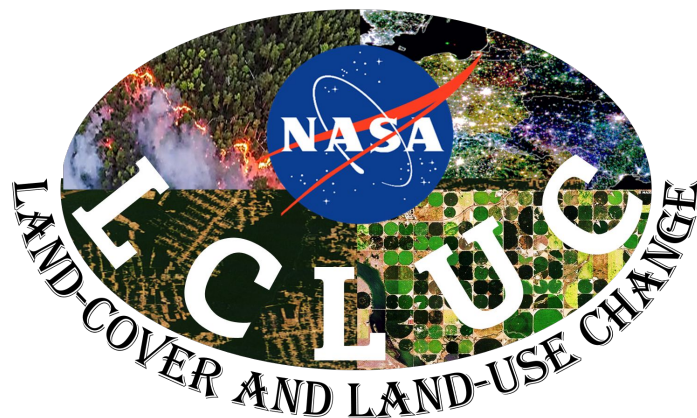


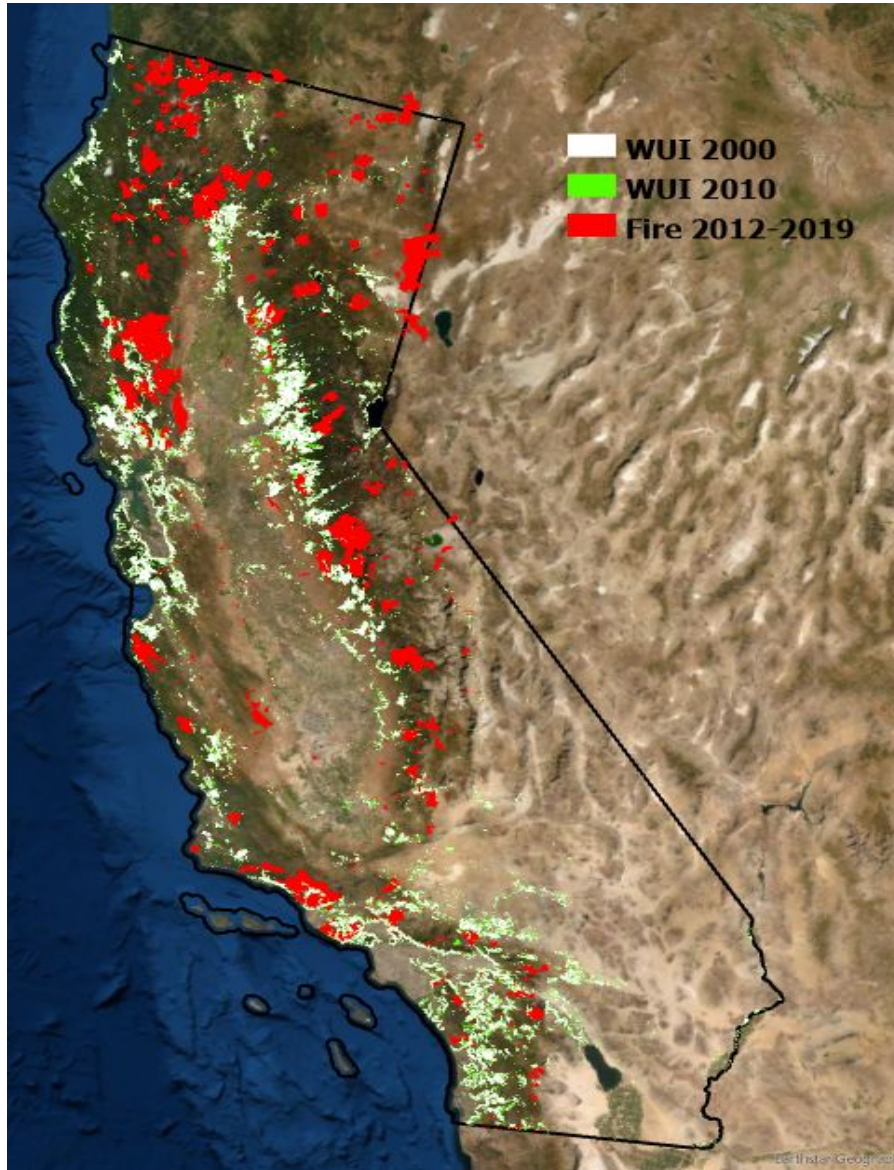
Multi-Source WUI Characterization Enhanced with Machine Learning: Dynamics and Hazard Assessment



Yufang Jin, Dan Dixon, and Yuhan Huang
University of California, Davis

Yong Jae Lee & Yuheng Li
University of Wisconsin - Madison

Increasing community vulnerability to wildfires at WUI



Increasing wildfires in California (**17** after 2000, **5** largest in 2020)

Expansion of housing development into the wilderness

- Creating larger WUI areas
- More than 20 million properties susceptible to wildfires



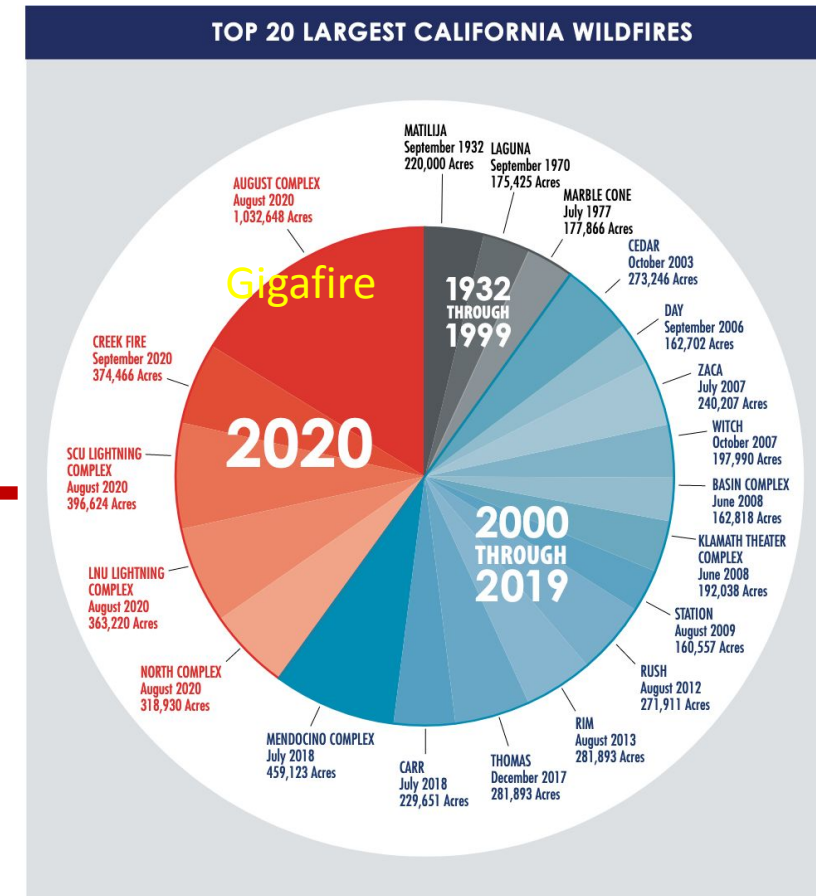
**CLAIMED THE LIVES OF
28 CIVILIANS
AND THREE FIREFIGHTERS**



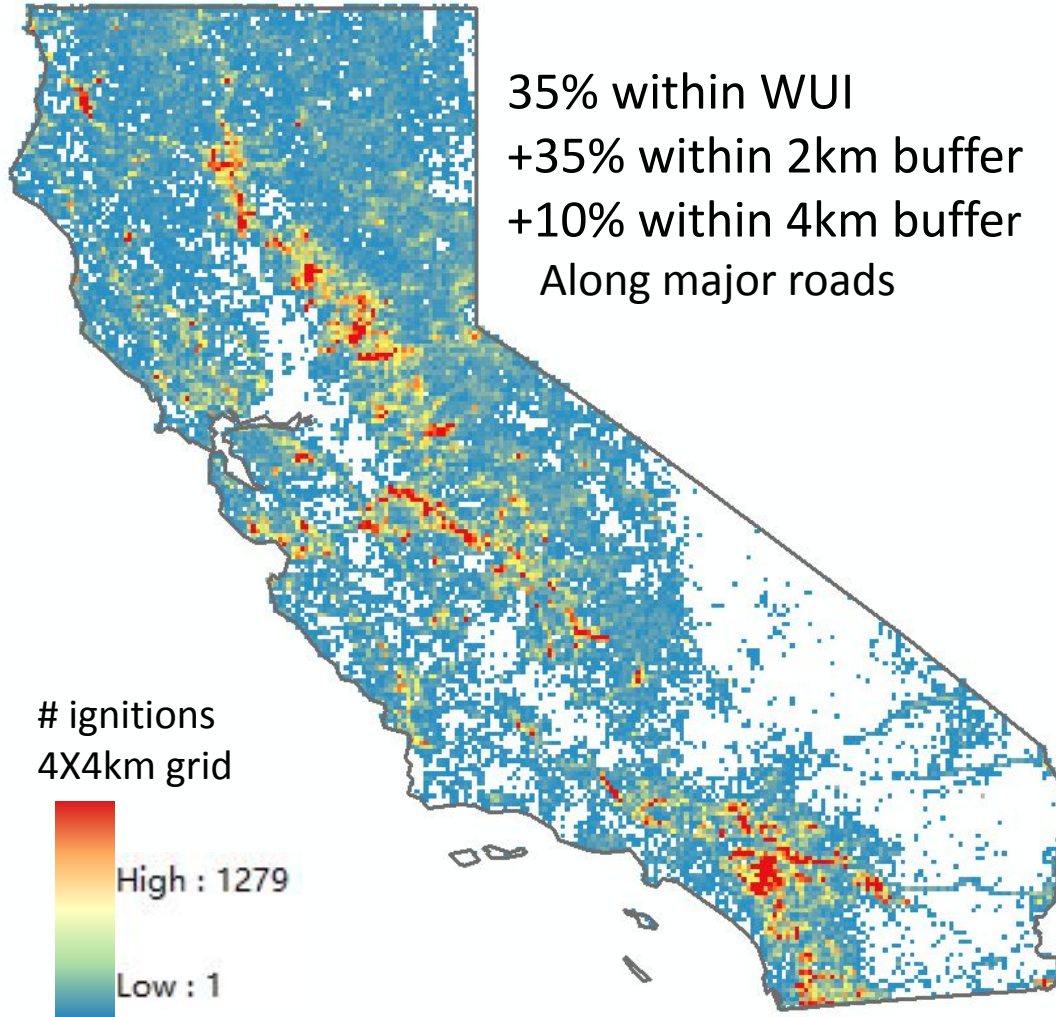
**DESTROYED
3,248 STRUCTURES**



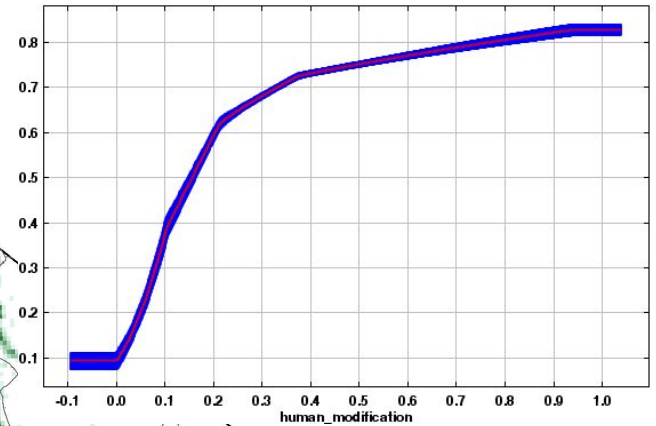
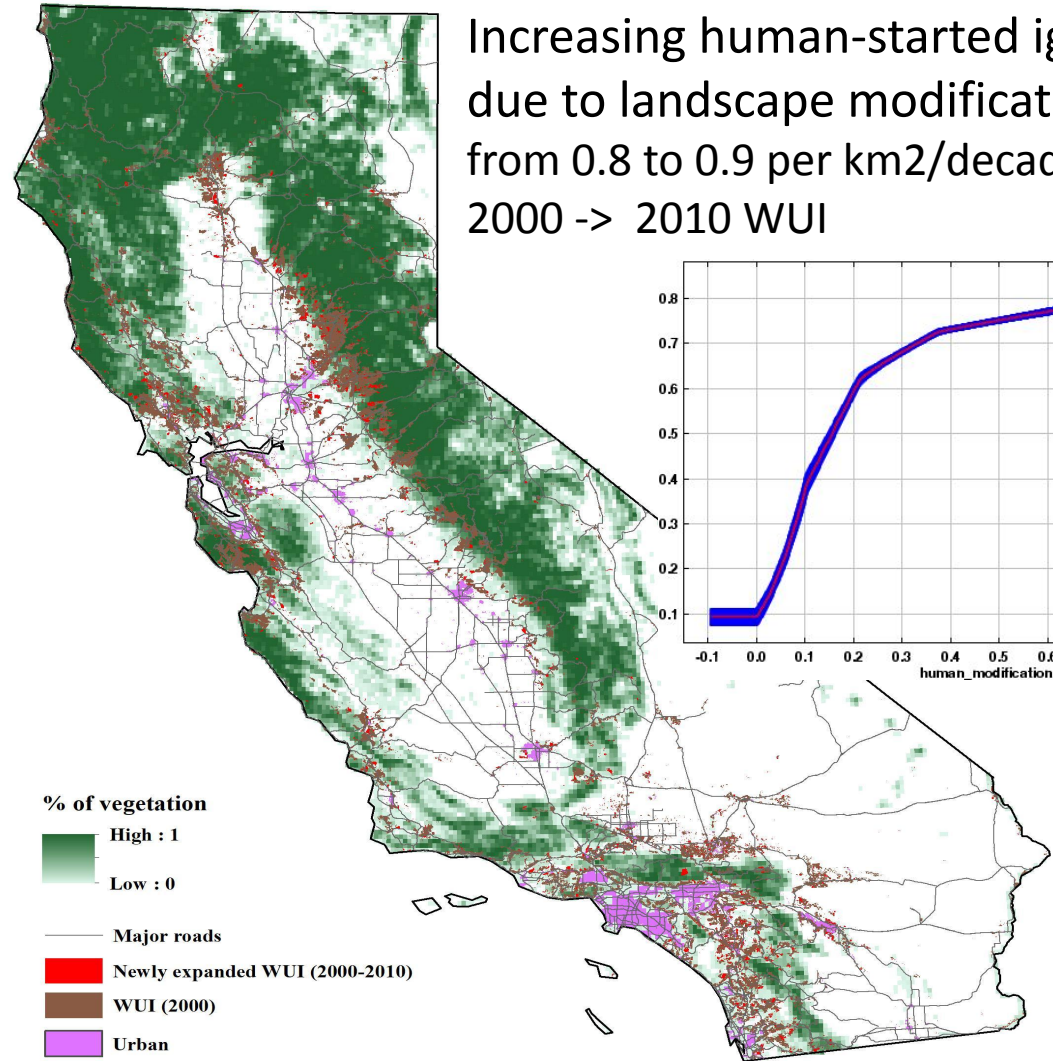
**CONSUMED
OVER 4.2 MILLION ACRES**



Majority of wildfire ignition started in/around WUI

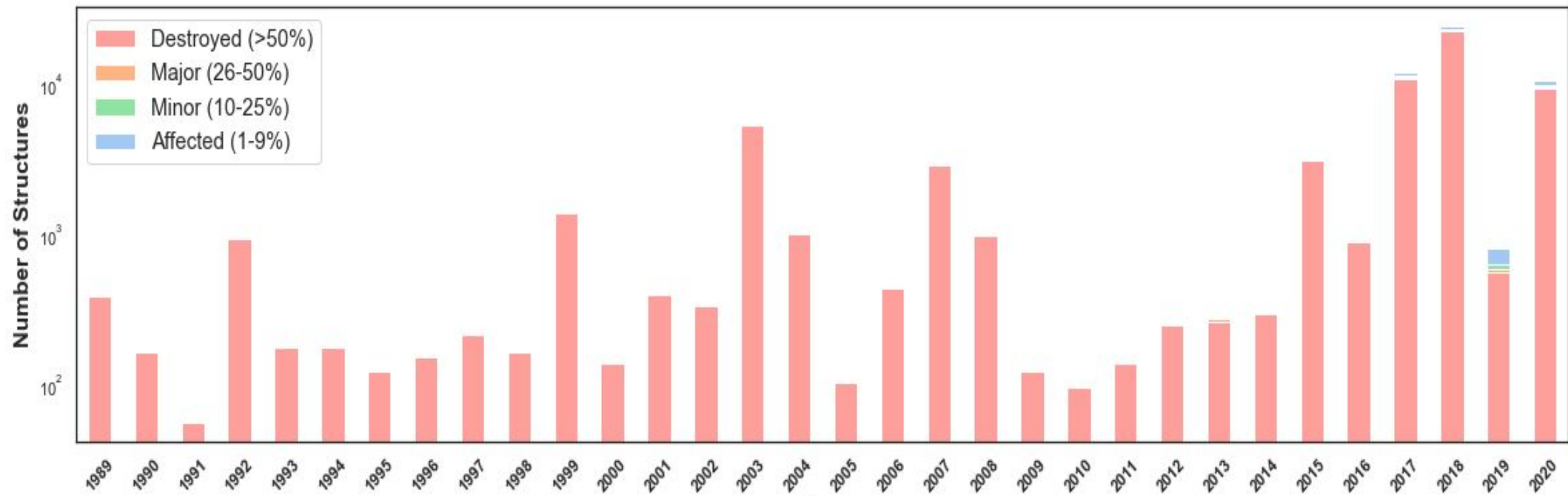


1992-2015



Chen and Jin, 2022

Increasing structure damages by WUI wildfires in California



15 out of 20 most destructive fires occurred since 2015

More than half in the past 5 years

(2021 Dixie fire >1300;

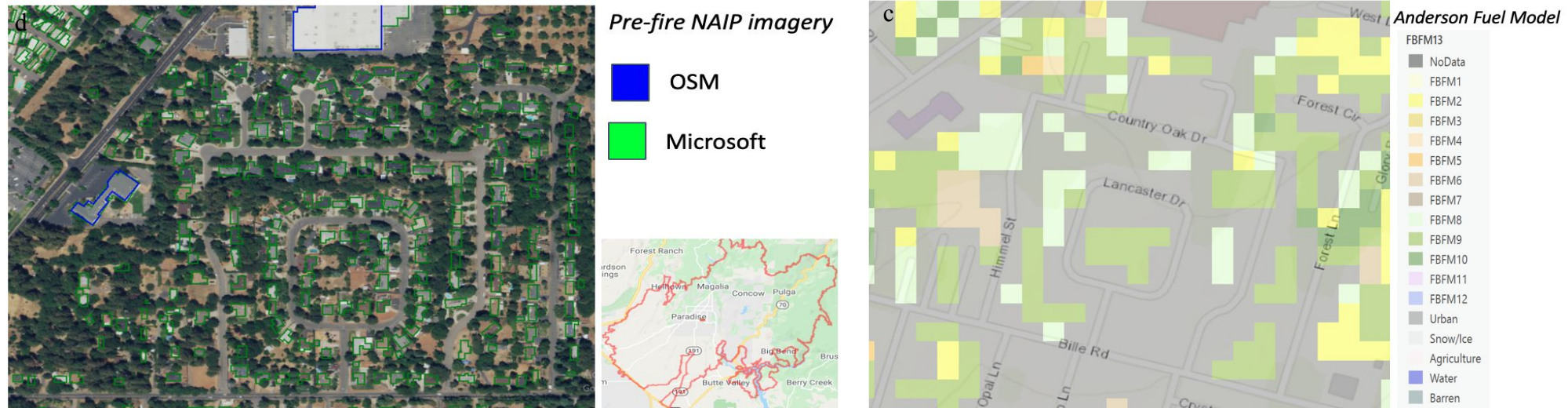
2020 North Complex > 2000;

2018 Camp fire >18,000)



Challenging for fire risk assessment in WUI

- Heterogeneous, dynamic landscapes with human modification
- Challenging for fire behavior modeling and risk assessment



- Goal: Multi-sensor monitoring and community fire risk assessment
 - (1) fine grained annual WUI characterization (human settlements and vegetation)
 - (2) improved understanding of WUI fire behavior and building damage

Building footprints identified from NAIP aerial imagery

Input Image



Ground Truth



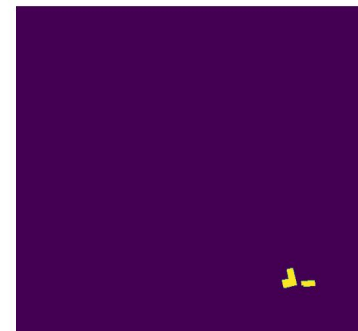
Predicted Image



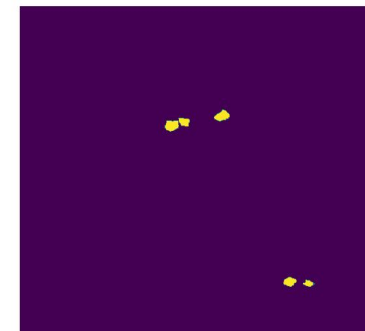
Input Image



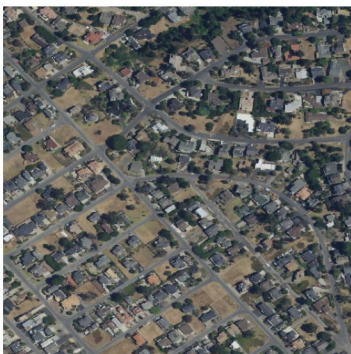
Ground Truth



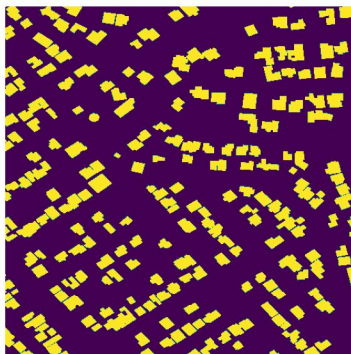
Predicted Image



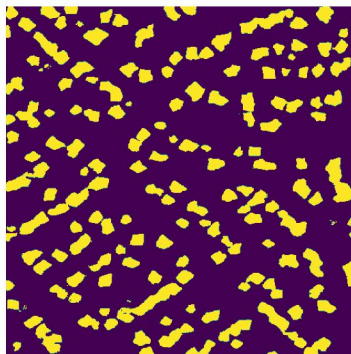
Input Image



Ground Truth



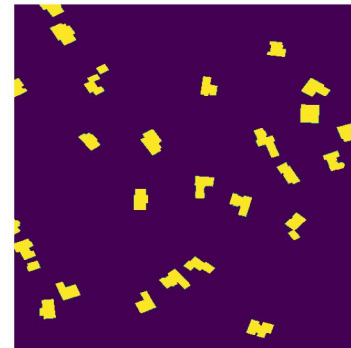
Predicted Image



Input Image



Ground Truth



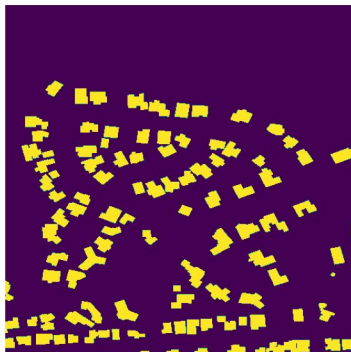
Predicted Image



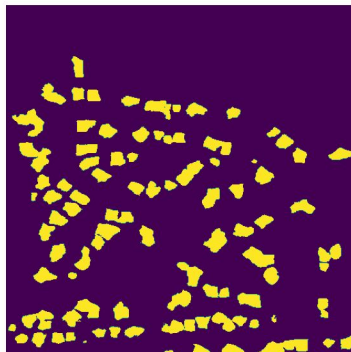
Input Image



Ground Truth



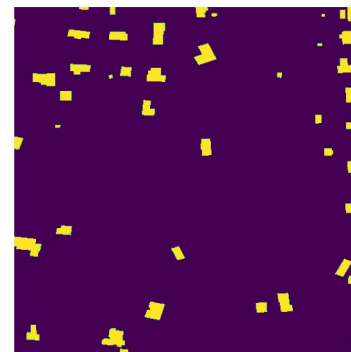
Predicted Image



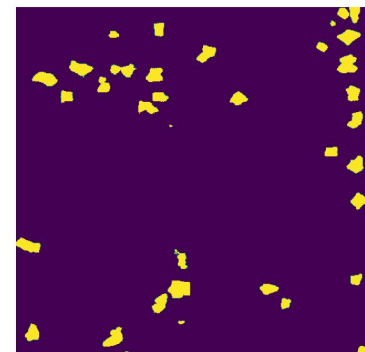
Input Image



Ground Truth



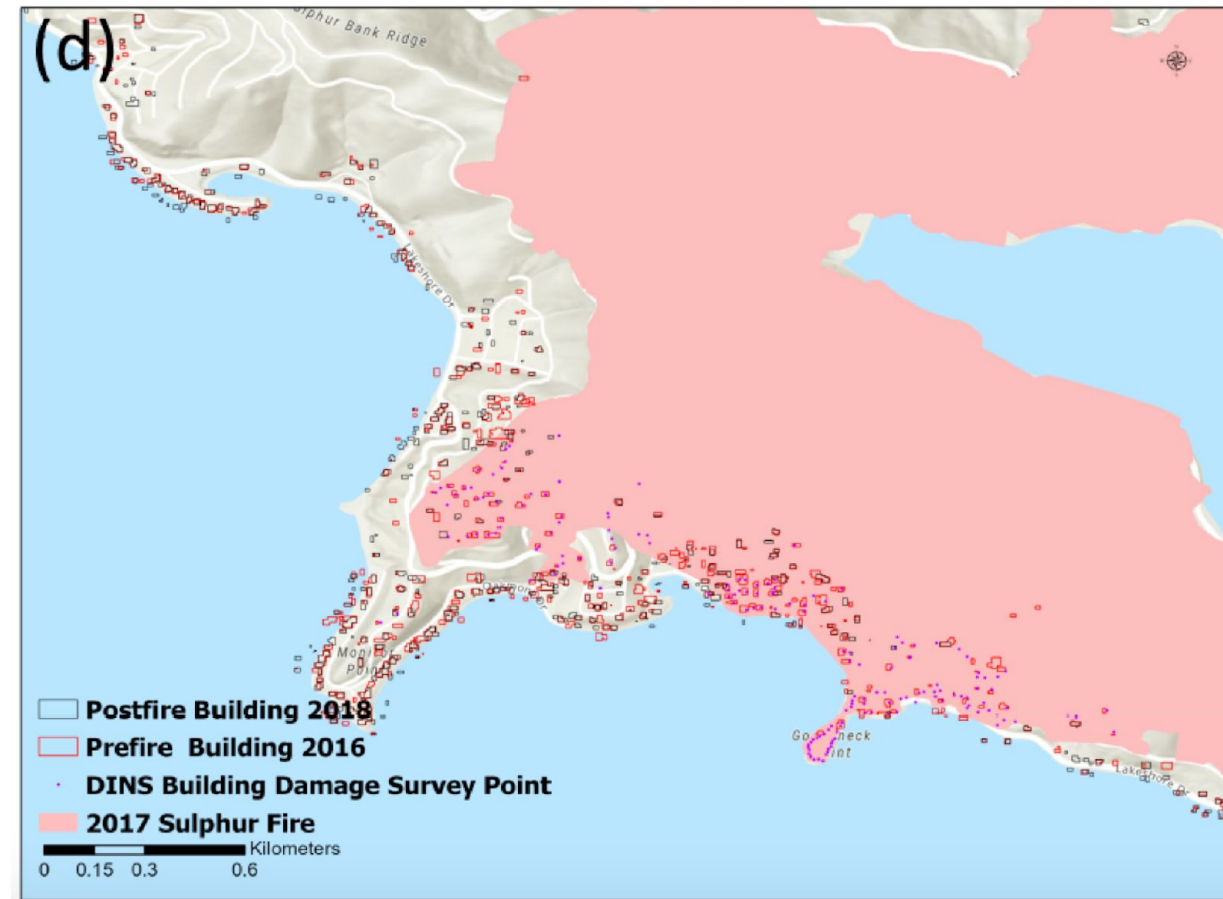
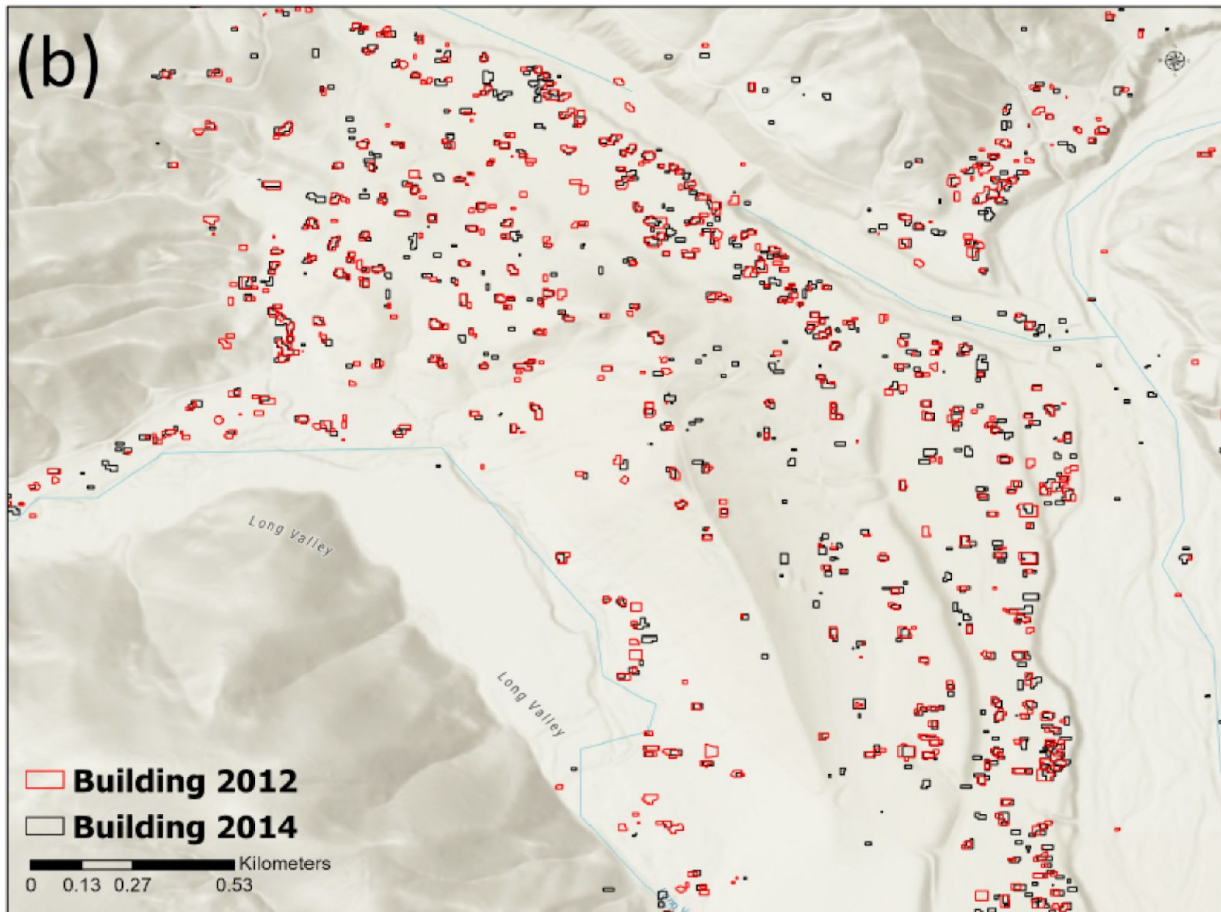
Predicted Image



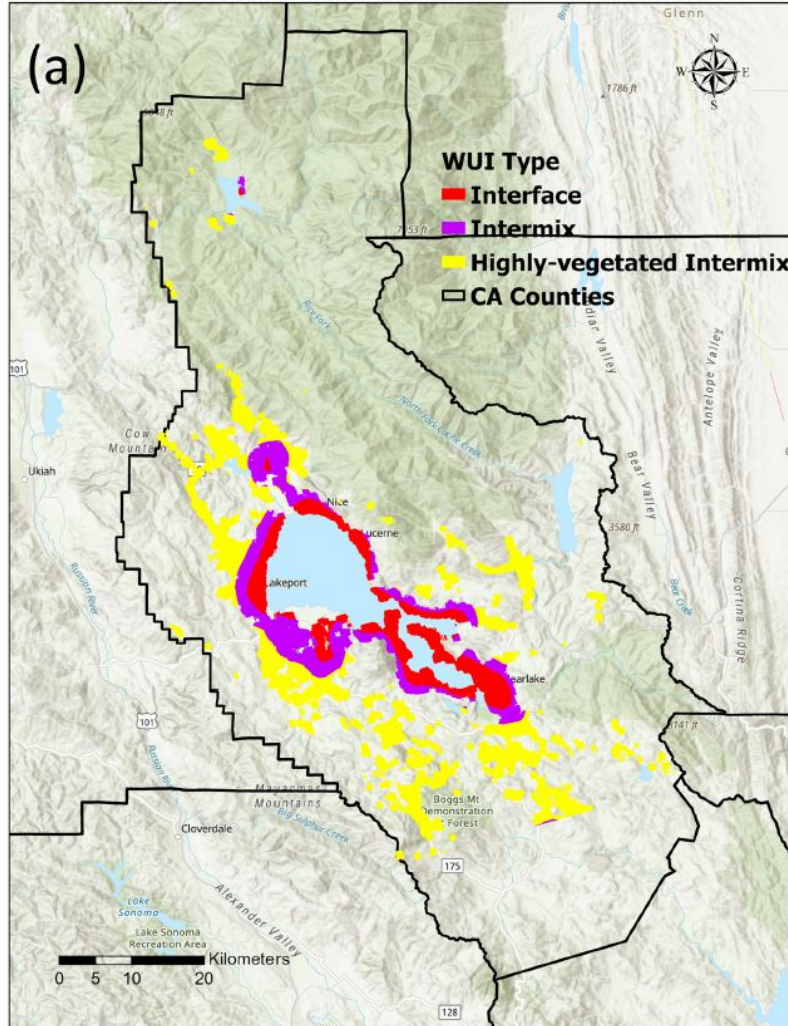
Urban and Interface WUI

Rural and Intermix WUI

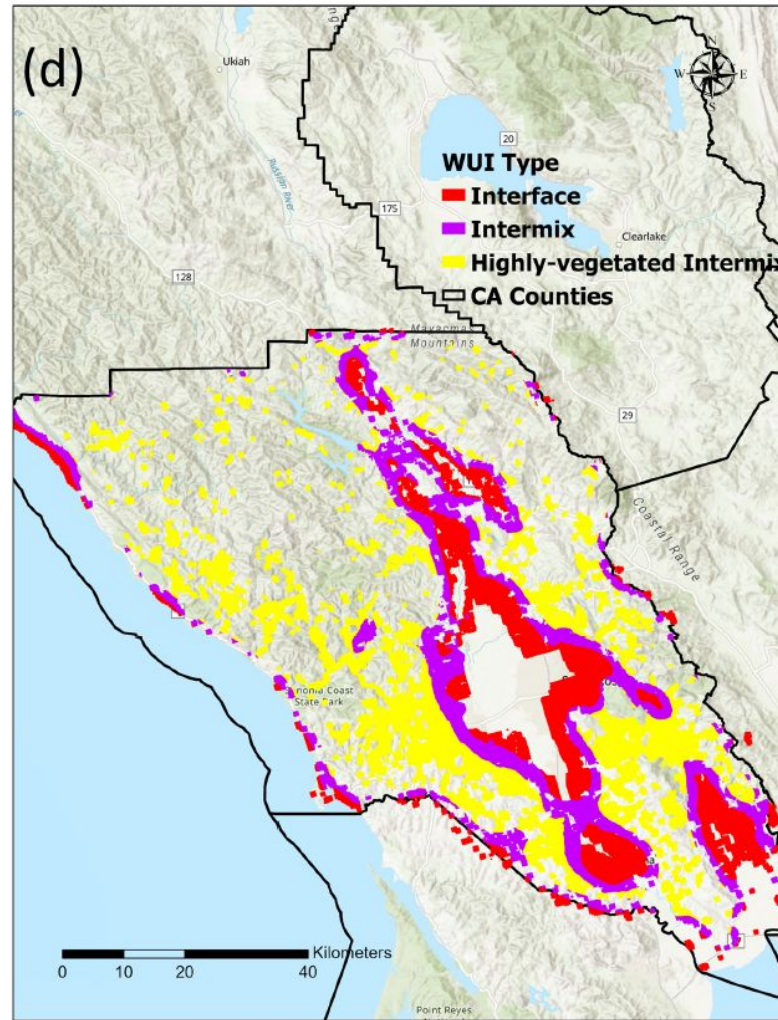
Tracking new housing development and structure damage every two years



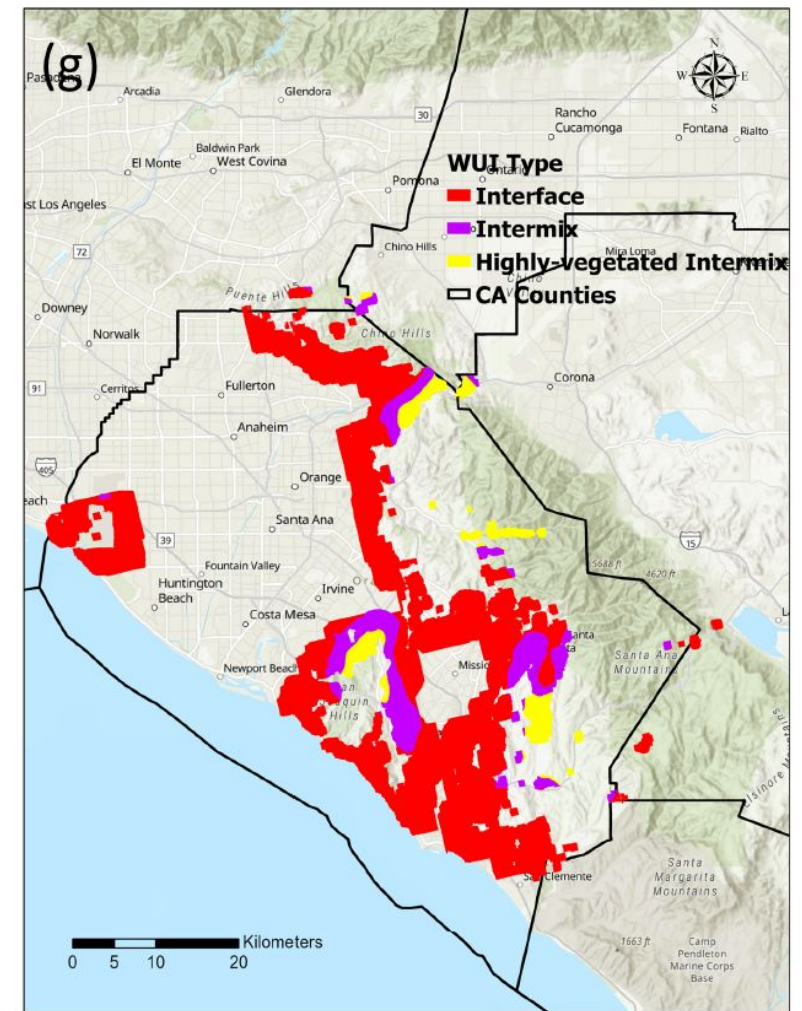
Improved mapping of WUI patterns



Lake County



Sonoma County

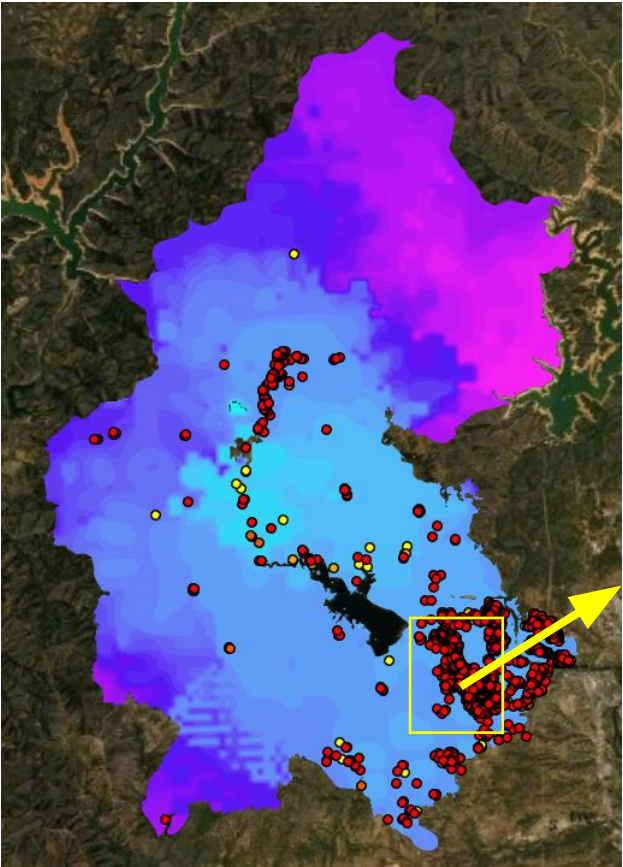
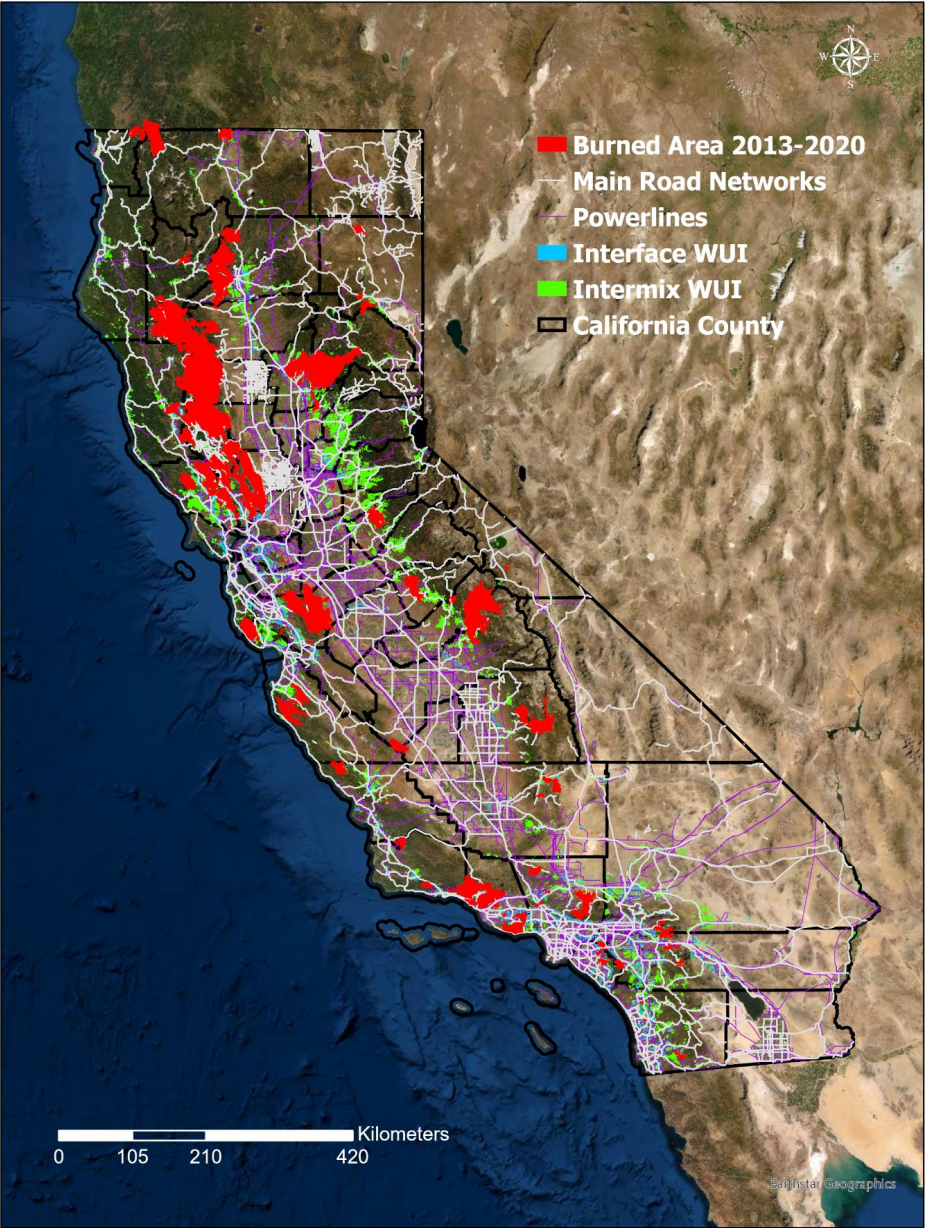


Orange County

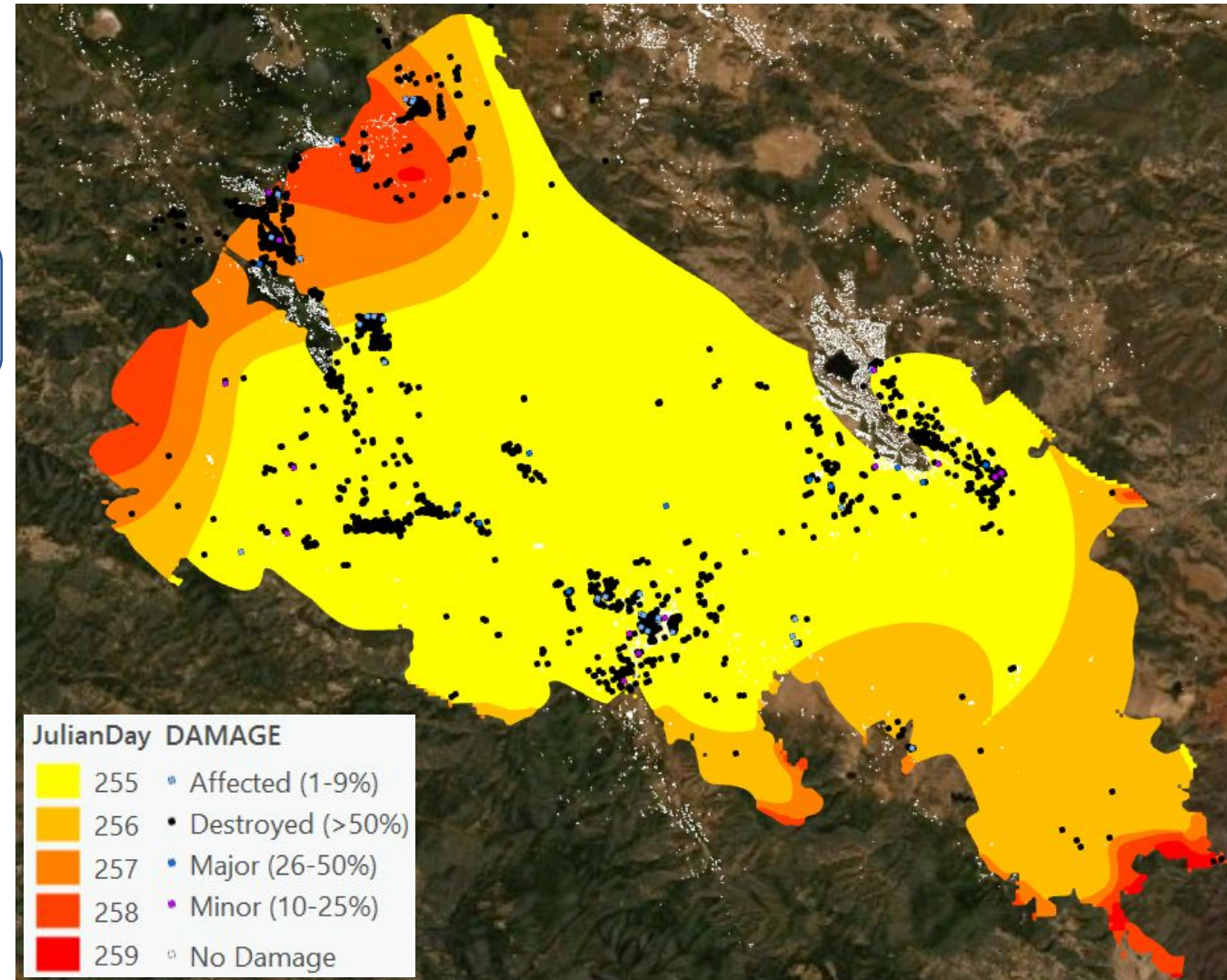
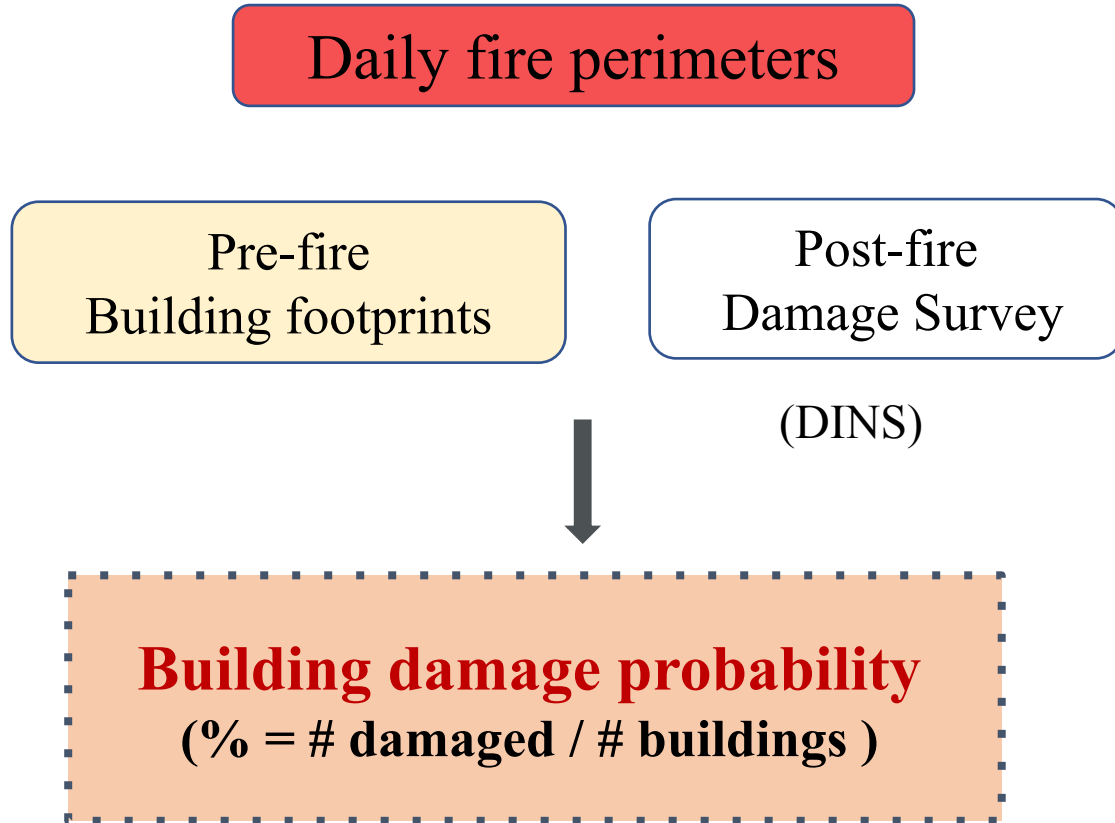
VUI fire risk and structural damage

All WUI fire days from 2003 – 2020

Machine learning: modeling probability of building damage

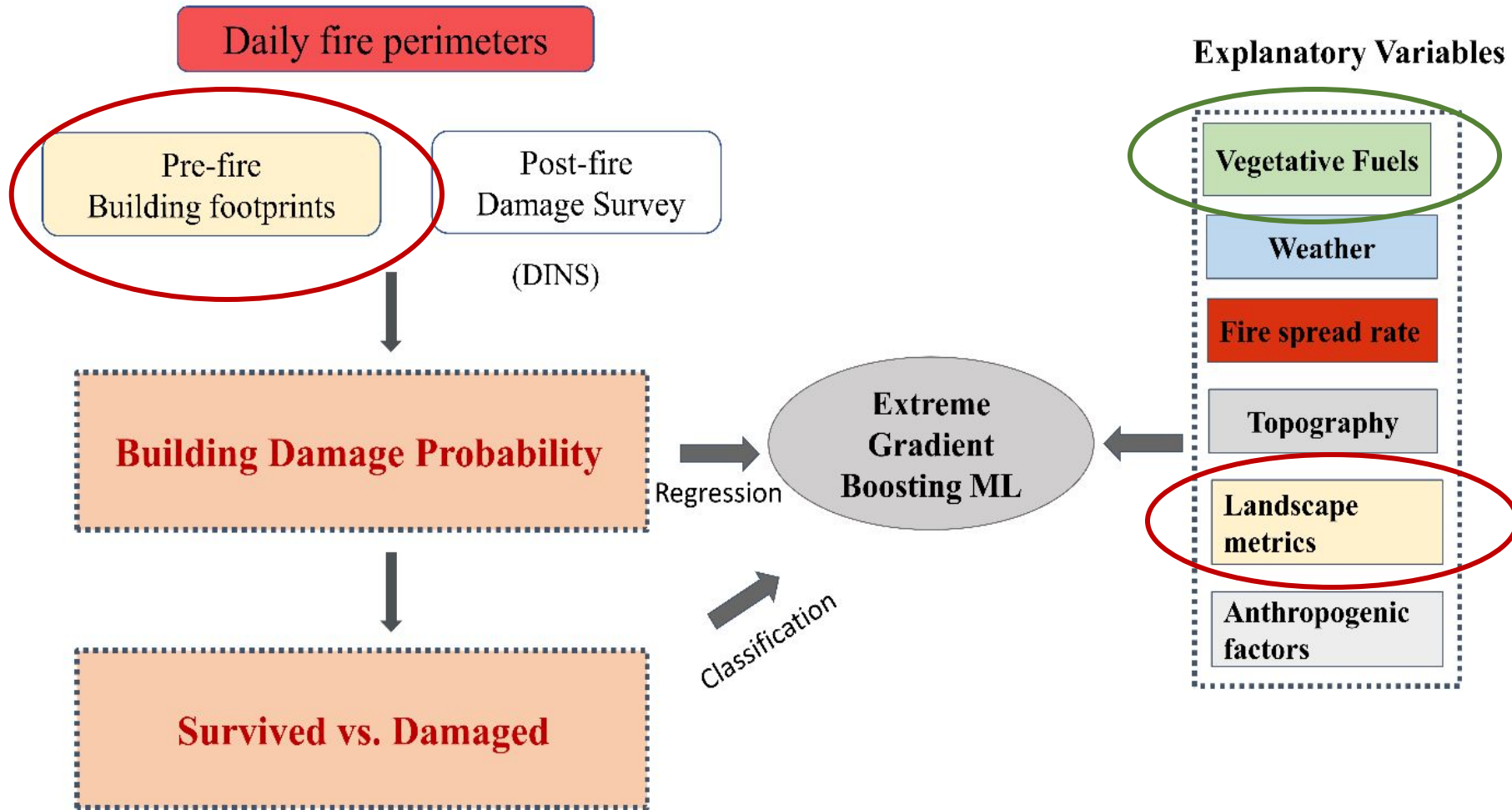


Modeling risk of structure damage by wildfires



* Intermediate scale: within daily fire perimeter

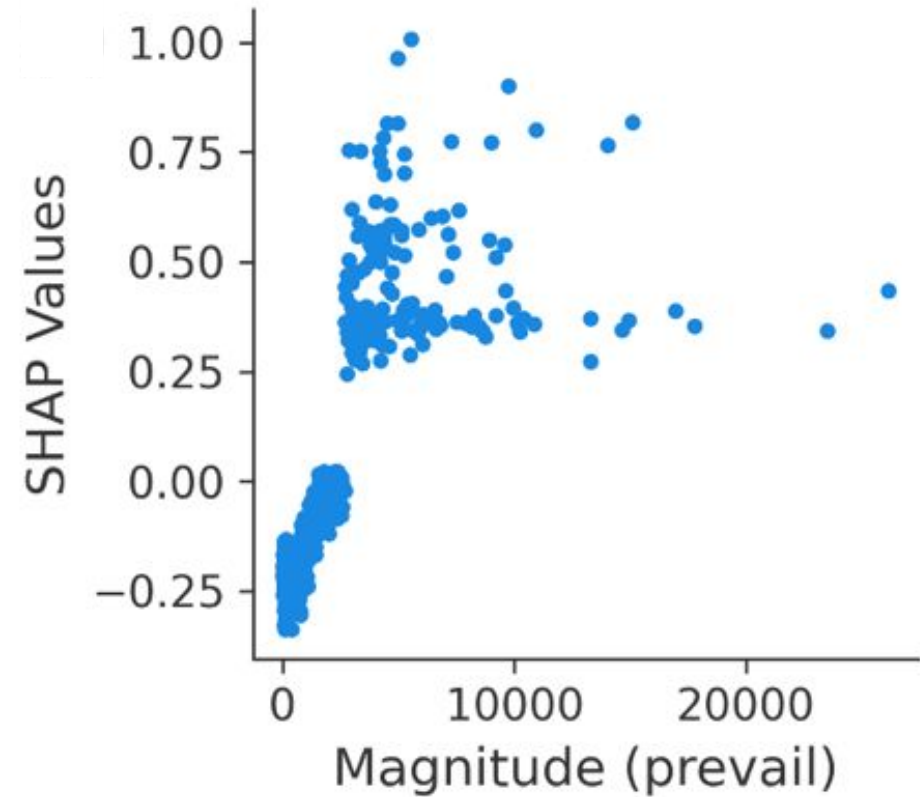
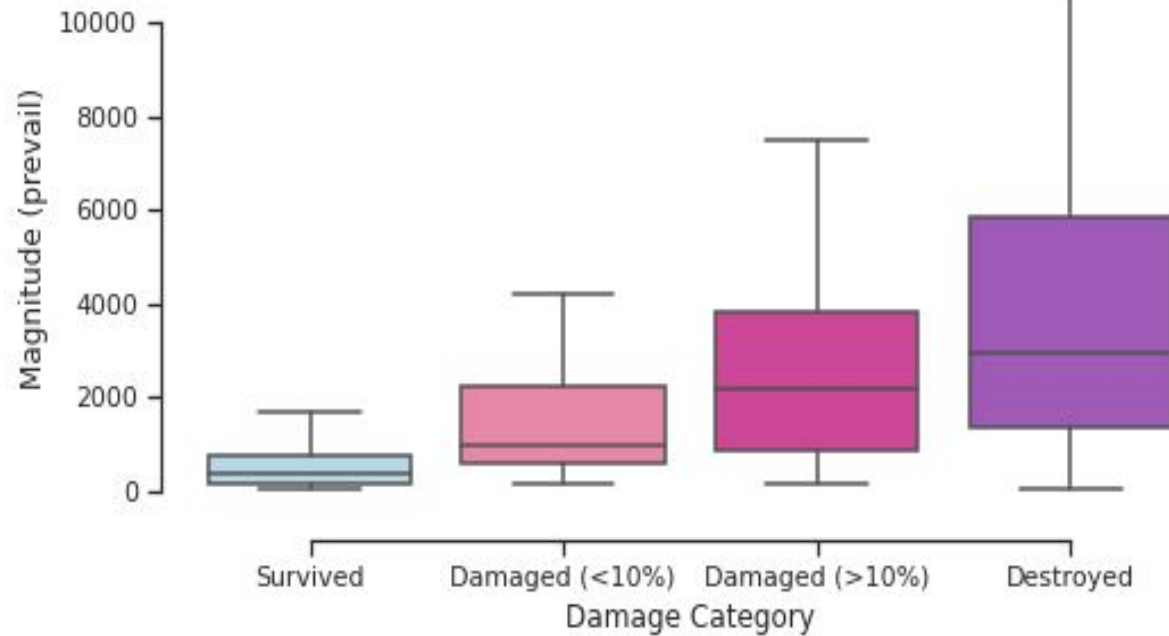
Wildfire-caused building damage risk evaluation



All WUI fire days from 2003 – 2020

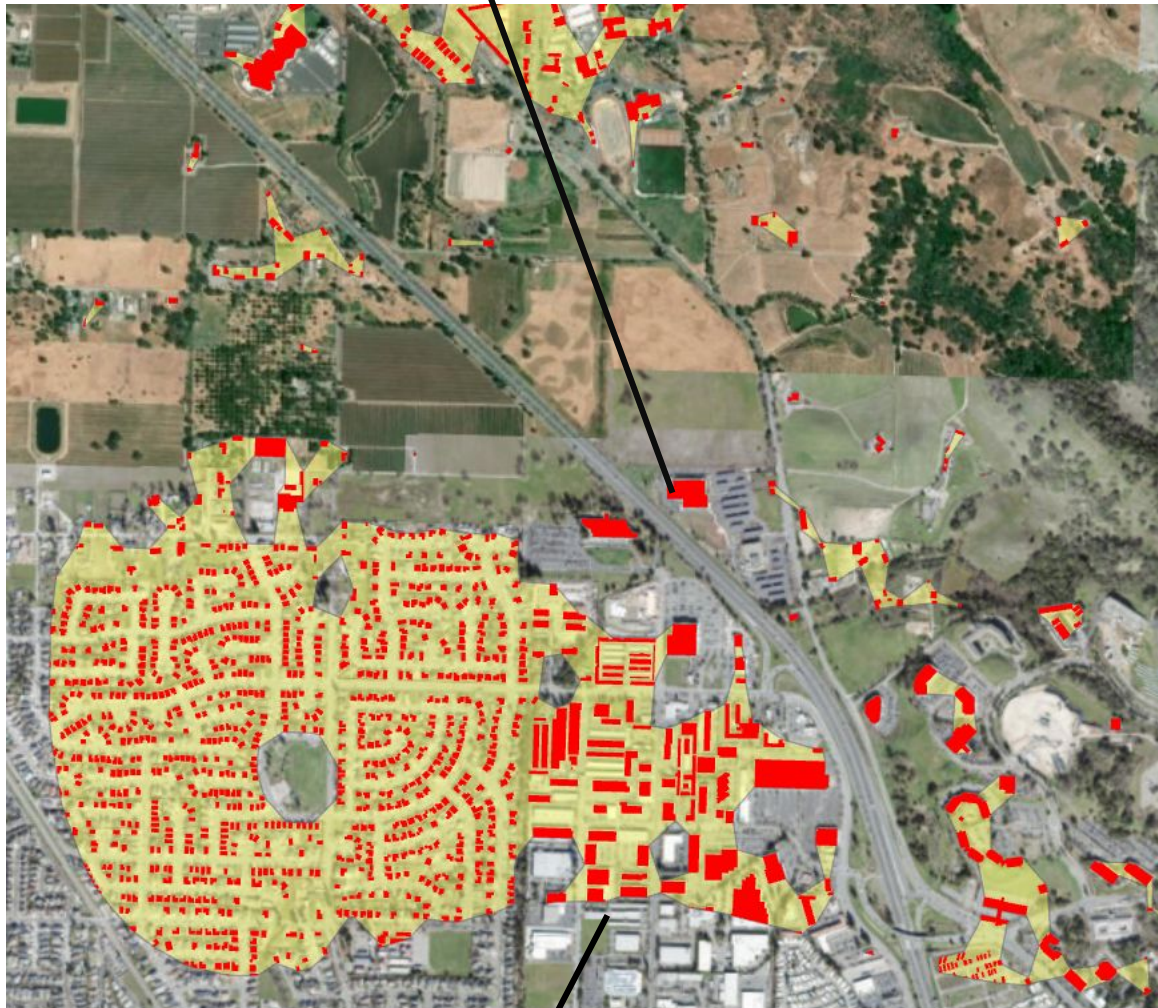
Machine learning: modeling probability of building damage

Fast moving fires caused higher building damage probability

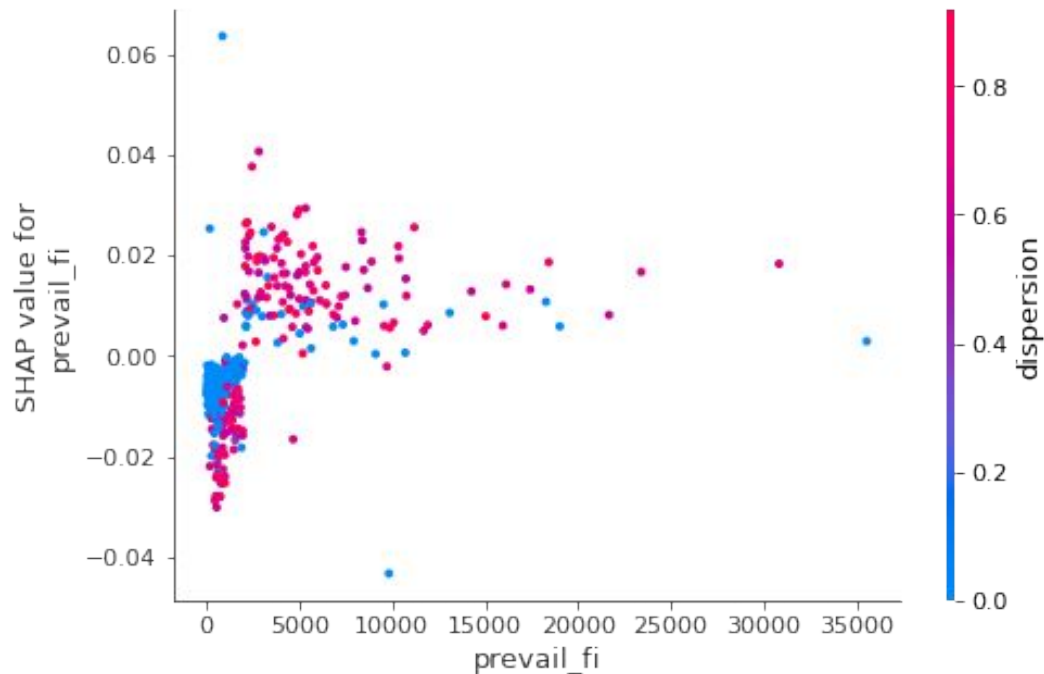


Impacts of building patterns on Structural Damage

Discrete Buildings

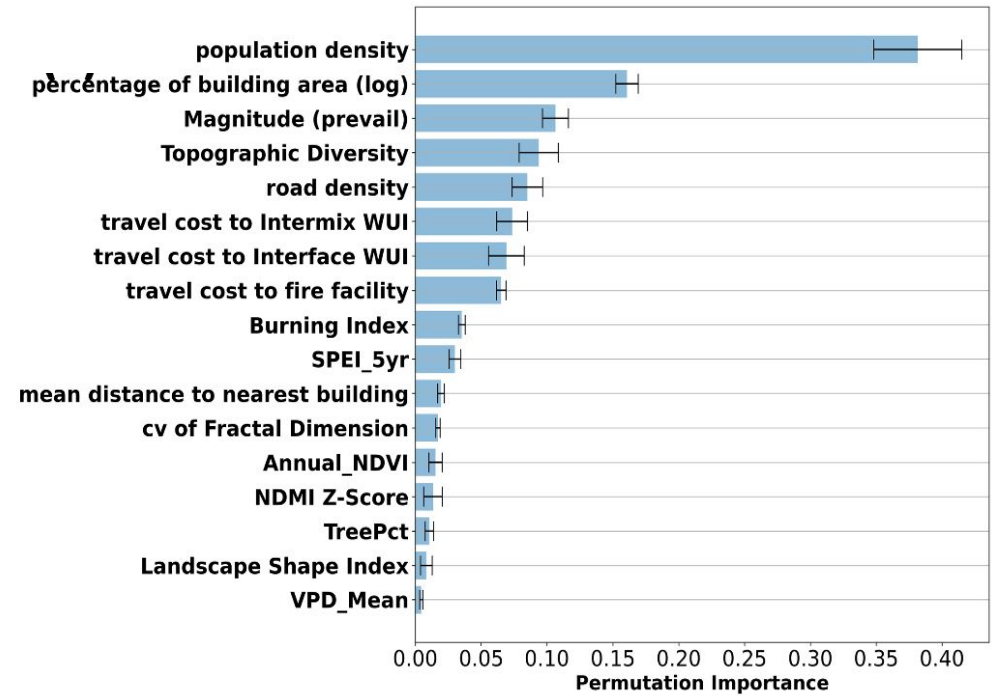
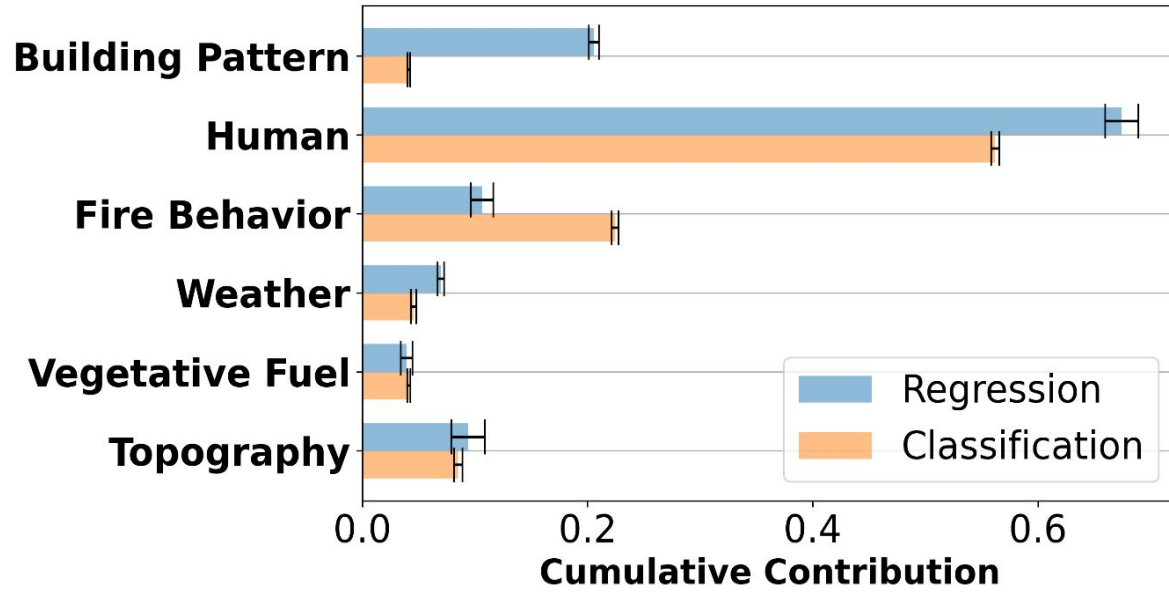


Housing Clusters

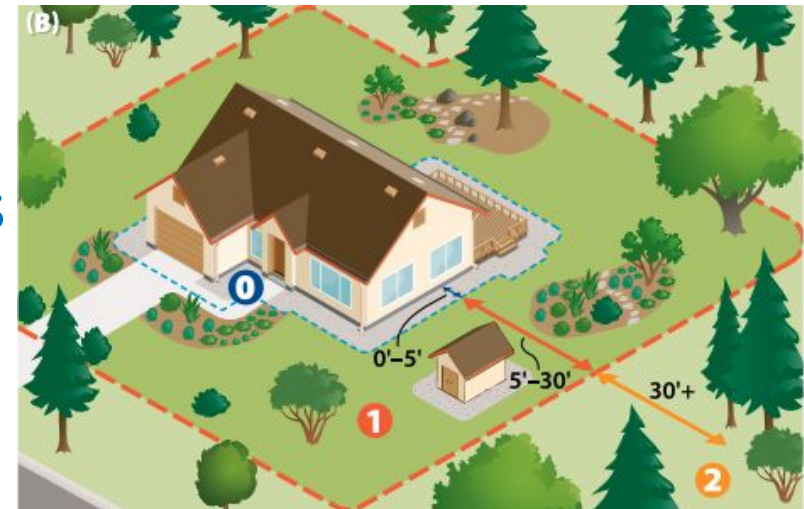


Higher risk for clustered buildings than dispersed community, especially when fire spreads relatively slowly.

Variable importance for building damage risk



fuels



Multi-sensor fine scale WUI fuel mapping

- Woody canopy fuels (shrub/tree crowns)

NAIP imagery at 0.6-1m since 2009

PlanetScope at 3m since 2017

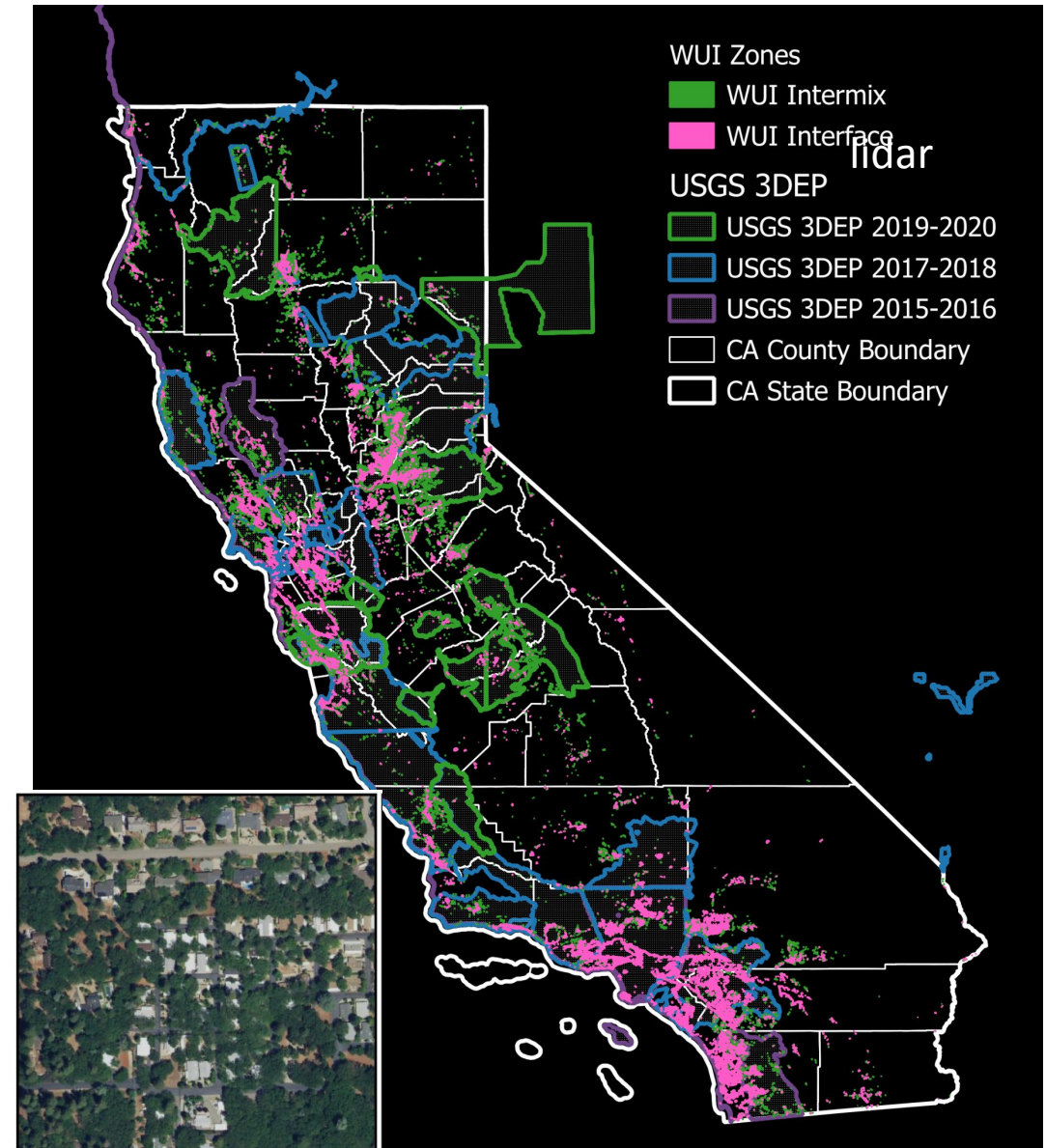
NAIP + PlanetScope

- Fuel structure

Aerial lidar – Radar + GEDI

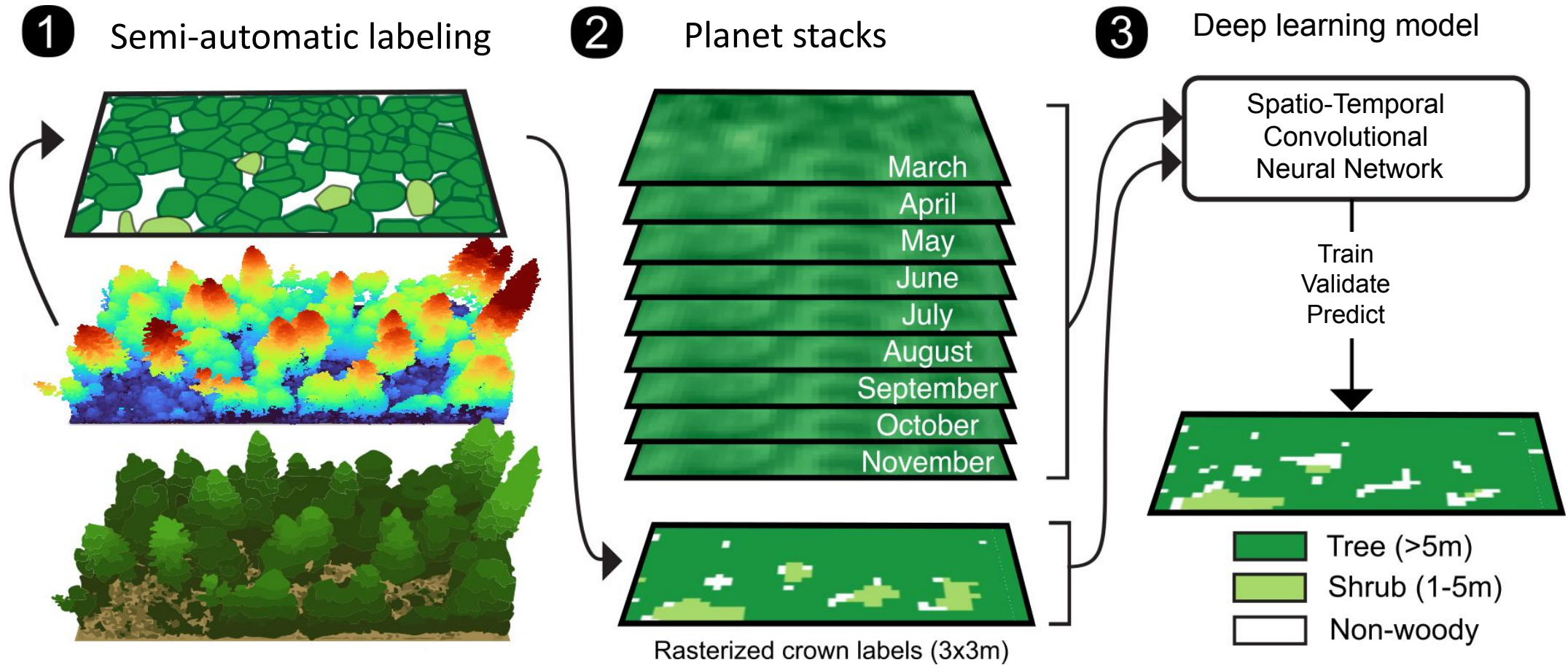
-> Quantify fuel characteristics

-> tracking fuel treatment (e.g., thinning, defensible space around houses)



Fine scale WUI canopy fuel mapping: Planetcope

- 3D convolutional neural network (CNN)

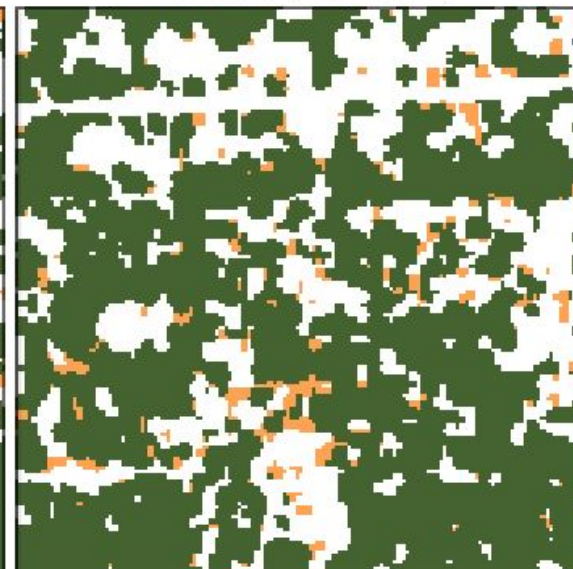
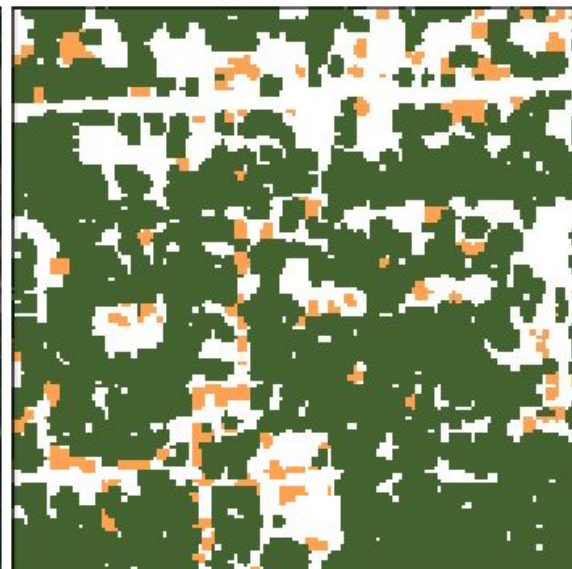
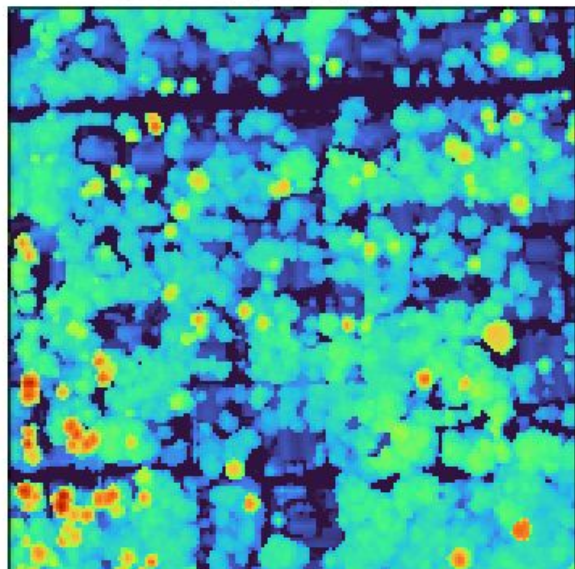


Lidar Canopy Height Model

NAIP

Observed

Predicted (Planet 3m)

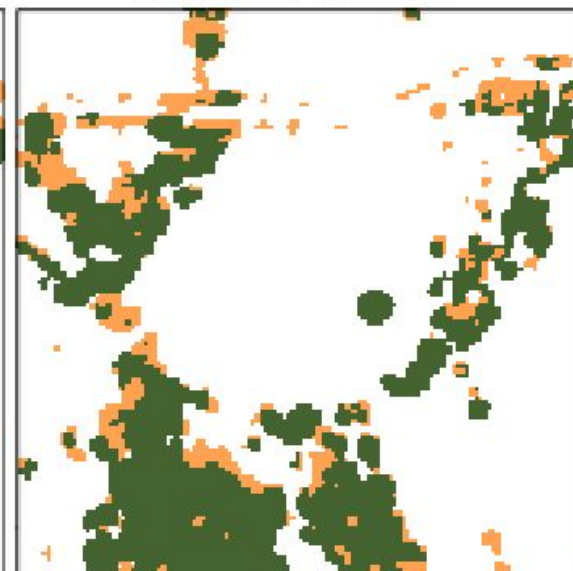
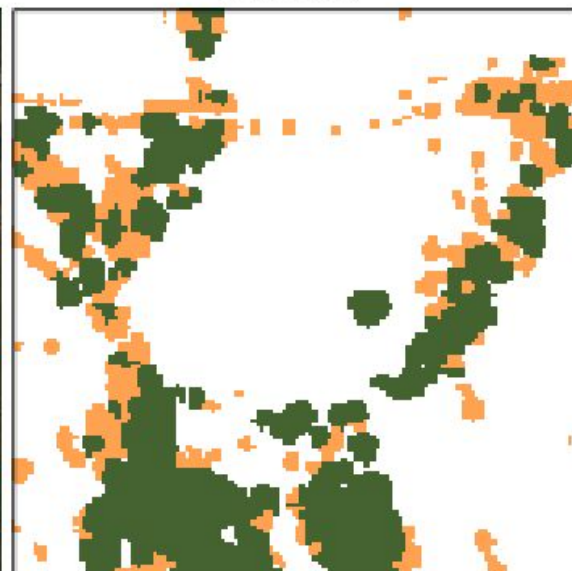
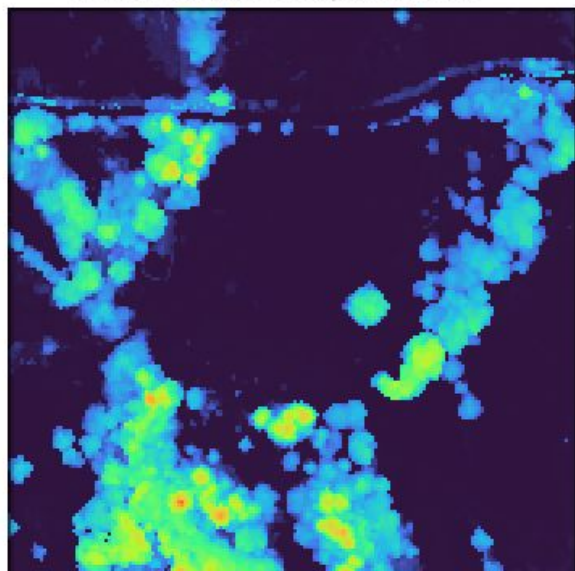


Lidar Canopy Height Model

NAIP

Observed

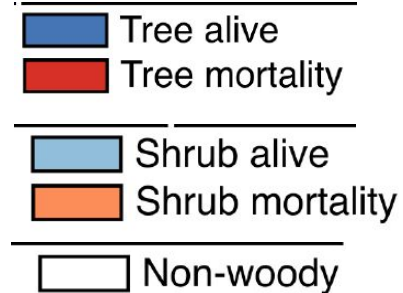
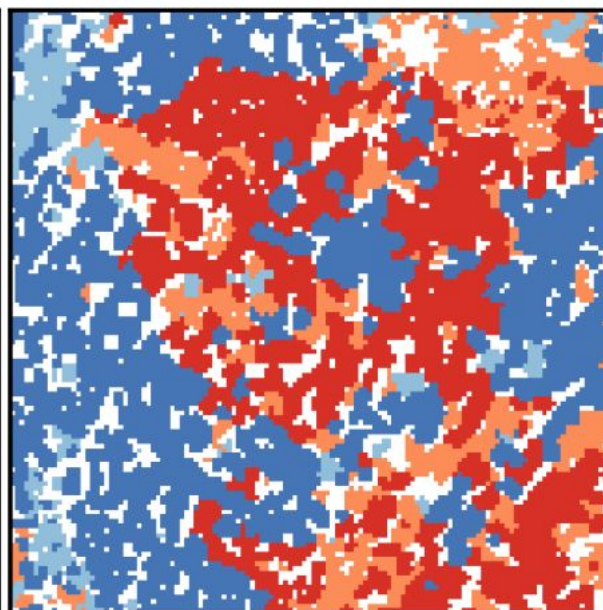
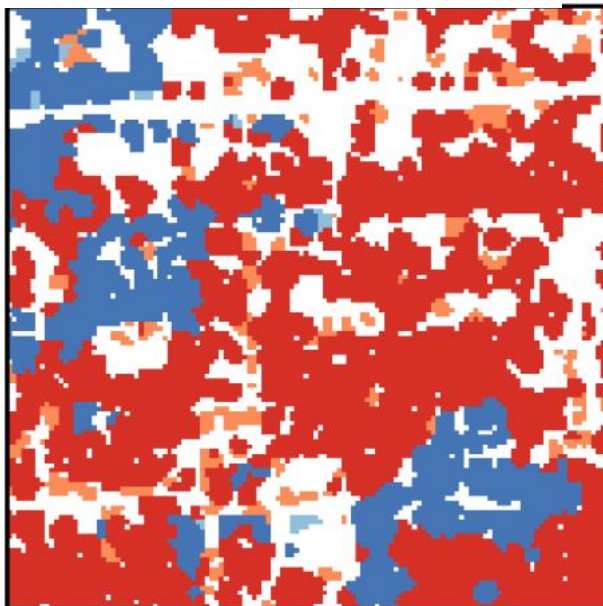
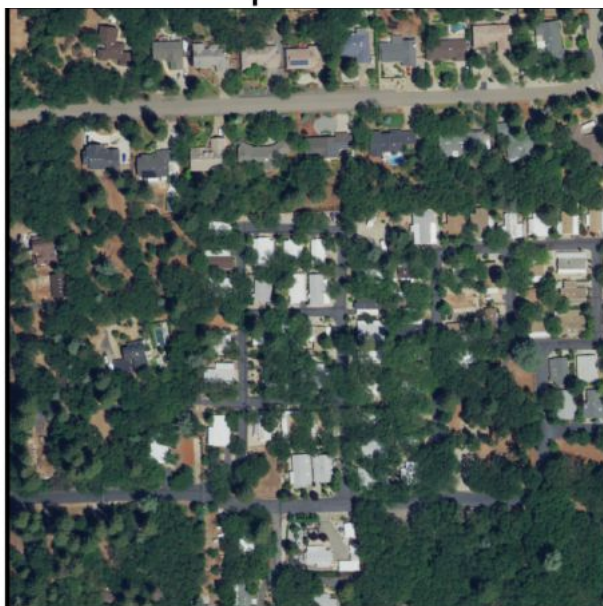
Predicted (Planet 3m)



NAIP pre-fire

NAIP post-fire

Observed

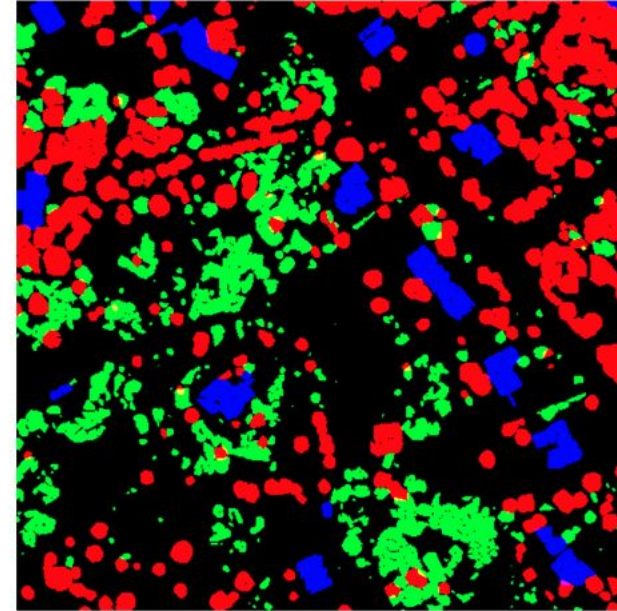
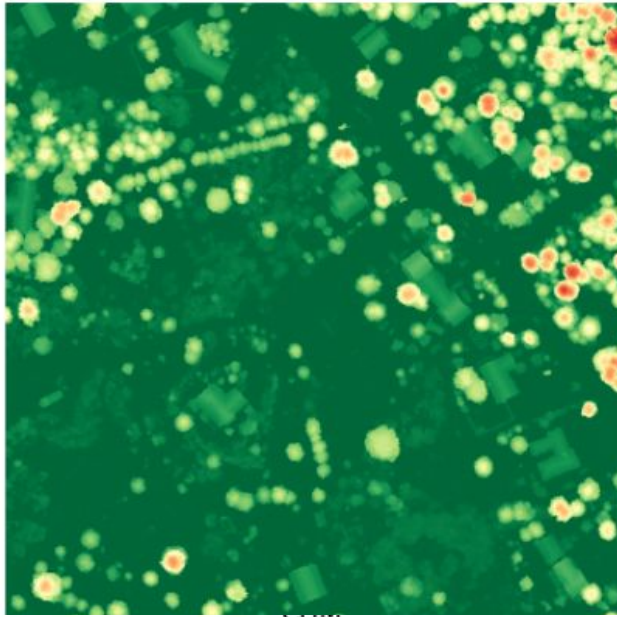


384 m

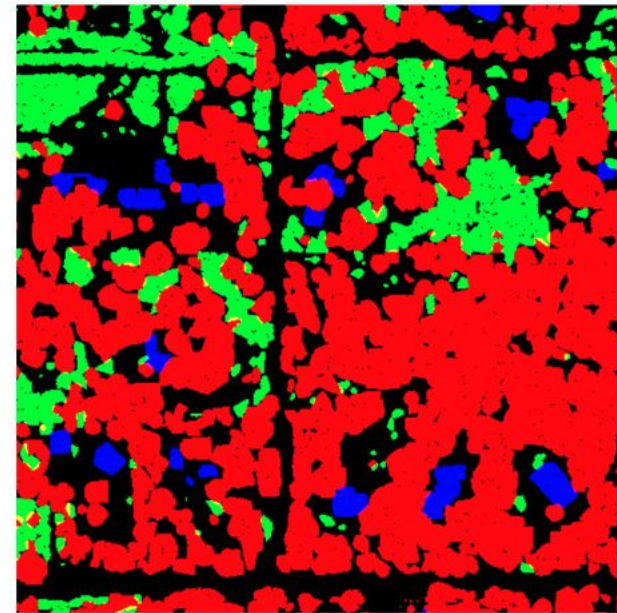
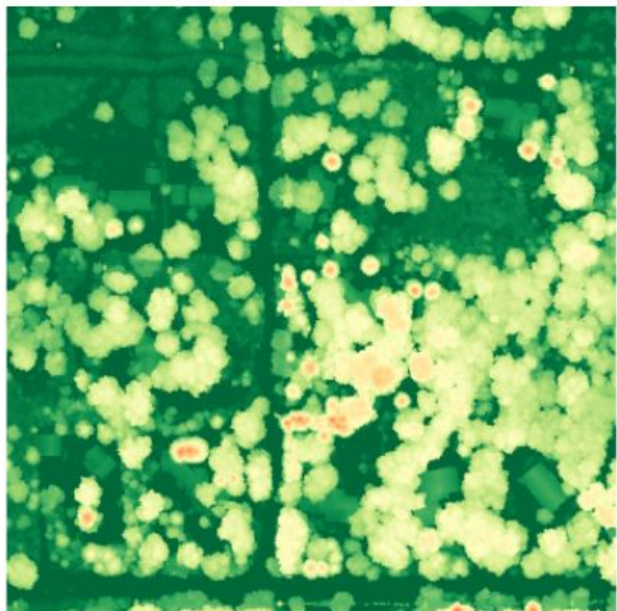
Crown scale canopy mapping from NAIP

Lidar

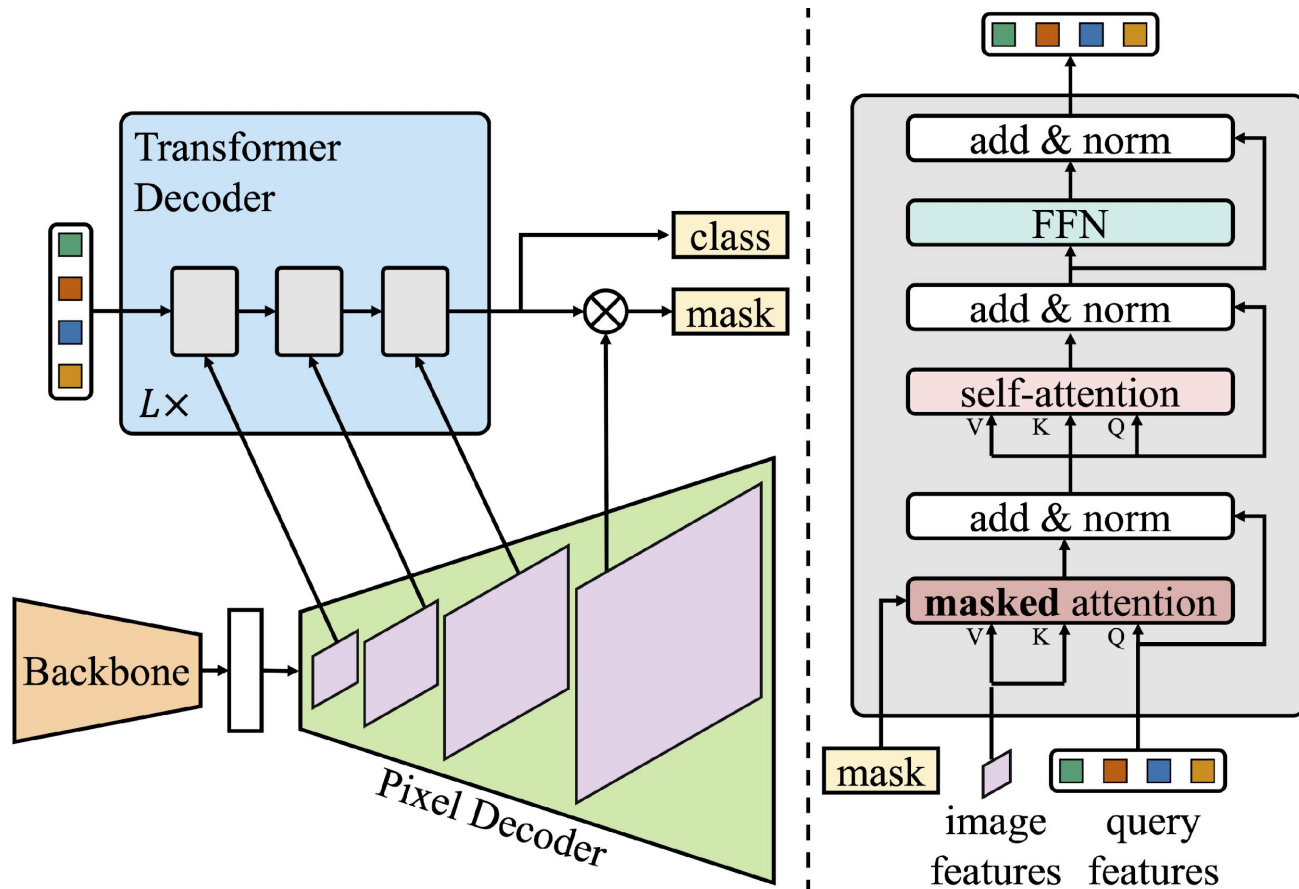
NAIP



- Trees
- Shrubs
- Buildings

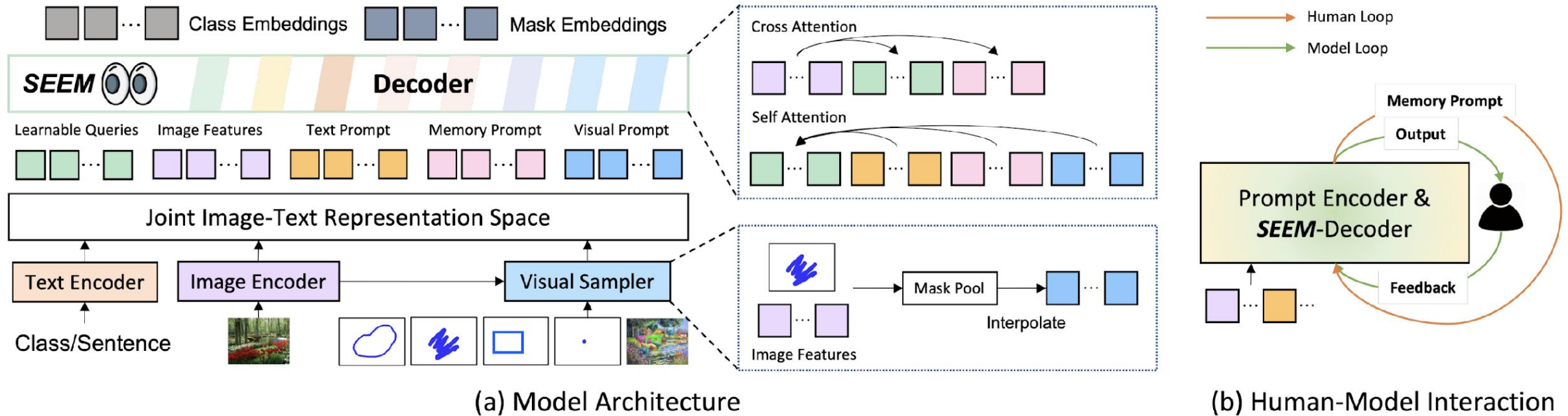


Mask2Former (Facebook AI Research)



- Masked-attention Mask Transformer (Mask2Former), a deep network capable of addressing any image segmentation task (panoptic, instance or semantic).
- State-of-the-art (SOTA) results on several segmentation benchmarks.

Segment Everything Everywhere All at Once



- Our model (SEEM) can perform any segmentation task, such as semantic, instance, and panoptic segmentation, in open-set scenarios.
- Supports visual, textual, and referring region prompts in any combination, allowing for versatile and interactive referring segmentation.

Conclusions and next steps

- Deep learning based building footprints detection from NAIP aerial imagery allows for tracking WUI building dynamics every two years.
- Crown scale woody fuels mapping with Planet and NAIP was enhanced with deep learning such as CNN.
- WUI building damage was driven by rapid fire spread, building patterns, and other community related variables.

- Next steps – toward fire-safe communities

Data fusion for scalable WUI characterization;

Adapting more advanced deep learning framework to improve object identification

Improved understanding of the linkages between fuels, fire behavior, and structure damage

Tools for community fire vulnerability assessment

