### Global Hotspots of the Wildland-Urban Interface



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#### Introduction

# The WUI is where houses and wildland vegetation meet or intermingle

#### "Interface WUI"

SILVIS Lab Spatial Analysis for Conservation and Sustainability

CC&E Joint Science Workshop, College Park Maryland, 5/8/2023

"Intermix WUI"



#### Introduction



SILVIS Lab Spatial Analysis for Conservation and Sustainability





#### Introduction



#### The New Hork Times

#### As Wildfires Grow, Millions of Homes Are Being Built in Harm's Way

By Nadja Popovich and Brad Plumer Sept. 9, 2022

Across the Western United States, wildfires are growing larger and more severe as global warming intensifies. At the same time, new data shows, more Americans than ever are moving to parts of the country more likely to burn, raising the odds of catastrophe.





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#### Goals

- Mapping the Global Wildland Urban Interface
  - -Global WUI and fire
  - -Global WUI and biodiversity
- Mapping buildings and WUI with CNNs
- Long-term change in global WUI hotspots with SMA

















SILVIS Lab Spatial Analysis for Conservation and Sustainability

, NASI





Spatial Analysis for Conservation and Sustainability





Overall accuracy: 82% for WUI vs. NonWUI 80% for Intermix vs. Interface WUI 10,000 validation points







#### WUI Area









#### WUI Population

















![](_page_12_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Figure_1.jpeg)

Forest/shrubland/wetland-dominated WUI Grassland-dominated WUI

![](_page_13_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_1.jpeg)

Forest/shrubland/wetland-dominated WUI Grassland-dominated WUI

![](_page_14_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_4.jpeg)

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![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

Forest/shrubland/wetland-dominated WUI Grassland-dominated WUI

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![](_page_16_Figure_1.jpeg)

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![](_page_16_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_1.jpeg)

Spatial Analysis for Conservation and Sustainability

![](_page_18_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_3.jpeg)

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![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_2.jpeg)

NASA

![](_page_19_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

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![](_page_20_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_5.jpeg)

#### Goals

- Mapping the Global Wildland Urban Interface
  - -Global WUI and fire
  - -Global WUI and biodiversity
- Mapping buildings and WUI with CNNs
- Long-term change in global WUI hotspots with SMA

![](_page_21_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_9.jpeg)

#### Mapping the WUI with CNNs

![](_page_22_Picture_1.jpeg)

Kasraee, N. K., T. J. Hawbaker, and V. C. Radeloff. 2023. Identifying building locations in the wildland-urban interface before and after fires with convolutional neural networks. *International Journal of Wildland Fire*, in press.

![](_page_22_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_7.jpeg)

#### Mapping the WUI with CNNs

![](_page_23_Picture_1.jpeg)

Kasraee, N. K., T. J. Hawbaker, and V. C. Radeloff. 2023. Identifying building locations in the wildland-urban interface before and after fires with convolutional neural networks. *International Journal of Wildland Fire*, *in press*.

![](_page_23_Figure_3.jpeg)

Carlson, A., D. H. Helmers, T. J. Hawbaker, M. H. Mockrin, and V. C. Radeloff. 2022. The wildland-urban interface in the United States based on 125 million building locations. *Ecological Applications*, 2022: e2597.

![](_page_23_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_9.jpeg)

#### **Change in global WUI Hotspots**

![](_page_24_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_5.jpeg)

#### Change in global WUI Hotspots

![](_page_25_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_5.jpeg)

#### Change in global WUI Hotspots

![](_page_26_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_5.jpeg)

## Conclusions

- Global WUI: 5% of land area, 50% of the population
- People near fires: 2/3s live in the WUI
- WUI concentrated in
  - biodiversity hotspots

![](_page_27_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_8.jpeg)

## Conclusions

- Global WUI: 5% of land area, 50% of the population
- People near fires: 2/3s live in the WUI
- WUI concentrated in biodiversity hotspots

![](_page_28_Figure_4.jpeg)

#### Bar-Massada, Radeloff, and Stewart. 2014. BioScience

![](_page_28_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_9.jpeg)

# Thank you!!!

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![](_page_29_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_5.jpeg)