



## INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM

**Study Title:** Capstone Software Engineering Design Project

**Researcher:** Wildfire Visualization Team

**Researcher's Contact Information:** N/A

**Faculty Supervisor:** Peter C Rigby

**Faculty Supervisor's Contact Information:** [[peter.rigby@concordia.ca](mailto:peter.rigby@concordia.ca)]

**Source of funding for the study:** N/A

You are being invited to participate in the research study mentioned above. This form provides information about what participating would mean. Please read it carefully before deciding if you want to participate or not. If there is anything you do not understand, or if you want more information, please ask the researcher.

### A. PURPOSE

The purpose of the research is [ to evaluate the usability and effectiveness of the Wildfire Visualization Platform developed by the Capstone Software Engineering Team. The platform is designed to help data analysts visualize wildfire datasets and make informed decisions based on spatial and temporal data. ].

### B. PROCEDURES

If you participate, you will be asked to explore the platform's features using either a predefined walkthrough or self-guided exploration. You may also be observed using the platform, asked to describe your experience (think-aloud), and/or complete a short feedback questionnaire.

In total, participating in this study will take approximately 20 to 40 minutes.

### C. RISKS AND BENEFITS

You might face certain risks by participating in this research. These risks include: minor discomfort associated with being observed or asked questions during interaction with the platform.

Potential benefits include: contributing to the improvement of a real-world software tool, and learning about user-centered design and visualization techniques.

#### **D. CONFIDENTIALITY**

We will gather the following information as part of this research: your general feedback on the application's usability, your interaction experience, and responses to a short questionnaire.

We will not allow anyone to access the information, except people directly involved in conducting the research. We will only use the information for the purposes of the research described in this form.

The information gathered will be anonymous. That means that it will not be possible to make a link between you and the information you provide.

We will protect the information by storing it in a secured private repository accessible only to the capstone team and supervisors.

We intend to publish the results of the research. However, it will not be possible to identify you in the published results.

We will destroy the information five years after the end of the study.

#### **F. CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION**

You do not have to participate in this research. It is purely your decision. If you do participate, you can stop at any time. You can also ask that the information you provided not be used, and your choice will be respected. If you decide that you don't want us to use your information, you must tell the researcher before April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

There are no negative consequences for not participating, stopping in the middle, or asking us not to use your information.

#### **G. PARTICIPANT'S DECLARATION**

I have read and understood this form. I have had the chance to ask questions and any questions have been answered. I agree to participate in this research under the conditions described.

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions about the scientific or scholarly aspects of this research, please contact the researcher. Their contact information is on page I. You may also contact their faculty supervisor.

If you have concerns about ethical issues in this research, please contact the Manager, Research Ethics, Concordia University, 514.848.2424 ex. 7481 or [oor.ethics@concordia.ca](mailto:oor.ethics@concordia.ca).