**Pinyon Jay Living Maps Project: Data Sharing Request**Anna Nordseth, ORISE Postdoctoral Fellow, USDA-FS Rocky Mountain Research Station  
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**Project Overview**Having up-to-date information on sensitive species’ habitat distribution and understanding how habitat has changed over time is critical for making informed conservation decisions. Our research group at Rocky Mountain Research Station has developed an automated habitat monitoring approach, which we call ‘living maps’, to model long-term habitat change (1985-present) and provide up-to-date habitat maps using the power of Google Earth Engine. The Pinyon Jay Living Maps project will compile high-quality Pinyon Jay occurrence data from across the species range to create dynamic habitat distribution models. Specifically, we aim to (1) track how Pinyon Jay habitat has changed over time and (2) create an automated system to continually update habitat maps. By leveraging near real-time environmental data and using a semi-automated habitat monitoring system, this project seeks to understand how habitat preferences and availability shift due to land use, climate change, wildfires, and other drivers. Similar products have been developed for Mexican spotted owls (Jones et al. 2023, Shirk et al. 2023) and southern Sierra Nevada fishers (Hart et al. *In revision*).

**Data Request**Pinyon Jays inhabit landscapes facing various changes and threats across multiple states and jurisdictions, making it critical for the data informing our models to have representative spatial coverage of the conditions they are experiencing. This will provide insights relevant to the conservation of the species across their entire range, rather than being limited to specific regions.

* We are requesting Pinyon Jay occurrence data from the breeding season (March to mid-May) and additional data reflecting their presence on breeding grounds (through July). These can include occurrence data or estimates of abundance or counts. At a minimum, we request (1) occurrence or count data, (2) detection latitude and longitude, and (3) occurrence date, including day, month, and year. Older detections (i.e. from 1980s and 90s) are also valuable to our efforts.
* Data contributors will have the opportunity to opt-in as co-authors on the resulting paper. More information will be provided on this in the future.

**Data Privacy Expectations**We are in the process of establishing a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) to legally protect any data shared as part of this project from outside parties and public disclosure requests, such as Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. All shared data will be used solely for the Living Maps project.

**Why This Matters for Pinyon Jay Conservation**This project will produce a range-wide model that offers insights into Pinyon Jay habitat changes over nearly four decades, providing valuable context for understanding the species’ current challenges. These ‘living maps’ will deliver near real-time updates on Pinyon Jay habitat, allowing land managers more closely track habitat changes, identify critical areas, prioritize conservation efforts before habitats become degraded, and plan management to promote habitat recruitment. The improved understanding of habitat dynamics across boundaries will encourage regional collaboration and ensure that conservation strategies remain flexible and responsive to rapid environmental changes like wildfires, droughts, floods, insect outbreaks, and human activities.

**References**

Hart, R., C. M. Thompson, J. M. Tucker, S. C. Sawyer, S. A. Eyes, S. J. Saberi, Z. Yang, G. M. Jones(*In revision*) Rapid declines in southern Sierra Nevada fisher habitat driven by drought and wildfire. *Diversity and Distributions.*

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