

# Environmental Land Management and Compliance Using A

Moderator: Terry Watkins, Principal, Jacobs

Speakers:

- Brendan Brown, PWS, Nature-based Solutions Discipline Leader, CDM Smith
- Drew Reicks, Remote Sensing Specialist, CDM Smith

May 14, 2024, 3:00 PM

# HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Take Note of Exits

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Presentations and Audio Recordings will be available in the Attendee Service Center until August 30, 2024

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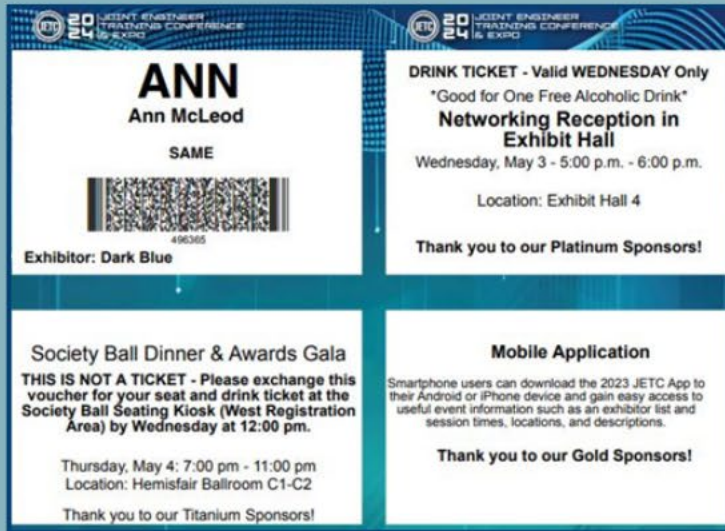
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# Opening Reception at Universal CityWalk

(Minimum age 18 - No Children)



Bring Your Name Badge  
with Drink Tickets)  
+ Your ID



Get Your Wrist Band  
TODAY at the  
Registration Help Desk  
or SAME Booth



Buses depart Gaylord  
& Caribe Royale,  
beginning at 6:00 p.m.



# SAME Environmental Community of Interest (ECOI)

- The COI will support and engage SAME Posts, DOD and Federal Agencies by providing members with a wide range of programs, activities, and information to enable them to stay on the forefront of environmental technologies, management and regulatory developments facing the A/E/C community, and national security.
- SAME ECOI Website - [SAME ECOI Webpage](#)
- Webinars
- Networking
- Joint Engineering Training Conference (JETC)
- PFAS Industry and Government Engagement (IGE) Project
- Post Support and Interaction
- Monthly ECOI - LINK to monthly call is on SAME ECOI webpage - [SAME ECOI Monthly Call](#)
  - Call currently third Wednesday of the month 1500-1600 hrs. May Change in Future
- For more information contact ECOI Chair Ann Ewy [annewysame@gmail.com](mailto:annewysame@gmail.com)

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# MODERATOR



Terry Watkins, PMP  
Jacobs Engineering  
Principal

## Fun Facts

- Sports Team: Green Bay Packers
- Vacation: Italy, Spain, Germany
- Competitive archer
- Hobbies include working out and shooting sports

MAY 14-16, 2024  
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# SPEAKER



**Brendan Brown, PWS**  
CDM Smith  
Nature-based Solutions Discipline  
Leader

## Fun Facts

- Surfed in Costa Rica
- Played tennis and cross country in high school
- Enjoys making art but is terrible at painting
- Eagle Scout

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# SPEAKER

Drew Reicks, GISP, CFM  
CDM Smith  
Remote Sensing Specialist



## Fun Facts

- Placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the Iowa High School Wrestling Tournament
- Grew up on the same farm as his dad
- Favorite team: Borussia Dortmund (BVB)
- Favorite game: Splendor

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# Agenda



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Intro

Remote Sensing Basics

Machine Learning Basics

Land Management: Invasive species

Restoration and Resiliency: Marsh assessment

Site Feasibility: Wetland Mapping

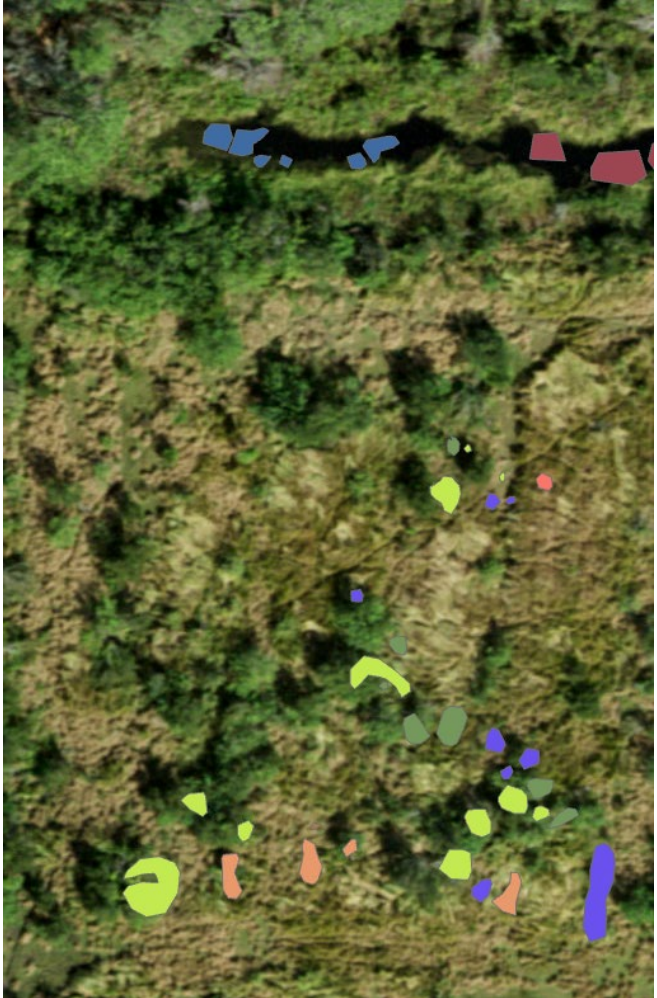
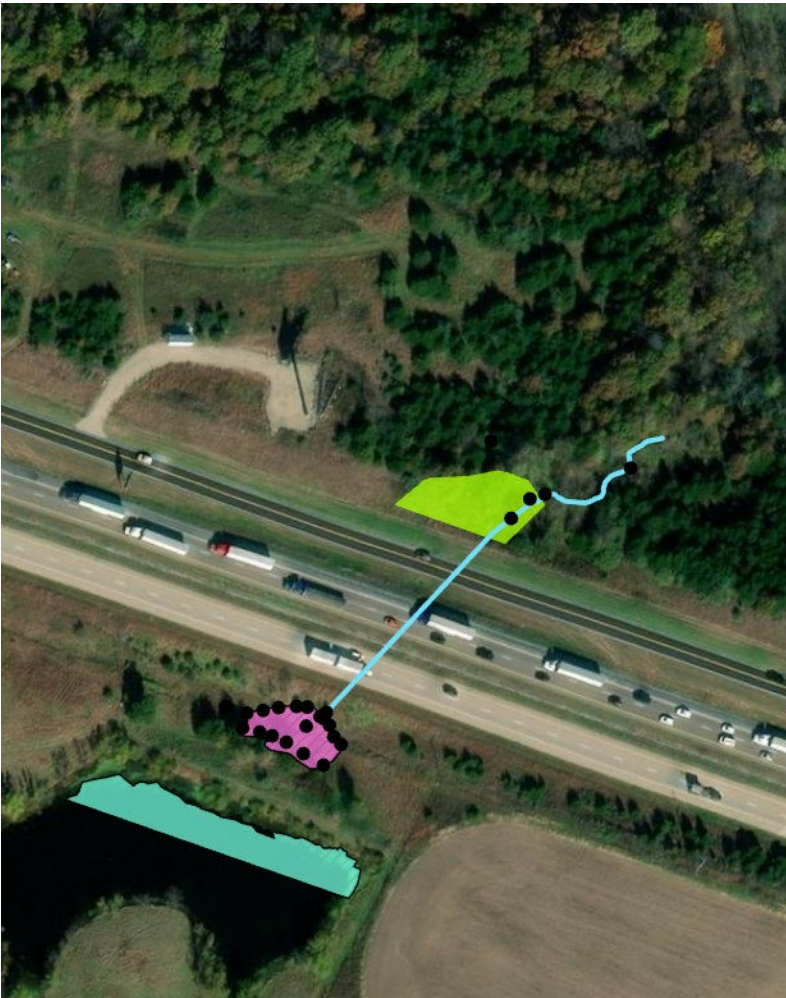
Resiliency: New urban development



# Field work is an invaluable, but limiting factor.



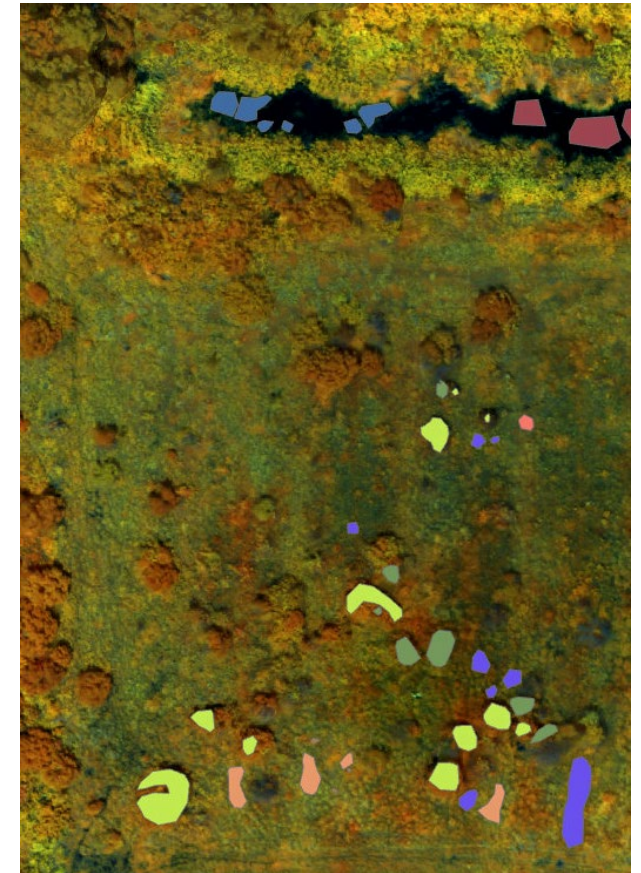
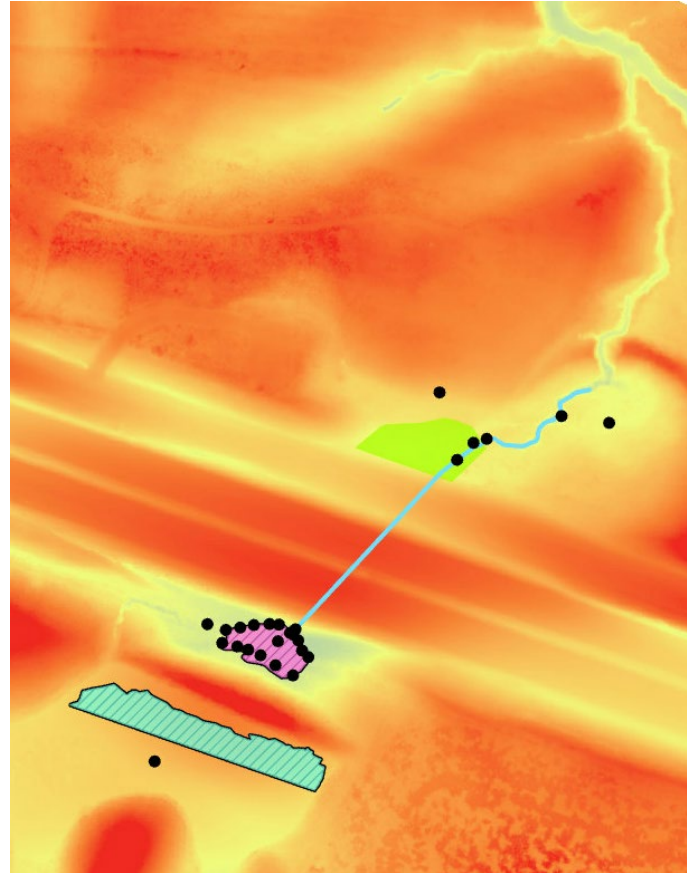
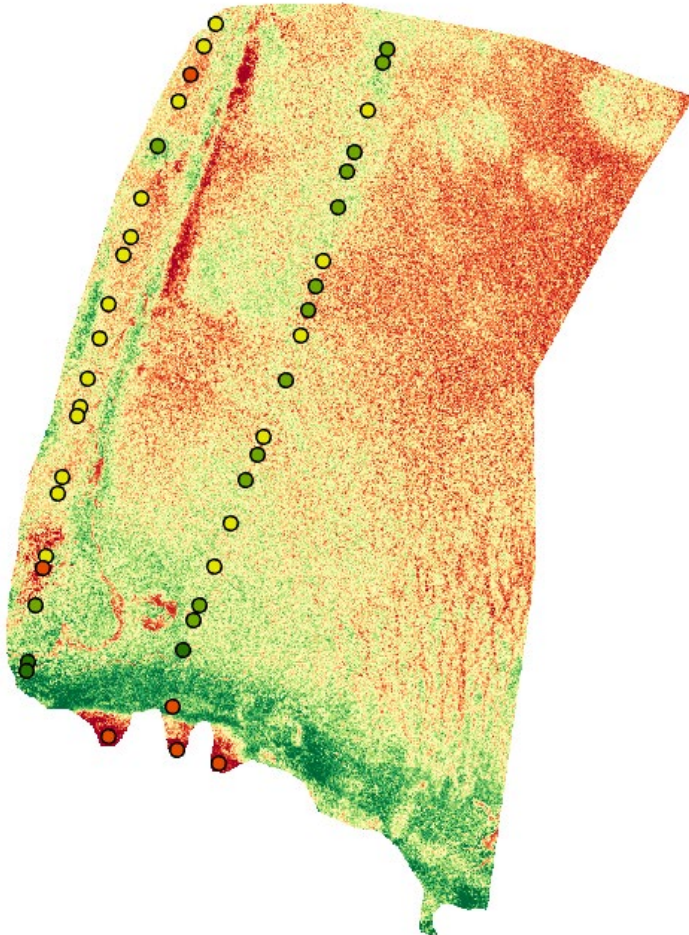
# Explicit results, but a fraction of the site.



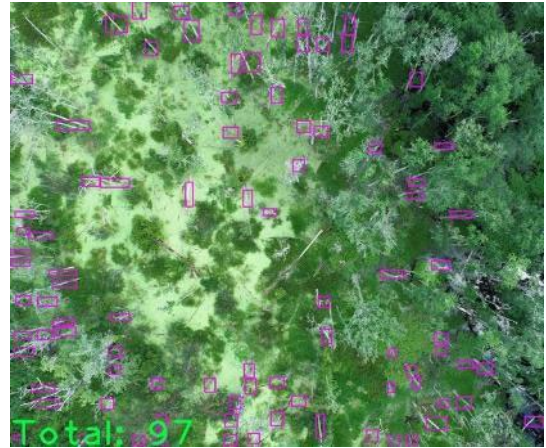
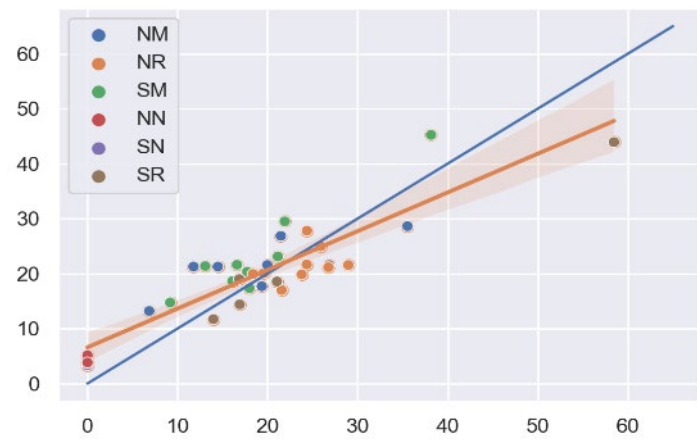
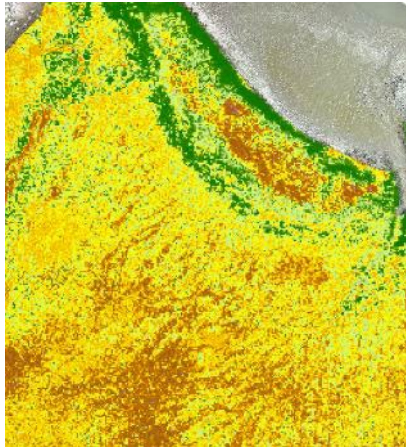
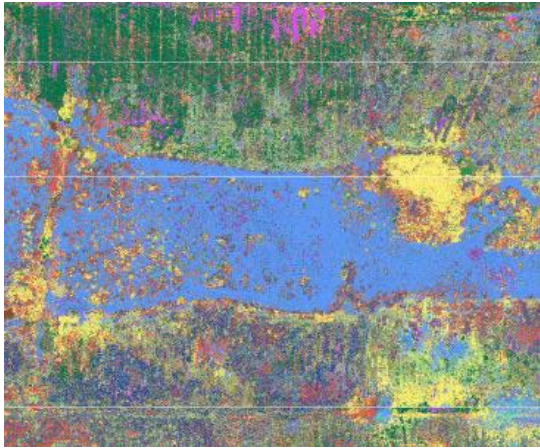
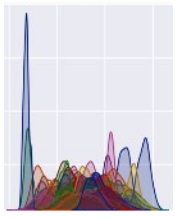
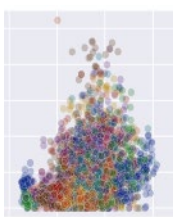
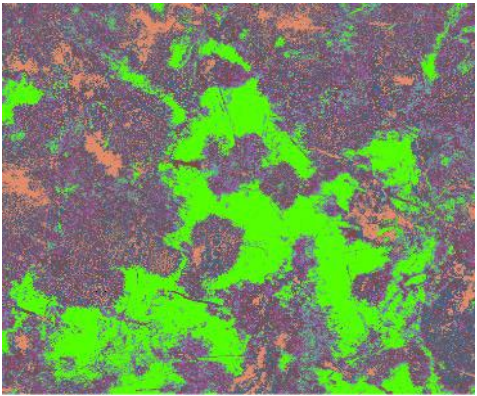
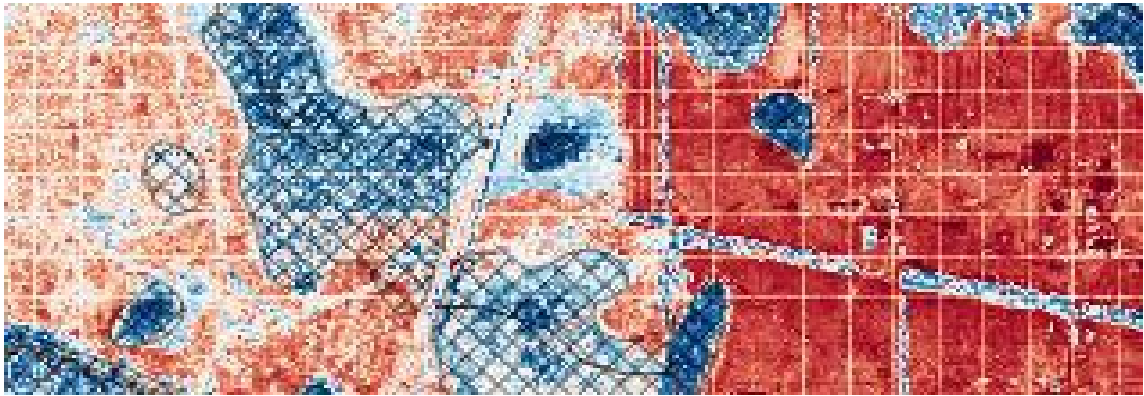
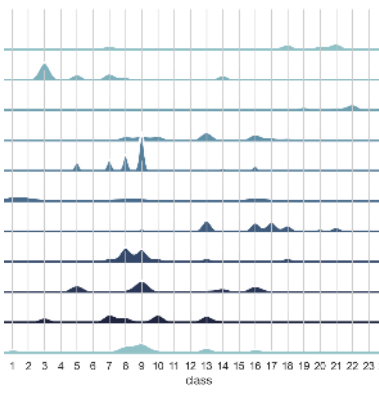
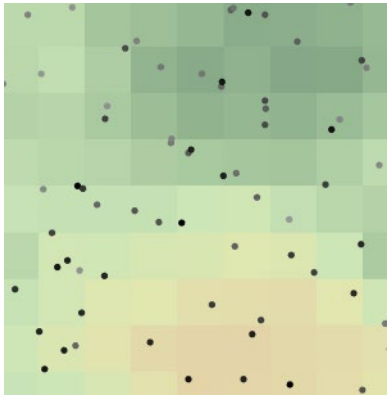
# Satellite/plane data is widely available but low spatial or temporal resolution.



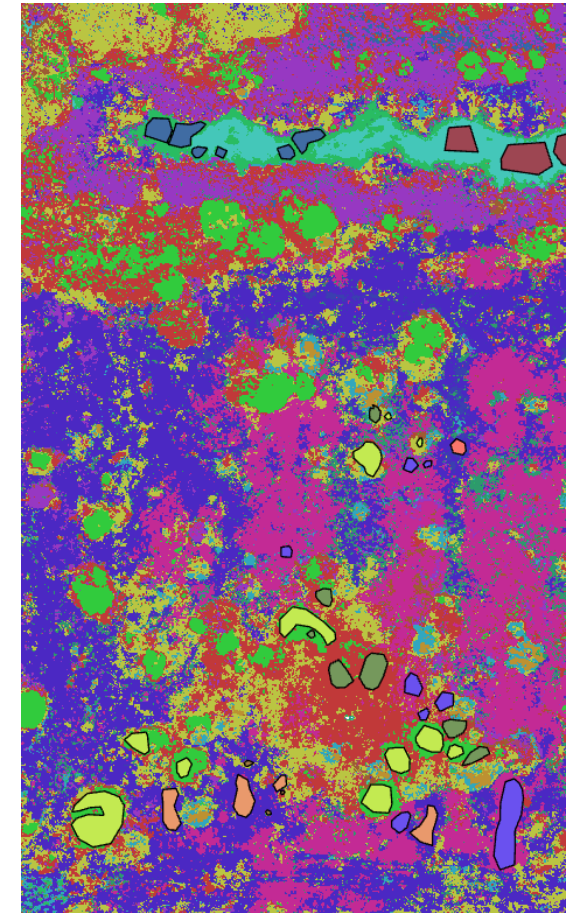
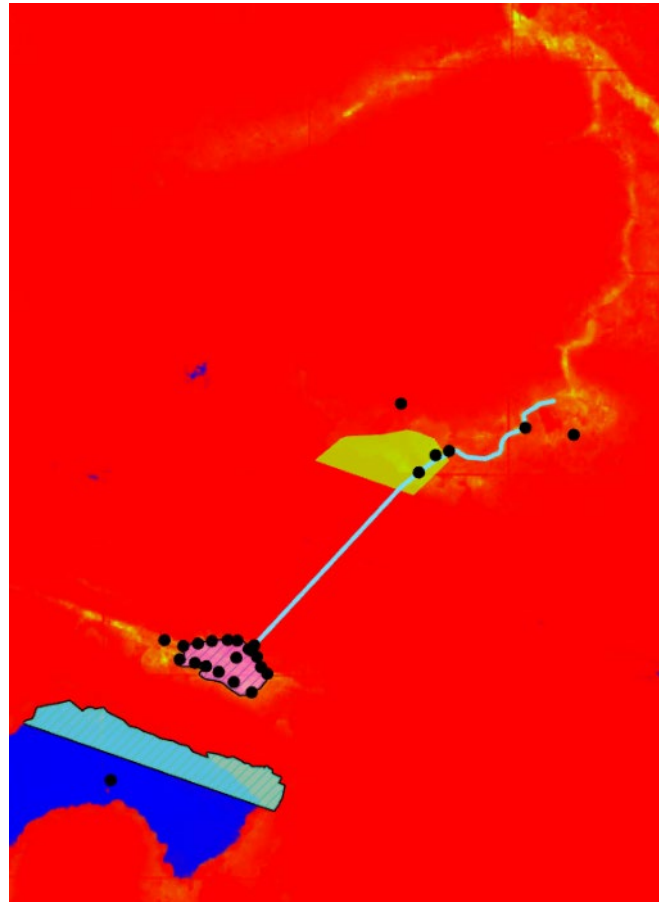
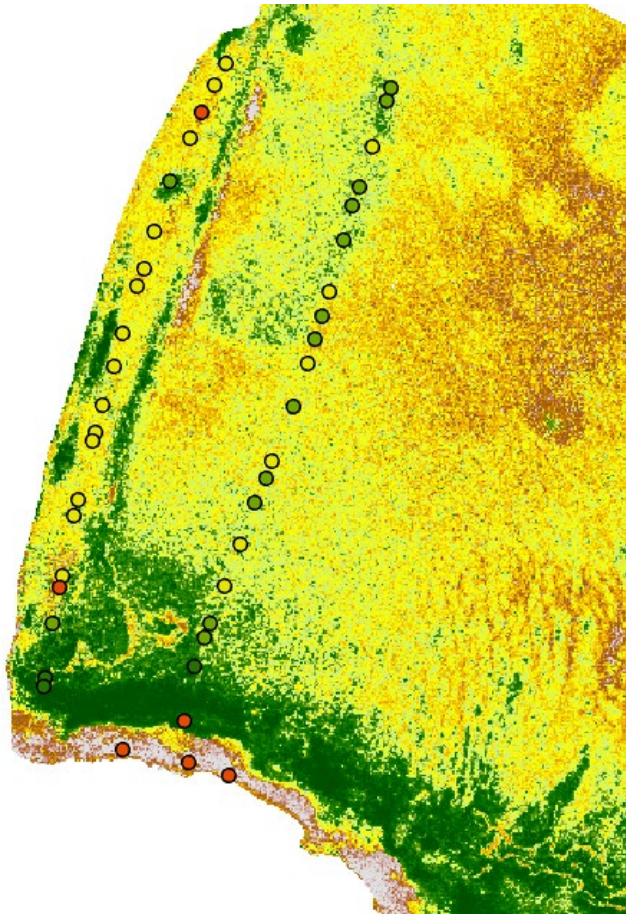
# Comprehensive understanding, but lacking necessary details.



# We are finally seeing the promise of machine learning being delivered, but environmental applications are lagging.



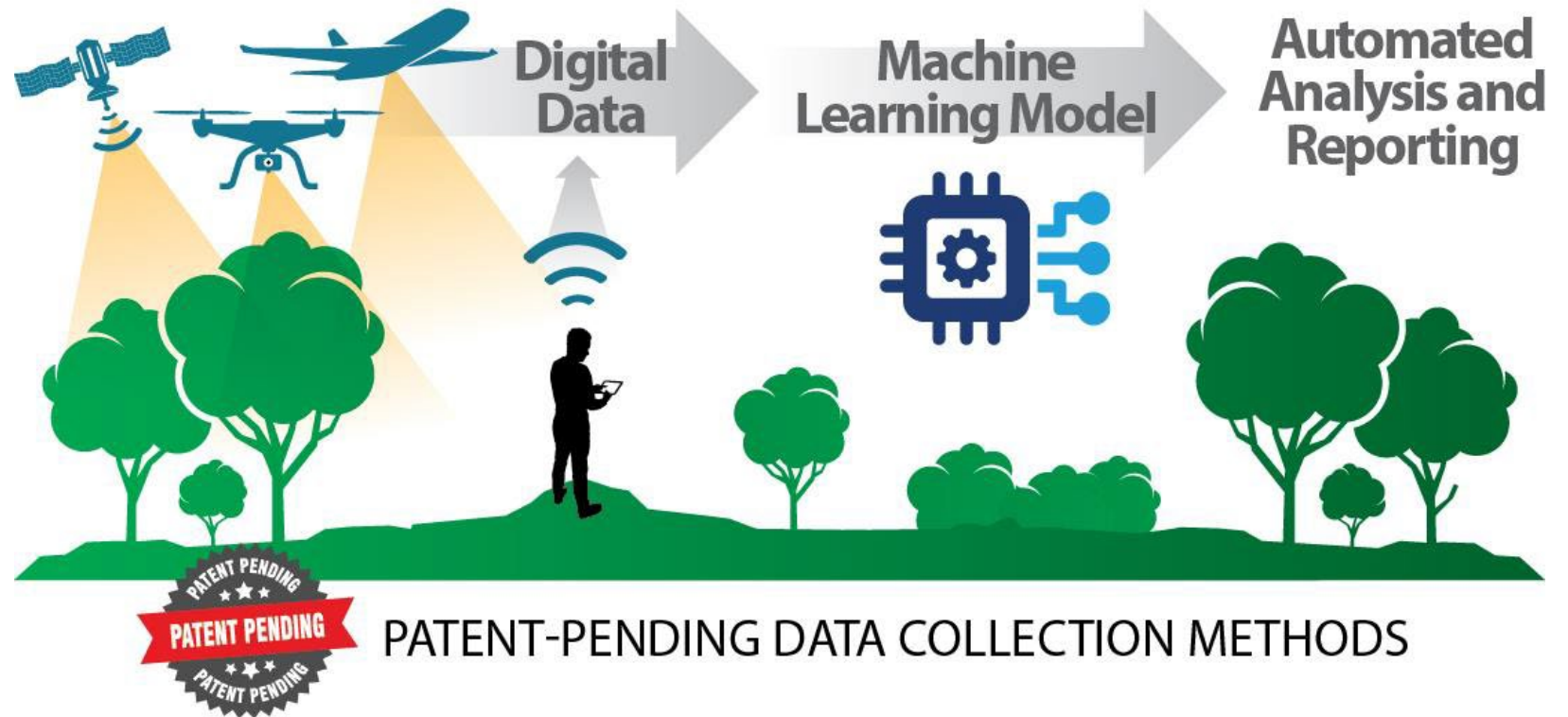
# Full site, detailed results to drive data to decisions.





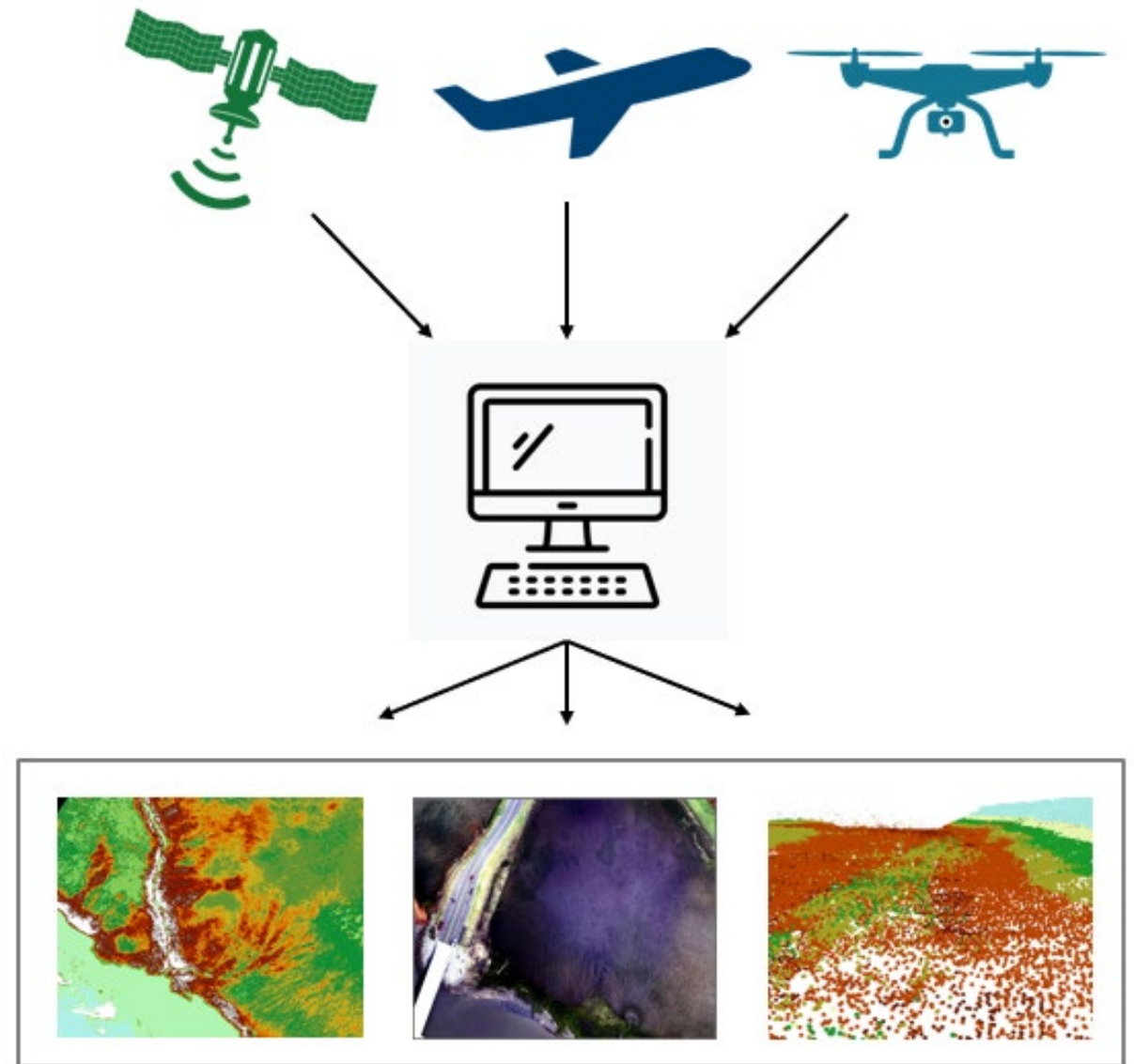
# An expert-centered digital pipeline empowers better decisions.

- Surveyors
- Engineers
- Geologists
- Scientists
- FAA-certified drone pilots
- Remote sensing
- Machine learning



# Remote Sensing

- Common collection platforms
  - Satellite, plane, UAVs/drones
- Common sensors
  - Camera, thermal, lidar multispectral, hyperspectral
- Common products
  - Imagery, elevation
- Choosing the right tools
  - Site size, project needs



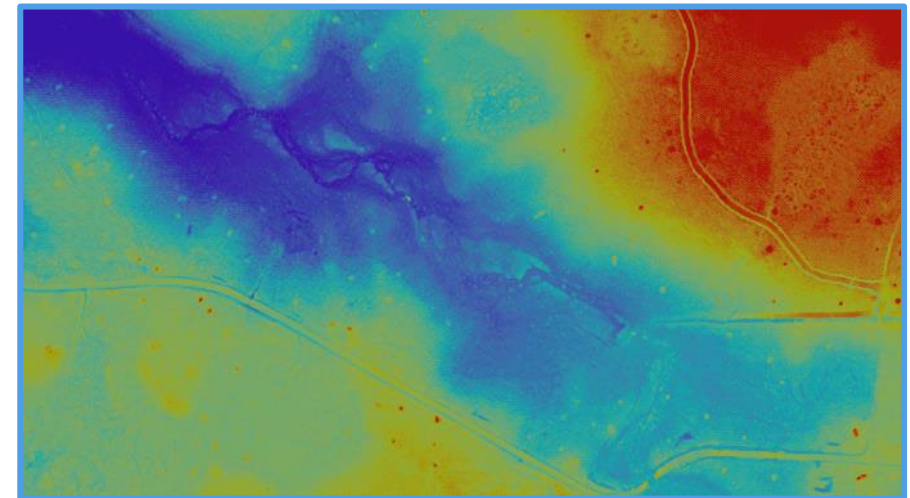
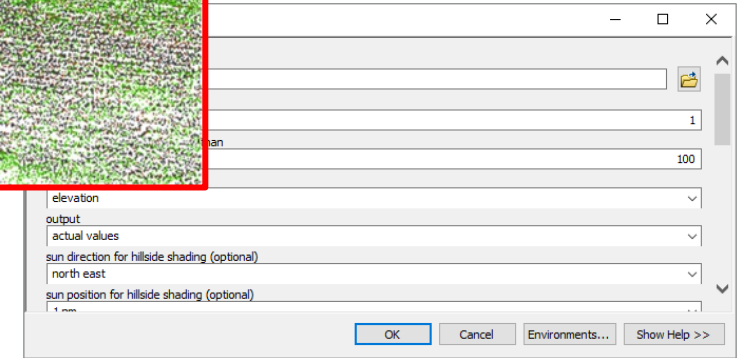
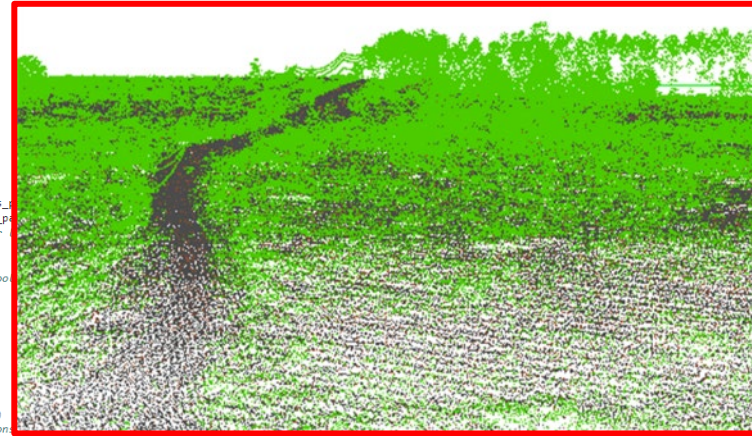
# Automation

- Automation  $\neq$  machine learning
- Automation is a pivotal part of the process
- How can we make things easier?

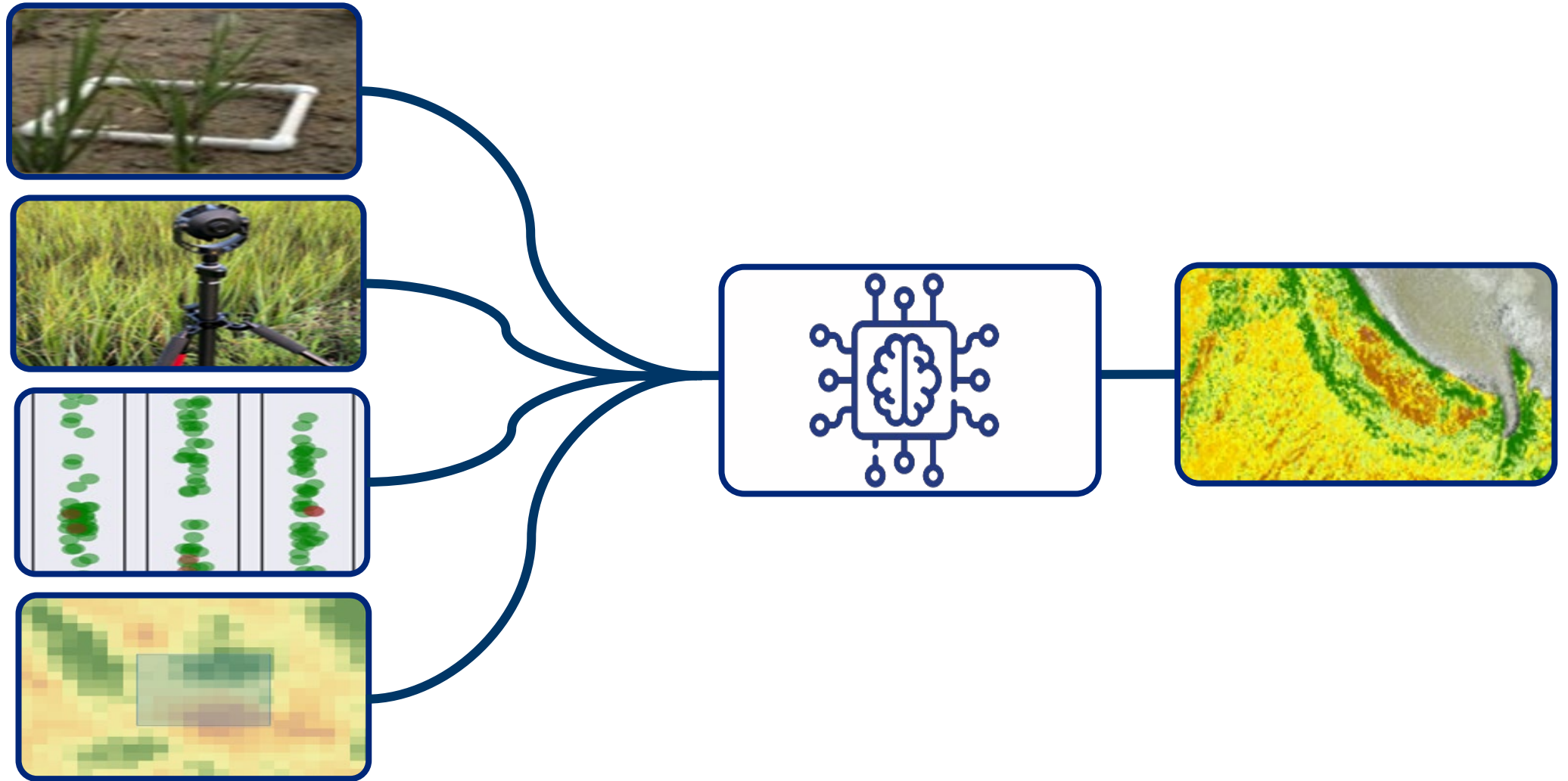
*Automate it!*

```

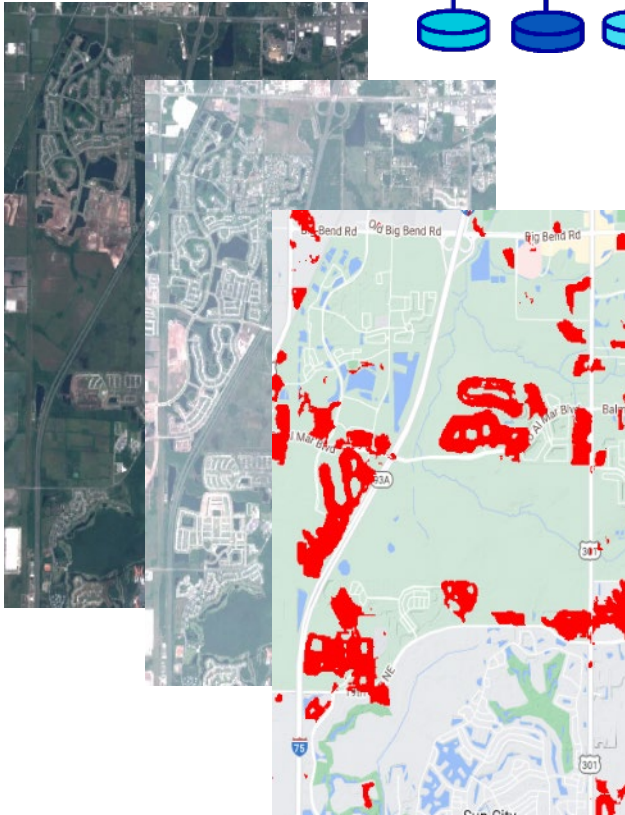
209 ##LasMerge##
210 def lasMerge(las, outlas, lasTools_
211 lasTool=os.path.join(lasTools_p
212 #create the command string for
213 command = ['""'+lasTool+""']
214
215 #use verbose, default in arctool
216 command.append("-v")
217
218 #add input LiDAR
219 command.append("-i")
220 command.append('""'+las+""')
221
222 #add output LiDAR
223 command.append("-o")
224 command.append('""'+outlas+""')
225 #additional command-line option
226 #set max point limit
227 command.append("-split")
228 command.append(str(splitSize))
229
230 #report command string
231 command_length = len(command)
232 command_string = str(command[0])
233 command[0] = command[0].strip('""')
234 for i in range(1, command_length):
235     command_string = command_string + " " + str(command[i])
236     command[i] = command[i].strip('""')
237
238 #run command
239 check_output(command, False)
240
241 ##LasTile##
242 def lasTile(las, outlm, outP, lasTools_path, tileSize, buffSize):
243     lasTool=os.path.join(lasTools_path, 'lastile.exe')
244     #create the command string for lastile.exe
245     command = ['""'+lasTool+""']
246
247 #use verbose, default in arctoolbox
248 command.append("-v")
249
250 #add input LiDAR
251 command.append("-i")
252 command.append('""'+las+""')
253
254 #tile size will only create squares
255 command.append("-tile_size")
256 command.append(str(tileSize))
    
```



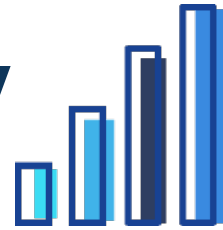
# Automation's role in machine learning:



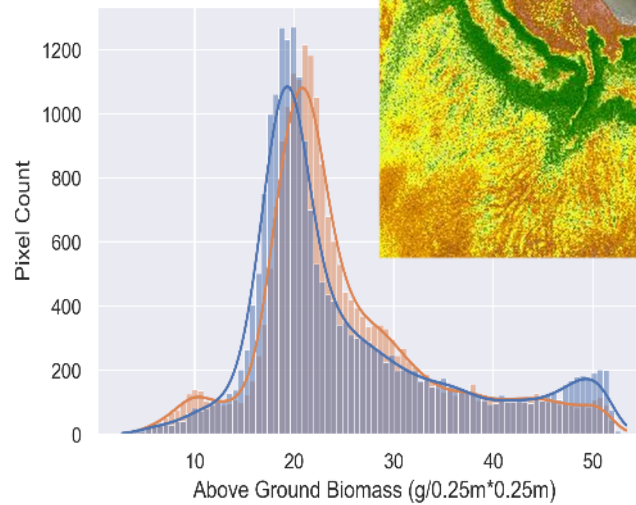
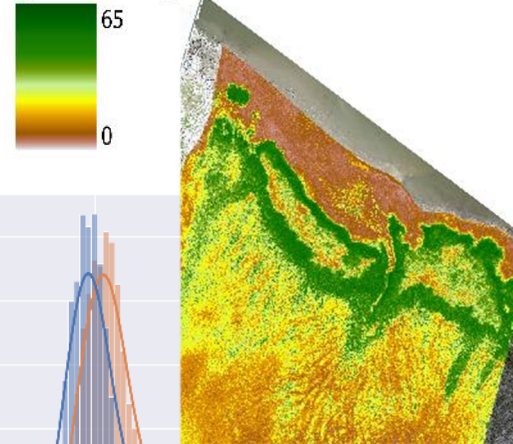
# Classify/Locate



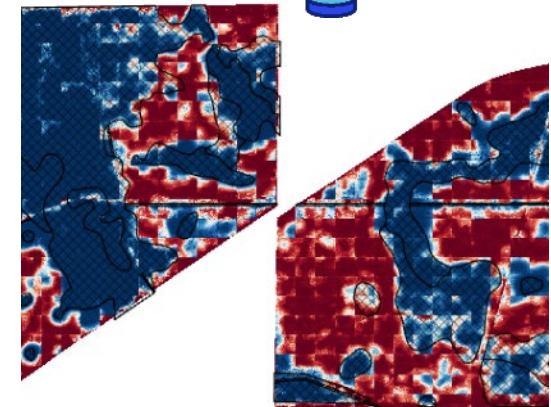
# Quantify



Above Ground Biomass  
(g/0.25m\*0.25m)

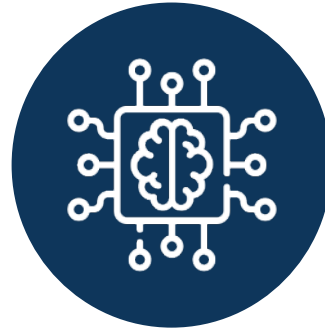


# Segment

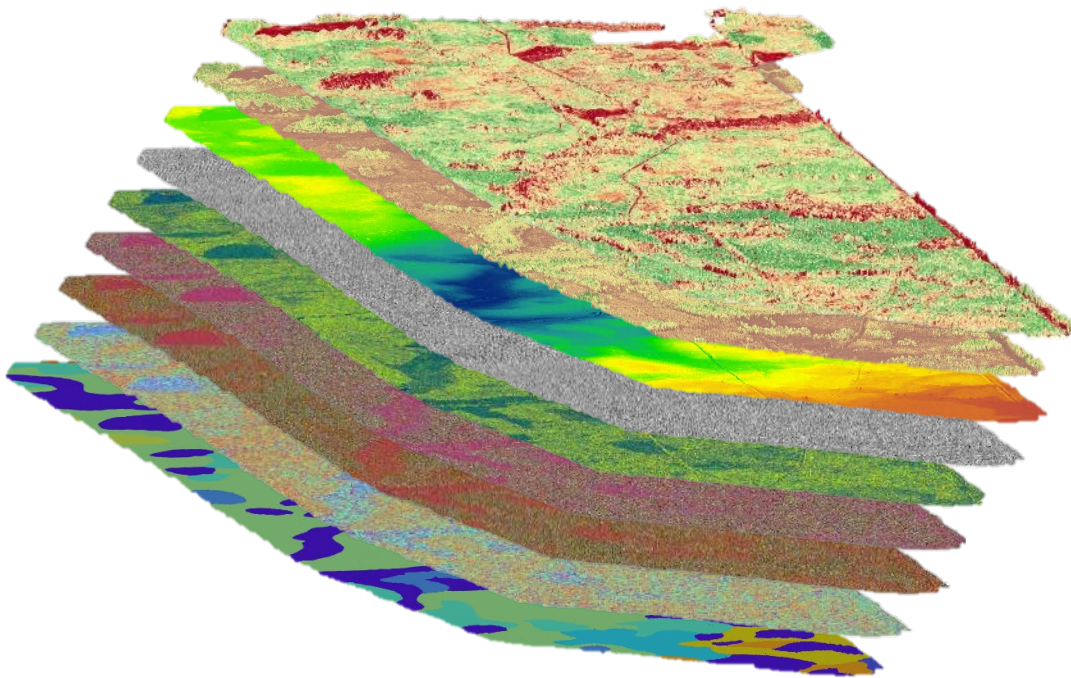


# Machine Learning Basics

Multiple features  
(easier/ cheaper/  
faster to collect)

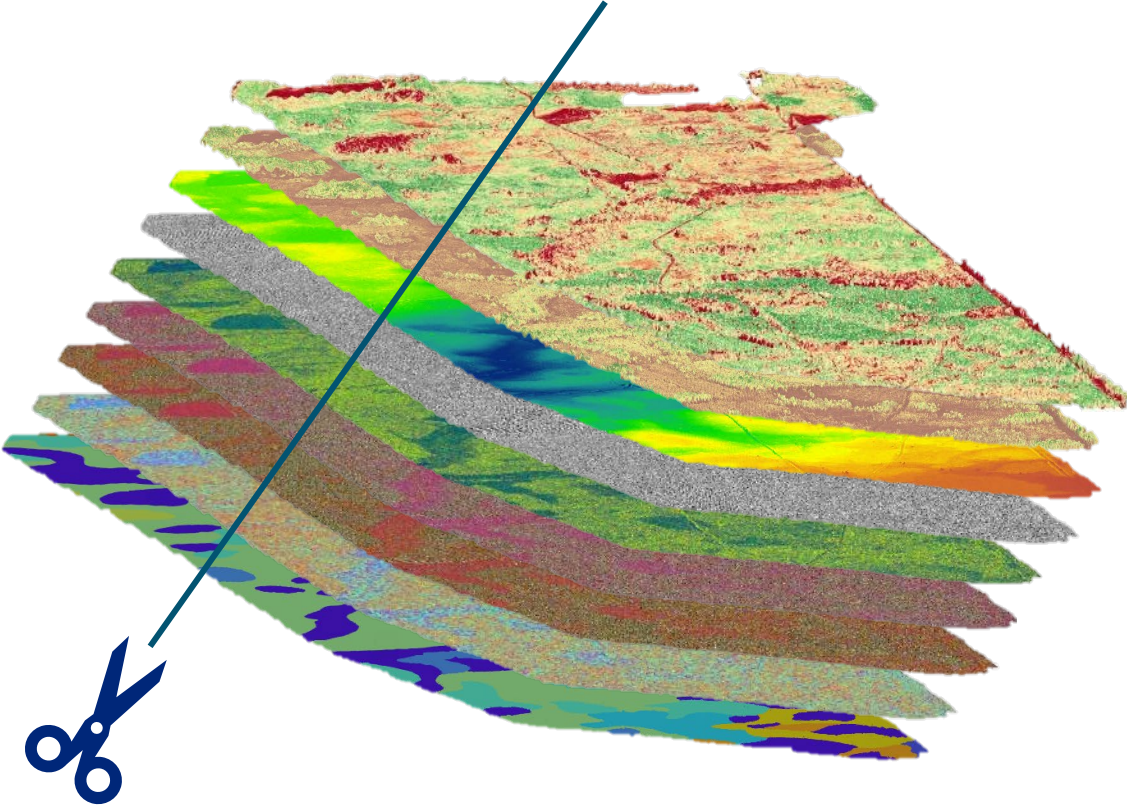


One property to classify or quantify  
(difficult /expensive/slower to collect)

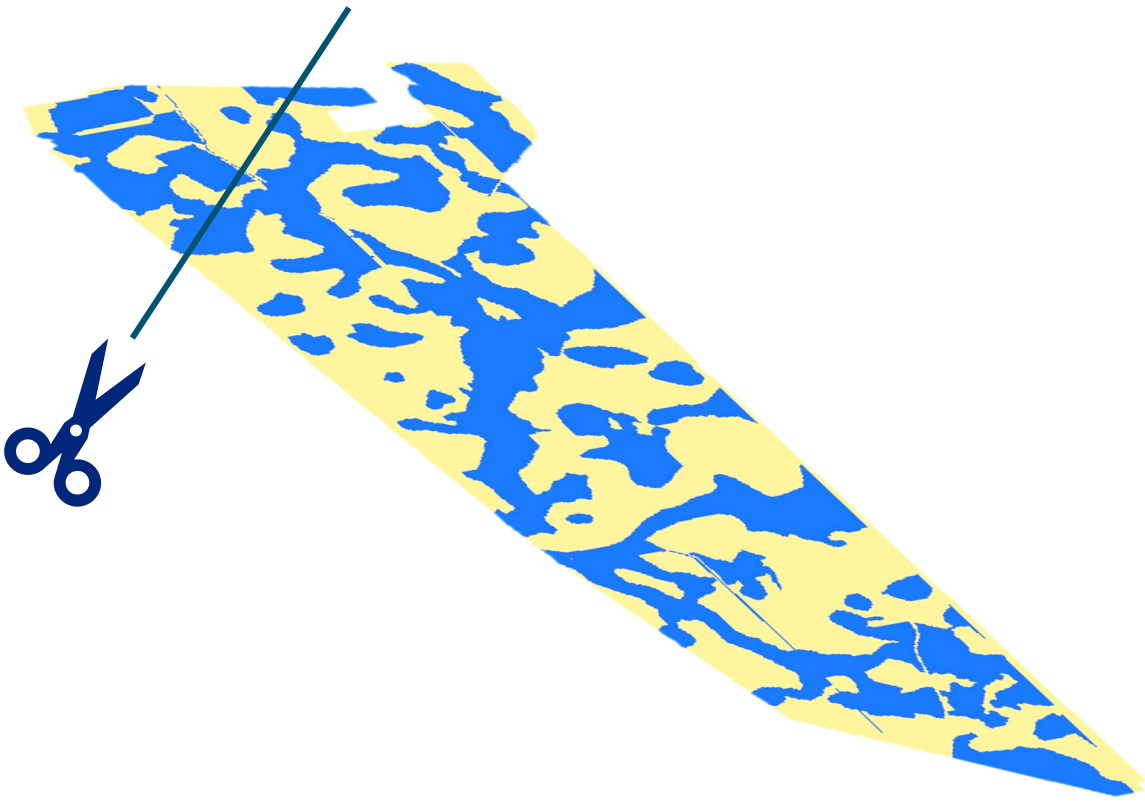


# Machine Learning Basics

Model Variables

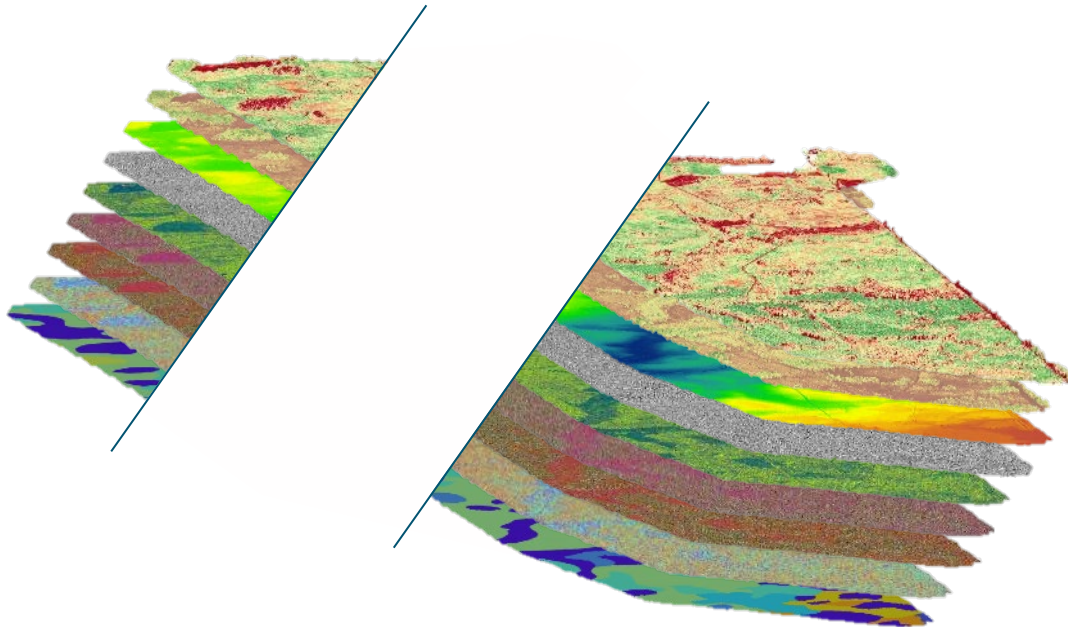


Target Class

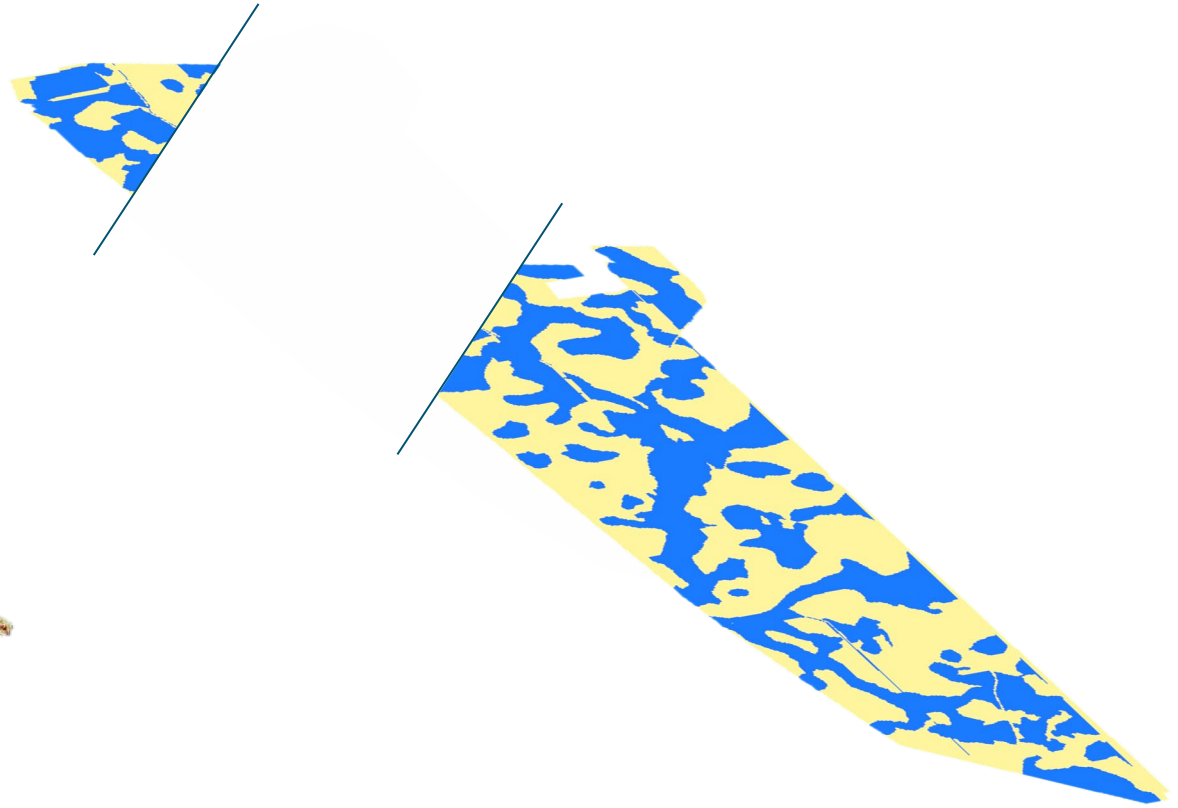


# Machine Learning Basics

Training Data



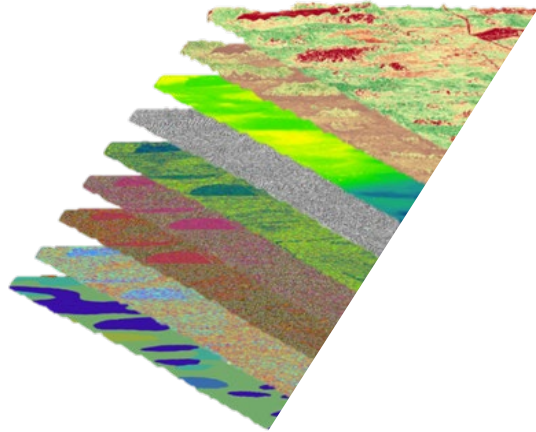
Validation Data



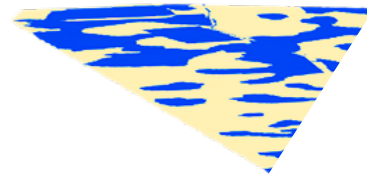


# Train the Model

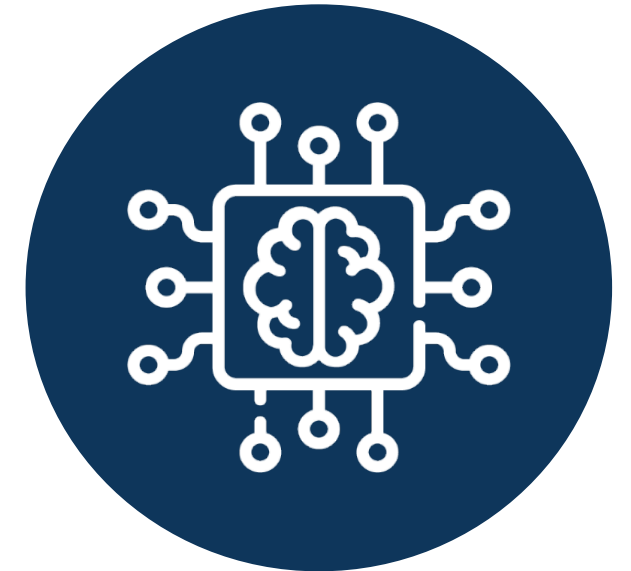
Data  
Inputs



Ground  
Truthing

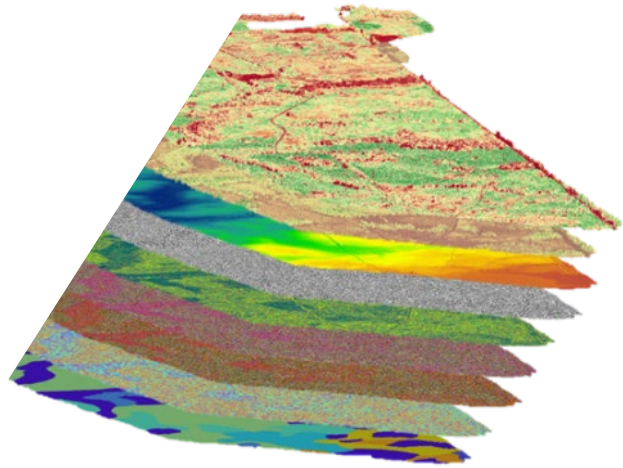


Machine  
Learning

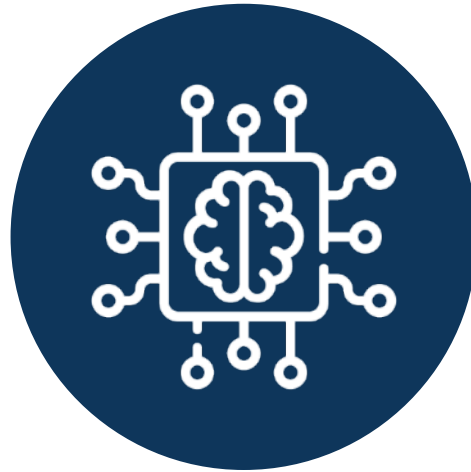


# Model Accuracy

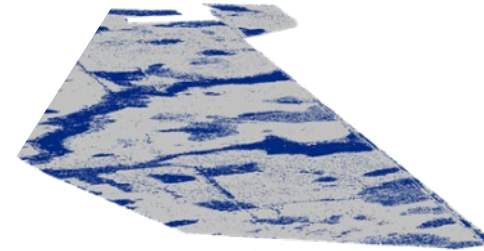
Data Inputs



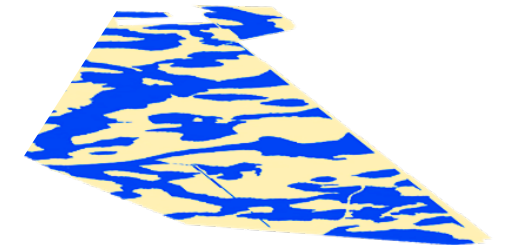
Machine Learning Model



Model Predictions



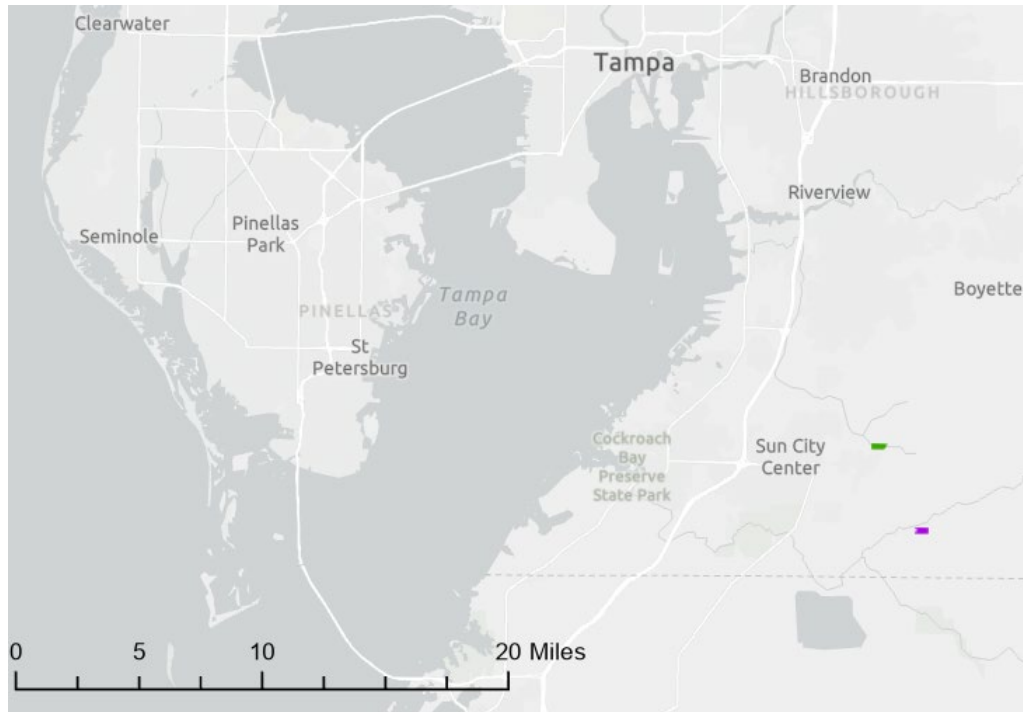
*Measured Against*



Ground Truthing

# Land Management: Invasive and native species identification

How do we identify invasive species and assess the effectiveness of treatments to remove them?



# Traditional approach for invasive species mapping is labor-intensive.



# CDM Smith developed patent-pending data collection methods to increase efficiency and improve model accuracy.



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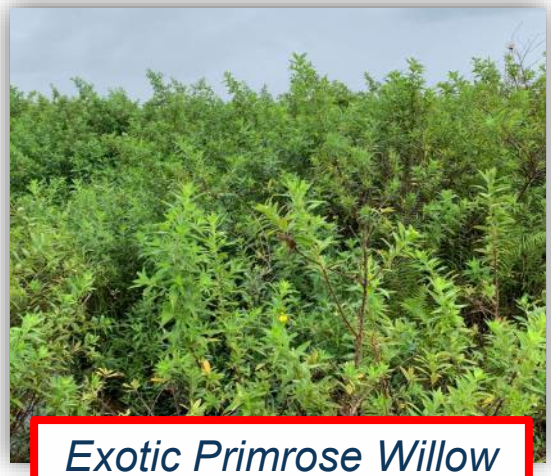


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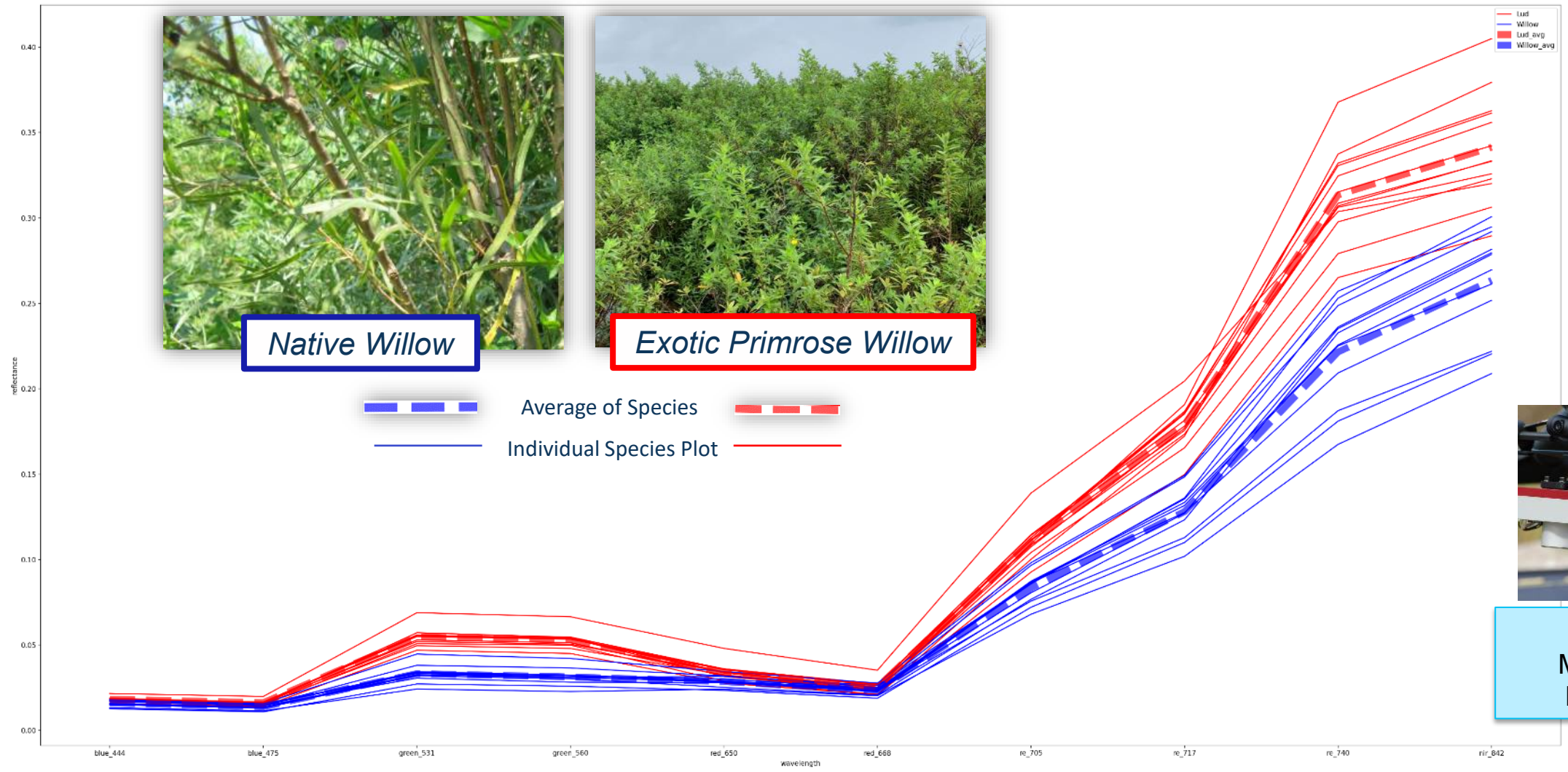
# Machine learning can use spectral patterns to identify species.



*Native Willow*

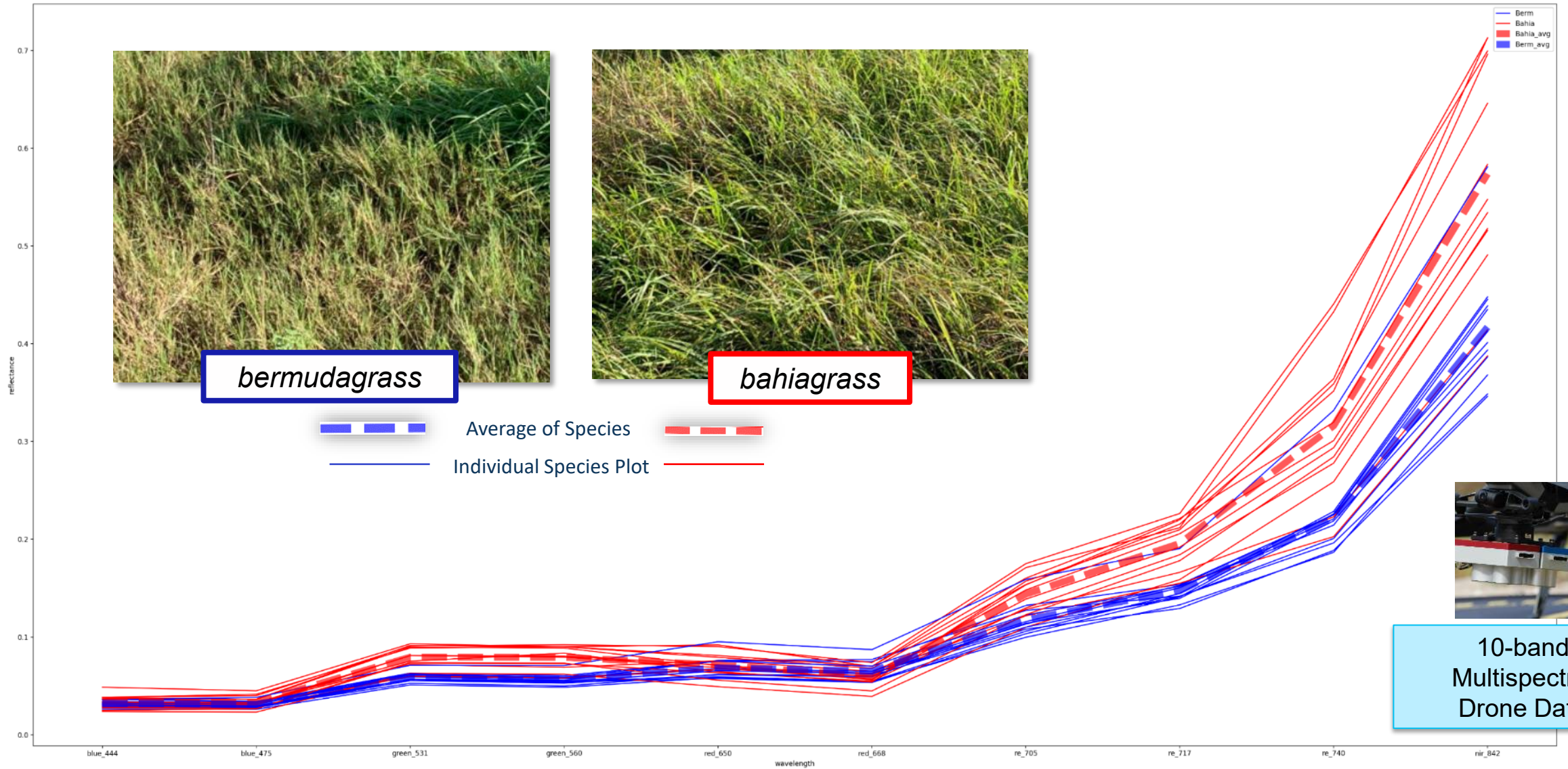


*Exotic Primrose Willow*



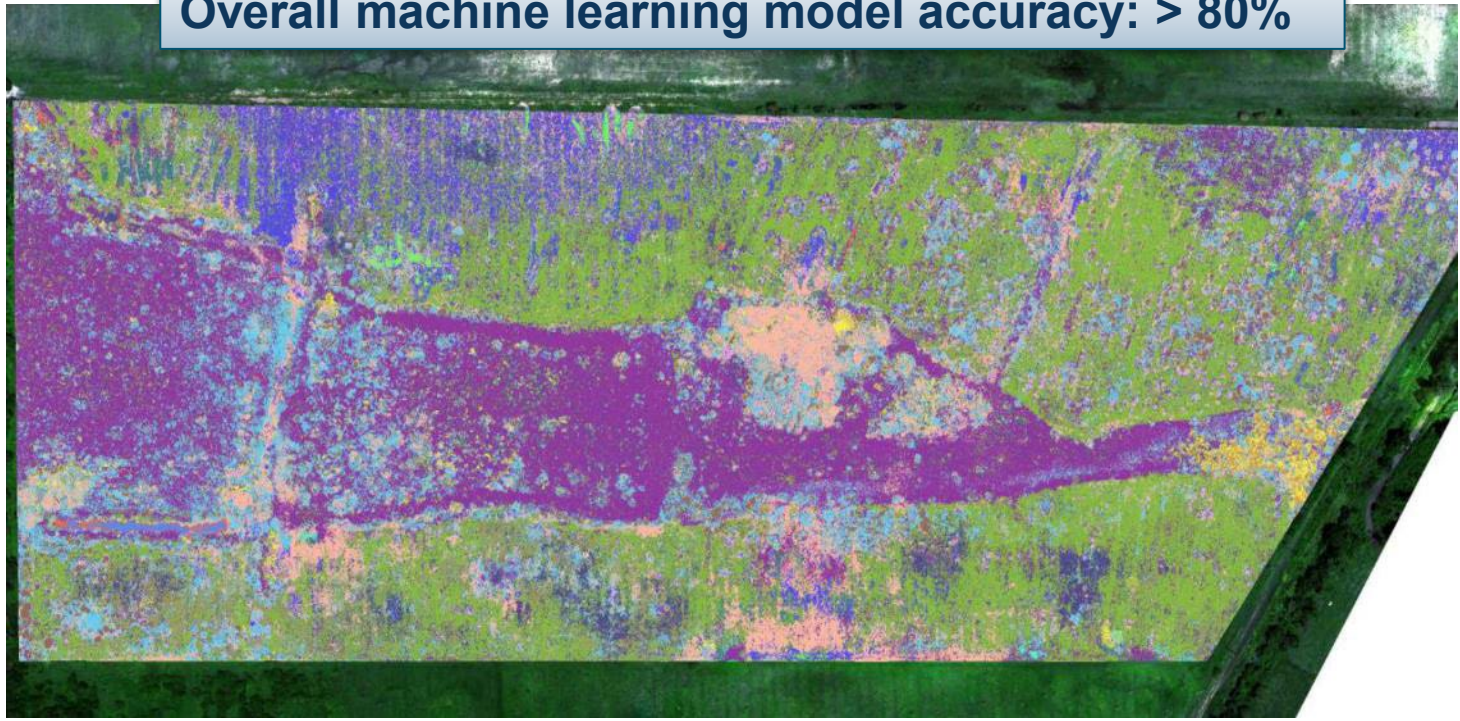
10-band Multispectral Drone Data

# Species identification is possible between similar species.



# CDM Smith developed a high accuracy map of native and invasive species using machine learning.

Overall machine learning model accuracy: > 80%



## Species or land cover type

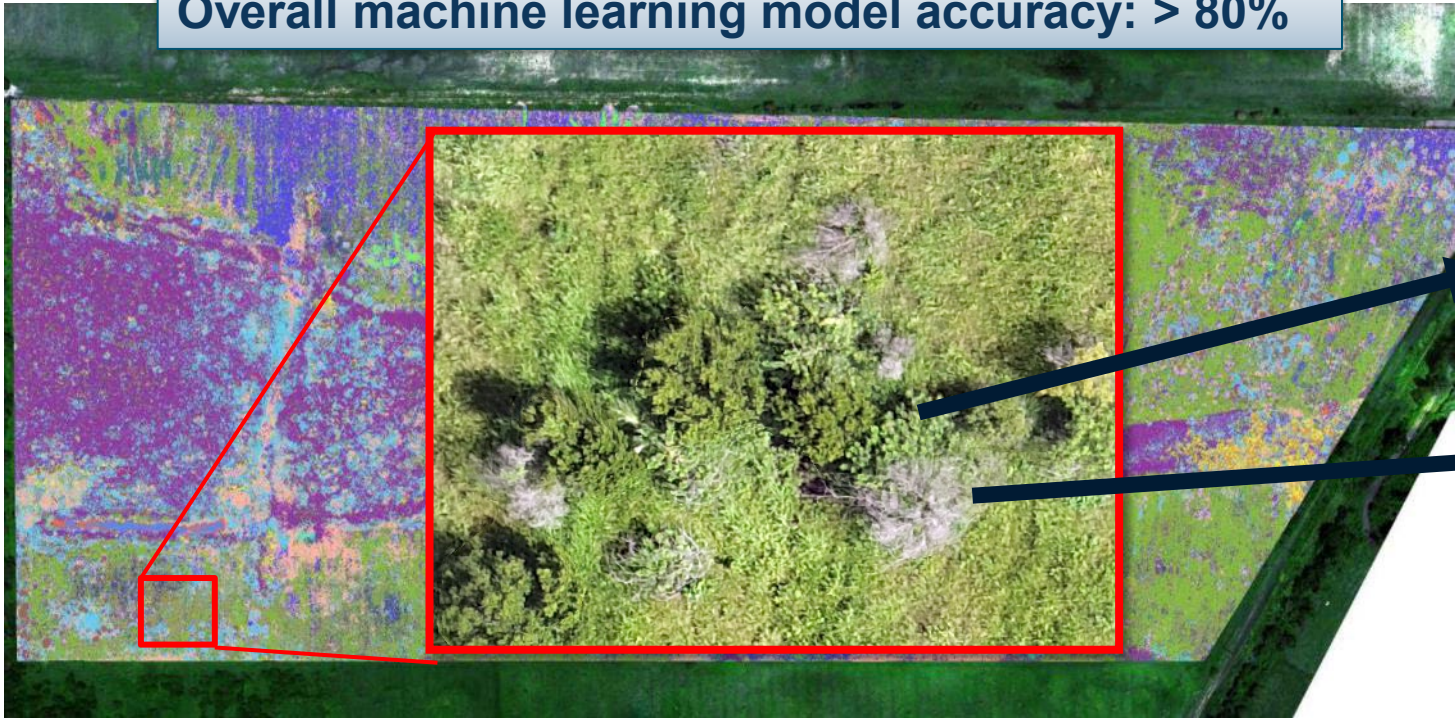
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <span style="color: red;">■</span> bahiagrass ★         | <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> oak            |
| <span style="color: lime;">■</span> bare                | <span style="color: orange;">■</span> pine           |
| <span style="color: cyan;">■</span> brazilian pepper ★  | <span style="color: teal;">■</span> red maple        |
| <span style="color: blue;">■</span> cabbage palm        | <span style="color: red;">■</span> submerged aquatic |
| <span style="color: olive;">■</span> cogongrass ★       | <span style="color: green;">■</span> smutgrass ★     |
| <span style="color: magenta;">■</span> dead shrub       | <span style="color: blue;">■</span> water            |
| <span style="color: darkblue;">■</span> dogfennel       | <span style="color: brown;">■</span> wax myrtle      |
| <span style="color: cyan;">■</span> hairy indigo ★      | <span style="color: orange;">■</span> willow         |
| <span style="color: purple;">■</span> primrose willow ★ |  |

★ Invasive Species



# The machine learning model can identify and quantify living and dead Brazilian pepper.

Overall machine learning model accuracy: > 80%



### Species or land cover type

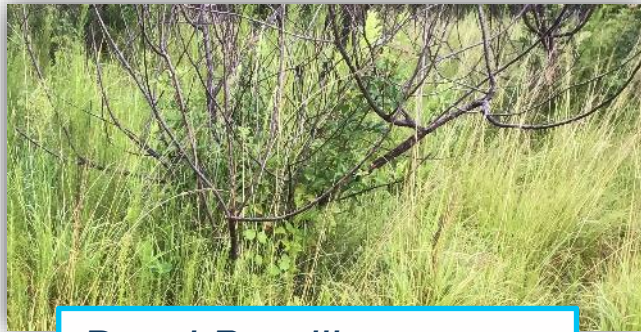
- bahiagrass★
- bare
- brazilian pepper★
- cabbage palm
- cogongrass★
- dead shrub
- dogfennel
- hairy indigo★
- primrose willow★
- oak
- pine
- red maple
- submerged aquatic
- smutgrass★
- water
- wax myrtle
- willow

★ Invasive Species

# The machine learning model can identify and quantify dead Brazilian pepper.



*Brazilian pepper*



*Dead Brazilian pepper*



# Restoration and resiliency: Tidal marsh assessment

— How do we assess restoration success and resiliency in the face of climate change?

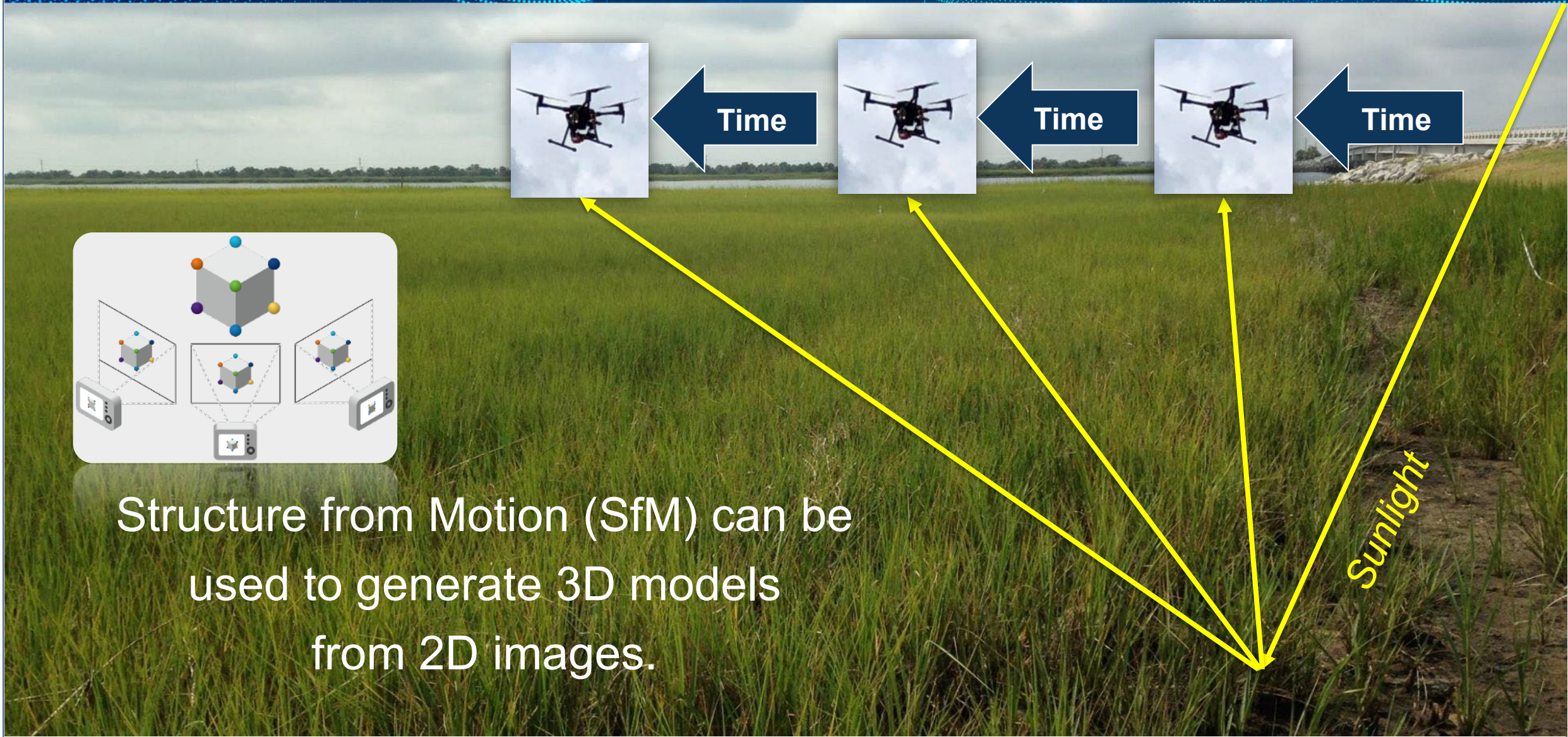


**Ft. Pulaski National Monument  
Savannah, GA**

# Restoration and resiliency: Tidal marsh assessment



Marsh Restoration

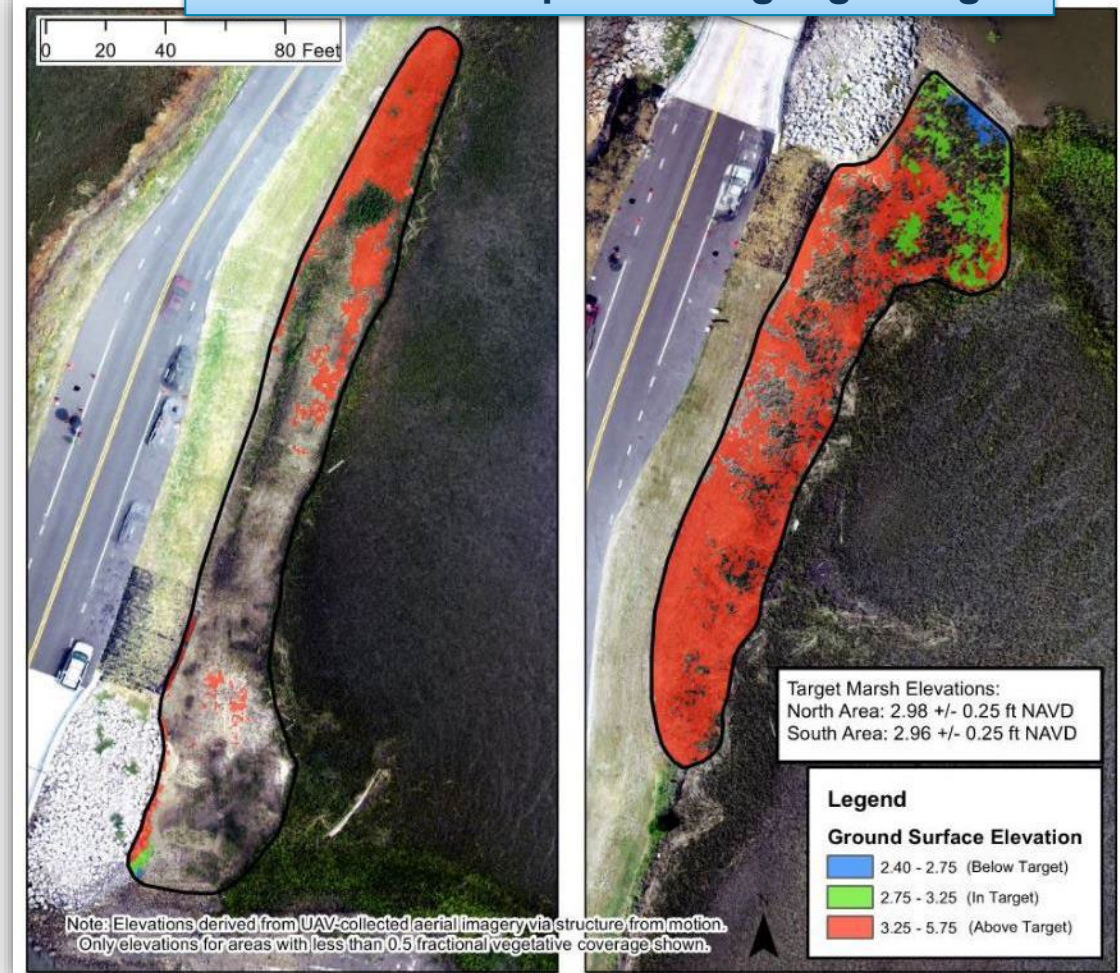


Structure from Motion (SfM) can be used to generate 3D models from 2D images.

# Drone data revealed that the contractor graded too high.



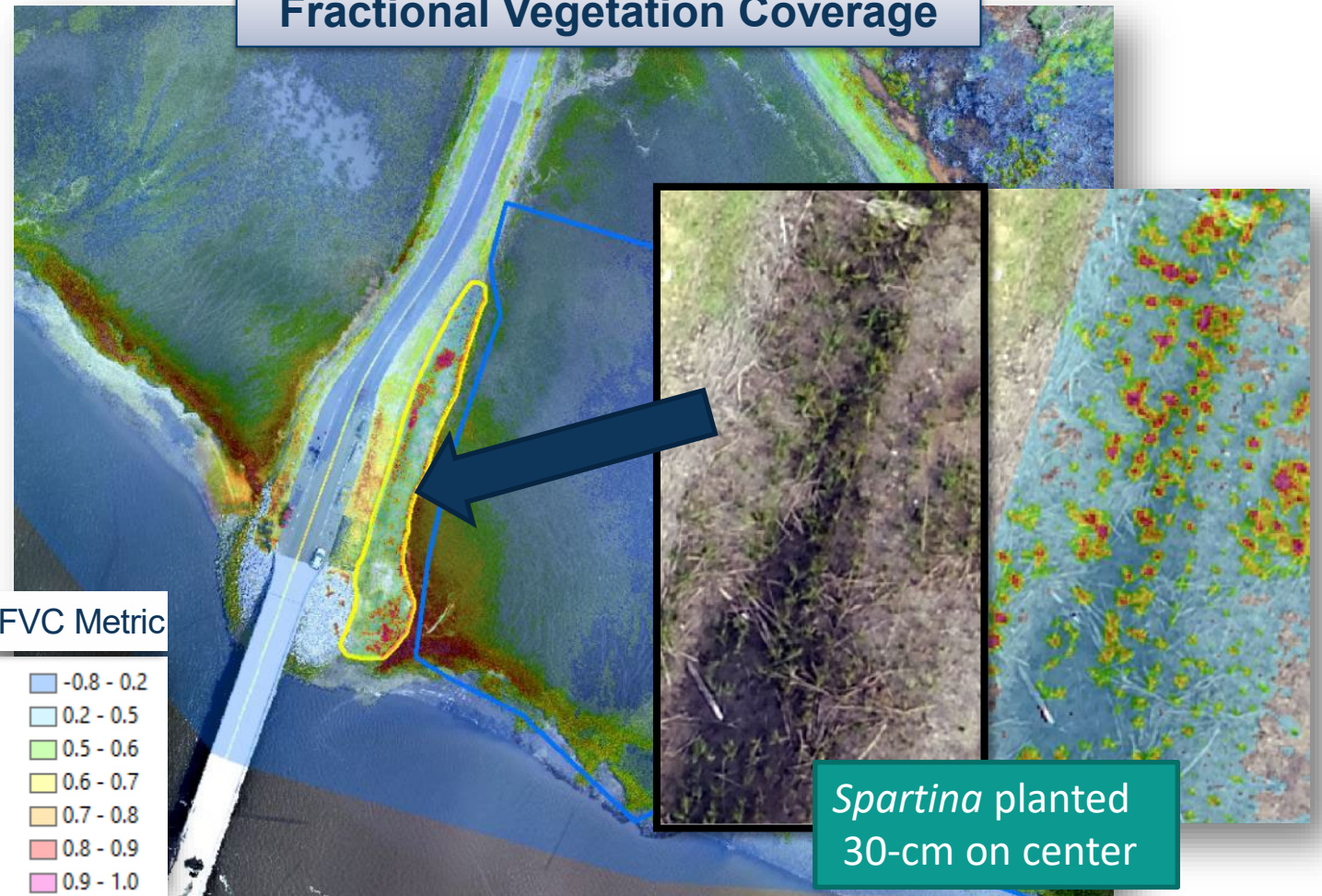
Areas out of spec for target grading



# High resolutions pixels identify individual *Spartina* plugs.



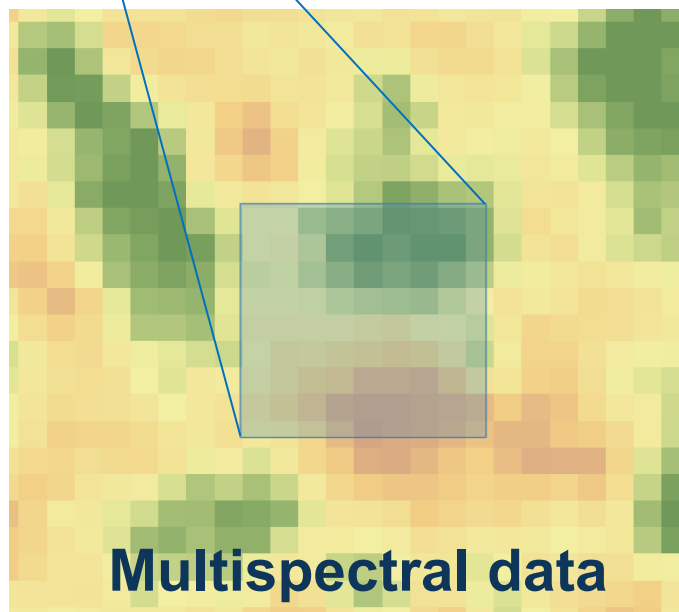
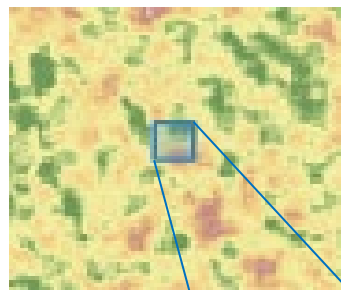
Fractional Vegetation Coverage



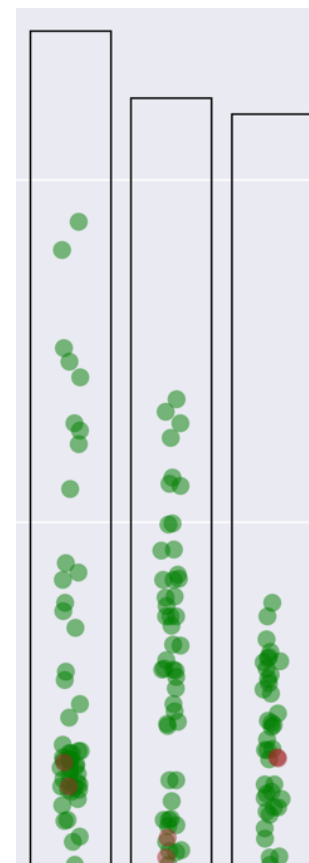
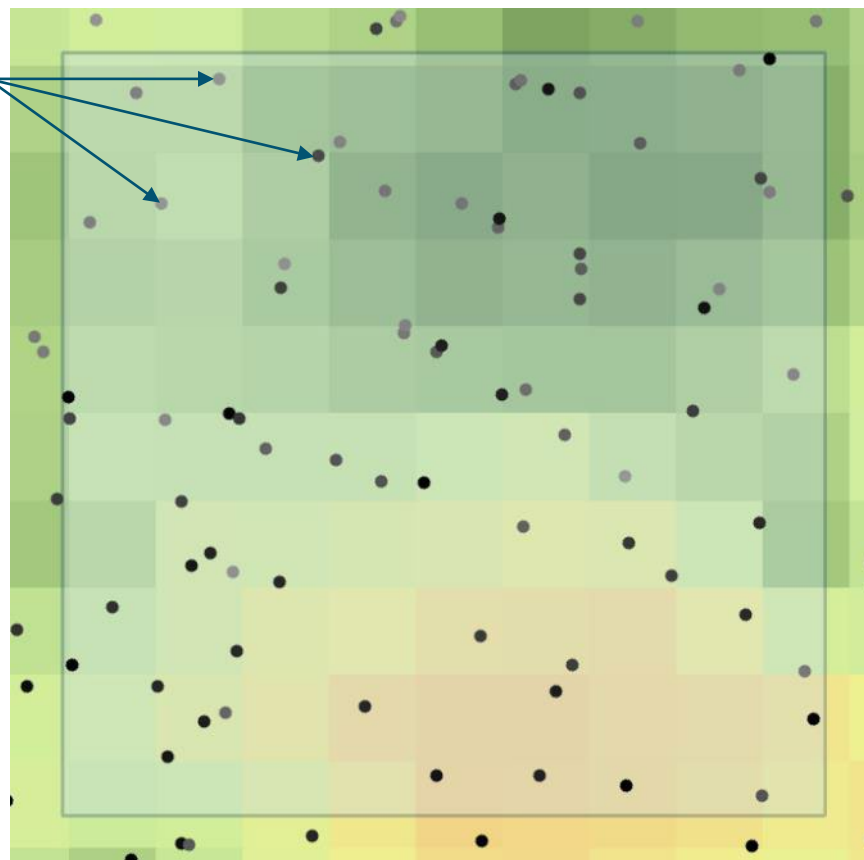
 Mitigation Area  
 Reference Area

Spartina planted  
30-cm on center

# CDM Smith combined field data, 3D drone data, and multispectral data in a machine learning model to quantify site-wide biomass.



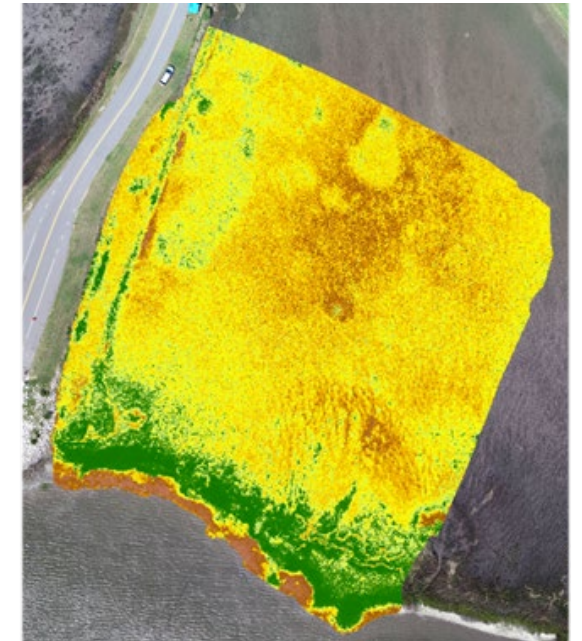
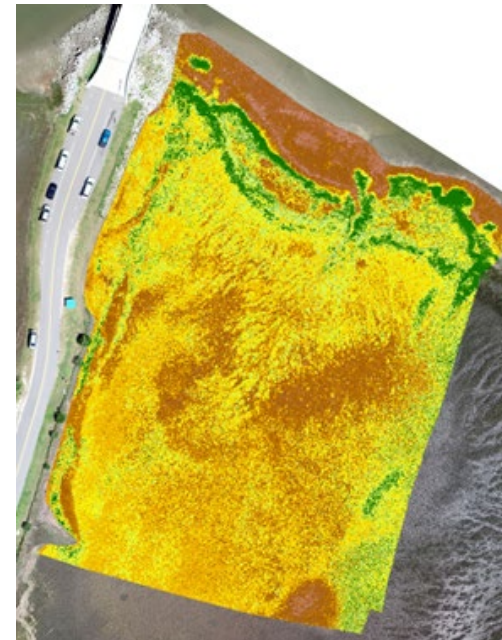
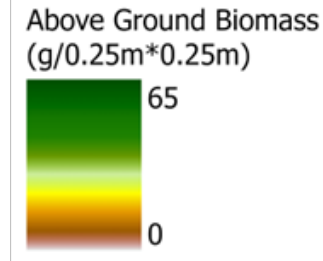
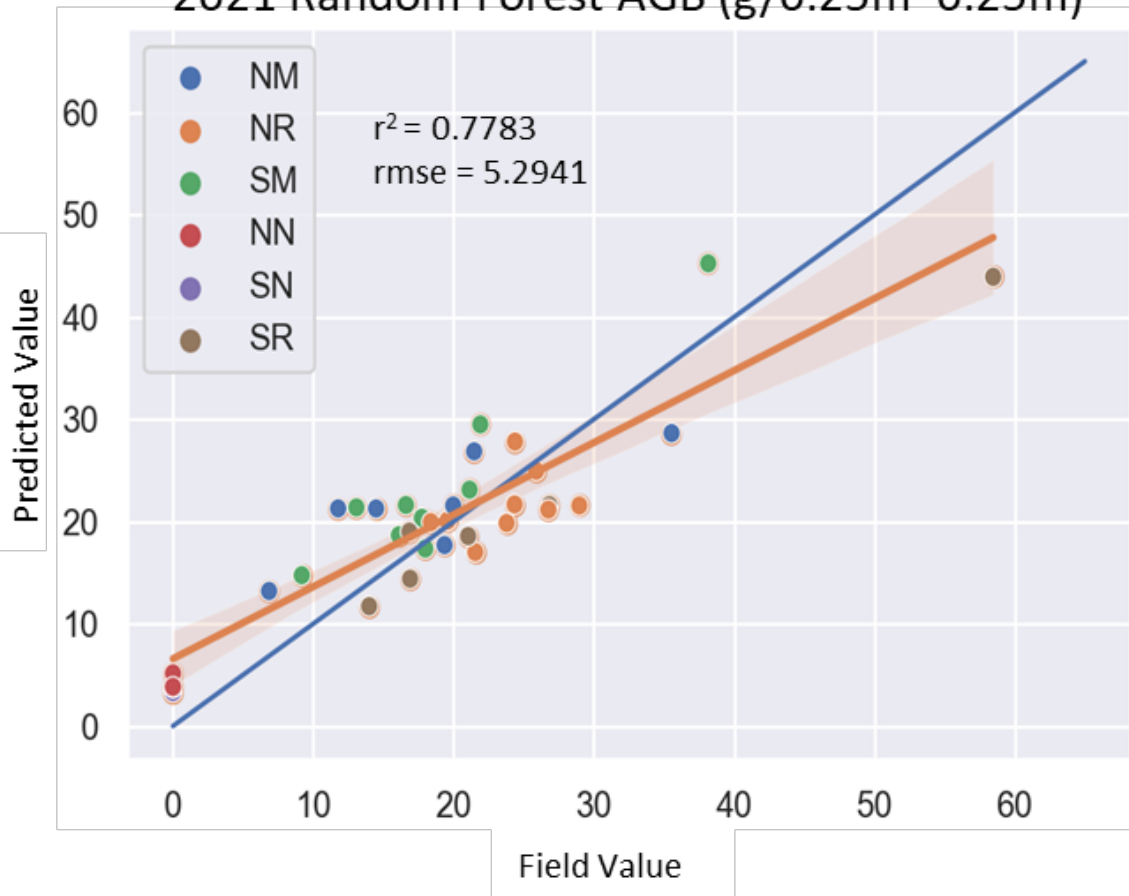
**Elevation data**



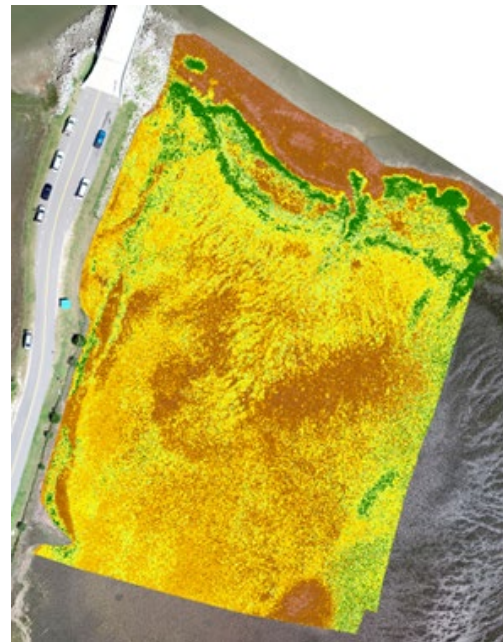
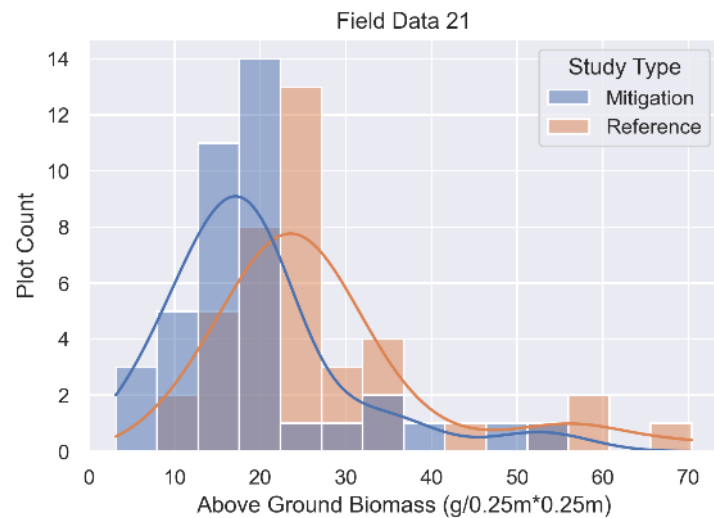
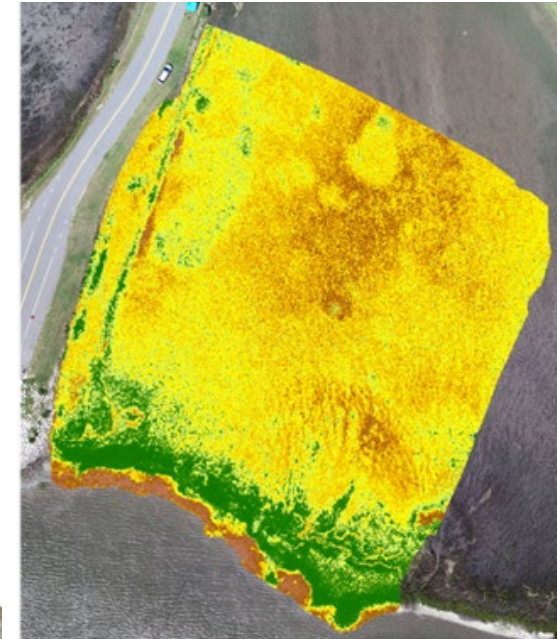
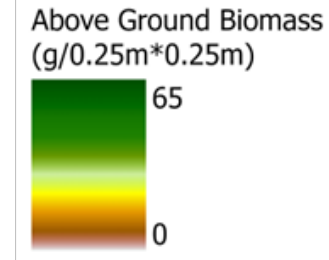
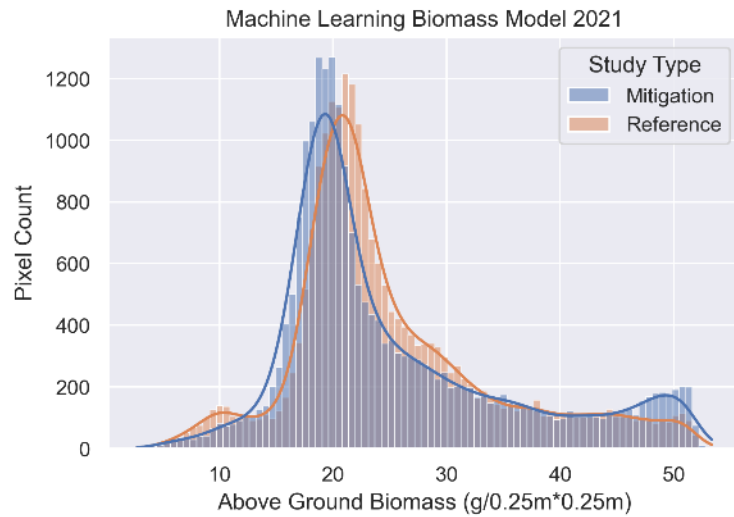


# The machine learned model accurately predicted biomass.

2021 Random Forest AGB (g/0.25m\*0.25m)

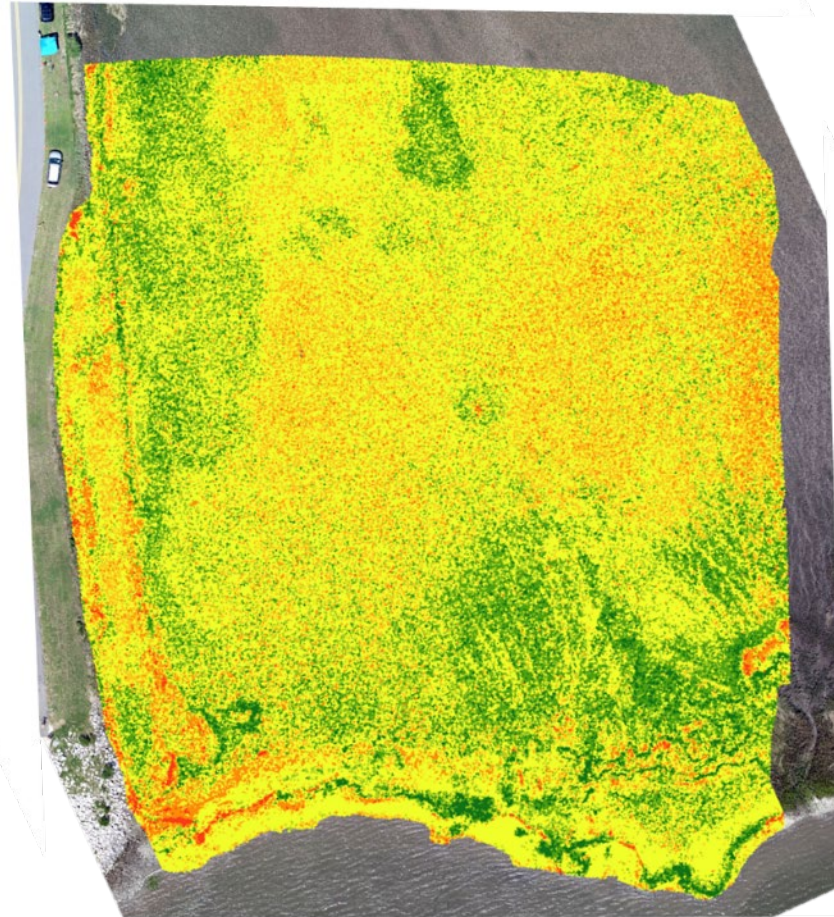
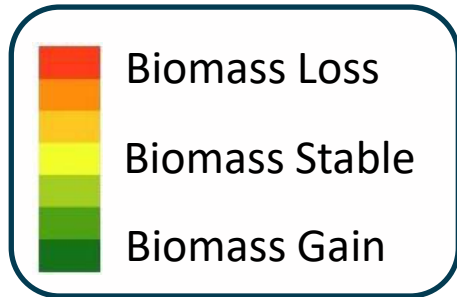


# Model results were similar to field results.



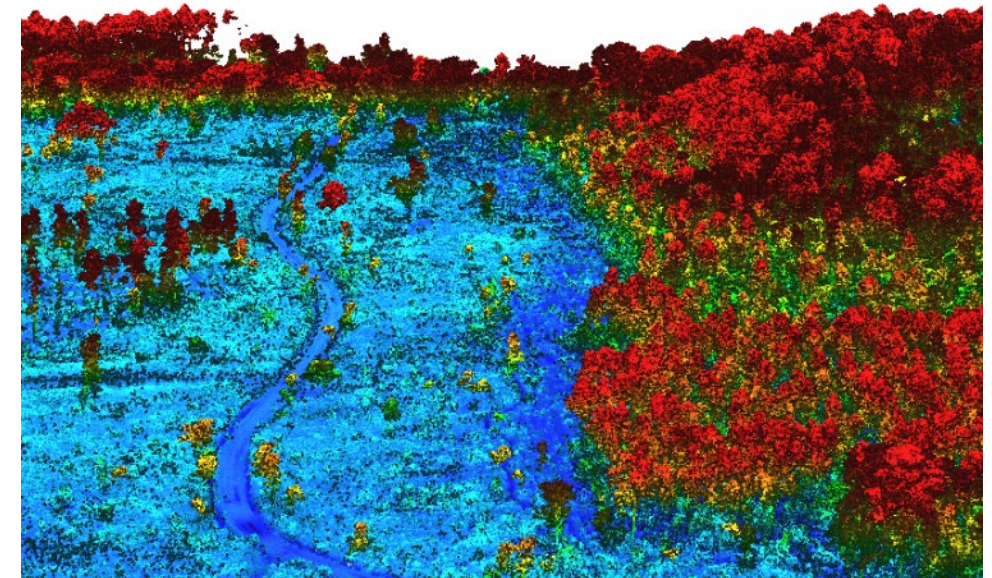
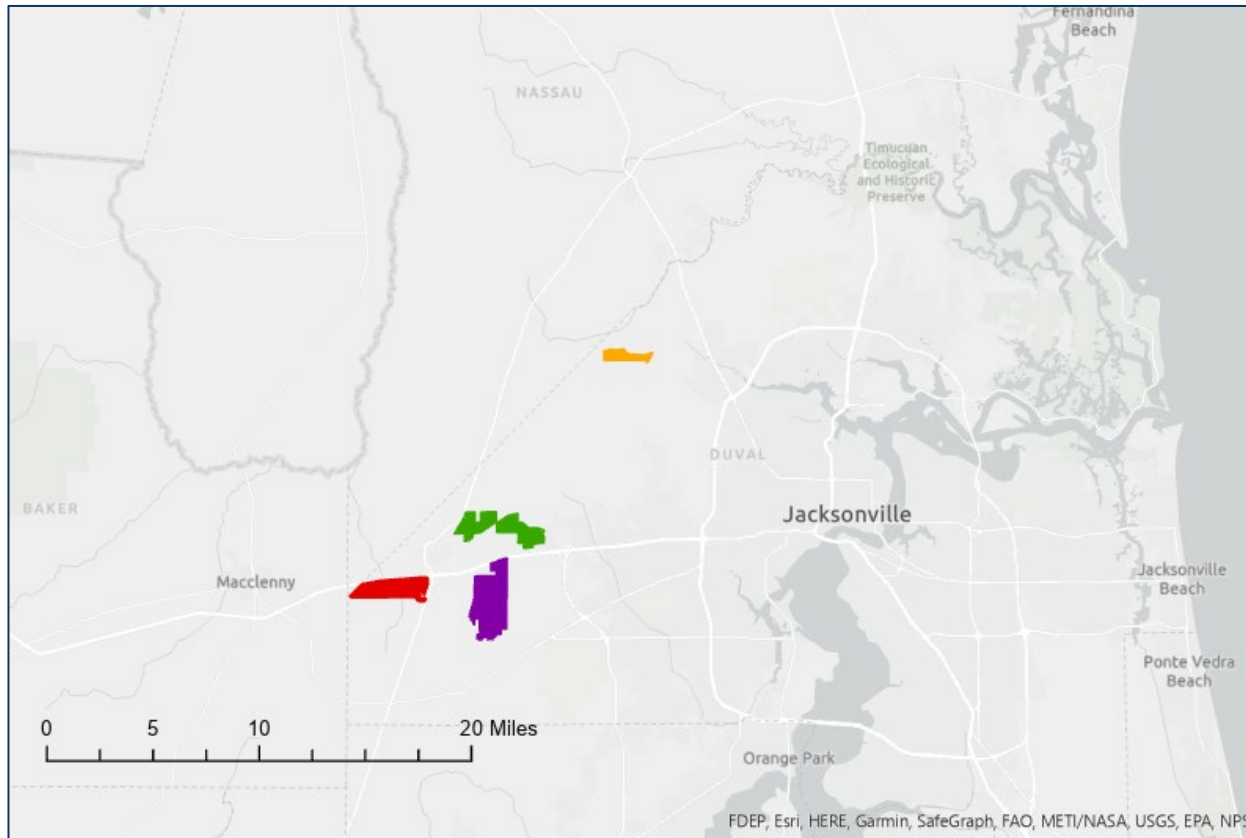
# Machine learning model results allow for easy identification of biomass loss and gain over time.

2022 - 2021

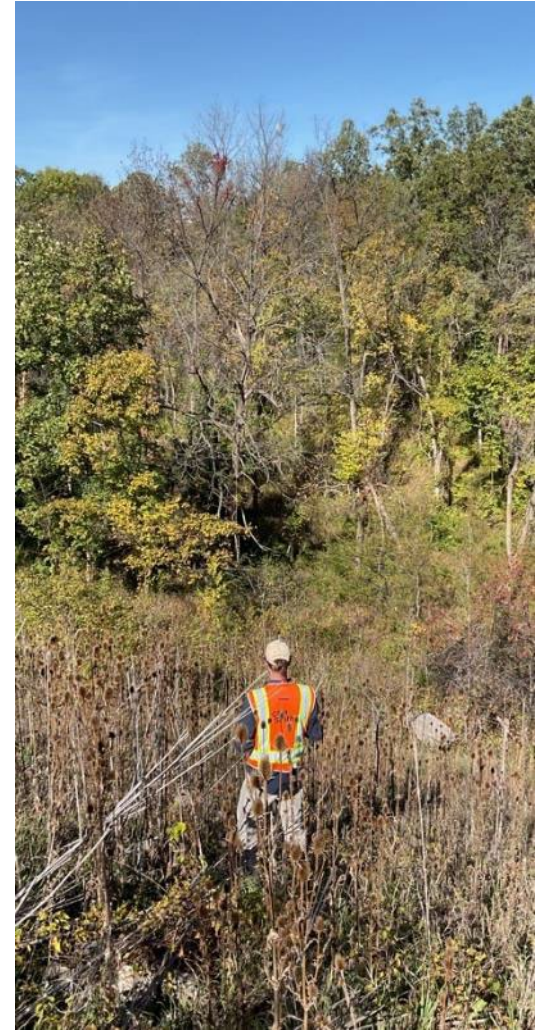
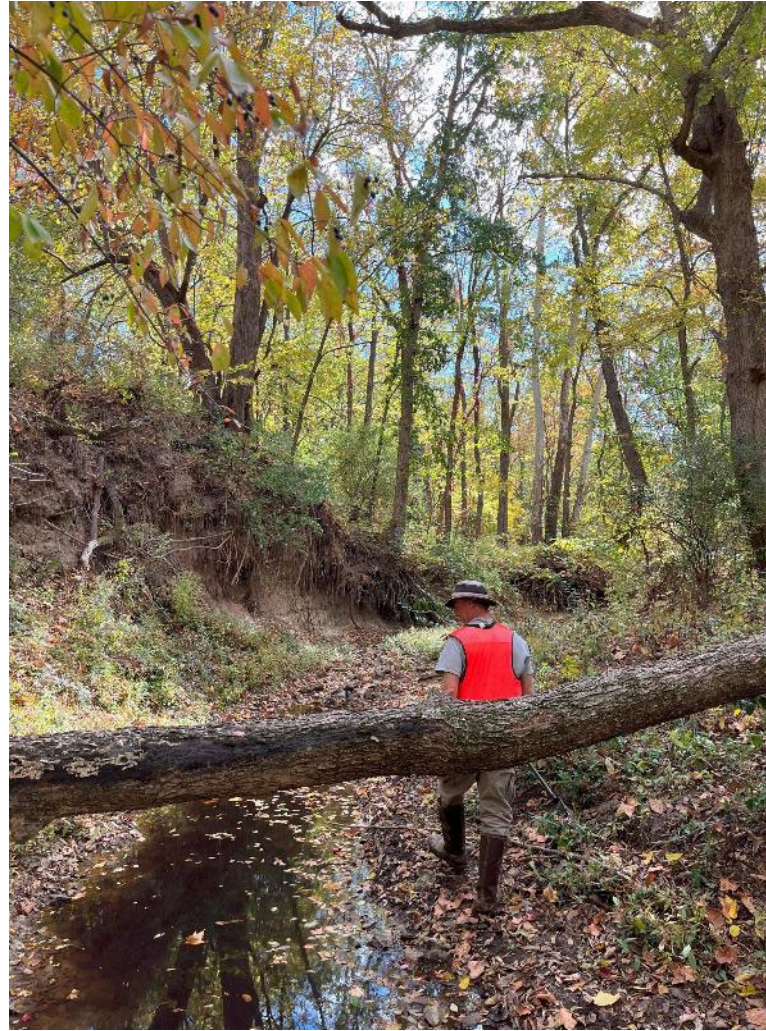


# Site Feasibility: Wetland Delineation

How do we locate wetlands to quantify how much land is available for development?



# Traditional approach for delineating wetlands.



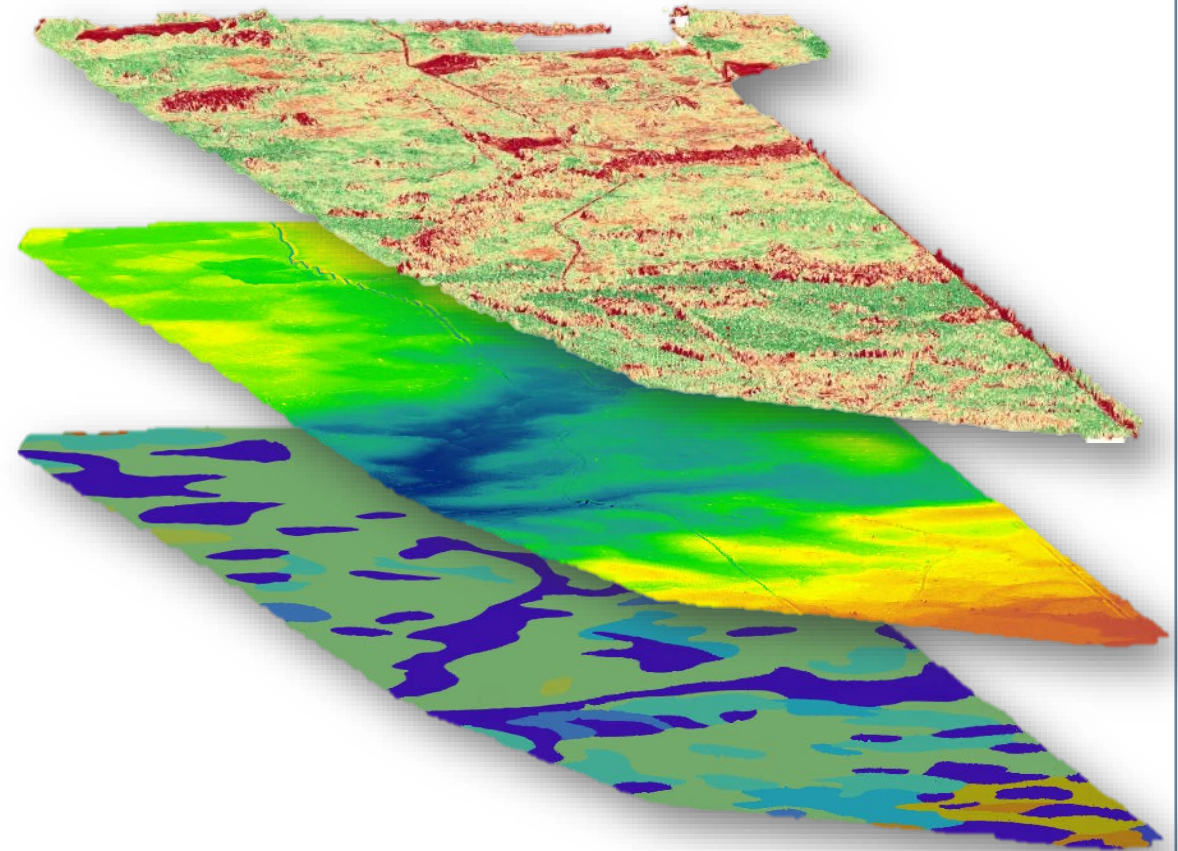
# What defines a wetland and how can we predict their location?



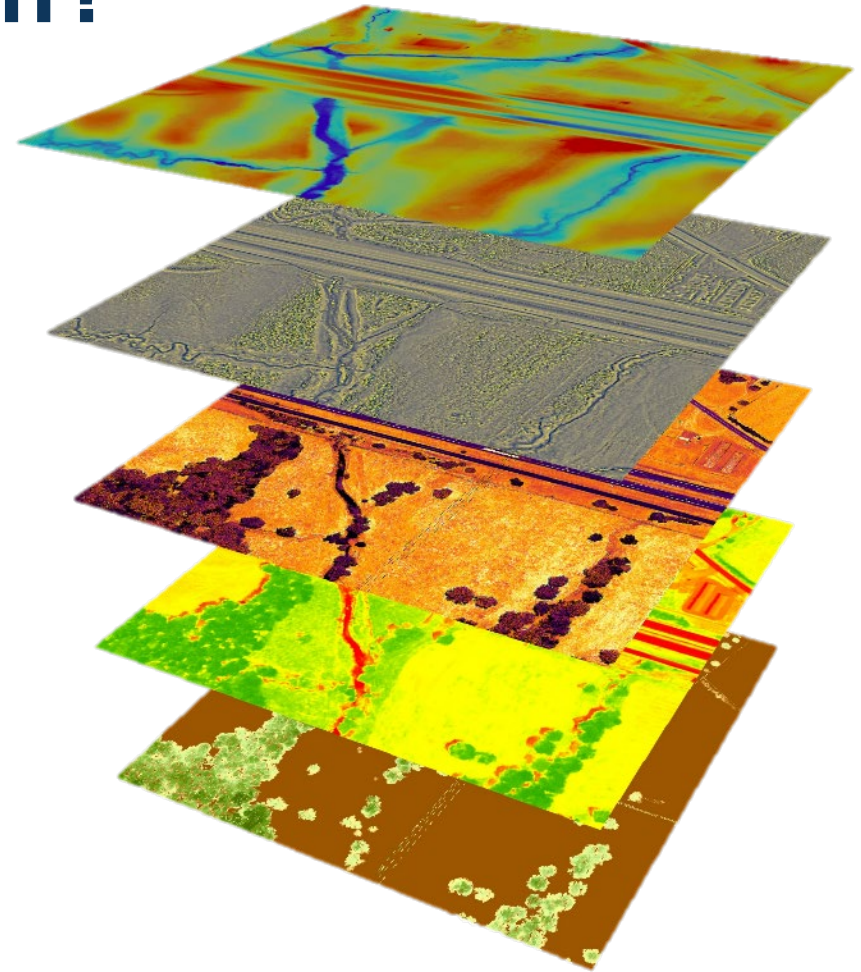
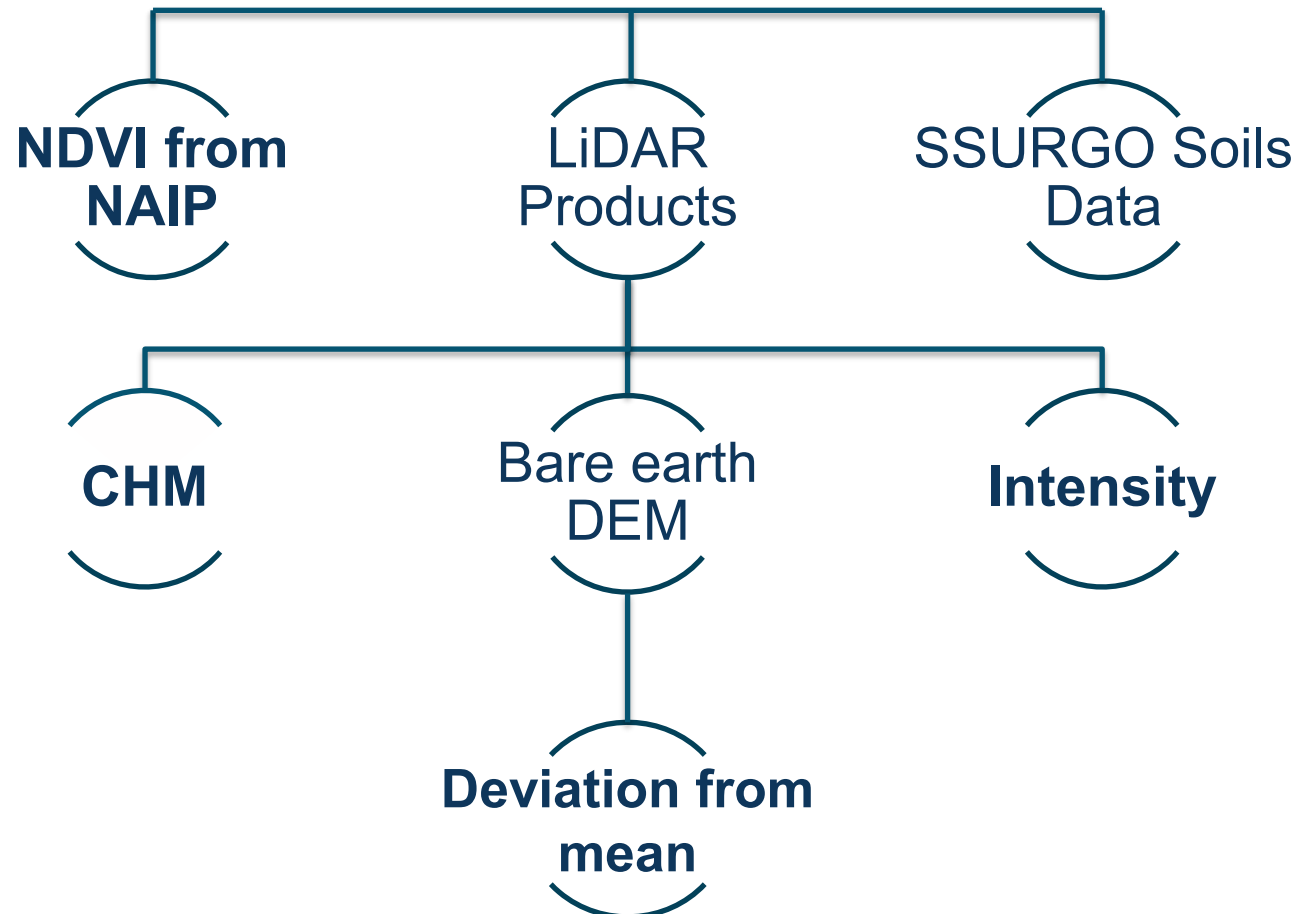
NDVI from NAIP

LiDAR Products

SSURGO Soils Data

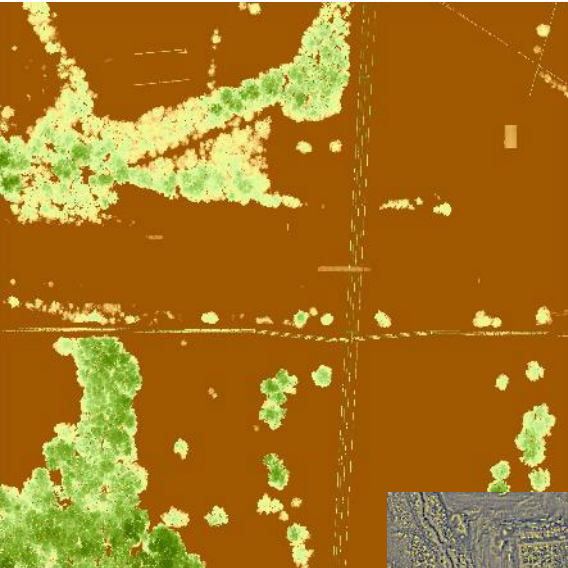


# What defines a wetland and how can we predict their location?

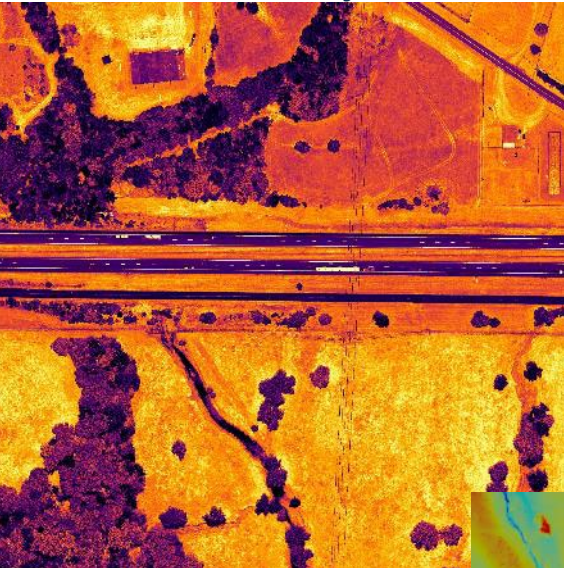


# Remote Sensing Features

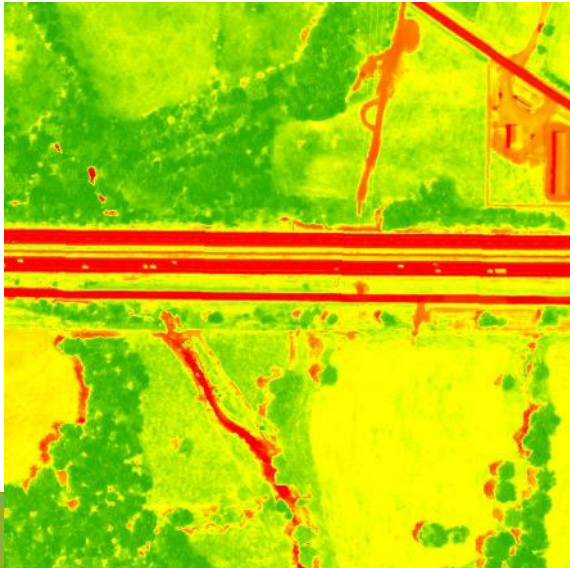
CHM



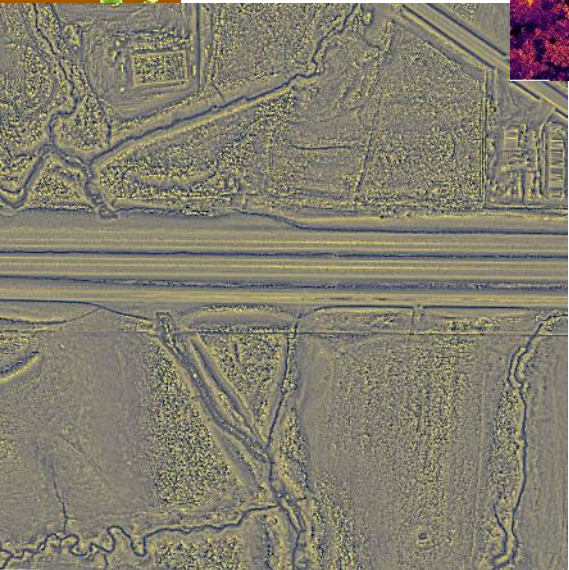
Intensity



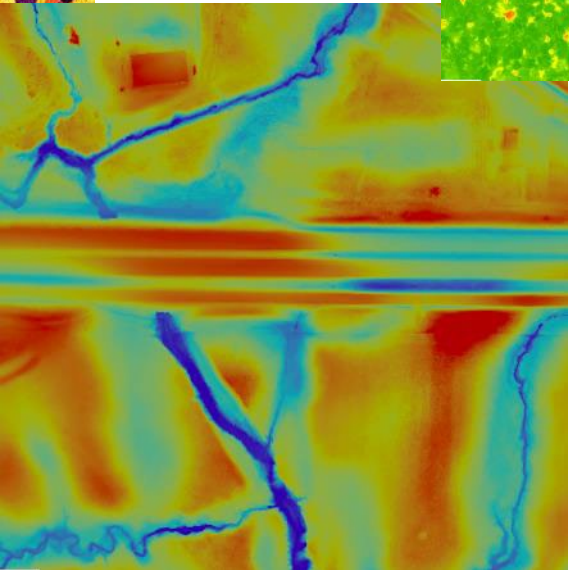
NDVI



Deviation from mean (small area)

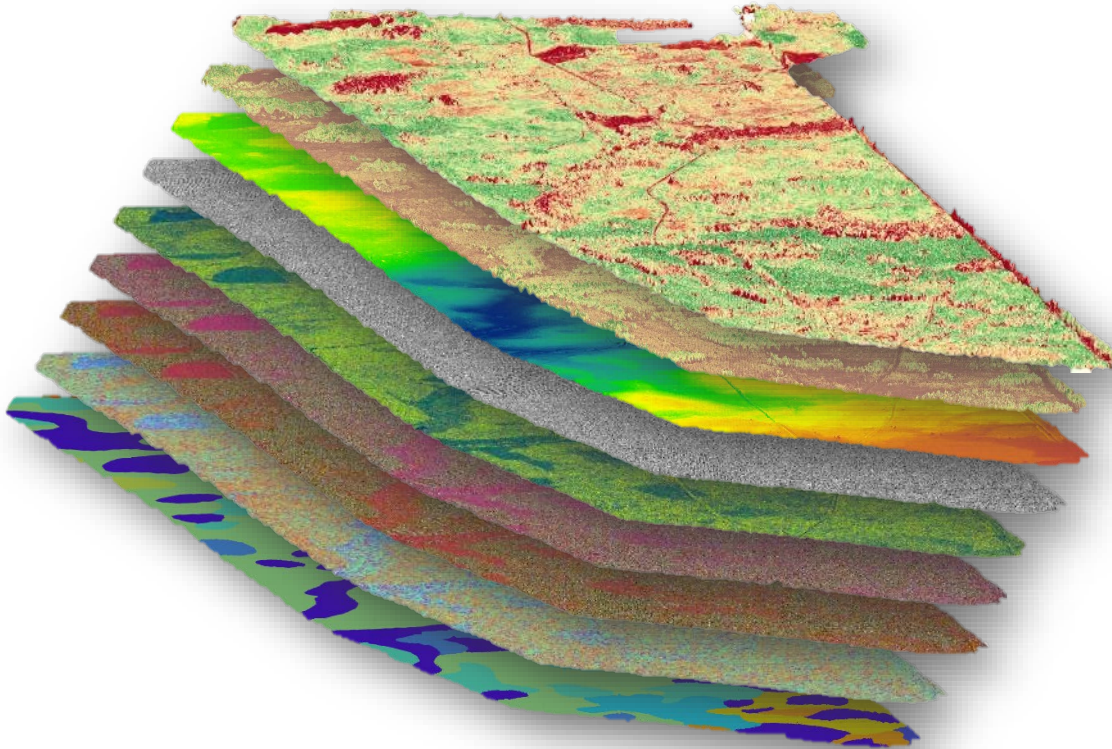


Deviation from mean (large area)



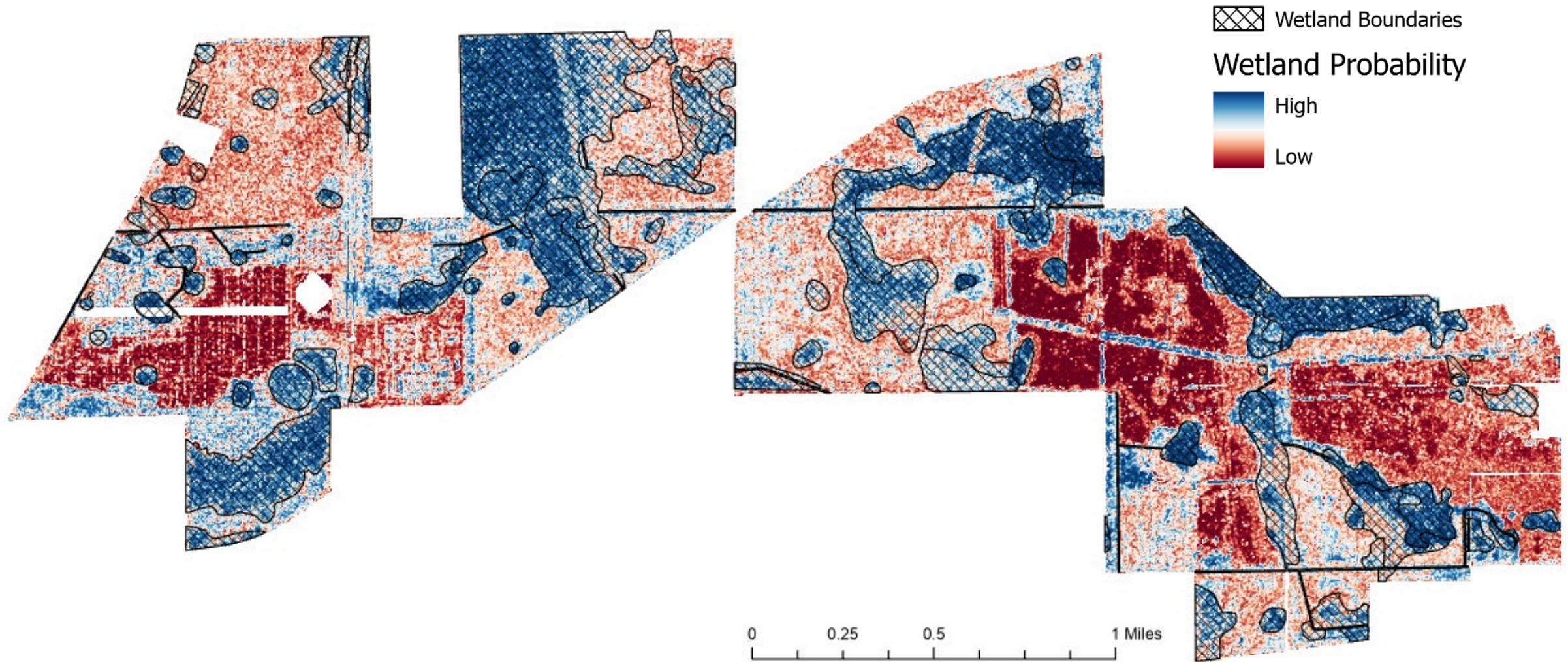


# Tabular/Pixel Based Machine Learning



	grnd	bcon	chm	grad	plan	prof	twi	ndvi	soil
0	0.848292	1.168940	4.480000	0.155842	0.280000	0.039993	3.049424	0.349663	96.0
1	1.097692	0.433987	0.490000	0.087569	0.026195	-0.073811	2.948446	0.189539	5.0
2	-1.546986	1.550257	0.190000	0.162854	0.018937	0.058930	2.267665	0.194915	41.0
3	1.151135	1.346371	11.780000	0.045512	-0.032000	0.088011	3.089783	0.183789	5.0
4	0.525409	0.794799	0.620000	0.108565	-0.077797	0.002205	2.220407	0.148438	5.0
5	-1.654614	0.842667	1.070000	0.214368	-0.220559	0.299447	2.107459	0.170622	96.0
6	-1.059320	0.816192	0.040000	0.123974	0.399878	-0.060131	3.647214	0.160622	41.0
7	0.137206	2.055617	4.010000	0.013117	0.013995	-0.025983	4.333852	0.168724	3.0
8	-1.591522	1.809911	1.050000	0.145349	-0.031793	-0.071787	2.383315	0.324561	41.0
9	0.469739	0.000077	0.590000	0.050373	0.105280	-0.134711	6.356588	0.130081	5.0
10	0.472708	0.663679	23.139999	0.096262	-0.137603	0.142397	2.340686	0.279412	5.0
11	-1.060805	0.923987	1.160000	0.162201	0.119405	-0.060596	4.151978	0.188679	41.0
12	-1.365874	0.706800	14.959999	0.086919	-0.058871	-0.038875	3.184917	0.097893	100.0
13	-1.616017	1.505951	0.010000	0.017339	-0.181535	0.118461	4.054793	0.151515	41.0
14	0.814891	1.617866	17.760000	0.074437	-0.020164	-0.060157	2.597808	0.235669	5.0
15	-1.735521	1.540530	3.070000	0.136662	-0.044501	-0.404495	2.627947	0.178325	41.0
16	0.614480	0.916568	65.909996	0.115491	0.066427	-0.133555	3.257171	0.432836	5.0
17	-0.211657	3.033164	0.570000	0.051313	-0.314218	0.185753	2.969817	0.126984	3.0
18	0.965570	1.091349	19.504999	0.357448	-0.077501	0.082503	1.721911	0.358025	5.0
19	-1.080104	1.074648	12.910000	0.056568	-0.010010	0.029999	3.565446	0.254902	3.0

# Tabular/Pixel Based Machine Learning

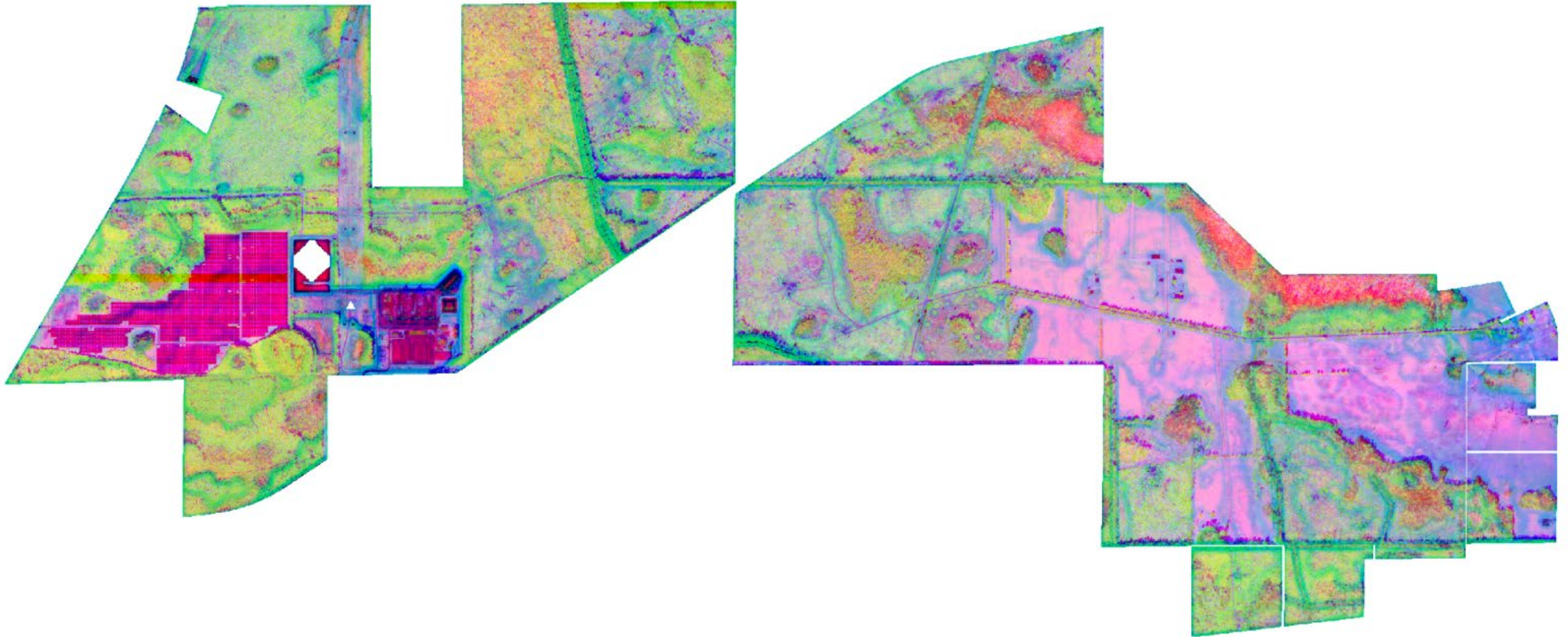




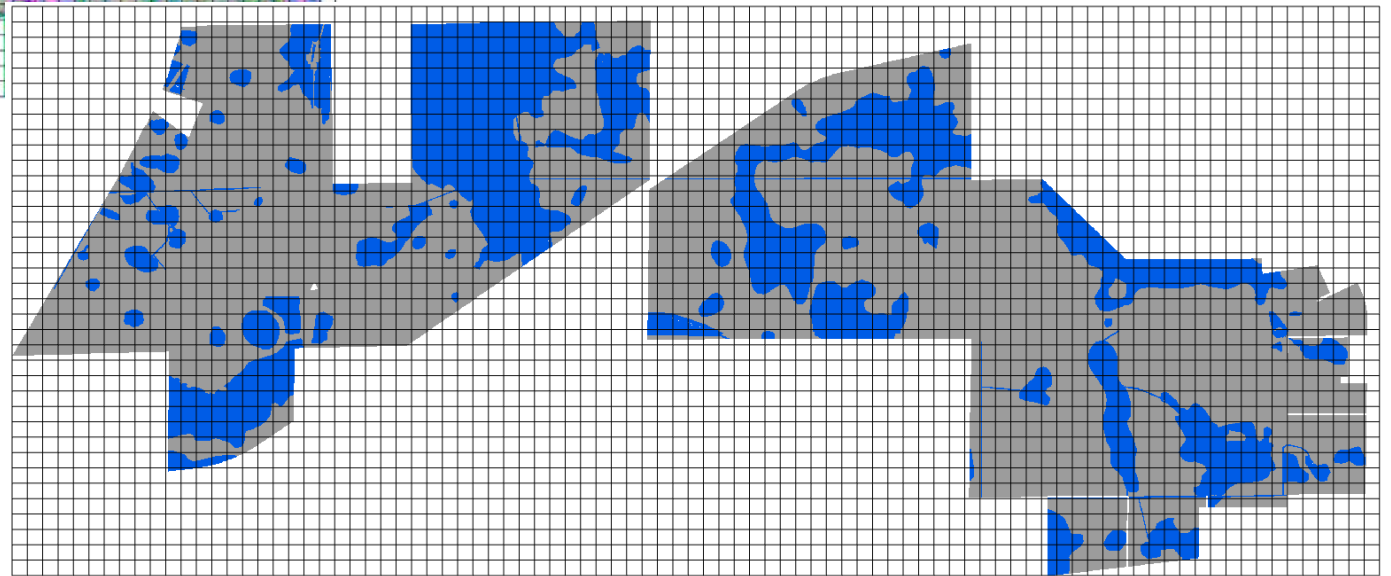
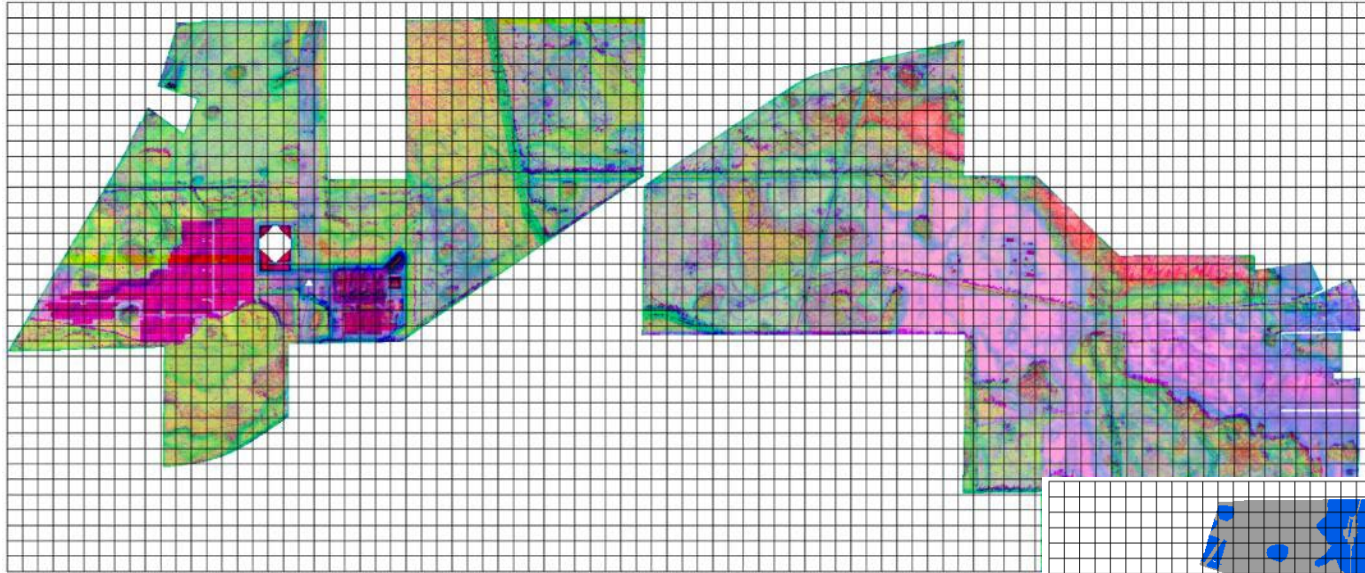
2024

JOINT ENGINEER  
TRAINING CONFERENCE  
& EXPO

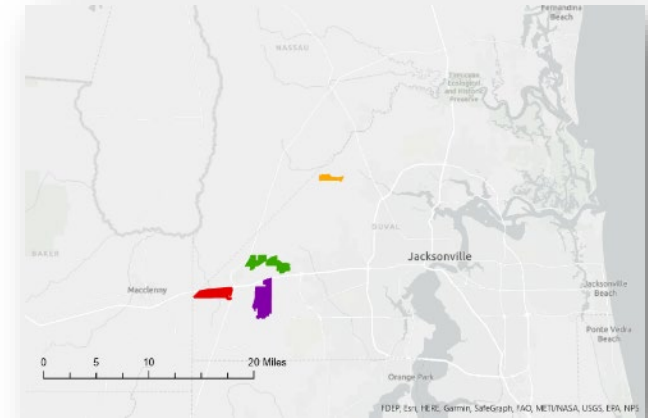
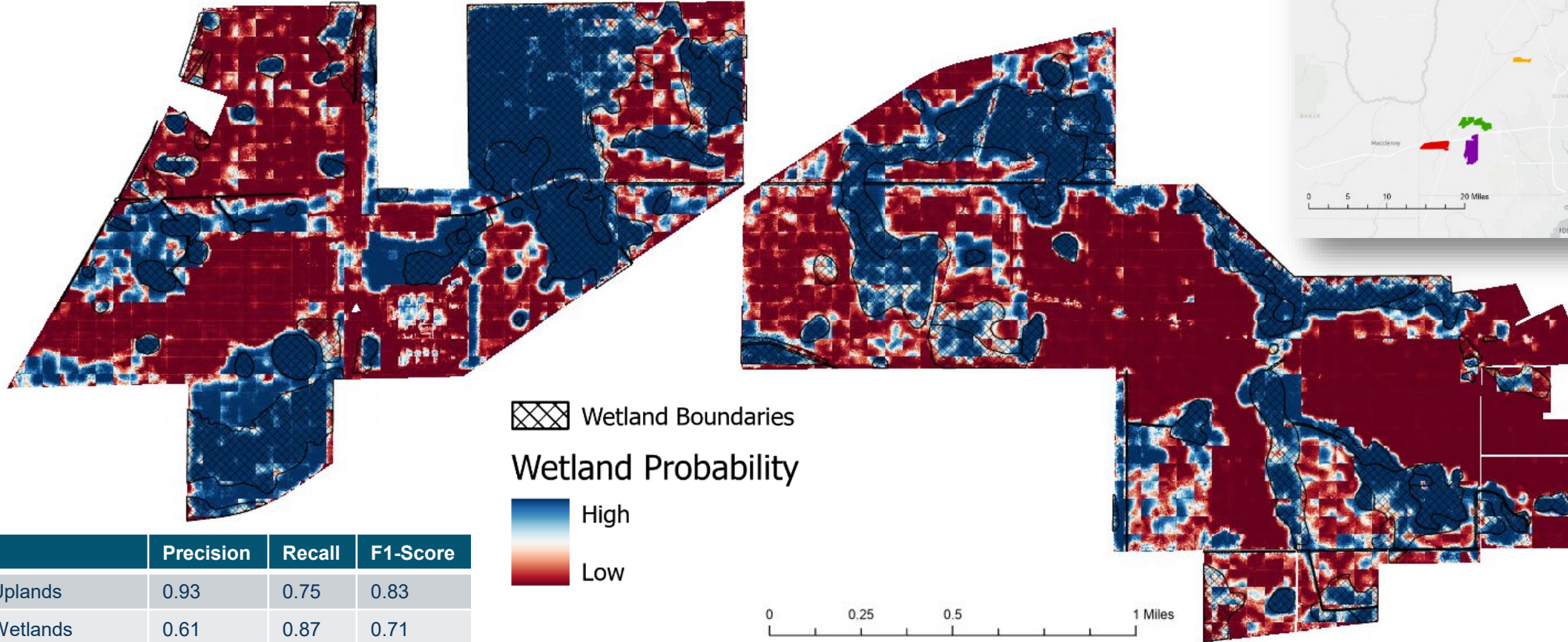
# Deep Learning



# Deep Learning

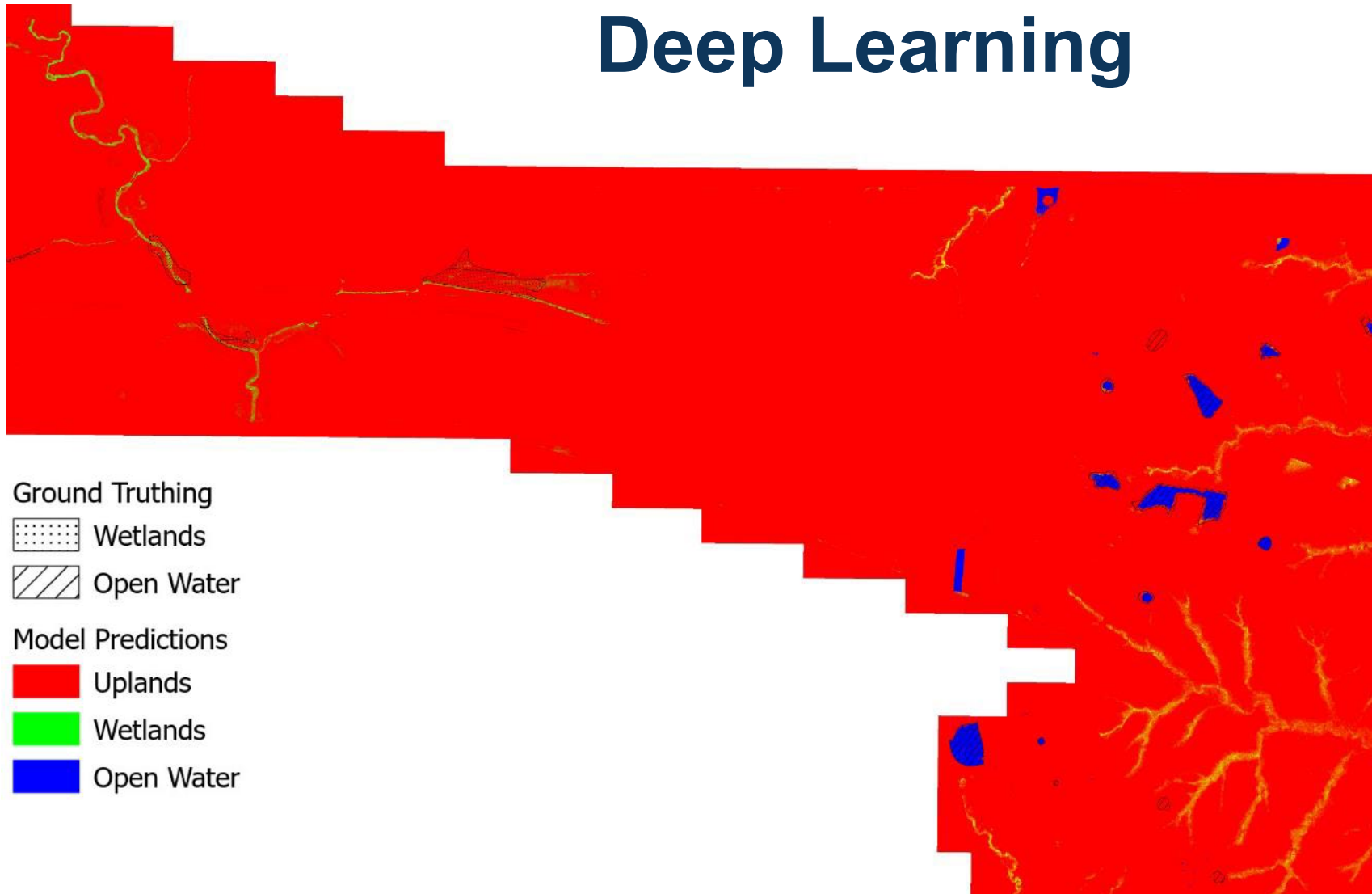


# Deep Learning

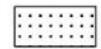


	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
Uplands	0.93	0.75	0.83
Wetlands	0.61	0.87	0.71
Accuracy			0.79
Macro Avg	0.77	0.81	0.77
Weighted Avg	0.83	0.79	0.79

# Deep Learning



## Ground Truthing



Wetlands



Open Water

## Model Predictions



Uplands



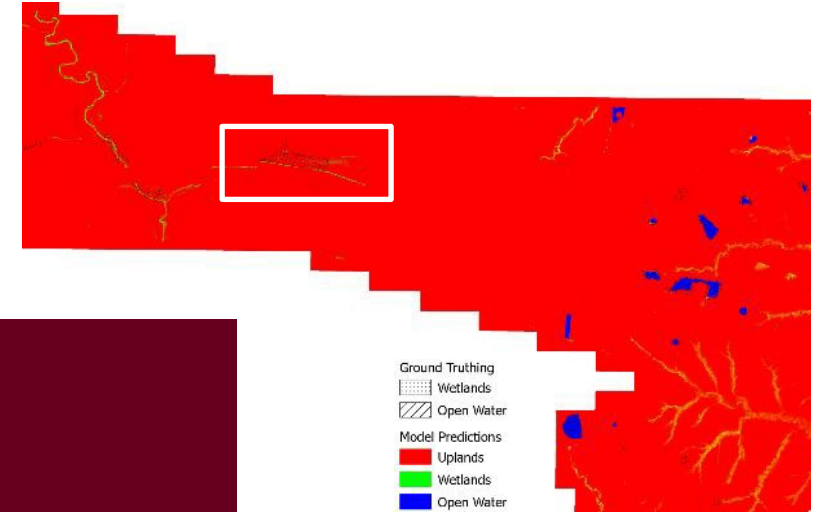
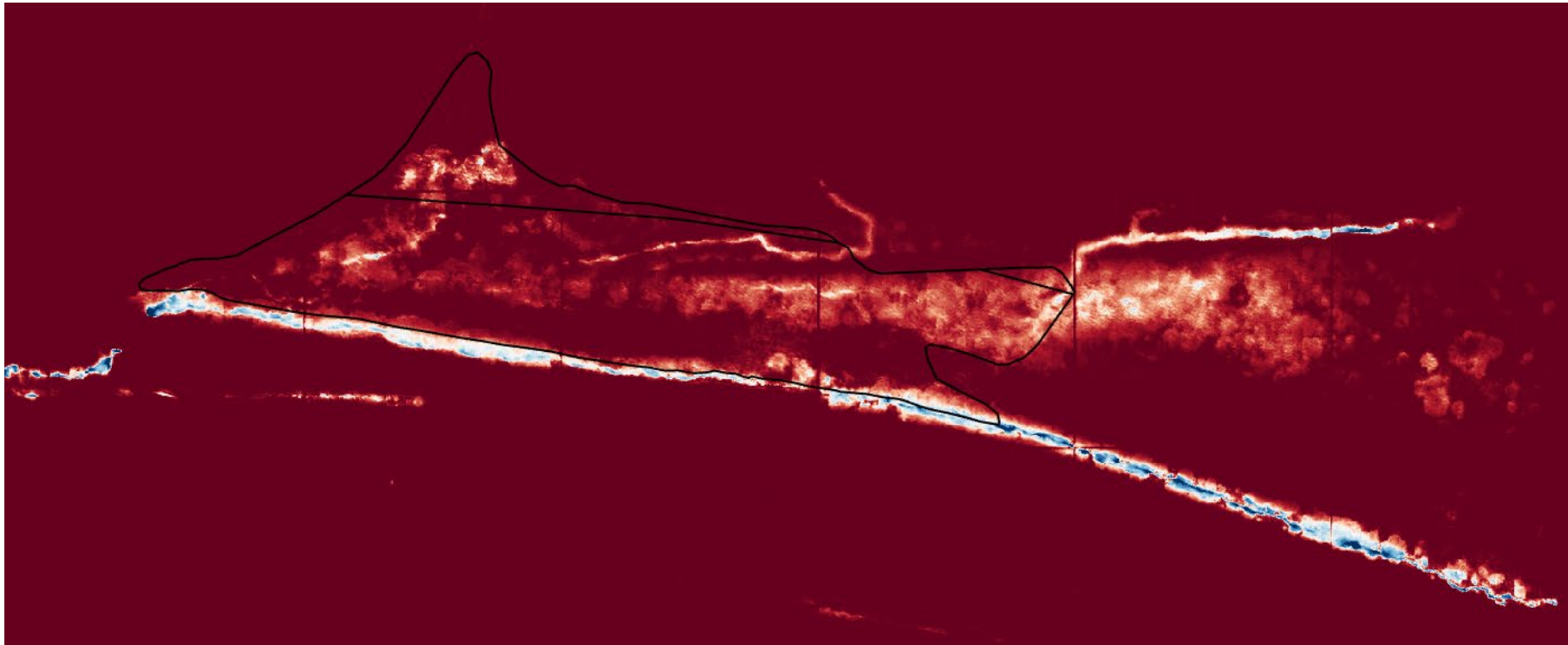
Wetlands



Open Water

# Deep Learning

Wetland Probability



# Resiliency: New urban development

How do we identify newly built structures to assess building code effectiveness?





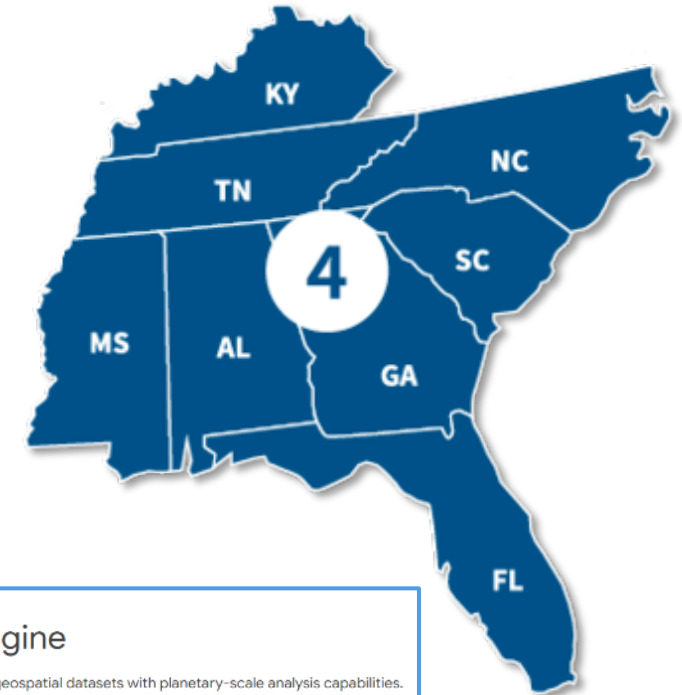
# Traditional approach for identifying new urban development

- Parcel and permit data
  - Availability limitations
  - Temporal differences
- Imagery
  - Manual comparison of historical imagery



# Identifying New Urban Development

- Southeastern U.S. - FEMA Region IV
- Publicly available data
  - Sentinel
- Quick computation
  - Google Earth Engine
- Leveraging existing LULC model
  - Dynamic World



**Meet Earth Engine**

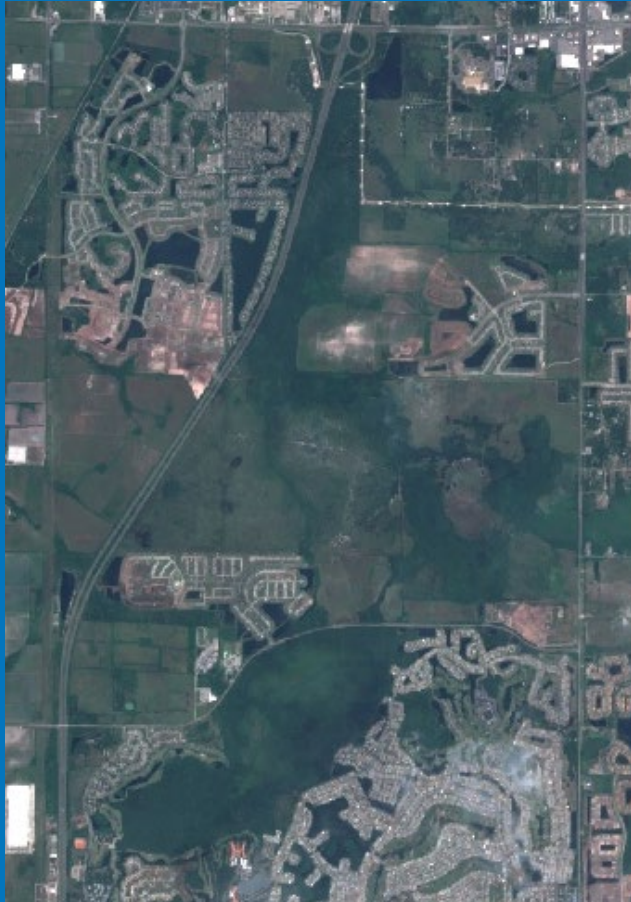
Google Earth Engine combines a multi-petabyte catalog of satellite imagery and geospatial datasets with planetary-scale analysis capabilities. Scientists, researchers, and developers use Earth Engine to detect changes, map trends, and quantify differences on the Earth's surface. Earth Engine is now available for commercial use, and remains free for academic and research use.

Satellite Imagery + Your Algorithms + Real World Applications

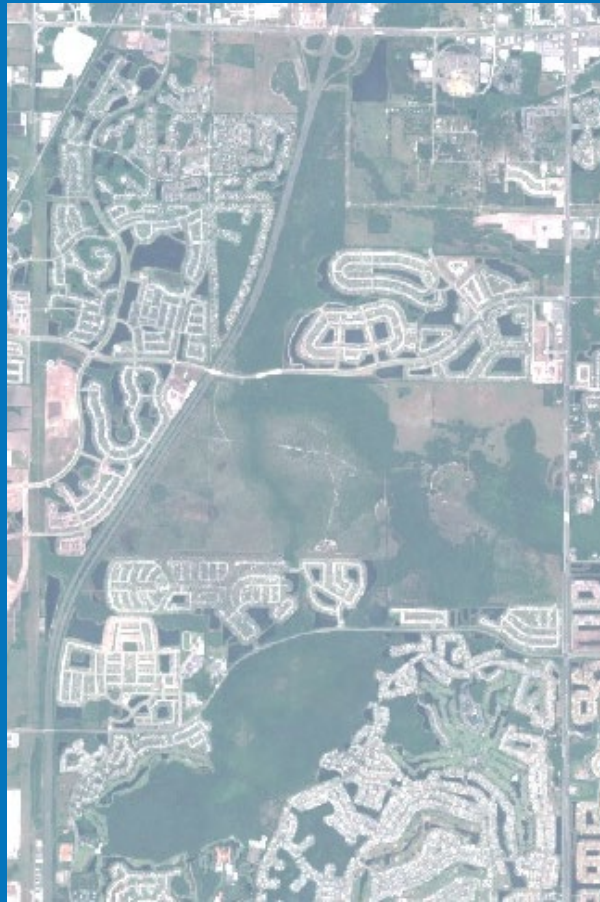
[Learn More](#)

# Identifying New Urban Development

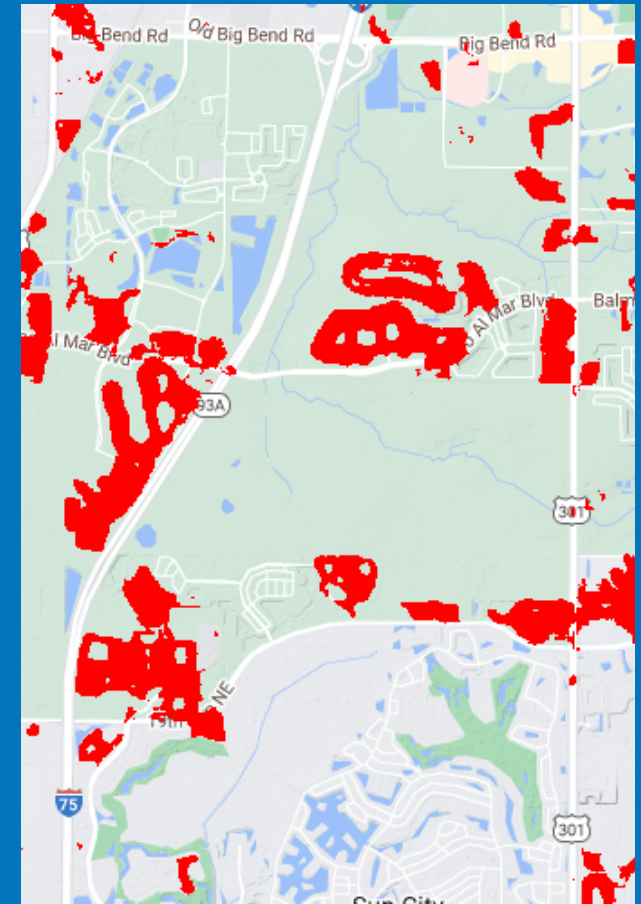
2017



2022



Results



# Identifying New Urban Development

The screenshot displays the Google Earth Engine web interface. At the top, there is a search bar and the user's profile 'ee-geospatial'. Below the search bar is a navigation menu with 'Scripts', 'Docs', and 'Assets'. The 'Scripts' panel on the left shows a tree view of folders and scripts, with 'ChangeDetec\_DW \*' selected. The main script editor shows the following code:

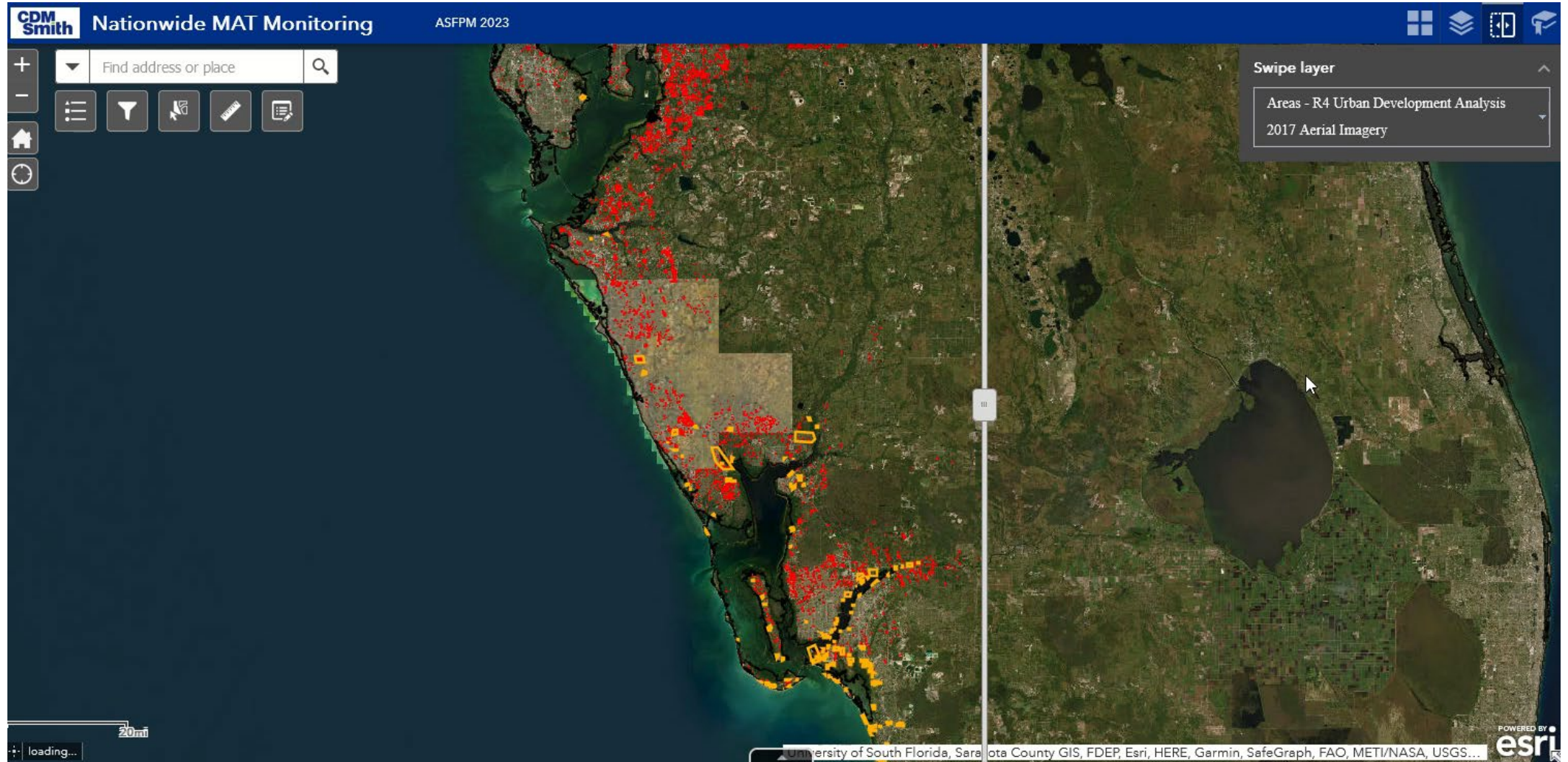
```
51  
52 // Add the sentinel-2 satellite images as composites if ya want  
53 var s2 = ee.ImageCollection('COPERNICUS/S2')  
54   .filterBounds(aoi)  
55   .filter(ee.Filter.lt('CLOUDY_PIXEL_PERCENTAGE', 35));  
56  
57 // Create a median composite from sentinel-2 images  
58 var beforeS2 = s2.filterDate(beforeStart, beforeEnd).median();  
59 var afterS2 = s2.filterDate(afterStart, afterEnd).median();  
60  
61 var s2VisParams = {bands: ['B4', 'B3', 'B2'], min: 0, max: 3000};  
62 Map.addLayer(beforeS2.clip(aoi), s2VisParams, 'Before Date');  
63 Map.addLayer(afterS2.clip(aoi), s2VisParams, 'After Date');  
64  
65 // Only keep pixels where class equals 1  
66 var newUrbanChange = newUrban.updateMask(  

```

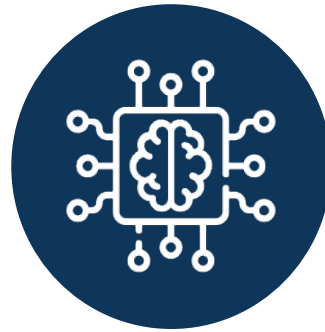
The right side of the interface features an 'Inspector' and 'Console' panel. The console contains the text: 'Use print(...) to write to console.' Below the script editor is a map of Raleigh, North Carolina, showing various neighborhoods and roads. The map includes a search bar, a zoom control, and a scale bar at the bottom right.



# Integration to Collector App



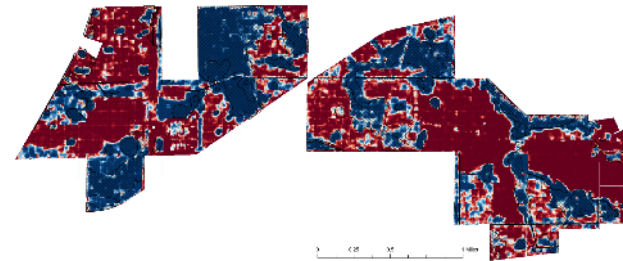
# Advanced remote sensing and machine learning can benefit environmental projects.



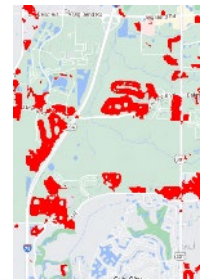
**Invasive and Native Species Mapping**



**Restoration Monitoring**



**Wetland Mapping/  
Permitting**



**Urban  
Development**

# There are multiple advantages of using these technologies.

Save time/shorten schedule  
Reduce field labor  
Increase human safety

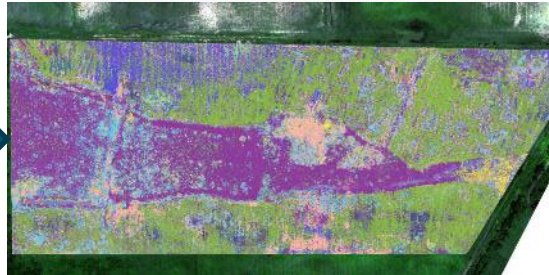


# There are multiple advantages of using these technologies.

Save time/shorten schedule  
Reduce field labor  
Increase human safety



Higher quality data  
Digital record  
Data consistency  
Data repeatability  
Track change over time  
100% site coverage



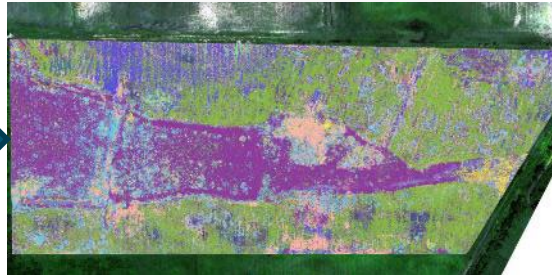


# There are multiple advantages of using these technologies.

Save time/shorten schedule  
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Higher quality data  
Digital record  
Data consistency  
Data repeatability  
Track change over time  
100% site coverage



# These technologies can improve the efficiency, scale, and accuracy of environmental evaluations conducted on federal lands:

- Threatened and endangered species habitat
- Native plant communities
- Biodiversity
- Biomass/carbon sequestration
- Invasive and exotic species
- Wildland fire activities
- Resilience
- Track affects of climate change



# Land managers have an important role to play in leveraging these technologies at their sites.



Target of Interest



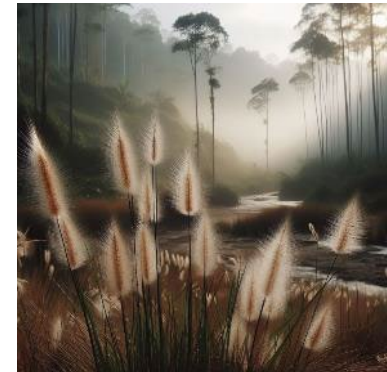
Temporal Resolution



Spatial Resolution

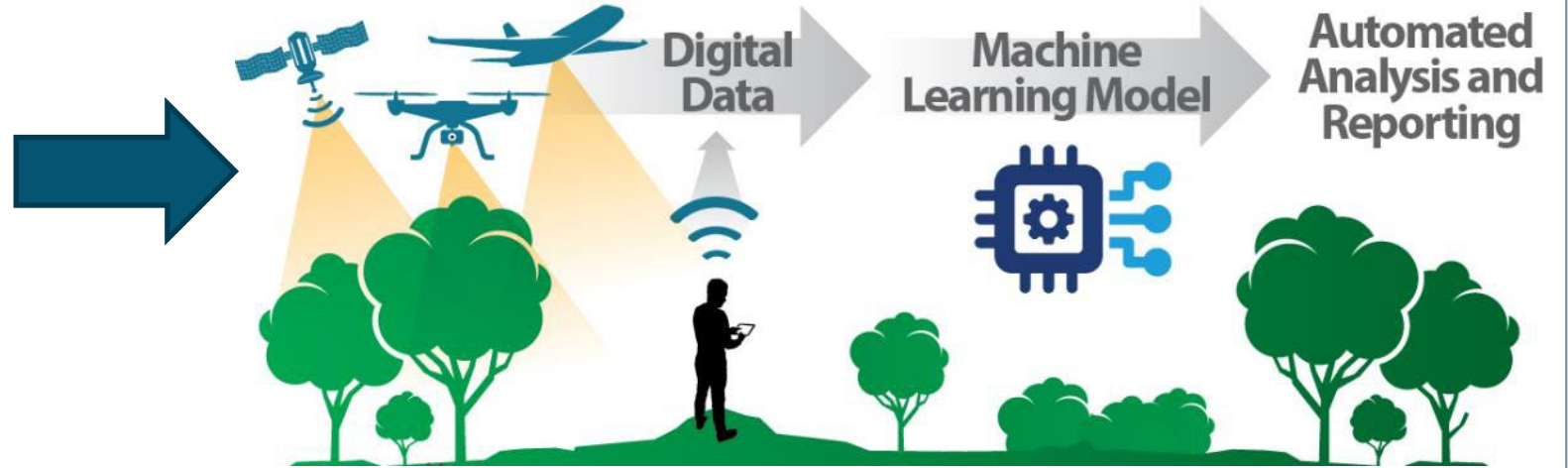


Field Data



Abundance/Frequency

# Better understanding the goals and objectives facilitates selection of the right resolution, sensors, and models.



# The right questions can help determine the scale, sensors, models, and outputs to optimize data collection and analysis.

- What do I want to identify or know about my land?
- Why do I want to know this (regulatory, restoration, risk mitigation)?
- How frequently do I need to assess change or the target of interest?
- What is the size of the problem?
- How common is the target of interest on the landscape?
- How big of an area of interest is there?
- How might I use this information?
- What field data do I already have or collect regularly?
- What baseline data do I have?
- Are there site constraints or access issues?

# Sky Wave combines machine learning and advance remote sensing to drive data to decisions.

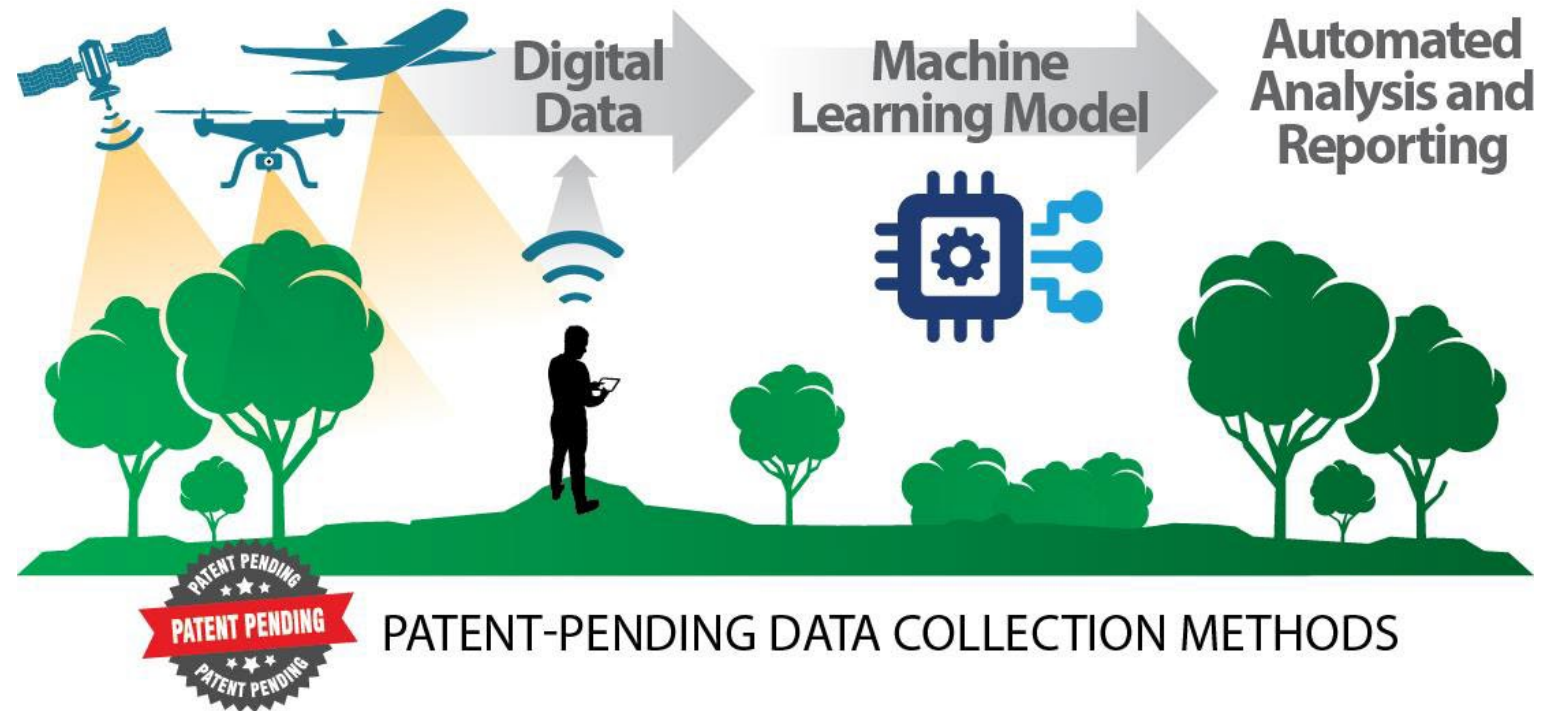
 sky wave™

Contact us:

[skywave@cdmsmith.com](mailto:skywave@cdmsmith.com)

Find out more:

[cdmsmith.com/skywave](http://cdmsmith.com/skywave)



# THANK YOU

Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey about this session. Your feedback will help us improve future programming for JETC.

 **conferences** i/o



or browse to  
[jetc.cnf.io](https://jetc.cnf.io)