DECISION SUPPORT FOR POST-FIRE FOREST RESTORATION

Solomon Dobrowski - University of Montana, Zack Holden – USFS Region I Marco Maneta – University of Montana



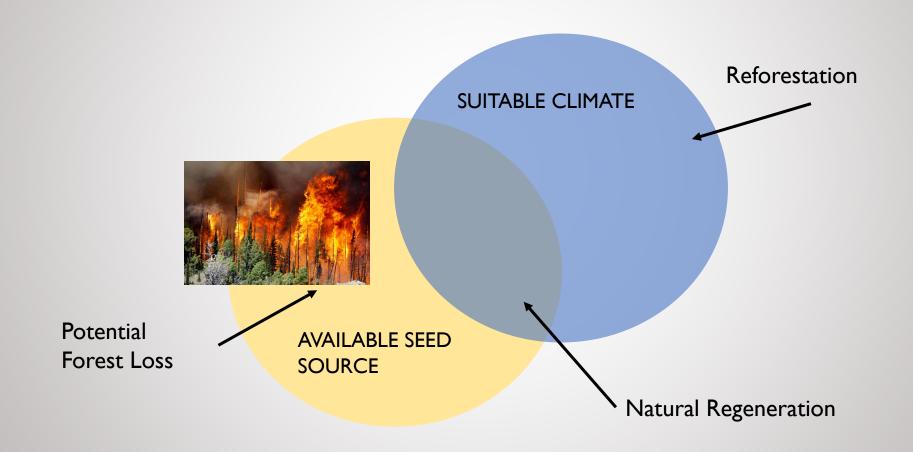








FOREST REGENERATION



THE TASK

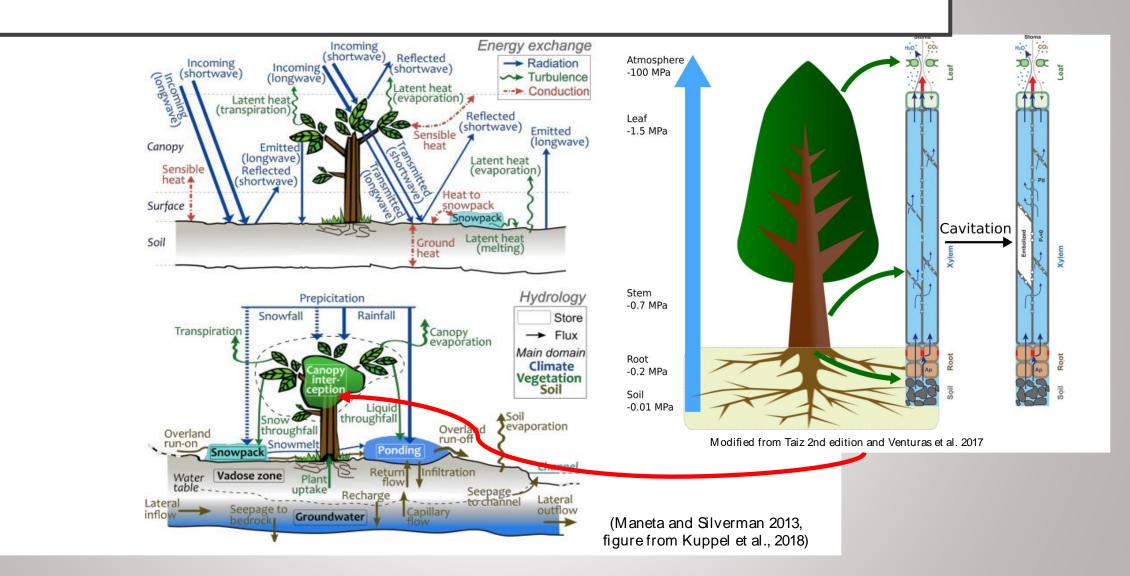
Develop a suite of geo-spatial products to inform reforestation efforts and a decision support tool for the USFS

Leverage these products to support SDG 15.2.1 and 15.1.1 indicators

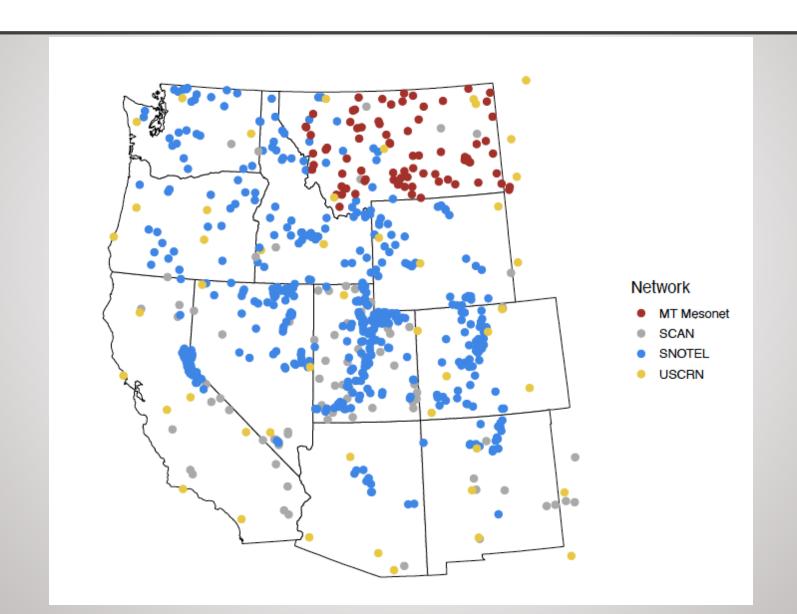
WHAT LIMITS REGENERATION?

Heat Stress
Drought Stress
Available Seeds

ECOHYDROLOGICAL MODEL (ECH₂O)



ECOHYDROLOGICAL MODELING

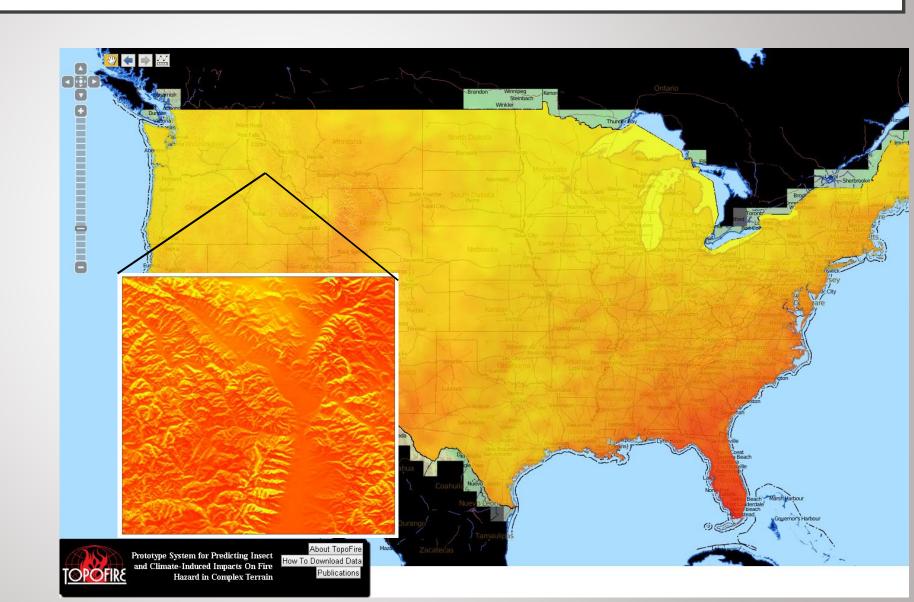


HIGH RESOLUTION WEATHER GRIDS ENABLE ASPECT-RESOLVING HYDROLOGIC MODELING

NASA A.35 WILDFIRE APPLICATIONS FUNDING (P.I. Z. HOLDEN)

Historical daily (1979-present)
250 meter resolution grids

- Minimum temperature
- Maximum temperature
- Dewpoint temperature
- Minimum relative humidity
- Maximum relative humidity
- Shortwave radiation



LETHAL SURFACE TEMPERATURES

- Very brief exposure to high surface temperature can kill conifer seedlings
- Cambial damage and girdling;



SOIL SURFACE TEMPERATURE (SST)

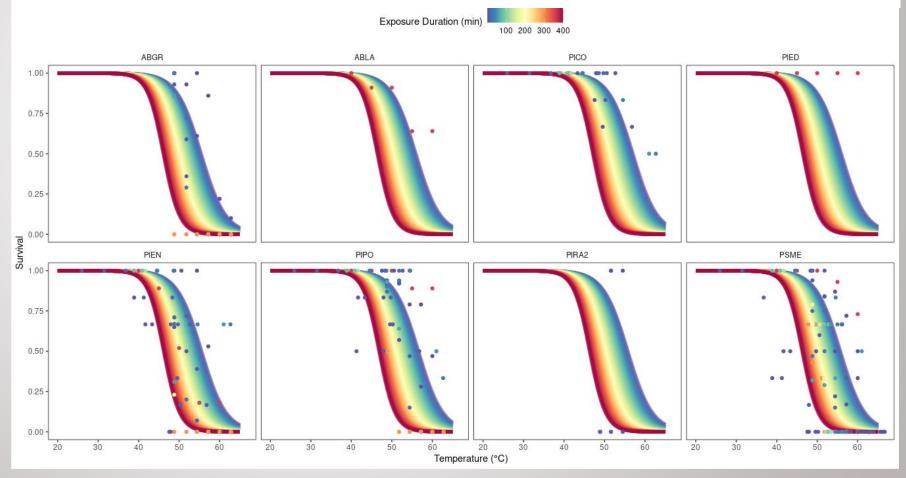


Conifer Seedling Survival in Response to High Surface Temperature Events of Varying Intensity and Duration

Robin Rank ^{1,*}, Marco Maneta ³ Philip Higuera ², Zachary Holden ⁴, and Solomon Dobrowski ¹

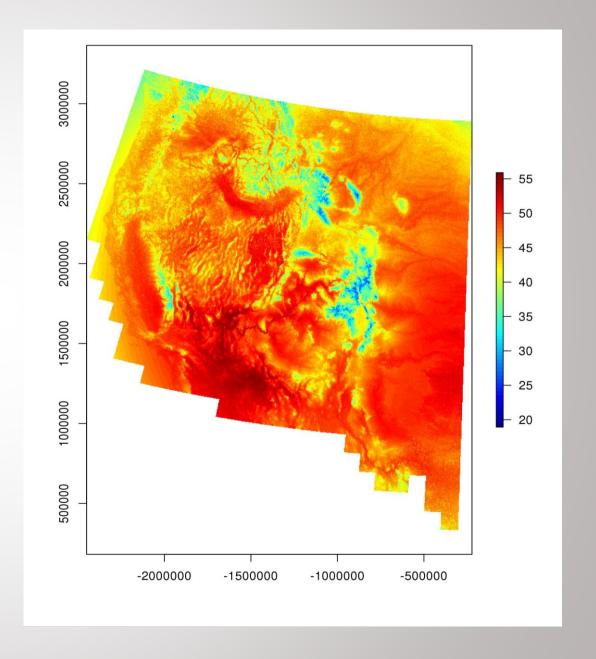
Time-dose response model of seedling survival

- Data derived from historical experiments
- Seedlings exposed to varying temperatures, durations



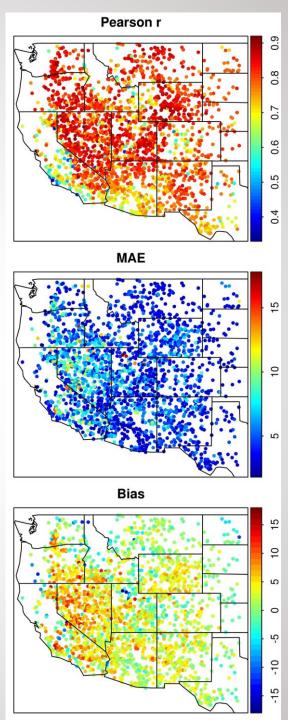
POTENTIAL SOIL SURFACE TEMPERATURE (P-SST)

- Maximum SST in absence of overstory
- Simulated 3 hourly timestep between 1980-2017 for a bed of 2 inch ponderosa pine seedlings
- Future (2050) simulations for 3
 GCMs in progress (currently running on the NASA Pleiades cluster)

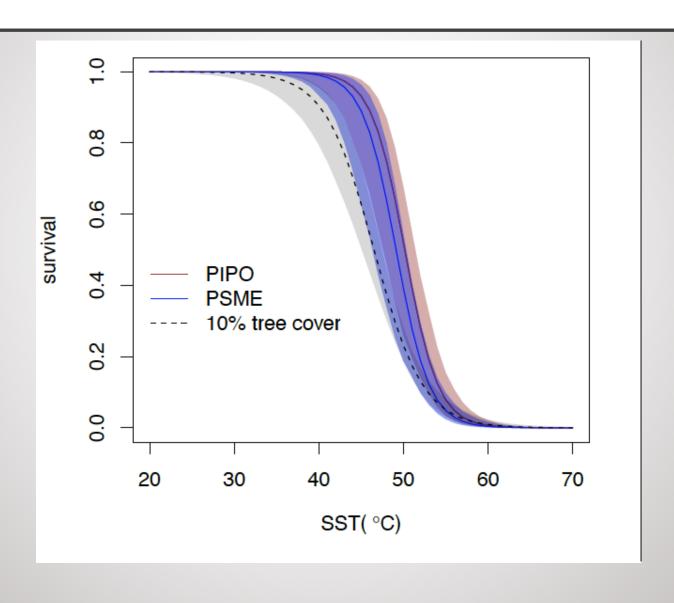


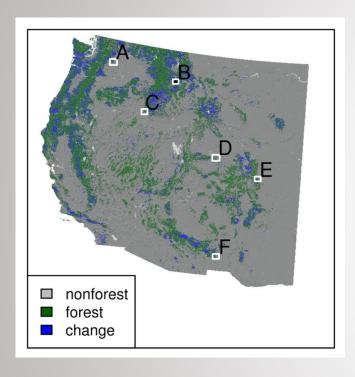
POTENTIAL SOIL SURFACE TEMPERATURE (P-SST)

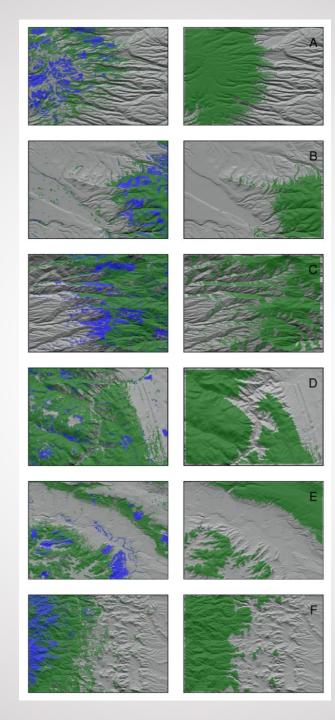
Comparisons against MODIS LST

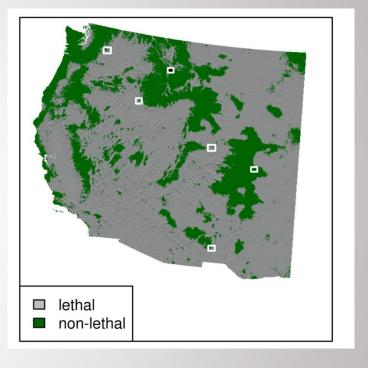


SOIL SURFACE TEMPERATURE (SST)

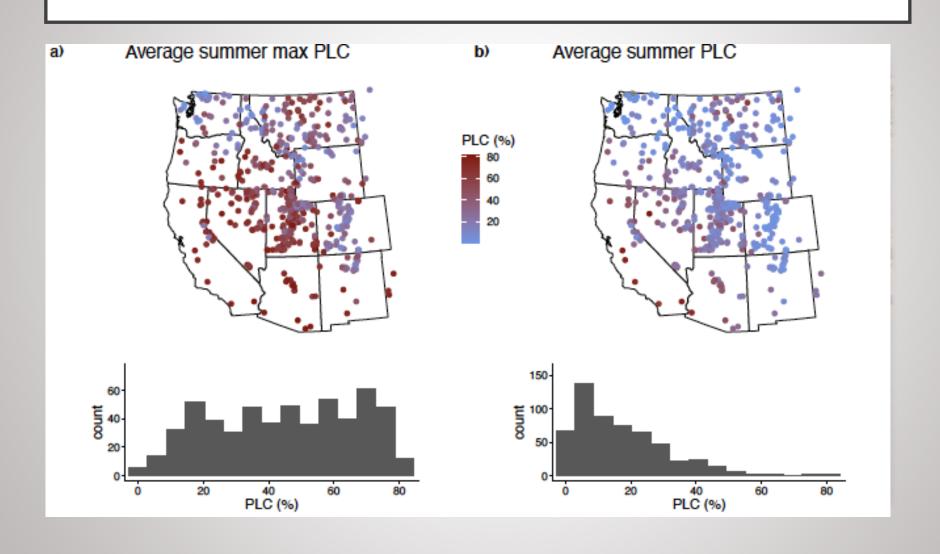




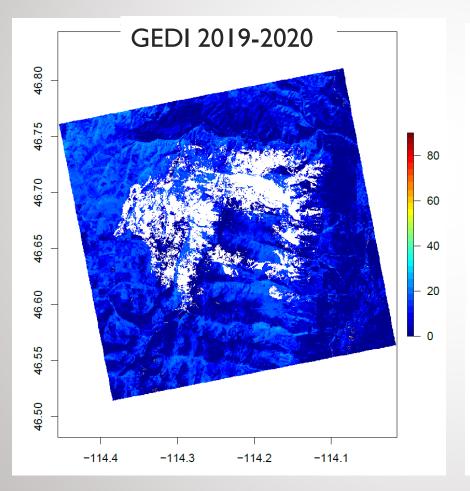


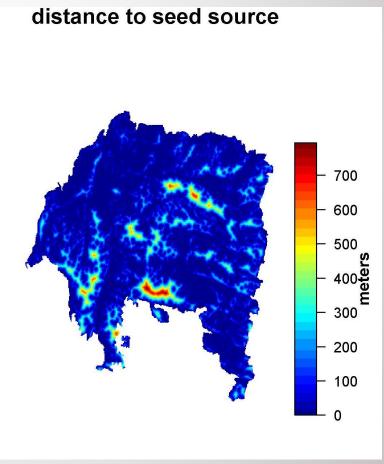


DROUGHT STRESS

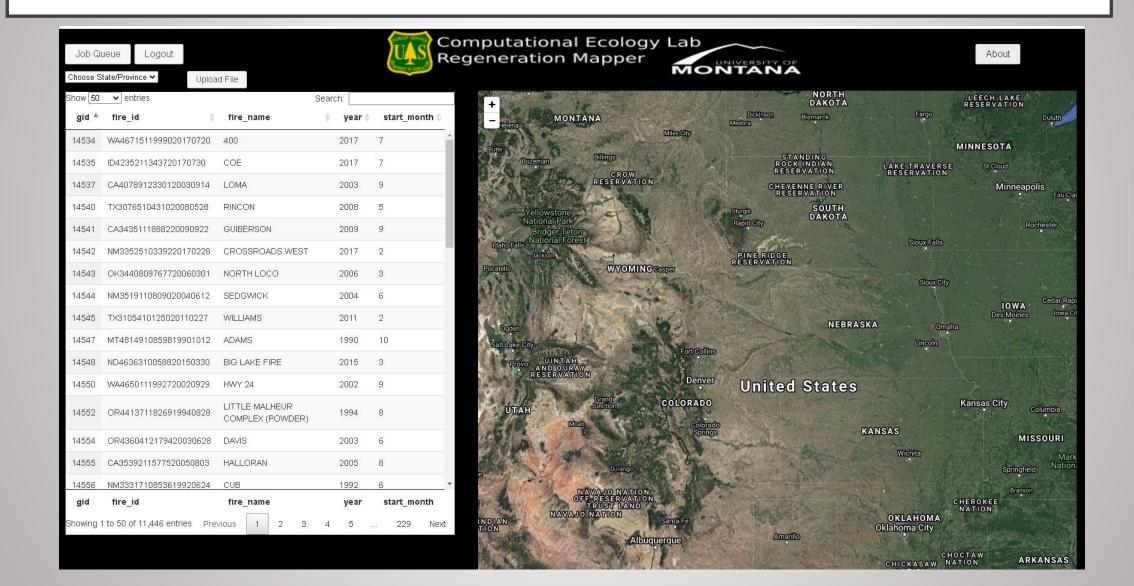


SEED SOURCES





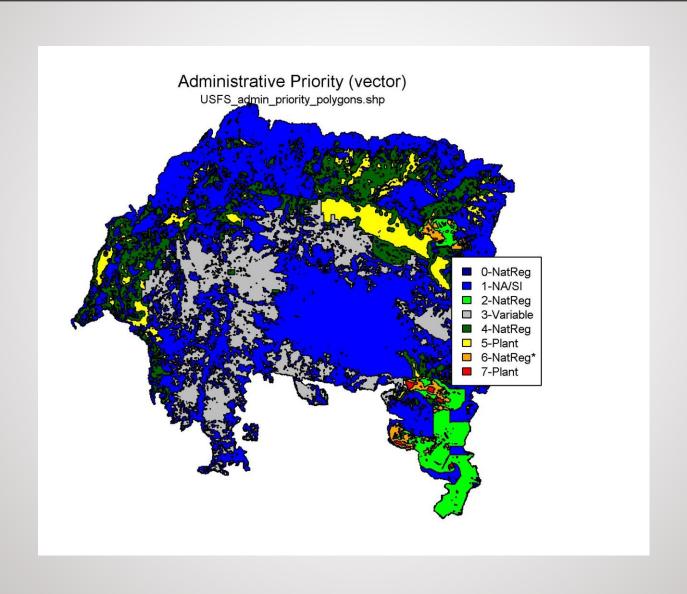
HTTPS://ORTHANC.DBS.UMT.EDU/REGENMAPPER



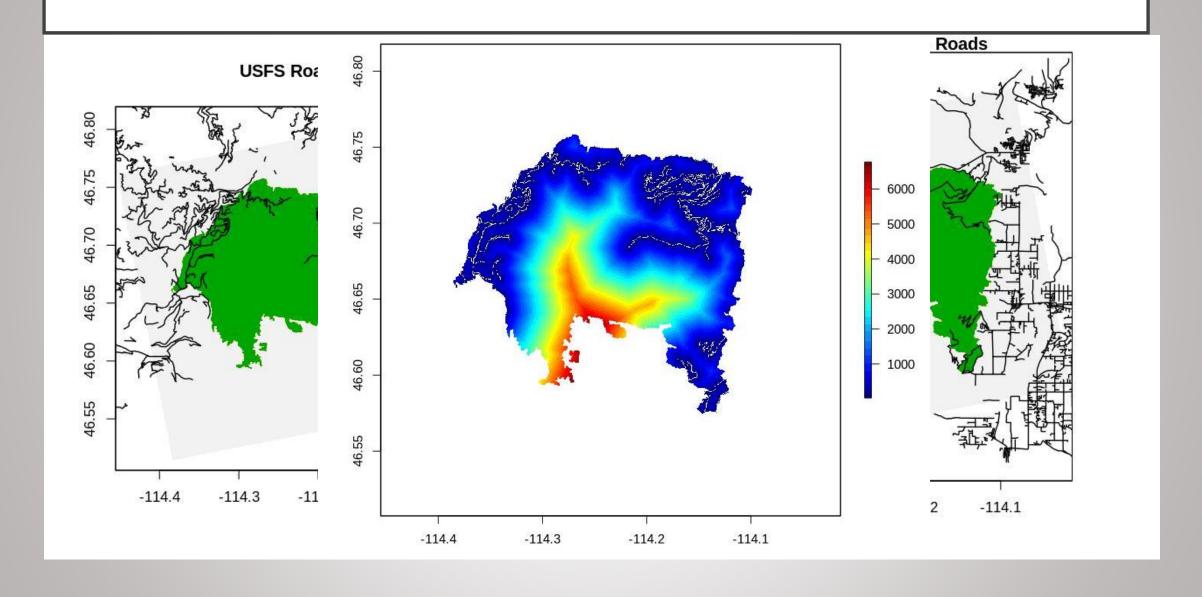
WHAT LIMITS REFORESTATION?

Administrative constraints Resources (cost/benefit)

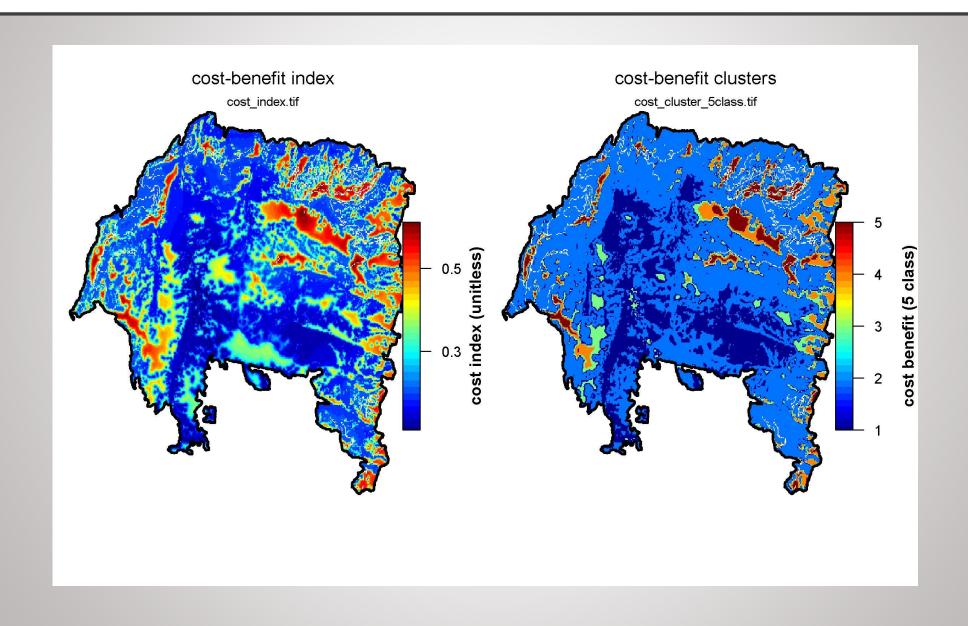
USFS ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITIES



COST/BENEFIT



COST/BENEFIT



OUTREACH AND ADOPTION

- I) USFS Region I has officially adopted RegenMapper as their primary tool for conducting reforestation assessments.
- 2) The tool was used for 22 post-fire assessments in Region 1 in 2021
- 3) The DSS is also being evaluated in USFS Regions 2,4,5 and 6.
- 4) As of December 2021 there has been 57 unique users of the RegenMapper tool.
- 5) Awarded the USFS Region I Forester's Honor Award for work on RegenMapper
- 6) The national director of reforestation has provided co-PI Holden with funding to maintain the RegenMapper tool

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- NASA (A BIG THANKS!)
- NSF
- Shelagh Fox (USFS)
- Vince Archer (USFS)
- Nicole Ballofet (USFS)

NASA A8 APPLIED SCIENCE (2018-2021)

Integrating Earth observations, ecohydrologic, and plant hydraulic models for forecasting recruitment failure in semi-arid forests: Decision support for adaptive forest management.

Team:

PI: Solomon Dobrowski, Associate Professor of Landscape Ecology, Department of Forest Management, The University of Montana

Co-I: Marco Maneta, Associate Professor of Ecohydrology, Department of Geosciences, The University of Montana

Co-I: Zachary Holden, Scientist, USDA Forest Service Region 1

Collaborator: Shelagh Fox, Regional Silviculturalist, USDA Forest Service Region 1

Collaborator: Vince Archer, Regional Soil Scientist, USDA Forest Service Region 1



NAS

A climatic dipole drives short- and long-term patterns of postfire forest recovery in the western United States

Caitlin E. Littlefield^{a,b,1}, Solomon Z. Dobrowski^a, John T. Abatzoglou^c, Sean A. Parks^d, and Kimberley T. Davis^e

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Remote Sensing of Environment 253 (2021) 112233



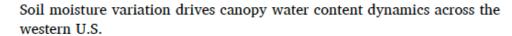
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ioumal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/rse







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REGENMAPPER WORKFLOW OVERVIEW

