**PROJECT ID:** CAFS.22.98

**YEAR:** **1** of **2**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Center for Advanced Forestry Systems Interactive Mapping Platform (CAFS IMP)

**INVESTIGATOR(S): Okan Pala**

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| **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**  We are working to collaborate with three CAFS sites to develop an online interactive mapping platform (CAFS IMP). We communicate regularly with CAFS site coordinators and staff to understand initial and changing needs. Based on the needs, we are making necessary preparations to develop and implement an interactive mapping platform. We are working to obtain the necessary data from the collaborating sites. The interactive mapping platform we develop will be used to visualize the data extent, location, format as well as data custodian’s information for further communication. We are using ArcGIS Online (AGOL) platform for data sharing and collaboration. Through this platform, site coordinators and technicians can have direct access to their data through a password-controlled environment managed by AGOL. They will be able to access, visualize, download, and upload data. Moreover, the users will be able to update their data on the fly without having to download and upload the layers. |
| **OBJECTIVES:**  Create a user-friendly internet mapping platform (CASF IMP) and work initially with three CAFS sites to incorporate the layers of interest to the platform. |
| **METHODS:**  The initial phase of this effort includes close collaboration through online meetings with contributing sites. The project PI and staff meets the site contacts to discuss existing data layers, needed updates and extra layers to be uploaded. The meetings also cover training needed for site staff to learn to use the collaboration environment (AGOL). The project team works to gather the data and load it to servers at the hosting institution (NCSU). These are then linked to AGOL site and shared with collaborators through AGOL “Shared Update Groups”. The project team uses these data layers as a part of the internet mapping platform. When a new data layer that is not initially used will need to be uploaded, the site staff will need to communicate with the project staff for those to be placed on the interactive map. Through proper training, this can be handled by the site staff in the future |
| **MAJOR FINDINGS:**  With multiple CAFS collaborating institutions, an interactive mapping site along with a collaboration platform can be used to increase research practice efficacy through increased communication and collaboration. We are working to make this possible. |
| **DELIVERABLES:**  CAFS Interactive Mapping Platform (CAFS IMP) is the main deliverable along with the service we are providing to coordinate the member organizations for easy collaboration. Through the platform and accompanying online sharing system, members will have easy and transparent access to data visualization, storage, sharing and update capabilities. |
| **MEMBER COMPANY BENEFITS:**  Ultimately, the interactive mapping platform (CAFS IMP) can be used to communicate and visualize the site data with ease, increase collaboration among CAFS sites and provide ease for data finding, and updating. This in turn will result in time and cost savings for member organizations. |