u>	FVEG-LANDFIRE crosswalk update
	<i>Tree</i>	FVEG-LANDFIRE crosswalk update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FVEG-LANDFIRE crosswalk update 	No update to <u>WHRtype</u>

WHRdensity and WHRsize updates

Following the WHRtype update, pixels that had lifeform “tree” then had the FVEG attributes “WHRdensity” and “WHRsize” updated using the SALO Forest Observatory canopy height and canopy cover data

products (SALO 2020). SALO data were available for the years 2016-2020, values of canopy height and canopy cover were averaged across years for the update[2] .

To update WHRdensity, SALO canopy cover was converted to WHRdensity canopy closure class per the [Wildlife Habitat Relationships, Standards for Canopy Closure Table 114C](#).

To update WHRsize, we developed allometric equations that predict tree DBH (diameter at breast height, breast height = 4.5 ft) as a function of tree height (HT, ft). We used data from the USDA Forest Inventory and Analysis program (FIA) for California (FIA DataMart 2023; California 2022 database; ver. 9.0.1). For this analysis, we included live trees ≥ 4.5 ft tall with a crown class code of dominant, co-dominant, or open grown (N = 165,224 tree measurements between 1991 and 2019). Trees were grouped by region based on the “fuzzed” location of the plot. Regions were defined by the Regional Resource Kits (2023, 4 regions) and separated into softwoods and hardwoods as defined by FIA (2 categories). For each analysis, three functions were evaluated: linear, saturating, and power:

Linear: $DBH = a + (b \cdot HT)$;

Saturating (Michaelis–Menten): $DBH = (V_m \cdot HT) / (K + HT)$;

Power: $DBH = aHT^b$.

For the most informative model (i.e., lowest AIC), we report both the root mean squared error (RMSE) and the pseudo R². In this case, pseudo R² was calculated as the coefficient of determination between the observed and predicted DBHs (Table 2). We used the most informative HT-to- DBH function for the region and tree category to convert SALO canopy height data to DBH that was then converted to WHRsize class per the [Wildlife Habitat Relationships, Standards for Tree Size Table 114B](#).

Table 2. Height-to-DBH conversion equations by California region and tree class. DBH is in inches; Height (HT) is in feet. Only included trees with a HT > = 4.5 feet. Only included canopy class = dominant, co-dominant, or open. Equation (EQN) code: MM = Michaelis Menton; POWER = power; Linear = linear.

Region	Tree Class	EQN	a (V _m)	b (K)	RMSE	pseudoR ²	EQN formula
Sierra Nevada	Softwood	MM	223.39	712.20	6.57	0.69	DBH= (V _m *HT)/(K+HT)
Sierra Nevada	Hardwood	Linear	-0.391	0.294	4.69	0.57	DBH= a+b(HT)
Southern California	Softwood	MM	108.97	216.30	7.47	0.55	DBH = (V _m *HT)/(K+HT)

Southern California	Hardwood	MM	175.17	424.31	5.55	0.52	$DBH = (Vm*HT)/(K+HT)$
Northern California	Softwood	POWER	0.128	1.13	6.51	0.74	$DBH = a*HT^b$
Northern California	Hardwood	Linear	0.135	0.242	5.2	0.49	$DBH = a+b(HT)$
Central California	Softwood	Linear	0.588	0.244	8.25	0.62	$DBH = a+b(HT)$
Central California	Hardwood	MM	68.51	161.40	6.24	0.45	$DBH = (Vm*HT)/(K+HT)$

Availability of Data and Materials

Data used for the 2023 FVEG updates can be obtained from the following:

- LANDFIRE – <http://www.landfire.gov/>
- Rangeland Analysis Platform – <https://rangelands.app/products/>
- SALO Forest Canopy – <https://forestobservatory.com/download>
- 10-year summary of basal area lost – <https://data.fs.usda.gov/geodata/rastergateway/acre>
- Perturbed FIA data – <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/3641cea45d614ab88791aef54f3a1849>

Google Earth Engine Python API script can be obtained from: https://github.com/kjohnston73/fveg_update

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FIRE RETURN INTERVAL DEPARTURE

Definition and Relevance: The fire return interval departure (FRID) analysis quantifies the difference between current and pre-settlement fire frequencies, allowing managers to target areas at high risk of threshold-type responses owing to altered fire regimes and interactions with other factors.

Creation Method: The FRID methodology was developed and described by Van de Water and Safford (2011). The feature class is now produced and maintained by the U.S. Forest Service, Region 5, Information Management – Mapping and Remote Sensing (MARS) Team. Contemporary FRIs were calculated using the fire dates and footprints from California Interagency Fire Perimeters database (maintained by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire-FRAP). The vegetation type stratification (i.e. to calculate the FRI for individual vegetation types) was based on the MARS Existing Vegetation (EVEG) map for California from the year 2011, with the vegetation typing (“CALVEG”) cross-walked (grouped) into 28 pre-settlement fire regime (PFR) types.

For assorted reasons, portions of San Benito and San Luis Obispo Counties never received a full EVEG Baseline Mapping assessment and thus data in the FRID Central California layer has some holes in these areas. In 2009, an EVEG mapping project was started for these areas but never finalized. San Luis Obispo County, the southern part of Santa Clara County, and all of San Benito County were baseline mapped using the Hardwood Dataset as a foundation for regional dominance (vegtype). Additional data sources from the National Land Cover Database, San Luis Obispo County Farm Data, Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program, Bureau of Reclamation, and National Hydrology Database were then used to overwrite the Hardwood data where it was relevant. Structural attributes for forested conditions came primarily from the Hardwoods Dataset for canopy values while tree size was derived from a classification of Thematic Mapper 30-meter imagery.

Preparation of the Fire Return Interval Departure (FRID) data requires use of up to date statewide vegetation data. For this purpose we have been using EVEG, as described above. This has been adequate for most of California but there are some areas, because of missing data, that required some adjustments.

Although incomplete as an EVEG database, these “best available data” were used by the RRK team to fill holes in FRID for the Central California RRK project. The MARS team completed a crosswalk from Regional Dominance Type 1 (vegtype) to the FRID PFR attribute and calculations for the “gap” areas were run for fire return interval departure. We have used this “patch” to address FRID needs for the near-term. The data for these areas will show vulnerabilities to analysis at larger scales until a time that these areas can be visually edited to match the level of precision seen in the adjoining Los Padres NF.

Other gaps (NoData):

Although areas mapped as grasslands and meadows were included in the GIS layer, FRI and departure statistics were not calculated for these types because reliable information about pre-Euro American settlement fire regimes is lacking. These values (-999) have been converted to NoData in the RRK datasets.

Data Source: USDA Forest Service, Region 5, MARS Team

References: Information on pre-Euroamerican settlement FRIs (fire return intervals) was compiled from an exhaustive review of the fire history literature, expert opinion, and vegetation modeling (Van de Water and Safford 2011; Safford and Van de Water 2014). Contemporary FRIs were calculated using the California Interagency Fire Perimeters database (maintained by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE-FRAP)). The vegetation type stratification was based on the US Forest Service existing vegetation map (USDA Forest Service, Mapping and Remote Sensing Team) for California from the year 2011, with the vegetation typing (“CALVEG”) grouped into 28 pre-settlement fire regime (PFR) types, as defined by Van de Water and Safford (2011). The 2011 eVeg map is used as the baseline for all subsequent FRID maps to freeze the underlying vegetation template and permit temporal comparisons without introducing vegetation type change as a confounding factor.

MEAN PERCENT FRI DEPARTURE, SINCE 1908

Tier: 3

Data Vintage: 2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: This metric, mean percent FRID, is a measure of the extent to which contemporary fires (i.e., since 1908) are burning at frequencies similar to the frequencies that occurred prior to Euro-American settlement, with the mean reference FRI as the basis for comparison. Mean PFRID is a metric of fire return interval departure (FRID) and measures the departure of current FRI from mean reference FRI in percent.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Percent

Creation Method: The current FRI is calculated by dividing the number of years in the fire record (e.g., 2019-1908=112 years inclusive) by the number of fires occurring between 1908 and the current year in a given polygon plus one (CurrentFRI = Number of years/Number of fires +1). The mean reference FRI is an approximation of how often, on average, a given PFR likely burned in the three or four centuries prior to significant Euro-American settlement. This measure does not return to zero when a fire occurs, unlike FRID values used in some other analyses (e.g., NPS FRID Index). Instead, the following formulas are used to calculate Mean PFRID:

When current FRI is longer than reference FRI (the common condition in most coniferous PFRs) the formula is:

$$[1-(MeanRefFRI/CurrentFRI)]*100$$

When current FRI is shorter than reference FRI (common in some shrub dominated PFRs, and areas in the Wildland Urban Interface) the formula is:

$$-\{[1-(CurrentFRI/MeanRefFRI)]\}*100$$

For areas dominated by PFRs with a mean reference FRI greater than 112 years, and that have not burned in the period of historical record considered in this analysis (i.e., since 1908), the FRID is assumed to equal zero.

Data Source:

Fire History (2022), CAL FIRE

Existing Vegetation (CALVEG 2011), USDA Forest Service, Region 5, MARS Team

File Name: meanPFRID_2022.tif

MEAN PERCENT FRI DEPARTURE, SINCE 1970

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: Mean Percent FRID (meanPFRID_1970) quantifies the extent in percentage to which recent fires (i.e., since 1970) are burning at frequencies similar to those that occurred prior to Euro-American settlement, with the mean reference FRI as the basis for comparison. Mean PFRID measures the departure of current FRI from reference mean FRI in percent.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Percent

Creation Method: The current FRI is calculated by dividing the number of years in the fire record (e.g., 2019-1970=49 years inclusive) by the number of fires occurring between 1970 and the current year in a given polygon plus one (CurrentFRI = Number of years/Number of fires +1). The mean reference FRI is an approximation of how often, on average, a given PFR likely burned in the three or four centuries prior to significant Euro-American settlement. This measure does not return to zero when a fire occurs, unlike FRID values used in some other analyses (e.g., NPS FRID Index). The following formulas are used to calculate Mean PFRID, the same as with meanPFRID but with 1970 as the baseline rather than 1908. Important note: because 1970 is the baseline for this measure, no fires before 1970 are taken into account and all PFRs start at a PFRID of zero beginning in 1970.

When current FRI is longer than reference FRI (the common condition in most coniferous PFRs) the formula is:

$$[1-(MeanRefFRI/CurrentFRI)]*100$$

When current FRI is shorter than reference FRI (common in some shrub dominated PFRs, and areas in the Wildland Urban Interface) the formula is:

$$-\{[1-(CurrentFRI/MeanRefFRI)]\}*100$$

Data Source:

Fire History (2022), CAL FIRE

Existing Vegetation (CALVEG 2011), USDA Forest Service, Region 5, MARS Team

File Name: meanPFRID_1970_2022.tif

FRID CONDITION CLASS FOR DEPARTURE

Tier: 3

Data Vintage: 2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: This metric uses the mean percent FRID to a measure of the extent to which contemporary fires (i.e., since 1908) are burning at frequencies similar to the frequencies that occurred prior to Euro-American settlement, with the mean reference FRI binned into another basis for comparison. Mean PFRID is a metric of fire return interval departure (FRID), and measures the departure of current FRI from reference mean FRI in percent.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Integer, -3 to 3

Creation Method: This is a condition class categorization of the data in the Mean PFRID field. MeanCC_FRI categorizes the percent differences calculated in Mean PFRID using the following scale:

- 1 0 to 33.3%
- 2 33 to 66.7%
- 3 greater than 66.7%

Negative condition classes (i.e., where fires are burning more often than under pre-Anglo-American settlement conditions) are categorized on the negative of the same scale:

- 1 0 to -33.3%
- 2 -33 to -66.7%
- 3 less than -66.7%

CC1 and CC-1 are mapped in the same class because they are both within 33% of the mean pre-settlement value.

Data Source:

Fire History (2022), CAL FIRE

Existing Vegetation (CALVEG 2011), USDA Forest Service, Region 5, MARS Team

File Name: meanCC_FRI_2022.tif

TIME SINCE LAST FIRE

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: Time Since Last Fire (TSLF), from the Fire Return Interval Departure (FRID) map, provides information (in years) to indicate the length of time since an area last burned.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Years

Creation Method: Time Since Last Fire (TSLF), from the Fire Return Interval Departure (FRID) map, provides information (in years) to indicate the length of time since an area last burned. Specifically, the number of years elapsed between the most recent fire recorded in the fire perimeters database and the version year of the FRID map being used. To illustrate, if the version year of the FRID map is 2019, and the area in question last burned in 1995, TSLF will be 24 (2019 minus 1995).

Data Source:

Fire History (2022), CAL FIRE

Existing Vegetation (CALVEG 2011), USDA Forest Service, Region 5, MARS Team

File Name: TSLF_2022.tif

CURRENT FIRE RETURN INTERVAL DEPARTURE, SINCE 1908

Tier: 3

Data Vintage: 2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: The fire return interval departure (FRID) analysis quantifies the difference between current and pre-settlement fire frequencies, allowing managers to target areas at high risk of threshold-type responses owing to altered fire regimes and interactions with other factors. This is a measure of the extent to which contemporary fires (i.e. since 1908) are burning at frequencies similar to the frequencies that occurred prior to Euro-American settlement.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Average Years

Creation Method: Current fire return interval 1908 is calculated by dividing the number of years in the fire record by the number of fires occurring between 1908 and the current year in a given polygon plus one.

$$\text{CurrentFRI} = \text{Number of years} / \text{Number of Fires} + 1$$

Data Source:

Fire History (2022), CAL FIRE

Existing Vegetation (CALVEG 2011), USDA Forest Service, Region 5, MARS Team

File Name: currentFRI_2022.tif

CURRENT FIRE RETURN INTERVAL DEPARTURE, SINCE 1970

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: The fire return interval departure (FRID) analysis quantifies the difference between current and pre-settlement fire frequencies, allowing managers to target areas at high risk of threshold-type responses owing to altered fire regimes and interactions with other factors. This is a measure of the extent to which contemporary fires (i.e. since 1970) are burning at frequencies similar to the frequencies that occurred prior to Euro-American settlement, with the mean reference FRI as the basis for comparison. With this metric, mPFRID_1970, the same formulas are used as with meanPFRID but with 1970 as the baseline rather than 1908. Important note: because 1970 is the baseline for this measure, no fires before 1970 are taken into account and all PFRs start at a PFRID of zero beginning in 1970.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Average Years

Creation Method: Current fire return interval 1970 is calculated by dividing the number of years in the fire record by the number of fires occurring between 1970 and the current year in a given area plus one.

$$\text{CurrentFRI}_{1970} = \text{Number of years} / \text{Number of Fires} + 1$$

Data Source:

Fire History (2022), CAL FIRE
Existing Vegetation (CALVEG 2011), USDA Forest Service, Region 5, MARS Team

File Name: currentFRI_1970_2022.tif

SEVERITY

Uncharacteristic proportions of high severity fire over the area burned, particularly in the last decade, has been a common theme in the megafires that have occurred throughout the Central California Region recently. The following metrics characterize, map, and quantify some of the factors that contribute.

ANNUAL BURN PROBABILITY

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 08/2023. Includes disturbances through the end of 2022.

Metric Definition and Relevance: Annual Burn Probability represents the likelihood of a wildfire of any intensity occurring at a given location (pixel) in a single fire season. In a complete assessment of wildfire hazard, wildfire occurrence and spread are simulated in order to characterize how temporal variability in weather and spatial variability in fuel, topography, and ignition density influence wildfire likelihood across a landscape. In such cases, the hazard assessment includes modeling of burn probability, which quantifies the likelihood that a wildfire will burn a given point (a single grid cell or pixel) during a specified period of time. Burn probability for fire management planning applications in this case is reported on an annual basis - the probability of burning during a single fire season.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Probability, 0 to 1

Creation Method: Annual Burn Probability was produced by Pyrologix LLC, a wildfire threat assessment research firm, as part of a spatial wildfire hazard assessment across all land ownerships for the state of California. The

ongoing work generally follows the framework outlined in Scott and Thompson (2013), with custom methods and significant improvements developed by Pyrologix. The project generally consists of three components: fuelscape calibration and updates, wildfire hazard assessment, and risk assessment. It utilizes a combination of wildfire models and custom tools, including the FSim large wildfire simulator (Finney et al., 2011). To date, this work has resulted in a wide variety of spatial data layers related to wildfire hazard and risk, including Annual Burn Probability, representing conditions prior to the 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 fire seasons. Work to date has been funded by the USDA Forest Service Region 5, the California Energy Commission, and the USDI Bureau of Land Management with data contributions from CAL FIRE.

For this project, the USFS modeling system called FSim is used to quantify annual wildfire likelihood across California. The model is parameterized using spatial datasets of historical weather, fire occurrence, fuels, weather, and topography in order to simulate thousands of fire-years on a landscape. Annual Burn Probability is calculated from these simulations using a Monte Carlo approach to make a spatially resolved estimate of the contemporary annual likelihood of wildfire across the landscape. For more information on FSim or the wildfire hazard modeling being performed by Pyrologix, please see Volger et al., 2021.

Data Source: Pyrologix, LLC

File Name: AnnualBurnProbability_202308.tif

PROBABILITY OF HIGH SEVERITY FIRE

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 08/2023

Metric Definition and Relevance: These metrics depicts the probability of high severity fire as constructed by Pyrologix LLC. This operational-control probability raster indicates the probability that the headfire flame length in each pixel will exceed 8 foot flame lengths, the threshold that defines fires that would exceed manual control.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Probability, 0 to 1

Creation Method: Probability of High Fire Severity (defined as >8 ft) was produced by Pyrologix LLC, a wildfire threat assessment research firm, as part of a spatial wildfire hazard assessment across all land ownerships for the state of California. The ongoing work generally follows the framework outlined in Scott and Thompson (2013), with custom methods and significant improvements developed by Pyrologix. The project generally consists of three components: fuelscape calibration and updates, wildfire hazard assessment, and risk assessment. To date, this work has resulted in a wide variety of spatial data layers related to wildfire hazard and risk, including operational control probabilities based on conditions prior to the 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 fire seasons. Work to date has been funded by the USDA Forest Service Region 5, the California Energy Commission, and the USDI Bureau of Land Management with data contributions from CAL FIRE. Please reference the Pyrologix 2021 project report (Volger et al., 2021) for more information.

Pyrologix uses the Wildfire Exposure Simulation Tool (WildEST) to develop this data layer, a deterministic wildfire modeling tool that integrates variable weather input variables and weights them based on how they will likely be realized on the landscape. WildEST is more robust than the stochastic intensity values developed with FSim. This is especially true in low wildfire occurrence areas where predicted intensity values from FSim are reliant on a very small sample size of potential weather variables.

Data Source: Pyrologix, LLC

FOREST AND SHRUBLAND RESILIENCE

Forest and shrubland resilience is the ability of forest and shrubland vegetation and structure to remain a forest or shrubland in the face of disturbance (e.g., fire, forest management, climate change, etc.). The Forest and Shrubland Resilience Pillar evaluates forest and shrubland vegetation composition and structure to determine its alignment with desired disturbance dynamics and within tolerances of current and future biophysical conditions when considering changes due to climate change. The last 100 years of forest and shrubland management, combined with changing climates, have resulted in forest and shrubland structure and composition which are not resilient to contemporary disturbances. Forest or shrubland structure and composition are one of the few elements of a wildland that management can modify through treatments to improve conditions.

DESIRED OUTCOME: Vegetation composition and structure align with topography, desired disturbance dynamics, and landscape conditions, and are adapted to climate change.

STRUCTURE

Forest or shrubland structure is the spatial distribution of vegetation (live and dead) both vertically and horizontally on the landscape. Prior to European settlement, forests in the Central California Region were characterized by heterogeneous spatial patterns replete with individual large trees, gaps, and tree clumps of various sizes – patterns that were shaped by recurrent fire and other disturbances. After a century-plus of fire exclusion, timber harvesting, agricultural development, urbanization, and other land-use practices, the predominant trend across Californian landscapes is that they have become less resilient to natural and human-caused disturbances. In many cases some sort of restoration treatment may be necessary to reverse these trends.

DENSITY – LARGE TREES

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 06/2020

Metric Definition and Relevance: Large trees are important to forest managers for multiple reasons: they have a greater likelihood of survival from fire; they are an important source of seed stock; they provide vitally important wildlife habitat; and they contribute to other critical processes like carbon storage and nutrient cycling. Large trees are often the focus of management in order to protect existing ones and to foster recruitment of future ones. In consultation with National Forests, “large trees” have been designated in three categories, 24”-30”, 30”-40”, and >40” dbh. The data provided are an estimate of density of trees (in each dbh class) within a pixel.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Percent live trees per pixel

Creation Method: To determine the cutoff for large trees, we developed an allometric equation to predict tree diameter as a function of height. We selected data for plots located in the Northern California region from the USDA Forest Inventory and Analysis program (FIA) for California (FIA DataMart 2023; California 2022 database; ver. 9.0.1).

We included trees that met the following criteria: alive; crown class code of open-grown, dominant, or co-dominant; diameter at breast height (DBH, breast height = 4.5 ft) at least 1 inch; and height (HT) at least 5 feet. To minimize the impact of outliers, we trimmed the maximum tree height to the 0.995th percentile. These selection criteria yielded 71,412 trees. We used an information theoretic approach to select the best allometric model (Burnham and Anderson 2002). We evaluated three alternative functions: linear, power, and saturating. The criteria for model selection were based on the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC). For this set of 3 potential models, we calculated the difference in AIC between every model and the model with the lowest AIC (ΔAIC).

The best allometric model was a power function ($\Delta AIC = 58.7$) where:

$$DBH (in) = 0.2071 * HT(ft)^{1.0296}$$

The root mean square error on the DBH prediction was 5.8 in and the pseudoR² = 0.75. Predicted diameters from heights are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Predicted diameter as a function of height for the Northern California Region based on FIA data.	
Diameter (in)	Height (ft)
1	5
6	26
11	47
24	101
30	126
40	166

The Aggregate Tool (ArcGISPro) was run on California Forest Observatory (CFO) 10 meter [canopy height](#) pixels for the following ranges to create three rasters. Aggregate resamples a raster to a coarser resolution (10m to 30m in this case) based on the sum of cells per neighborhood.

- 24in - 30in
- 30in - 40in
- greater than 40in

If NoData values existed for any of the cells that fell within a larger cell on the output raster, the NoData values were ignored when determining the value for output cell locations. This method assigned the number of pixels per 30m (900m²) cell. Resultant values of 1 through 9 were converted to percent. All background values were calculated to equal 0, meaning 0% large tree existence.

References

Burnham, K.P., and D.R. Anderson. 2002. Model selection and multimodel inference: a practical information-theoretic approach. 2nd ed. New York, Springer-Verlag.

FIA DataMart. 2023. USDA Forest Inventory and Analysis DataMart.

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/3641cea45d614ab88791aef54f3a1849/>

Data Source: California Forest Observatory (Salo Sciences), 2020

File Name: LargeTreeDensity_24in_30in_202006.tif; LargeTreeDensity_30in_40in_202006.tif; LargeTreeDensity_gt40in_202006.tif

CANOPY LAYER COUNT

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 06/2020

Metric Definition and Relevance:

This layer represents the number of distinct vertical canopy layers of trees. Vertical layer count is a proxy for leaf area index, and maps canopy complexity. Since LANDFIRE doesn't support a NoData value, all NoData pixels in canopy fuel metrics were set to 0 in the Landscape files. (e.g., canopy cover was set to 0 in all NoData locations). Topographic data and surface fuel model remain unaltered.

Data Resolution: 10m Raster

Data Units: Count

Creation Method: Each forest structure metric was derived directly from airborne lidar data, hosted by the USGS 3D Elevation Program. However, these data are only available for a small fraction of California's 423,970 km² area. To overcome this, we trained deep learning models—a form of pattern recognition—to identify these forest structure patterns in satellite imagery, then mapped each metric statewide.

These algorithms are of the U-net family of neural network architectures that perform pixel-wise regression and classification tasks. The satellite data includes imagery from Sentinel-1 C-band radar sensors and Sentinel-2 multispectral sensors at 10 m spatial resolution, collected in Fall 2019. Future versions will include imagery from PlanetScope multispectral sensors at 3 m resolution.

Downloaded from [California Forest Observatory - Organizations - WIFIRE Commons Data Catalog \(sdsc.edu\)](https://forestobservatory.com/about.html#about). For more information, go to <https://forestobservatory.com/about.html#about>

Data Source: California Forest Observatory (Salo Sciences), 2020

File Name: CFO_CanopyLayerCount2020Summer.tif

CANOPY VEG HEIGHT

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 06/2020

Metric Definition and Relevance: This layer represents distance between the ground and the top of the canopy. Canopy height is a proxy for aboveground biomass and the amount of foliage that may be consumed in a canopy fire. Since LANDFIRE doesn't support a NoData value, all NoData pixels in canopy fuel metrics were set to 0 in the Landscape files. (e.g., canopy cover was set to 0 in all NoData locations). Topographic data and surface fuel model remain unaltered.

Data Resolution: 10m Raster

Data Units: meters, min 0 - max 80; each pixel value represents the average height above ground for vegetation within that pixel

Creation Method: Each forest structure metric was derived directly from airborne lidar data, hosted by the USGS 3D Elevation Program. However, these data are only available for a small fraction of California's 423,970 km² area. To overcome this, we trained deep learning models—a form of pattern recognition—to identify these forest structure patterns in satellite imagery, then mapped each metric statewide.

These algorithms are of the U-net family of neural network architectures that perform pixel-wise regression and classification tasks. The satellite data includes imagery from Sentinel-1 C-band radar sensors and Sentinel-2 multispectral sensors at 10 m spatial resolution, collected in Fall 2019. Future versions will include imagery from PlanetScope multispectral sensors at 3 m resolution.

Downloaded from [California Forest Observatory - Organizations - WIFIRE Commons Data Catalog \(sdsc.edu\)](https://forestobservatory.com/about.html#about). For more information, go to <https://forestobservatory.com/about.html#about>

Data Source: California Forest Observatory (Salo Sciences), 2020

File Name: CFO_CanopyHeight2020Summer.tif

CANOPY VEG COVER

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 06/2020

Metric Definition and Relevance: This layer represents horizontal cover fraction occupied by tree canopies. Maps community type & fire regime, as well as available habitat for tree-dwelling species.

Data Resolution: 10m Raster

Data Units: Canopy cover is a 0-100% cover fraction and may be more precisely described as "canopy density." It calculates the proportion of all lidar returns ≥ 5 m divided by the total number of returns in that grid cell. This, therefore, does not include all vegetation, but instead describes the density of vegetation in the canopy vertical stratum (veg 5m and taller).

Creation Method: Each forest structure metric was derived directly from airborne lidar data, hosted by the USGS 3D Elevation Program. However, these data are only available for a small fraction of California's 423,970 km² area. To overcome this, we trained deep learning models—a form of pattern recognition—to identify these forest structure patterns in satellite imagery, then mapped each metric statewide.

These algorithms are of the U-net family of neural network architectures that perform pixel-wise regression and classification tasks. The satellite data includes imagery from Sentinel-1 C-band radar sensors and Sentinel-2

multispectral sensors at 10 m spatial resolution, collected in Fall 2019. Future versions will include imagery from PlanetScope multispectral sensors at 3 m resolution.

Downloaded from [California Forest Observatory - Organizations - WIFIRE Commons Data Catalog \(sdsc.edu\)](https://forestobservatory.com/about.html#about). For more information, go to <https://forestobservatory.com/about.html#about>

Data Source: California Forest Observatory (Salo Sciences), 2020

File Name: CFO_CanopyCover2020Summer.tif

URBAN TREE CANOPY COVER

Tier: 3

Data Vintage: 06/2018

Metric Definition and Relevance: This 1m raster layer represents tree canopy cover for the 2010 Census Bureau urban areas for the Northern California RRK region.

Data Resolution: 1m Raster

Data Units: Binary, 1 = tree canopy cover

Creation Method: The tree canopy datasets were processed by Earth Define LLC using a deep convolution neural network-based architecture called SegNet (<https://arxiv.org/abs/1511.00561>). This is an upgrade to the CART (classification and regression trees) based architecture that we previously used for the 2012 tree canopy classification. The deep convolution neural networks (DCNN) based architecture is significantly more robust at handling the radiometric and seasonal variation in the source imagery to provide a more consistent and accurate classification across California.

The tree canopy dataset for California was clipped to the RRK Northern California boundary and kept in ESRI File Geodatabase format. To download original datasets, statewide or by census urban area, go to

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/communityforests/?cid=fseprd647385>

Data Source:

CALFIRE Fire and Resource Assessment Program | CAL FIRE

Earth Define LLC, EarthDefine | Geospatial Data and Services

California National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) 2018 orthoimagery

Light Detection and Ranging (Lidar)

File Name: urbancanopy_2018.gdb

COMPOSITION

The composition of a forest is a reference to the biodiversity of the landscape; this includes a diversity of vegetation species, types (e.g., trees, shrubs, forbs, etc.), and distribution. Tree species composition affects many aspects of forest dynamics and function. A diversity of tree and shrub species can confer greater resilience to climate change and beetle outbreaks. The vegetation composition also affects fire dynamics, water reliability,

carbon pools and sequestration, and economic diversity pillars. Since European settlement and the adoption of fire suppression and logging, forests of the Central California Region shifted to increased dominance of shade-tolerant and fire-intolerant species like white fir and red fir, incense cedar, Douglas fir, and tanoak. Other species like ponderosa pine, Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, and black oak, which are more shade-intolerant and fire-tolerant, declined in coverage. With increasingly larger and higher-severity fires occurring, forest-cover loss may be significant and shrub cover will increase.

TREE COVER

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 12/2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: Total tree cover as measured by the fractional non-overlapping absolute tree cover, viewed vertically. Provides a first order measure of vegetation type when combined with parallel observations of shrub and herbaceous cover. Data from the National Land Cover Database (NLCD) are used for training, and NLCD definitions for cover (for example, the distinction between tree vs shrub) are expected to be similar in the CECS data sets.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Fractional non-overlapping absolute cover; continuous variable from 0 to 1.

Creation Method: Machine learning (Random Forest) using the National Land Cover Database for training and Landsat observations as predictors. See <https://doi.org/10.1029/2021AV000654> for further information.

Data Source: CECS; <https://california-ecosystem-climate.solutions/>

File Name: VegCover_Tree_2021.tif

SHRUB COVER

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 12/2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: Total shrub cover as measured by the fractional non-overlapping absolute shrub cover, viewed vertically. Provides a first order measure of vegetation type when combined with parallel observations of tree and herbaceous cover. Data from the National Land Cover Database (NLCD) are used for training, and NLCD definitions for cover (for example, the distinction between tree vs shrub) are expected to be similar in the CECS data sets.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Fractional non-overlapping absolute cover; continuous variable from 0 to 1.

Creation Method: Machine learning (Random Forest) using the National Land Cover Database for training and Landsat observations as predictors. See <https://doi.org/10.1029/2021AV000654> for further information.

Data Source: CECS; <https://california-ecosystem-climate.solutions/>

File Name: VegCover_Shrub_2021.tif

HERBACEOUS COVER

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 12/2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: Total herbaceous cover as measured by the fractional non-overlapping absolute herbaceous cover, viewed vertically. Provides a first order measure of vegetation type when combined with parallel observations of tree and herbaceous cover. Data from the National Land Cover Database (NLCD) are used for training, and NLCD definitions for cover (for example, the distinction between tree vs shrub) are expected to be similar in the CECS data sets.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Fractional non-overlapping absolute cover; continuous variable from 0 to 1.

Creation Method: Machine learning (Random Forest) using the National Land Cover Database for training and Landsat observations as predictors. See <https://doi.org/10.1029/2021AV000654> for further information.

Data Source: CECS; <https://california-ecosystem-climate.solutions/>

File Name: VegCover_Herb_2021.tif

SERAL STAGE

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 04/2023

Metric Definition and Relevance: The seral stages are categories that represent the developmental progression of forest ecosystems from initial establishment or following a stand replacing event (e.g., high severity fire) to a forest dominated by trees in the upper age classes for a given forest type. Late seral forests are also often characterized by multiple ages of forest trees and dead and dying trees in some form of equilibrium. Seral conditions across landscapes were highly variable prior to major European settlement in the western US. These patterns were highly attuned to dominant disturbance regimes and the multi-scaled variability in environmental conditions across topographic and climatic gradients. These patterns helped to reinforce fire regimes dominated by low- to moderate-severity fire across much of the region and provided for multiple habitat requirements for a wide variety of species.

This metric contains three related data layers. The first is an assignment to each 30 meter pixel of the seral stage it is currently in, either early, mid, or late seral stage. The other two layers represent the proportion of a HUC 12 watershed that is in 1) early seral stage or 2) late seral stage.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster, HUC 12 watersheds

Data Units: Categorical 1 - 3 (seral stage), continuous variable 0-1 representing percentage of a HUC (early and late seral stage)

Creation Method: The FVEG data, used in characterizing vegetation and habitat conditions for a number of metrics in this kit, contain data on tree size ([see FVEG discussion above](#)). Seral stages for forested lands are binned into one of three categories of tree size (Early, Mid, Late) and those are defined by tree diameter, per the CWHR system.

Size Class	Size (inches DBH)	Seral Stage
1 - Seedling	less than 1	Early (1)
2 - Sapling	1 – 6	Early (1)
3 - Pole	6 – 11	Mid (2)
4 - Small	11 – 24	Mid (2)
5 - Medium to Large	24+	Late (3)
6 - <u>Multi-storied</u>	36 – 48	Late (3)

Late Seral conditions have been lumped into a single classification (24” and up).

The first layer provided here assigns a early, mid, or late seral value to each cell based on dominant tree size in the canopy. Null or NoData values in this raster represent areas of non-forest. The second and third data layer provided identify the proportion of the HUC12-scale (typically 10,000-30,000 acres in size) that is either early seral forest or late seral forest, respectively. These patterns can be highly variable at finer-scales so we used a HUC 12 watershed as the unit for expressing relative abundance. For each HUC12, the proportion of the watershed covered by the evaluated seral stage has been calculated.

Data Source: FVEG 2023

File Name: SeralStage_EML_202304.tif; early_SeralStage_prop_202304.tif; late_SeralStage_prop_202304.tif

DISTURBANCE

California forests evolved with a suite of frequent disturbances: wildfires (both from lightning and burning by indigenous people), bark beetle-caused mortality, drought-caused mortality, avalanches, landslides, and windthrow, all of which created forest heterogeneity across the landscape. This heterogeneity included variations in surface and ladder fuels, which moderated fire behavior and spread. The variations in stand density and forest opening also served as critical habitats for wildlife. Forested areas are now more homogeneous due to lack of disturbance. The lack of disturbance is evident in the forest structure.

CUMULATIVE TREE COVER LOSS

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 12/2020

Metric Definition and Relevance: The cumulative loss of tree cover over a 30-year period (1992-2020). Tree cover loss reflects fires, harvest/management and dieoff. Only disturbances that are sufficient to trigger the Continuous Change Detection and Classification algorithm are included; low-level, diffuse dieoff is likely missed.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Cumulative fractional non-overlapping absolute tree cover loss, where tree cover is a continuous variable from 0 to 1. Cumulative loss can exceed 1 in cases with multiple disturbances.

Creation Method: Vegetation disturbances were identified over the Landsat TM/ETM+/OLI era using the Continuous Change Detection and Classification algorithm (CCDC). The corresponding annual change in tree cover was determined with machine learning (Random Forest) using the National Land Cover Database for training and Landsat/CCDC observations as predictors; this produced a ~35-year stack of rasters that identified the locations and severity of tree cover loss. This stack was then summed for 1991-2020 to calculate the cumulative tree cover loss over a 30-year period. See <https://doi.org/10.1029/2021AV000654> for further information.

CECS data that reflect landscape changes resulting from disturbances require 6 to 12 months of Landsat observations **after a given year that included major disturbances (such as a high severity wildfire)** to fully quantify that disturbance. CECS data that reflect disturbance, such as this data layer, are therefore available **through water year 2020 (i.e. through September 2020)**.

Data Source: CECS; <https://california-ecosystem-climate.solutions/>

File Name: DistHist_Severe_Tree_19912020.tif

CUMULATIVE SHRUB COVER LOST

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 12/2020

Metric Definition and Relevance: The cumulative loss of shrub cover over a 30-year period (1992-2021). Shrub cover loss reflects fires, harvest/management and dieoff. Only disturbances that are sufficient to trigger the Continuous Change Detection and Classification algorithm are included; low-level, diffuse dieoff is likely missed.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Cumulative fractional non-overlapping absolute shrub cover loss, where shrub cover is a continuous variable from 0 to 1. Cumulative loss can exceed 1 in cases with multiple disturbances.

Creation Method: Vegetation disturbances were identified over the Landsat TM/ETM+/OLI era using the Continuous Change Detection and Classification algorithm (CCDC). The corresponding annual change in shrub cover was determined with machine learning (Random Forest) using the National Land Cover Database for training and Landsat/CCDC observations as predictors; this produced a ~35-year stack of rasters that identified the locations and severity of shrub cover loss. This stack was then summed for 1991-2020 to calculate the cumulative tree cover loss over a 30-year period. See <https://doi.org/10.1029/2021AV000654> for further information.

CECS data that reflect landscape changes resulting from disturbances require 6 to 12 months of Landsat observations **after a given year that included major disturbances (such as a high severity wildfire)** to fully quantify that disturbance. CECS data that reflect disturbance, such as this data layer, are therefore available **through water year 2020 (i.e. through September 2020)**.

Data Source: CECS; <https://california-ecosystem-climate.solutions/>

File Name: DistHist_Severe_Shrub_19912020.tif

RISK OF TREE DIEOFF DURING DROUGHT

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 12/2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: A quantitative continuous variable that reflects the risk of tree dieoff during a significant drought period (SPI48 drought = -2).

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: This is a dimensionless index that ranges from 0 to ~20000. Low values indicate minimal or no risk of tree dieoff during drought, either or both because there are few trees in the pixel and/or there is ample local moisture even during periods of extreme precipitation shortfall. High values indicate significant risk of tree dieoff during drought, as a result of both a high density of trees at the site and likelihood of extreme local moisture shortfall.

Creation Method: Calculated by combining information on the local moisture balance and tree density. Local moisture balance was calculated as the ratio of Annual Evapotranspiration with the canopy observed in 2021 to Precipitation during a SPI 48 drought = -2 based on local P observations during 1991-2020. This ratio quantifies the local moisture deficit/surplus that would be expected during a 48-month period with precipitation that is 2 standard deviations below the local 30 year Normal. Tree cover was determined from Landsat. See <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41561-019-0388-5> for further information.

Data Source: CECS; <https://california-ecosystem-climate.solutions/>

File Name: Vulner_TreeDieoff_SPI-2_2021.tif

POTENTIAL CLIMATE REFUGIA -BASELINE (HISTORICAL) CONDITIONS

Tier: 3

Data Vintage: 1981 - 2010

Metric Definition and Relevance: This raster dataset represents habitat types (natural vegetation communities) and their distribution across the array of climate conditions that each separate habitat type is found in under the baseline climate conditions. A 2015 map of the state's natural vegetation compiled from multiple sources was classified to the National Vegetation Classification Standard's mid-level classification, called "Macrogroup". Thirty one natural vegetation macrogroups are identified in the map, covering 99.87% of the state's natural terrestrial vegetation, and occupying 353,271 km².

This serves as the foundation from which habitat types will be exposed to predicted changes in climate. Data are arrayed across 0 to 1 in terms of their exposure to current climate conditions. This data layer provides a baseline of vegetation adapted to "historic" conditions; i.e. climate conditions from the recent past; 1981-2010.

Data Resolution: 270m Raster

Data Units: 0- 1. Low values indicate higher resilience to threats. High values indicate significant exposure to climate change. -1 represents 'non analog' areas, i.e. locations that are outside the historic climate envelope of a given vegetation type.

Creation Method: The vegetation climate exposure analysis takes advantage of the 2015 vegetation map compiled for California by CALFIRE. Each Macrogroup (MG) was analyzed to determine which California habitats and associated dominant plant species make up its definition. California habitats are defined by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) through their California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (WHR) models⁹. WHR types are made up of plant species, such as the dominant trees, shrubs, and smaller plants. CDFW experts determined which WHR types correspond to each individual macrogroup; this cross-walk was used to develop a list of the dominant plant species that comprise each macrogroup.

The climate space occupied by each distinct vegetation macrogroup (largely equivalent to a CWHR habitat type) from the current time period was identified. This was done by using the points for each type and applying a kernel density estimator on a 2-d surface composed of the first two principal components of the climate conditions. The result is a smoothed continuous point density surface, showing the prevalence of each vegetation type across the range of sampled climatic conditions. This surface was partitioned by fitting contour lines so that they enclose a proportion of the original points from the current time period. Contours were calculated at 5% increments. For example the innermost 5% contour line encloses the 5% of pixels for the given vegetation type which are at the core of the climate space for that type, as determined by its density in the climate space. Cells further away from the dense central core, are considered to be more marginal in the vegetation type's distribution. The outer contours are fit to enclose the 95-99% of climatically marginal points, with the last 1% of cells (beyond the 99% contour) being the most marginal. In addition, if a cell lies outside the space defined by the 99% contour of any vegetation type, it is considered to be "non-analog," which means that it experiences climatic conditions outside of the conditions where we have a good sample in the initial time period. Excluded from this assessment are non-vegetated types such as snow, open water, and ice; and non-natural landcover types mapped as vineyards, tilled earth, orchards and Urban.

For more information on methods for the development of these climate refugia data see:

Thorne et al. 2015

Thorne et al. 2016

Thorne et al. 2017

Thorne et al. 2020

Data Source: Information Center for the Environment, UC Davis

File Name: hst8110.tif

POTENTIAL CLIMATE REFUGIA - UNDER MODELED CLIMATE CHANGE (MIROC MODEL - HOTTER AND DRIER)

Tier: 3

Data Vintage: 2016

Metric Definition and Relevance: This raster dataset represents habitat types (CWHR habitat classes) and their predicted exposure to climate stress across the array of predicted climate conditions (separate layers for early (2010 - 2039), mid (2040-2069), and late century (2070-2099)) for all habitat types in comparison to the baseline climate conditions. This serves as the foundation from which habitat types will be exposed to predicted changes in climate. Data are arrayed across 0 to 1 in terms of their exposure to current climate conditions. These three data layers can be used to help land managers allocate limited resources for climate-adaptive field work by providing a view of climate risk that varies across the lands they manage.

The Climate Change Model used in this analysis is the Miroc Earth System Model. This ESM, named "MIROC-ESM", is based on a global climate model MIROC (Model for Interdisciplinary Research on Climate) which has been cooperatively developed by researchers in Japan and others. This model suggests a hotter and drier future. The emission scenario used is the RCP 8.5, which represents a range of warming statewide from 1.99 to 4.56°C and between a 24.8% decrease in precipitation and a 22.9% increase, respectively.

Data Resolution: 270m Raster

Data Units: 0- 1. Low values indicate higher resilience to threats. High values indicate significant exposure to climate change. -1 represents 'non analog' areas, i.e. locations that are outside the historic climate envelope of a given vegetation type.

Creation Method: The vegetation climate exposure analysis takes advantage of the 2015 vegetation map compiled for California, which is described above. The vegetation climate exposure model is implemented in the R programming language, and takes the vegetation and climate raster files as the primary input data. The values of the climate raster files were randomly sampled at 100,000 points on the landscape, which were used to fit a statistical model characterizing the relationship between the variables both in the current time and for the modeled future data.

At each of these 100,000 points, 9 hydro-climatic variables were sampled to characterize the range and variation of conditions in the study region. These variables were: annual mean minimum temperature (Tmin), annual mean maximum temperature (Tmax), annual precipitation (PPT), actual evapotranspiration (AET), potential evapotranspiration (PET), climatic water deficit (CWD), snowpack depth on April 1st, runoff, and recharge. The variation between these variables was modeled using a principal component analysis²¹ (PCA) to identify the dominant components of variation. The top-two principal components axes, representing about 79% of the variability across the four climate projections, were extracted as a two-dimensional space, and are portrayed as the axes for the PCA plots shown in each macrogroup chapter below. This was done to simplify the representation of the climate space, while maintaining the most important information on the variables to be associated with the observed vegetation distributions.

The climate space occupied by each distinct macrogroup from the current time period was identified. This was done by using the points for each type and applying a kernel density estimator on a 2-d surface composed of the first two principal components of the climate conditions. The result is a smoothed continuous point density surface, showing the prevalence of each vegetation type across the range of sampled climatic conditions. This surface was partitioned by fitting contour lines so that they enclose a proportion of the original points from the current time period. Contours were calculated at 5% increments. For example the innermost 5% contour line encloses the 5% of pixels for the given vegetation type which are at the core of the climate space for that type, as determined by its density in the climate space. Cells further away from the dense central core, are considered to be more marginal in the vegetation type's distribution. The outer contours are fit to enclose the 95-99% of climatically marginal points, with the last 1% of cells (beyond the 99% contour) being the most marginal. In addition, if a cell lies outside the space defined by the 99% contour of any vegetation type, it is considered to be "non-analog," which means that it experiences climatic conditions outside of the conditions where we have a good sample in the initial time period. As a result, the status of that point is uncertain. There are occasionally a few extreme points which appear to be far outside the general distribution for the type. These may be due to misclassified vegetation types in the source data, microclimatic conditions not captured by the climate data, historic anomalies in long-lived species, etc.

Climate exposure is the level of climate change expected in the areas where each macrogroup is dominating. This report uses the term "vegetation climate exposure analysis" to describe the following analysis which was conducted on each macrogroup. The vegetation climate exposure analysis is calculated using the mapped extent of each macrogroup. Every grid cell of each macrogroup was ranked as to its level of exposure, relative to the entire area of that macrogroup. This was done for the current time, and used to define the common climate found for each macrogroup. Once each type's "climate envelope" was defined, we then assessed how much every grid cell changed under various future climate projections. This allowed a measure of the vegetation stress, or climate

exposure. The area extent of each macrogroup that will be lost from the most commonly occurring climate conditions ($\leq 80\%$) and the area that will fall into current marginal, or stressed, climate conditions ($> 95\%$) or outside the current climate conditions was calculated. This approach is particularly useful for resource managers, who often are constrained to work in specified areas, and need estimates of what areas within their jurisdiction are likely to be highly stressed, and what areas are likely to be less stressed, in effect climate refuge areas.

To consider how refugial conditions from a range of stressors can inform conservation planning and management, the authors integrated metrics of refugial capacity across different domains, which are defined as social, ecological, or physical drivers, processes, or cycles that influence landscape structure, function, or composition. To persist in the California landscape, species and ecosystems may need refugia from shifting climatic conditions, including extremely hot summers and prolonged droughts, but non-climate stressors can also affect conservation outcomes. In this landscape, changes in fire frequency can be a significant stressor affecting plant community structure and persistence. Anthropogenic features that modify hydrologic flows alter the ability of watersheds to sustain functional habitats. And finally, protected areas are often designed to mitigate the impacts of anthropogenic activities; however, recreational activities may alter the refugial capacity of the protected land, affecting the ability of the landscape to sustain species and their habitats. We combined these individual metrics to assess landscape level refugial capacity.

Sites with high refugial capacity (super-refugia sites) have, on average, 30% fewer extremely warm summers, 20% fewer fire events, 10% less exposure to altered river channels and riparian areas, and 50% fewer recreational trails than the surrounding landscape. Our results suggest that super-refugia sites ($\sim 8,200 \text{ km}^2$) for some natural communities are underrepresented in the existing protected area network, a finding that can inform efforts to expand protected areas.

For more information on methods for the development of these climate refugia data see:

Thorne et al. 2015

Thorne et al. 2016

Thorne et al. 2017

Thorne et al. 2020

Data Source: Information Center for the Environment, UC Davis

File Name: miroc_85_1039.tif; miroc_85_4069.tif; miroc_85_7099.tif

POTENTIAL CLIMATE REFUGIA - COMBINED MODELED CLIMATE CHANGE (MIROC MODEL - (HOTTER AND DRIER) AND CNRM-CM5 (WETTER AND WARMER)

Tier: 3

Data Vintage: 2016

Metric Definition and Relevance: This raster dataset represents habitat types (Macro Veg Type, largely equivalent to CWHR habitat classes) and their predicted exposure to climate stress across the array of predicted climate conditions (separate layers for early (2010 - 2039), mid (2040-2069), and late century (2070-2099)) for all habitat types in comparison to the baseline climate conditions. This serves as the foundation from which habitat types will be exposed to predicted changes in climate. Data are arrayed across 0 to 1 in terms of their exposure to current

climate conditions. These three data layers can be used to help land managers allocate limited resources for climate-adaptive field work by providing a view of climate risk that varies across the lands they manage.

This analysis uses both the Miroc Earth System Model and the CNRM-CM5. CNRM-CM5 is an Earth system model designed to run climate simulations. It consists of several existing models designed independently and coupled through the [OASIS](#) software. Both were used under the RCP 8.5 emission scenario given that this is more likely under current emission levels.

This data layer is provided as a summary of likely exposure results. **Exposure Scores:**

- 1 = Refugia: CNRM-CM5 only (CNRM exposure values < 80%)
- 2 = Refugia: MIROC-ESM only (MIROC exposure values < 80%)
- 3 = Refugia Consensus (both models agree exposure values < 80%)
- **8 = High Exposure (both models agree exposure values >95%)**
- **9 = Very High Exposure (both models agree exposure values >99%)**

Data Resolution: 270m Raster

Data Units: 0, 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 Low values indicate higher resilience to threats. High values indicate significant exposure to climate change. -1 represents 'non analog' areas, i.e. locations that are outside the historic climate envelope of a given vegetation type.

Creation Method: Each dominant species is scored for its sensitivity to, and ability to adapt (adaptive capacity) to climate change. Sensitivity refers to the degree to which changes in climate are thought to directly impact different species. Adaptive capacity refers to estimates of the degree to which different species can use their life history characteristics to moderate impacts from changing climate. These two sets of scores represent the biological attributes of the dominant species in each macrogroup. We scored each of the dominant species comprising each macrogroup, according to life history characteristics defined in attribute tables of the California Manual of Vegetation, and supplemented by information found in the USDA plants database and the Jepson Interchange, a web portal for California plant taxonomy. The scores were combined to generate a single sensitivity and adaptive capacity (S&A) score.

Climate exposure is the level of climate change expected in the areas where each macrogroup is dominating. This report uses the term "vegetation climate exposure analysis" to describe the following analysis which was conducted on each macrogroup. The vegetation climate exposure analysis is calculated using the mapped extent of each macrogroup. Every grid cell of each macrogroup was ranked as to its level of exposure, relative to the entire area of that macrogroup. This was done for the current time, and used to define the common climate found for each macrogroup. Once each type's "climate envelope" was defined, we then assessed how much every grid cell changed under various future climate projections. This allowed a measure of the vegetation stress, or climate exposure. The area extent of each macrogroup that will be lost from the most commonly occurring climate conditions ($\leq 80\%$) and the area that will fall into current marginal, or stressed, climate conditions ($>95\%$) or outside the current climate conditions was calculated. This approach is particularly useful for resource managers, who often are constrained to work in specified areas, and need estimates of what areas within their jurisdiction are likely to be highly stressed, and what areas are likely to be less stressed, in effect climate refuge areas.

To consider how refugial conditions from a range of stressors can inform conservation planning and management, the authors integrated metrics of refugial capacity across different domains, which are defined as social, ecological, or physical drivers, processes, or cycles that influence landscape structure, function, or composition. To persist in the California landscape, species and ecosystems may need refugia from shifting climatic conditions, including extremely hot summers and prolonged droughts, but non-climate stressors can also affect conservation

outcomes. In this landscape, changes in fire frequency can be a significant stressor affecting plant community structure and persistence. Anthropogenic features that modify hydrologic flows alter the ability of watersheds to sustain functional habitats. And finally, protected areas are often designed to mitigate the impacts of anthropogenic activities; however, recreational activities may alter the refugial capacity of the protected land, affecting the ability of the landscape to sustain species and their habitats. We combined these individual metrics to assess landscape level refugial capacity.

Sites with high refugial capacity (super-refugia sites) have, on average, 30% fewer extremely warm summers, 20% fewer fire events, 10% less exposure to altered river channels and riparian areas, and 50% fewer recreational trails than the surrounding landscape. Our results suggest that super-refugia sites (~8,200 km²) for some natural communities are underrepresented in the existing protected area network, a finding that can inform efforts to expand protected areas.

For more information on methods for the development of these climate refugia data see:

Thorne et al. 2015

Thorne et al. 2016

Thorne et al. 2017

Thorne et al. 2020

Data Source: Information Center for the Environment, UC Davis

File Name: combine85_all7.tif

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The California landscape provides habitat for over 300 species of native vertebrates and thousands of invertebrate species and plants. Management activities over the last century have impacted most species to varying degrees and some have declined significantly in recent decades. Protecting and enhancing native biodiversity has become a management imperative under both federal and state laws and policy. Native plants and animals provide a wide array of benefits to forests and other habitats in California; they help forests recover after a fire, control flooding and soil erosion, cycle nutrients, and are valued by people recreating in forests. Greater species diversity promotes adaptability and helps ecosystems withstand and recover from disturbance, including those caused by climate change. The Biodiversity Conservation pillar focuses on species diversity, critical habitat for focal species and non-native species distribution.

Habitat data to model the likelihood of species presence or absence was derived from the [FVEG WHR data layer](#).

DESIRED OUTCOME: The network of native species and ecological communities is sufficiently abundant and distributed across the landscape to support and sustain their full suite of ecological and cultural roles.

SPECIES DIVERSITY

Species diversity is a function of both the number of different species in the community and their relative abundances. Larger numbers of species and more even abundances of species lead to higher species diversity. Species diversity can be calculated in a variety of ways to represent the type and magnitude of differences among species, their number, and their abundance.

WILDLIFE SPECIES RICHNESS

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 04/2023

Metric Definition and Relevance: Native species richness is estimated based on high suitability reproductive habitat for a given species. Reproductive habitat is used to represent suitability because it is critical for species persistence and for most native species it has the most limited requirements. If a habitat is identified as high for a given species, it is considered suitable (1), and habitat identified as moderate, low or not suitable, it is considered unsuitable (0). Species richness values are used as a relative measure of biodiversity value; as such, areas with lower species richness based on these criteria may still have high biodiversity value, but not as high as areas with higher richness values. The number of native species per spatial unit (30m pixel) presented as simply the total number; this can be useful for assessing change in number/composition over space. These values are specific to the Northern California species and footprint for this kit.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Number of species

Creation Method: Generated using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships model developed and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. CWHR habitat values are based on the FVEG vegetation data that has been updated. Species are considered present, and habitats considered suitable for each 30m cell for which the canopy cover-size-vegetation combination have been deemed highly suitable for the reproduction of that species in the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship database.

Data Source:

FVEG 2023

California Department of Fish and Wildlife CWHR version 9.0 (CDFW); 2014

File Name: wildlife_species_richness_202304.tif

THREATENED/ENDANGERED VERTEBRATE SPECIES RICHNESS

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 04/2023

Metric Definition and Relevance: Native species richness is estimated based on high suitability reproductive habitat for a given species. Reproductive habitat is used to represent suitability because it is critical for species persistence and for most native species it has the most limited requirements. If a habitat is identified as high for a given species, it is considered suitable (1), and habitat identified as moderate, low or not suitable, it is considered unsuitable (0). Species richness values are used as a relative measure of biodiversity value; as such, areas with

lower species richness based on these criteria may still have high biodiversity value, but not as high as areas with higher richness values. The total number of federally threatened/endangered native species per spatial unit (30m pixel) can be useful for assessing change in number/composition over space. These values are specific to the Northern California species and footprint for this kit.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Number of species

Creation Method: Generated using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships model developed and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. CWHR habitat values are based on the FVEG vegetation data that has been updated. Species are considered present, and habitats considered suitable for each 30m cell for which the canopy cover-size-vegetation combination have been deemed highly suitable for the reproduction of that species in the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship database.

Only species classified in the CWHR database as federally endangered, federally threatened, California endangered, or California threatened have been included in the species richness count for this layer.

Data Source:

FVEG 2023

California Department of Fish and Wildlife CWHR version 9.0 (CDFW); 2014

File Name: t_e_species_richness_202304.tif

FOREST RAPTORS SPECIES RICHNESS

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 2023

Metric Definition and Relevance: Native species richness is estimated based on high suitability reproductive habitat for a given species. Reproductive habitat is used to represent suitability because it is critical for species persistence and for most native species it has the most limited requirements. If a habitat is identified as high for a given species, it is considered suitable (1), and habitat identified as moderate, low or not suitable, it is considered unsuitable (0). Species richness values are used as a relative measure of biodiversity value; as such, areas with lower species richness based on these criteria may still have high biodiversity value, but not as high as areas with higher richness values. The total number of federally threatened/endangered native species per spatial unit (30m pixel) can be useful for assessing change in number/composition over space.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Number of species

Creation Method: Generated using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships model developed and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. CWHR habitat values are based on the FVEG vegetation data that has been updated. Species are considered present, and habitats considered suitable for each 30m cell for which the canopy cover-size-vegetation combination have been deemed highly suitable for the reproduction of that species in the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship database.

Only raptor species that are associated with forest habitats have been included in the species richness count for this layer. The raptors included in this layer are Bald Eagle, California Spotted Owl, Cooper'S Hawk, Great-Horned Owl, Merlin, Northern Goshawk, Northern Spotted Owl, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Red-Shouldered Hawk, RedTailed Hawk, Screech Owl and Sharp-Shinned Hawk.

Data Source:

FVEG 2023

California Department of Fish and Wildlife CWHR version 9.0 (CDFW); 2014

File Name: forest_species_richness_202304.tif

OPEN HABITAT RAPTORS SPECIES RICHNESS**Tier:** 2**Data Vintage:** 2023

Metric Definition and Relevance: Native species richness is estimated based on high suitability reproductive habitat for a given species. Reproductive habitat is used to represent suitability because it is critical for species persistence and for most native species it has the most limited requirements. If a habitat is identified as high for a given species, it is considered suitable (1), and habitat identified as moderate, low or not suitable, it is considered unsuitable (0). Species richness values are used as a relative measure of biodiversity value; as such, areas with lower species richness based on these criteria may still have high biodiversity value, but not as high as areas with higher richness values. The total number of federally threatened/endangered native species per spatial unit (30m pixel) can be useful for assessing change in number/composition over space.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster**Data Units:** Number of species

Creation Method: Generated using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships model developed and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. CWHR habitat values are based on the FVEG vegetation data that has been updated. Species are considered present, and habitats considered suitable for each 30m cell for which the canopy cover-size-vegetation combination have been deemed highly suitable for the reproduction of that species in the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship database.

Only raptor species that are associated with open habitats have been included in the species richness count for this layer. The raptors included in this layer are American Kestrel, Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Long-Eared Owl, Northern Harrier, Prairie Falcon, Rough-Legged Hawk, Short-Eared Owl, Swainson'S Hawk, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, California Condor and Great Grey Owl.

Data Source:

FVEG 2023

California Department of Fish and Wildlife CWHR version 9.0 (CDFW); 2014

File Name: open_species_richness_202304.tif

HUMMINGBIRDS SPECIES RICHNESS**Tier:** 2**Data Vintage:** 2023

Metric Definition and Relevance: Native species richness is estimated based on high suitability reproductive habitat for a given species. Reproductive habitat is used to represent suitability because it is critical for species

persistence and for most native species it has the most limited requirements. If a habitat is identified as high for a given species, it is considered suitable (1), and habitat identified as moderate, low or not suitable, it is considered unsuitable (0). Species richness values are used as a relative measure of biodiversity value; as such, areas with lower species richness based on these criteria may still have high biodiversity value, but not as high as areas with higher richness values. The total number of federally threatened/endangered native species per spatial unit (30m pixel) can be useful for assessing change in number/composition over space.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Number of species

Creation Method: Generated using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships model developed and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. CWHR habitat values are based on the FVEG vegetation data that has been updated. Species are considered present, and habitats considered suitable for each 30m cell for which the canopy cover-size-vegetation combination have been deemed highly suitable for the reproduction of that species in the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship database.

Only hummingbird species have been included in the species richness count for this layer.

Data Source:

FVEG 2023

California Department of Fish and Wildlife CWHR version 9.0 (CDFW); 2014

File Name: hummingbirds_species_richness_202304.tif

FOCAL SPECIES

For specified species listed below within the Focal Species element section of the Biodiversity Conservation pillar, the species should be considered as *Species of Interest*. It is important for the readers to understand, the species included are not an exhaustive list; some may be an Endangered Species Act (ESA) species, or considered Sensitive Species as they pertain to forest planning. Others may simply be of interest to the land managers of this region. These species are identified based on their sensitivity to impacts from restoration thinning, prescribed fire, and wildfire. Seven wildlife species and four salmonid species are included at this time. More can be added later, as needed.

CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 06/2001

Metric Definition and Relevance: This dataset represents a species habitat distribution map for California Red-legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*) within the conterminous United States (CONUS) based on 2001 ground conditions.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Binary layer, 1 represents current habitat

Creation Method: This Gap Analysis Project (GAP) habitat map is a prediction of the spatial distribution of suitable environmental and land cover conditions within the United States for the species. Mapped areas represent places where the environment is suitable for the species to occur (i.e. suitable to support one or more life history requirements for breeding, resting, or foraging), while areas not included in the map are those predicted to be unsuitable for the species. While the actual distributions of many species are likely to be habitat limited, suitable habitat will not always be occupied because of population dynamics and species interactions. Furthermore, these maps correspond to midscale characterizations of landscapes, but individual animals may deem areas to be unsuitable because of presence or absence of fine-scale features and characteristics that are not represented in our models (e.g. snags, vernal pools, shrubby undergrowth). These maps are intended to be used at a 1:100,000 or smaller map scale.

This habitat map is created using a deductive model to predict areas suitable for occupation within a species range. The deductive habitat models are built by compiling information on the species' habitat associations and entering it into a relational database. Information is compiled from the best available characterizations of the species' habitat, which included species accounts in books and databases, primary peer-reviewed literature. The literature references for each species are included in the "Species Habitat Model Report" and "Machine Readable Habitat Database Parameters" files attached to each habitat map item in the ScienceBase repository. The compiled habitat information is used by a biologist to determine which of the ecological systems and land use classes represented in the National Gap Analysis Project's (GAP) Land Cover Map Ver. 1.0 the species is associated with.

The maps are generated using a python script that queries the model parameters in the database; reclassifies the GAP Land Cover Ver 1.0 and ancillary data layers within the species' range; and combines the reclassified layers to produce the final 30m resolution habitat map. Map output is, therefore, not only a reflection of the ecological systems that are selected in the habitat model, but also any other constraints in the model that are represented by the ancillary data layers.

Credits: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) - Gap Analysis Project (GAP), 2018, California Red-legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*) aCRLFx_CONUS_2001v1 Habitat Map: U.S. Geological Survey data release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/F7T43RCM>.

Data Source: USGS

File Name: california_red_legged_frog_habitat_200106.tif

MOUNTAIN LION SUITABLE HABITAT

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 04/2023

Metric Definition and Relevance: This layer shows highly suitable habitats for the reproduction and feeding of Mountain lion (*Puma concolor*).

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: 0 = not suitable, 0.66 = moderately suitable. 1 = highly suitable.

Creation Method: CWHR classifications are based on a combination of FVEG canopy cover, FVEG size class and vegetation data. The vegetation data includes a variety of tree, shrub, grassland, and water dominated habitats. Species are considered present, and habitats considered suitable for each 30m cell for which the canopy cover-size-vegetation combination have been deemed highly or moderately suitable for the reproduction or feeding of that species in the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship database. Each cell was assigned the maximum suitability value, i.e. if a cell was moderately suitable for feeding and highly suitable for reproduction, it was considered highly suitable.

Data Source:

FVEG 2023

California Department of Fish and Wildlife CWHR version 9.0 (CDFW); 2014

File Name: Mountain_Lion_habitat_suitability_202304.tif

MARbled MURRELET SUITABLE NESTING HABITAT

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 09/2017

Metric Definition and Relevance: This data layer has been developed by an interagency team of scientists from the US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Oregon State University. It was published in “Status and Trend of Nesting Habitat for the Marbled Murrelet Under the Northwest Forest Plan, 1993 to 2017” in 2021. It is part of the work to monitor the effectiveness of the Northwest Forest Plan. The data represent relative habitat suitability of habitat for marbled murrelet range in California for 2017; categorized as lower, moderate, and higher probability of nesting habitat, with probability gradients in each class.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: relative suitability ranging from 0 - 1.0

Creation Method: Using Maxent species distribution models, the authors modeled the amount and distribution of probable nesting habitat in the murrelet’s range in 2017. Probability scores from Maxent provide information on the relative suitability of habitat. While thresholds were necessary in this report for estimating acres of habitat in different categories (e.g., comparing acres in 1993 to 2017), Maxent probability scores provide a complete, probabilistic map of habitat suitability.

Note: Imagery was obtained in late summer (July to September) rather than at the change in the calendar year (December to January). Thus, some 2017 fires were excluded from the analysis, such as the Chetco Bar Fire, which occurred in late summer in 2017.

Within the higher probability nesting habitat, the authors estimated the amount of contiguous habitat (core) versus the amount of habitat bounding core habitat (edge) and habitat scattered in small forest fragments (scatter). The authors considered this “core habitat” as the best habitat. Their models indicate that there were 1.51 million acre of higher probability nesting habitat over all lands in the murrelet’s range in Washington, Oregon, and California 1 year prior to the start of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) in 1993. Of this, 0.14 million acres were identified as core habitat, which are defined as intact patches of higher probability nesting habitat >5.56 acre

in size. The authors estimated a net loss of about 1.4 percent in higher probability nesting habitat across the NWFP area and 1.8 percent in core habitat from 1993 to 2017. Their analysis estimates that in 2017 there were 3,175,539 acres of lower probability nesting habitat, 35,939 acres of moderate probability nesting habitat, and 38,564 of higher probability habitat in California.

The RRK team combined the Low (0.003 - 0.38), Moderate (0.381 - 0.645) and High (0.646 - 1) suitability rasters into one raster. The modeled output covers the entire range of Northern Spotted Owls: Washington, Oregon, and northern California within the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) boundary. For RRK purposes, it has been clipped to the Northern California region.

Data Source: Regional Ecosystem Office (REO) - Northwest Forest Plan <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r6/reo/riec/>

Lorenz, T.J.; Raphael, M.G.; Young, R.D.; Lynch, D.; Nelson, S.K.; McIver, W.R. 2021. Status and trend of nesting habitat for the marbled murrelet under the Northwest Forest Plan, 1993 to 2017. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 64 p.

File Name: MarbledMurreletNestingHabitat_201709.tif

MARBLED MURRELET CRITICAL HABITAT

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 01/2011

Metric Definition and Relevance: This data layer depicts lands designated as critical habitat under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act for the Marbled Murrelet in California. Critical habitat is the specific area within the geographic range of the species, occupied by the species at the time it was listed, that contain the physical or biological features that are essential to the conservation of endangered and threatened species and that may need special management or protection. Critical habitat may also include areas that were not occupied by the species at the time of listing but are essential to its conservation.

Critical habitat designations affect only Federal agency actions or federally funded or permitted activities. Critical habitat designations do not affect activities by private landowners if there is no Federal “nexus”—that is, no Federal funding or authorization. Federal agencies are required to avoid “destruction” or “adverse modification” of designated critical habitat. The ESA requires the designation of “critical habitat” for listed species when “prudent and determinable.”

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Binary, 0/1

Creation Method: Polygon layer from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife BIOS downloaded and converted to raster by RRK team.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) determined that the critical habitat for the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), as designated in 1996 and revised in 2011, meets the statutory definition of critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The current designation includes approximately 3,698,100 acres (1,497,000 hectares) of critical habitat in the States of Washington, Oregon, and California.

Final rule published at [61 FR 26256](#) and effective on June 24, 1996, as revised at [76 FR 61599](#), and effective on November 4, 2011.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service originally proposed to designate critical habitat for the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus marmoratus*) in Washington, Oregon, and California on January 27, 1994 (59 FR 3811). Based on comments received on the original proposal and additional information, the Service published a supplemental proposed designation of critical habitat for the marbled murrelet on August 10, 1995 (60 FR 40892).

The marbled murrelet is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (Act). It is a small seabird of the Alcidae family that forages in the near-shore marine environment and nests in large trees in coniferous forests. Located primarily on Federal land, and to a lesser extent on State, county, city, and private lands, this final critical habitat rule would provide additional protection requirements under section 7 of the Act with regard to activities that are funded, authorized, or carried out by a Federal agency. Section 4 of the Act requires the Service to designate critical habitat for listed species on the basis of the best scientific information available and to consider the economic and other relevant impacts of including particular areas in the designation.

Data Source:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife CWHR version 9.0 (CDFW); 2014
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/BIOS> - Feature class name: ds157

File Name: MarbledMurreletCriticalHabitat_201101.tif

NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL NESTING/ROOSTING FOREST COVER TYPE SUITABILITY INDEX

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 2023

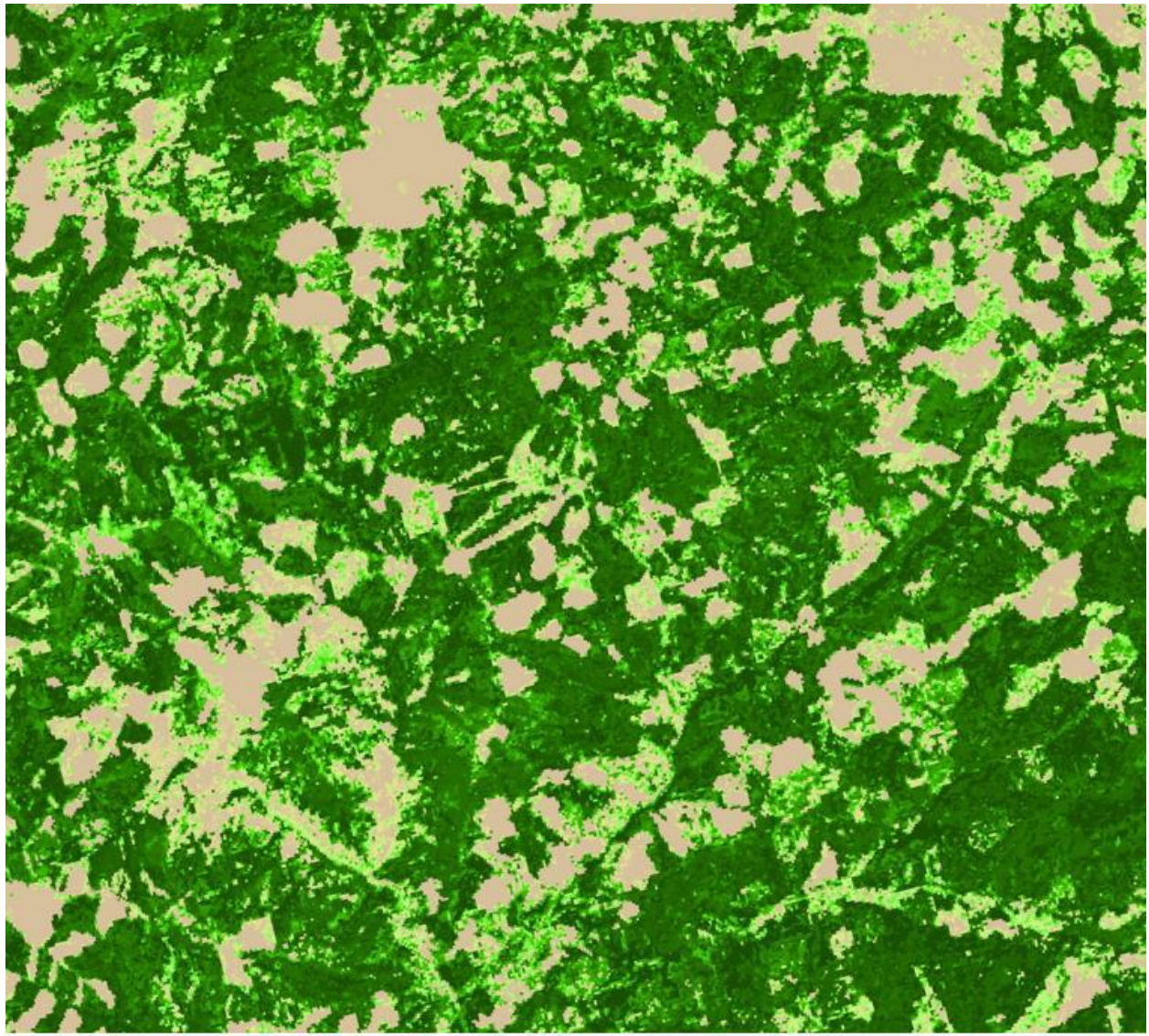
Metric Definition and Relevance: This is a measure, expressed as a relative index (0-1), of suitability (or similarity) of forest structure and composition for Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) nesting/roosting. The data were developed by the Regional Ecosystem Office for the Northwest Forest Plan monitoring program. These data were produced using machine learning software Maxent and trained/tested with nesting/roosting pair locations (1993). As illustrated in the diagram below, an index near zero indicates forest structure/composition dissimilar to where NSO pairs nest/roost. An index nearer to one indicates similar conditions. Raster values are as follows:

- -1 = no data (non-forested)
- 0–10000 = relative suitability index from 0 to 1 (with a x10000 scalar applied). A value of 10,000 would indicate perfect habitat suitability of a pixel. Maximum value found (within the California portion of the range of NSO) is 8,628.

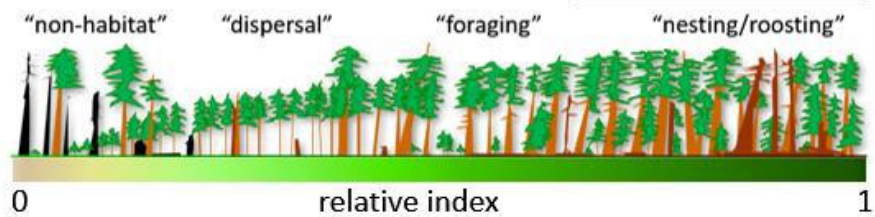
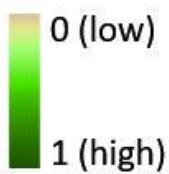
Annual forest vegetation structure and composition maps (30-m pixel resolution) for forest-capable lands from 1986 to 2023 were generated using the gradient nearest neighbor (GNN) imputation modeling and mapping methodology developed by Oregon State University Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society's Landscape Ecology, Modeling, Mapping, and Analysis program (LEMMA 2020). GNN is a multivariate, nonparametric modeling

and mapping framework that inputs forest inventory plot data to individual map pixels based on Landsat surface reflectance and environmental similarity in the gradient space (Ohmann and Gregory 2002). The version of GNN used in this analysis was based on the composite Landsat images produced to map the forest disturbances above, matching plot measurements to Landsat image years (Bell et al. 2021).

Methodological changes, described in detail in the late-successional and old-growth monitoring report (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r6/reo/monitoring/northern-spotted-owl.php>), improved the quality of GNN compared to previous monitoring reports. This included using a consistent type of forest inventory plot for imputations, the ensemble LandTrendr imagery described above, imagery stabilization, and bootstrapped approximations utilizing multiple neighbors ($k = 7$) with weighted means proportional to the probability that a bootstrap sample would result in that plot being the nearest neighbor for a pixel.



0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: 0–10000 = relative suitability index from 0 to 1 (with a x10000 scalar applied). A value of 10,000 would indicate perfect habitat suitability of a pixel. Maximum value found (within the California portion of the range of NSO) is 8,628.

Creation Method: Maps of forest types associated with owl nesting and roosting were produced following methods from previous monitoring reports (Davis et al. 2011, 2016), and that methodology is described briefly below. Open-source machine learning software Maxent (Phillips et al. 2006, 2017, 2021) was used to develop a forest cover type model for each modeling region using 10 bootstrapped random samples. We used 75 percent of NSO locations for model training and 25 percent for model testing. Training locations were analyzed against a random sampling of 10,000 background locations from forest-capable pixels within the modeling region.

The authors used a logistic model output as the relative index of forest suitability for nesting and roosting by NSO pairs. The forest suitability index ranged from 0 to 1.0, where values closer to zero represent forest structure and species composition unsimilar to that found at NSO locations and higher values are more similar.

See Davis et al. 2022 for more details on the methods.

Data Source:

Regional Ecosystem Office (REO) - Northwest Forest Plan

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r6/reo/monitoring/northern-spotted-owl.php>

Bell, D.M.; Acker, S.A.; Gregory, M.J.; Davis, R.J.; Garcia, B.A. 2021. Quantifying regional trends in large live tree and snag availability in support of forest management. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 479: Article 118554. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2020.118554>.

Glenn, E.M., Lesmeister, D.B., Davis, R.J., Hollen, B., Poopatanpong, A. 2017. Estimating density of a territorial species in a dynamic landscape. *Landscape Ecol.* 32:563–579.

Davis, R.J.; Dugger, K.M.; Mohoric, S.; Evers, L.; Aney, W.C. 2011. Northwest Forest Plan—the first 15 years (1994–2008): status and trends of northern spotted owl populations and habitats. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-850. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 147 p. <https://doi.org/10.2737/PNW-GTR-850>.

Davis, R.J.; Hollen, B.; Hobson, J.; Gower, J.E.; Keenum, D. 2016. Northwest Forest Plan—the first 20 years (1994–2013): status and trends of northern spotted owl habitats. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-929. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 54 p. <https://doi.org/10.2737/PNW-GTR-929>.

Davis, Raymond J.; Lesmeister, Damon B.; Yang, Zhiqiang; Hollen, Bruce; Tuerler, Bridgette; Hobson, Jeremy; Guetterman, John; Stratton, Andrew. 2022. Northwest Forest Plan—the first 25 years (1994–2018): status and trends of northern spotted owl habitats. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-1003. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 38 p. <https://doi.org/10.2737/PNW-GTR-1003>.

Phillips, S.J.; Anderson, R.P.; Shapire, R.E. 2006. Maximum entropy modeling of species geographic distributions. *Ecological Modelling*. 190(3–4): 231–259. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolmodel.2005.03.026>.

Phillips, S.J.; Anderson, R.P.; Dudik, M.; Shapire, R.E.; Blair, M.E. 2017. Opening the black box: an open-source release of Maxent. *Ecography*. 40(7): 887–893. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecog.03049>.

Phillips, S.J.; Dudík, M.; Shapire, R.E. 2021. Maxent software for modeling species niches and distributions (Version 3.4.1). http://biodiversityinformatics.amnh.org/open_source/maxent. (31 January 2021).

File Name: NSO_NestRoost_Suitability_2023.tif

NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL HABITAT SUITABILITY INDEX

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 2023

Metric Definition and Relevance: These data are derived using analysis described in Glenn et al. (2017). The authors have developed a landscape-scale model to predict the distribution and density of the (territorial species) northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*). This model results in a rangewide relative habitat suitability estimates, on a pixel by pixel basis, using forest vegetation, topographic, and climate data. The ability to adequately predict territorial species distributions and densities across landscapes and through time is important for implementing effective conservation strategies as well as monitoring the success of those strategies in a spatially extensive and cost-effective manner.

This method and the resulting data have been developed by the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Monitoring Program, a federal interagency monitoring program. The NWFP is governed by the Regional Interagency Executive Committee (RIEC), a consortium of federal land and resource management agencies in the Pacific Northwest, with support from agency personnel appointed to the Senior Managers Group and Regional Ecosystem Office staff.

The Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) Monitoring Program conducts long-term monitoring of NSO populations, forests, and habitat to determine the effectiveness of federal forest management on maintaining and restoring habitat conditions necessary to support viable populations of NSO on federally-administered forests throughout its range. Main objectives are to:

- Track status and trends of NSO populations on federal forests within its geographic range in the United States.
- Track status and trends in the amount and distribution of NSO forest cover types and habitat on federal forests.

Data Resolution: 100m Raster

Data Units: 0–1; an index of habitat suitability

Creation Method: The authors used the program MaxEnt, version 3.3.3k (Phillips et al. 2006) to produce relative habitat suitability models and maps for the six modeling regions (two which include the northern California portion of the range of this subspecies). MaxEnt estimates relative environmental suitability for species presence by using a machine learning process to develop algorithms that model the most uniform distribution (maximum entropy) of averaged environmental conditions at known species locations compared to a large randomly generated sample of available locations from within the modeling region (Phillips et al. 2006; Phillips and Dudik 2008).

Owl presence data for model training and testing was based on thousands of nest or day roost locations from 1993. These data were compiled from standardized survey protocols developed to identify spotted owl territorial sites in forested landscapes. The authors identified 9 environmental predictor variables for inclusion in the model that have demonstrated support for influencing spotted owl habitat selection and site occupancy. Amount and spatial arrangement of nesting/roosting forest cover are known to influence owl space use and fitness, thus four of our variables quantified amount and configuration of nesting/roosting cover at the nest patch (200 m radius) and territory scale (600–1900 m radii). The remaining 5 variables were abiotic: elevation, topographic position, average minimum January temperature, average maximum August temperature, and average annual precipitation.

The modeled output covers the entire range of Northern Spotted Owls: Washington, Oregon, and northern California within the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) boundary. For RRK purposes, it has been clipped to the Northern California region.

See Glenn et al. 2017 for more details on the methods.

Data Source:

Regional Ecosystem Office (REO) - Northwest Forest Plan

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r6/reo/monitoring/northern-spotted-owl.php>

Glenn, E.M., Lesmeister, D.B., Davis, R.J., Hollen, B., Poopatanpong, A. 2017. Estimating density of a territorial species in a dynamic landscape. *Landscape Ecol.* 32:563–579.

Davis, Raymond J.; Lesmeister, Damon B.; Yang, Zhiqiang; Hollen, Bruce; Tuerler, Bridgette; Hobson, Jeremy; Guetterman, John; Stratton, Andrew. 2022. Northwest Forest Plan—the first 25 years (1994–2018): status and trends of northern spotted owl habitats. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-1003. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 38 p. <https://doi.org/10.2737/PNW-GTR-1003>.

Phillips, S.J.; Anderson, R.P.; Shapire, R.E. 2006. Maximum entropy modeling of species geographic distributions. *Ecological Modelling.* 190(3–4): 231–259. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolmodel.2005.03.026>.

Phillips, S.J.; Anderson, R.P.; Dudík, M.; Shapire, R.E.; Blair, M.E. 2017. Opening the black box: an open-source release of Maxent. *Ecography.* 40(7): 887–893. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecog.03049>.

Phillips, S.J.; Dudík, M.; Shapire, R.E. 2021. Maxent software for modeling species niches and distributions (Version 3.4.1). http://biodiversityinformatics.amnh.org/open_source/maxent. (31 January 2021).

File Name: NSO_habitatSuitability_2023.tif

NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL; CHANGES IN SUITABLE HABITAT 1993-2022

Tier: 3

Data vintage: 2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: These data track changes in Northern spotted owl habitat suitability from 1993-2022. The primary purpose of this ongoing monitoring is to track changes in habitat that could be used by NSO over the time frame of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). Data to date reflect changes over the first 30 years of the NWFP. The modeled output covers the entire range of northern spotted owls, Washington, Oregon, and northern California. It has been clipped to the Northern California region. This data layer indicates:

- Forest capable lands that were not suitable habitat in 1993 and still are not
- Forest capable lands that were not suitable habitat in 1993 but are now
- Forest capable lands that were suitable habitat in 1993 but have been lost to disturbance (e.g. fire)
- Forest capable lands that were suitable habitat in 1993 and still are

Data Resolution: 100m Raster

Data Units: categorical

null values = not forest capable

0 = not habitat in 1993 and still not

1 = not habitat in 1993 but is in 2022

11 = has been habitat since 1993 but lost (fires, etc)

12 = habitat in 1993 and still habitat in 2022

Creation Method: The authors followed methods for habitat modeling and estimating density of occupied territories that were developed by Glenn et al. (2017), who reported high predictability based on independent data. The authors relied upon the modeling technique, MaxEnt to model the suitability of habitat. MaxEnt uses a machine learning process and a suite of potential response functions to estimate the most uniform distribution (maximum entropy) of the “average” environmental conditions at known species locations compared to what is available across the modeled area (background) (Phillips et al. 2006). The modeling process does not require an a priori specification of a set of models, but instead fits training data (presence locations of owl pairs) to environmental covariates using various combinations of response functions (features) such as linear, quadratic, product, hinge, and threshold structures. The authors modeled relative habitat suitability using known owl pair nest and roost locations to train and test the model which was based on vegetation, topographic, and climate data (see Glenn et al. 2017 for modeling data sources, methods, and results).

Each habitat suitability model performed well in predicting known territorial owl pair locations. The model was well-calibrated in all regions with higher densities of owls in areas with higher relative habitat suitability. 90% of the independent test locations were on or within 100 m of mapped suitable spotted owl habitat.

The modeled output covers the entire range of Northern Spotted Owls: Washington, Oregon, and northern California within the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) boundary. For RRK purposes, it has been clipped to the Northern California region.

Data Source: Regional Ecosystem Office (REO) - Northwest Forest Plan

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r6/reo/monitoring/northern-spotted-owl.php>

Glenn, E.M., Lesmeister, D.B., Davis, R.J., Hollen, B., Poopatanpong, A. 2017. Estimating density of a territorial species in a dynamic landscape. *Landscape Ecol.* 32:563–579.

Davis, Raymond J.; Lesmeister, Damon B.; Yang, Zhiqiang; Hollen, Bruce; Tuerler, Bridgette; Hobson, Jeremy; Guetterman, John; Stratton, Andrew. (2022). Northwest Forest Plan—the first 25 years (1994–2017): status and trends of northern spotted owl habitats. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-1003. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 38 p.

File Name: NSO_habitat_composite_2022.tif

NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL HABITAT; TOPO-CLIMATIC FIRE REFUGIA

Tier: 3

Data vintage: 2019; Time period(s) represented (i.e. modeled): 2020

Metric Definition and Relevance: Maps that represent the relative probability of fire refugia generated from an empirical model trained on the aggregate history (1985-2019) of wildfire severity, topographical features, and climate normal data with the Random Forest modeling algorithm. Areas identified as having a higher probability for fire refugia are those that burn less severely than the surrounding landscape. Map values at the other end of the spectrum represent areas that will likely burn at higher severity. Values in the future map represent output from application of the model with projections of large wildfire suitability based on future predictions for temperature and precipitation.

These maps can be used to examine where forests, including old forests, are likely to survive a wildfire. Refugia models can be used to evaluate the outcomes of different types of past management and wildfire that influence the probability of fire refugia. Refugia products can be used to evaluate old forest dynamics by intersecting refugia probability maps with maps of old forest or spotted owl habitat, to evaluate the degree of overlap under different fire weather conditions and through time.

Aligning forest/fuels/fire management with topography (conditioned on current or future climate) that relates to normal wildfire severity (low to high). The future model provides forest managers, fire protection agencies, and policy-makers empirical estimates of how much and where climate change might affect the landscape patterns.

The modeled output covers the entire range of Northern Spotted Owls: Washington, Oregon, and northern California within the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) boundary. For RRR purposes, it has been clipped to the Northern California region.

Data Resolution: 90m Raster

Data Units: An index of fire refugia; from no refugia to maximum refugia (0-100). Nulls are non-forest capable land areas.

Creation Method: This product was developed by Ray Davis and Zhiqiang Yang (USFS) and Andrew Yost (Oregon Department of Forestry). The goal of the work was to model the probability of potential fire refugia across the Northwest Forest Plan and Bioregional Assessment areas using four topographic variables and conditioned on climate (normal fire environment from Davis et al. (2017) as explanatory variables. The topo-climatic fire refugia model does not include variability in vegetation/fuels as a driver of fire refugia, instead using a simple mask of forest-capable sites to represent the intrinsic underlying condition. Accordingly, it should be overlaid with existing forest conditions to identify contemporary opportunities for supporting mature and older forest. In addition, this

model provides the opportunity to identify where on the landscape might be good locations to recruit high quality mature and old late-successional closed canopy forest, even if such conditions do not currently occur. The climate change projections from the model may identify locations most likely to persist as fire refugia into the future. The models prioritize a focus on the closed canopy late-successional, complex older forest context.

The topo-climatic fire refugia model is trained using multiple samples from contemporary fire severity data from the region (1985 to 2019), first building a model for probability of low-severity fire, next building a model for probability of high-severity fire, then aggregating the models together with the normal fire environment metric to generate fire refugia probability (Yang et al. in prep). Because the topo-climatic fire refugia models include the Davis et al. (2017) fire environment as an explanatory variable, the climate change projections from that work were fed in as scenarios for current period (2020), mid-century (2060), and late century (2100) climate change estimates. Spatial resolution of the models is 90 m (aggregated Landsat remote sensing data). Data sets are available on the USFS T:/drive and available in the Fire Refugia ToolBox (preferred) folder listed in section 8 (Additional Resources). Additional information will be provided in Yang et al. (in prep) and on the Fire Refugia in Mature and Old Forests website.

Inputs were actual fire locations and fire environment triangle variables for topography and climate (based on 30-year averages, or a climate normal). Assumptions were that the current forest footprint used to train the model would remain static throughout this century and that the modeled relationship would remain temporally stable. As with all models there is always uncertainty. Since publication, this model continues to predict large wildfire occurrences well. The main uncertainty lies in whether the forest footprint will change as a result of climate change.

Data Source: USDA Forest Service, Region 6 - Pacific Northwest Region
Raymond Davis, Zhiqiang Yang, Andrew Yost, Cole Belongie, and Warren Cohen

Davis, R., Z. Yang, A. Yost, C. Belongie, and W. Cohen. 2017. The normal fire environment—Modeling environmental suitability for large forest wildfires using past, present, and future climate normals. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 390, pp.173-186.

Krawchuk, M.A., Hudec, J., Meigs, G.W. 2023. Manager’s brief: Integrating fire refugia concepts and data into vegetation management decisions. A case study on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Little White Salmon Project Area. 20 pages.

File Name: current_topoclim_refugia_2019.tif

SPOTTED OWL HABITAT CWHR

Tier: 3

Data vintage: 04/2023

Metric Definition and Relevance: This layer shows highly and moderately suitable habitats for the reproduction and feeding of Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*). The analysis is based on the habitat values found in the California Habitat Relationships (CWHR) model for spotted owls. These values apply to the species in general and not

specifically to the Northern Spotted Owl subspecies. These data are included because California spotted owls may occur in the far eastern portion of the Northern California Region that is covered in this RRK.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: 0 = not suitable, 0.66 = moderately suitable. 1 = highly suitable.

Creation Method: CWHR classifications are based on a combination of FVEG canopy cover, FVEG size class and vegetation data. The vegetation data includes a variety of tree, shrub, grassland, and water dominated habitats. Species are considered present, and habitats considered suitable for each 30m cell for which the canopy cover-size-vegetation combination have been deemed highly or moderately suitable for the reproduction or feeding of that species in the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship database. Each cell was assigned the maximum suitability value, i.e. if a cell was moderately suitable for feeding and highly suitable for reproduction, it was considered highly suitable.

Data Source:

FVEG 2023

California Department of Fish and Wildlife CWHR version 9.0 (CDFW); 2014

File Name: SpottedOwl_habitat_suitability_CWHR_202304.tif

NORTHERN GOSHAWK SUITABLE HABITAT

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 2014

Metric Definition and Relevance: This layer shows highly and moderately suitable habitats for the reproduction and feeding of Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*).

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: 0 = not suitable, 0.66 = moderately suitable. 1 = highly suitable.

Creation Method: CWHR classifications are based on a combination of FVEG canopy cover, FVEG size class and vegetation data. The vegetation data includes a variety of tree, shrub, grassland, and water dominated habitats. Species are considered present, and habitats considered suitable for each 30m cell for which the canopy cover-size-vegetation combination have been deemed highly or moderately suitable for the reproduction or feeding of that species in the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship database. Each cell was assigned the maximum suitability value, i.e. if a cell was moderately suitable for feeding and highly suitable for reproduction, it was considered highly suitable.

Data Source:

FVEG 2023

California Department of Fish and Wildlife CWHR version 9.0 (CDFW); 2014

File Name: Northern_Goshawk_habitat_suitability_202304.tif

PACIFIC FISHER PREDICTED HABITAT

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 2013

Metric Definition and Relevance: This layer shows the predicted probability of Pacific fisher (*Pekania pennanti*) occurrence or potential habitat quality.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Probability, values range 0-0.8.

Creation Method: The authors calculated and mapped habitat values using Maxent, environmental variables and detection points across portions of California, Oregon and Washington. They created a prediction of relative habitat suitability, and these values were converted to 0 in areas of recent clearcuts and high severity fire. They then smoothed the values by averaging them over a moving window that approximates the species' home range size. NA values within the Northern California region are areas not covered by the model.

Data Source: Conservation Biology Institute (CBI)

Spencer, W., Brice, J., DiPietro, D., Gallo, J., Reilly, M. and Rusigian-Romsos, H., 2019. Habitat Connectivity for Fishers and Martens in the Klamath Basin Region of California and Oregon. *Conservation Biology Institute*. [https://doi.org/10, p.m9](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cbi.2019.05.009).

File Name: Pacific_Fisher_habitat_suitability_raw_201306.tif

HUMBOLDT MARTEN PREDICTED DISTRIBUTION

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 2020

Metric Definition and Relevance: This data layer has been developed by Moriarty et al. It was published in "Predicted distribution of a rare and understudied forest carnivore: Humboldt marten (*Martes caurina humboldtensis*). The data represent the predicted current distribution of Humboldt marten, a subspecies of Pacific marten occurring in coastal Oregon and northern California.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: 0 =not suitable, 1 = suitable, 2 = highly suitable.

Creation Method: Using Maxent species distribution models, the authors modeled Humboldt marten distribution, using marten locations collected between 1996-2020. They excluded locations occurring in areas that were modified by fire or timber harvest after the location data and before 2016 (date of their vegetation data). They

estimated the relative probability of Marten presence. Unsuitable areas were those where the model performance was equal to or poorer than random chance, below 14% predicted suitability. Areas with 15-30% predicted suitability were defined as 'suitable', and with over 30% predicted suitability were defined as 'highly suitable'. NA values within the Northern California region are areas not covered by the model.

Data Source:

Moriarty, et al.

Moriarty, K.M., Thompson, J., Delheimer, M., Barry, B.R., Linnell, M., Levi, T., Hamm, K., Early, D., Gamblin, H., Gunther, M.S. and Ellison, J., 2021. Predicted distribution of a rare and understudied forest carnivore: Humboldt marten (*Martes caurina humboldtensis*). *PeerJ*, 9, p.e11670.

File Name: Humboldt_Marten_habitat_suitability_2020.tif

CALIFORNIA COASTAL CHINOOK SALMON CRITICAL HABITAT

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 09/2005

Metric Definition and Relevance: The California Coastal Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) is a threatened species. This evolutionarily significant unit, or ESU, includes naturally spawned Chinook salmon originating from rivers and streams south of the Klamath River to and including the Russian River. NOAA Fisheries issued a final rule designating critical habitat for five Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of West Coast salmon and two ESUs of steelhead listed as of the date of this designation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. The specific areas designated in the rule include approximately 8,935 net mi (14,269 km) of riverine habitat.

Critical habitat is the specific area within the geographic range of the species, occupied by the species at the time it was listed, that contain the physical or biological features that are essential to the conservation of endangered and threatened species and that may need special management or protection. Critical habitat may also include areas that were not occupied by the species at the time of listing but are essential to its conservation.

Critical habitat designations affect only Federal agency actions or federally funded or permitted activities. Critical habitat designations do not affect activities by private landowners if there is no Federal "nexus"—that is, no Federal funding or authorization. Federal agencies are required to avoid "destruction" or "adverse modification" of designated critical habitat. The ESA requires the designation of "critical habitat" for listed species when "prudent and determinable."

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Binary; 0 = not critical habitat, 1 = designated critical habitat.

Creation Method: The National Marine Fisheries Service proposed a critical habitat designation, publishing it in the Federal Register and requesting public comments. Final designation of critical habitat is based on the best scientific data available, after taking into consideration the probable economic and other impacts of the designation. After

reviewing the comments, the National Marine Fisheries Service responded to them and published a rule, including final boundaries, in the Federal Register.

Data Source: National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), West Coast Region
[Final Rule \(70 FR 52487; September 2, 2005\)](#)

File Name: ChinookSalmonCriticalHabitat_200509.tif

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST COHO SALMON CRITICAL HABITAT

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 05/1999

Metric Definition and Relevance: The Southern Oregon/Northern California Evolutionary Significant Unit (SONCC ESU) of Coho Salmon was listed as threatened under the ESA on May 6, 1997. National Marine Fisheries Service designated critical habitat for two Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) pursuant to the Endangered Species Act in 1999). Critical habitat for the Southern Oregon/ Northern California Coasts ESU encompasses accessible reaches of all rivers (including estuarine areas and tributaries) between the Mattole River in California and the Elk River in Oregon, inclusive.

Critical habitat is the specific area within the geographic range of the species, occupied by the species at the time it was listed, that contain the physical or biological features that are essential to the conservation of endangered and threatened species and that may need special management or protection. Critical habitat may also include areas that were not occupied by the species at the time of listing but are essential to its conservation.

Critical habitat designations affect only Federal agency actions or federally funded or permitted activities. Critical habitat designations do not affect activities by private landowners if there is no Federal “nexus”—that is, no Federal funding or authorization. Federal agencies are required to avoid “destruction” or “adverse modification” of designated critical habitat. The ESA requires the designation of “critical habitat” for listed species when “prudent and determinable.”

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Binary; 0 = not critical habitat, 1 = designated critical habitat.

Creation Method: The National Marine Fisheries Service proposed a critical habitat designation, publishing it in the Federal Register and requesting public comments. Final designation of critical habitat is based on the best scientific data available, after taking into consideration the probable economic and other impacts of the designation. After reviewing the comments, the National Marine Fisheries Service responded to them and published a rule, including final boundaries, in the Federal Register.

Data Source: National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), West Coast Region
[May 5, 1999 \(64 FR 24049\)](#)

File Name: CohoSalmonCriticalHabitat_199905.tif

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DPU STEELHEAD CRITICAL HABITAT

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 09/2005

Metric Definition and Relevance: The Northern California Distinct Population Unit (DPU) of Steelhead Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) is a threatened species. This distinct population segment, or DPS, includes naturally spawned anadromous steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) originating below natural and manmade impassable barriers in California coastal river basins from Redwood Creek to and including the Gualala River. Steelhead trout are vulnerable to many stressors and threats including blocked access to spawning grounds and habitat degradation caused by dams and culverts. The specific areas designated in the rule include approximately 8,935 net mi (14,269 km) of riverine habitat.

Critical habitat is the specific area within the geographic range of the species, occupied by the species at the time it was listed, that contain the physical or biological features that are essential to the conservation of endangered and threatened species and that may need special management or protection. Critical habitat may also include areas that were not occupied by the species at the time of listing but are essential to its conservation.

Critical habitat designations affect only Federal agency actions or federally funded or permitted activities. Critical habitat designations do not affect activities by private landowners if there is no Federal “nexus”—that is, no Federal funding or authorization. Federal agencies are required to avoid “destruction” or “adverse modification” of designated critical habitat. The ESA requires the designation of “critical habitat” for listed species when “prudent and determinable.”

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Binary; 0 = not critical habitat, 1 = designated critical habitat.

Creation Method: The National Marine Fisheries Service proposed a critical habitat designation, publishing it in the Federal Register and requesting public comments. Final designation of critical habitat is based on the best scientific data available, after taking into consideration the probable economic and other impacts of the designation. After reviewing the comments, the National Marine Fisheries Service responded to them and published a rule, including final boundaries, in the Federal Register.

Data Source: National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), West Coast Region
[Final Rule \(70 FR 52487; September 2, 2005\)](#)

File Name: SteelheadCriticalHabitat_200509.tif

CALIFORNIA COASTAL CHINOOK SALMON DISTRIBUTION

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 09/2005

Metric Definition and Relevance: This layer was created to aid SWR biologists in establishing Critical Habitat for Chinook in the California Coastal ESU. The layer represents an approximation of Chinook occupancy and habitat quality in the region and is best suited for mapping those properties in the aforementioned region.

'CC_Chinook_Distribution_06_2005' depicts Chinook presence as well as habitat type and quality in the California Coastal Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU). The data was compiled by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) Southwest Regional Office (SWR) in an effort to designate Critical Habitat for Chinook in California. The linework for this layer is based on the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) 1:100,000 scale stream based routed hydrography. SWR biologists divided the routed hydrography into stream segments using the best available information to represent local Chinook distribution and habitat. As a result, each segment has its own unique identifier (GIS_Link) and related presence and habitat information. The data set is in shapefile format and can be included as a map layer in a GIS. This data set is an update of 'CC_Chinook_Draft_2004'

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Binary; 0 = not habitat, 1 = habitat.

Creation Method: Stream segments were identified and assigned attributes by SWR biologists using CDFG 1:100,000 hydrography data and other basemap information on hard copy maps. The segments' upper and lower extents were manually marked onto the basemaps by the biologists. This information was then visually interpreted from the paper maps and entered into a digital format using the "Route Tools" extension provided by CDFG. The resulting event table was then used with the CDFG routed hydrography as the route reference to create routed events based on the biologists' segment determinations. The Microsoft Access table containing the accompanying segment attribute information was joined using 'GIS_Link' as the related field, and the shapefile 'CC_Chinook_Draft_2004' was created from the routed events. To minimize errors that may have occurred during the process, the completed digital file was compared against the marked maps for consistency. The biologists also reviewed the completed digital file to ensure attribute information was associated with the correct stream segments. Public comments were received following draft publication of the Critical Habitat Proposed Rule in December 2004. These comments were incorporated into the data set and the final distribution file 'CC_Chinook_Distribution_06_2005' was created.

Data Source: National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), West Coast Region

Data layers from the following were used as basemap layers or as detailed in the 'Process Description' section during the designation process: California Department of Fish and Game, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, California Geospatial Information Data Library, State Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Forestry, US Geological Survey.

File Name: ChinookSalmonDistribution_200509.tif

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST COHO SALMON DISTRIBUTION

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 11/2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: This dataset represents the "Observed Distribution" for coho salmon in California by using observations made only between 1990 and the present (November 2022). It was developed for the express purpose of assisting with species recovery planning efforts. The process for developing this dataset was to collect as many observations of the species as possible and derive the stream-based geographic distribution for the species based solely on these positive observations.

For the purpose of this dataset an observation is defined as a report of a sighting or other evidence of the presence of the species at a given place and time. As such, observations are modeled by year observed as point locations in the GIS. All such observations were collected with information regarding who reported the observation, their agency/organization/affiliation, the date that they observed the species, who compiled the information, etc. This information is maintained in the developer's file geodatabase (Environmental Science Research Institute (ESRI) 2016).

Examples of appropriate uses include:

- species recovery planning
- Evaluation of future survey sites for the species
- Validating species distribution models

Examples of inappropriate uses include:

- Assuming absence of a line feature means that the species are not present in that stream.
- Using this data to make parcel or ground level land use management decisions.
- Using this dataset to prove or support non-existence of the species at any spatial scale.
- Assuming that the line feature represents the maximum possible extent of species distribution.

All users of this data should seek the assistance of qualified professionals such as surveyors, hydrologists, or fishery biologists as needed to ensure that such users possess complete, precise, and up to date information on species distribution and water body location.

Any copy of this dataset is considered to be a snapshot of the species distribution at the time of release. It is incumbent upon the user to ensure that they have the most recent version prior to making management or planning decisions.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Binary; 0 = not habitat, 1 = habitat.

Creation Method: To develop this distribution dataset, the species observations were applied to California Streams, a CDFW derivative of USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) High Resolution hydrography. For each observation, a path was traced down the hydrography from the point of observation to the ocean, thereby deriving the shortest migration route from the point of observation to the sea. By appending all of these migration paths together, the "Observed Distribution" for the species is developed.

It is important to note that this layer does not attempt to model the entire possible distribution of the species. Rather, it only represents the known distribution based on where the species has been observed and reported. While some observations indeed represent the upstream extent of the species (e.g., an observation made at a hard barrier), the majority of observations only indicate where the species was sampled for or otherwise observed. Because of this, this dataset likely underestimates the absolute geographic distribution of the species.

It is also important to note that the species may not be found on an annual basis in all indicated reaches due to natural variations in run size, water conditions, and other environmental factors. As such, the information in this dataset should not be used to verify that the species are currently present in a given stream. Conversely, the absence of distribution linework for a given stream does not necessarily indicate that the species does not occur in that stream.

The observation data were compiled from a variety of disparate sources including but not limited to CDFW, USFS, NMFS, timber companies, and the public. Forms of documentation include CDFW administrative reports, personal communications with biologists, observation reports, and literature reviews. The source of each feature (to the best available knowledge) is included in the data attributes for the observations in the geodatabase, but not for the resulting linework. The spatial data has been referenced to California Streams, a CDFW derivative of USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) High Resolution hydrography.

Data Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife; Citation: Coho Distribution [ds326]

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File Name: CohoSalmonDistribution_202211.tif

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WINTER STEELHEAD DISTRIBUTION

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 06/2012

Metric Definition and Relevance: Winter Steelhead Distribution June 2012 Version This dataset depicts observation-based stream-level geographic distribution of anadromous winter-run steelhead trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* (*O. mykiss*), in California. It was developed for the express purpose of assisting with steelhead recovery planning efforts. This dataset represents stream reaches that are known or believed to be used by steelhead based on steelhead observations. Thus, it contains only positive steelhead occurrences. The absence of distribution on a stream does not necessarily indicate that steelhead do not utilize that stream. Additionally, steelhead may not be found in all streams or reaches each year. This is due to natural variations in run size, water conditions, and other environmental factors. The information in this data set should be used as an indicator of steelhead presence/suspected presence at the time of the observation as indicated by the 'Late_Yr' (Latest Year) field attribute.

The line features (converted to a 30m raster) in the dataset may not represent the maximum extent of steelhead on a stream; rather it is important to note that this distribution most likely underestimates the actual distribution of steelhead. This distribution is based on observations found in the Aquatic Species Observation Database (ASOD) database. The individual observations may not have occurred at the upper extent of anadromous occupation. In addition, no attempt was made to capture every observation of *O. mykiss* and so it should not be assumed that this dataset is complete for each stream. The distribution dataset was built solely from the ASOD observational data. No additional data (habitat mapping, barriers data, gradient modeling, etc.) were utilized to either add to or

validate the data. It is very possible that an anadromous observation in this dataset has been recorded above (upstream of) a barrier as identified in the Passage Assessment Database (PAD).

Examples of appropriate uses include: - steelhead recovery planning - Evaluation of future survey sites for steelhead - Validating steelhead distribution models.

Examples of inappropriate uses include: - Assuming absence of a point feature means that steelhead are not present in that stream. - Using this data to make parcel or ground level land use management decisions. - Using this dataset to prove or support non-existence of steelhead at any spatial scale. - Assuming that the point feature represents the maximum possible extent of steelhead range.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Binary; 0 = not habitat, 1 = habitat.

Creation Method: The distributions reported in this dataset were derived from a subset of the data contained in the Aquatic Species Observation Database (ASOD), a Microsoft Access multi-species observation data capture application. ASOD is an ongoing project designed to capture as complete a set of statewide inland aquatic vertebrate species observation information as possible. Please note: A separate distribution is available for summer-run steelhead. Contact information is the same as for the above. ASOD Observation data were used to develop a network of stream segments. These lines are developed by "tracing down" from each observation to the sea using the flow properties of USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) High Resolution hydrography. Lastly these lines, representing stream segments, were assigned a value of either Anad Present (Anadromous present). The end result (i.e., this layer) consists of a set of lines representing the distribution of steelhead based on observations in the Aquatic Species Observation Database.

Data Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Citation: Winter Steelhead Distribution [ds0340]

File Name: WinterSteelheadDistribution_201206.tif

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SUMMER STEELHEAD DISTRIBUTION

Tier: 2

Data vintage: 10/2009

Metric Definition and Relevance: Summer Steelhead Distribution October 2009 Version This dataset depicts observation-based stream-level geographic distribution of anadromous summer-run steelhead trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* (*O. mykiss*), in California. It was developed for the express purpose of assisting with steelhead recovery planning efforts. This dataset represents stream reaches that are known or believed to be used by steelhead based on steelhead observations. Thus, it contains only positive steelhead occurrences. The absence of distribution on a stream does not necessarily indicate that steelhead do not utilize that stream. Additionally, steelhead may not be found in all streams or reaches each year. This is due to natural variations in run size, water conditions, and other environmental factors.

The information in this data set should be used as an indicator of steelhead presence/suspected presence at the time of the observation as indicated by the 'Late_Yr' (Latest Year) field attribute. The line features (converted to a 30m raster) in the dataset may not represent the maximum extent of steelhead on a stream; rather it is important to note that this distribution most likely underestimates the actual distribution of steelhead. This distribution is based on observations found in the ASOD database. The individual observations may not have occurred at the upper extent of anadromous occupation. In addition, no attempt was made to capture every observation of O. mykiss and so it should not be assumed that this dataset is complete for each stream.

Examples of appropriate uses include: - steelhead recovery planning - Evaluation of future survey sites for steelhead - Validating steelhead distribution models.

Examples of inappropriate uses include: - Assuming absence of a point feature means that steelhead are not present in that stream. - Using this data to make parcel or ground level land use management decisions. - Using this dataset to prove or support non-existence of steelhead at any spatial scale. - Assuming that the point feature represents the maximum possible extent of steelhead range.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Binary; 0 = not habitat, 1 = habitat.

Creation Method: The distributions reported in this dataset were derived from a subset of the data contained in the Aquatic Species Observation Database (ASOD), a Microsoft Access multi-species observation data capture application. ASOD is an ongoing project designed to capture as complete a set of statewide inland aquatic vertebrate species observation information as possible. Please note: A separate distribution is available for winter-run steelhead. ASOD Observation data were used to develop a network of stream segments. These lines are developed by "tracing down" from each observation to the sea using the flow properties of USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) High Resolution hydrography. Lastly these lines, representing stream segments, were assigned a value of either Anad Present (Anadromous present). The end result (i.e., this layer) consists of a set of lines representing the distribution of steelhead based on observations in the Aquatic Species Observation Database.

The distribution dataset was built solely from the ASOD observational data. No additional data (habitat mapping, barriers data, gradient modeling, etc.) were utilized to either add to or validate the data. It is very possible that an anadromous observation in this dataset has been recorded above (upstream of) a barrier as identified in the Passage Assessment Database (PAD). In the near future, we hope to perform a comparative analysis between this dataset and the PAD to identify and resolve all such discrepancies. Such an analysis will add rigor to and help validate both datasets. This dataset has recently undergone a review. Data source contributors as well as CDFW fisheries biologists have been provided the opportunity to review and suggest edits or additions during a recent review. Data contributors were notified and invited to review and comment on the handling of the information that they provided. The distribution was then posted to an intranet mapping application and CDFG biologists were provided an opportunity to review and comment on the dataset. During this review, biologists were also encouraged to add new observation data. This resulting final distribution contains their suggestions and additions.

Data Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Citation: Summer Steelhead Distribution [ds0341]

File Name: SummerSteelheadDistribution_200910.tif

COMMUNITY INTEGRITY

The ability of communities to adapt to changing ecological, social, and economic conditions. This entails the capability of an ecological system to sustain a community of organisms that retains the pre-settlement species composition, diversity, and functional organization of natural habitats within a region.

FUNCTIONAL GROUP SPECIES RICHNESS

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 04/2023

Metric Definition and Relevance: Functional groups are sets of species that share life history characteristics that perform particular functions within an ecosystem. The six functional groups are represented and include a range of trophic levels and ecosystem services. A primary consideration in management is to maintain conditions, adapt to changing conditions and transition to alternate but still productive conditions over time. The maintenance of ecosystem services is a primary concern with climate change.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Number of species

Creation Method: Species list created from CWHR is divided into six functional groups based on literature. **The six functional groups include herbivores, predators, insectivores, soil aerators, seed/spore dispersers and cavity nesters/excavators.** The diversity of each functional group is first determined by the number of species for which a given location provides high suitability reproductive habitat (as per species richness calculations). Target conditions can be generated based on percentiles of functional group richness across all patches, so that the 90th percentile or higher is considered in target conditions and the 10th percentile or below is considered to be in a fully departed condition.

Data Source:

FVEG 2023

California Department of Fish and Wildlife CWHR version 9.0 (CDFW); 2014

File Name: cavity_nesters_excavators_species_richness_202304.tif; herbivores_species_richness_202304.tif; insectivores_species_richness_202304.tif; predators_species_richness_202304.tif; seed_spore_dispersers_species_richness_202304.tif; soil_aerators_species_richness_202304.tif

HABITAT CONNECTIVITY

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: last updated 08/2019

Metric Definition and Relevance: The Terrestrial Connectivity dataset is one of the four key components of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE) suite of terrestrial conservation information. The dataset summarizes the relative ability of a species to move across the landscape between patches of suitable habitat. It shows a compilation of linkages, corridors, and natural landscape blocks identified in statewide and regional connectivity studies. Each hexagon (2.5 mi²) is ranked into one of the following categories based on the identification of corridors and linkages in statewide, regional, and species-movement studies:

- 5: *Irreplaceable and Essential Corridors* – The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) Omniscape model identifies channelized areas and priority species movement corridors. The mapped channelized areas are those areas where surrounding land use and barriers are expected to funnel, or concentrate, animal movement. These areas may represent the last available connection(s) between two areas, making them high priority for conservation.
- 4: *Conservation Planning Linkages* – Habitat connectivity linkages are often based on species-specific models and represent the best connections between core natural areas to maintain habitat connectivity. Linkages have more implementation flexibility than irreplaceable and essential corridors; any linkage areas not included in rank 5 are included here.
- 3: *Connections with Implementation Flexibility* – Areas identified as having connectivity importance but not identified as channelized areas, species corridors or habitat linkage at this time. Future changes in surrounding land use or regional specific information may alter the connectivity rank. Included in this category are areas mapped in the TNC Omniscape study as ‘intensified’, core habitat areas, and areas on the periphery of mapped habitat linkages.
- 2: *Large Natural Habitat Areas* – Large blocks of natural habitat (> 2000 acres) where connectivity is generally intact. This includes natural landscape blocks from the 2010 CEHC and updated with the 2016 Statewide Intactness dataset. Areas mapped as CEHC NLB and not include in the previous ranks, are included here.
- 1: *Limited Connectivity Opportunity* – Areas where land use may limit options for providing connectivity (e.g., agriculture, urban) or no connectivity importance has been identified in models. Includes lakes. Some DOD lands are also in this category because they have been excluded from models due to lack of conservation opportunity, although they may provide important connectivity habitat.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Categorical; 5 (listed above)

Creation Method: Developed by CDFW, the Terrestrial Connectivity dataset summarizes information on terrestrial connectivity by ACE hexagon (2.5 mi²) including the presence of mapped corridors or linkages and the juxtaposition to large, contiguous, natural areas. This dataset was developed to support conservation planning efforts by allowing the user to spatially evaluate the relative contribution of an area to terrestrial connectivity based on the results of statewide, regional, and other connectivity analyses. This map builds on the 2010 California Essential Habitat Connectivity (CEHC) map, based on guidance given in the 2010 CEHC report. The data are summarized by ACE hexagon.

The ACE Terrestrial Connectivity polygon has been converted to 30m Raster and the connectivity description attribute (HabDesc) is classified into the five connectivity ranks (detailed above).

Data Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife; Terrestrial Connectivity, Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE), version 3.1

File Name: HabitatConnectivity_201908.tif

PRESENT DAY CONNECTIVITY IN CALIFORNIA (OMNISCAPE)

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: last updated 01/2023

Metric Definition and Relevance: This data represents a wall-to-wall characterization of regional habitat connectivity potential in California for plant and animal species whose movement is inhibited by developed or agricultural land uses.

This model of present-day connectivity assumes there will be more 'current flow', representing wildlife movement, coming from and going to areas that are less modified. Wildlife may encounter barriers and land uses that are not conducive to movement en route. They may avoid moving through these areas entirely or these areas will increase their risk of harm. Land use, energy infrastructure, roads, and night lights are some of the factors that affect the 'resistance' to movement in this analysis.

Present Day Connectivity is partitioned into 11 classes (and the code used in the data):

- 1) 3 - Land use may restrict movement:
- 2) 4 - Permeable lands that contribute little to regional connectivity
- 3) 19 - Impeded
- 4) 25 - Diffuse - Med
- 5) 29 - Diffuse - High
- 6) 31 - Intensified - Low
- 7) 35 - Intensified - Med
- 8) 39 - Intensified - High
- 9) 41 - Channelized - Low
- 10) 45 - Channelized - Med
- 11) 49 - Channelized - High

Connectivity classes are assembled into categories based on whether an area had more or less flow than would be expected in the absence of barriers. For example, when animal movement is restricted by surrounding land uses, it channelizes into a single movement pathway, or a linkage. These **Intensified** and **Channelized** linkages are areas with more flow and far more flow, respectively, than would be expected in the absence of nearby barriers to movement. **Diffuse** connectivity areas are broadly, permeable areas with as much flow as is expected. Roads and intensive development can cause complete or partial barriers to animal movement, impeding their ability to traverse the landscape. **Impeded** areas are areas where there is less flow than is expected.

The Omniscape output 'current flow' was classified into high, medium and low classes and further categorized by the amount of flow compared to what would be expected in the absence of barriers. The 'Channelized' class has 1.7 times more flow than expected in the absence of barriers and represents the last remaining natural pathway through a modified landscape. The 'Intensified' class has 1.3-1.7 times more flow than expected and represents areas where there are a few remaining natural pathways. The 'Diffuse' class has as much flow as expected and represents lands that have many or unlimited movement options.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Categorical; 11 (listed above)

Creation Method: The approach uses Omniscape, a modified version of Circuitscape (www.circuitscape.org/) with a moving-window algorithm, to quantify ecological flow (potential connectivity) among all pixels within a 50km radius. Circuitscape treats landscapes as resistive surfaces, where high-quality movement habitat has low resistance and barriers have high resistance. The algorithm incorporates all possible pathways between movement

sources and destinations and identifies areas of high flow via low-resistance routes, i.e., routes presenting relatively low movement difficulty because of lower human modification, and thus mortality risk.

Data Source: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Omniscape

c.k.stanley@tnc.org

[The Nature Conservancy: A World Where People & Nature Thrive](#)

File Name: PresentDayConnectivity_Omniscape_202301.tif

ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

Economic Diversity increases business opportunities that provide regional economic vitality and additional benefits to rural and vulnerable populations. Ecosystem services and forest products provide a foundation for many local and regional economic activities and employment opportunities. Forest management should support a sustainable natural resource-based economy.

DESIRED OUTCOME: Forest management and outdoor activities support a sustainable, natural-resource-based economy, particularly in rural communities.

WOOD PRODUCT INDUSTRY

The wood product industry, with some exceptions, is largely limited to the Northern California and Sierra Nevada Regions. However, restoration activities, including vegetation management, are necessary and require financial investments to make progress. This work brings jobs and income to local communities.

COST OF POTENTIAL TREATMENTS

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: last updated 09/2023

Metric Definition and Relevance: This metric is dependent on predefined treatments or silvicultural prescriptions, which are best generated at the local and/or project level. The cost to perform each treatment depends on a defined prescription and should consider an array of factors including the spatial juxtaposition of the resources and infrastructure, as well as the location of the saw timber and biomass processing plants.

Treatment cost calculations take into consideration the multiple costs necessary to move material from the forest harvest site to a processing location (sawmill or biomass facility) and includes the costs of felling, processing, skidding and hauling:

- costs to move material along different types of roads (i.e., dirt, paved, highways, etc.)
- across barriers (i.e., water courses)
- operational costs
- machine costs
- speed of moving material across the landscape.

Cost values have been broken down into the costs to move either biomass or sawlogs, and for a high-cost and low-cost scenario (reflecting variation in machine rates). Non-mechanical hand treatments, piling and burning

operations, and prescribed fire treatments are not addressed in this data set. We hope to provide cost estimates on those types of treatments later.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Dollars per CCF (100 cubic feet) for sawlog layers and Dollars per BDT (bone dry ton) for biomass layers

Creation Method: The methods are based on the “RMRS Raster Utility and Function Modeling” and the “Delivered Cost Modeling” approaches developed by John Hogland at the Rocky Mountain Research Station. Using a series of sliders that define various rates for multiple harvesting systems and then running the delivered cost model. Within the modeling, the following analyses will be performed:

1. Subset and attribute OSM roads with speed based on criteria in Table 1.
2. Create barrier to offroad motion for off road analysis using a subset of OSM streams, water bodies, interstates, and highways.
3. Estimate potential on road and offroad cost surfaces for each harvesting system using interactive sliders based on the criteria in Table 2.
4. Create felling and processing surfaces and add potential costs.
5. Specify where harvesting systems occur and subset system costs to those locations.
6. Create final spatial representation of the potential cost to treat each raster cell on a dollar per CCF basis.
7. Save raster surfaces.
8. Remove non-forest types (source [FVEG 2023](#))
9. Remove wilderness areas (source [PAD Wilderness](#))
10. Convert units on biomass rasters from \$/CCF to \$/BDT (bone dry ton)

The data has been extracted from open street maps and USFS 3dep and consist of base Raster and Vector datasets that have been used throughout the study area:

- Elevation (raster): elevation surface units meters (3dep)
- Roads (vector): Open Street Map roads based on Tiger Lines (OSM)
- Streams (vector): Open Street Map streams based on NHD (OSM)
- Water bodies (vector): OSM water bodies
- Sawmills (vector): location of the sawmill
- Biomass facilities (vector): location of biomass facilities (USFS)
- North Coast RRK study area extent (vector): North Coast RRK study area extent

Reference Tables

Table 1: Road segment travel speed by [OSM highway](#) class types

Query	Speed (MPH)
Residential	25
Unclassified	15
Tertiary	35
Secondary	45
Primary	55
Trunk	55
Motorway	65

Table 2: Criteria used to spatially define harvesting systems and treatment costs. Default machine rate of travel, and capacity estimates (“high cost scenario”) derived from meetings with Lisa Ball, Jacob Baker (STF), Michal Jow (STF), Brian McCrory, and John Hogland. Machine rates of travel for “low cost scenario” derived from Chang et al. 2023.

Chang, H., et al. (2023). "The Cost of Forest Thinning Operations in the Western United States: A Systematic Literature Review and New Thinning Cost Model." *Journal of Forestry* 121(2): 193-206.

Component	System	Rate	Rate of Travel	Payload	Where it can occur
Offroad	Rubber Tire Skidder	\$165/hr	1.5 MPH	1.25 CCF	Slopes <= 35% and Next to Roads (distance < 460m from a road)
	Skyline	\$400/hr	2.0 MPH	1.04 CCF	Slopes > 35% and within 305m of a road
	Helicopter	\$8,000/hr	2.4 MPH	1.67 CCF	Areas not covered by the other two and distance < 915m from landing area
Felling	Feller Buncher	High Cost: \$15/CCF Low Cost: \$9	NA	NA	Slopes <= 35%
	Hand Felling	High Cost: \$27/CCF Low Cost: \$15	NA	NA	Slopes >= 35%
Processing	Delimiting, cutting to length, chipping, and loading	High Cost: \$56/CCF Low Cost: \$35	NA	NA	NA
On road	Log truck	\$98/hr	Table 1	12.5 CCF	NA

Data Source: Rocky Mountain Research Station, U.S. Forest Service

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Protected Areas Database (PAD-US) 3.0
FVEG 2023

Chang, H, Han-Sup Han, Nathaniel Anderson, Yeon-Su Kim, Sang-Kyun Han. 2023. The Cost of Forest Thinning Operations in the Western United States: A Systematic Literature Review and New Thinning Cost Model. *Journal of Forestry*, **121**(2): 193-206

File name: biomassTreatmentCost_low.tif; biomassTreatmentCost_high.tif; sawlogTreatmentCost_low.tif; sawlogTreatmentCost_high.tif

BIOMASS RESIDUES (40% THIN FROM BELOW TREATMENT)

Tier: 3

Data Vintage: 08/2018

Metric Definition and Relevance: This raster layer represents forest residues for the state of California in 2018. It was developed by the Schatz Energy Research Center as part of the C-BREC (California Biomass Residue Emissions Characterization) model. The raster is based on the LEMMA (Landscape Ecology, Modeling, Mapping, and Analysis) group's forest state data for 2012, which was grown forward to represent residues in 2018 by NRSIG (Natural Resource Spatial Informatics Group) at University of Washington using FVS (Forest Vegetation Simulator).

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Imperial short tons per acre

Creation Method: Pixel values are estimates of the total biomass residue generated by a 40% Thin From Below treatment, reported in imperial short tons per acre. The value for a given pixel is the sum of biomass estimates across all residue size classes (foliage, branches, logs 4-6" in diameter, logs 6-9" in diameter, and logs greater than 9" in diameter).

For more information on the C-BREC model, you can visit the following links:

- C-BREC tool webpage: <https://schatzcenter.org/cbrec/>
- C-BREC model background and use: <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/acbd93#erlacbd93s3>

Data Source: Schatz Energy Research Center

File Name: BiomassResidues_201808.tif

CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Forests play an important role in mitigating climate by sequestering and storing large amounts of carbon. However, forests are at risk of losing carbon because of rates of decay and disturbance, especially with high severity wildfires. Knowing where carbon exists provides a context for where changes in forest conditions will have the greatest impact on carbon storage and sequestration objectives.

DESIRED OUTCOME: Carbon sequestration is enhanced in a stable and sustainable manner that yields multiple ecological and social benefits.

Note that all values for carbon have been expressed in Mg C/ha, the international standard for how carbon is measured. If needed, to convert back to the native short tons per acre, divide the Mg/ha by 2.2417023114334.

CARBON STORAGE

Carbon storage in forest biomass is an essential attribute of stable forest ecosystems and a key link in the global carbon cycle. After carbon dioxide is converted into organic matter by photosynthesis, carbon is stored in forests for a period of time before it is ultimately returned to the atmosphere through respiration and decomposition or disturbance (e.g., fire). A substantial pool of carbon is stored in woody biomass (roots, trunks, branches). Another portion eventually ends up as organic matter in forest floor litter and in soils. Soil carbon does not change very quickly and is difficult to measure directly.

TOTAL ABOVEGROUND CARBON

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 09/2020

Metric Definition and Relevance: Identifying ecosystem carbon is essential to land managers and the Total Aboveground Carbon metric provides an estimate of the amount of existing carbon and its location on California's landscape. The metric also serves to provide context for the other metrics used to quantify carbon sequestration. For example, instability or lack of resilience in forests with low total aboveground carbon would be of less concern than the same degree of instability in a forest that has large total aboveground carbon.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Grams dry matter/m²

Creation Method: The Center for Ecosystem Climate Solutions (CECS) DataEngine model tracks monthly carbon in multiple pools from 1986 to 2020. The carbon components are initialized with eMapR (see [Additional Resources](#)) observations for the early Landsat era; the model then runs freely based on Landsat and other observations. Disturbances and disturbance intensity are tracked annually by Landsat (see other metrics developed by CECS) and used to quantitatively transfer or combust pools. The model allocates and turns over material based on allometric scaling theory, as adjusted by observational data sets. Aboveground pools (live tree, live shrubs and dead material) are summed for September of 2020.

CECS data that reflect landscape changes resulting from disturbances require 6 to 12 months of Landsat observations **after a given year that included major disturbances (such as a high severity wildfire)** to fully quantify that disturbance. CECS data that reflect disturbance, such as this data layer, are therefore available **through water year 2020 (i.e. through September 2020)**.

Data Source: CECS; <https://california-ecosystem-climate.solutions/>

File Name: CStocks_Total_Above_202009.tif

CARBON STABILITY

Carbon stability is an important feature in carbon sequestration calculations because carbon turnover – high levels of loss, even if followed by high rates of sequestration – are not as ecologically beneficial as high residency rates for carbon and larger pool values, particularly when stored in large live trees which have many other ecological benefits. The carbon in dead biomass is considered a more unstable component of the carbon pool itself, and a

potential destabilizing factor for the live carbon pool in fire-adapted forest ecosystems, especially where it exceeds certain thresholds (e.g., over 46 Mg (total biomass)/ha, Stephens et al., 2022).

ABOVEGROUND CARBON TURNOVER TIME

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 09/2020

Metric Definition and Relevance: The average lifetime of aboveground live and dead carbon in years. Locations where the lifetime or turnover time is longer have more carbon in more stable pools, such as large trees or large coarse woody debris. Locations where the lifetime or turnover time is shorter have more carbon in labile pools, such as live or dead leaves.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Years

Creation Method: Calculated from the ratio of total aboveground carbon and annual decomposition. Aboveground carbon and annual decomposition are both calculated for 2020 from a Landsat-driven pools and fluxes model, as described for the total aboveground carbon product. Aboveground turnover time does not currently account for carbon losses and removals with combustion or harvest.

CECS data that reflect landscape changes resulting from disturbances require 6 to 12 months of Landsat observations **after a given year that included major disturbances (such as a high severity wildfire)** to fully quantify that disturbance. CECS data that reflect disturbance, such as this data layer, are therefore available **through water year 2020 (i.e. through September 2020)**.

Data Source: CECS; <https://california-ecosystem-climate.solutions/>

File Name: CStocks_Turnovertime_202009.tif

WATER SECURITY

Forests serve as natural water collection, storage, filtration, and delivery systems as water flows from forests into rivers providing critical aquatic and wetland habitat, while also supplying water for drinking and agriculture. From a more mechanistic perspective, the energy and water balance of forest ecosystems are fundamentally linked. Water is essential to photosynthesis and the latent energy exchange of transpiration is a major driver of water loss. In short, the fate of forests directly influences the quantity and quality of California's freshwater supply.

DESIRED OUTCOME: Watersheds provide a reliable supply of clean water despite wide swings in annual precipitation, droughts, flooding, and wildfire.

QUANTITY

Understanding the interaction between water supply and ecosystem demand informs both the extent of moisture stress and the amount of water available for storage.

ACTUAL EVAPOTRANSPIRATION TO PRECIPITATION FRACTION DURING DROUGHT

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 09/2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: Plants respond to conditions in their immediate vicinity. Thus, to understand the vegetative moisture stress during drought, it is important to measure the local moisture balance. The actual evapotranspiration fraction (AETF) provides such a measure. Specifically, it indicates whether a location is expected to experience local drying during a drought, or whether the location receives sufficient precipitation that it will remain moist even during an extended drought. An extended drought is defined by a 48-month period where the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI, NCAR 2022) is two standard deviations below the long-term mean (SPI-48 = negative 2). Such a drought is expected approximately once every 50 years in the Northern California Region. The AETF ranges from 0 to > 1; a low value indicates a wetter location during drought and a high value indicates a drier location. Locations < 1 would be expected to generate runoff, even during a significant drought (SPI-48 drought = negative 2.0), and would be expected to continue generating runoff. Locations > 1 would be expected to desiccate the soil during drought, with negligible runoff, and increasing vegetation drought stress. AET/P does not account for lateral water inflow, either as runoff or irrigation.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Dimensionless fraction (AET in mm/P in mm).

Creation Method: Calculated as the ratio of actual evapotranspiration (AET) during 2021 Water Year (WY) and precipitation that would be expected for each pixel under a significant drought (SPI-48 drought = negative 2.0). AET is calculated based on Landsat observations and eddy covariance, along with information on local monthly irradiance that accounts for Top of Atmosphere and topographic effects. The AET calculated for 2021 is then divided by the precipitation that would be expected for each pixel under a significant drought (SPI-48 drought = negative 2.0). This quantity of precipitation is calculated for each pixel based on local, down-scaled PRISM data for 1991-2020. This fraction provides a measure of the local water balance during drought, with the higher values indicating a drier location. See <https://doi.org/10.1029/2012JG002027> and <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1319316111> for further information.

Data Source: CECS; <https://california-ecosystem-climate.solutions/>

File Name: WaterFlux_AETFrac_SPI-2_202109.tif

PRECIPITATION MINUS ACTUAL EVAPOTRANSPIRATION DURING AVERAGE CONDITIONS

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 09/2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: Runoff is a measure of the water available for storage. It is determined by both the water supply and the demand of the existing vegetation. Annual mean runoff measures the “average” vegetative demand and thus provides a comparative index on the potential available runoff. Specifically, Annual Mean Runoff is the expected surplus water that would discharge to surface or groundwater flows during a series of years with average precipitation. Larger values indicate more runoff under mean conditions.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: mm/y

Creation Method: The Center for Ecosystem Climate Solutions at UC Irvine (CECS) is working with the State and Federal governments in developing scientifically rigorous, stakeholder-informed methods that have produced tailored, integrated data for land management decision makers. The CECS DataEngine model tracks monthly water balance from 1986 to 2021. The Annual Mean Runoff layer is calculated using this CECS DataEngine model logic

forced with a series of 4 years that each received precipitation according to the timing and magnitude of the 30-year climate Normal Precipitation (SPI = 0 by definition).

The model water inputs are determined from downscaled PRISM gridded datasets (<https://prism.oregonstate.edu/>). In the case of the Annual Mean Runoff, this reflects the monthly 30 year Normal for each pixel calculated for 1991-2020. Actual evapotranspiration (AET) is calculated from Landsat observations and eddy covariance during 2021, along with information on local monthly irradiance that accounts for Top of Atmosphere (TOA) and topographic effects, as well as monthly temperature and drought stress. Precipitation Minus Actual Evapotranspiration is calculated as the difference; it provides an excellent measure of the long-term runoff from upland pixels. Areas with a higher P-ET produce greater runoff, and areas with a low P-ET tend to produce little or no runoff during average or dry years. See <https://doi.org/10.1029/2012JG002027> and <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1319316111> for further information.

Data Source: CECS; <https://california-ecosystem-climate.solutions/>

File Name: WaterFlux_Runoff_SPI0_202109.tif

GROUNDWATER BASIN BOUNDARIES

Tier: 3

Data Vintage: 02/2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: This dataset shows the boundaries of groundwater basins and subbasins as defined by the California Department of Water Resources as last modified by the Basin Boundary Emergency Regulation adopted on October 21, 2015 and subsequent modifications requested through the Basin Boundary Modification Request Process.

Data Resolution: 30m raster

Data Units: Binary

Creation Method: Groundwater basins are represented as polygon features and designated on the basis of geological and hydrological conditions - usually the occurrence of alluvial or unconsolidated deposits. When practical, large basins are also subdivided by political boundaries, as in the Central Valley. Basins are named and numbered per the convention of the Department of Water Resources.

These boundaries have been converted from a polygon vector to a 30 meter raster by the RRK team and clipped to the Northern California RRK.

Data Source: California Department of Water Resources

https://gis.water.ca.gov/arcgis/rest/services/Geoscientific/i08_B118_CA_GroundwaterBasins/FeatureServer

File Name: i08_B118_CA_GroundwaterBasins.tif

QUALITY

Understanding the interaction between water supply and ecosystem demand informs both the extent of moisture stress and the amount of water available for storage.

PERCENT IMPERVIOUS SURFACE

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 06/2019

Metric Definition and Relevance: This National Land Cover Database (NLCD) product represents urban impervious surfaces as a percentage of developed surface over every 30-meter pixel of California, extracted from a nationwide layer. The definition of impervious means water does not seep into the ground, it runs off into storm sewers and then into local creeks. Examples of impervious surfaces include highways, streets and pavement, driveways, and house roofs. The relevance of impervious surfaces is the higher the proportion of impervious surfaces the more likely flooding can occur.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Percent Imperviousness

Creation Method: The NLCD 2019 design aims to provide consistent and robust methodologies for production of a multi-temporal land cover and land cover change database from 2001 to 2019 at 2–3-year intervals.

Comprehensive research was conducted and resulted in developed strategies for NLCD 2019: continued integration between impervious surface and all landcover products with impervious surface being directly mapped as developed classes in the landcover, a streamlined compositing process for assembling and preprocessing based on Landsat imagery and geospatial ancillary datasets; a multi-source integrated training data development and decision-tree based land cover classifications; a temporally, spectrally, and spatially integrated land cover change analysis strategy; a hierarchical theme-based post-classification and integration protocol for generating land cover and change products; a continuous fields biophysical parameters modeling method; and an automated scripted operational system for the NLCD 2019 production. For information see [Data | Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics \(MRLC\) Consortium](#)

Data Source: National Land Cover Database (NLCD)

File Name: nlcd_2019_imperviousPercent_CA.tif

AIR QUALITY

The goal of healthier forests is aligned with the goal of having healthier air (Cisneros et al., 2014, Long et al., 2018). Forests with sustainable fuel loads create less emissions overall, and support less rapid fire growth, which reduces emissions per day and decreases the chances that smoke from a wildland fire event will create long duration, intense smoke episodes like those we've seen at regional scales during the past decade. Key to supporting the proactive management of smoke and minimization of impacts is a granular understanding at the project scale of where the fuels are, and what potential emissions might occur under wildfire and/or Rx fire scenarios. Those emissions (e.g., from maps like those produced by F3 below) combined with estimates of daily spread can be used to inform operational or scenario-based dispersion modeling (and would be compatible with California's PFIRS smoke management system), which in turn would help fire and air managers better understand where smoke is likely to go, and help inform the public where and when it's likely to occur at potentially unhealthy concentrations.

Tradeoffs between wildfire and Rx fire smoke production (daily, or in total) could be quantified on a first order basis by summing daily or total emissions from high severity vs moderate severity over the area of the respective fire spread polygons. Note that Rx fire smoke impacts are not only different due to per acre differences in emissions, but because the per day emissions can also differ quite substantially. Those emissions numbers could

also inform dispersion modeling scenarios showing the relative differences in smoke impacts between wildfire and prescribed scenarios, or even between different wildfire management scenarios.

DESIRED OUTCOME: Emissions from fires are limited to primarily low- and moderate-severity fires in wildland ecosystems. Forests improve air quality by capturing pollutants.

PARTICULATE MATTER

Particle pollution represents a main component of wildfire smoke and the principal public health threat. Fine particles (also known as PM_{2.5}) are particles generally 2.5 µm in diameter or smaller and represent a main pollutant emitted from wildfire smoke. Fine particles from wildfire smoke are of greatest health concern.

POTENTIAL TOTAL SMOKE PRODUCTION INDEX

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: This metric is an index of the potential smoke production (represented by particulate matter that is 2.5 microns or less in diameter, or PM_{2.5}) that could be emitted for a given 30-meter pixel under fire weather conditions that produce high severity fire effects. By showing spatial variation in potential smoke emissions under standardized fuel moisture conditions, this index is intended to help identify potential emissions hotspots within a region if a high severity wildfire occurs in the future. It may be useful for regional scale planning and/or prioritization.

However, the actual moistures and fire weather conditions under which these fuels may convert to smoke will vary; therefore, the map does not represent actual smoke production (PM_{2.5} emissions) during an actual fire event. For data users interested in near-term smoke forecasts that reflect the environmental drivers of emissions, project-specific modeling tools are recommended. For example, the BlueSky Playground (<https://tools.airfire.org/playground>) can tailor model inputs based on the fuel and moisture conditions observed or planned for in the project area of interest.

Potential smoke emissions do not consider the probability of a fire or the transport of smoke to more distant locations; they only reflect what would happen locally if a pixel were to burn.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: 0 - 1, a unitless number serving as an index; on a per 30-m pixel basis

Creation Method: Potential TOTAL smoke production index is the smoke production expected for a given pixel under severe fire weather conditions. It is based on model outputs from the First Order Fire Effects Model (FOFEM) developed by the U.S. Forest Service (Spatial FOFEM: <https://www.firelab.org/project/fofem-fire-effects-model>). Key drivers (and model inputs) for this mapped variation are (1) fuel loads spatially extracted from the Landfire FCCS modeled fuelbeds map (LANDFIRE 2022 Update (LF 2.3.0), https://www.landfire.gov/lf_230.php), and (2) fuel moistures, which are assigned to approximate the extremely dry conditions under which high severity fire generally occurs. The data are dimensionless and linearly normalized from 0 to 1 based on the statewide maximum value, with 1 being the maximum PM_{2.5} emissions per 30-m pixel for the given region. Fuels are taken from LANDFIRE LF2022_FCCS_220. Spatial FOFEM was run as implemented in FlamMap 6.2 (<https://www.firelab.org/project/flammap>).

This index is a unitless number (ranging between 0 and 1) on a per 30-meter pixel basis, which is calculated using the following equation:

Potential Total Smoke Production Index = $S_i / (\text{maximum } S_i \text{ statewide in a given region})$

where

S_i = high severity PM2.5 emissions value for pixel i

Calculated with SpatialFOFEM (First Order Fire Effects Model), embedded in FlamMap 6.2. Fuels are LCP and FCCS 2022 from LANDFIRE (LCP_LF2022_FBFM40_220_CONUS and LF2022_FCCS_220_CONUS). FOFEM Parameters used for this application are:

Seasonality - (Summer)

Canopy consumption – 39%

Duff moisture – 20%

1 hour fuel moisture – 4%

10-hour fuel moisture – 6%

100-hour fuel moisture – 8%

1000-hour fuel moisture – 8%

Data Source: LANDFIRE FCCS ([LANDFIRE Program: Data Products – Fuel – Fuel Characteristic Classification System Fuelbeds](#)) 2022

Rocky Mountain Research Station <https://www.firelab.org/project/fofem-fire-effects-model>

File Name: PotentialTotalSmoke_202209.tif

POTENTIAL AVOIDED SMOKE PRODUCTION INDEX

Tier: 21

Data Vintage: 2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: This is an index of how much *less* smoke (as defined by PM_{2.5} emissions) would be produced from a given pixel by burning under moderate fire weather conditions rather than the extreme conditions that lead to high-severity smoke production. This serves as a proxy for efforts to minimize smoke emissions by allowing a given area to burn under more desirable conditions (e.g., prescribed burning conditions) vs. how it would burn under extreme conditions. Since identical fuelbeds are used as inputs in the high-severity and low-severity model runs, the index does *not* represent the effects of fuel treatments on subsequent wildfire. Rather, this metric represents the maximum potential difference between emissions under high vs. moderate fire weather conditions. Summing these reductions over large areas would be unrealistic because wildland fire burns with a mix of intensities and severities over landscapes, and does not burn everywhere in California, every year.

Wildland fire is often self-limiting in extent. In other words, wildfires may stop spreading when they reach the boundary of a recent burn. Since prescribed fire and managed wildfire can be selected to burn under moderate fire weather conditions, proactive fire use can shift high-severity-type fire emissions to low-severity-type fire emissions. This metric provides a rough index of the potential fire emissions benefits if a fire is allowed to burn under moderate weather conditions rather than in a wildfire under extreme weather. By showing the spatial

variation in this potential benefit, this index is intended to help identify where fire management may have the greatest emissions benefit. It may be useful for regional scale planning and/or prioritization.

It is important to note that not all managed fire will produce an emissions benefit, because wildfire may not have otherwise burned in that location within the lifespan of the managed fire's effects, and the managed fire's footprint may not prevent a subsequent wildfire from burning in the same location. Furthermore, actual weather conditions vary from those used in model inputs. Therefore, the map does not represent actual avoided smoke production (PM_{2.5} emissions) during an actual fire event that may occur in the future. For data users interested in near-term smoke forecasts that reflect the environmental drivers of emissions, project-specific modeling tools are recommended. For example, the BlueSky Playground (<https://tools.airfire.org/playground>) can tailor model inputs based on the fuel and moisture conditions observed or planned for in the project area of interest.

Potential smoke emissions do not consider the probability of a fire or the transport of smoke to more distant locations; they only reflect what would happen locally if a pixel were to burn.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: 0 - 1, a unitless number serving as an index; on a per 30-m pixel basis

Creation Method: This index is a unitless number (ranging between 0 and 1) on a per 30-meter pixel basis, which is calculated using the following equation:

Potential Avoided Smoke Production Index = (D_i for a given pixel) / (the maximum D_i statewide in a given region)

where

D_i = the difference in modeled PM_{2.5} emissions between high severity and low severity scenarios for pixel i = (high severity PM_{2.5} emissions scenario for pixel i) – (low severity PM_{2.5} emissions scenario for pixel i)

"High severity PM_{2.5} emissions" were calculated as described for the "POTENTIAL TOTAL SMOKE PRODUCTION INDEX" metric.

Calculated with SpatialFOFEM (First Order Fire Effects Model), embedded in FlamMap 6.2. Fuels are LCP and FCCS 2022 from LANDFIRE (LCP_LF2022_FBFM40_220_CONUS and LF2022_FCCS_220_CONUS). Conditions for Low severity PM 2.5 emissions were calculated for the following settings (FOFEM parameters used for this application):

Seasonality: Spring

Canopy consumption - 5%

Duff moisture - 75%

1 hour fuel moisture - 14%

10-hour fuel moisture - 16%

100-hour fuel moisture - 18%

1000-hour fuel moisture - 25%

Data Source: LANDFIRE FCCS ([LANDFIRE Program: Data Products - Fuel - Fuel Characteristic Classification System Fuelbeds](#)) 2022

Rocky Mountain Research Station <https://www.firelab.org/project/fofem-fire-effects-model>

File Name: PotentialAvoidedSmoke_202209.tif

WETLAND INTEGRITY

Wetlands provide critical habitat, store carbon, enhance water quality, control erosion, filter and retain nutrient pollution, and provide spaces for recreation. They are local and regional centers of biodiversity, and support species found nowhere else across western landscapes. Functional wetland ecosystems will serve increasingly important roles in buffering impacts from extreme climate events, and upland disturbances such as flooding and erosion. Meadow and riparian ecosystems provide ecosystem services and are key linkages between upland and aquatic systems in forested landscapes.

DESIRED OUTCOME: Wetland ecosystems are biologically intact, provide multiple ecosystem services, and meadow and riparian ecosystems provide key linkages between upland and aquatic systems in forested landscapes.

COMPOSITION

Wetland composition pertains to the array of different wetland types, their relative abundance, the uniqueness of their co-occurrence and composition, and their integrity in a given location and area within and across landscapes. Wetland ecosystems include all lentic (e.g. lakes, ponds, bogs, fens) and lotic (e.g., rivers, streams, springs, seeps) aquatic ecosystems, as well as associated vegetated wetlands such as wet meadows and riparian vegetation.

AQUATIC SPECIES RICHNESS

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 02/2018

Metric Definition and Relevance: Aquatic native species richness is a measure of species biodiversity, and is one measurement used to describe the distribution of overall species biodiversity in California for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Areas of Conservation Emphasis Project (ACE). Native species richness represents a count of the total number of native aquatic species potentially present in each watershed based on species range and distribution information. The data can be used to view patterns of species diversity, and to identify areas of highest native richness across the state. The species count consists of four taxonomic groups – fish, aquatic invertebrates, aquatic amphibians, and aquatic reptiles.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Count

Creation Method: For more information, see the Aquatic Native Species Richness Factsheet (2018) at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=150852>

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE) is a compilation and analysis of the best-available statewide spatial information in California on biodiversity, rarity and endemism, harvested species, significant habitats, connectivity and wildlife movement, climate vulnerability, climate refugia, and other relevant data (e.g., other conservation priorities such as those identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), stressors, land ownership). ACE addresses both terrestrial and aquatic data.

Data Source:

Aquatic Native Species Richness Summary, Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE), version 3.0, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
ACE database

File Name: aquatic_species_richness_2018.tif

WETLAND DIVERSITY

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 06/2018

Metric Definition and Relevance: This data set represents the extent, approximate location, and type of wetlands and deepwater habitats in California. These data delineate the areal extent of wetlands and surface waters as defined by Cowardin et al. (1979).

Data Resolution: 30m raster

Data Units: Thematic

Creation Method: Downloaded from the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), polygon converted to 30 meter raster. For more information see <https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>.

Definition of values:

- Lake = Lake or reservoir basin. Lacustrine wetland and deepwater (L).
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland = Herbaceous marsh, fen, swale and wet meadow. Palustrine emergent (PEM).
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland = Vegetated and non-vegetated brackish and saltwater marsh, shrubs, beach, bar, shoal or flat. Estuarine intertidal and Marine intertidal wetland (E2, M2).
- Other = Farmed wetland, saline seep and other miscellaneous wetland. Palustrine wetland (Misc. types, PUS, Pf..)
- Freshwater Pond = Pond. Palustrine unconsolidated bottom, Palustrine aquatic bed (PUB, PAB).
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater = Open water estuary, bay, sound, open ocean. Estuarine and Marine subtidal water (E1, M1).
- Riverine = River or stream channel. Riverine wetland and deepwater (R).
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland = Forested swamp or wetland shrub bog or wetland. Palustrine forested and/or Palustrine shrub (PFO, PSS).

Data Source: The National Wetlands Inventory, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

File Name: NWI_WetlandsType_2018_30m.tif

RIPARIAN HABITAT

Tier: 1

Data vintage: 04/2019

Metric Definition and Relevance: These data depict 10-meter raster riparian areas for 50-year flood heights for California in 2019.

Data Resolution: 10m Raster

Data Units: binary

Creation Method: Fifty-year flood heights were estimated using U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) stream gage information. NHDPlus version 2.1 was used as the hydrologic framework to delineate riparian areas. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wetland Inventory and USGS 10-meter digital elevation models were also used in processing these data. See <https://doi.org/10.2737/RDS-2019-0030>

Credits: Sinan Abood, Ph.D. GISP; Research Scientist, Forest Service Washington Office (WO) – Biological & Physical Resources (BPR)

Data Source: USDA Forest Service

File Name: RiparianAreas10m_2019.tif

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL WELL-BEING

The landscape provides a place for people to connect with nature, recreate, to maintain and improve their overall health, and an opportunity to contribute to environmental stewardship. While the elements of this pillar include public health and engagement, recreation quality, and equitable opportunities producing quantifiable, measurable and actionable metrics remains challenging. These metrics are still under development and insights into these potential metrics are appreciated.

DESIRED OUTCOME: The landscape provides a place for people to connect with nature, to recreate, to maintain and improve their overall health, and to contribute to environmental stewardship, and is a critical component of their identity.

EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITY

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income regarding the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, policies and land management.

POVERTY PERCENTILE

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 10/2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: Percent of population living below two times the federal poverty level. The U.S. Census Bureau determines the federal poverty level each year. The poverty level is based on the size of the household and the age of family members. If a person or family’s total income before taxes is less than the poverty level, the person or family are considered in poverty. Many studies have found that people living in poverty are more likely than others to become ill from pollution.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: percentile

Creation Method: CalEnviroScreen, Version 4.0, is a science-based method for identifying impacted communities by taking into consideration pollution exposure and its effects, as well as health and socioeconomic status, at the census-tract level. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 uses the census tract as the unit of analysis. Census tract boundaries are available from the Census Bureau. CalEnviroScreen uses the Bureau's 2010 boundaries. New boundaries will be drawn by the Census Bureau as part of the 2020 Census but will not be available until after 2022. OEHHA will address updates to census tract geography in CalEnviroScreen at that time. There are approximately 8,000 census tracts in California, representing a relatively fine scale of analysis. Census tracts are made up of multiple census blocks, which are the smallest geographic unit for which population data are available. Some census blocks have no people residing in them (unpopulated blocks).

The poverty percentile is derived from

- The 2015-2019 American Community Survey, a dataset containing the number of individuals below 200 percent of the federal poverty level was downloaded by census tracts for the state of California.
- The number of individuals below 200% of the poverty level was divided by the total population for whom poverty status was determined.
- Unlike the US Census, ACS estimates come from a sample of the population and may be unreliable if they are based on a small sample or population size. The standard error (SE) and relative standard error (RSE) were used to evaluate the reliability of each estimate.
- The SE was calculated for each census tract using the formula for approximating the SE of proportions provided by the ACS (American Community Survey Office, 2013, pg. 13, equation 4). CalEnviroScreen 4.0 189 When this approximation could not be used, the formula for approximating the SE of ratios (equation 3) was used instead.
- The RSE is calculated by dividing a tract's SE by its estimate of the percentage of the population living below twice the federal poverty level, and taking the absolute value of the result.
- Census tract estimates that met either of the following criteria were considered reliable and included in the analysis:
 - RSE less than 50 (meaning the SE was less than half of the estimate) OR
 - SE was less than the mean SE of all California census tract estimates for poverty.
- Census tracts with unreliable estimates received no score for the indicator (null). The indicator was not factored into that tract's overall CalEnviroScreen score.
- Census tracts that met the inclusion criteria were sorted and assigned percentiles based on their position in the distribution.

Data Source: California Environmental Protection Agency, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, [CalEnviroScreen 4.0 | OEHHA](#)

File Name: Poverty_Pctl_202110.tif

HOUSING BURDEN PERCENTILE

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 10/2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households. Percent of households in a census tract that are both low income (making less than 80% of the HUD Area Median Family Income) and severely

burdened by housing costs (paying greater than 50% of their income to housing costs). (5-year estimates, 2013-2017).

The cost and availability of housing is an important determinant of well-being. Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing. The inability of households to afford necessary non-housing goods after paying for shelter is known as housing-induced poverty. California has very high housing costs relative to much of the country, making it difficult for many to afford adequate housing. Within California, the cost of living varies significantly and is largely dependent on housing cost, availability, and demand.

Areas where low-income households may be stressed by high housing costs can be identified through the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data. We measure households earning less than 80% of HUD Area Median Family Income by county and paying greater than 50% of their income to housing costs. The indicator takes into account the regional cost of living for both homeowners and renters, and factors in the cost of utilities. CHAS data are calculated from US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS).

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Percent

Creation Method: CalEnviroScreen, Version 4.0, is a science-based method for identifying impacted communities by taking into consideration pollution exposure and its effects, as well as health and socioeconomic status, at the census-tract level. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 uses the census tract as the unit of analysis. Census tract boundaries are available from the Census Bureau. CalEnviroScreen uses the Bureau's 2010 boundaries. New boundaries will be drawn by the Census Bureau as part of the 2020 Census but will not be available until 2022. OEHHA will address updates to census tract geography in CalEnviroScreen at that time. There are approximately 8,000 census tracts in California, representing a relatively fine scale of analysis. Census tracts are made up of multiple census blocks, which are the smallest geographic unit for which population data are available. Some census blocks have no people residing in them (unpopulated blocks).

The CalEnviroScreen model is based on the CalEPA working definition in that:

- The model is place-based and provides information for the entire State of California on a geographic basis. The geographic scale selected is intended to be useful for a wide range of decisions.
- The model is made up of multiple components cited in the above definition as contributors to cumulative impacts.
- The model includes two components representing Pollution Burden – Exposures and Environmental Effects
- The model includes two components representing Population Characteristics – Sensitive Populations (e.g., in terms of health status and age) and Socioeconomic Factors.

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey of the US population conducted by the US Census Bureau and has replaced the long form of the decennial census. Unlike the decennial census, which attempts to survey the entire population and collects a limited amount of information, the ACS releases results annually based on a sub-sample of the population and includes more detailed information on socioeconomic factors. Multiple years of data are pooled together to provide more reliable estimates for geographic areas with small population sizes. Each year, the HUD receives custom tabulations of ACS data from the US Census Bureau. These data, known as the "CHAS" data (Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy), demonstrate the extent of housing problems and housing needs, particularly for low-income households. The most recent results available at the census tract

scale are the 5-year estimates for 2013-2017. The data are available from the HUD user website (see page 174 in the document link below:

<https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf>

Data Source: California Environmental Protection Agency, CalEnviroScreen 4.0

File Name: HousingBurdenPctI_202110.tif

UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTILE

Tier: 1

Data Vintage: 10/2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: Percentage of the population over the age of 16 that is unemployed and eligible for the labor force. Excludes retirees, students, homemakers, institutionalized persons except prisoners, those not looking for work, and military personnel on active duty (5-year estimate, 2015-2019).

Because low socioeconomic status often goes hand-in-hand with high unemployment, the rate of unemployment is a factor commonly used in describing disadvantaged communities. On an individual level, unemployment is a source of stress, which is implicated in poor health reported by residents of such communities. Lack of employment and resulting low income often constrain people to live in neighborhoods with higher levels of pollution and environmental degradation.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Percent

Creation Method: CalEnviroScreen, Version 4.0, is a science-based method for identifying impacted communities by taking into consideration pollution exposure and its effects, as well as health and socioeconomic status, at the census-tract level. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 uses the census tract as the unit of analysis. Census tract boundaries are available from the Census Bureau. CalEnviroScreen uses the Bureau's 2010 boundaries. New boundaries will be drawn by the Census Bureau as part of the 2020 Census but will not be available until 2022. OEHHA will address updates to census tract geography in CalEnviroScreen at that time. There are approximately 8,000 census tracts in California, representing a relatively fine scale of analysis. Census tracts are made up of multiple census blocks, which are the smallest geographic unit for which population data are available. Some census blocks have no people residing in them (unpopulated blocks).

The CalEnviroScreen model is based on the CalEPA working definition in that:

- The model is place-based and provides information for the entire State of California on a geographic basis. The geographic scale selected is intended to be useful for a wide range of decisions.
- The model is made up of multiple components cited in the above definition as contributors to cumulative impacts.
- The model includes two components representing Pollution Burden – Exposures and Environmental Effects
- The model includes two components representing Population Characteristics – Sensitive Populations (e.g., in terms of health status and age) and Socioeconomic Factors.

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey of the US population conducted by the US Census Bureau. Unlike the decennial census, which attempts to survey the entire population and collects a limited amount of information, the ACS releases results annually based on a sub-sample of the population and includes more

detailed information on socioeconomic factors such as unemployment. Multiple years of data are pooled together to provide more reliable estimates for geographic areas with small population sizes. The most recent results available at the census tract level are the 5-year estimates for 2015-2019. The data are made available using the U.S. Census data download website.

Data Source: California Environmental Protection Agency, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, [CalEnviroScreen 4.0 | OEHHA](#)

File Name: Unemployment_Pctl_202110.tif

AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE RACE ALONE POPULATION CONCENTRATION

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 09/2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: Relative concentration of the Northern California region’s American Indian population. The variable AIANALN records all individuals who select American Indian or Alaska Native as their SOLE racial identity in response to the Census questionnaire, regardless of their response to the Hispanic ethnicity question. Both Hispanic and non-Hispanic in the Census questionnaire are potentially associated with American Indian / Alaska Native race alone. IMPORTANT: this self reported ancestry and Tribal membership are distinct identities and one does not automatically imply the other. These data should not be interpreted as a distribution of “Tribal people.” Numerous Rancherias in the Northern California region account for the wide distribution of very to extremely high concentrations of American Indians outside the San Francisco Bay Area.

“Relative concentration” is a measure that compares the proportion of population within each Census block group data unit that identify as American Indian / Alaska Native alone to the proportion of all people that live within the 1,207 block groups in the Northern California RRK region that identify as American Indian / Alaska native alone. Example: if 5.2% of people in a block group identify as AIANALN, the block group has twice the proportion of AIANALN individuals compared to the Northern California RRK region (2.6%), and more than three times the proportion compared to the entire state of California (1.6%). If the local proportion is twice the regional proportion, then AIANALN individuals are highly concentrated locally.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Categorical

- Class Code 0: *Zero or nearly zero*. The variable is absent (observed value = 0) or is very low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is 10% or less than the same proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 1: *Low*. The subject population concentration is low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 10% and 50% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 2: *Somewhat low*. The subject population concentration is somewhat low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 50% and 85% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total

- Class Code 3: *Proportionate*. The subject population concentration is roughly proportionate to the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total - from about 85% to 115% of the regional proportion
- Class Code 4: *Somewhat high*. The subject population concentration is somewhat high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 115% and 150% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 5: *High*. The subject population concentration is high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 150% and 200% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 6: *Very high*. The subject population concentration is very high; the local proportion of the subject population variable roughly 2 to 3 times that of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 7: *Extremely high*. The subject population concentration is very extremely high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is at least 3 times that of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total (the upper limit is determined by natural breaks, if exceptional outliers are present, but is typically over 6 times (600%)
- Class Code 8: *Exceptionally high*. The subject population concentration is so high that it is an exceptional outlier; the local proportion of the subject population variable is typically greater than 6 or 7 times that of the corresponding proportion in the region

Creation Method: Data reporting units are Census block groups. Standard block groups are clusters of Census blocks within the same census tract that have the same first digit of their 4-character census block number (e.g., Blocks 3001, 3002, 3003 to 3999 in census tract 1210.02 belong to block group 3). Block groups delineated for the 2020 Census generally contain 600 to 3,000 people.

Census blocks are statistical areas bounded on all sides by visible features (e.g., streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks), and by non-visible boundaries (e.g., city, town, township, county limits, and short line-of-sight extensions of streets and roads). Census blocks in suburban and rural areas may be large, irregular, and bounded by a variety of features (e.g., roads, streams, and/or transmission line rights-of-way). In remote areas, census blocks may encompass hundreds of square miles. Census blocks cover all territory in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas. Blocks do not cross the boundaries of any entity for which the Census Bureau tabulates data. See note 1.

Data describing concentrations of population characteristics that are potentially related to environmental justice issues were provided to CWI through a collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, Geospatial Technology and Applications Center. The concentration methodology was created by GTAC for social science analysis applications within the Forest Service; it is based on research published in 2018 and 2020 (See Note 2). Data were compiled and prepared for incorporating in the regional resource kits by Mark Adams, Geographer, USFS-GTAC. For more information, contact: mark.adams1@usda.gov.

Note; 1) The pixels attributed with a categorical data unit describing the relative concentration of AIANALN population are derived from a vector polygon feature that has been modified as follows: Census block groups from the Census Bureau's TIGER/Line geodatabase features for 2021 are selected based on their spatial intersection

with the Northern California RRK boundary. The resulting 1,207 block group features are modified by first erasing from the feature the area of all constituent Census blocks which have neither housing nor population recorded in the PL-94171 Redistricting dataset for 2020. In a second step, areas of federal and state public lands on which housing by definition is not located are erased from the interim feature. The result is a block group feature that depicts to the maximum practicable extent the areas within the block group where people that are represented by the Census Bureau's Census count could actually be residing. It is this modified block group feature that has been rasterized to match the 30m pixel grid that all biophysical datasets are reported in.

References for the concentration levels analysis:

Adams, Mark D. O. and S. Charnley. 2020. The Environmental Justice Implications of Managing Hazardous Fuels on Federal Forest Lands, *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 110:6, 1907-1935, DOI: 10.1080/24694452.2020.1727307

Adams, Mark D. O. and S. Charnley. 2018. Environmental justice and U.S. Forest Service hazardous fuels reduction: A spatial method for impact assessment of federal resource management actions. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2017.12.014>

Data Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census Redistricting File (PL 94-171).

Racial identity data are reported in Table P1 of the PL 94-171 release. Population counts were obtained via the Data.Census.Gov web portal and joined to the Census Bureau's TIGER/line feature classes for block groups (see reporting units above).

File Name: AmericanIndian_202109.tif

HISPANIC/LATINO POPULATION CONCENTRATION

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 09/2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: Relative concentration of the Northern California region's Hispanic/Latino population. The variable HISPANIC records all individuals who select Hispanic or Latino in response to the Census questionnaire, regardless of their response to the racial identity question.

"Relative concentration" is a measure that compares the proportion of population within each Census block group data unit that identify as American Indian / Alaska Native alone to the proportion of all people that live within the 1,207 block groups in the Northern California RRK region that identify as American Indian / Alaska native alone. Example: if 5.2% of people in a block group identify as HISPANIC, the block group has twice the proportion of HISPANIC individuals compared to the Northern California RRK region (2.6%), and more than three times the proportion compared to the entire state of California (1.6%). If the local proportion is twice the regional proportion, then HISPANIC individuals are highly concentrated locally.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Categorical

- Class Code 0: *Zero or nearly zero*. The variable is absent (observed value = 0) or is very low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is 10% or less than the same proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 1: *Low*. The subject population concentration is low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 10% and 50% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 2: *Somewhat low*. The subject population concentration is somewhat low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 50% and 85% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 3: *Proportionate*. The subject population concentration is roughly proportionate to the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total - from about 85% to 115% of the regional proportion
- Class Code 4: *Somewhat high*. The subject population concentration is somewhat high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 115% and 150% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 5: *High*. The subject population concentration is high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 150% and 200% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 6: *Very high*. The subject population concentration is very high; the local proportion of the subject population variable roughly 2 to 3 times that of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 7: *Extremely high*. The subject population concentration is very extremely high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is at least 3 times that of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total (the upper limit is determined by natural breaks, if exceptional outliers are present, but is typically over 6 times (600%))

Creation Method: Data reporting units are Census block groups. Standard block groups are clusters of Census blocks within the same census tract that have the same first digit of their 4-character census block number (e.g., Blocks 3001, 3002, 3003 to 3999 in census tract 1210.02 belong to block group 3). Block groups delineated for the 2020 Census generally contain 600 to 3,000 people.

Census blocks are statistical areas bounded on all sides by visible features (e.g., streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks), and by non-visible boundaries (e.g., city, town, township, county limits, and short line-of-sight extensions of streets and roads). Census blocks in suburban and rural areas may be large, irregular, and bounded by a variety of features (e.g., roads, streams, and/or transmission line rights-of-way). In remote areas, census blocks may encompass hundreds of square miles. Census blocks cover all territory in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas. Blocks do not cross the boundaries of any entity for which the Census Bureau tabulates data. See note 1.

Data describing concentrations of population characteristics that are potentially related to environmental justice issues were provided to CWI through a collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, Geospatial Technology and

Applications Center. The concentration methodology was created by GTAC for social science analysis applications within the Forest Service; it is based on research published in 2018 and 2020 (See Note 2). Data were compiled and prepared for incorporating in the regional resource kits by Mark Adams, Geographer, USFS-GTAC. For more information, contact: mark.adams1@usda.gov.

Note; 1) The pixels attributed with a categorical data unit describing the relative concentration of HISPANIC population are derived from a vector polygon feature that has been modified as follows: Census block groups from the Census Bureau's TIGER/Line geodatabase features for 2021 are selected based on their spatial intersection with the Northern California RRR boundary. The resulting 1,207 block group features are modified by first erasing from the feature the area of all constituent Census blocks which have neither housing nor population recorded in the PL-94171 Redistricting dataset for 2020. In a second step, areas of federal and state public lands on which housing by definition is not located are erased from the interim feature. The result is a block group feature that depicts to the maximum practicable extent the areas within the block group where people that are represented by the Census Bureau's Census count could actually be residing. It is this modified block group feature that has been rasterized to match the 30m pixel grid that all biophysical datasets are reported in.

References for the concentration levels analysis:

Adams, Mark D. O. and S. Charnley. 2020. The Environmental Justice Implications of Managing Hazardous Fuels on Federal Forest Lands, *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 110:6, 1907-1935, DOI: 10.1080/24694452.2020.1727307

Adams, Mark D. O. and S. Charnley. 2018. Environmental justice and U.S. Forest Service hazardous fuels reduction: A spatial method for impact assessment of federal resource management actions. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2017.12.014>

Data were derived from the 2020 Census Total population for the block group from the redistricting file (PL 94-171) of the 2020 Census, released summer 2021. The raw data were obtained directly from the Census Bureau data set table named in "Origin"; all data sets downloaded from [census.data.gov](https://www.census.gov/data) and joined to TIGER Census block group features. There are 1,207 Census block groups within or intersecting the Northern California RRR region boundary.

Data Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census Redistricting File (PL 94-171).

Racial identity data are reported in Table P1 of the PL 94-171 release. Population counts were obtained via the [Data.Census.Gov](https://data.census.gov) web portal and joined to the Census Bureau's TIGER/line feature classes for block groups (see reporting units above).

File Name: Hispanic_202109.tif

BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION CONCENTRATION

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 09/2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: Relative concentration of the Northern California region's Black/African American population. The variable BLACKALN records all individuals who select black or African American as their SOLE racial identity in response to the Census questionnaire, regardless of their response to the Hispanic ethnicity

question. Both Hispanic and non-Hispanic in the Census questionnaire are potentially associated with black race alone.

“Relative concentration” is a measure that compares the proportion of population within each Census block group data unit that identify as Black/African American alone to the proportion of all people that live within the 1,207 block groups in the Northern California RRK region that identify as Black/African American alone. Example: if 5.2% of people in a block group identify as BLACKALN, the block group has twice the proportion of BLACKALN individuals compared to the Northern California RRK region (2.6%), and more than three times the proportion compared to the entire state of California (1.6%). If the local proportion is twice the regional proportion, then BLACKALN individuals are highly concentrated locally.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Categorical

- Class Code 0: *Zero or nearly zero*. The variable is absent (observed value = 0) or is very low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is 10% or less than the same proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 1: *Low*. The subject population concentration is low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 10% and 50% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 2: *Somewhat low*. The subject population concentration is somewhat low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 50% and 85% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 3: *Proportionate*. The subject population concentration is roughly proportionate to the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total - from about 85% to 115% of the regional proportion
- Class Code 4: *Somewhat high*. The subject population concentration is somewhat high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 115% and 150% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 5: *High*. The subject population concentration is high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 150% and 200% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 6: *Very high*. The subject population concentration is very high; the local proportion of the subject population variable roughly 2 to 3 times that of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 7: *Extremely high*. The subject population concentration is very extremely high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is at least 3 times that of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total (the upper limit is determined by natural breaks, if exceptional outliers are present, but is typically over 6 times (600%))

- Class Code 8: *Exceptionally high*. The subject population concentration is so high that it is an exceptional outlier; the local proportion of the subject population variable is typically greater than 6 or 7 times that of the corresponding proportion in the region

Creation Method: Data reporting units are Census block groups. Standard block groups are clusters of Census blocks within the same census tract that have the same first digit of their 4-character census block number (e.g., Blocks 3001, 3002, 3003 to 3999 in census tract 1210.02 belong to block group 3). Block groups delineated for the 2020 Census generally contain 600 to 3,000 people.

Census blocks are statistical areas bounded on all sides by visible features (e.g., streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks), and by non-visible boundaries (e.g., city, town, township, county limits, and short line-of-sight extensions of streets and roads). Census blocks in suburban and rural areas may be large, irregular, and bounded by a variety of features (e.g., roads, streams, and/or transmission line rights-of-way). In remote areas, census blocks may encompass hundreds of square miles. Census blocks cover all territory in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas. Blocks do not cross the boundaries of any entity for which the Census Bureau tabulates data. See note 1.

Data describing concentrations of population characteristics that are potentially related to environmental justice issues were provided to CWI through a collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, Geospatial Technology and Applications Center. The concentration methodology was created by GTAC for social science analysis applications within the Forest Service; it is based on research published in 2018 and 2020 (See Note 2). Data were compiled and prepared for incorporating in the regional resource kits by Mark Adams, Geographer, USFS-GTAC. For more information, contact: mark.adams1@usda.gov.

Note; 1) The pixels attributed with a categorical data unit describing the relative concentration of BLACKALN population are derived from a vector polygon feature that has been modified as follows: Census block groups from the Census Bureau's TIGER/Line geodatabase features for 2021 are selected based on their spatial intersection with the Northern California RRK boundary. The resulting 1,207 block group features are modified by first erasing from the feature the area of all constituent Census blocks which have neither housing nor population recorded in the PL-94171 Redistricting dataset for 2020. In a second step, areas of federal and state public lands on which housing by definition is not located are erased from the interim feature. The result is a block group feature that depicts to the maximum practicable extent the areas within the block group where people that are represented by the Census Bureau's Census count could actually be residing. It is this modified block group feature that has been rasterized to match the 30m pixel grid that all biophysical datasets are reported in.

References for the concentration levels analysis:

Adams, Mark D. O. and S. Charnley. 2020. The Environmental Justice Implications of Managing Hazardous Fuels on Federal Forest Lands, *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 110:6, 1907-1935, DOI: 10.1080/24694452.2020.1727307

Adams, Mark D. O. and S. Charnley. 2018. Environmental justice and U.S. Forest Service hazardous fuels reduction: A spatial method for impact assessment of federal resource management actions. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2017.12.014>

Data were derived from the 2020 Census Total population for the block group from the redistricting file (PL 94-171) of the 2020 Census, released summer 2021. The raw data were obtained directly from the Census Bureau data set

table named in "Origin"; all data sets downloaded from census.data.gov and joined to TIGER Census block group features. There are 1,207 Census block groups within or intersecting the Northern California RRK region boundary.

Data Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census Redistricting File (PL 94-171).

Racial identity data are reported in Table P1 of the PL 94-171 release. Population counts were obtained via the Data.Census.Gov web portal and joined to the Census Bureau's TIGER/line feature classes for block groups (see reporting units above).

File Name: Black_202109.tif

HISPANIC AND/OR BLACK, INDIGENOUS OR PERSON OF COLOR (HSPBPOC)

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 09/2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: Relative concentration of the Northern California region's Black/African American population. The variable HSPBPOC is equivalent to all individuals who select a combination of racial and ethnic identity in response to the Census questionnaire EXCEPT those who select "not Hispanic" for the ethnic identity question, and "white race alone" for the racial identity question. This is the most encompassing possible definition of racial and ethnic identities that may be associated with historic underservice by agencies, or be more likely to express environmental justice concerns (as compared to predominantly non-Hispanic white communities). Until 2021, federal agency guidance for considering environmental justice impacts of proposed actions focused on how the actions affected "racial or ethnic minorities." "Racial minority" is an increasingly meaningless concept in the USA, and particularly so in California, where only about 3/8 of the state's population identifies as non-Hispanic and white race alone - a clear majority of Californians identify as Hispanic and/or not white. Because many federal and state map screening tools continue to rely on "minority population" as an indicator for flagging potentially vulnerable / disadvantaged/ underserved populations, our analysis includes the variable HSPBPOC which is effectively "all minority" population according to the now outdated federal environmental justice direction. A more meaningful analysis for the potential impact of forest management actions on specific populations considers racial or ethnic populations individually: e.g., all people identifying as Hispanic regardless of race; all people identifying as American Indian, regardless of Hispanic ethnicity; etc.

"Relative concentration" is a measure that compares the proportion of population within each Census block group data unit that identify as HSPBPOC alone to the proportion of all people that live within the 1,207 block groups in the Northern California RRK region that identify as HSPBPOC alone. Example: if 5.2% of people in a block group identify as HSPBPOC, the block group has twice the proportion of HSPBPOC individuals compared to the Northern California RRK region (2.6%), and more than three times the proportion compared to the entire state of California (1.6%). If the local proportion is twice the regional proportion, then HSPBPOC individuals are highly concentrated locally.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Categorical

- Class Code 1: *Low*. The subject population concentration is low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 10% and 50% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total

- Class Code 2: *Somewhat low*. The subject population concentration is somewhat low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 50% and 85% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 3: *Proportionate*. The subject population concentration is roughly proportionate to the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total - from about 85% to 115% of the regional proportion
- Class Code 4: *Somewhat high*. The subject population concentration is somewhat high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 115% and 150% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 5: *High*. The subject population concentration is high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 150% and 200% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 6: *Very high*. The subject population concentration is very high; the local proportion of the subject population variable roughly 2 to 3 times that of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total

Creation Method: Data reporting units are Census block groups. Standard block groups are clusters of Census blocks within the same census tract that have the same first digit of their 4-character census block number (e.g., Blocks 3001, 3002, 3003 to 3999 in census tract 1210.02 belong to block group 3). Block groups delineated for the 2020 Census generally contain 600 to 3,000 people.

Census blocks are statistical areas bounded on all sides by visible features (e.g., streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks), and by non-visible boundaries (e.g., city, town, township, county limits, and short line-of-sight extensions of streets and roads). Census blocks in suburban and rural areas may be large, irregular, and bounded by a variety of features (e.g., roads, streams, and/or transmission line rights-of-way). In remote areas, census blocks may encompass hundreds of square miles. Census blocks cover all territory in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas. Blocks do not cross the boundaries of any entity for which the Census Bureau tabulates data. See note 1.

Data describing concentrations of population characteristics that are potentially related to environmental justice issues were provided to CWI through a collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, Geospatial Technology and Applications Center. The concentration methodology was created by GTAC for social science analysis applications within the Forest Service; it is based on research published in 2018 and 2020 (See Note 2). Data were compiled and prepared for incorporating in the regional resource kits by Mark Adams, Geographer, USFS-GTAC. For more information, contact: mark.adams1@usda.gov.

Note; 1) The pixels attributed with a categorical data unit describing the relative concentration of HSPBIPOC population are derived from a vector polygon feature that has been modified as follows: Census block groups from the Census Bureau's TIGER/Line geodatabase features for 2021 are selected based on their spatial intersection with the Northern California RRK boundary. The resulting 1,207 block group features are modified by first erasing from the feature the area of all constituent Census blocks which have neither housing nor population recorded in the PL-94171 Redistricting dataset for 2020. In a second step, areas of federal and state public lands on which housing by definition is not located are erased from the interim feature. The result is a block group feature that depicts to the maximum practicable extent the areas within the block group where people that are represented by

the Census Bureau's Census count could actually be residing. It is this modified block group feature that has been rasterized to match the 30m pixel grid that all biophysical datasets are reported in.

References for the concentration levels analysis:

Adams, Mark D. O. and S. Charnley. 2020. The Environmental Justice Implications of Managing Hazardous Fuels on Federal Forest Lands, *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 110:6, 1907-1935, DOI: 10.1080/24694452.2020.1727307

Adams, Mark D. O. and S. Charnley. 2018. Environmental justice and U.S. Forest Service hazardous fuels reduction: A spatial method for impact assessment of federal resource management actions. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2017.12.014>

Data were derived from the 2020 Census Total population for the block group from the redistricting file (PL 94-171) of the 2020 Census, released summer 2021. The raw data were obtained directly from the Census Bureau data set table named in "Origin"; all data sets downloaded from census.data.gov and joined to TIGER Census block group features. There are 1,207 Census block groups within or intersecting the Northern California RRK region boundary.

Data Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census Redistricting File (PL 94-171).

Racial identity data are reported in Table P1 of the PL 94-171 release. Population counts were obtained via the Data.Census.Gov web portal and joined to the Census Bureau's TIGER/line feature classes for block groups (see reporting units above)

File Name: HSPBIPOC_202109.tif

ASIAN POPULATION CONCENTRATION

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 09/2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: Relative concentration of the Northern California region's Asian American population. The variable ASIANALN records all individuals who select Asian as their SOLE racial identity in response to the Census questionnaire, regardless of their response to the Hispanic ethnicity question. Both Hispanic and non-Hispanic in the Census questionnaire are potentially associated with the Asian race alone.

"Relative concentration" is a measure that compares the proportion of population within each Census block group data unit that identify as ASIANALN alone to the proportion of all people that live within the 1,207 block groups in the Northern California RRK region that identify as ASIANALN alone. Example: if 5.2% of people in a block group identify as HSPBIPOC, the block group has twice the proportion of ASIANALN individuals compared to the Northern California RRK region (2.6%), and more than three times the proportion compared to the entire state of California (1.6%). If the local proportion is twice the regional proportion, then ASIANALN individuals are highly concentrated locally.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Categorical

- Class Code 0: *Zero or nearly zero*. The variable is absent (observed value = 0) or is very low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is 10% or less than the same proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 1: *Low*. The subject population concentration is low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 10% and 50% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 2: *Somewhat low*. The subject population concentration is somewhat low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 50% and 85% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 3: *Proportionate*. The subject population concentration is roughly proportionate to the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total - from about 85% to 115% of the regional proportion
- Class Code 4: *Somewhat high*. The subject population concentration is somewhat high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 115% and 150% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 5: *High*. The subject population concentration is high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 150% and 200% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 6: *Very high*. The subject population concentration is very high; the local proportion of the subject population variable roughly 2 to 3 times that of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 7: *Extremely high*. The subject population concentration is very extremely high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is at least 3 times that of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total (the upper limit is determined by natural breaks, if exceptional outliers are present, but is typically over 6 times (600%))
- Class Code 8: *Exceptionally high*. The subject population concentration is so high that it is an exceptional outlier; the local proportion of the subject population variable is typically greater than 6 or 7 times that of the corresponding proportion in the region

Creation Method: Data reporting units are Census block groups. Standard block groups are clusters of Census blocks within the same census tract that have the same first digit of their 4-character census block number (e.g., Blocks 3001, 3002, 3003 to 3999 in census tract 1210.02 belong to block group 3). Block groups delineated for the 2020 Census generally contain 600 to 3,000 people.

Census blocks are statistical areas bounded on all sides by visible features (e.g., streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks), and by non-visible boundaries (e.g., city, town, township, county limits, and short line-of-sight extensions of streets and roads). Census blocks in suburban and rural areas may be large, irregular, and bounded by a variety of features (e.g., roads, streams, and/or transmission line rights-of-way). In remote areas, census blocks may encompass hundreds of square miles. Census blocks cover all territory in the United States, Puerto

Rico, and the Island areas. Blocks do not cross the boundaries of any entity for which the Census Bureau tabulates data. See note 1.

Data describing concentrations of population characteristics that are potentially related to environmental justice issues were provided to CWI through a collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, Geospatial Technology and Applications Center. The concentration methodology was created by GTAC for social science analysis applications within the Forest Service; it is based on research published in 2018 and 2020 (See Note 2). Data were compiled and prepared for incorporating in the regional resource kits by Mark Adams, Geographer, USFS-GTAC. For more information, contact: mark.adams1@usda.gov.

Note; 1) The pixels attributed with a categorical data unit describing the relative concentration of ASIANALN population are derived from a vector polygon feature that has been modified as follows: Census block groups from the Census Bureau's TIGER/Line geodatabase features for 2021 are selected based on their spatial intersection with the Northern California RRR boundary. The resulting 1,207 block group features are modified by first erasing from the feature the area of all constituent Census blocks which have neither housing nor population recorded in the PL-94171 Redistricting dataset for 2020. In a second step, areas of federal and state public lands on which housing by definition is not located are erased from the interim feature. The result is a block group feature that depicts to the maximum practicable extent the areas within the block group where people that are represented by the Census Bureau's Census count could actually be residing. It is this modified block group feature that has been rasterized to match the 30m pixel grid that all biophysical datasets are reported in.

References for the concentration levels analysis:

Adams, Mark D. O. and S. Charnley. 2020. The Environmental Justice Implications of Managing Hazardous Fuels on Federal Forest Lands, *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 110:6, 1907-1935, DOI: 10.1080/24694452.2020.1727307

Adams, Mark D. O. and S. Charnley. 2018. Environmental justice and U.S. Forest Service hazardous fuels reduction: A spatial method for impact assessment of federal resource management actions. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2017.12.014>

Data were derived from the 2020 Census Total population for the block group from the redistricting file (PL 94-171) of the 2020 Census, released summer 2021. The raw data were obtained directly from the Census Bureau data set table named in "Origin"; all data sets downloaded from [census.data.gov](https://www.census.gov/data) and joined to TIGER Census block group features. There are 1,207 Census block groups within or intersecting the Northern California RRR region boundary.

Data Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census Redistricting File (PL 94-171).

Racial identity data are reported in Table P1 of the PL 94-171 release. Population counts were obtained via the [Data.Census.Gov](https://data.census.gov) web portal and joined to the Census Bureau's TIGER/line feature classes for block groups (see reporting units above)

File Name: Asian_202109.tif

LOW INCOME POPULATION CONCENTRATION

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 03/2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: Relative concentration of the estimated number of people in the Northern California region that live in a household defined as “low income.” There are multiple ways to define low income. These data apply the most common standard: low income population consists of all members of households that collectively have income less than twice the federal poverty threshold that applies to their household type. Household type refers to the household’s resident composition: the number of independent adults plus dependents that can be of any age, from children to elderly. For example, a household with four people – one working adult parent and three dependent children – has a different poverty threshold than a household comprised of four unrelated independent adults.

Due to high estimate uncertainty for many block group estimates of the number of people living in low income households, some records cannot be reliably assigned a class and class code comparable to those assigned to race/ethnicity data from the decennial Census.

“Relative concentration” is a measure that compares the proportion of population within each Census block group data unit to the proportion of all people that live within the 1,207 block groups in the Northern California RRA region. See the “Data Units” description below for how these relative concentrations are broken into categories in this “low income” metric.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Categorical

- Class Code 0: *Zero or nearly zero*. The variable is absent (observed value = 0) or is very low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is 10% or less than the same proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 1: *Low*. The subject population concentration is low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 10% and 50% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 2: *Somewhat low*. The subject population concentration is somewhat low; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 50% and 85% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 3: *Proportionate*. The subject population concentration is roughly proportionate to the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total - from about 85% to 115% of the regional proportion
- Class Code 4: *Somewhat high*. The subject population concentration is somewhat high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 115% and 150% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 5: *High*. The subject population concentration is high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is between roughly 150% and 200% of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total

- Class Code 6: *Very high*. The subject population concentration is very high; the local proportion of the subject population variable roughly 2 to 3 times that of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total
- Class Code 7: *Extremely high*. The subject population concentration is very extremely high; the local proportion of the subject population variable is at least 3 times that of the corresponding proportion in the Northern California region population in total (the upper limit is determined by natural breaks if exceptional outliers are present, but is typically over 6 times (600%)
- Class Code 8: *Exceptionally high*. The subject population concentration is so high that it is an exceptional outlier; the local proportion of the subject population variable is typically greater than 6 or 7 times that of the corresponding proportion in the region
- Class Code 9: *Unclassifiable*. The 90% confidence interval for the estimate is wide enough to cause the values to span four or more classes. In these cases, it is impossible to say with any reasonable certainty whether the concentration is "low" or "high."

Creation Method: Data are reported in Census block groups. Standard block groups are clusters of Census blocks within the same census tract that have the same first digit of their 4-character census block number (e.g., Blocks 3001, 3002, 3003 to 3999 in census tract 1210.02 belong to block group 3). Block groups delineated for the 2020 Census generally contain 600 to 3,000 people.

Census blocks are statistical areas bounded on all sides by visible features (e.g., streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks), and by non-visible boundaries (e.g., city, town, township, county limits, and short line-of-sight extensions of streets and roads). Census blocks in suburban and rural areas may be large, irregular, and bounded by a variety of features (e.g., roads, streams, and/or transmission line rights-of-way). In remote areas, census blocks may encompass hundreds of square miles. Census blocks cover all territory in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas. Blocks do not cross the boundaries of any entity for which the Census Bureau tabulates data. See note 1.

Data describing concentrations of population characteristics that are potentially related to environmental justice issues were provided to CWI through a collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, Geospatial Technology and Applications Center. The concentration methodology was created by GTAC for social science analysis applications within the Forest Service; it is based on research published in 2018 and 2020 (See Note 2). Data were compiled and prepared for incorporating in the regional resource kits by Mark Adams, Geographer, USFS-GTAC. For more information, contact: mark.adams1@usda.gov.

Notes: The pixels attributed with a categorical data unit describing the relative concentration of AIANALN population are derived from a vector polygon feature that has been modified as follows: Census block groups from the Census Bureau's TIGER/Line geodatabase features for 2021 are selected based on their spatial intersection with the Northern California RRR boundary. The resulting 1,207 block group features are modified by first erasing from the feature the area of all constituent Census blocks which have neither housing nor population recorded in the PL-94171 Redistricting dataset for 2020. In a second step, areas of federal and state public lands on which housing by definition is not located are erased from the interim feature. The result is a block group feature that depicts to the maximum practicable extent the areas within the block group where people that are represented by the Census Bureau's Census count could actually be residing. It is this modified block group feature that has been rasterized to match the 30m pixel grid that all biophysical datasets are reported in.

References for the concentration levels analysis:

- Adams, Mark D. O. and S. Charnley. 2020. The Environmental Justice Implications of Managing Hazardous Fuels on Federal Forest Lands, *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 110:6, 1907-1935, DOI: 10.1080/24694452.2020.1727307

- Adams, Mark D. O. and S. Charnley. 2018. Environmental justice and U.S. Forest Service hazardous fuels reduction: A spatial method for impact assessment of federal resource management actions. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2017.12.014>

Data Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Survey Estimates.

Data estimating household income as a percent of the applicable federal poverty threshold are reported in Table C17002 of the 2020 ACS 5-year data. Estimates of population living in low income households were obtained via the Data.Census.Gov web portal and joined to the Census Bureau's TIGER/line feature classes for block groups (see reporting units below). Table C17002 provides estimates and error margins for total population living in households with income, and population by ratio of income to applicable poverty: 50% of poverty, 50-99%, etc. Additional calculations are performed to generate an estimate for all people in households with income less than 200% of applicable poverty.

FMI: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2022/acs-5-year-estimates.html>

File Name: LowIncome_202203.tif

AMERICAN INDIAN LAND AREA REPRESENTATION (LAR)

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 09/2023

Metric Definition and Relevance: These data, developed for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior, provide the details for tracts, parcels, and other relevant BIA lands. The data depict locations of Tribally controlled land mapped to the parcel level for all Land Area Codes (LAC) held in trust or restricted-fee by the United States. The Division of Land Titles and Records (LTR) compiled the data to support the Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Reservations. The source information for the parcel records are from the Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (TAAMS), which is the system of record. The term "Indian land" means: (A) Any land located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria; (B) Any land not located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria, the title to which is held: (i) In trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian tribe or an individual Indian; (ii) By an Indian tribe or an individual Indian, subject to restriction against alienation under laws of the United States Definition: Indian land from 25 USC § 3501(2) | LII / Legal Information Institute.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster (rasterized from a polygon data layer)

Data Units: Categorical

Creation Method: The purpose of the American Indian (and Alaska Native) Land Area Representation (AIAN-LAR) Geographic Information System (GIS) dataset is to depict the external extent of federal Indian reservations and the

external extent of associated land held in “trust” by the United States, “restricted fee” or “mixed ownership” status for federally recognized tribes and individual Indians. This dataset includes other land area types such as Public Domain Allotments, Dependent Indian Communities and Homesteads.

This GIS Dataset is prepared strictly for illustrative and reference purposes only and should not be used, and is not intended for legal, survey, engineering or navigation purposes. No warranty is made by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BIA. This GIS Dataset may contain errors. There is no impact on the legal status of the land areas depicted herein and no impact on land ownership. No legal inference can or should be made from the information in this GIS Dataset. The GIS Dataset is to be used solely for illustrative, reference and statistical purposes and may be used for government to government Tribal consultation.

Reservation boundary data is limited in authority to those areas where there has been settled Congressional definition or final judicial interpretation of the boundary. Absent a settled Congressional definition or final judicial interpretation of a reservation boundary, the BIA recommends consultation with the appropriate Tribe and then the BIA to obtain interpretations of the reservation boundary. The land areas and their representations are compilations defined by the official land title records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) which include treaties, statutes, Acts of Congress, agreements, executive orders, proclamations, deeds and other land title documents.

The trust, restricted, and mixed ownership land area shown here, are suitable only for general spatial reference and do not represent the federal government’s position on the jurisdictional status of Indian country. Ownership and jurisdictional status is subject to change and must be verified with plat books, patents, and deeds in the appropriate federal and state offices.

Included in this dataset are the exterior extent of off reservation trust, restricted fee tracts and mixed tracts of land including Public Domain allotments, Dependent Indian Communities, Homesteads and government administered lands and those set aside for schools and dormitories. There are also land areas where there is more than one tribe having an interest in or authority over a tract of land but this information is not specified in the AIAN-LAR dataset.

The dataset includes both surface and subsurface tracts of land (tribal and individually held) “off reservation” tracts and not simply off reservation “allotments” as land has in many cases been subsequently acquired in trust. These data are public information and may be used by various organizations, agencies, units of government (i.e., Federal, state, county, and city), and other entities according to the restrictions on appropriate use. It is strongly recommended that these data be acquired directly from the BIA and not indirectly through some other source, which may have altered or integrated the data for another purpose for which they may not have been intended. Integrating land areas into another dataset and attempting to resolve boundary differences between other entities may produce inaccurate results. It is also strongly recommended that careful attention be paid to the content of the metadata file associated with these data. Users are cautioned that digital enlargement of these data to scales greater than those at which they were originally mapped can cause misinterpretation. The BIA AIAN-LAR dataset’s spatial accuracy and attribute information are continuously being updated, improved and is used as the single authoritative land area boundary data for the BIA mission. These data are available through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Trust Services, Division of Land Titles and Records, Branch of Geospatial Support.

Interpreting the presence/absence of AIANNH features and LAR features requires care. Essentially, the Land Area Representation (LAR) delineates an area of land that is often but not always under Tribal and/or Trust control of/for a Tribe. It is likely that areas within the LAR that are not Reservation or Trust lands are considered lands of significant interest by the Tribe in question, and direct government-to-government consultation with the concerned Tribe is strongly encouraged to understand the Tribe’s interpretation of the LAR and parcel features.

The AIANNH feature is in almost all cases essentially a realty data set that indicates where Tribes have some legal interest in actual land parcels, either because they are part of a reservation, are held in trust for the tribe, or the Tribe itself has a controlling ownership interest in fee.

Data Source: U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs Developed by the U.S. Department of the Interior

File Name: BIA_AIAN_LAR_202309.tif

AMERICAN INDIAN LANDS (CENSUS DATA)

Tier: 2

Data Vintage: 05/2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: Lands under the control of federally recognized Tribes. These boundaries have been clipped to the boundary of California so that only the portions of each Tribal area that fall within California are included. For purposes of this designation, a Tribe may establish that a particular area of land is under its control even if not represented as such on CalEPA's DAC map and therefore should be considered a DAC by requesting a consultation with the CalEPA Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, Tribal Affairs and Border Relations at TribalAffairs@calepa.ca.gov

The AIANNH feature class from the Census Bureau depicts actual parcels of land which fall into one of the following classifications:

- Federally designated Tribal reservation
- Off-reservation trust land (ORTL) (U.S. Trust – owned by the US Government, managed by the BIA on behalf of the designated Tribe)

Data Resolution: 30m Raster (rasterized from a polygon data layer)

Data Units: Categorical

Definition of field name COMPTYPE (Component type):

- "R" is Federally recognized American Indian Reservations (AIRs)
- "T" is Off-Reservation Trust Lands (ORTL)

Creation Method: CalEnviroScreen, Version 4.0, is a science-based method for identifying impacted communities by taking into consideration pollution exposure and its effects, as well as health and socioeconomic status, at the census-tract level. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 uses the census tract as the unit of analysis. Census tract boundaries are available from the Census Bureau. CalEnviroScreen uses the Bureau's 2010 boundaries. New boundaries will be drawn by the Census Bureau as part of the 2020 Census but will not be available until 2022. OEHHA will address updates to census tract geography in CalEnviroScreen at that time. There are approximately 8,000 census tracts in California, representing a relatively fine scale of analysis. Census tracts are made up of multiple census blocks, which are the smallest geographic unit for which population data are available. Some census blocks have no people residing in them (unpopulated blocks). The CalEnviroScreen model is based on the CalEPA working definition in that:

- The model is place-based and provides information for the entire State of California on a geographic basis. The geographic scale selected is intended to be useful for a wide range of decisions.

- The model is made up of multiple components cited in the above definition as contributors to cumulative impacts.
- The model includes two components representing Pollution Burden – Exposures and Environmental Effects
- The model includes two components representing Population Characteristics – Sensitive Populations (e.g., in terms of health status and age) and Socioeconomic Factors.

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey of the US population conducted by the US Census Bureau and has replaced the long form of the decennial census. Unlike the decennial census, which attempts to survey the entire population and collects a limited amount of information, the ACS releases results annually based on a sub-sample of the population and includes more detailed information on socioeconomic factors. Multiple years of data are pooled together to provide more reliable estimates for geographic areas with small population sizes. Each year, the HUD receives custom tabulations of ACS data from the US Census Bureau. These data, known as the "CHAS" data (Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy), demonstrate the extent of housing problems and housing needs, particularly for low-income households. The most recent results available at the census tract scale are the 5-year estimates for 2013-2017. The data are available from the HUD user website (see page 174 in the document link below:

<https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf>

Data Source: California Environmental Protection Agency, CalEnviroScreen 4.0

File Name: SB535tribalboundaries202205.tif

OPERATIONAL DATA LAYERS

In addition to the metric data layers assembled for this RRK project, a set of “operational” GIS data layers have been assembled to support use of the metrics. These data provide land use context (e.g. ownership, land use designations, background ecological information (e.g. climate refugia, stream locations, climate classes), infrastructure (roads, operational constraints, powerline corridors), and Forest Service policy information (spotted owl PACs, critical habitat maps for listed species, wilderness/roadless/wild and scenic rivers). These data are provided to assist managers in putting proposed treatments into context for what is feasible and what might constrain project planning.

Data layers provided within this designation of operational data are in their native projection and format with any embedded metadata maintained.

FIRE

RECENT FIRE SEVERITY CLASS

Data Vintage: 2012 - 2021

Metric Definition and Relevance: Fire severity classification (low, moderate, high) that burned within the last 10 years (2012-2021).

Data Resolution: 30m raster

Data Units: Value, 1 to 3

Creation Method: The difference-adjusted relativized difference normalized burn ratio (RdNBR) was calculated using methods modified from Parks et al (2018). Fire perimeters were obtained from CAL FIRE's April 2021 fire perimeter database. A function for estimating basal area loss from RdNBR values was fit to data from Miller et al (2009) using quasibinomial logistic regression and applied to the 2012-2021 fires. Estimated basal area loss was thresholded to represent low (< 25% loss), moderate (25% – 75% loss), and high (> 75% loss) burn severity. For areas where multiple sequential fires burned from 2012-2021 the maximum burn severity is reported. Updated April 2023 to incorporate CAL FIRE's October-2022 revisions to fire perimeters and to minimize data loss resulting from spatial reprojection.

- 1: Low Severity
- 2: Moderate Severity
- 3: High Severity

Data Source:

- Landsat 8, NASA
- Fire History (April 2022), CAL FIRE
- Postfire mortality data, Miller et al. 2009

File Name: fire_severity_class_max_2012to2021_all_CA_v2.tif

POTENTIAL OPERATIONAL DELINEATIONS

Data Vintage: 07/2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: This vector dataset represents Potential Operational Delineations, or PODs, for the Northern California Region of California. PODs are mapped polygons whose boundary features are relevant to fire control operations (e.g., roads, ridgetops, and water bodies). These PODs were developed using funding from the California Department of Conservation Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program awarded to the Northern California Resource Partnership.

Please note, creating and refining this NCRP PODs layer is an on-going, iterative process. The PODs layer for the NCRP is NOT an authoritative dataset, and is currently a working draft. This layer needs further review, both in GIS and in the field. Specifically, since this layer could be used during wildfires with limited time frames for cultural review, it is imperative that this layer not be used to guide suppression actions without prior Tribal input. It is intended to be used as a risk management and planning tool for wildfire suppression, prescribed and cultural fire, and hazardous fuels mitigation.

Potential Operational Delineations, or PODs, are a spatial tool for fire planning and wildfire prevention. They are being developed regionally across the United States.

PODs are a network of connected features across a landscape that are relevant for fire control operations. This includes a network of roads, ridgetops, riparian areas, and other fuel breaks. PODs provide land managers a formal

process for developing landscape-scale wildfire response options before fires start, because they outline where the best potential locations are to contain fire and create management units.

Data Resolution: File Geodatabase Polygon Feature Class

Data Units: The main attribute of note in the dataset is the field called “PODEditor”. There are three attribute values, “Workshop”, “USFS” and “NCRP- Not Part of a POD”. PODs that were created from the workshops hosted by the NCRP are labeled “Workshop”, PODs submitted by the Forest Service and unchanged from the workshops are labeled “USFS” and PODs that are used to fill in the NCRP region, such as coastline slivers, but are not relevant for fire control operations are called “NCRP-Not Part of a POD”.

Creation Method:

PODs are created by drawing a lattice of connecting lines through geographic features that could be suitable for fire operations. This is best accomplished through in-person meetings with regional experts discussing the pros and cons of different control features and drawing on physical maps. From December 2021-May 2022, the NCRP hosted several workshops across the Northern California Region to solicit input on the PODs dataset. These workshops included representatives from the following organizations:

- CAL FIRE
- Local Fire Departments
- United States Forest Service
- The Watershed Training Center
- Several Fire Safe Councils
- Timber Industry Representatives
- County Government Officials
- Tribal Representatives
- Cooperative Extension Specialists
- Land Trusts
- Resource Conservation District (RCD) Representatives

The basemaps that the PODs are drawn on use various wildfire planning models to help guide the best location for the PODs. The foundational datasets used included:

1. Suppression Difficulty Index, or SDI, is a quantitative rating of relative difficulty in performing fire control work. Factors include topography, fuels, expected fire behavior under severe fire weather conditions, firefighter line production rates in various fuel types, and accessibility
2. Potential Control Locations, or PCLs, show the probability of a point or feature on a landscape being successfully used as a containment point for large wildfires. PCLs are developed through similar data inputs as the SDI with special attention to proximity to fire stations and response time.

In addition, PODs have been created by partners at the USDA Forest Service. The team integrated existing PODs from the Mendocino National Forest, Six Rivers National Forest, and Modoc National Forest into the basemaps to give workshop attendees the chance to review and refine existing PODs.

While this dataset was drafted to cover the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) region, the PODs are built out beyond the boundaries of the NCRP.

Data Source: North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP), Oregon State University, Mid Klamath Watershed Council, Western Klamath Restoration Partnership, Tukman Geospatial LLC

File Name: PODs.gdb/PODs_DRAFT_7_12_2022

HOUSING UNIT DENSITY

Data Vintage: 01/2020

Metric Definition and Relevance: HUDen is a raster of housing-unit density measured in housing units per square kilometer. The HUDen raster was generated using population and housing-unit count and data from the U.S. Census Bureau, building footprint data from Microsoft, and land cover data from LANDFIRE.

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Housing units per square kilometer

Creation Method: Generate the HUDen raster from the building points. We first converted the building points to a 30-m raster where the raster value is the sum of the housing-units-per-centroid attribute of all building centroids within each raster grid cell. We then generated a smoothed density raster using a three-step process: 1) calculate a 200-m radius moving-window sum of the 30-m housing-unit count raster; 2) calculate a 200-m radius moving-window sum of habitable land cover (in sq km), where habitable land cover is all land covers except open water and permanent-snow/ice; and 3) divide the smoothed housing-unit count raster by the smoothed habitable land cover raster to generate housing unit density in housing units/sq km. To produce the final integer version of the HUDen raster, we set values less than 0.1 HU/sq km to zero, values between 0.1 and 1.5 to a value of 1 HU/sq km, and rounded all other values to the nearest integer.

Data Source: Pyrologix, LLC

File Name: HUDen_2020.tif

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

Data Vintage: 03/2022

Metric Definition and Relevance: The wildland urban interface (WUI) is the area where urban development is in close proximity to wildland vegetation. WUI data for the conterminous U.S. based on 125 million building locations where buildings intermingle with or abut wildland vegetation according to the Federal Register definitions of the WUI. According to the definitions used for our building-based maps and for the census-based maps, WUI is where building density exceeds 6.17 units/km² and where land cover is either (1) at least 50% wildland vegetation (intermix) or (2) under 50% wildland vegetation but within 2.4 km (1.5 miles) of a patch of wildland vegetation at least 5 km² in area that contains at least 75% vegetation (interface). The distance selected for the interface

definition is based on research from the California Fire Alliance suggesting that this is the average distance firebrands can travel from an active wildfire front (Stewart et al., 2007).

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Categorical

Creation Method: Building point locations were obtained from a Microsoft product released in 2018, updated to 2019-2020 for most of California, which classified building footprints based on high-resolution satellite imagery. Maps were also based on wildland vegetation mapped by the 2016 National Land Cover Dataset (Yang et al., 2018). The mapping algorithm utilized definitions of the WUI from the U.S. Federal Register (USDA & USDI, 2001) and Radeloff et al. (2005). Both classes required a minimum building density of 6.17 buildings per km². This map of intermix and interface WUI was generated using a circular neighborhood size based on radius distance of 100m to determine building density and vegetation cover on a pixel-by-pixel basis (Bar Massada et al., 2013). Source: USGS ScienceBase Data Catalog; <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/617bfb43d34ea58c3c70038f>

Values in the raster are defined as:

- 0: Not WUI
- 1: Intermix WUI
- 2: Interface WUI

Data Source: WUI, Carlson et al, 2022

File Name: MSB_WUI_CA_100m.tif

ADMINISTRATIVE

URBAN-AGRICULTURE LAND USE

Definition and Relevance: This dataset covers the urban and agricultural landscape for all forms of urban and agricultural land use in California. It was created using a combination of best available land cover data from multiple sources (see below). These data are used as a mask for selected metrics in the RRK project where inclusion of urban and agricultural cover potentially creates confusion in calculations of the metric.

Data Vintage: 06/2020

Data Resolution: Raster, 30m

Data Units: Thematic

Creation Method:

1. [Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program \(FMMP\)](#) land-use data from 2018 was converted to 30m raster as the base input, using the values from the Type field of:
 - Farmland of Statewide Importance
 - Unique Farmland
 - Farmland of Local Importance
 - Urban and Built-Up Land
 - Rural Residential Land

- Confined Animal Agriculture
2. Secondly, to bring more current data in, [LANDFIRE 2020 Existing Vegetation Type \(EVT\)](#) from 2020 was converted to 30m raster, using the values from EVT group name of:
 - Developed-Low Intensity
 - Developed-Medium Intensity
 - Developed-High Intensity
 - Agriculture-Cultivated Crops and Irrigated Agriculture
 3. Lastly, [Building Footprints - Bing Maps \(microsoft.com\)](#) polygons were converted to 30m raster and added to the stack to include the most recent urban footprints.

Data Source:

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP)

LANDFIRE: Existing Vegetation Type, U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of the Interior
MS Building Footprints

File Name: UrbanAgLanduse_RRK_2020.tif

TIMBER PRODUCTION ZONE LANDS

Definition and Relevance: This layer was created to show lands taxed as 'Timber Production Zones (TPZ)' timberlands across the NCRP region of the Northern California area of California.

Data Vintage: 06/2022

Data Resolution: Vector, polygons

Data Units: binary

Creation Method: For Sonoma, Trinity, Del Norte, Siskiyou, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Modoc Counties, TPZ parcels were identified from county parcel and zoning datasets. Once the TPZ parcels across the region were identified, they were merged together. Areas mapped in the 2021b California Protected Areas Database as public lands (along with a 60 meter buffer on these lands) were removed from the TPZ layer.

Data Source: North Coast Resource Partnership, West Coast Watershed, Tukman Geospatial

File Name: all_tpz_no_public_lands.shp

BIOMASS POWER PLANTS AND SAWMILLS

Definition and Relevance: This layer displays data for currently operational biomass power plants and sawmill within California.

Data Vintage: 06/2022

Data Resolution: Vector, points

Data Units: Attribute definitions can be accessed here: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vS8af0NSbIXJU-TECBSvCHprNrCxR87a30BBMpZbpp7yxrWTerQe4uRcJXc5 -51TyisQVI1nr2JdnX/pubhtml?gid=764308543&single=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vS8af0NSbIXJU-TECBSvCHprNrCxR87a30BBMpZbpp7yxrWTerQe4uRcJXc5-51TyisQVI1nr2JdnX/pubhtml?gid=764308543&single=true)

Creation Method: Tabular data were downloaded from the University of California Cooperative Extension Wood Facilities Database and x, y (longitude, latitude) coordinates were converted to points.

Data Source: University of California Cooperative Extension Wood Facilities Database

[https://ucanr.edu/sites/WoodyBiomass/California Biomass Power Plants](https://ucanr.edu/sites/WoodyBiomass/California_Biomass_Power_Plants)

File Name: BiomassPowerPlants_CA_2023.shp, Sawmills_CA_2023.shp

BUILDING STRUCTURE DENSITY

Definition and Relevance: A raster dataset containing building footprints of California. The vintage of the footprints depends on the vintage of the underlying imagery. Bing Imagery is a composite of multiple sources with different capture dates.

Data Vintage: 2012-2020.

Data Resolution: Raster, 10m

Data Units: binary

Creation Method: Vector spatial data called US Building Footprints contained in a Microsoft dataset (available at <https://github.com/microsoft/USBuildingFootprints>) downloaded, clipped to California and converted to a 10m raster. For more information visit: [Building Footprints - Bing Maps \(microsoft.com\)](#)

Data Source: MS Building Footprints

File Name: CA_bldgFootprints_10m.tif

HIGH-USE RECREATION AREAS

Definition and Relevance: A recreation site is a discrete area on a National Forest that provides recreation opportunities, receives recreational use, and requires a management investment to operate and/or maintain to standard under the direction of an administrative unit in the National Forest System. Recreation sites range in development from relatively undeveloped areas, with little to no improvements (Development Scale 0 and 1), to concentrations of facilities and services evidencing a range of amenities and investment (Development Scale 2 through 5).

Recreation opportunities are point locations of recreational site activities available to visitors and populates the Forest Service websites (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/>), and the interactive visitor map (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/ivm/>).

Data Vintage: 01/2023

Data Resolution: Points

Data Units: Tabular attributes

Creation Method: see Metadata

Data Source: USFS Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW)

File Name: RECAREAACTIVITIES_V_2023.shp

LAND DESIGNATIONS

Definition and Relevance: USDA Forest Service Wilderness, Roadless, Wild and Scenic River

Data Vintage: 01/2023

Data Resolution: ArcGIS file geodatabase: Vector, polygon

Data Units: Tabular attributes

Creation Method: Data layers pulled from the Enterprise Data Warehouse for land designations within **US Forest Service Lands** (i.e. does not include wilderness on other federal lands):

- *Wilderness* – area designated as a National Wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System
- *Inventoried Roadless Areas* – the 2001 Roadless Rule establishes prohibitions on road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting on inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands by the following classifications:
 - 1B = Inventoried Roadless Areas where road construction and reconstruction is prohibited
 - 1B-1 = Inventoried Roadless Areas that are recommended for wilderness designation in the forest plan and where road construction and reconstruction is prohibited
 - 1C = Inventoried Roadless Areas where road construction and reconstruction is not prohibited
- *Wild and Scenic Rivers* – area designated as a National Wild, Scenic, or Recreational River within the National Wild and Scenic River System. The designations and definitions are:
 - Wild (W) – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
 - Scenic (S) – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
 - Recreational (R) – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Data Source: USFS Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW)

File Name: Wilderness_2023.shp; Roadless_2001.shp; WildScenicRiver_2023.shp

WILDERNESS - PROTECTED AREA DATABASE 3.0

Definition and Relevance: The PAD-US geodatabase was originally developed to organize and assess the management status (i.e. apply 'GAP Status Code') of elements of biodiversity protection by identifying species and plant communities not adequately represented in existing conservation lands (<https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/science-analytics-and-synthesis/gap>). In cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), PAD-US also supports global conservation analyses to inform policy decisions (<https://www.protectedplanet.net/country/USA> , <https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/resources/global-reports>). The dataset is robust and has been expanded in recent years with major additions of local parks data to PAD-US 2.1, to support the recreation, natural resource

management, wildfire planning, emergency management, transportation, research, and public health communities. New applications of the data are frequently discovered. Multiple attributes and a flexible database structure provide context for data to be used at local, regional, state, national, and international scales. See <https://www.usgs.gov/gapanalysis/PAD-US-resources> for more information.

Includes wilderness on ALL federal lands within California.

Data Vintage: 01/2022

Data Resolution: File Geodatabase Polygon Feature Class

Data Units: Tabular attributes

Creation Method: Polygons with [Designation Type] = 'Wilderness' extracted from the PADUS3_0_State_CA_GDB feature class for use in the RRK project. Polygons projected to California Teale Albers projection and 'exploded' into single part features.

Data Source: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

File Name: PAD3_0_Wilderness.gdb/PAD_Wilderness3_0_2022_CA_sPart

NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN (NWFP) BOUNDARY

Definition and Relevance: Corporate data contained within the NWFP_Boundary_2002 feature class is intended for spatial display and analysis purposes. Coverage is for use to describe the general extent of the Northwest Forest Plan.

Data Vintage: 2002

Data Resolution: File Geodatabase Polygon Feature Class

Data Units: Tabular attributes

Creation Method: This shapefile contains polygon corporate data which depicts the Northwest Forest Plan boundary updated as requested by the Regional Interagency Executive Committee (RIEC), FEMAT 2002. This feature class is a product of the Pacific Northwest Region Coverage to Geodatabase Conversion Project in an effort to standardize data throughout the Region.

Data Source: OR/WA BLM & USFS R6, Pacific Northwest Region, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

File Name: NWFP_Boundary_2002.shp

OWNERSHIP

Definition and Relevance: Ownership is a commonly used base layer used in a wide range of business functions and these data are intended to provide a depiction of the land ownership within the RRK project area.

Data Vintage: FS_BasicOwnership: 01/2023, ownership: 05/2022

Data Resolution: Vector, polygon

Data Units: Tabular attributes

Creation Method:

- *FS_BasicOwnership_2023.shp* – an area depicted as surface ownership parcels dissolved on the same ownership classification administered by the USDA Forest Service (USFS).
- *ownership22_1* – California Multi-Source Land Ownership, includes lands owned by each federal agency (including USFS), state agency, local government entities, conservation organizations, and special districts. It does not include lands of private ownership.

Data Source: USDA Forest Service, CAL FIRE

File Name: FS_BasicOwnership_2023.shp; ownership22_1.shp

ROADS

Definition and Relevance: This California statewide dataset was downloaded from [Geofabrik's free download server](#) for California. This server has data extracts from the OpenStreetMap project which are normally updated every day.

Data Vintage: 09/2022

Data Resolution: Vector, line

Data Units: Tabular attributes

Creation Method: To simplify the layer, major roads were exported with the following selection of the attribute “fclass”:

- 5111 = motorway
- 5112 = trunk
- 5113 = primary
- 5114 = secondary
- 5121 = unclassified
- 5122 = residential
- 5123 = living street

Data Source: [Open Street Map](#) roads based on Tiger Lines (OSM)

File Name: OSM_majorRoads_CA_2022.shp

TERRESTRIAL

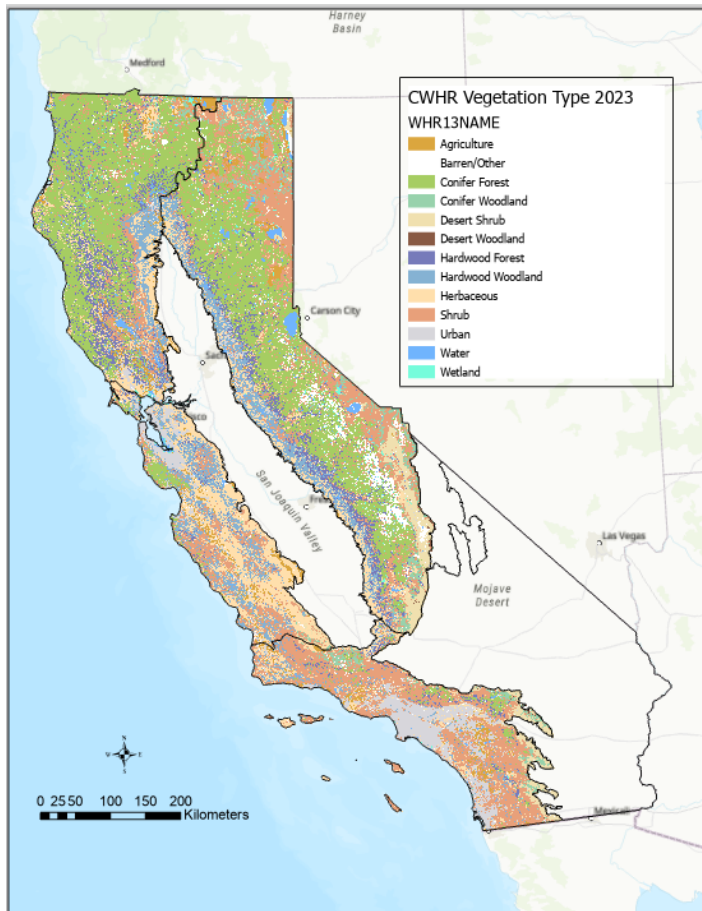
CWHR VEGETATION

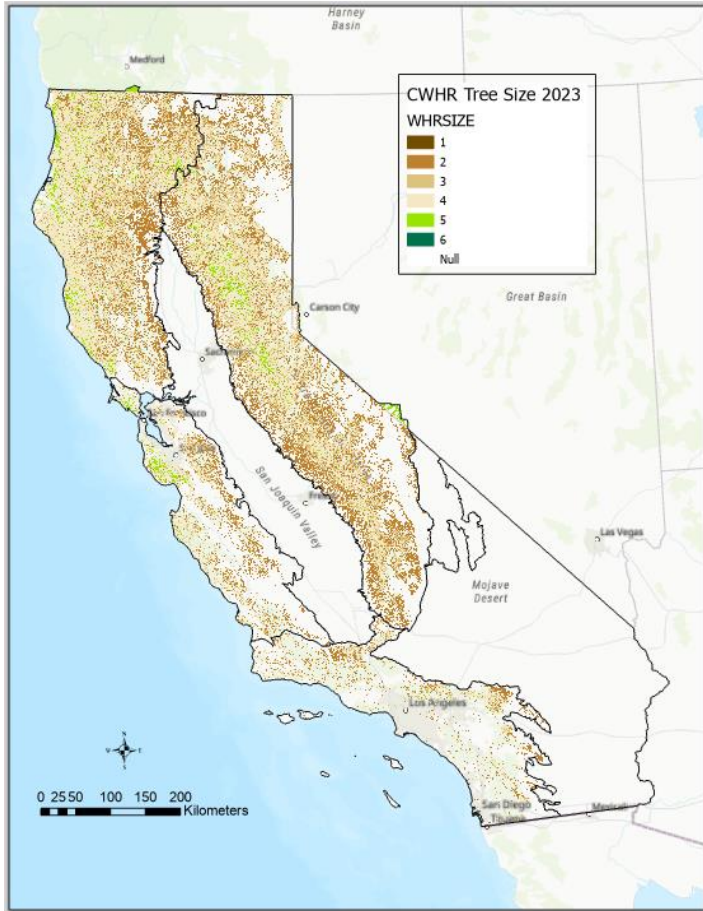
Vegetation maps play a vital role in characterizing conditions for many metrics. We need high resolution details on vegetation composition and structure; a vegetation classification, mapping, and inventory processes that provides vegetation information for a wide variety of metrics. The broader land management community continues to develop such products and make incremental improvements.

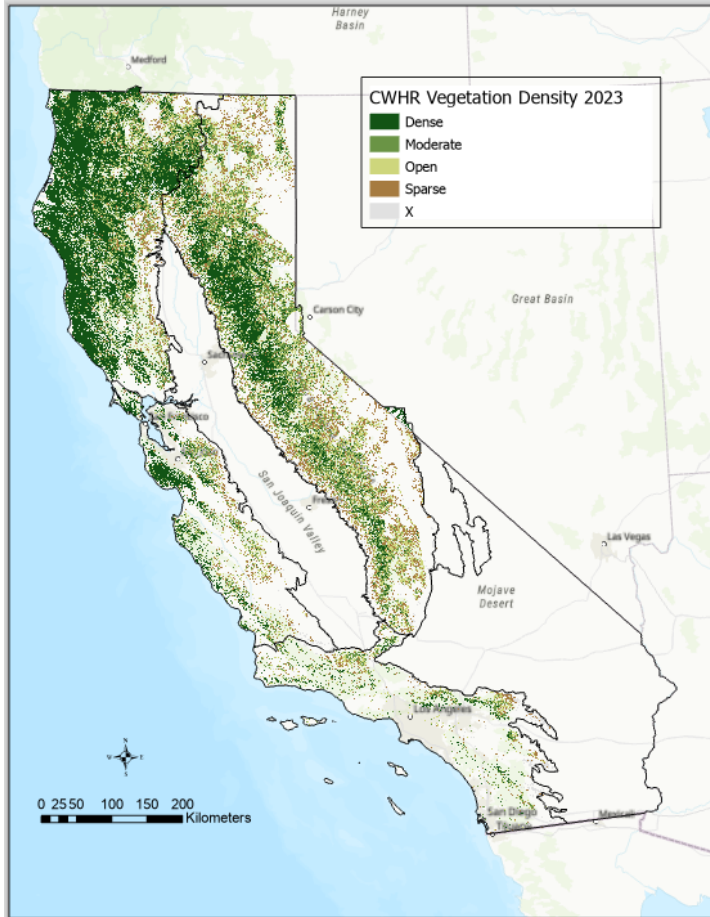
The current version displayed here is a new iteration of the FVeg. This is a product of CALFIRE-FRAP, which compiles the "best available" land cover data into a single data layer, to support the various analyses required for

the Forest and Rangeland Assessment. Fveg attempts to provide an accurate depiction of the spatial distribution of habitat types within California, required for a variety of legislatively-mandated government functions. This is a product of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protections CALFIRE Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), in cooperation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife VegCamp program and extensive use of USDA Forest Service Region 5 Mapping and Remote Sensing (MARS). The data span a period from approximately 1990 to 2014. Typically the most current, detailed and consistent data were collected for various regions of the state. Decision rules were developed that controlled which layers were given priority in areas of overlap. Cross-walks were used to compile the various sources into the common classification scheme, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) system.

This iteration of Fveg has been updated as explained below. It only covers the four regions of the RRs that have been mapped and only within the state of California. There are issues with the data in the portions of the map that extend into Nevada. This continues to be a work in progress where we hope to make improvements in the future. There are three separate rasters provided; one for CWHR Vegetation Type, one for CWHR Tree Size Class, and one for CWHR Veg Canopy Cover (Density) Class.







Definition and Relevance: Vegetation maps are important for characterizing many important features of a landscape such as wildlife habitat, fuels conditions, forest composition, and carbon. Such data are most useful if they can depict vegetation type, cover, and tree size class. This version was created to capture current conditions as best as possible through a variety of existing and current sources. Cross-walks were used to compile the various sources into the common classification scheme, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) system. See CWHR for more details on the CWHR system ([California Wildlife Habitat Relationships](#)).

Key field names in this data set (there are others) are defined as follows:

WHRALL - Unique habitat data label. Concatenated from separate habitat attributes WHRtype, WHRsize and WHRdensity.

WHRNUM - Unique number for each Wildlife Habitat Relationship class (WHRtype).

WHRNAME - Unique name for each Wildlife Habitat Relationship class (WHRtype)

WHRTYPE - Unique Wildlife Habitat Relationship (WHR) class code

WHRSIZE - Wildlife Habitat Relationship Size Class (tree types only)

WHRDENSITY - Wildlife Habitat Relationship class (tree types only)

SOURCE_NAME - General description of where the source data layer used for a given geography

SOURCE_YEAR - Year of base imagery that source data layer references for a given geography

WHR Codes for Vegetation Types:

Tree Dominated Habitats

CWHR Code	Type Description
ASP	Aspen
BOP	Blue Oak-Foothill Pine
BOW	Blue Oak Woodland
COW	Coastal Oak Woodland
CPC	Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress
DFR	Douglas Fir
DRI	Desert Riparian
EPN	Eastside Pine
EUC	Eucalyptus
JPN	Jeffrey Pine
JST	Joshua Tree
JUN	Juniper
KMC	Klamath Mixed Conifer
LPN	Lodgepole Pine
MHC	Montane Hardwood-Conifer
MHW	Montane Hardwood
MRI	Montane Riparian
PJN	Pinyon-Juniper

POS	Palm Oasis
PPN	Ponderosa Pine
RDW	Redwood
RFR	Red fir
SCN	Subalpine Conifer
SMC	Sierran Mixed Conifer
VOW	Valley Oak Woodland
VRI	Valley Foothill Riparian
WFR	White fir

Shrub Dominated Habitats

CWHR Code	Type Description
ADS	Alpine Dwarf-Shrub
ASC	Alkali Desert Scrub
BBR	Bitterbrush
CRC	Chamise-Redshank Chaparral
CSC	Coastal Scrub
DSC	Desert Scrub
DSS	Desert Succulent Shrub
DSW	Desert Wash
LSG	Low Sage
MCH	Mixed Chaparral
MCP	Montane Chaparral

SGB	Sagebrush
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Herbaceous Dominated Habitats

CWHR Code	Type Description
AGS	Annual Grass
FEW	Fresh Emergent Wetland
PAS	Pasture
PGS	Perennial Grass
SEW	Saline Emergent Wetland
WTM	Wet Meadow

Aquatic Habitats

CWHR Code	Type Description
EST	Estuarine
LAC	Lacustrine
MAR	Marine
RIV	Riverine

Developed Habitats

CWHR Code	Type Description
CRP	Cropland
DGR	Dryland Grain Crops
DOR	Deciduous Orchard

EOR	Evergreen Orchard
IGR	Irrigated Grain Crops
IRF	Irrigated Row and Field Crops
IRH	Irrigated Hayfield
OVN	Orchard - Vineyard
RIC	Rice
URB	Urban
VIN	Vineyard

Non-vegetated Habitats

CWHR Code	Type Description
BAR	Barren

WHR Codes for Tree Size Classes:

CWHR Code	CWHR Size Class	Conifer Crown Diameter	Hardwood Crown Diameter	DBH
1	Seedling tree	n/a	n/a	<1.0"
2	Sapling tree	n/a	<15.0'	1.0" - 5.9"
3	Pole tree	<12.0'	15.0' - 29.9'	6.0" - 10.9"
4	Small tree	12.0' - 23.9'	30.0' - 44.9'	11.0" - 23.9"
5	Medium/large tree	≥24.0'	≥45.0'	≥24.0"
6	Multi-layered tree	A distinct layer of size class 5 trees over a distinct layer of size class 4 and/or 3 trees, and total tree canopy of the layers ≥60% (layers must have ≥10.0% canopy cover and distinctive height separation).		

WHR Codes for Density Classes:

WHR Code	CWHR Closure Class	Vegetation Cover (Canopy Closure)
S	Sparse Cover	10.0 - 24.9%
P	Open Cover	25.0 - 39.9%
M	Moderate Cover	40.0 - 59.9%
D	Dense Cover	≥60%
X	Not Determined / Not Applicable	

Data Vintage: 04/2023

Data Resolution: Raster, 30 meter pixels

Data Units: Categorical (see above)

Creation Method: Vegetation maps are an important feature of any natural resource management portfolio. Currently the vegetation map for the entire state that is considered the "best available" data is the CALFIRE data known as FVEG (*Vegetation (fveg) - CALFIRE FRAP [ds1327]*). This is an excerpt from the metadata:

"The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protections CALFIRE Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), in cooperation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife VegCamp program and extensive use of USDA Forest Service Region 5 Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL) [*now known as Mapping and Remote Sensing Team (MARS)*], has compiled the "best available" land cover data available for California into a single comprehensive statewide data set. The data span a period from approximately 1990 to 2014. Cross-walks were used to compile the various sources into the common classification scheme, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) system."

Given the degree of fire in Northern California in the last 30 plus years, especially in areas that experienced high severity fire, our RRK team thought that using the last version of FVEG (from 2015 but source data could be as old as 1987) would have too many glaring errors. Notwithstanding the challenge of creating reliable vegetation maps, we thought it would be possible to make improvements over the most recent map.

There are many avenues for improving vegetation maps. However, we did not have time to build anything from a new starting point, so we constructed a few simple rules for making [updates to the FVEG data layer](#).

There are three separate rasters provided; one for CWHR Vegetation Type, one for CWHR Tree Size Class, and one for CWHR Veg Canopy Cover (Density) Class.

The sources for updated data include:

- Fire severity data (from CALFIRE)

- LANDFIRE 2021 land cover data (wildland fire management programs of the USDA Forest Service and USDI)
- Herbaceous cover (Region 5 MARS Team)
- California Forest Observatory (SALO)

Updated FVEG; Methods for 2023 statewide updates to FVEG WHRtype, WHRsize, and WHRdensity

An accurate depiction of the spatial distribution of vegetation/habitat types within California is required for a number of the metrics included in this kit, particularly for some of the fire, forest and rangeland resiliency, and biodiversity metrics. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protections CALFIRE Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), in cooperation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife VegCamp program and extensive use of USDA Forest Service Region 5 Mapping and Remote Sensing unit (MARS) data, has compiled the "best available" land cover data available for California into a single comprehensive statewide data set. The data span a period from approximately 1990 to 2014.

Because the source data are in many cases fairly old and there has been extensive disturbance, particularly from wildfire, over the last 25 years, we made some updates to the 2015 version of FVEG. The methods for making those changes are described here.

WHRtype update

FVEG's WHRtype was updated with the LANDFIRE Existing Vegetation Type (EVT) data product version 2.2.0 (LANDFIRE 2020) and the Rangeland Analysis Platform (RAP) fractional ground cover data product version 3.0 (Jones et al. 2018, Allred et al. 2021). Pixels were considered for update where high severity wildfire occurred after the FVEG mapping date. High severity was defined as wildfire burned areas that experienced $\geq 75\%$ loss in basal area (Parks et al. 2018, Young-Hart et al. 2022) following the wildfire event. The type of update that occurred in each "high severity" pixel was dependent upon a lifeform conversion comparison (FVEG-to-LANDFIRE EVT), vegetation height (SALO 2020), and percent ground cover by annual and perennial grasses (RAP) (Table 1).

Table 1. FVEG-LANDFIRE update type for high severity pixels. Annual grass (AG) cover and perennial grass (PG) cover data were from the Rangeland Analysis Platform fractional ground cover data product version 3.0. Canopy height (CH) data were from the SALO forest observatory data product.

		FVEG Lifeform		
		<i>Herbaceous</i>	<i>Shrub</i>	<i>Tree</i>
LANDFIRE EVT Lifeform	<i>Herbaceous</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where AG cover >50%, update to “Annual Grassland” <u>WHRname</u> (“AGS” <u>WHRtype</u>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where CH <1m & AG cover >50%, update to “Annual Grassland” <u>WHRname</u> (“AGS” <u>WHRtype</u>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where CH <2m & AG cover >50%, update to “Annual Grassland” <u>WHRname</u> (“AGS” <u>WHRtype</u>)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where PG cover >50%, update to “Perennial Grassland” <u>WHRname</u> (“PGS” <u>WHRtype</u>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where CH <1m & PG cover >50%, update to “Perennial Grassland” <u>WHRname</u> (“PGS” <u>WHRtype</u>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where CH <2m & PG cover >50%, update to “Perennial Grassland” <u>WHRname</u> (“PGS” <u>WHRtype</u>)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otherwise, no update to <u>WHRtype</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otherwise, FVEG-LANDFIRE crosswalk update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otherwise, FVEG-LANDFIRE crosswalk update
	<i>Shrub</i>	FVEG-LANDFIRE crosswalk update	No update to <u>WHRtype</u>	FVEG-LANDFIRE crosswalk update
	<i>Tree</i>	FVEG-LANDFIRE crosswalk update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FVEG-LANDFIRE crosswalk update 	No update to <u>WHRtype</u>

WHRdensity and WHRsize updates

Following the WHRtype update, pixels that had lifeform “tree” then had the FVEG attributes “WHRdensity” and “WHRsize” updated using the SALO Forest Observatory canopy height and canopy cover data products (SALO 2020). SALO data were available for the years 2016-2020, values of canopy height and canopy cover were averaged across years for the update[2].

To update WHRdensity, SALO canopy cover was converted to WHRdensity canopy closure class per the [Wildlife Habitat Relationships, Standards for Canopy Closure Table 114C](#).

To update WHRsize, we developed allometric equations that predict tree DBH (diameter at breast height, breast height = 4.5 ft) as a function of tree height (HT, ft). We used data from the USDA Forest Inventory and Analysis program (FIA) for California (FIA DataMart 2023; California 2022 database; ver. 9.0.1). For this analysis, we included live trees ≥ 4.5 ft tall with a crown class code of dominant, co-dominant, or open grown (N = 165,224 tree measurements between 1991 and 2019). Trees were grouped by region based on the “fuzzed” location of the plot. Regions were defined by the Regional Resource Kits (2023, 4 regions) and separated into softwoods and hardwoods as defined by FIA (2 categories). For each analysis, three functions were evaluated: linear, saturating, and power:

Linear: $DBH = a + (b \cdot HT)$;

Saturating (Michaelis–Menten): $DBH = (V_m \cdot HT) / (K + HT)$;

Power: $DBH = aHT^b$.

For the most informative model (i.e., lowest AIC), we report both the root mean squared error (RMSE) and the pseudo R². In this case, pseudo R² was calculated as the coefficient of determination between the observed and predicted DBHs (Table 2). We used the most informative HT-to- DBH function for the region and tree category to

convert SALO canopy height data to DBH that was then converted to WHRsize class per the [Wildlife Habitat Relationships, Standards for Tree Size Table 114B](#).

Table 2. Height-to-DBH conversion equations by California region and tree class. DBH is in inches; Height (HT) is in feet. Only included trees with a HT > = 4.5 feet. Only included canopy class = dominant, co-dominant, or open. Equation (EQN) code: MM = Michaelis Menton; POWER = power; Linear = linear.

Region	Tree Class	EQN	a (Vm)	b (K)	RMSE	pseudoR ²	EQN formula
Sierra Nevada	Softwood	MM	223.39	712.20	6.57	0.69	DBH= (Vm*HT)/(K+HT)
Sierra Nevada	Hardwood	Linear	-0.391	0.294	4.69	0.57	DBH= a+b(HT)
Southern California	Softwood	MM	108.97	216.30	7.47	0.55	DBH = (Vm*HT)/(K+HT)
Southern California	Hardwood	MM	175.17	424.31	5.55	0.52	DBH = (Vm*HT)/(K+HT)
Northern California	Softwood	POWER	0.128	1.13	6.51	0.74	DBH = a*HT ^b
Northern California	Hardwood	Linear	0.135	0.242	5.2	0.49	DBH = a+b(HT)
Central California	Softwood	Linear	0.588	0.244	8.25	0.62	DBH = a+b(HT)
Central California	Hardwood	MM	68.51	161.40	6.24	0.45	DBH = (Vm*HT)/(K+HT)

Data used for the 2023 FVEG updates can be obtained from the following:

- LANDFIRE – <http://www.landfire.gov/>
- Rangeland Analysis Platform – <https://rangelands.app/products/>
- SALO Forest Canopy – <https://forestobservatory.com/download>
- 10-year summary of basal area lost – <https://data.fs.usda.gov/geodata/rastergateway/acre>
- Perturbed FIA data – <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/3641cea45d614ab88791aef54f3a1849>

Google Earth Engine Python API script can be obtained from: https://github.com/kjohnston73/fveg_update

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Data Source: CALFIRE, CDFW, LANDFIRE, California Forest Observatory (SALO), USDA Forest Service

File Name: RRK_Fveg_WHRtype_2023Apr_4regions_v2.tif; RRK_Fveg_WHRsize_2023Apr_4regions.tif; RRK_Fveg_WHRDensity_2023Apr_4regions.tif

STATEWIDE CROP MAPPING - PROVISIONAL

Definition and Relevance: Land use data is critically important to the work of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and other California agencies. Understanding the impacts of land use, crop location, acreage, and management practices on environmental attributes and resource management is an integral step in the ability of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to produce Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and implement projects to attain sustainability.

Data Vintage: 2021

Data Resolution: Vector, polygons

Data Units: thematic - Fields were attributed with DWR crop categories and included citrus/subtropical, deciduous fruits and nuts, field crops, grain and hay, idle, pasture, rice, truck crops, urban, vineyards, and young perennials.

Creation Method: Land IQ was contracted by DWR to develop a comprehensive and accurate spatial land use database for the 2021 water year (WY 2021). The primary objective of this effort was to produce a spatial land use database with accuracies exceeding 95% using remote sensing, statistical, and temporal analysis methods. This project is an extension of the 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2020 land use mapping, which classified over 14 million acres of land into irrigated agriculture and urban areas. Unlike the 2014 and 2016 datasets, the WY 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 datasets include multi-cropping and incorporates DWR ground-truth data from Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen and Shasta counties. Land IQ integrated crop production knowledge with detailed ground truth information and multiple satellite and aerial image resources to conduct remote sensing land use analysis at the field scale. Individual fields (boundaries of homogeneous crop types representing cropped area, rather than legal parcel boundaries) were classified using a crop category legend and a more specific crop type legend. A supervised classification method using a random forest approach was used to classify delineated fields and was carried out county by county where training samples were available. Random forest approaches are currently some of the highest performing methods for data classification and regression. To determine frequency and seasonality of multiple-cropped fields, peak growth dates were determined for annual crops.

Data Source: Land IQ, www.LandIQ.com, California Department of Water Resources, Division of Regional Assistance Regional Offices: Northern, North Central, South Central and Southern Regional Offices, and Water Use Efficiency Branch (Sacramento Headquarters).

[Statewide Crop Mapping - Datasets - California Natural Resources Agency Open Data](#)

File Name: i15_Crop_Mapping_2021_Provisional.shp

AQUATIC

LAKES/RESERVOIRS

Definition and Relevance: Water Bodies such as lake and reservoir features are represented in this layer pulled from the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD). These data were used to erase areas of lakes and ponds from every raster metric in the RRK project dataset.

Data Vintage: 12/2022

Data Resolution: 30m Raster

Data Units: Binary, 0/1

Creation Method: This dataset is a subset of vector polygon NHD water bodies, encompassing the RRK project boundary and converted to a raster grid at 30m resolution based on existence/non-existence.

Data Source: USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD); <https://www.usgs.gov/national-hydrography/national-hydrography-dataset>

File Name: NHD_lakesReservoirs_2022_RRK.tif

PERENNIAL AND INTERMITTENT STREAMS

Definition and Relevance: USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD); Flowline is the fundamental flow network consisting predominantly of stream/river and artificial path vector features. It represents the spatial geometry and carries the attributes

Data Vintage: 12/2022

Data Resolution: Vector, line

Data Units: Tabular attributes

Creation Method: Data selected from NHD Flowline feature class to contain only FType code 460, StreamRiver (Perennial, Intermittent) for the state of California.

Data Source: USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD); <https://www.usgs.gov/national-hydrography/national-hydrography-dataset>

File Name: NHD_Stream_2022.tif

DATA DISCLAIMERS

Appropriate use includes regional assessments of vegetation cover, land cover, or land use change trends, total extent of vegetation cover, land cover, or land use change, and aggregated summaries of vegetation cover, land cover, or land use change. Further use includes applying these data to assess management opportunities for treatments to restore landscape resiliency.

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AREA OF CONSERVATION EMPHASIS (ACE)

The ACE data is subject to certain assumptions and limitations that must be considered in any use or application of the data. All ACE data layers are limited by the accuracy and scale of the input data. ACE is a compilation of the best available scientific information; however, many of these datasets are not comprehensive across the landscape, may change over time, and should be revised and improved as new data become available.

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The ACE maps display biological and recreational values based on available data and constrained by the limitations of the data. The values may be influenced by the level of survey effort in a given area. The ACE data represent broad-scale patterns across the landscape, and the value of any single watershed should be interpreted with caution. ACE is a decision-support tool to be used in conjunction with species-specific information and local-scale conservation prioritization analyses.

The ACE maps do not replace the need for site-specific evaluation of biological resources and should not be used as the sole measure of conservation priority during planning. No statement or dataset shall by itself be considered an official response from a state agency regarding impacts to wildlife resulting from a management action subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

BIOGEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND OBSERVATION SYSTEM (BIOS)

Use of this dataset requires prior approval by the primary contact. Recognition that the data set was created and provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and that any questions regarding the data should be addressed to the contact person listed in the metadata.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The California's Forest Products and Biomass Power Plant facilities is a resource developed through a collaborative effort of UC Cooperative Extension to monitor and analyze wood utilization capacity throughout the state of California.

We maintain current information on capacity, development, and status of facilities accepting feedstock from California wood resources. On this page you will find an interactive map and summary table of wood intake facilities. [Here](#) you can find a list of local community biomass initiatives and working groups. We also provide a variety of print-ready maps and raw data for [download](#) with assistance from the USFS.

This effort is built on contributions from the California Biomass Collaborative, California Energy Commission, California Public Utilities Commission, California Forestry Association, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Biomass Power Association, California Biomass Energy Alliance, California Energy Almanac, University of Montana, Watershed Research and Training Center, and individual facilities. We appreciate the feedback and input from Tad Mason and Fred Tornatore at TSS Consultants and Rob Williams from the UC Davis California Biomass Collaborative. Funding support is provided by the California Department of Forestry and the USFS Region 5 State and Private Forestry.

User to verify all information. May contain errors and omissions. Please reference Woody Biomass Utilization Group if using this data.

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Areas of Conservation Emphasis program:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/Analysis/Ace>

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<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40>

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[Connecting Wildlands & Communities, Conservation Ecology Lab - San Diego State University.](#) [Connecting Wildlands & Communities | Climate Science Alliance](#)

Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity (MTBS) program: <https://www.mtbs.gov/>

Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium (MRLC): <https://www.mrlc.gov/>

Oregon State University Environmental Monitoring, Analysis, and Process Recognition (eMapR) Lab:

<http://emapr.ceoas.oregonstate.edu/>

Rapid Assessment of Vegetation Condition after Wildfire (RAVG): <https://burnseverity.cr.usgs.gov/ravg/>

Spatial Informatics Group: [Home - SIG \(sig-gis.com\)](#)

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