Methods

One current challenge in the modeling approach is the possible collinearity between the independent variables of number of fires and organic layer depth. A solution to this problem would be to collect additional species-level data in the lowland site. Lowland plots have an identical number of fires, but their organic layer depths are known to be different (I.e., Fig. 7B in Chapter 1). Including species-level data from the lowland site would introduce variability, potentially resolving any issues of collinearity. Furthermore, including the lowland site in the analysis would help resolve any potential problems related to small sampling size.

Furthermore, if additional species-level data is collected from the lowland site, comparisons can be made between upland and lowland plots.

## Proposed Timeline

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Summer 2018-19** | | **Fall 2018-19** | | | | | **Spring 2020** | | | | |
| June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | March | April | May |
| Field Sampling | | Literature Review | | | | | Literature Review / Exploratory Data Analysis | | | | |
| Data entry / processing | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Summer 2020** | | **Fall 2020** | | | | | **Spring 2021** | | | | |
| June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | March | April | May |
| Comps | Data Analysis: conduct for Upland site | | | | | | Writing: draft introduction, methods, upland results | | | | |