

## **USING SATELLITE IMAGERY AND GIS TO ASSESS WILDFIRE RISK**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Annually, wildfires destroy millions of dollars of property through out the United States. Last year in California, more than 7,000 wildfires burned over 232,000 acres of land destroying over \$100 million in public and private property; an increase of 47% over the previous five years. To reduce the loss of life and property due to wildfire, communities, fire management and suppression organizations and insurance companies need to actively manage fire risk. Assessing fire risk involves identifying various factors such as vegetation type, slope and road access. Pacific Meridian Resources has worked closely with the Insurance Services Organization to provide such information for most of California using Landsat Thematic Mapper imagery and GIS. This information has been assembled to create a hazard map that can be used to assess fire risk and help model fire behavior. These tools will greatly improve the ability to assess wildfire risk over large regions.