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Remote Sensing of Forest Trends at Mammoth Cave National Park from 2000 to 2011

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Remote Sensing of Forest Trends at Mammoth Cave National Park from 2000 to 2011

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Abstract

The influence of climate change and other environmental stressors on the health of mid-latitude forests is an important, yet understudied topic for resource managers. Using vegetation indices derived from satellite remote sensing, slight changes in photosynthetic activity can be detected at the spatial scales needed for long-term forest monitoring. This study used remote sensing and geographic information systems to track the photosynthetic activity within Mammoth Cave National Park from 2000 to 2011. Relationships are examined between climate variables and the vegetation indices for the forest as a whole and at selected areas within the park.