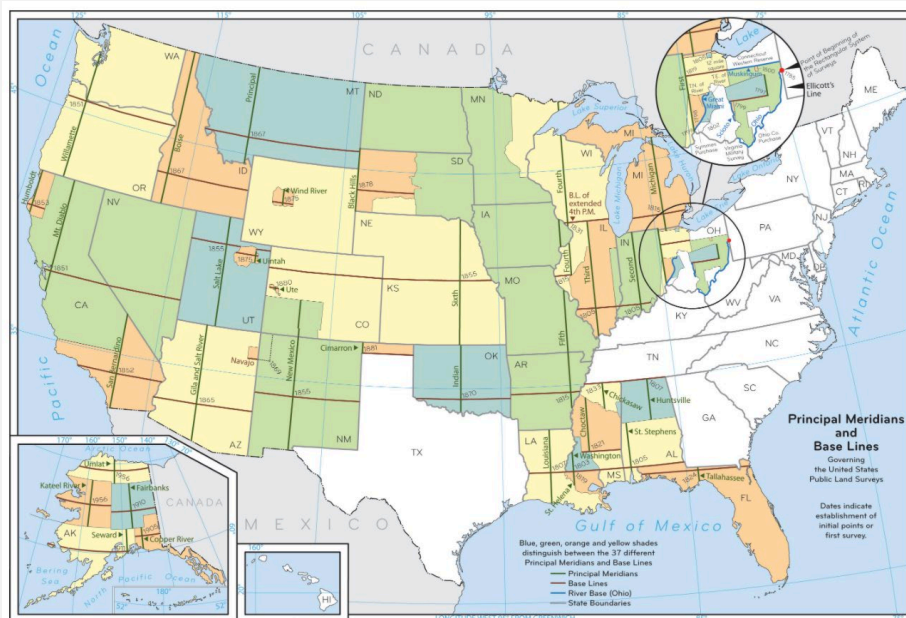


Forest Health Research Program Grantee Webinar:

Assessing the veracity of historic public land surveys: a case study in California

Clarke Knight, PhD, US Geological Survey



Wednesday, September 27, 2023

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

[Register here](#)

Abstract: Historic public land survey (PLS) data has been extensively relied upon in baseline ecological studies across the US public domain. The quality of historic PLS data varies due to surveyor biases as well as defective work that was the result of fraud. Currently, the extent and import of PLS data fabrication are unknown. For PLS data from El Dorado National Forest in California, we applied a systematic method to gauge survey veracity and estimate density. This research provides a way forward to minimize the effects of dishonest PLS data and increase confidence for ecological research.

Dr. Clarke Knight has been a postdoctoral scholar at the US Geological Survey in the Climate Research and Development Program since 2021. She researches hydroclimate variability and anthropogenic environmental change in western North America during the Holocene. Previously, she received a PhD from UC Berkeley where she researched the paleoecology of forest ecosystems in California.

The Forest Health Research Program is part of [California Climate Investments](#), a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.

