



Zac Canter

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Zac Canter has experience applying geographic information systems to a variety of environmental science and planning challenges. He is currently a GIS Analyst/Project Manager at CBI, specializing in the Southern California region. He spent two years as a Teaching Assistant for the Geography Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research interests include GIS applications in land-use planning, human-environment relations, and the regional geography of California. In his free time, Zac likes to travel, surf, snowboard, and golf.

EDUCATION

(In Progress) Ph.D., Geography, University of California, Santa Barbara

AWARDS

Teaching Assistantship, Geography Department, University of California, Santa Barbara

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2020 – present. GIS Analyst/Project Manager, Conservation Biology Institute, Corvallis, OR
2018 – 2020. Teaching Assistant, Geography Department, UC Santa Barbara
2015 – 2017. Intern, NASA/JPL, Pasadena, CA

SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Santa Barbara County Conservation Blueprint: The Santa Barbara County Conservation Blueprint provides a common language and platform for publicly available data to support in depth conversations and informed decisions about the Santa Barbara County landscape. This collaborative project aims to describe the current landscape, natural resources, and community values about land in Santa Barbara County.

Regional Priority Plan to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health in Santa Barbara County: The RPP is a multi-prong collaboration, which focuses on public and private land in the wildland/urban interface (WUI). CBI will develop a sophisticated decision-support mapping tool to not only predict areas of high fire-risk on a landscape scale, but also help the community prioritize where fire risk mitigation projects should occur. The tool will serve as a community resource within the Santa Barbara County Conservation Blueprint and should improve communication, network building, and support community priorities through a regional approach to fire resilience and habitat health. The project team is talking with the many agencies and stakeholders involved and facilitating the collaborative decision-making process.

The Fire Resilience Project: Piloting ways for community scientists and professionals to work together effectively in helping our fire-ravaged landscapes: Santa Barbara Botanical Garden (SBBG) and CBI successfully co-wrote a proposal to California's Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration Program. Steve Windhager, Denise Knapp, and other SBBG staff join CBI staff in partnership to develop, apply, and share a fiscally responsible and repeatable methodology for assessing fire-damaged watersheds, and systematically prioritizing management actions. The project will pilot this methodology in a baseline assessment of the portion of the Whittier and Thomas fire burn scars located in the Los Padres National Forest. Expert researchers and "community scientists" will collect data on more than 390 miles of trails across 171,640 acres. The project will build upon survey methods developed during a SBBG 2018 assessment of the Zaca and Jesusita fire scars. It will draw from the rapidly growing literature on community science and new mobile apps, to provide opportunities for the community to help. A spatial decision support system will synthesize the new data along with existing data to help map the highest priority interventions (to be implemented in a subsequent phase). The site-specific interventions planned will be mudslide or trail stabilization, weed control, native seed collection, and native seed planting.