Creating a Soil Vulnerability Index to Identify Drought-Sensitive Areas in the North Pacific, USA

In recent decades, there has been an increase in forest dieback in the western USA, often connected with insect outbreaks. Studies have correlated these events to changes in precipitation and temperature. GIS analyses and modeling have shown that: 1) tree mortality is not uniformly distributed on the landscape and 2) soil characteristics such as water storage capacity, soil temperature and fertility are related to vulnerability.



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Figure 3 All data used or produced by the study are freely accessible online at databasin.org.

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Figure 5 A major goal of the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative is the integrated collaboration of diverse stakeholders across political boundaries. This project benefits from data and expertise supplied by academic, private, local, national and international stakeholders.



