

# USING HABITAT SUITABILITY MODELS IN WISCONSIN: AN ENGAGED, ITERATIVE, AND COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

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UW-EXTENSION




**WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**UW**  
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University of Wisconsin-Extension

Article | [OPEN](#)

# Global threats from invasive alien species in the twenty-first century and national response capacities

Regan Early , Bethany A. Bradley, Jeffrey S. Dukes, Joshua J. Lawler, Julian D. Olden, Dana M. Blumenthal, Patrick Gonzalez, Edwin D. Grosholz, Ines Ibañez, Luke P. Miller, Cascade J. B. Sorte & Andrew J. Tatem

*Nature Communications* 7,  
Article number: 12485 (2016)  
doi:10.1038/ncomms12485  
[Download Citation](#)

[Climate-change ecology](#)

[Ecosystem ecology](#) [Invasive species](#)

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## Abstract

Invasive alien species (IAS) threaten human livelihoods and biodiversity globally. Increasing globalization facilitates IAS arrival, and environmental changes, including climate change, facilitate IAS establishment. Here we provide the first global, spatial analysis of the terrestrial threat from IAS in light of twenty-first century globalization and environmental change, and evaluate national capacities to prevent and manage species invasions. We find that one-sixth of the global land

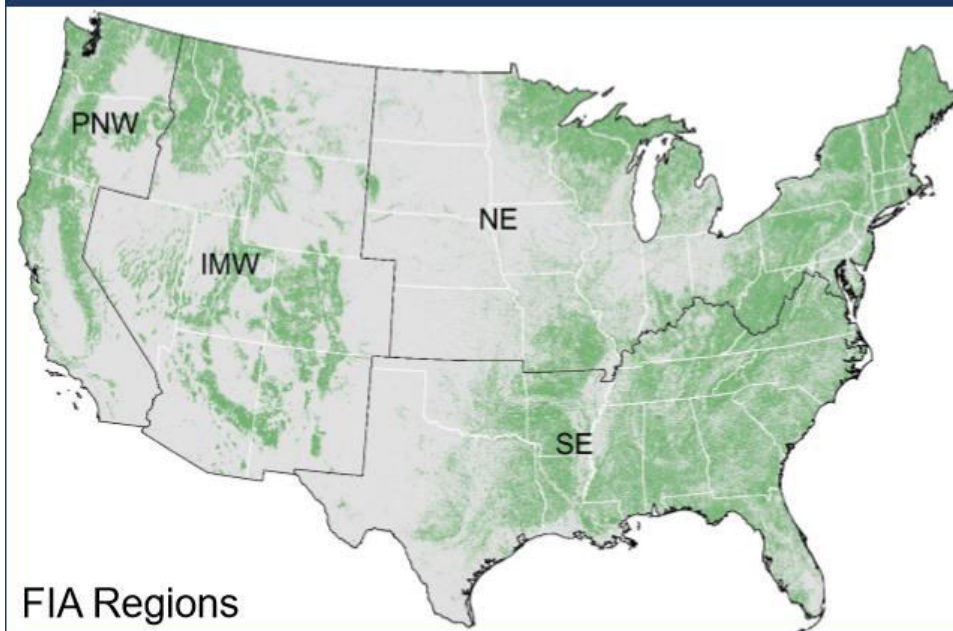
NeoBiota 24: 49–54 (2015)  
doi: 10.3897/neobiota.24.8378  
<http://neobiota.pensoft.net>

RESEARCH ARTICLE

NeoBiota  
A peer-reviewed open access journal  
Advancing research on alien species and biological invasions



## A subcontinental view of forest plant invasions

Christopher M. Oswalt<sup>1</sup>, Songlin Fei<sup>2</sup>, Qinfeng Guo<sup>3</sup>, Basil V. Iannone III<sup>2</sup>,  
Sonja N. Oswalt<sup>1</sup>, Bryan C. Pijanowski<sup>2</sup>, Kevin M. Potter<sup>4</sup>





# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Introduce habitat suitability models and their development
  - Demonstrate how land managers can use models to detect species for survey efforts
  - Exhibit benefits of modeling individual species to elucidate drivers of suitable habitat
- 
- 

# THE INVASION CURVE

Asset Based Protection  
& Long-term Management

AREA INFESTED →

CONTROL COSTS →

Containment

Eradication

Prevention

EDRR is important

Species  
absent

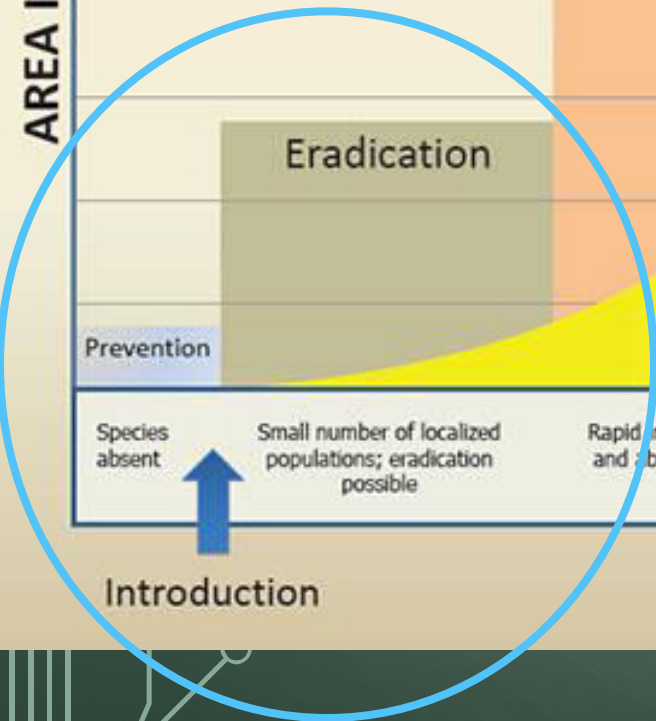
Small number of localized  
populations; eradication  
possible

Rapid increase in distribution  
and abundance; eradication  
unlikely

Invasive species widespread and abundant; Long-term  
management aimed at population suppression and  
asset protection

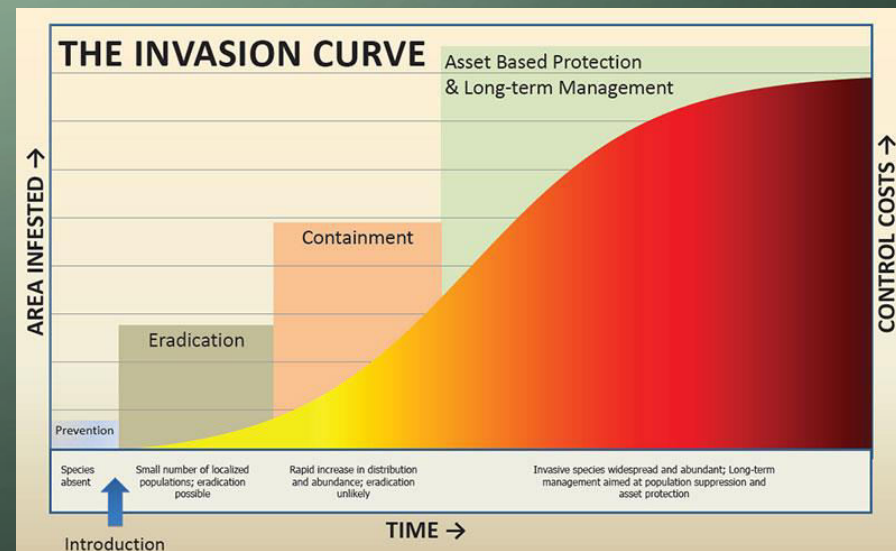
TIME →

Introduction



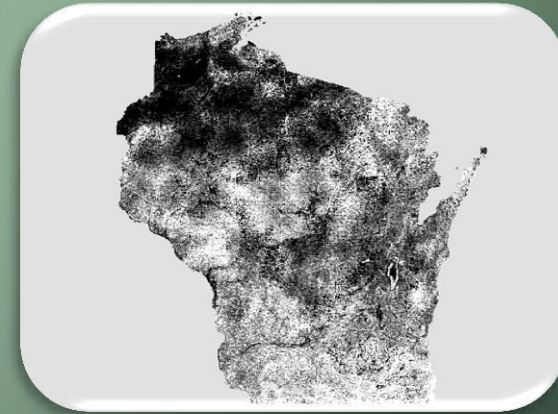
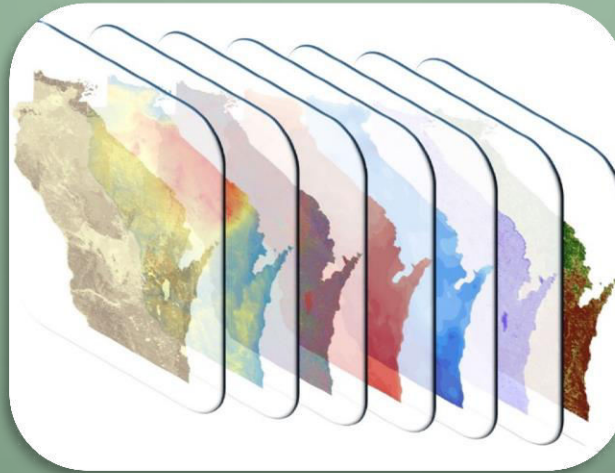
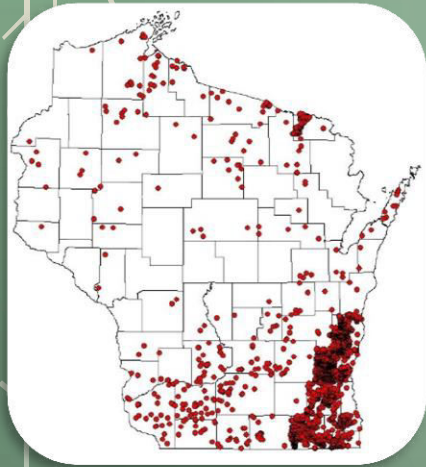
# EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE

- Identify species before they become well established
- In Wisconsin ~130 regulated invasive plants
  - May not always be possible to eradicate on large-scale
  - EDRR can assist with local efforts
- Can model suitable habitats across large landscapes



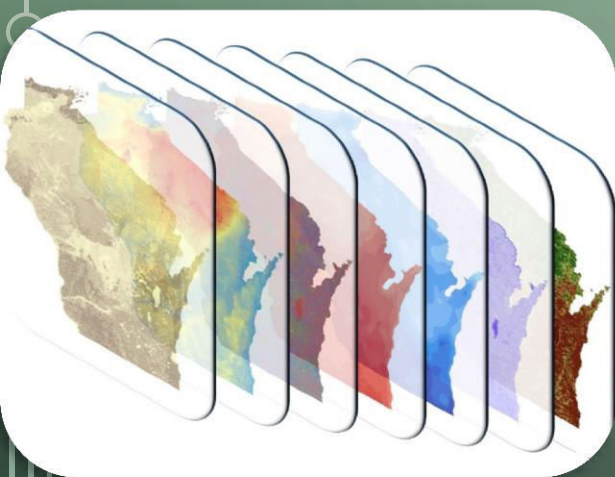
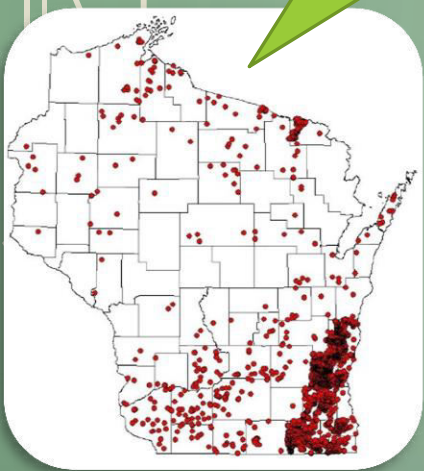


# HABITAT SUITABILITY MODELING



Species occurrence records  
Extensive database

- Precipitation
- Temperature
- Soils attributes
- Distance to dispersal corridors
- Topographic attributes
- Vegetation indices
- **Generally accepted predictors from literature**



**BRT**



**GLM**



**MARS**



**MAXENT**





**RF**







# PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 1) Create initial habitat suitability models for 21 invasives in WI
    - Develop initial priority species lists
    - Collect data by utilizing extensive network of citizen scientists
  - 2) Improve habitat suitability models using new data
    - Improve priority species lists
  - 3) Evaluate effects of climate change on habitat suitability
    - Determine vulnerable regions of WI
- 
- 





# PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 1) Create initial habitat suitability models for 21 invasives in WI
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  - 3) Evaluate effects of climate change on habitat suitability
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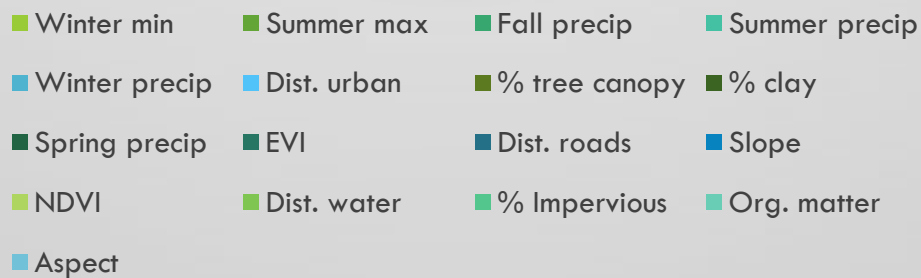
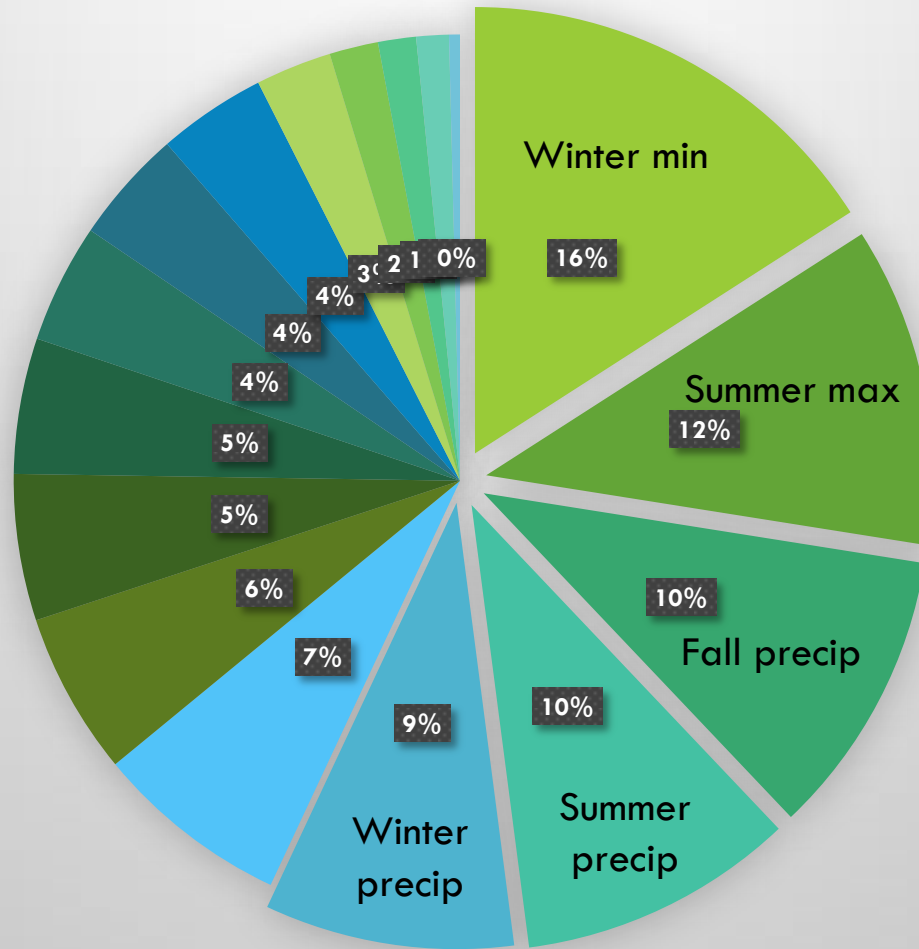
The background is a dark green gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural network connections. These elements consist of straight lines of varying lengths and small circles at the ends, creating a technical or digital aesthetic.

# RESULTS: TRENDS IN PREDICTORS

# SUMMARIZING MODELS – APPROACH

- Took top 5 predictors from each model for each species
  - Total possible 25 predictors
  - Some models eliminate predictors; could have fewer than 25 total
- Determined percentage of predictors within this top 5 cutoff
  - All species
  - Three habitat categories (full sun, forested, wetland)
  - Individual species

## Percentage of Top Predictors for all 21 Species

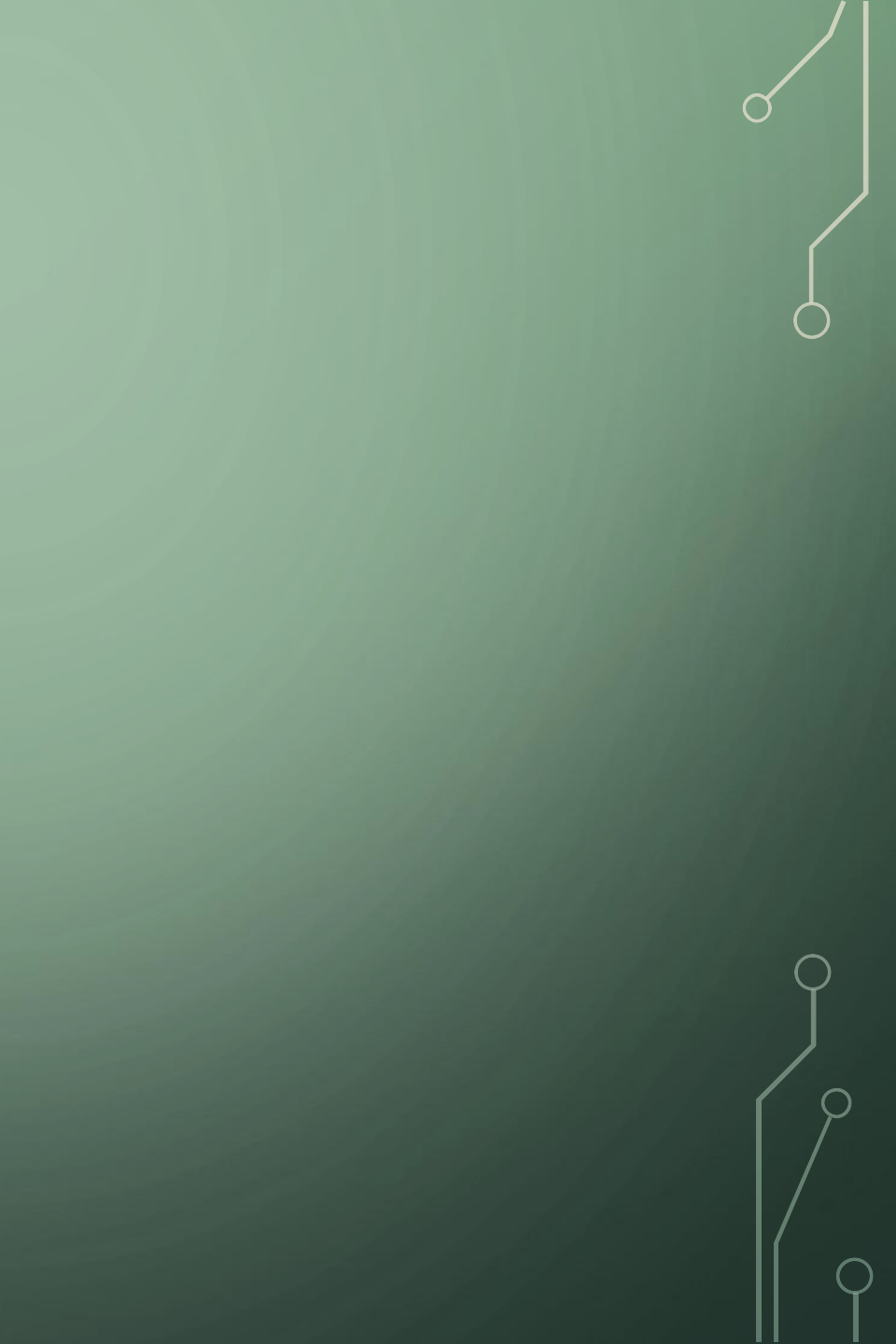




All species (21)			Species
Variable	Models	Percentage	
Winter min	81	15.9%	Species 1
Summer max	59	11.6%	
Fall precip	53	10.4%	Species 2
Sumr precip	51	10.0%	
Wint precip	46	9.0%	Species 3
Dist urban	36	7.1%	
%tree canopy	30	5.9%	Species 4
% clay	27	5.3%	
Spring precip	25	4.9%	Species 5
EVI	22	4.3%	
Dist roads	21	4.1%	Species 6
Slope	20	3.9%	
NDVI	14	2.8%	Species 7
Dist water	9	1.8%	
%impervious	7	1.4%	Species 8
Org matter	6	1.2%	
Aspect	2	0.4%	Species 9

All species (21)		
Variable	Models	Percentage
Winter min	81	15.9%
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Aspect	2	0.4%

All species (21)			Full sun species (12)		
Variable	Models	Percentage	Variable	Models	Percentage
Winter min	81	15.9%	Winter min	44	15.1%
Summer max	59	11.6%	Summer max	34	11.7%
Fall precip	53	10.4%	Fall precip	28	9.6%
Sumr precip	51	10.0%	Sumr precip	31	10.7%
Wint precip	46	9.0%	Wint precip	30	10.3%
Dist urban	36	7.1%	Dist urban	18	6.2%
%tree canopy	30	5.9%	%tree canopy	19	6.5%
% clay	27	5.3%	% clay	21	7.2%
Spring precip	25	4.9%	Spring precip	12	4.1%
EVI	22	4.3%	EVI	15	5.2%
Dist roads	21	4.1%	Dist roads	18	6.2%
Slope	20	3.9%	Slope	6	2.1%
NDVI	14	2.8%	NDVI	2	0.7%
Dist water	9	1.8%	Dist water	3	1.0%
%impervious	7	1.4%	%impervious	4	1.4%
Org matter	6	1.2%	Org matter	4	1.4%
Aspect	2	0.4%	Aspect	2	0.7%



All species (21)			Full sun species (12)			Forested species (6)		
Variable	Models	Percentage	Variable	Models	Percentage	Variable	Models	Percentage
Winter min	81	15.9%	Winter min	44	15.1%	Winter min	27	18.4%
Summer max	59	11.6%	Summer max	34	11.7%	Summer max	22	15.0%
Fall precip	53	10.4%	Fall precip	28	9.6%	Fall precip	15	10.2%
Sumr precip	51	10.0%	Sumr precip	31	10.7%	Sumr precip	12	8.2%
Wint precip	46	9.0%	Wint precip	30	10.3%	Wint precip	14	9.5%
Dist urban	36	7.1%	Dist urban	18	6.2%	Dist urban	14	9.5%
%tree canopy	30	5.9%	%tree canopy	19	6.5%	%tree canopy	11	7.5%
% clay	27	5.3%	% clay	21	7.2%	% clay	4	2.7%
Spring precip	25	4.9%	Spring precip	12	4.1%	Spring precip	1	0.7%
EVI	22	4.3%	EVI	15	5.2%	EVI	2	1.4%
Dist roads	21	4.1%	Dist roads	18	6.2%	Dist roads	5	3.4%
Slope	20	3.9%	Slope	6	2.1%	Slope	10	6.8%
NDVI	14	2.8%	NDVI	2	0.7%	NDVI	6	4.1%
Dist water	9	1.8%	Dist water	3	1.0%	Dist water	1	0.7%
%impervious	7	1.4%	%impervious	4	1.4%	%impervious	2	1.4%
Org matter	6	1.2%	Org matter	4	1.4%	Org matter	1	0.7%
Aspect	2	0.4%	Aspect	2	0.7%	Aspect	0	0.0%



All species (21)			Full sun species (12)			Forested species (6)			Wetland species (3)		
Variable	Models	Percentage	Variable	Models	Percentage	Variable	Models	Percentage	Variable	Models	Percentage
Winter min	81	15.9%	Winter min	44	15.1%	Winter min	27	18.4%	Winter min	10	13.7%
Summer max	59	11.6%	Summer max	34	11.7%	Summer max	22	15.0%	Summer max	3	4.1%
Fall precip	53	10.4%	Fall precip	28	9.6%	Fall precip	15	10.2%	Fall precip	10	13.7%
Sumr precip	51	10.0%	Sumr precip	31	10.7%	Sumr precip	12	8.2%	Sumr precip	8	11.0%
Wint precip	46	9.0%	Wint precip	30	10.3%	Wint precip	14	9.5%	Wint precip	2	2.7%
Dist urban	36	7.1%	Dist urban	18	6.2%	Dist urban	14	9.5%	Dist urban	4	5.5%
%tree canopy	30	5.9%	%tree canopy	19	6.5%	%tree canopy	11	7.5%	%tree canopy	0	0.0%
% clay	27	5.3%	% clay	21	7.2%	% clay	4	2.7%	% clay	2	2.7%
Spring precip	25	4.9%	Spring precip	12	4.1%	Spring precip	1	0.7%	Spring precip	12	16.4%
EVI	22	4.3%	EVI	15	5.2%	EVI	2	1.4%	EVI	5	6.8%
Dist roads	21	4.1%	Dist roads	18	6.2%	Dist roads	5	3.4%	Dist roads	0	0.0%
Slope	20	3.9%	Slope	6	2.1%	Slope	10	6.8%	Slope	4	5.5%
NDVI	14	2.8%	NDVI	2	0.7%	NDVI	6	4.1%	NDVI	6	8.2%
Dist water	9	1.8%	Dist water	3	1.0%	Dist water	1	0.7%	Dist water	5	6.8%
%impervious	7	1.4%	%impervious	4	1.4%	%impervious	2	1.4%	%impervious	1	1.4%
Org matter	6	1.2%	Org matter	4	1.4%	Org matter	1	0.7%	Org matter	1	1.4%
Aspect	2	0.4%	Aspect	2	0.7%	Aspect	0	0.0%	Aspect	0	0.0%

[illegible]

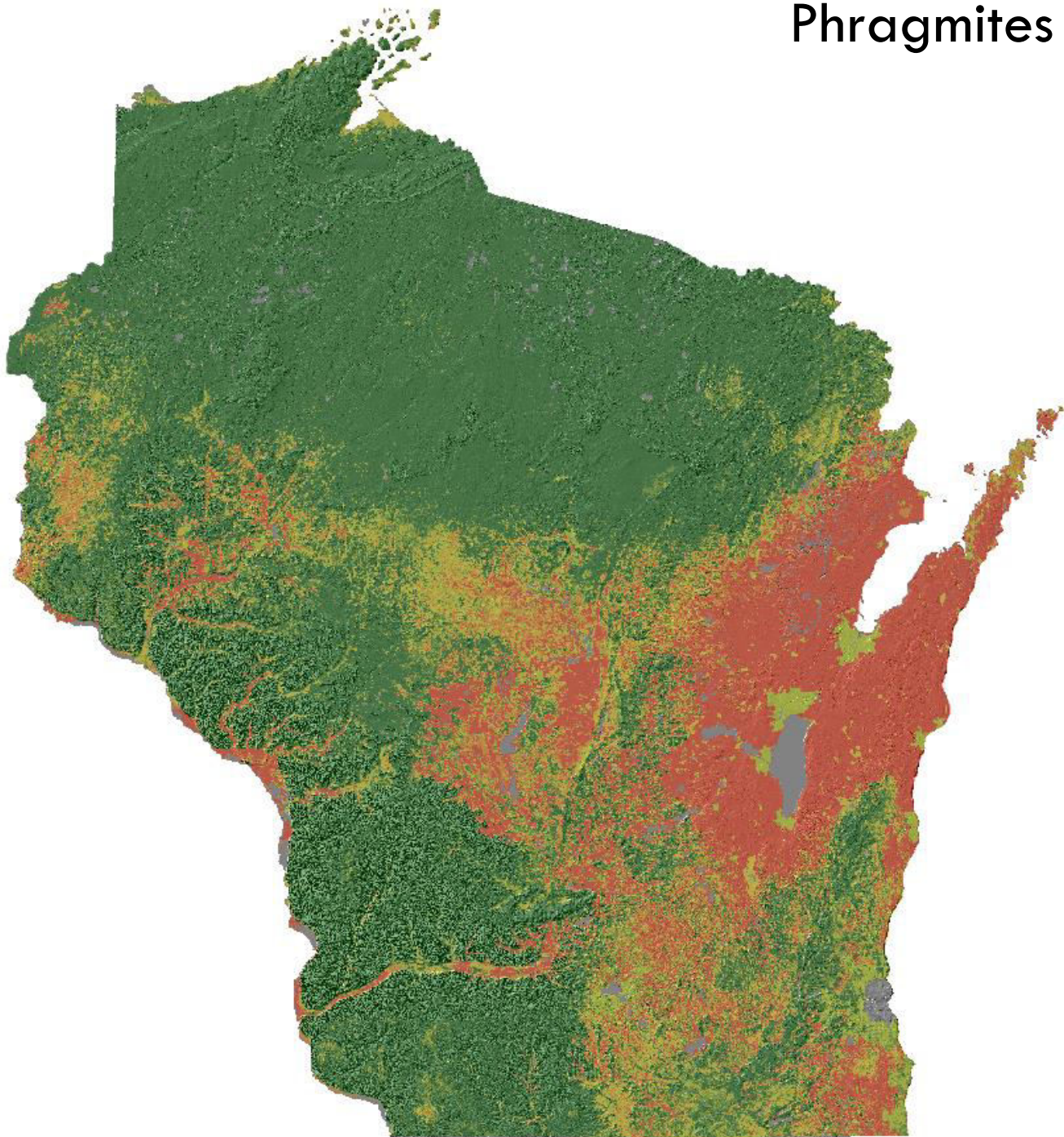
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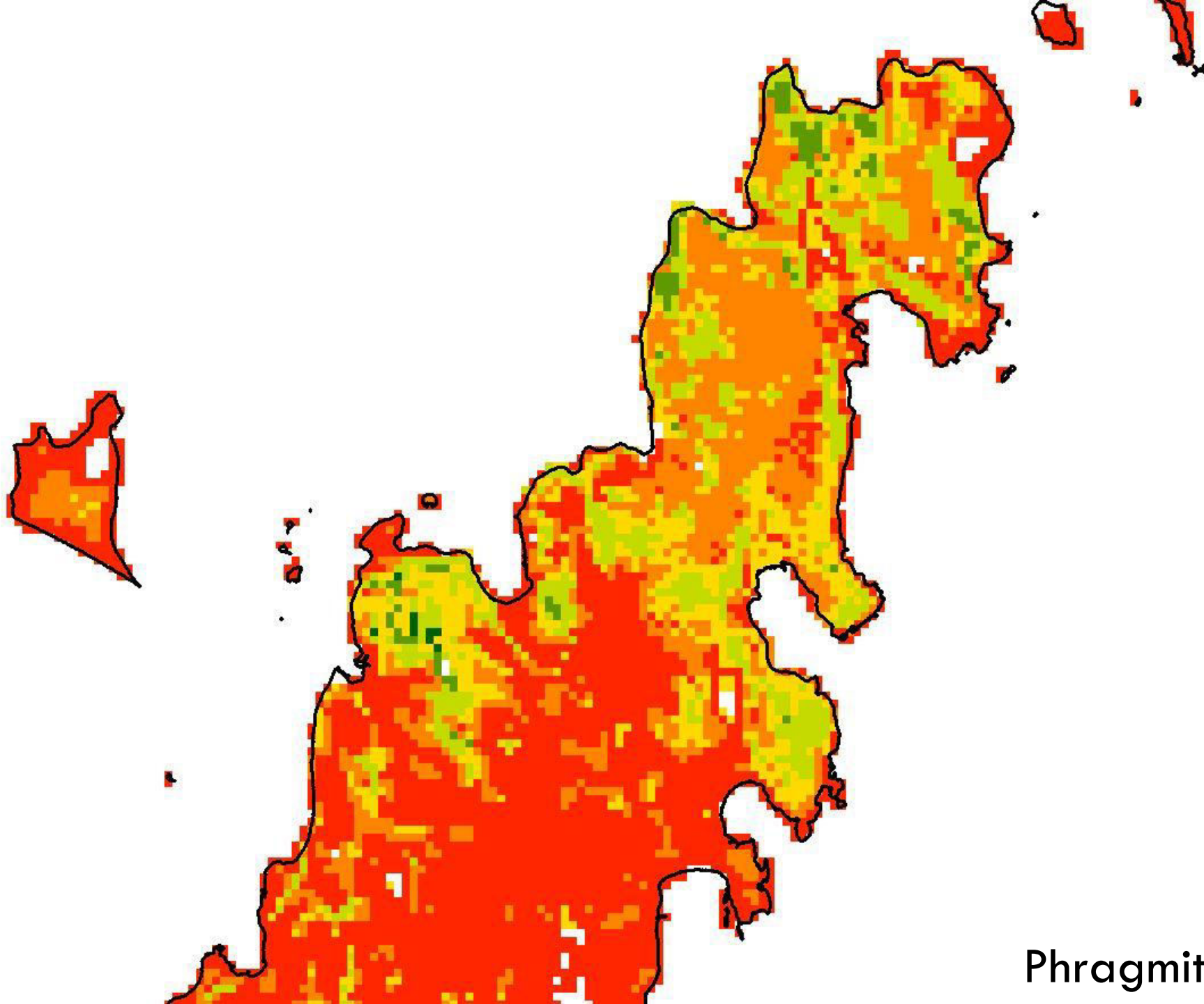
The background is a dark green gradient. In the corners, there are white line-art illustrations of circuit boards or neural network connections. These include straight lines, right-angle turns, and small circles at the end of the lines, resembling solder points or nodes.

# RESULTS: MAP OUTPUTS



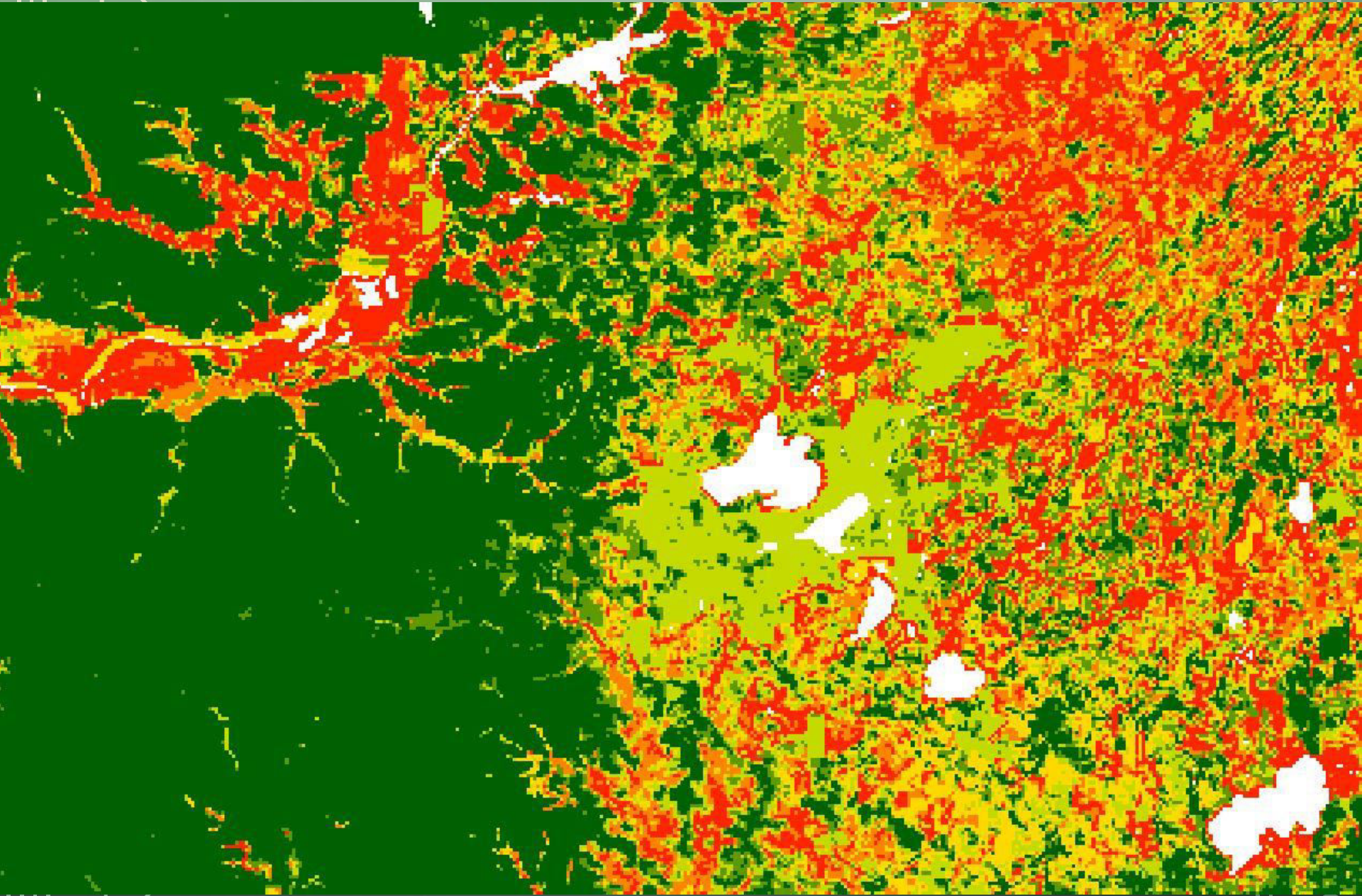
# Phragmites





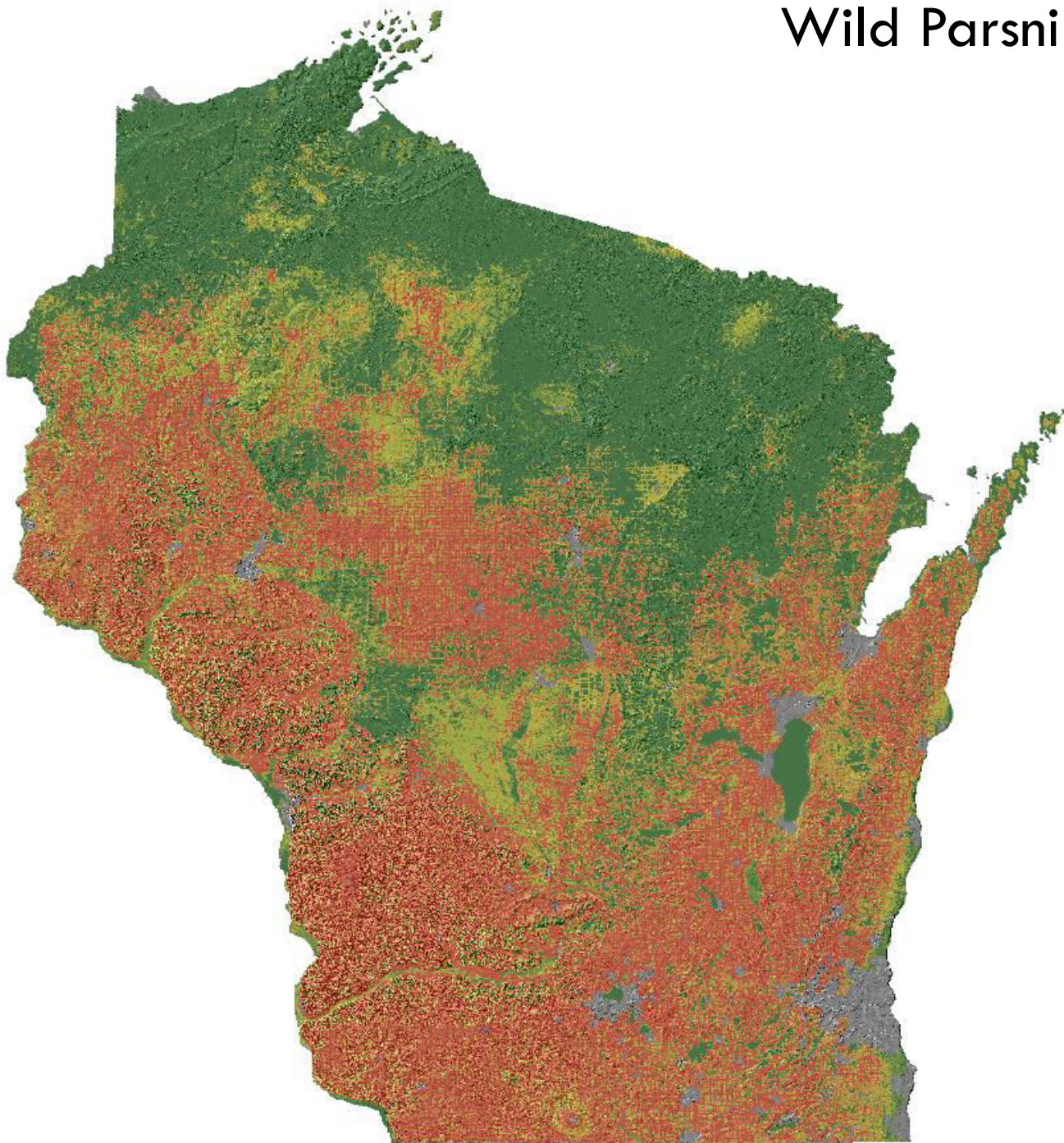
Phragmites





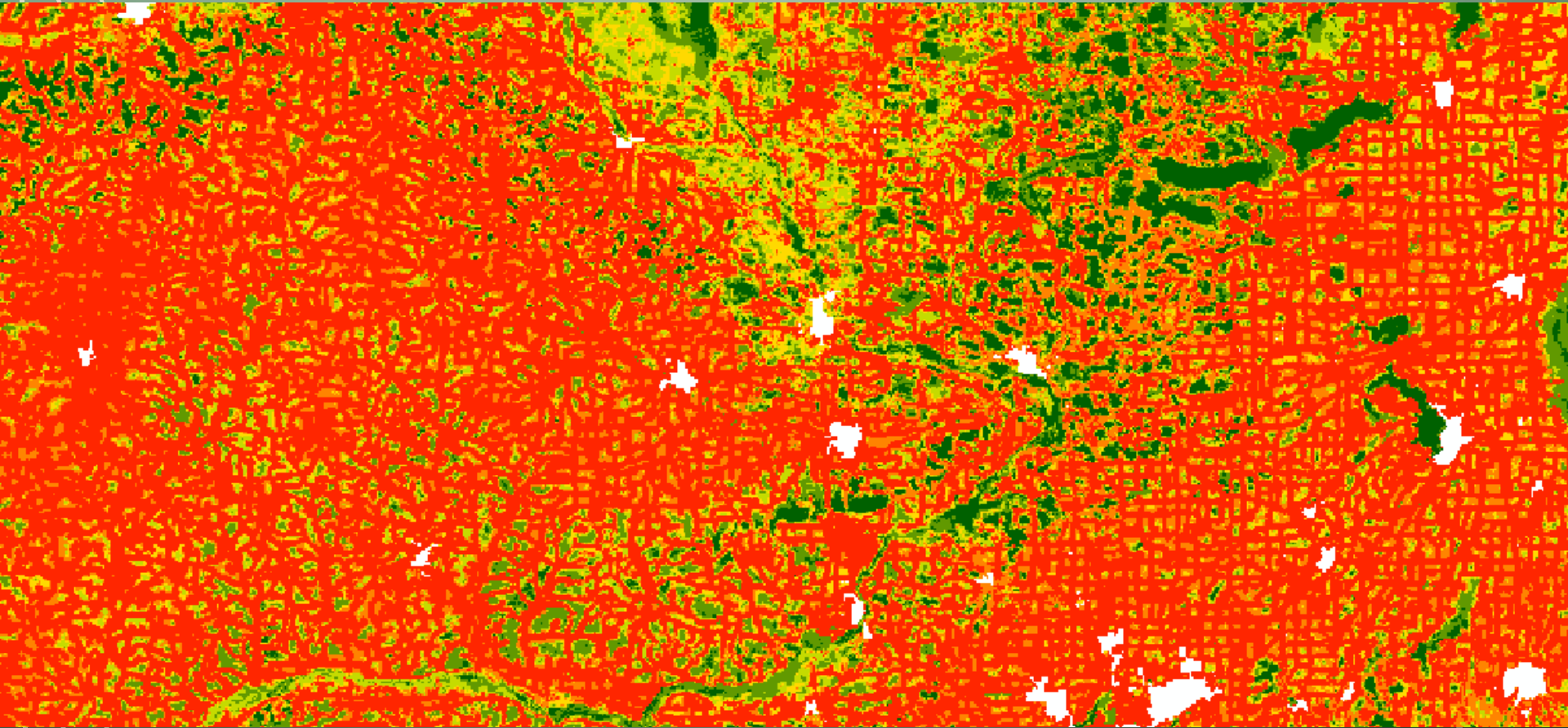


# Wild Parsnip

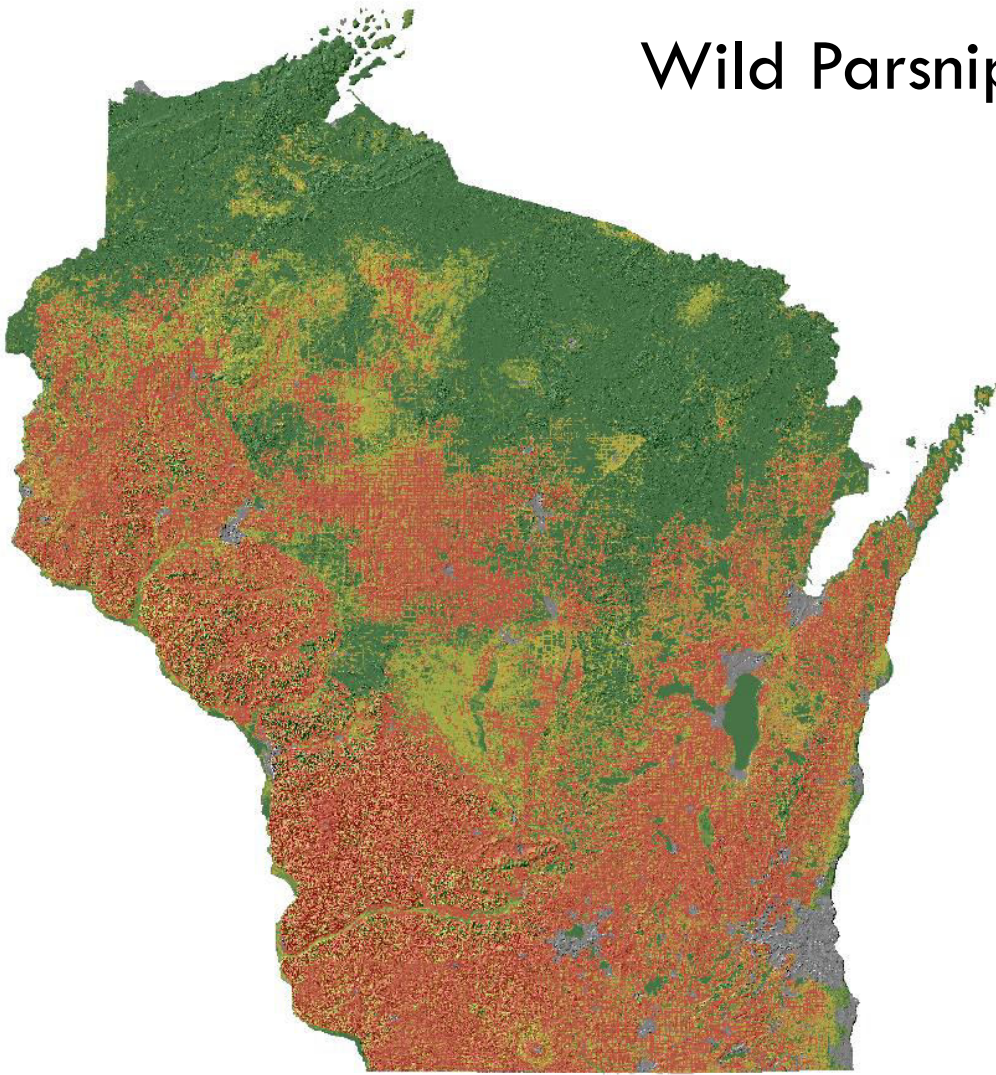




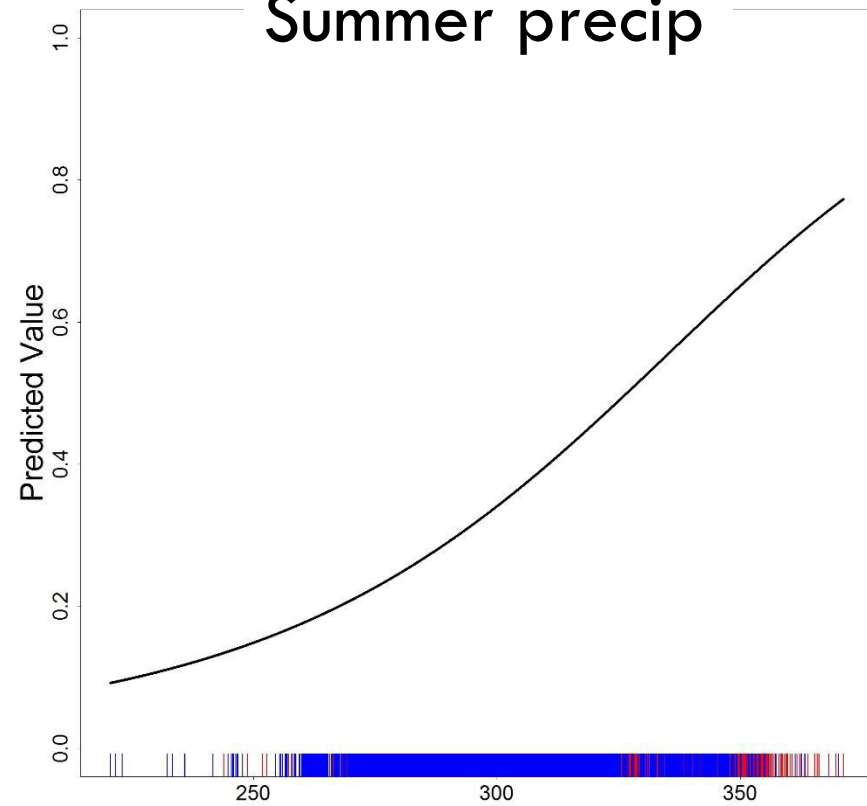
# Wild Parsnip



# Wild Parsnip

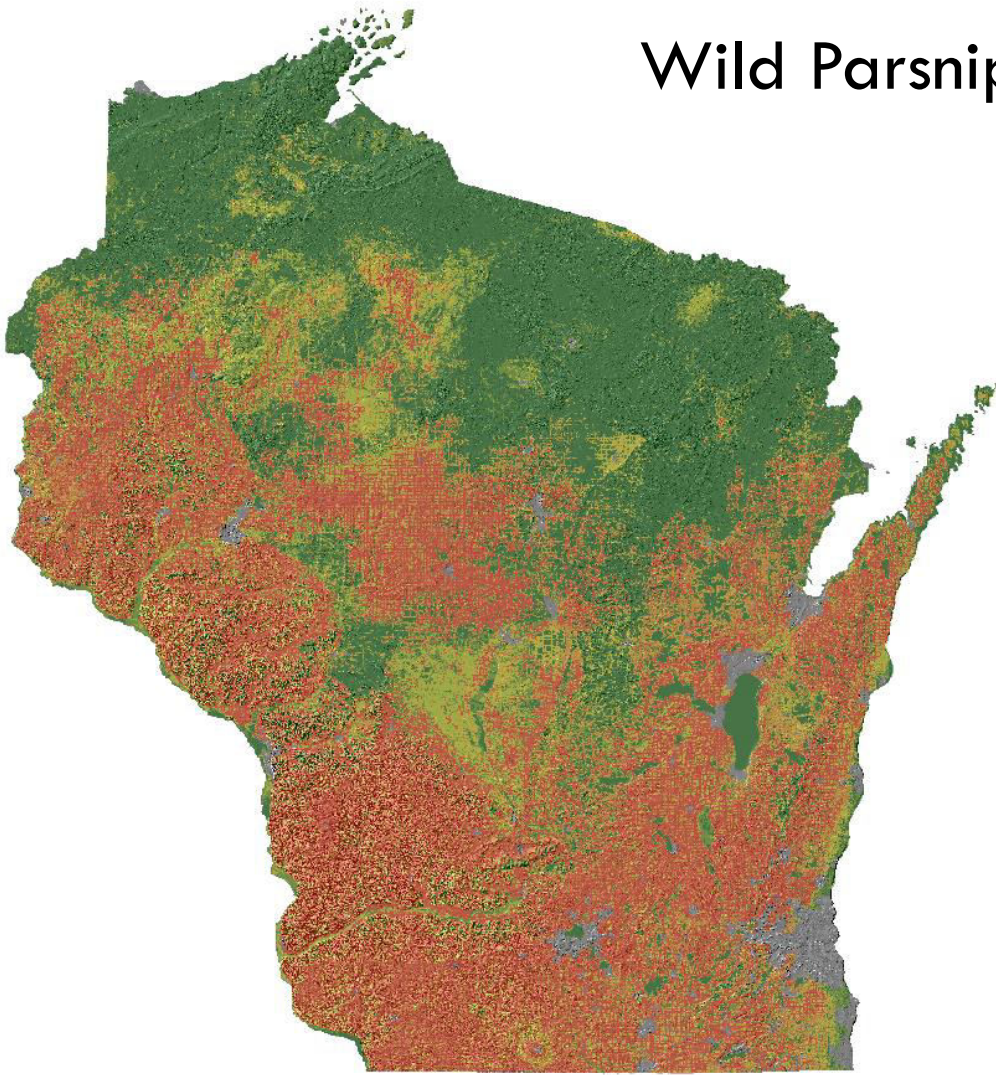


## Summer precip

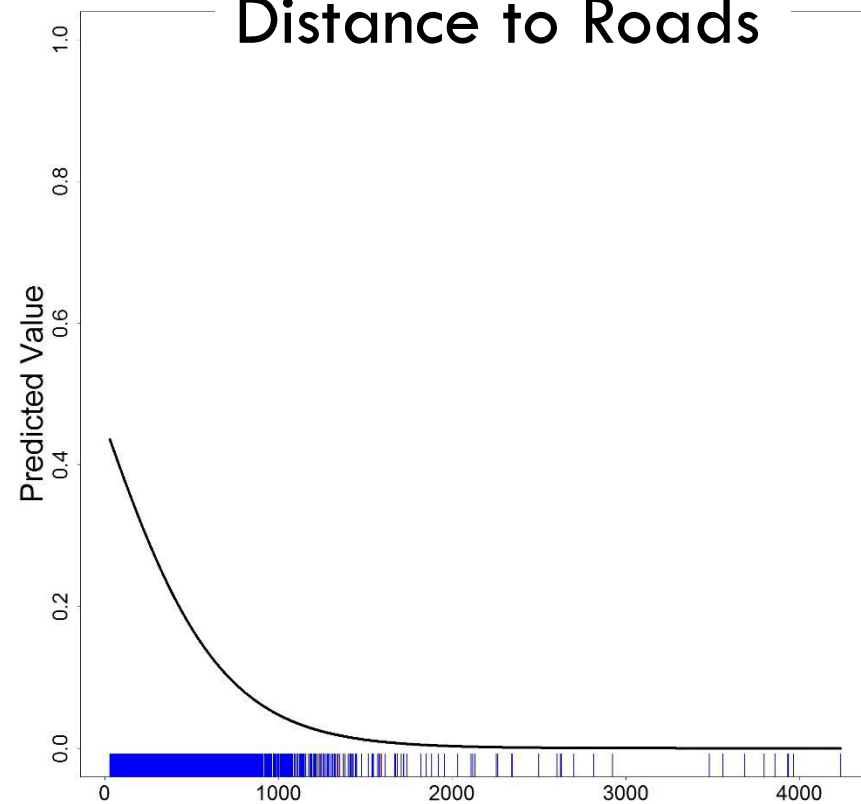




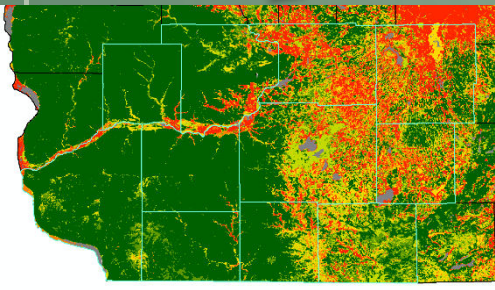
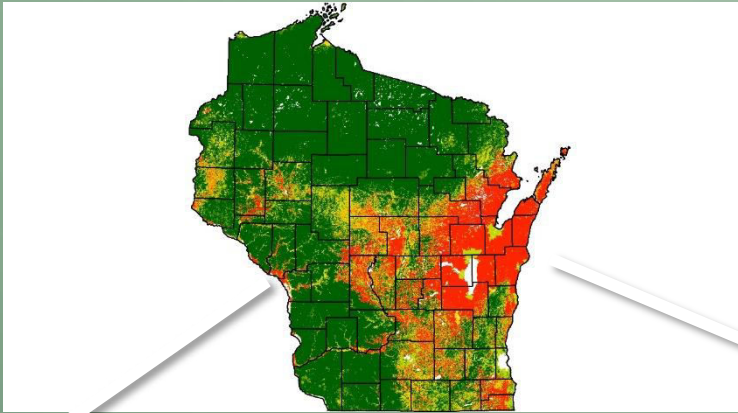
# Wild Parsnip



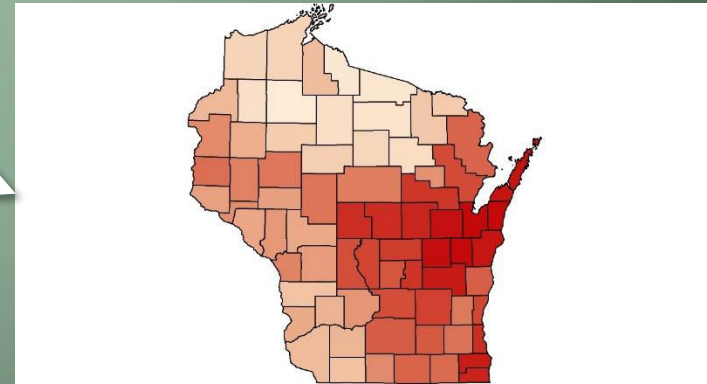
## Distance to Roads



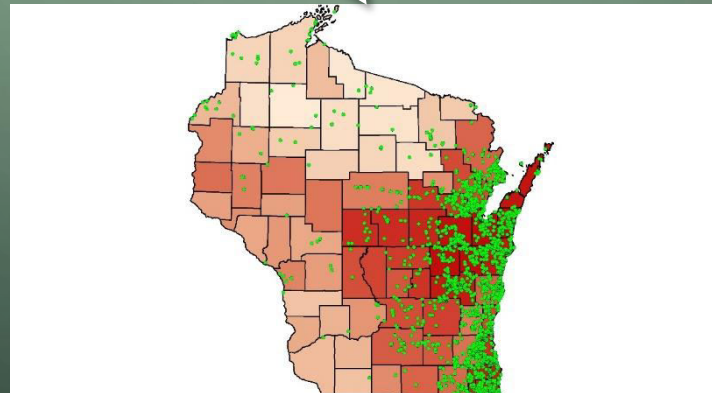
# PRIORITY SPECIES LISTS



Regional  
Analysis



Percent of county deemed  
"suitable habitat"



Number of points per county



## Priority Invasive Plant Lists in Wisconsin

Prioritizing Invasive Plants

Regional Priority Lists

County Specific Priority Lists

Autumn Olive

Black Locust

Bush Honeysuckles

Common Buckthorn

Common Tansy

Crown Vetch

European Marsh Thistle

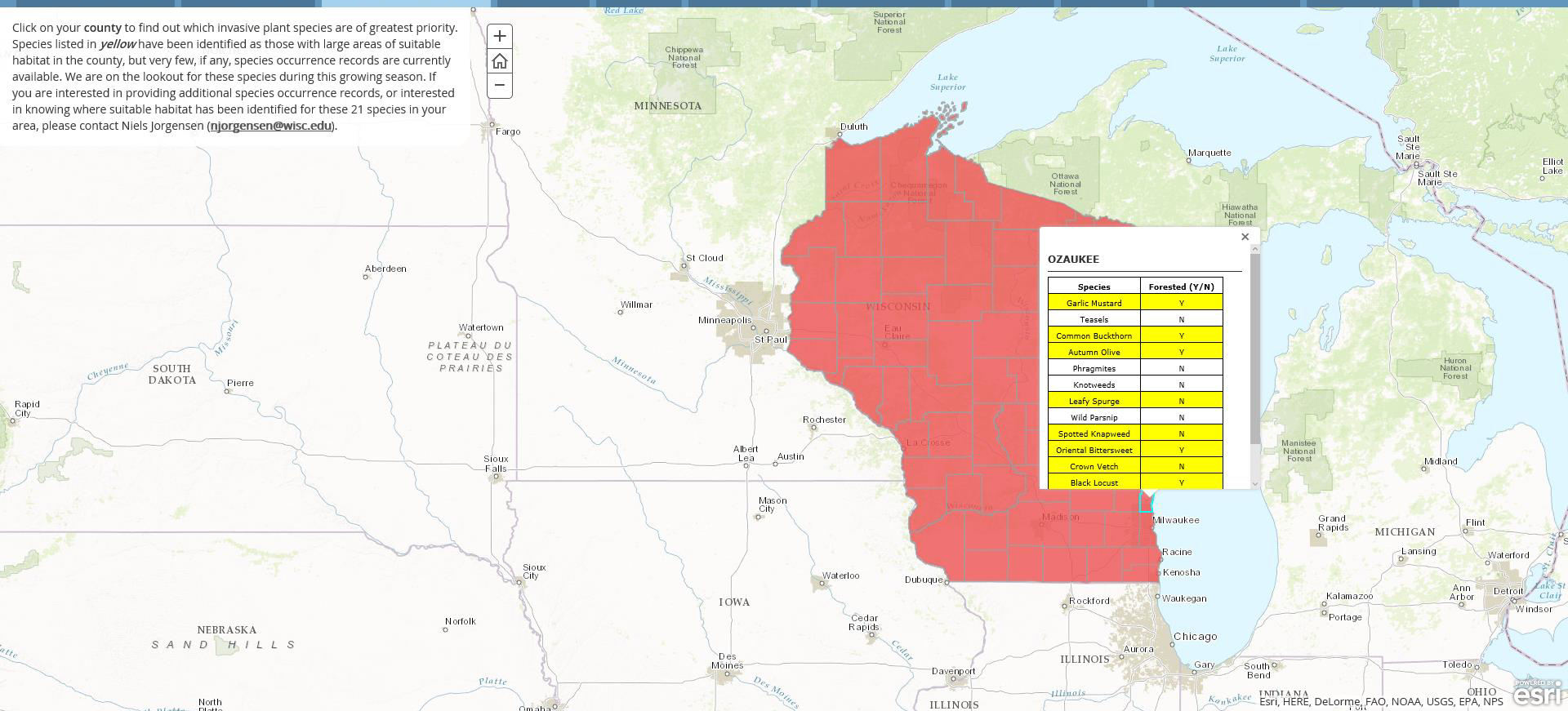
Garden Valerian

Click on your **county** to find out which invasive plant species are of greatest priority. Species listed in **yellow** have been identified as those with large areas of suitable habitat in the county, but very few, if any, species occurrence records are currently available. We are on the lookout for these species during this growing season. If you are interested in providing additional species occurrence records, or interested in knowing where suitable habitat has been identified for these 21 species in your area, please contact Niels Jorgensen ([njorgensen@wisc.edu](mailto:njorgensen@wisc.edu)).



## OZAUKEE

Species	Forested (Y/N)
Garlic Mustard	Y
Teasels	N
Common Buckthorn	Y
Autumn Olive	Y
Phragmites	N
Knotweeds	N
Leafy Spurge	N
Wild Parsnip	N
Spotted Knapweed	N
Oriental Bittersweet	Y
Crown Vetch	N
Black Locust	Y








# PROJECT TO DATE

- Priority species lists have been extended to >100 individuals and organizations within network
  - Emails
  - ESRI Story Map
  - Field days and other presentations
- >3000 occurrence records have been received
  - Individual reports
  - Bulk uploads



# SUMMARY



- Using citizen scientists and professionals we can compile an extensive database of occurrence records
    - This can be used to model invasive plants; develop priority lists
  - Modeling individual invasive species has its benefits
    - Determine nuances of suitable habitat drivers; potential habitat distribution
- 
- 
- 

# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Take new data points from stakeholders and volunteers and re-run models
  - Does more data improve ability to predict?
- Run models at finer scale (30m vs 250m)
  - Can more be learned from predictor layers?
- Field days to validate models with volunteers
  - Do models improve ability to detect?



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Wisconsin DNR
    - Kelly Kearns, Jason Granberg
  - EDDMapS contributors
  - WIFDN members
  - Citizen scientists who have contributed invasive plant data
  - Mark Renz
- 
- 

The background is a dark green gradient. In the corners, there are white, stylized circuit-like lines with small circles at the ends, resembling a network or data flow diagram.

# QUESTIONS?

NIELS JORGENSEN

[NJORGENSEN@WISC.EDU](mailto:NJORGENSEN@WISC.EDU)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Number of Presences
Prohibited/Restricted Species (regulation varies depending on location in state)		
European marsh thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	863
Bush honeysuckles	<i>Lonicera</i> spp.	3106
Phragmites	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	5462
Hedgeparsleys	<i>Torilis</i> spp.	453
Restricted Species		
Garlic mustard	<i>Allaria petiolata</i>	2442
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	419
Oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	215
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	5029
Teasels	<i>Dipsacus</i> spp.	1496
Autumn olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	152
Leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	339
Knotweeds	<i>Fallopia</i> spp.	916
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	1407
Wild parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	6906
Common buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	1029
Glossy buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	675
Black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	172
Crown vetch	<i>Securigera varia</i>	728
Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	4340
Garden valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	480
Reed canary grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	2395



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

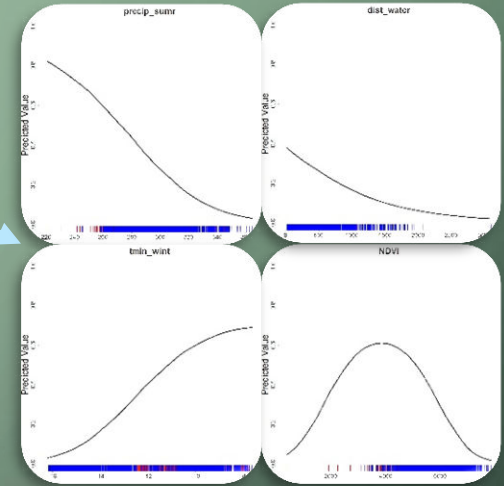


Build ensemble models



Develop priority lists

Engage  
stakeholders to  
collect new data



Investigate trends

# PROJECT OVERVIEW



Re-run ensemble models

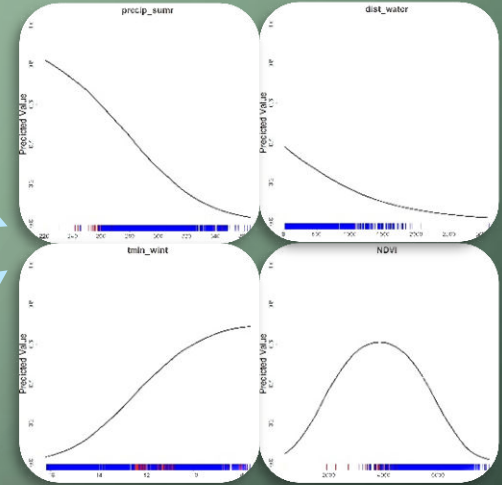


Improve priority lists

Engage  
stakeholders to  
collect new data



Climate change  
scenarios



Investigate trends