Trends in California Gnatcatcher Occupancy: Preliminary Results of 2020 Rangewide Surveys

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This information is preliminary and is subject to revision. It is being provided to meet the need for timely best science. The information is provided on the condition that neither the U.S. Geological Survey nor the U.S. Government shall be held liable for any damages resulting from the authorized or unauthorized use of the information.

Devin Taylor

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

Funding

San Diego Association of Governments (Sandag)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Natural Communities Coalition

Partners & Cooperators

4-S Ranch HOA
Angeles National Forest
Audubon California Starr Ranch
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Caltrans
Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM)
City of Anaheim
City of Carlsbad
City of Chino Hills
City of Chula Vista
City of Escondido
City of Irvine
City of Laguna Niguel
City of Oceanside
City of Poway
City of San Diego - Parks Department
City of San Diego - Public Utilities
City of Thousand Oaks
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City of Whittier
Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency
County of Los Angeles
County of Orange
County of San Diego
Endangered Habitats Conservancy
Fallbrook Land Conservancy
Fallbrook Public Utility
FED
Fond Land Preservation Foundation
Helix Water District
HG Fenton Environmental Lands LLC
Irvine Ranch Water District
Lakeview at Highlands Ranch HOA
Manzanita Partners LLC
Matt Witman
Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority
Native Habitat Preservation Authority
Nature Reserves of Orange County (NCC)
Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Orange County Transportation Authority
Otay Ranch POM
Otay Water District
Palos Verdes NCCP
Ramona Municipal Water District
Rancho Mission Viejo
Rancho Santa Fe Lakes HOA
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency
Riverside County Parks
San Dieguito River Park
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Sweetwater Authority
The Environmental Trust
The Nature Conservancy
UC San Diego
US Bureau of Land Management
US Department of Defense
US National Park Service
US Forest Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Geological Survey
Vallecitos Water District
WashPlan HCP Property
Western Riverside Co. Regional Conservation Authority
Western Riverside Co. Multi-Species Reserve

Alex Houston

Study Components

Post-fire Study

- Evaluate recovery of CAGN and CSS habitat as a function of time since fire (2003, 2007, 2014)
- Relate CAGN occurrence to vegetation structure and composition

Regional and Sub-Regional Monitoring

- Document patterns and trends in occupancy rangewide and in sub-regions (Orange County and San Diego County)
- Relate CAGN occurrence to vegetation structure and composition

Methods

Number of Points:

Fire Study (San Diego County)

	Fire Category				
	2003-2006	**2007**-2010	2011-**2014**	<2002 "unburned"	Total
2015	106	111	107		324
2016	107	111	106	103	427

Regional Occupancy Monitoring

	County						
	SD	OC	RV	LA	SB	VN	Total
2016	177	77	38	17	8	21	338

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180 179 Sub-regional Occupancy Monitoring

USGS

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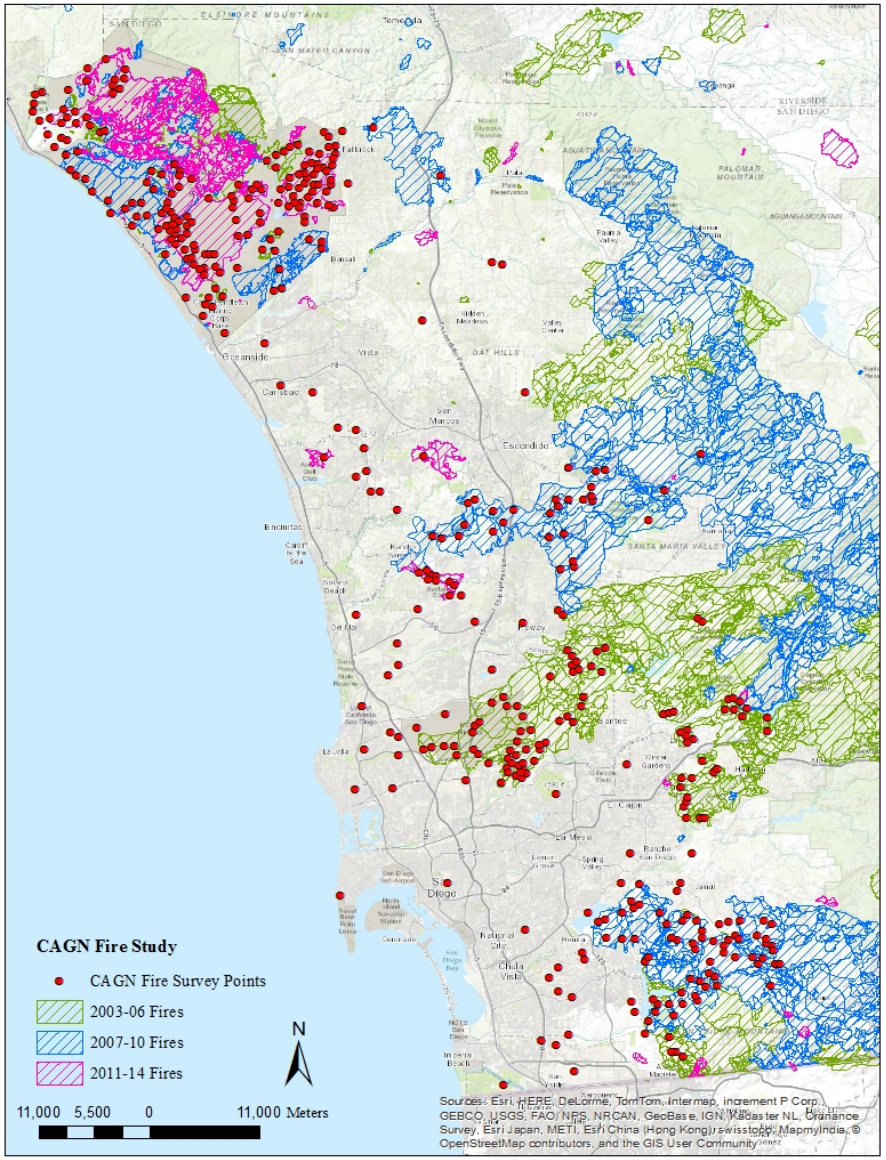
Not for Citation

Post-fire Points



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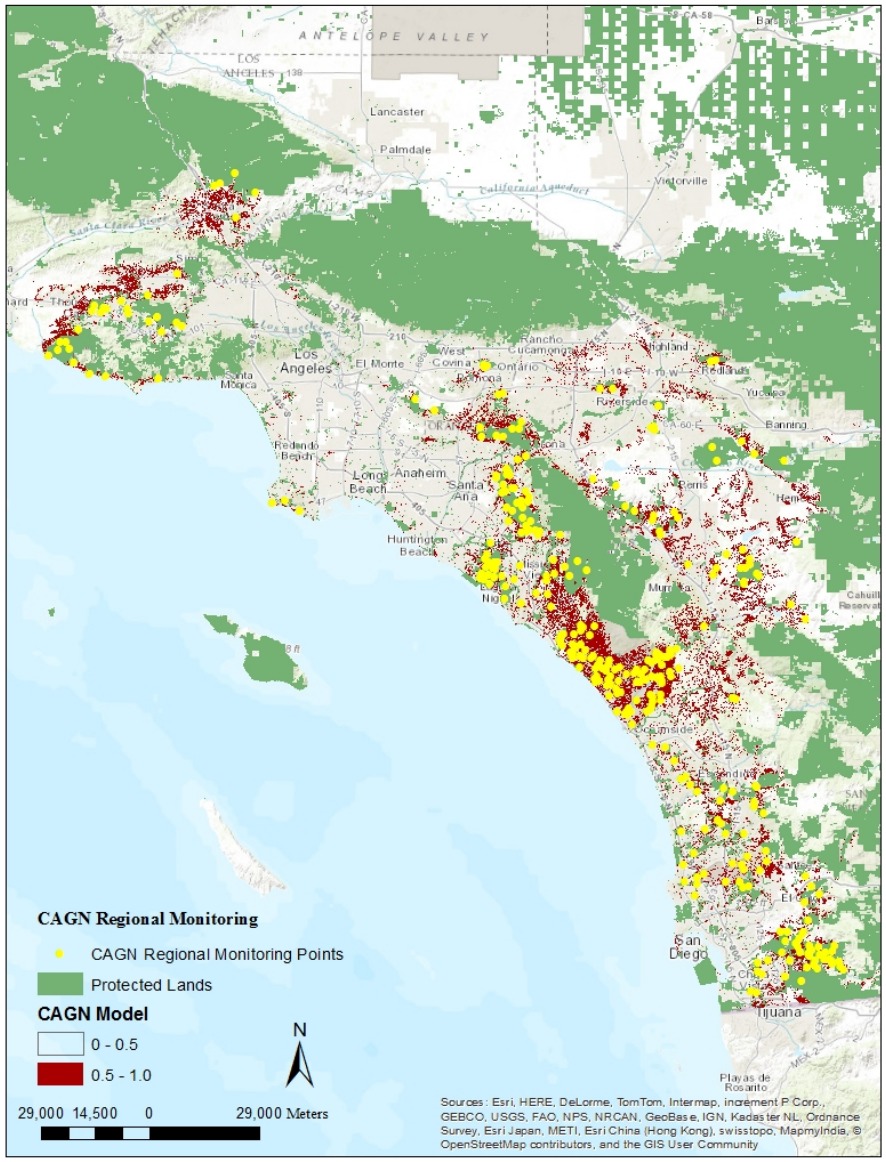
Regional Points



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Bird Survey Protocol

Timing and number of visits:

- 3 visits to each point
- Survey periods:
  - 15 – 31 March
  - 1-15 April
  - 16-30 April

Survey method:

- Area searches
- Broadcast CAGN song
- Survey length up to 45 minutes

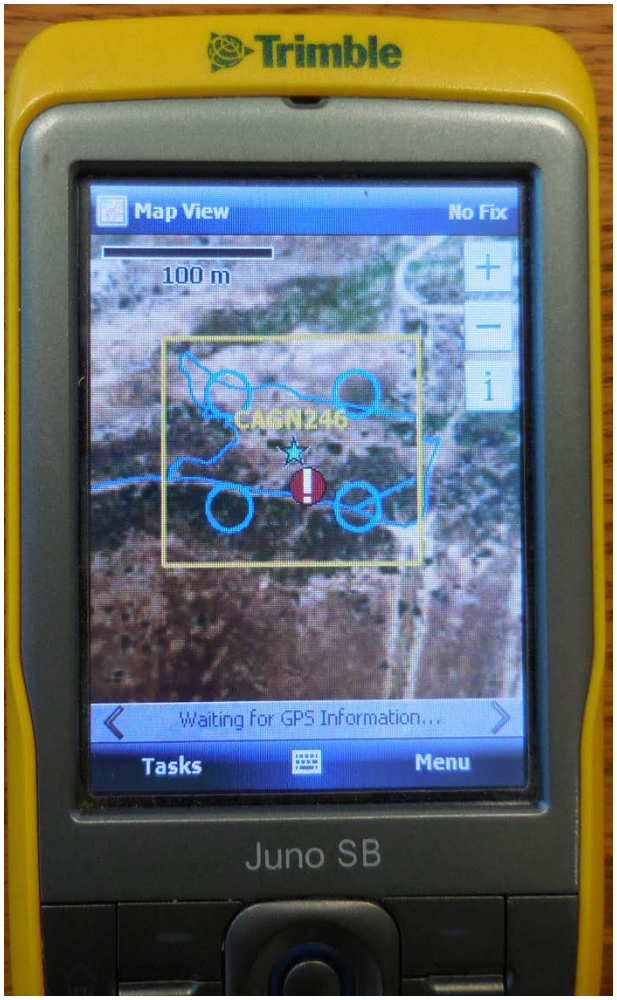
Vegetation Sampling Protocol

Timing:

- One visit per plot
- 1 May – 15 June

Sampling:

- Veg sampled in each of 4 circular plots
- Point-intercept method
- Hits at 2-m intervals along 2 30-m transects
- 32 points/circle x 4 =
- 128 points/plot



March 19, 2020

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Governor Gavin Newsom Issues Stay at Home Order

Published: Mar 19, 2020

SACRAMENTO – Today, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a stay at home order to protect the health and well-being of all Californians and to establish consistency across the state in order to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Click here to read a copy of the Governor's executive order. The text of the order can also be found here.

Click here to learn more about the order.

Click here to see the Governor's address to Californians this evening.

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Recent News

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- Today: Governor Newsom to Deliver Virtual Remarks at Inaugural Truth and Healing Council Meeting, California Economic Summit
- Governor Newsom Statement on Death of San Francisco Sheriff's Deputy 12.3.20

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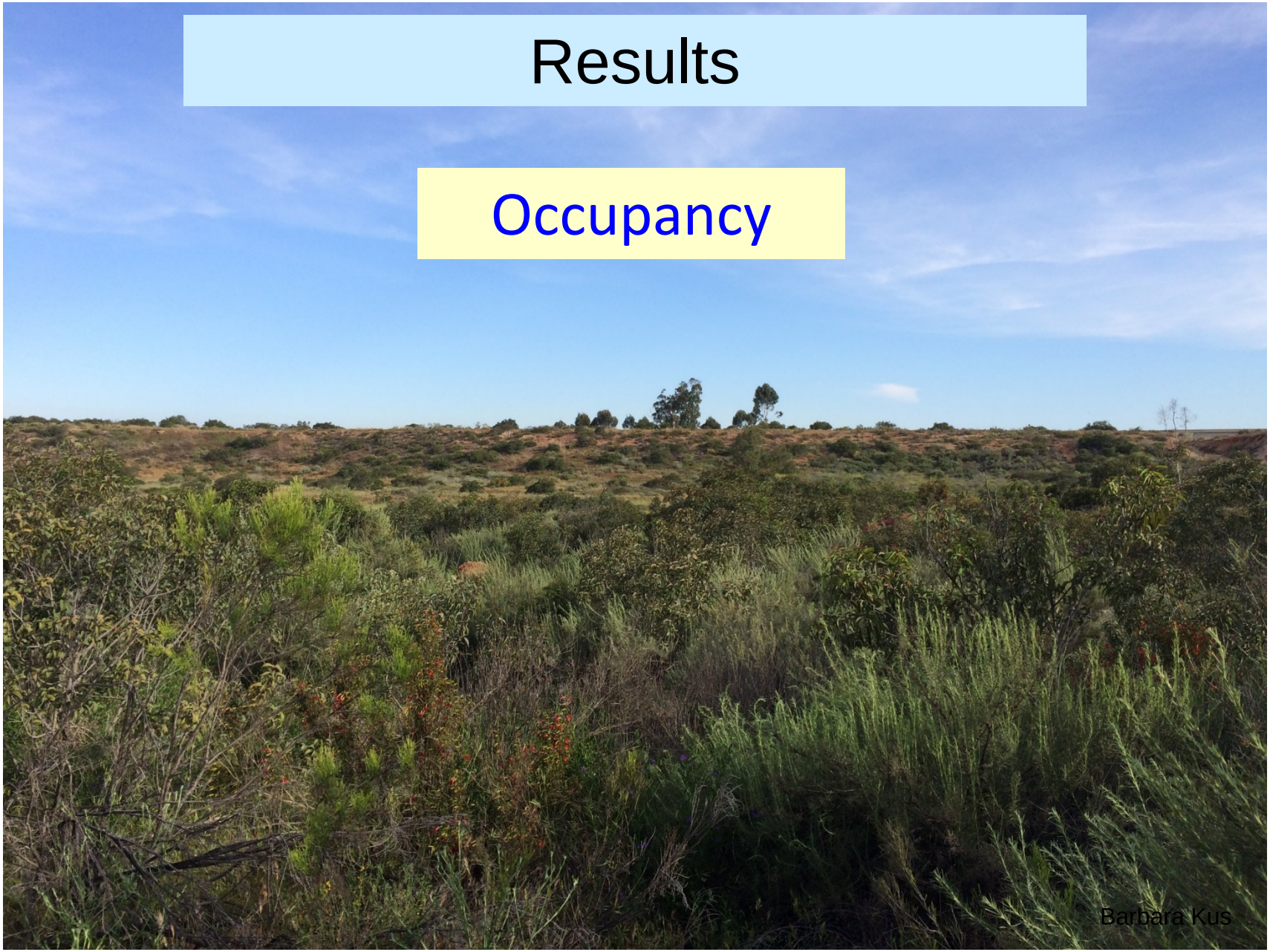
Results

Occupancy



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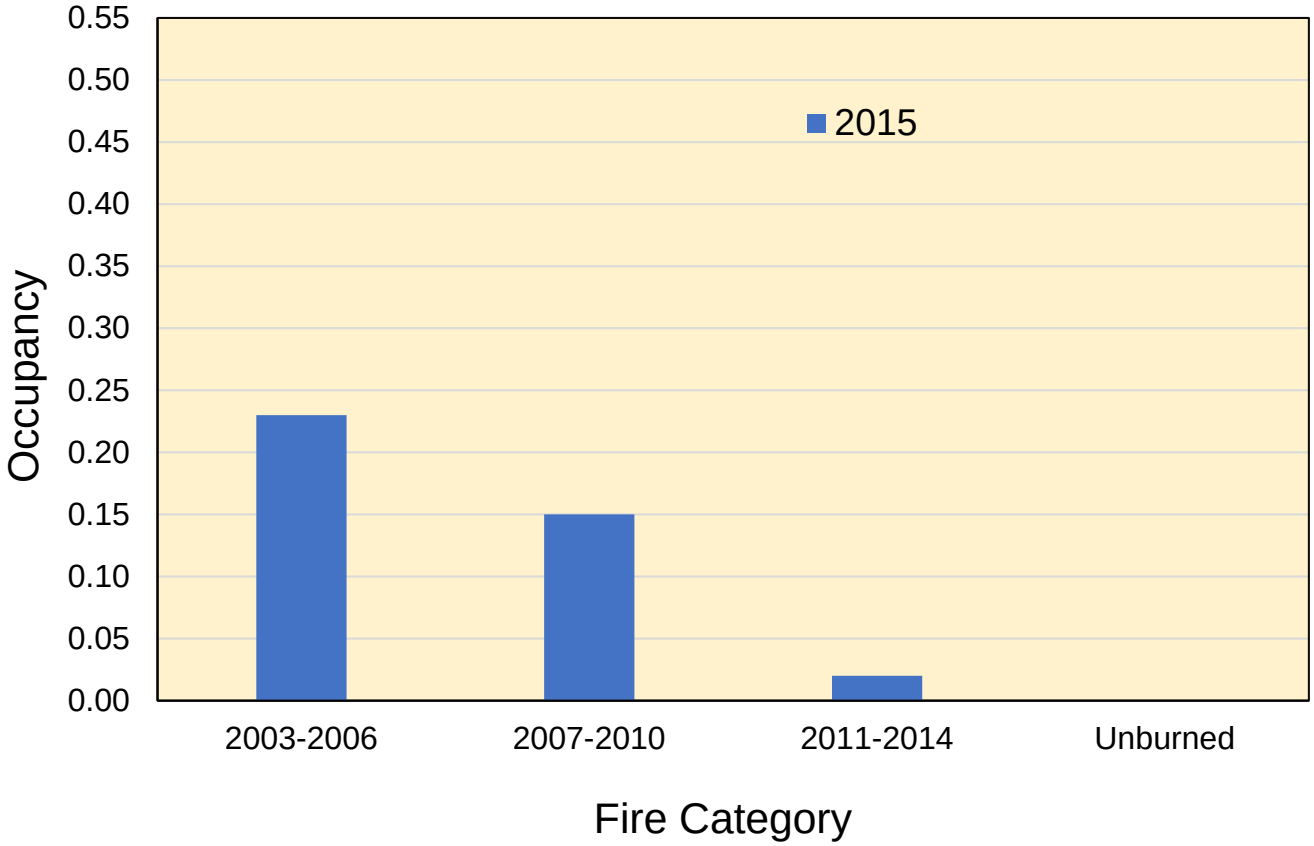
Post-fire Occupancy 2015



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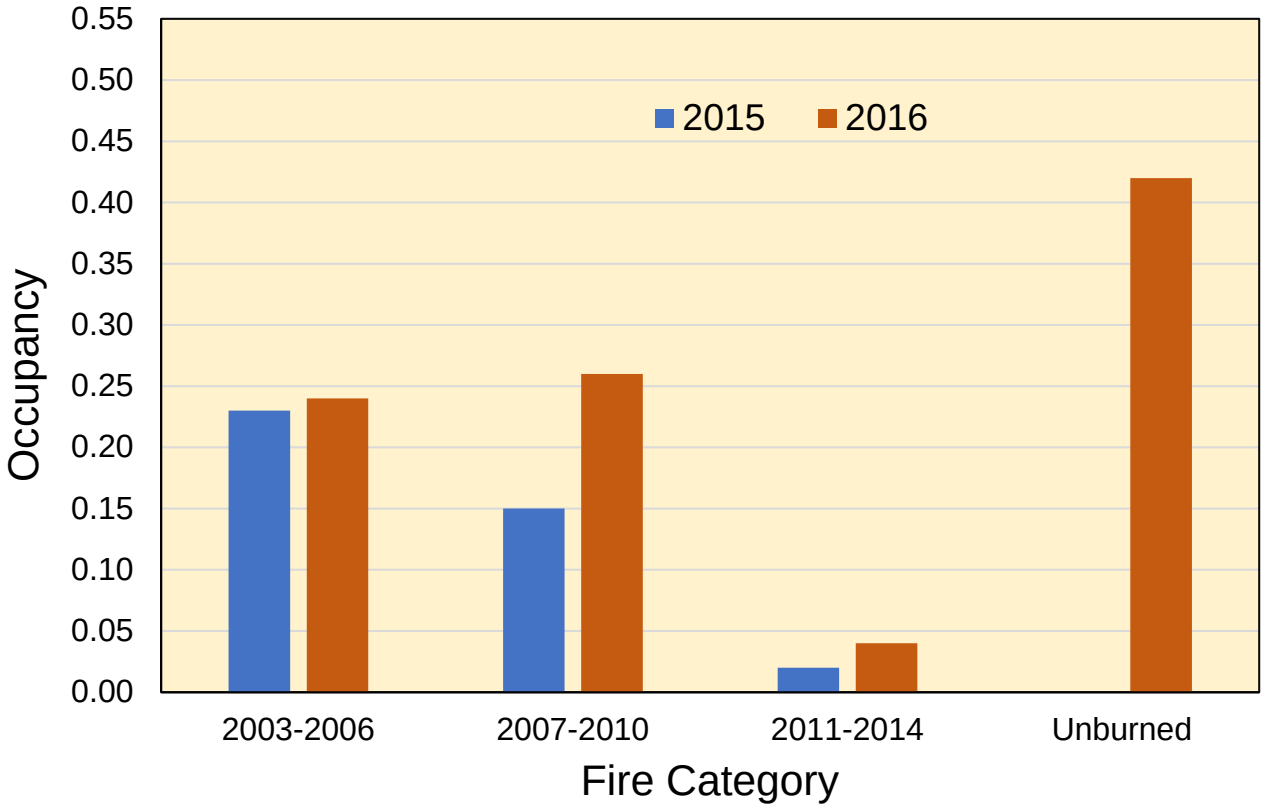
Post-fire Occupancy 2015-2016



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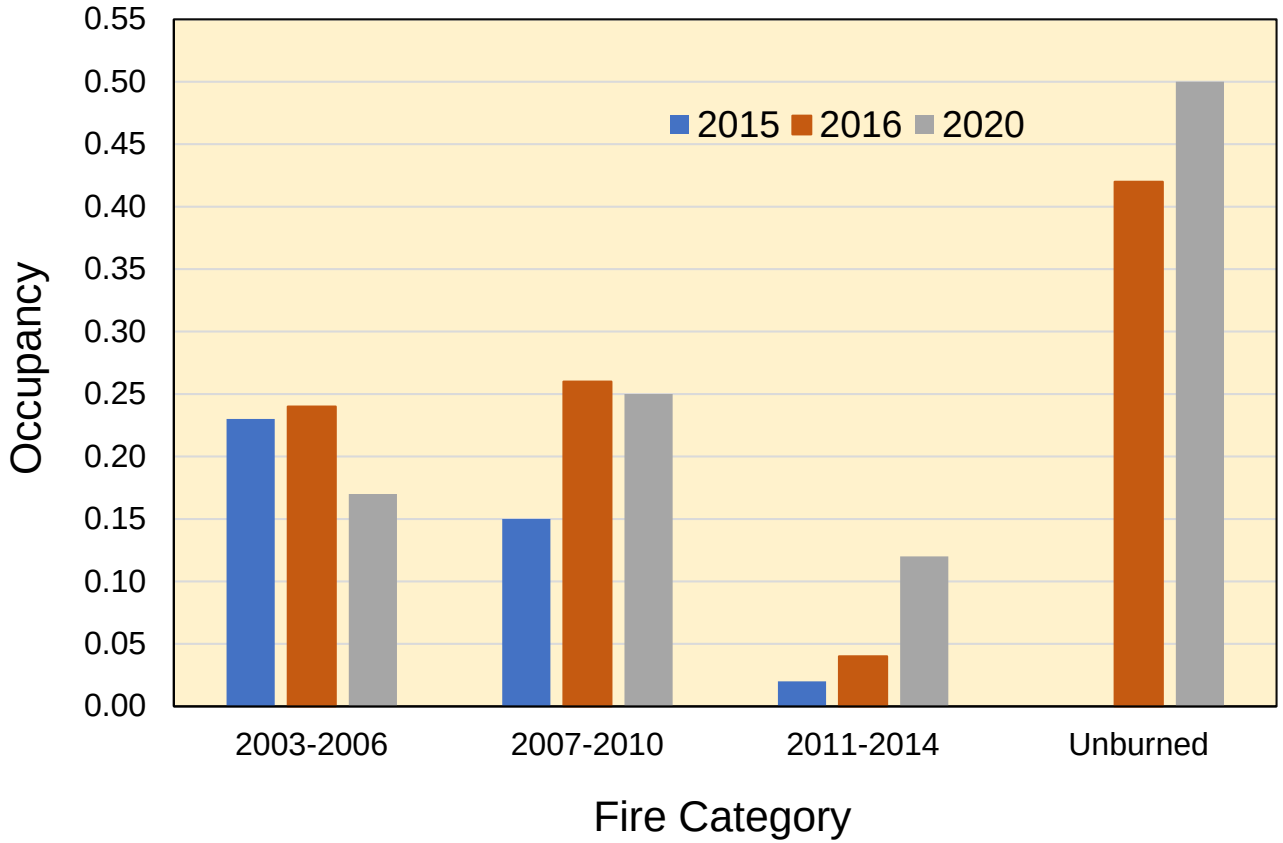
Post-fire Occupancy 2015-2020



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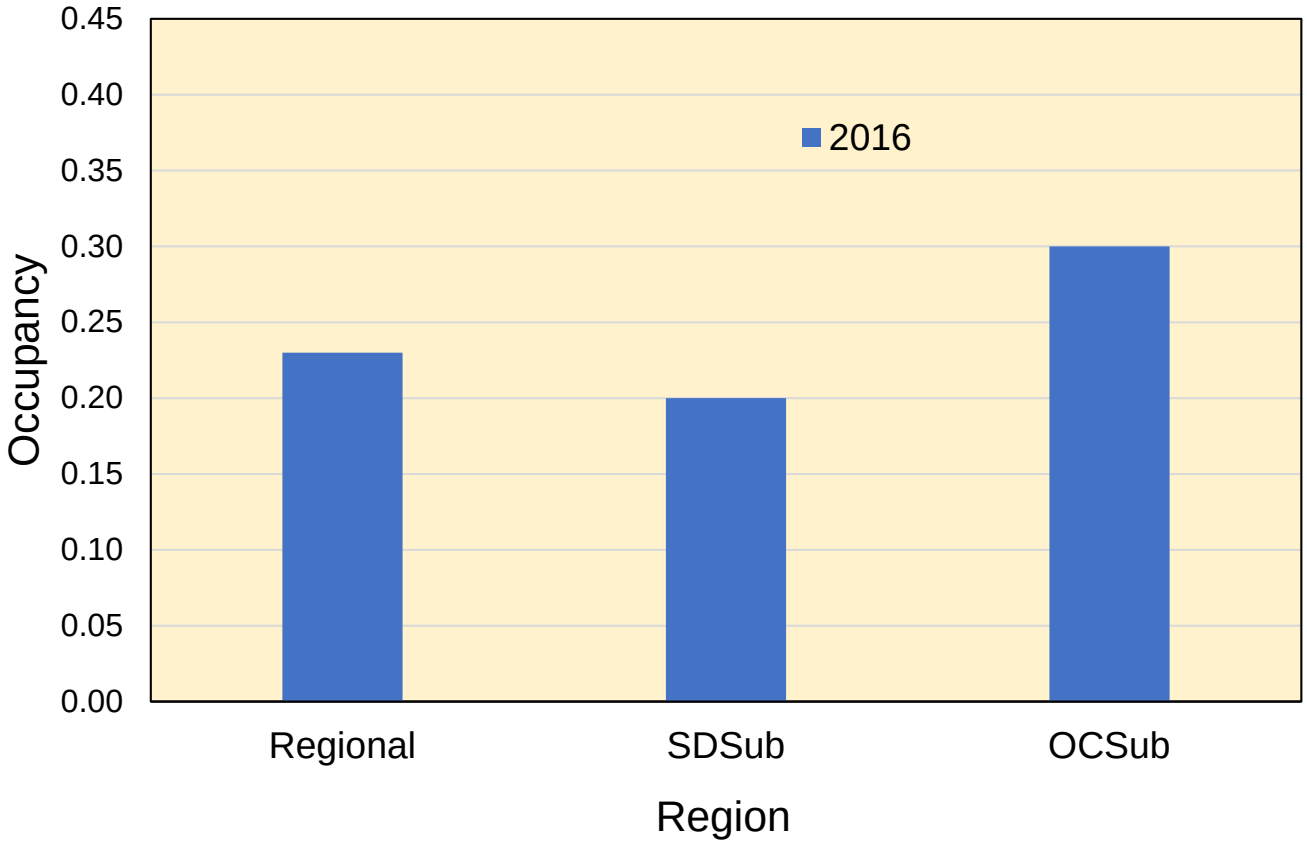
Overall Occupancy 2016



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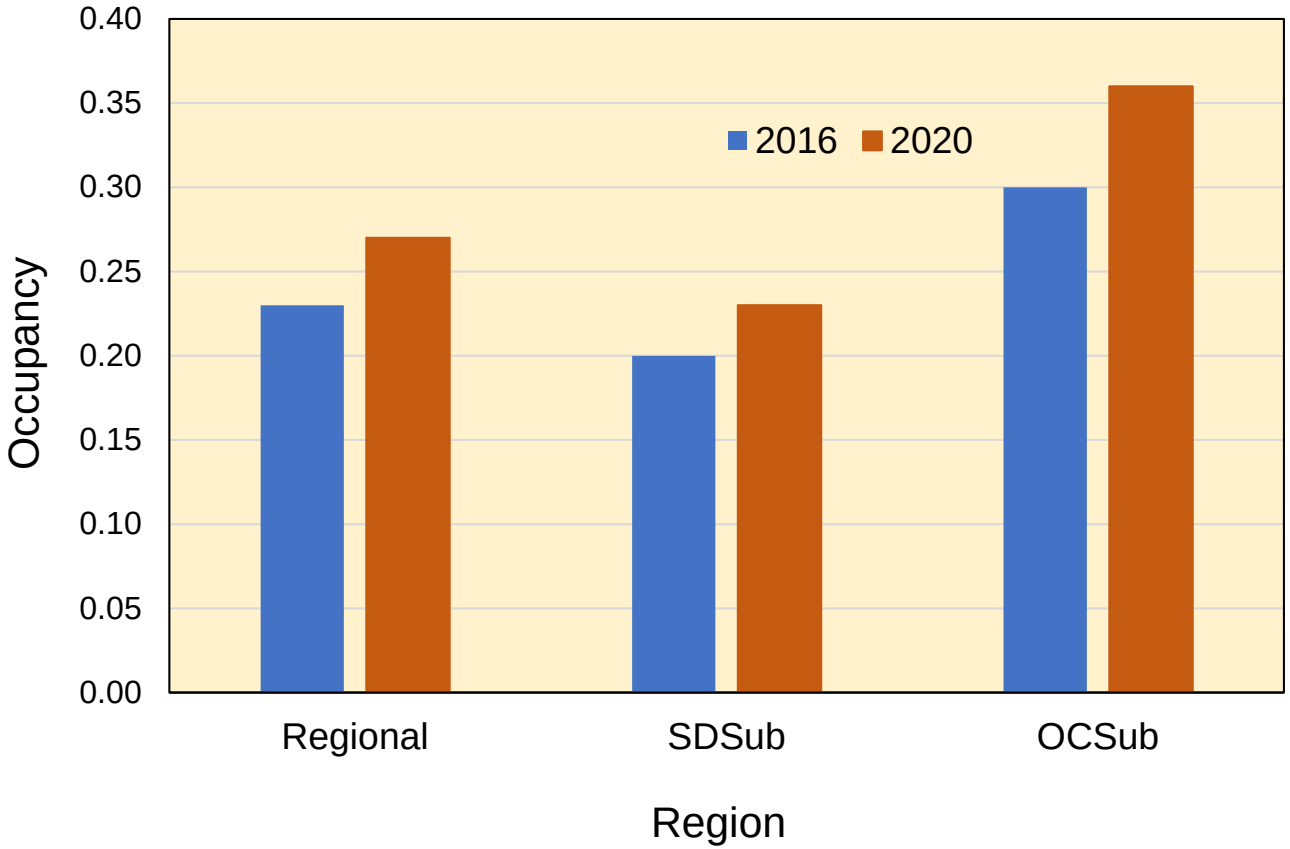
Overall Occupancy 2016-2020



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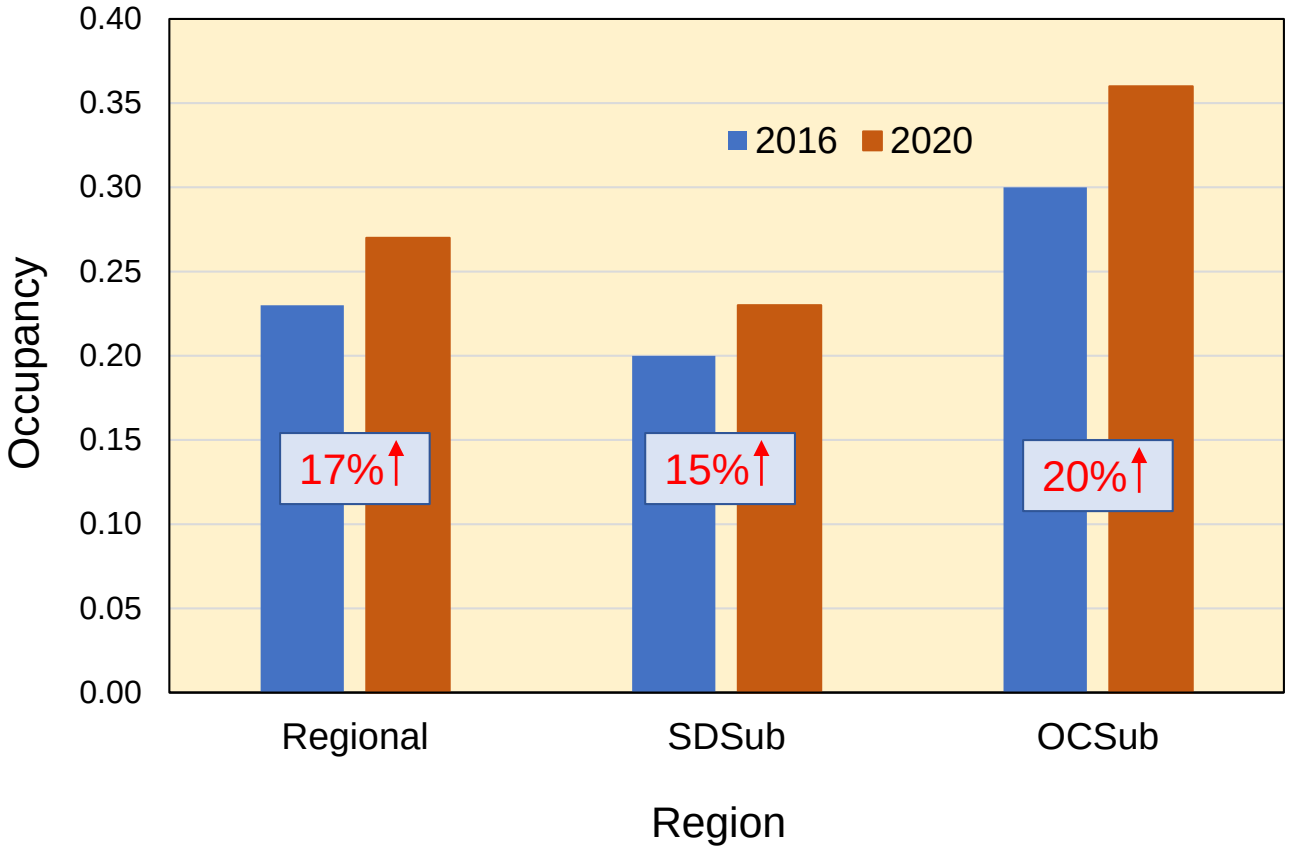

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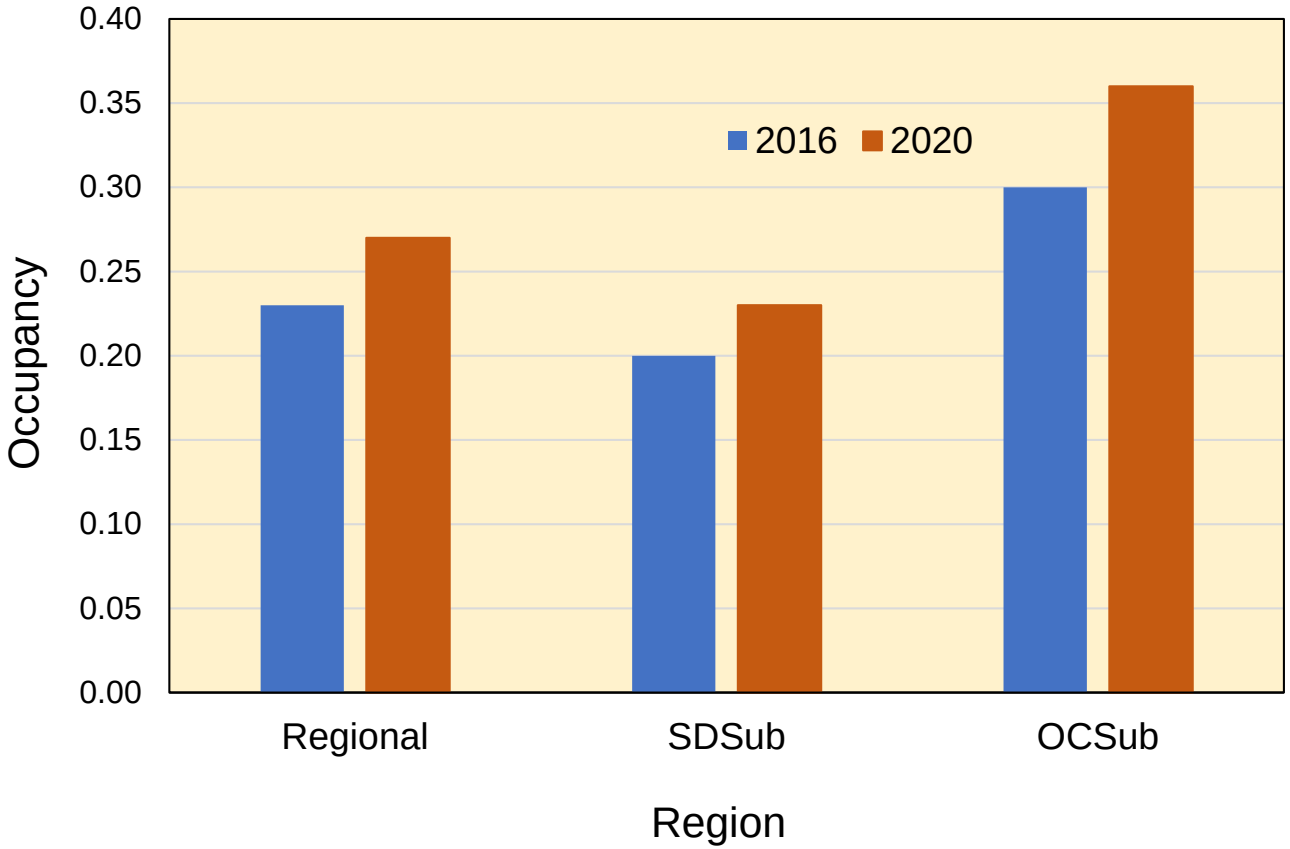

What factors influence occupancy?

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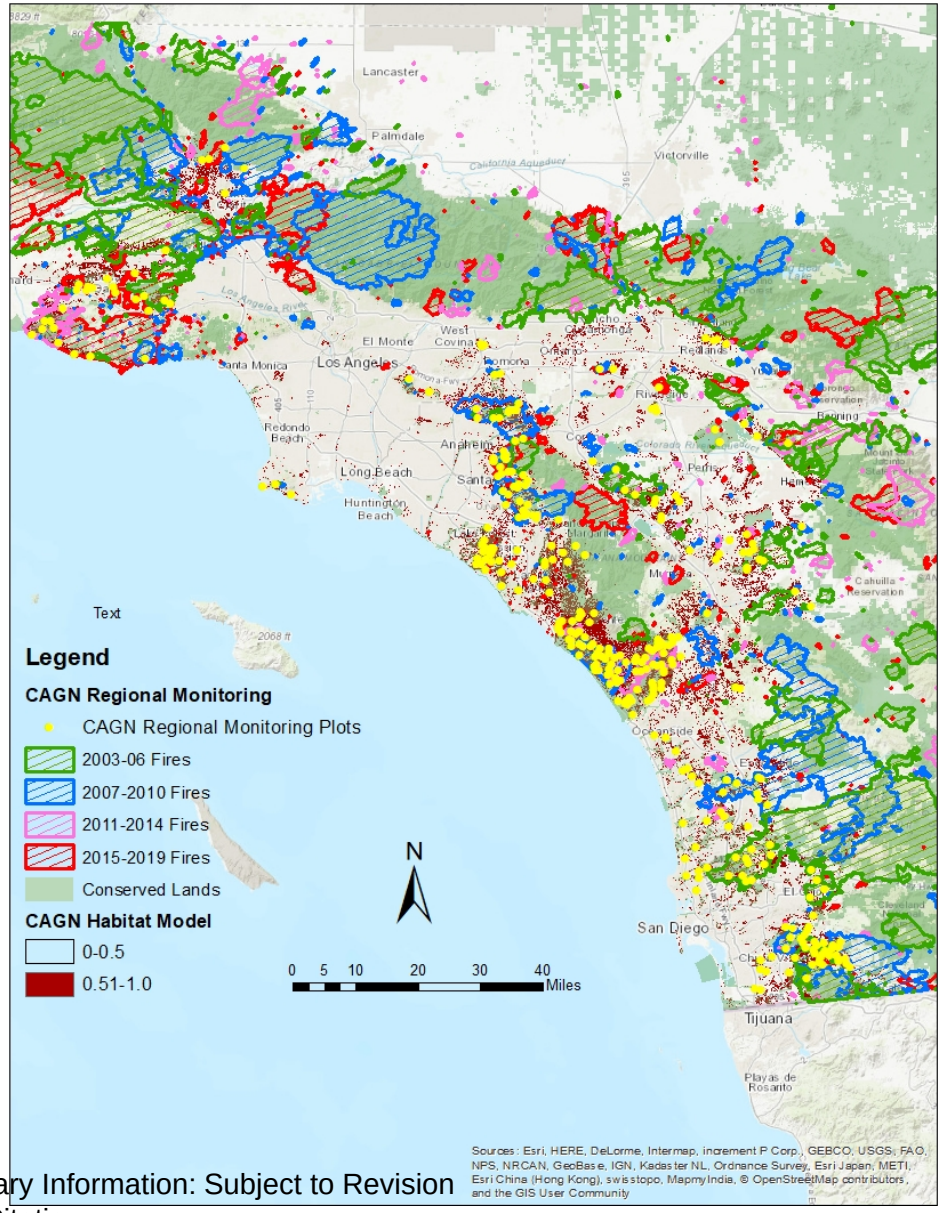
Recent Fires



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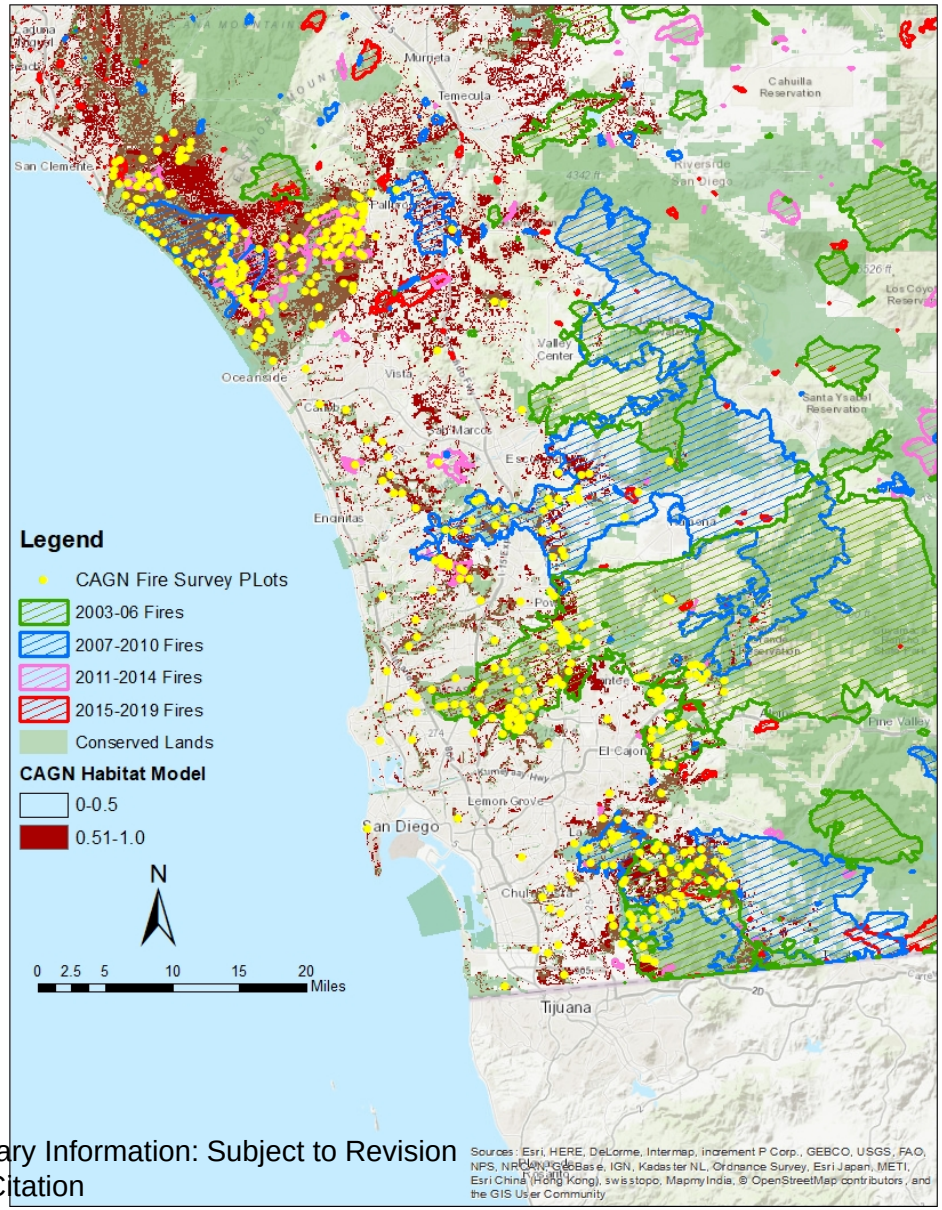

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Thank-you!