FULL PROPOSAL SUBMITTED FOR EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING PROGRAM GRANT FISCAL YEAR 2023–2024 RFP

PROJECT TITLE: "Assessing Fire Hazard, Risk, and Post Fire Recovery for Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZ) and riparian areas of California"

Full Proposal Submitted July 5th, 2023

Submitted to:
State of California Natural Resources Agency
Effectiveness Monitoring Committee
State Board of Forestry and Protection

Submitted by
Spatial Informatics Group
https://sig-gis.com/

PI: David Saah, PhD
Managing Principal
Spatial Informatics Group
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████████████

Local Co-PI: Ryan Tompkins, MS
Forester & Natural Resources Advisor, RPF No. 3108
University of California Cooperative Extension
Plumas, Sierra, and Lassen Counties
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████████████████████

http://ucce-plumas-sierra.ucanr.edu/

Project Contact:
Jason Modghaddas, MS,
Director of Natural Hazards, RPF No. 2774
Spatial Informatics Group
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I   Project Description

The project will conduct several assessments on past fire history, current fire hazard, and county level vegetation recovery for WLPZ areas of California. Fire history will include an assessment of total acres burned by severity for all fires back to 1984 using available vegetation burn severity data. Current fire hazard (flame length and fire type) will be assessed using statewide fire hazard data updated for 2022. Within Plumas County, the dominant vegetation cover of all WLPZ areas will be assessed using a time series analysis to compare changes or no changes in forest, shrub, herbaceous, and barren cover types across all land ownerships and burn severities. The project will answer the following questions:

- What is the extent of total acres burned and acres burned by severity class (low, moderate, high) for all WLPZ areas in California since 1984?
- At the HUC 12 level, which individual watersheds have experienced the greatest percentage of high severity fire since 1984?
- What is the current fire hazard in all WLPZ areas, including potential flame length and fire type (surface fire, passive crown fire, active crown fire)?
- Within Plumas County, what are the trends in forest, shrub, grassland, and barren cover for all WLPZ areas since 1984?
- How is current vegetation cover type influenced by past fire severity, pre-wildfire management actions (fuels reduction), and post wildfire reforestation and recovery?

The project is anticipated to start onJanuary 1, 2024 and be completed by June 30, 2025.

Deliverables will include:

- A statewide geospatial assessment of past wildfire severity in WLPZ areas from 1984-2022 (2023 will be included if available at project start), including acres burned by severity type (low, moderate, high) and reburned in subsequent fires, as applicable.

- A statewide geospatial assessment of total acres burned in WLPZ areas from 1970-2022 (2023 will be included if available at project start)

- A statewide geospatial assessment of current fire hazard, including potential flame length and fire type (surface, passive crown fire, active crown fire) from datasets current through 2022 (2023 if available at time of project start)

- A Plumas County wide assessment of vegetation cover change in WLPZ areas from 1984-2023, including changes in the cover of forest, shrub, grassland, and barren cover types for WLPZ areas by HUC 12 watershed.

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) images of example stream reaches burned at different severity classes with different levels of post wildfire reforestation and post wildfire dead tree management

- Public online GIS data showing all analysis outputs (fire history, fire hazard, vegetation change, UAV overview imagery)

- Report summarizing the project, methods, data, and key findings

Research Themes to Be Addressed (note individual critical questions addressed in section VI)

Theme 1 - Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone Riparian Function

Theme 6 - Wildfire Hazard

Theme 12 - Resilience to Disturbance in a Changing Climate

Project Duration (Years/Months)

We anticipate this project will take 1 year and 6 months (January 2024-June 2025).

Background and Justification

Lakes, rivers, streams, and surrounding riparian vegetation on forest lands are critical for maintaining biodiversity while providing aquatic habitat, clean water, and flood control. They are also prized as recreation destinations. California's network of streams and lakes are home to a diverse range of plant and animal species, many unique to the state. They are also critical water sources for California's cities, farms, and energy sector. Stream and lake habitats can mitigate flooding by absorbing and slowing down floodwaters and protecting downstream communities. Lakes and streams provide many recreation opportunities, including fishing, boating, swimming, and sightseeing. The communities surrounding these bodies of water benefit economically from their proximity based on the tourism they attract. Several regions of California have had extensive portions of these lake and stream networks burned at high severity in several recent wildfires.

Over the past 20 years (1993-2023), hundreds of thousands of acres forested lands on both public and private lands have been directly impacted by wildfire, including recent large wildfires such as the Dixie Fire, North Complex, and Camp Fire, as well as older fires, including the Moonlight and Storrie Fires. Within these previous fires, a range of active management activities including tree removal and reforestation have occurred. In addition, large areas have

been left "untreated" post wildfire.

The intersections of public and private lands within these fire footprints provide a unique opportunity to assess past, current, and future conditions of WLPZ areas under various management regimes ranging from inaction to high-cost mitigation programs.

Under the Forest Practice Rules, management of these stream zones are governed by 14 CCR 916.4, 936.4, 956.4 Watercourse and Lake Protection [All Districts] and 14 CCR 916.2, 936.2, 956.2 Protection of the Beneficial Uses of Water and Riparian Functions [All Districts], which generally limit use of mechanical harvesting equipment within fixed stream zone buffers (*Figures 1-3*) and specify tree retention requirements within Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones ("WLPZ").

Procedures for Determining Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone Widths and Protective Measures[1]

Water Class Characteristics or Key Indicator Beneficial Use	1) Domestic supplies, including springs, on site and/or within 100 feet downstream of the operations area and/or 2) Fish always or seasonally present onsite, includes habitat to sustain fish migration and spawning.		1) Fish always or seasonally present offsite within 1000 feet downstream and/or 2) Aquatic habitat for nonfish aquatic species. 3) Excludes Class III waters that are tributary to Class I waters.		No aquatic life present, Watercourse showing evidence of being capable of sediment transport to Class I and II waters under normal high water flow conditions after completion of Timber Operations.		Man-made Watercourses, usually downstream, established domestic, agricultural, hydroelectric supply or other beneficial use.	
Water Class	Class I		Class II		Class III		Class IV	
Slope Class (%)	Width Feet	Protection Measure	Width Feet	Protection Measure	Width Feet	Protection Measure	Width Feet	Protection Measure
					[see 916.4(c)] [see 936.4(c)] [see 956.4(c)]		[see 916.4(c)] [see 936.4(c)] [see 956.4(c)]	
<30	75	BDG	50	BEI	See CFH		See CFI	
30-50	100	BDG	75	BEI	See CFH		See CFI	
>50	150[2]	ADG	100[3]	BEI	See CFH		See CFI	

1 - See Section 916.5(e) for letter designations application to this table.
2 – Subtract 50 feet width for cable Yarding operations.
3 – Subtract 25 feet width for cable Yarding operations.

Figure 1 – Procedures for determining water zone and lake protection zone widths and protective measures

Pursuant to 14 CCR 916.9[936.9,956.9](f)(2)					
Zone Designation	Zone width (ft.)	Overstory Canopy Cover		Large Tree Retention	Silviculture Requirements	Operational Requirements
Channel Zone	Variable	Retain all trees except per 916.9 [936.9, 956.9](e)(1) A-F or 916.9 [936.9 956.9] (v)		Retain all trees except per 916.9 [936.9, 956.9](e) (1) A-F or 916.9 [936.9 956.9] (v)	Retain all trees except per 916.9 [936.9, 956.9] (e) (1) A-F or 916.9 [936.9, 956.9](v)	No Timber Operations except per 916.9 [936.9, 956.9] (e) (1)A-F or 916.9 [936.9, 956.9](v);
Core Zone per 916.9 [936.9 956.9] (f)(2)(A)	30 ft.	Retain all trees except per 916.9 [936.9, 956.9](e) (1)A-F or 916.9 [936.9 956.9] (v)		Retain all trees except per 916.9 [936.9, 956.9](e)(1) A-F or 916.9 [936.9 956.9] (v)	Retain all trees except per 916.9 [936.9, 956.9] (e) (1) A-F or 916.9 [936.9, 956.9](v); no sanitation salvage except 916.9 (s)(t)and (u).	No Timber Operations except per 916.9 [936.9, 956.9] (e) (1) A-F or 916.9 [936.9, 956.9](v);
Inner Zone per 916.9 [936.9 956.9] (f)(2)(B)	70 ft.	80% Coast and Southern Forest District of Coastal Anadromy Zone per 916.9 [936.9 956.9] (f)(2)(B)3.	70% in Northern Forest District of Coastal Anadromy Zone per 916.9 [936.9 956.9] (f)(2)(B)3.	13 largest trees /ac. per 916.9 [936.9 956.9] (f)(2)(B)4.	Increase QMD; No sanitation salvage except 916.9 (s)(t)and (u); commercial thinning or single tree selection only.	Preferred Management Practices in 916.9 [936.9, 956.9] (f)(2)(D)
Outer Zone per 916.9 [936.9 956.9] (f)(2)(C) Outer Zone applicable only where even-aged regeneration used adjacent to the WLPZ	50 ft.	50% per 916.9 [936.9 956.9] (f)(2)(C).1.		NA	Commercial thinning or single tree selection only; Retain wind firm trees.	Preferred Management Practices in 916.9 [936.9, 956.9] (f)(2)(D)
Special Operating Zone per 916.9 [936.9 956.9] (f)(2)(E)	50 ft.	NA		NA	SOZ applicable only where even-aged regeneration used adjacent to the WLPZ. Retain understory and midstory trees per 916.9 [936.9, 956.9] (f)(2)(E)	All other Forest Practice Rules

Figure 2 – Procedures for determining WLPZ widths and protective measures – Class I WLPZs – confined channels-Coastal anadromy zone
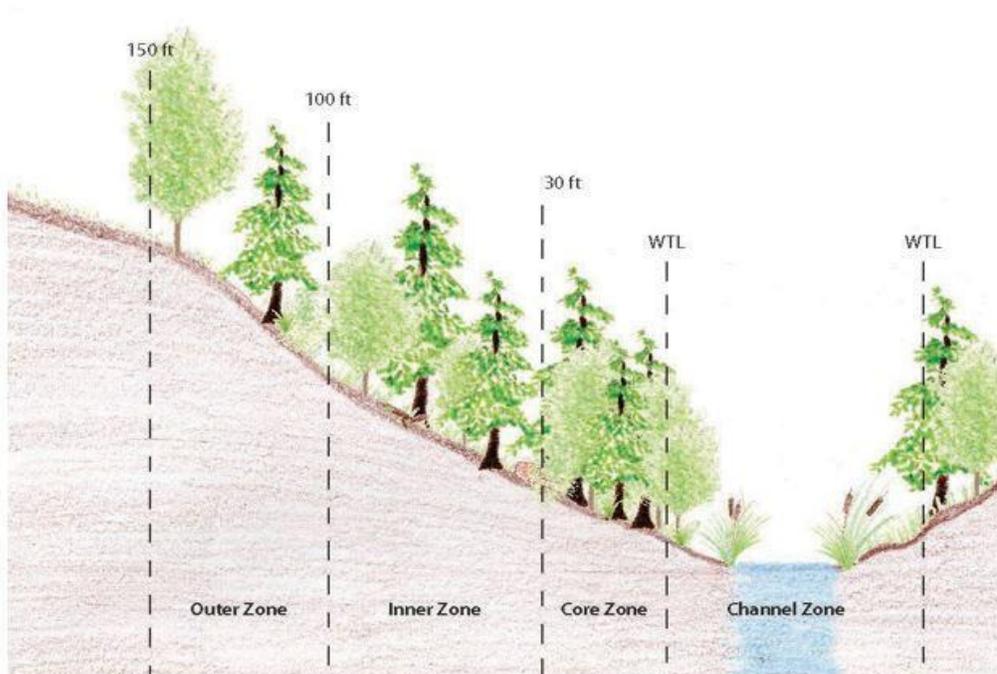
Figure 3 - Graphic profile of view of Class I WLPZ with confined channels in watersheds in the coastal anadromy zone (not to scale)

II   Objectives and Scope

The objectives of this project are to assess past wildfire activity and severity, quantify current fire hazard and risk, and document current condition for WLPZ areas. The current condition assessment will focus on WLPZ areas and will be conducted in Plumas County, a region of the state with a long history of wildfires affecting aquatic ecosystems on both private and public lands. The scope is focused on 5 analysis tasks, described below.

Task 1: Evaluate current fire hazard and risk for all lake, river, and stream (WLPZ) areas across regions of California contained within the Northern, Southern, Coast, and High Use Forest Districts.

Task 2: Quantify the acres burned per year by county and severity type (low, moderate, high) for all forested lands of California (excluding central valley) from 1984-2022 (MTBS and RAVG) as well as total acreage of stream zones burned per year from 1970-2022

Task 3: Use current imagery in Plumas County to represent current conditions of several WLPZs that cross public and private lands, focusing on WLPZ that have had various management actions (tree removal, reforestation) with unmanaged adjacent areas.

Task 4: Evaluate trends in vegetation cover (shrub, forest, grass, and bare and barren soil) for all riparian areas within Plumas County, using the existing Post WildFire Monitoring System funded by NASA ()https://sig-gis.com/post-fire-vegetation-monitoring-system/.

Task 5: Summarize current fire hazard, fire history (severity), and case study findings to assess post fire riparian conditions.

Research Methods

Step 1-Locate WLPZ Areas using The National Hydrography Dataset (NHD): NHDPlus is a suite of geospatial products that build upon and extend the capabilities of the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD). The NHD is the most up-to-date and comprehensive hydrography dataset for the Nation. To assess potential WLPZ for current fire hazard, risk, and ecological condition, all watercourses will be buffered to a distance of 300 feet on each side of NHD mapped watercourses (600 feet total) and assessed. The NHD represents the water drainage network of the United States with features such as a comprehensive set of digital spatial data that encodes information about naturally occurring and constructed bodies of surface water (lakes, ponds, and reservoirs), paths through which water flows (canals, ditches, streams, and rivers), and related entities such as point features (springs, wells, stream gages, and dams). The information encoded about these features includes classification and other characteristics, delineation, geographic name, position and related measures, and the direction of water flow. (NDH Dataset https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhydro.nationalmap.gov%2Farcgis%2Frest%2Fservices%2Fnhd%2FMapServer&source=sd)

Step 2-Determine Fire History and Severity of All Areas Delineated in Step 1: For all buffered areas created in step 1, the area burned by year will be estimated using GIS from 1970 to the present. In addition, all buffered stream areas will be assessed for total acres burned per year by burn severity (low, moderate, high) since 1984, the earliest available year for fire severity data. This information will be used to examine and analyze trends in fire extent and severity across all riparian areas. Rapid Assessment of Vegetation Condition after Wildfire (RAVG) and Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity (MTBS) provide 30-meter resolution, fire severity (vegetation) data. RAVG data is available 30-45 days after containment and is used by silviculturists to determine reforestation needs. RAVG has categories like % Change in Basal area layer and % Change in Canopy cover layer while MTBS uses the 6-class thematic thresholded dNBR, unburned, low, moderate, high, increased veg, unvegetated, MTBS 1984-2021, and RAVG 2007-present. Both are 30-meter resolution (Fire Severity Data https://gis.data.ca.gov/datasets/CALFIRE-Forestry::california-fire-perimeters-all-1/about or https://databasin.org/datasets/bf8db57ee6e0420c8ecce3c6395aceeb/).

Step 3-Determine Current Fire Hazard: Using contemporary fire hazard and risk data, existing hazard (flame length) and risk data (probability of burning) available **at no cost to SIG** from both the Pyregence (https://pyregence.org/) and First Street Fire Factor Project (https://firststreet.org/risk-factor/fire-factor/) for California will be summarized for all buffered stream areas within all Forest Districts of California.

Step 4- Plumas County Case Study, Determine Post-Fire Vegetation Recovery Dynamics by Employing LandTrendr to Conduct a Time Series Analysis for All Buffered Areas of Plumas County: Partnering with NASA, SIG has developed a Post Wildfire Vegetation Monitoring System. This system uses Landsat imagery within the Google Earth Engine Framework to provide near real time maps of forest, shrub, grassland, hardwood, and "barren" cover types (Figure 4). These are predicted with an accuracy of at least 80% and can be used to create retrospective vegetation maps back to 1984. Within Plumas County, this system will be used to estimate the percent cover of forest, shrub, grassland, and barren cover types over all stream areas over time, including assessing changes in conditions within the Storrie, Moonlight, Dixie, North Complex, Camp, and others fires. Changes in vegetation can be detected across property lines (Figure 5)(Post (Wildfire Vegetation Monitoring System
https://sig-gis.com/post-fire-vegetation-monitoring-system/)

The first step for conducting a time series analysis includes loading publicly available data via the Google Earth Engine data catalog. We will access long-term satellite imagery from missions, such as the Landsat and Sentinel-2, which cover a temporal range of 1984 to the present. These missions provide a spatial resolution of 30 meters in the visible, near infrared, and shortwave infrared spectral range. Prior to analysis, standard preprocessing steps such as shadow/cloud removal and radiometric/atmospheric corrections are applied to ensure data quality.

Next, a calculation of relevant metrics, such as the NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index), NBR (Normalized Burn Ratio) and EVI (Enhanced Vegetation Index) will be made. These metrics serve as indicators of vegetation health and condition. Once these metrics are derived from the imagery, we will apply the LandTrendr algorithm.

LandTrendr is a powerful time-series analysis method that identifies changes in environmental conditions by establishing a historical baseline. This algorithm allows us to track and quantify the spatial extent of regrowth by identifying areas that exhibit improved biophysical conditions through increased vegetation cover over time. By comparing the established baseline with more recent satellite images, we can detect areas of vegetation gain and loss.

Using this methodology, we can classify areas where the metrics assessing biophysical conditions have improved and measure the extent of regrowth by calculating the number of

acres displaying vegetation cover gain or loss within areas of interest, such as WLPZs. This comprehensive approach facilitates the evaluation of restoration efforts and provides valuable insights into post-fire vegetation recovery dynamics
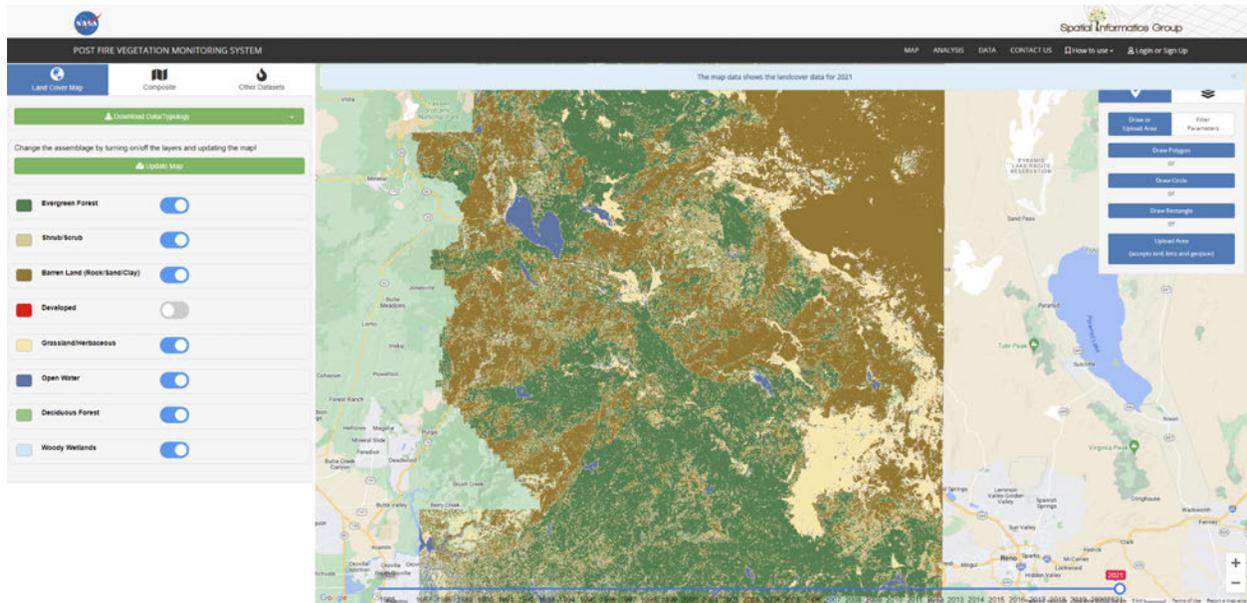

Figure 4 - Screenshot from the Post Fire Vegetation Monitoring System showing current cover of forest, shrub, barren, grassland, and other types of vegetation for all of Plumas County. The map reflects conditions of the 2021 Dixie Fire, including areas of the 2007 Moonlight Fire, which was reburned in the Dixie Fire.

Figure 5 - USFS (right of road) and private land (left of road) boundary. The change from forest to shrub can be detected by the existing Post Wildfire Vegetation Monitoring System.

Step 5-Plumas County Field Case Study of Stream Vegetation Condition Overview: Within Plumas County, within at least 3 wildfires (2021 Dixie Fire, 2020 North Complex, and 2007 Moonlight Fires), stream vegetation conditions will be imaged using a UAV. Within these fires, at least 9 perennial and 9 ephemeral streams will have additional aerial 360 images taken to assess current condition of riparian zones in burned areas along private and public land boundaries (Figure 6). Use of a UAV allows crews to view and assess stream areas without entering potentially hazardous burned forests or disturb potentially fragile ecosystems. These 360 view images can be embedded in a map, allowing users to view current aerial imagery, vegetation type, and ground conditions via the UAV image. SIG has used Mavic Pro Quadcopter UAVs in this area on past projects to map vegetation at high resolution;an example of imagery collected is available here (UAV Image Data
Example:
https://gsal.sig-gis.com/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7cddcb5ee30d4c3e86f1463156e ec8dc). Example 360 degree images of fuel treatments and areas burned by wildfire can be found at the links below and Figure 5, and can be integrated with ground based photos (Figure 6) where access to the site is safe and feasible.

Figure 6 - East Branch of Lights Creek within the footprint of the 2021 Dixie Fire. This area also burned in the 2007 Moonlight Fire.

Step 6-Fire History, Fire Hazard, CurrentVegetation Cover Type (Plumas County) by Ownership Type and, Where Available, Past Management Report. The fire history (burn severity since 1984), fire hazard (flame length and fire type), and current vegetation type derived from Steps 1-5 will be summarized by ownership type (private, public, state, other) using the current available California Protected Areas Database (https://www.calands.org/). Where geospatial data is available via FACTS, Calfire Timber Harvest Plans, and other publicly available treatment datasets, these data will also be summarized by vegetation treatment type (prescribed fire, fuel treatment, post fire tree removal, or other vegetation management) and, if available, inside and outside of areas reforested after wildfire. As a contributor to the Million Acre Strategy, SIG is currently working with the Forest Management TaskForce to aggregate all treatment data. If this data is publically available at the start of the project, we will utilize it for the treatment analysis. It should be noted that this dataset is aggregated back to 2018. As such, we will primarily focus on effects of recent treatments. Rob York (2017) completed the EMC Project

"Fuel treatment alternatives in riparian zones of the Sierra Nevada" which covers additional treatment alternative studying in riparian areas (chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/epfpnupb/8-emc-2017-006-r-york-presentation_ada.pdf). These works will complement each other once complete.

Step 7-Report: Data and spatial information will be summarized in report form with online maps. All geospatial data will be provided electronically in ESRI compatible format.

IV   Scientific Uncertainty and Geographic Application

The project findings will apply generally to vegetation common to forest communities across the Northern, Southern, Coastal, and High Use Forest Districts of California. Detailed case studies for Plumas County will apply broadly to similar vegetation types in the Northern Sierra Nevada. These include Sierran Mixed Conifer, East Side Pine, black oak woodland, sagebrush, and montane chaparral. A detailed analysis of post wildfire vegetation cover in these vegetation types at the county (Plumas) level will have broad application to similar vegetation types within the greater Northern and Southern Forest Districts. Monitoring findings will be generally applicable to similar vegetation types, soil types, and climate zones within both the Northern and Southern Forest Districts. While Coastal Region Forest Practice Rules (FPRs) are included, comparisons between districts will be limited due to dissimilar vegetation types, climate, and treatment practices.

V   Roles, Collaborations and Project Feasibility

Ryan Tompkins, Registered Professional Forester (RPF), UC Cooperative Extension Advisor for Plumas County, will join the project as a local Principal Investigator. Ryan will provide advisory review and local forest context for the project. The project will be managed by Jason Moghaddas (RPF) with David Saah (PhD) serving as the PI for SIG. Project findings and updates will be presented to local Plumas County Foresters, private landowners, and Fire Management Staff via presentations at local Fire Safe Council, RCD, and Collaborative Group meetings as requested.

VI   Theme and Critical Questions for Each Theme and Forest Practice Rules or Regulations Addressed

The project will cover fire history, severity, and current fire risk for all WLPZ areas as defined in the forest practice rules below.

- 916.4, 936.4, 956.4 Watercourse and Lake Protection [All Districts]
- 916.5, 936.5, 956.5 Procedure for Determining Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ) Widths and Protective Measures [All Districts]
- 916.2, 936.2, 956.2 Protection of the Beneficial Uses of Water and Riparian Functions [All Districts]

In addition, within Plumas County, the assessment will quantify the acres of WLPZ areas by cover type (forest, shrub, grassland, barren) since 1984, on both public and private lands. Specifically, the project will address aspects of the critical questions for Theme 1, 6, and 12 per below. The study will not specifically research the effects of a single forest practice rule but at a statewide scale, assess the condition of WLPZ areas managed under those rules over decades, allowing comparison with areas managed under NEPA guidelines on public (i.e. USFS) lands.

Theme 1-Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone Riparian Function

The study will determine WLPZ areas that have lost or gained forest cover since 1984 for all of Plumas County. Understanding landscape and local change (gain or loss) of forest cover across all WLPZ areas will improve understanding of WLPZ function. Specifically, we will be able to determine how many acres of WLPZ was classified as forest as far back as 1984, how many acres are classified as forest in 2023, and the potential direct results of that loss or gain due to wildfire and reforestation efforts. Field assessments will provide fine grained appraisal of cover and structure using both field and UAV data of select WLPZ areas that cross both private and public lands.

A. Maintaining and restoring canopy closure to provide sufficient shade on watercourses necessary to meet Basin Plan temperature objectives?

B. Maintaining and restoring stream water temperature?

C. Retaining predominant conifers in WLPZs and large woody debris input to watercourse channels?

D. Retaining conifer and deciduous species to maintain or restore riparian shade, water temperature, and primary productivity?

E. Maintaining and restoring riparian function of Class II-L watercourses in the Northern District?

H. Managing WLPZs to reduce or minimize potential fire behavior and rate of spread?

Theme 6 - Wildfire Hazard

The project will address Theme 6 (wildfire hazard), questions D, E, and F by providing historical

analysis of acres burned by severity class (low, moderate, high) for all WLPZ areas of the Northern, Southern, Coastal, and High Use Forest Districts. In addition, the project will identify current fire hazard and risk for all WLPZ areas vegetation cover, and provide a county-level analysis of the change in forest cover for all WLPZs areas within Plumas County.

    D. Managing forest structure and stocking standards to promote wildfire resilience?

    E. Achieving post-fire recovery and restoration?

    F. Mitigating or reducing the cumulative impacts of post-fire recovery and management actions in affected watersheds?

Theme 12 - Resilience to Disturbance in a Changing Climate

We will address project theme 12 by investigating vegetative response to past wildfires and post fire recovery actions (tree removal, reforestation) as well as current risk of WLPZ to potential future crown fire, likely to result in high severity in forest types.

    A. Improving overall forest wildfire resilience and the ability of forests to respond to climate change (e.g., in response to drought or bark beetle; reducing plant water stress) and variability, and extreme weather events (evaluate ecosystem functional response to fuel reduction and forest health treatments)?

    B. Maintaining conifer and broadleaf stands which are well adapted to climate in order to facilitate riparian functions (e.g., shade, temperatures, primary productivity, stream flow)?

    C. Meeting ecological objectives and adaptation to future climate (e.g., resilience of wildlife habitats; variable retention silviculture as it relates to wildlife habitat structures)?

    D. Maintaining or recruiting adequate amounts of early– and mid-seral wildlife habitats which are well adapted to future climate?

VII   Requested Funding

Requested and contributed funding will cover all labor, fringe, travel, and indirect costs needed to complete the project. Ryan Tompkins, UC Cooperative Extension and local Principal Investigator is not requesting additional funding for the project and has time included as contributed labor.

Category	Description	Year 1	Year 2	Total

		(01/01/2024-06/30/2024)	(07/01/2024-06/30/2025)	
Personal Salaries and Wages	Staff Salary	$14,000	$24,000	$38,000
Fringe Benefits (25%)	Staff Fringe Benefits-25% rate	$3,500	$6,000	$9,500
Contractual Expenses	None	$0	$0	$0
Operating Expenses	None	$0	$0	$0
Travel (Please see Match row; this is NOT counted twice)	$500/year-contributed below	$500	$500	$1,000
Other	None	$0	$0	$0
Indirect Costs	Indirect Rate 15%	$2,625	$4,500	$7,125
EMC FUNDING*	Year 1 and 2 requested funding	$20,125	$34,500	$54,625
Match or In-Kind Contributions	Contributed Labor ($1,000 per year) and Travel ($500/year)	$1,500 (Includes Travel)	$1,500 (Includes Travel)	$3,000 (Includes Travel)
Total Budgets	-	$21,625	$36,000	$57,625

*REQUIRED

Justification of Costs

All EMC funding will be used to cover staff labor costs for GIS, UAV, and other field work for FY23-24 and FY24-25. Ryan Tompkins, UC Cooperative Extension is not requesting additional

funds from the project.

Personnel *(Resumes available upon request)***: $17,500 in FY23-24 and $30,000 in FY24-25**

Project staff will include two Registered Professional Foresters: Project lead, Jason Moghaddas (#2774) and Field lead Gary Roller (#2899); two licensed UAV Pilots with GIS expertise: Jarrett Barbuto (Remote Pilot Certificate #3951206) and Travis Freed (Remote Pilot Certificate #3996768); one Fire Ecologist: Ian Moore, and one Forest Ecologist, Nick Miley.

Billing Rates: Billing rates for staff will be $45-$65/hour plus fringe and indirect rates (below). At these rates and with contributed labor, at least 750 hours of staff labor time will be available for the project, which is adequate funding to complete all deliverables.

Fringe (payroll taxes, health, dental, and vision): 25 % totaling $9,500 for the project

Travel: $0 All travel will be contributed

Contributed Funds: Travel costs will be covered as an in-kind contribution from SIG. SIG will be contributing $1,500 in FY23-24 and $1,500 in FY24-25 for travel and labor costs. The Post Wildfire Vegetation Mapping System was funded by NASA at a cost of $125,000; while not considered "contributed," the tool will be used for this analysis.

Equipment and Other Direct Costs: $0 All equipment and other direct costs will be contributed

All field equipment, UAVs, software, and data will be provided by SIG at no additional cost to the project.

Indirect Costs: 15 % totaling $7,125 for the project

VIII Project Deliverables and VIIII Project Timeline

The project deliverables are listed below with their start and end dates highlighted in gray on the table below. Deliverables will include:

Deliverable 1: A statewide geospatial assessment of past wildfire severity in WLPZ areas from 1984-2022 (2023 will be included if available at project start), including acres burned by severity type (low, moderate, high) and reburned in subsequent fires, as applicable.

Deliverable 2: A statewide geospatial assessment of total acres burned in WLPZ areas

from 1970-2022 (2023 will be included if available at project start)

Deliverable 3: A statewide geospatial assessment of current fire hazard, including potential flame length and fire type (surface, passive crown fire, active crown fire) from datasets current through 2022 (2023 if available at time of project start)

Deliverable 4: A Plumas County wide assessment of vegetation cover change in WLPZ areas from 1984-2023, including changes in the cover of forest, shrub, grassland, and barren cover types for WLPZ areas by HUC 12 watershed.

Deliverable 5 : UAV images of example stream reaches burned at different severity classes with different levels of post wildfire reforestation and post wildfire dead tree management

Deliverable 6: Public online GIS data showing all analysis outputs (fire history, fire hazard, vegetation change, UAV overview imagery)

Deliverable 7: Report summarizing the project, methods, data, and key findings

Deliverable 8: Up to 4 virtual (Zoom based) Project presentations to collaborators and funders

ACTIVITY OR DELIVERABLE	TYPE		YEAR 1 01/01/2024 – 06/30/2024				YEAR 2 07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025			
	Act.	Del.	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Deliverable 1: WLPZ Fire Severity Assessment	X	X								
Deliverable 2: WLPZ Acres Burned Assessment	X	X								
Deliverable 3: WLPZ Fire Hazard Assessment	X	X								
Deliverable 4: Plumas County WLPZ Vegetation Cover	X	X								
Deliverable 5: Plumas County UAV Imagery	X	X								
Deliverable 6: Online GIS Project Map and Data	X	X								
Deliverable 7: Draft and Final Report	X	X								
Project Update to Funders/collaborators*	X									

Project Presentation to funders/collaborators*	X										
Final Project Presentation funders/collaborators*	X										
Completed Research Assessment (CRA) presentation to EMC*	X										
CRA presentation to the Board*	X										

Key: A = Fiscal Year (FY) Quarter 1 (Jul 1 -- Sept 30); B = FY Quarter 2 (Oct 1 - Dec 31); C = FY Quarter 3 (Jan 1--Mar 31); D = FY Quarter 4 (Apr 1--Jun 30)

Act - Activity; D - Deliverable

Include Month in the cell if known; Identify months as numbers 1-12, Jan-Dec.

*REQUIRED CATEGORIES

IX Other Items Requested in EMC Letter Dated June 09, 2023

After review of our pre-proposal, the following clarifications were requested. How this proposal addresses each of these clarifications is included under each numbered point.

1) Investigate options to collaborate with local land managers and consider the addition of a Principal Investigator not associated with the private company.

Ryan Tompkins, UC Cooperative Extension Forester for Plumas County has agreed to serve as local Co-PI on the project.

2) Provide details to clarify how the relatively low amount of funding will accomplish all research objective and consider requesting additional funds if needed to ensure project success. The FPP requires inclusion of a detailed timeline of deliverables and line-item budget, and some of the additional requested details may clarify how the research goals may be accomplished within the timeline and budget requested.

The budget was increased by $17,625 and the field work component reduced to limit worker exposure to snag hazards in previously burned riparian areas. UAV assessments will be flown from areas where worker safety is not compromised.

3) Include a research focus on the variety of management practices within Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZs) and their resultant impacts.

The work on local level management practices on WLPZ and their impacts has been

assessed by Dr. Rob York. Rob York (2017) completed an EMC Project "Fuel treatment alternatives in riparian zones of the Sierra Nevada" that covers additional treatment alternative studying in riparian areas (https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/epfpnupb/8-emc-2017-006-r-york-presentation_ada.pdf). The proposed project will be able to assess potential effects of private and public land treatments (fuel treatments, reforestation, post fire tree management) where that data exists, is accurate, and available in public datasets.

4) Provide additional detail on the project nexus to the Forest Practice Rules (FPRs) and adaptive management.

The condition of riparian areas, particularly those under the authority of the California Forest Practice Rules, is highly dependent on the land management practices allowed in these areas under the Forest Practice Rules over time. This project will assess the contemporary conditions in terms of fire hazard and vegetation cover type (Plumas County) on WLPZ areas that fall under the Forest Practice Rules along with all other riparian areas on public and other private lands, allowing comparisons between the three.

5) Clarify how the field work is linked to the GIS work.

UAV flights are used to validate a subset of satellite image derived vegetation cover (forest, shrub, grassland, barren) on WLPZ areas in Plumas County.

End of Proposal
(Attachments with Requested Documents and Letters of Support to Follow)

**Attachment B:
Letters of Support**

June 26th, 2023

Re: Support for Spatial Informatics Group's proposal to address the California Board of Forestry Effectiveness Monitoring Committee's Program Grant

To the State of California Natural Resources Agency Effectiveness Monitoring Committee,

I write to express our commitment to supporting the project entitled "Assessing Fire Hazard, Risk, and Post Fire Recovery for Riparian (WLPZ) areas of California" to be proposed to California Board of Forestry Effectiveness Monitoring Committee's Program Grant. Spatial Informatics Group's (SIG) proposal responds directly to the California Board of Forestry Effectiveness Monitoring Committee's Program Grant by providing an improved understanding of fire hazard and vegetation cover type within riparian both burned and un-burned riparian areas. Our company has worked with SIG on prior projects focused on forest management, fuels treatment, and vegetation cover assessments. This proposal will inform our organizations fire recovery work and provide data to help dictate restoration practices.

Thank you for your consideration and acceptance of this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Michael Hall
District Manager

June 30, 2022

Calif. Board of Forestry, Effectiveness Monitoring Committee
Dr. Kristina Wolf, Environmental Scientist
Kristina.wolf@bof.ca.gov

Re: Letter of Collaboration and Support for Spatial Informatics Group's proposal to address the California Board of Forestry Effectiveness Monitoring Committee's Program Grant

Dear Effectiveness Monitoring Committee,

I am writing to confirm my collaborative role and support for the Spatial Informatics Group (SIG) proposal, entitled "Assessing Fire Hazard, Risk, and Post Fire Recovery for Riparian (WLPZ) areas of California" submitted to the California Board of Forestry Effectiveness Monitoring Committee's Program Grant. Spatial Informatics Group's proposal responds directly to the California Board of Forestry Effectiveness Monitoring Committee's Program Grant by providing an improved understanding of fire hazard and vegetation cover type within riparian both burned and un-burned riparian areas. As a University of California Cooperative Extension Forester serving communities impacted by the 2020 North Complex Fires and the 2021 Dixie Fire, I can substantiate the need for understanding fire hazard and impacts to riparian areas due to their potential impacts on watershed health.

The University of California Cooperative Extension has collaborated with SIG on past project focused on post-fire vegetation recovery and forest and fuels management. This proposal build on our past collaboration, and not only serves northern Sierran Counties but would have positive impact statewide.

I am committed as a collaborator on all aspects of the project including conceptual design, implementation, project deliverables, and extension of results to pertinent forest management clientele. Thank you for considering this letter of collaboration and support. Should you have any questions or need for more information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ryan Tompkins
Cooperative Extension Forester and Natural Resources Advisor, Registered Professional Forester #3108
University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources, Cooperative Extension
Plumas, Sierra, and Lassen Counties