



**DURAROOT**



**SolSpec**



**Infrastructure**



**People**



**Environment**

# North Dakota Goals for Oil & Gas

Industry Vitality + Public Health + Environmental Stewardship

## Governor Doug Burgum:

- Innovation instead of Regulation
- UAS BVLOS program for Bakken

## Director Lynn Helms:

- Adoption of imaging technologies to increase efficiencies in well site reclamation program



# The Problem

- 15,571 active wells that must be reclaimed
- Process can take 3-10 years
- 1,500 wells in reclamation status
- NDIC endeavors to inspect each site annually
- 32 field NDIC field inspectors
- ND Bakken spans 30,000 square miles



# The Problem

- Unknown site conditions
- Backlog site reviews
- Scheduling delays
- Subjective inspection
- Delayed site clearance & bond release

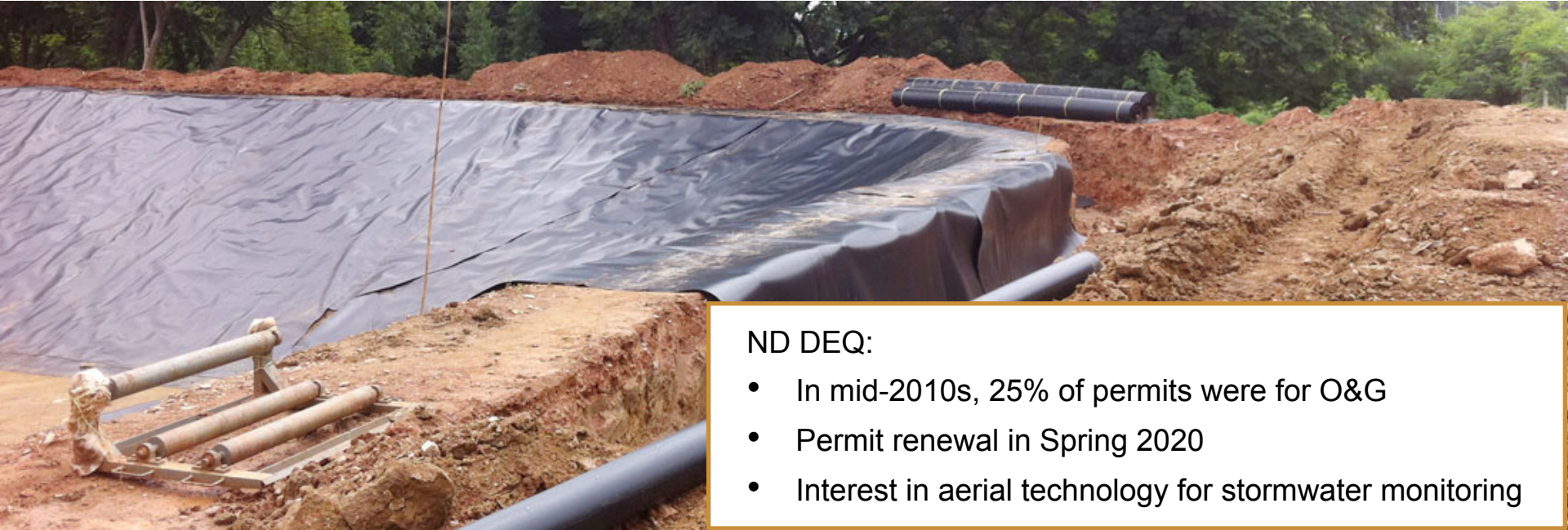


# The

# Problem

North Dakota Construction Stormwater General Permit

- Operator inspection every 14 days & within 24 hrs of storm event
- Site stabilization & 70% of pre-existing cover in 3 years, then 1 inspection/mo



ND DEQ:

- In mid-2010s, 25% of permits were for O&G
- Permit renewal in Spring 2020
- Interest in aerial technology for stormwater monitoring

# The Program

Accurate

Cheap

Fast

Similar to OGRP project G-037-73, 2016

Location 1 Aerial Vegetation Survey - Cover Classification



<p>Well Pad: Location 1                  Date of Assessment: 9/2/2016                  Total Reclaimed Acres: 3.6                  Legal Description: Section 16, Township 9N, Range 59W</p>		<p><b>Legend</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bare Ground</li> <li>● Native</li> <li>● Undesirable</li> <li>□ Interim Cover</li> <li>□ Baseline Cover</li> </ul>		<p>UAV: F550 Hex                  Sensor: NIR Red Notch Filter                  GSD: 2.5 cm                  Altitude: 60 meters</p>																																																																					
<p><b>Location 1 Vegetative Area</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Evaluation Type</th> <th>Bare Ground (m²)</th> <th>Undesirable (m²)</th> <th>Native Cover (m²)</th> <th>Total Area (m²)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Baseline</td> <td>120</td> <td>16</td> <td>644</td> <td>780</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interim Cover</td> <td>167</td> <td>4367</td> <td>9688</td> <td>14442</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Evaluation Type	Bare Ground (m²)	Undesirable (m²)	Native Cover (m²)	Total Area (m²)	Baseline	120	16	644	780	Interim Cover	167	4367	9688	14442	<p><b>Location 1 Percent Cover</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Evaluation Type</th> <th>Bare Ground (% Cover)</th> <th>Undesirable (m²)</th> <th>Native (% Cover)</th> <th>Percent of Baseline Native Cover</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Baseline</td> <td>15%</td> <td>2%</td> <td>83%</td> <td rowspan="2" style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">83%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interim Cover</td> <td>1%</td> <td>30%</td> <td>68%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Evaluation Type	Bare Ground (% Cover)	Undesirable (m²)	Native (% Cover)	Percent of Baseline Native Cover	Baseline	15%	2%	83%	83%	Interim Cover	1%	30%	68%	<p><b>Location 1 - Error Matrix</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Class/Validation Data</th> <th colspan="3">Ground Validation Data (Known Cover Types)</th> <th rowspan="2">Row Total</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Native</th> <th>Undesirable</th> <th>Bare Ground</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Native</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> <td>4</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Undesirable</td> <td>1</td> <td>7</td> <td>0</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bare Ground</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Column Total</td> <td>11</td> <td>7</td> <td>4</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Producer Accuracy</td> <td>10</td> <td>7</td> <td>0</td> <td style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">77%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Class/Validation Data	Ground Validation Data (Known Cover Types)			Row Total	Native	Undesirable	Bare Ground	Native	10	0	4	14	Undesirable	1	7	0	8	Bare Ground	0	0	0	0	Column Total	11	7	4	22	Producer Accuracy	10	7	0	77%
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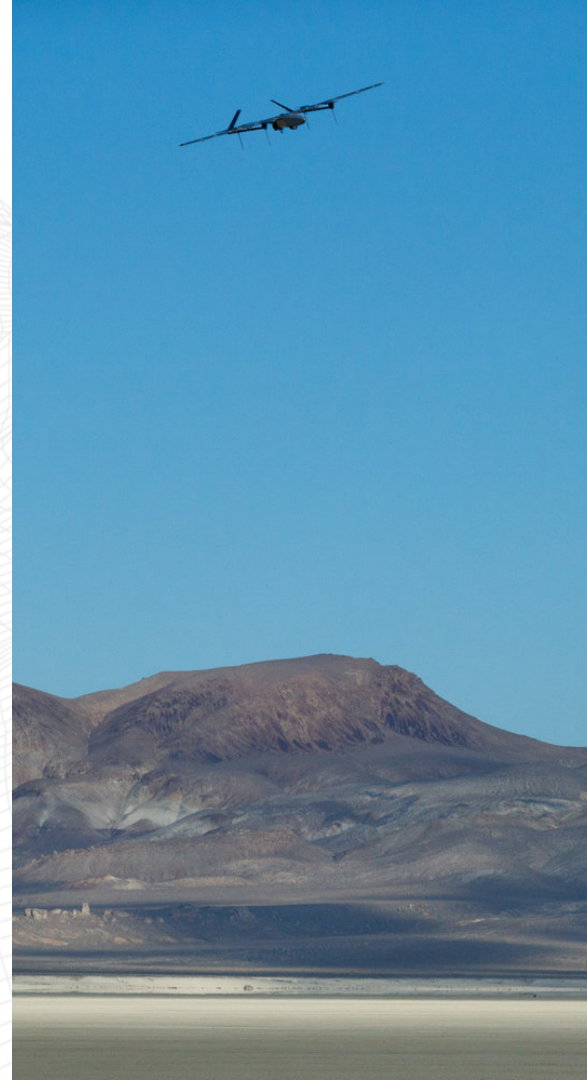
# The Problem

OGRP project G-43-01,  
2018

When it comes to aerial imagery...

*“Huge amounts of data can be collected  
...but those data require appropriate analysis.*

*To make analysis of large quantities of data economical,  
automated data processing and analysis must be  
employed.”*



# The Proposal

Automation can resolve issues that inhibit operational performance





# The Proposal



## GOAL

Develop & validate a suite of **automated analytics** that **bring remote reclamation assessment technology to operational capacity** for industry, agencies, & the interested public of North Dakota.

# The Proposal

## GOAL

Maximize ROI for North Dakota by addressing **NDIC Research Priorities:**

Optimum data storage architecture

Deriving decision support tools from gross data

Imagery provided to the manager for decision making

Analysis of cost avoidance against current process

Imagery tools that enable cost estimates & budgeting to complete reclamation

Trusted third-party data organization system enabling industry & regulators to access imagery

# The Proposal

Model  
Development

Data  
Acquisition

Model  
Validation

Model  
Automation

Cost-  
Effectiveness  
Analysis

## OBJECTIVES

### Model Development I: **Remote Aerial Inspection Toolkit**

- Preliminary Vegetation Cover Comparison
  - › **USDA National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP)**

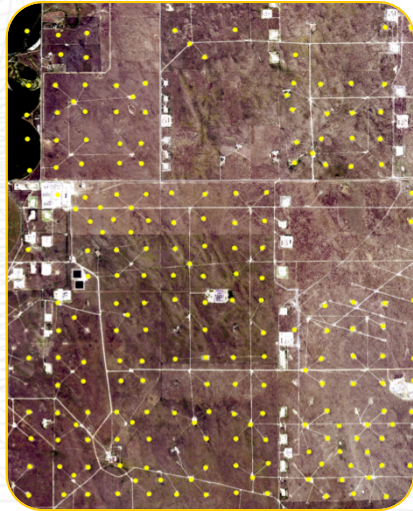


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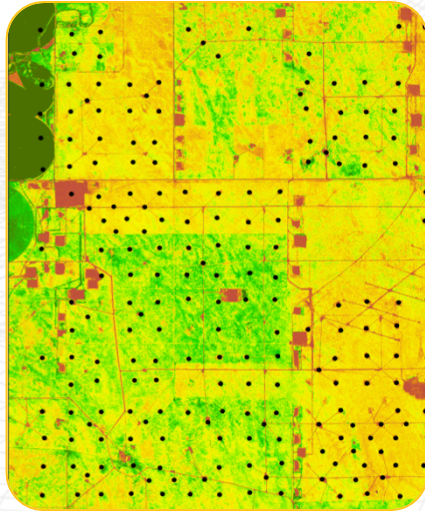


# Proposal Vegetation Cover Comparison

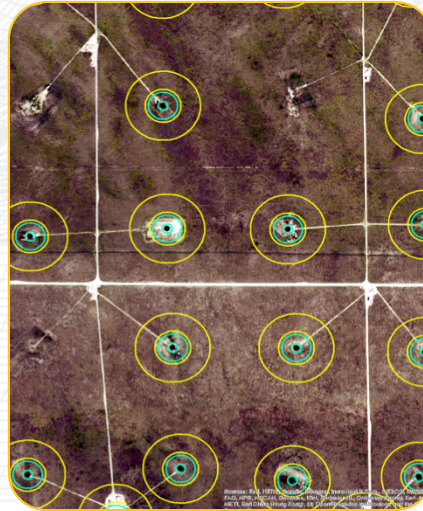
2,219 Whiting well sites



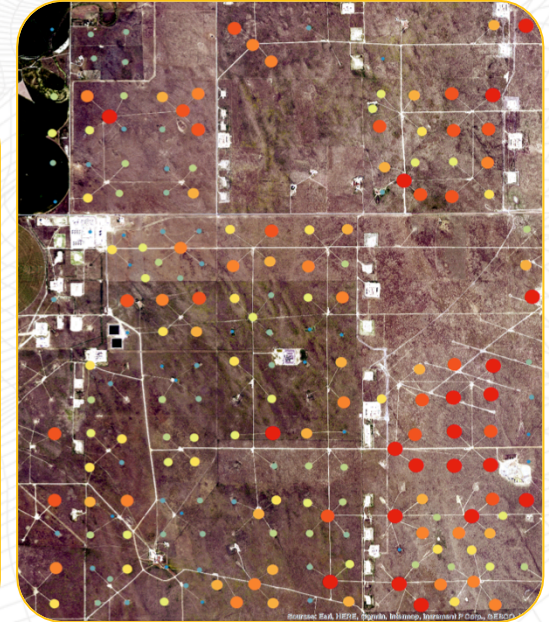
Well Locations



Vegetation Reflectance



Pad Analysis



Site Prioritization

# The

# Proposal Data Acquisition



ISIGHT RPV SERVICES

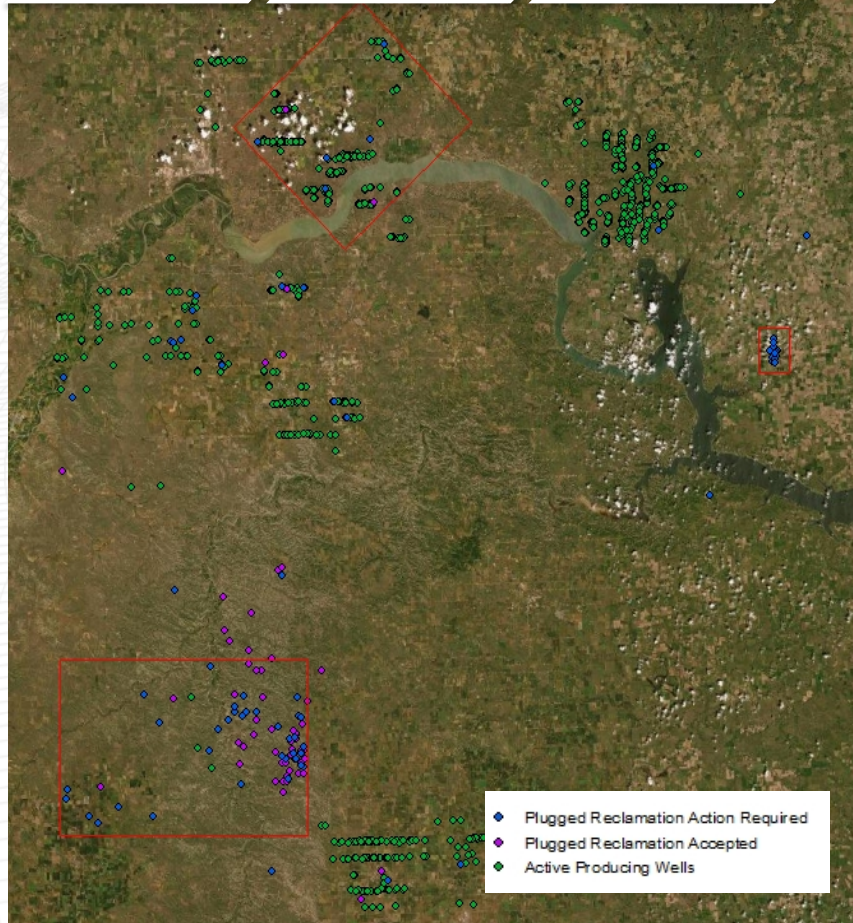


## Aerial Data Collection



## 100 Whiting well sites

- 40 partially reclaimed active wells
- 50 plugged well sites in reclamation progress
- 10 fully reclaimed well sites



# The Proposal

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## OBJECTIVES

### Model Development II: Remote Aerial Inspection Toolkit

- Preliminary Vegetation Cover Comparison
- Aerial Reclamation Inspection Comparison
  - › Vegetative Continuity Comparison
  - › Infrastructure Identification
  - › Problematic Surface Hydrology Identification
  - › Topographic Contouring Assessment
  - › Volumetric Measurement

# The Proposal



## Vegetative Continuity Comparison 100 well sites: Ortho + DSM

solSpec

WHITING

Search for locations

+ Add data

DATA SETS [3] Remove All

Surface Model

About This Data Remove

Wildhorse Hillshade

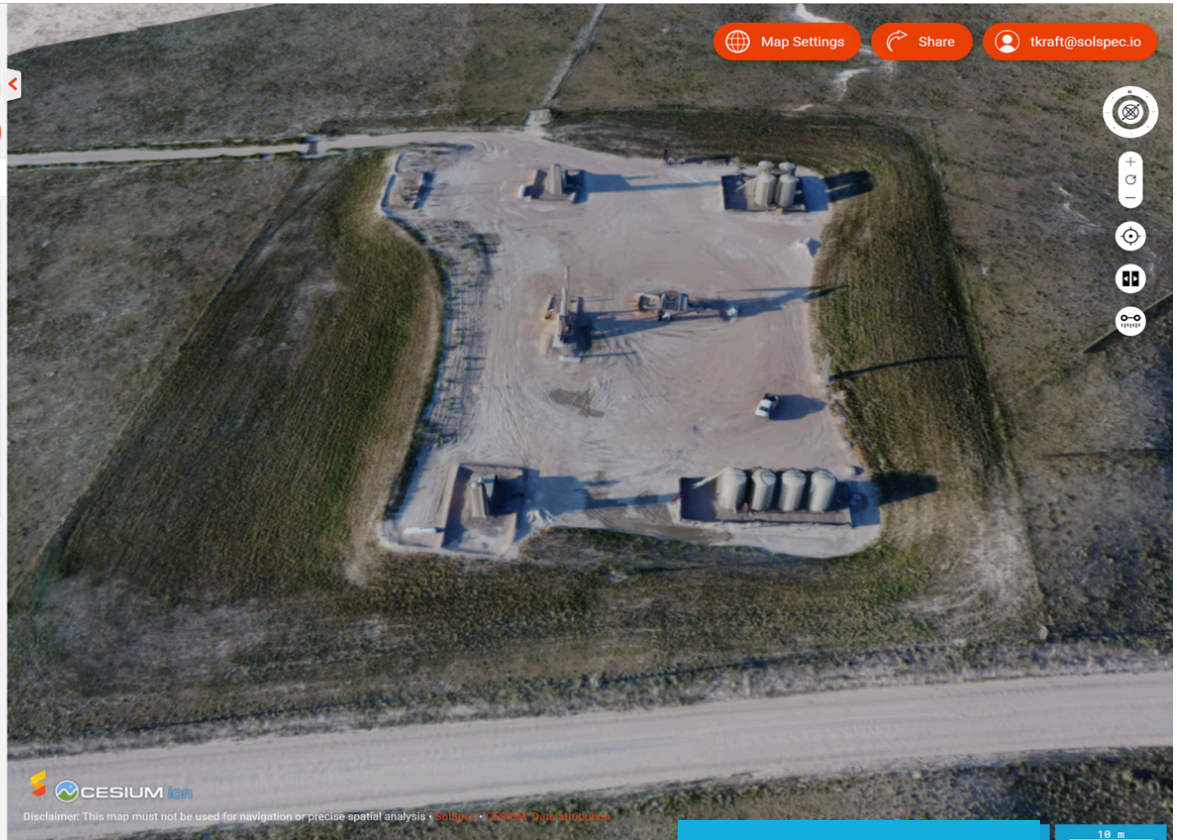
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove

Opacity: 60 %

Wildhorse Ortho

Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove

Opacity: 100 %



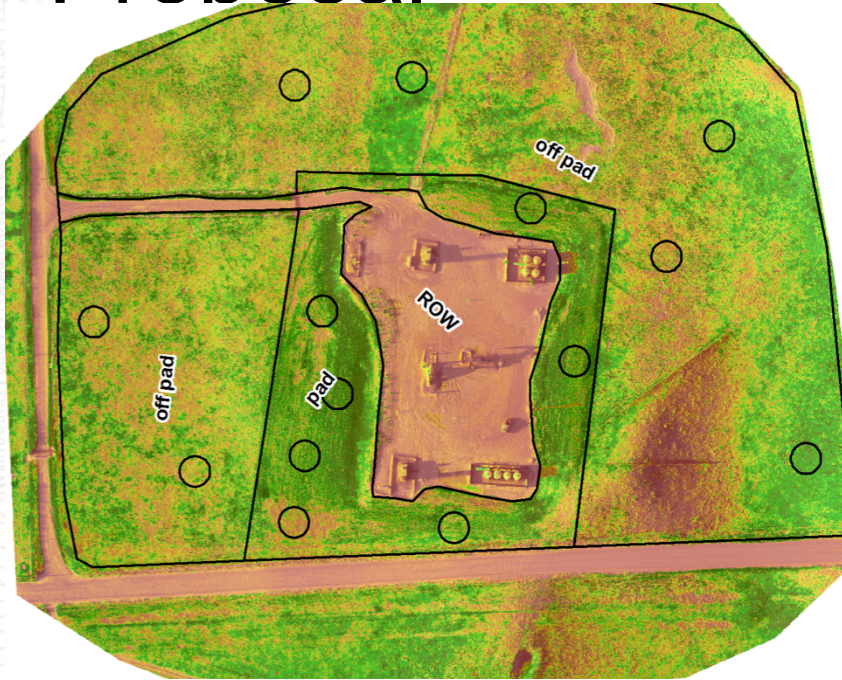




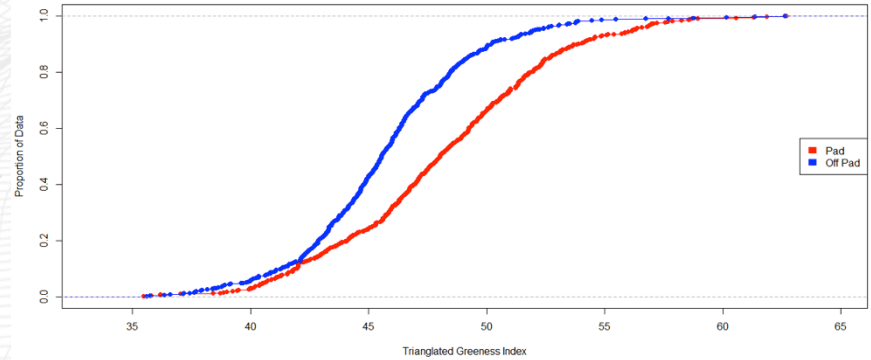
# The Proposal



## Vegetative Continuity Comparison 100 well sites



### Vegetation Spectrum Assessment



# The Proposal



## Vegetative Continuity Comparison 100 well sites: Vegetation Structure

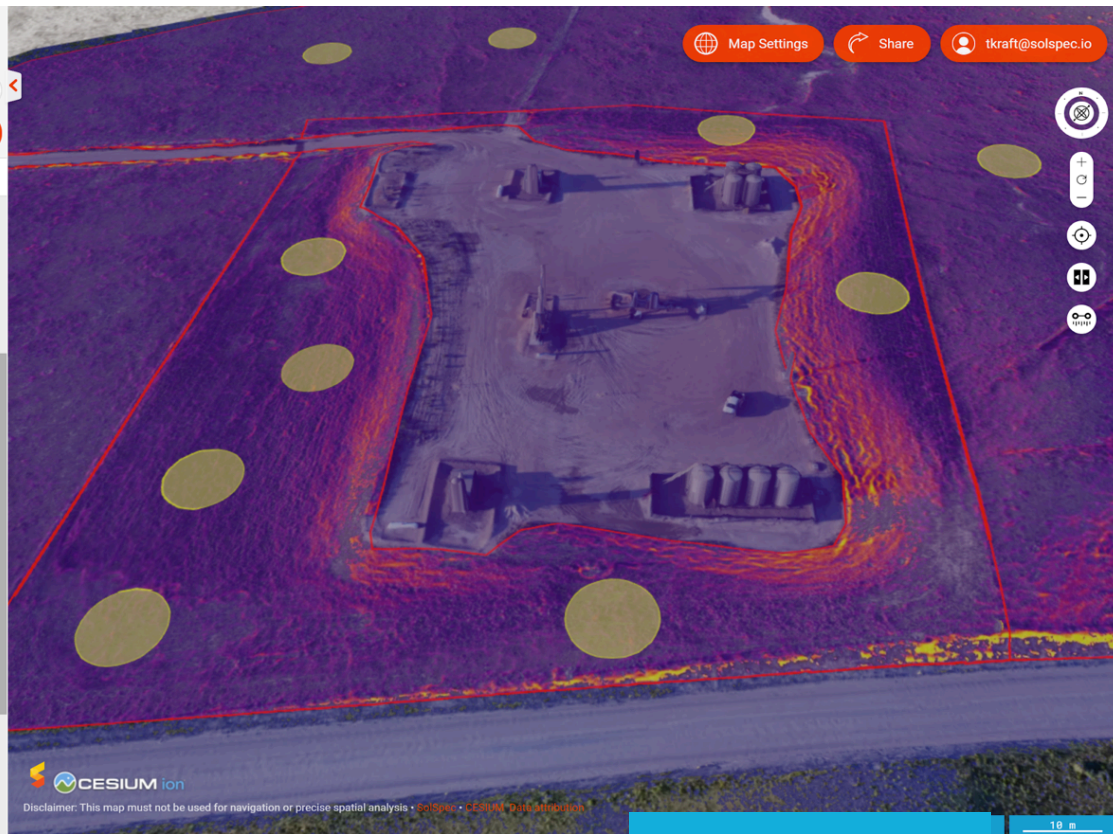
**Wildhorse**  
SolSpec

Search for locations

**+** Add data

DATA SETS [ 9 ] Remove All

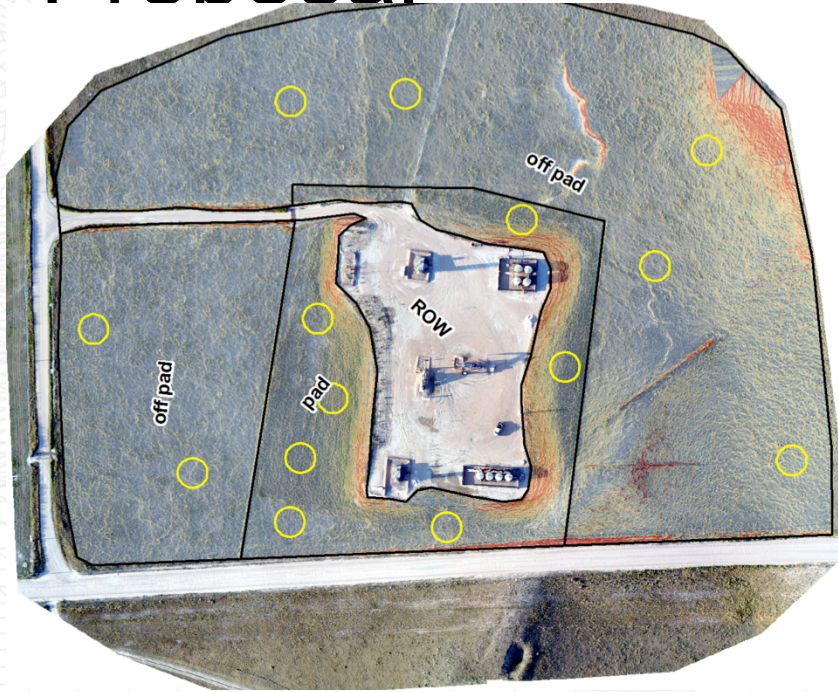
- Wildhorse Zones
- Surface Model  
About This Data Remove
- Wildhorse Veg Height  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 60 %
- Wildhorse TWI  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 60 %
- Wildhorse TGI  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 60 %
- Wildhorse Percent Veg  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 53 %



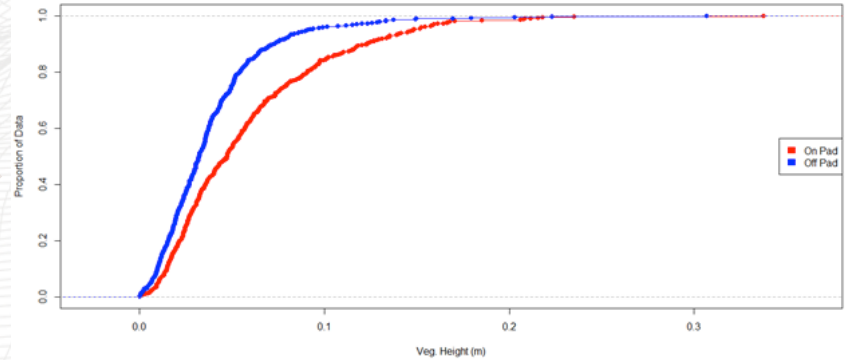
# The Proposal



## Vegetative Continuity Comparison 100 well sites



### Vegetation Structure Assessment



# The Proposal



# Infrastructure Identification 100 well sites

Wildhorse

SolSpec

Search for locations

+ Add data

DATA SETS [ 10 ] Remove All

Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 100 %

Wildhorse Zones

Surface Model  
About This Data Remove

Wildhorse Veg Height  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 60 %

Wildhorse TWI  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 60 %

Wildhorse TGI  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 60 %

Wildhorse Percent Veg  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 60 %

An aerial satellite-style map showing a large, irregularly shaped area outlined in red. Inside this area, several smaller structures and equipment are outlined in purple. A white measurement tool overlay is positioned over one of the purple-outlined structures. The tool displays the following information: "Measure Tool", "Perimeter: 63.69 m", "Area: 241.96 m²", and "Click to add another point". Below the text is a red "Done" button. The map interface includes a top navigation bar with "Map Settings", "Share", and a user profile icon for "tkraft@solspec.io". On the right side, there is a vertical toolbar with various map controls like zoom, pan, and layers. At the bottom left, the Cesium logo is visible, and a disclaimer reads: "Disclaimer: This map must not be used for navigation or precise spatial analysis | SolSpec - © 2024 Data providers". A scale bar at the bottom right indicates "18 m".

# The Proposal



## Problematic Surface Hydrology 100 well sites

Wildhorse

Search for locations

+ Add data

DATA SETS [ 4 ] Remove All

**Wildhorse Hydro**

Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove

Opacity: 100 %

Wildhorse Hydro

**Surface Model**

About This Data Remove

**Wildhorse Hillshade**

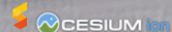
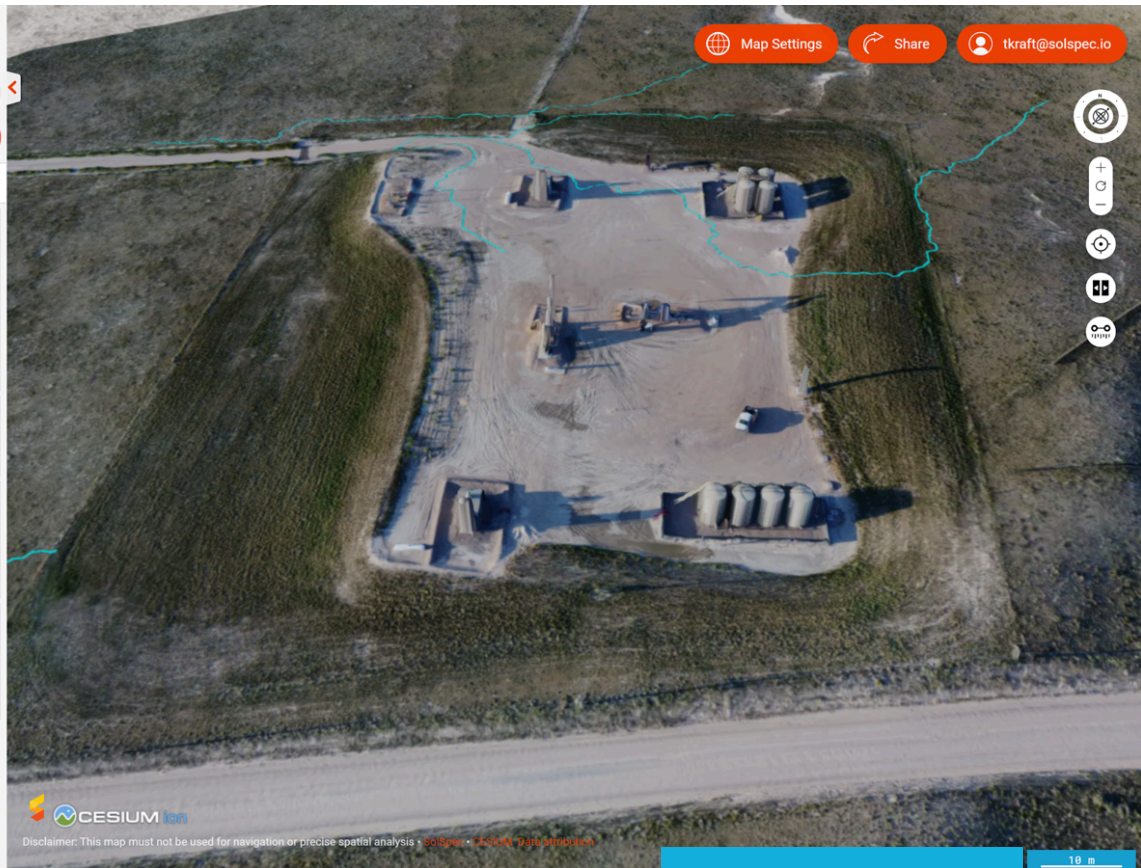
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove

Opacity: 60 %

**Wildhorse Ortho**

Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove

Opacity: 100 %



Disclaimer: This map must not be used for navigation or precise spatial analysis. ©Solspec - 2024. All rights reserved.

# The Proposal



# Topographic Contouring Assessment 100 well sites

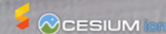
SolSpec Wildhorse

Search for locations

+ Add data

DATA SETS [ 9 ] Remove All

- Wildhorse Plots
- Wildhorse Zones  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 100 %
- Wildhorse Zones
- Surface Model  
About This Data Remove
- Wildhorse Veg Height  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 60 %
- Wildhorse TWI  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 60 %
- Wildhorse TGI  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove



Disclaimer: This map must not be used for navigation or precise spatial analysis - SolSpec - CESIUM Data Provider

10 m

# The Proposal



# Volumetric Measurement 100 well sites

Wildhorse

SolSpec

Search for locations

+ Add data

DATA SETS [ 10 ] Remove All

Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 100 %

Wildhorse Zones

Surface Model  
About This Data Remove

Wildhorse Veg Height  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 60 %

Wildhorse TWI  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 60 %

Wildhorse TGI  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 60 %

Wildhorse Percent Veg  
Zoom To Extent About This Data Split Remove  
Opacity: 60 %

Map Settings Share tkraft@solspec.io

Measure Tool  
Perimeter: 63.69 m  
Area: 241.96 m<sup>2</sup>  
Click to add another point

Done

CESIUM ion

Disclaimer: This map must not be used for navigation or precise spatial analysis • SolSpec • ©2024 Data providers

18 m

# The Proposal

Model Development

Data Acquisition

Model Validation

Model Automation

Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

## OBJECTIVES

### Model Validation: Remote Aerial Inspection

#### Toolkit

Comparison between preliminary & aerial assessments

Ground truthing of 30% aerially assessed sites **DURAROOT**

NDIC inspection of 20% of aerially inspected sites

Measure effectiveness of toolkit's ability to remotely determine reclamation



# The

# Proposal Model Automation

Model  
Development

Data  
Acquisition

Model  
Validation

Model  
Automation

Cost-  
Effectiveness  
Analysis

Prepare Data

Distribute  
Data

Generate  
Derivatives

Evaluate  
Model



# The Proposal

Model  
Development

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Validation

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Automation

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Effectiveness  
Analysis

## OBJECTIVES

### Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

Evaluate costs & outcomes for Whiting & NDIC against status quo

- Control group: >10 Whiting sites certificated in last 5 years
- Experimental group: 100 Whiting sites, 5 double-sampled w/ BLVOS

**UAV** Inputs: time, equipment, mobilization, information management, etc.

› Outcomes: Data quality, quantity, consistency, etc.



# The Proposal

Model Development

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Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

## ANTICIPATED RESULTS & DELIVERABLES

### Model Development

- Analytic algorithms capable of efficiently intaking large data volumes & producing operational decision support information for reclamation

### Data Acquisition

- Quality aerial imagery for 100 Whiting well sites, 50 on NDIC inspection list

### Model Validation

- Statistical measurement of accuracy that provides certainty & confidence in remote reclamation assessment method

# The Proposal

Model  
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## ANTICIPATED RESULTS & DELIVERABLES

### **Model Automation**

- Efficient, scalable automated models capable of analyzing large quantities of geospatial data per OGRC Project G-43-01 recommendations

### **Cost-Effectiveness Analysis**

- Evidence substantiating the business case for remote reclamation inspection vs. traditional procedures
- Preliminary analysis of multicopter vs. BVLOS-capable fixed-wing UAV

# The Proposal

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## ANTICIPATED RESULTS & DELIVERABLES

**Toolkit of efficient, scalable, statistically robust methods for remotely analyzing reclamation success, including:**

- Reestablishment of background vegetation
- Remediation of land contours
- Removal of infrastructure



**Bring remote reclamation assessment technology to operational capacity for industry, agencies, & the interested public of North Dakota**

# The

# BUDGET Proposal

Project Activity & Responsible Party	NDIC's Share	Description	Applicant's Share (In-Kind)	Partners' Share (In-Kind)	In-Kind Description
Model Development - SolSpec	\$ 22,500	Labor at \$80/hour for 281.25 hours	\$ 35,000		Labor at \$80/hour for 438 hours
Model Automation - SolSpec	\$ 19,000	Labor at \$100/hour for 190 hours	\$ 22,000		Labor at \$100/hour for 220 hours
Aerial Data Collection - ISight	\$ 70,000	Labor, equipment at \$700/site for 100 sites		\$ 34,000	Mobilization at \$20k; 5 sites flown with fixed-wing UAV at \$700/site; Site discount at \$100/site for 105 sites
Aerial Data Collection - Whiting				\$ 32,000	Site manager at \$320/site for 100 sites
Ground-Truthing Inspection - Duraroot	\$ 26,900	Labor, equipment at \$896.66/site for 30 sites			
Ground-Truthing Inspection - Whiting				\$ 9,600	Site manager at \$320/site for 30 sites
Model Validation - SolSpec	\$ 4,500	Labor at \$80/hour for 56.25 hours	\$ 10,500		Labor at \$80/hour for 131.25 hours
Model Refinement - SolSpec	\$ 9,500	Labor at \$80/hour for 118.75 hours	\$ 12,500		Labor at \$80/hour for 156.25 hours
Project Management & Reporting - SolSpec	\$ 10,800	Labor at \$90/hour for 120 hours	\$ 12,000		Labor at \$90/hour for 139 hours
		Applicant's & Partners' Subtotal Share:	\$ 92,000	\$ 75,600	
<b>NDIC's Total Share:</b>	<b>\$ 163,200</b>	<b>Applicant's &amp; Partners' Total Share:</b>	<b>\$ 167,600</b>	<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 330,800</b>

# The

# TIMELINE

## Key Milestones

# Proposal

Key Milestones	Responsible Party	Month(s)	Year(s)
<b>Model Development</b> Develop: preliminary vegetation cover comparison, vegetative continuity comparison, infrastructure identification, problematic surface hydrology identification, topographic contouring assessment, & volumetric measurement models.	SolSpec	Feb-Aug	2020
<b>Model Automation</b> For each model: automate data aggregation, dissemination, derivative generation, analytic process, & internal validation.	SolSpec	Feb-Aug	2020
<b>Aerial Data Collection</b> Collect aerial imagery with UAS: 100 sites	ISight	Aug-Sept	2020
Manage access to & supervise site: 100 sites	Whiting	Aug-Sept	2020
<b>Model Validation</b> Perform ground-truthing of field inspections: 30 sites	Duraroot	Aug-Sept	2020
Manage access to & supervise site: 30 sites	Whiting	Aug-Sept	2020
Perform agency field inspections: 20 sites	NDIC	Aug-Oct	2020
Test & refine models according to field observations	SolSpec	Nov-April	2020-2021
<b>Reporting</b> Quarterly Progress Report 1	SolSpec	March	2020
Quarterly Progress Report 2	SolSpec	June	2020
Quarterly Progress Report 3	SolSpec	Sept	2020
Quarterly Progress Report 4	SolSpec	Dec	2020
Quarterly Progress Report 5	SolSpec	March	2021
Final Report; Delivery of Data, Full Study Results, & Toolkit Availability; Press Release	SolSpec	June	2021
Briefings to NDIC/OGRC	SolSpec	As requested	2020-2021

# Thank You.

