

Proposed Extension of Wildfire Safety Patrol IGA: Drone Infrared Detection Program May 5th, 2020

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Review: Why a Drone Detection Program?

- **City Has Patrolled or Contracted for Watershed Fire Patrol Since 1980's**
- **Wildfire Ignitions Risk as Climate Warms Resulting in More Severe Fires Threatening Life, Property, Business, Tourism, Recreation, and the City's Water Supply**
- **Resource Damage and Clean Up Costs Caused by Camping**
- **Impractical and Uneconomical to Cover Steep, Difficult Terrain with Regularity Using Foot Patrols**
- **Drone can be deployed immediately after lightning storms**

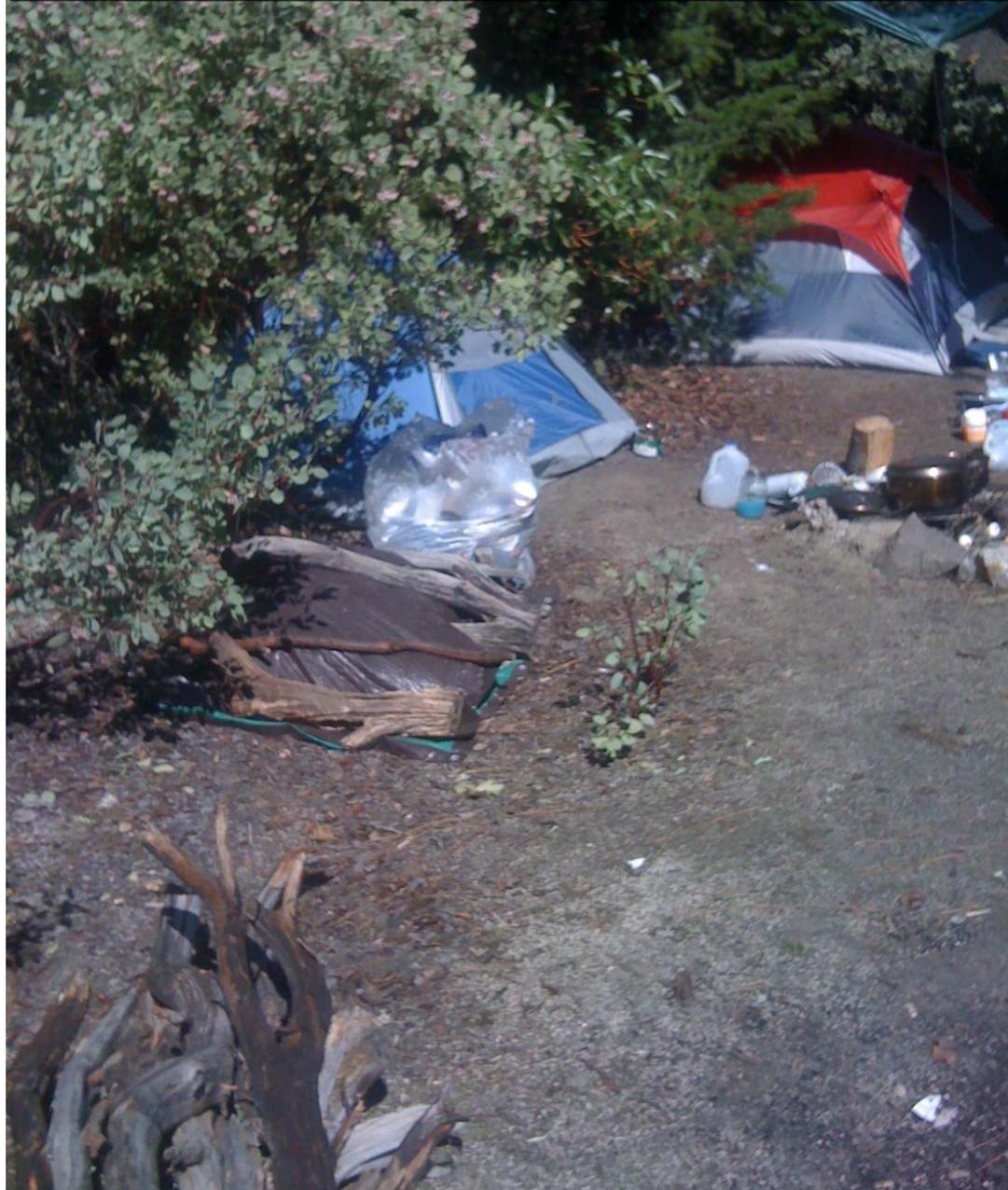
Natural Resource Damage from Illegal Camping







Fire Ignition Risks from Illegal Camping



Ignition Sources Found Near OSF in Lithia Park



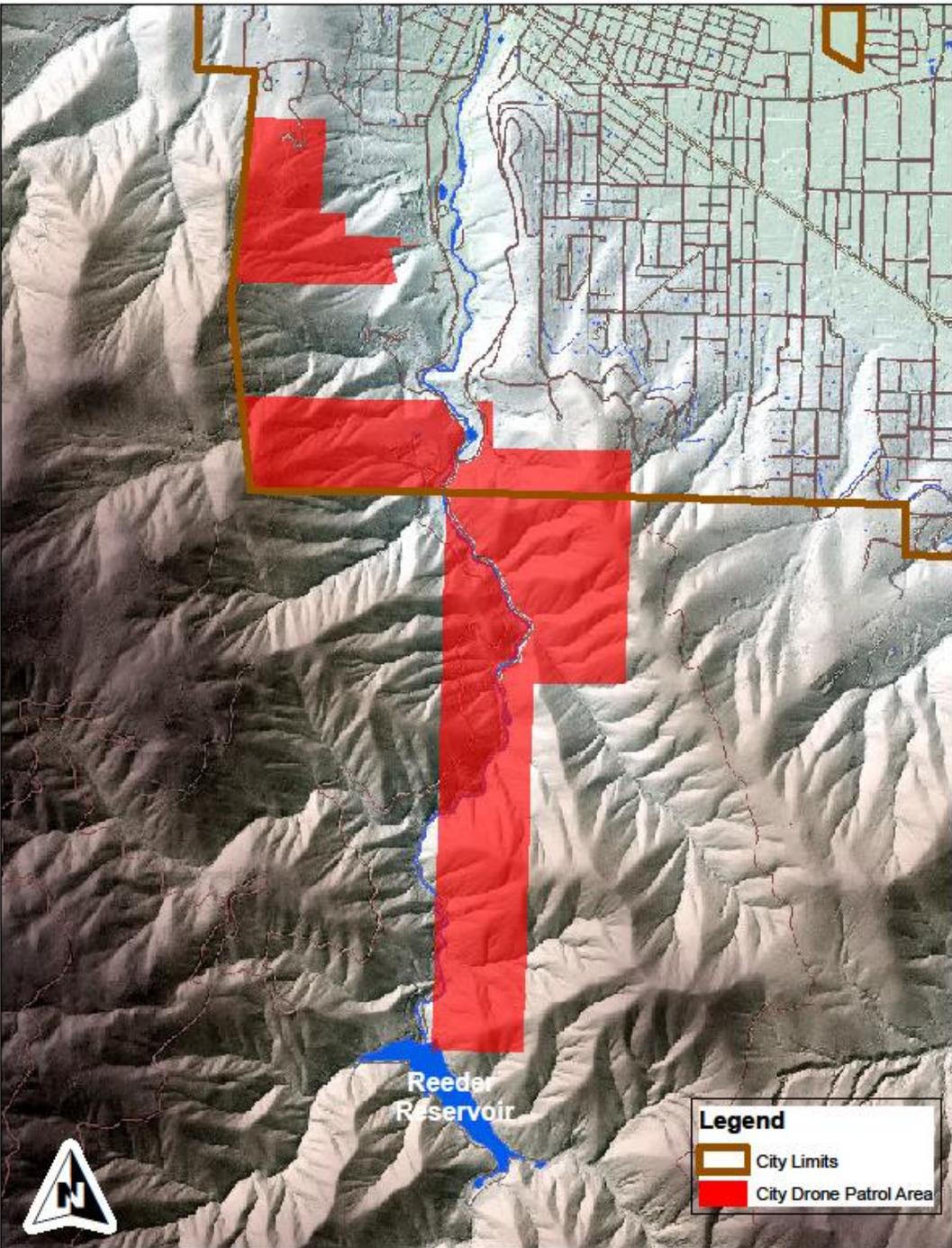
Wildfires Caused by Camping

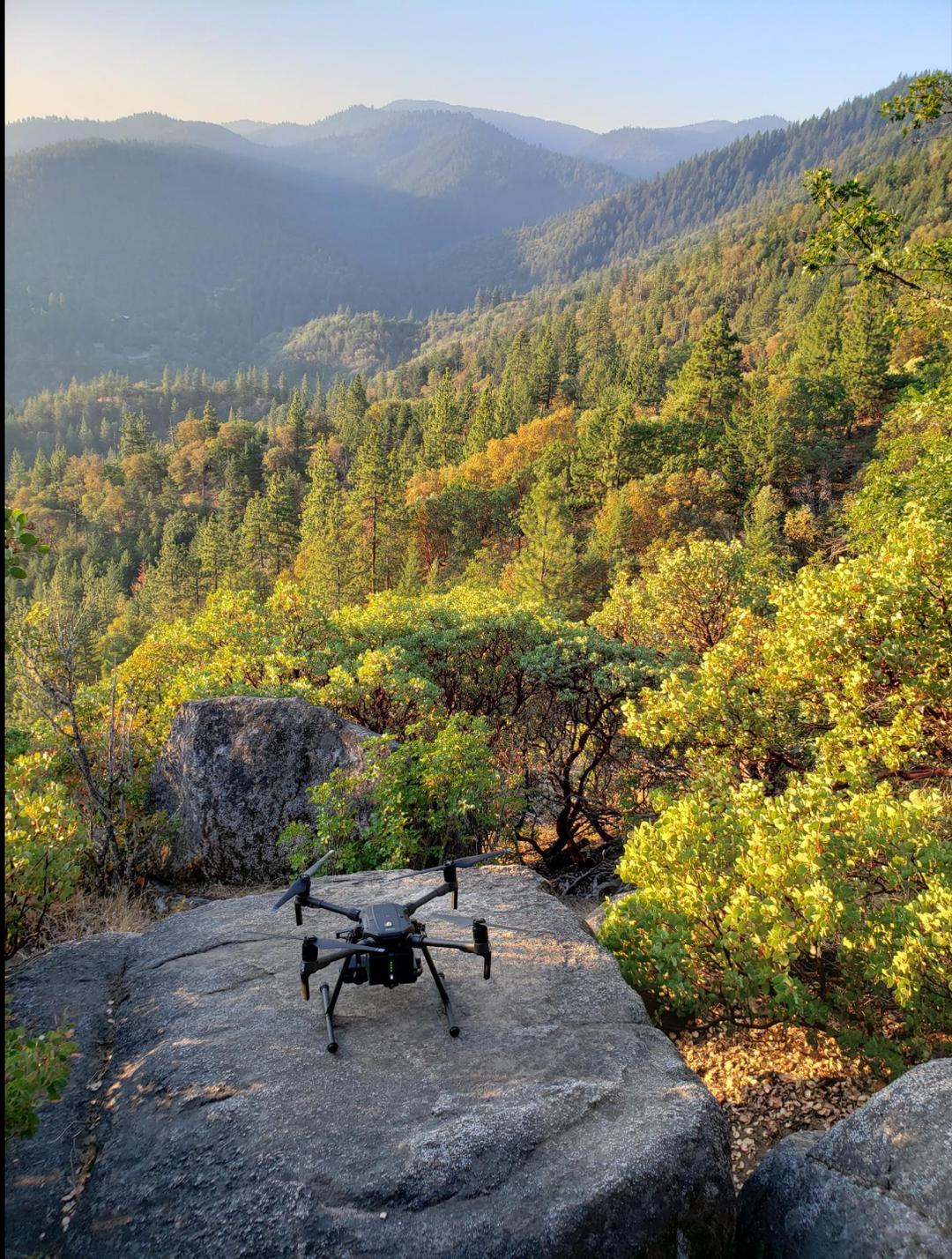




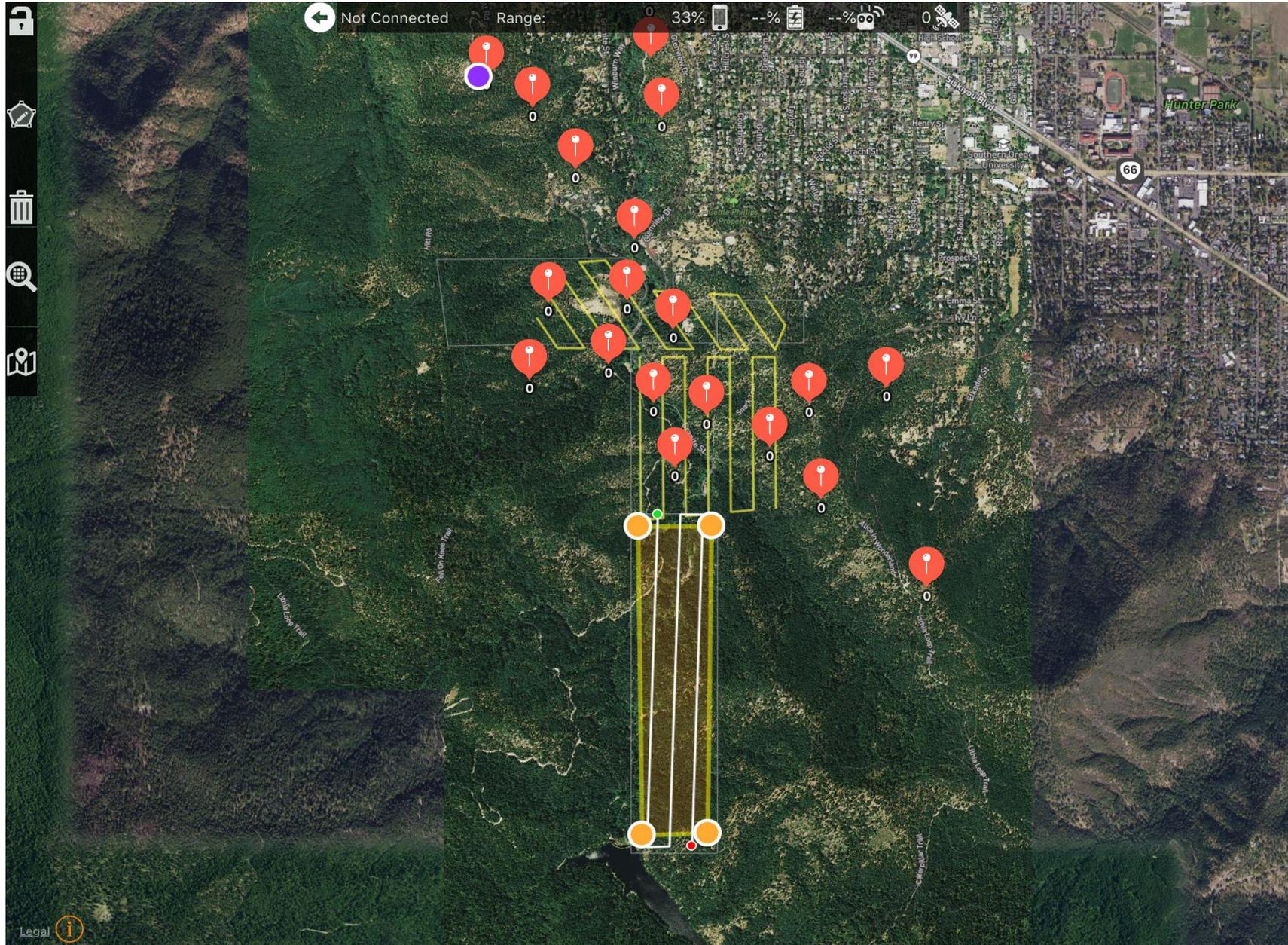


Proposed Patrol Program Approval: Review of 2019 Operations





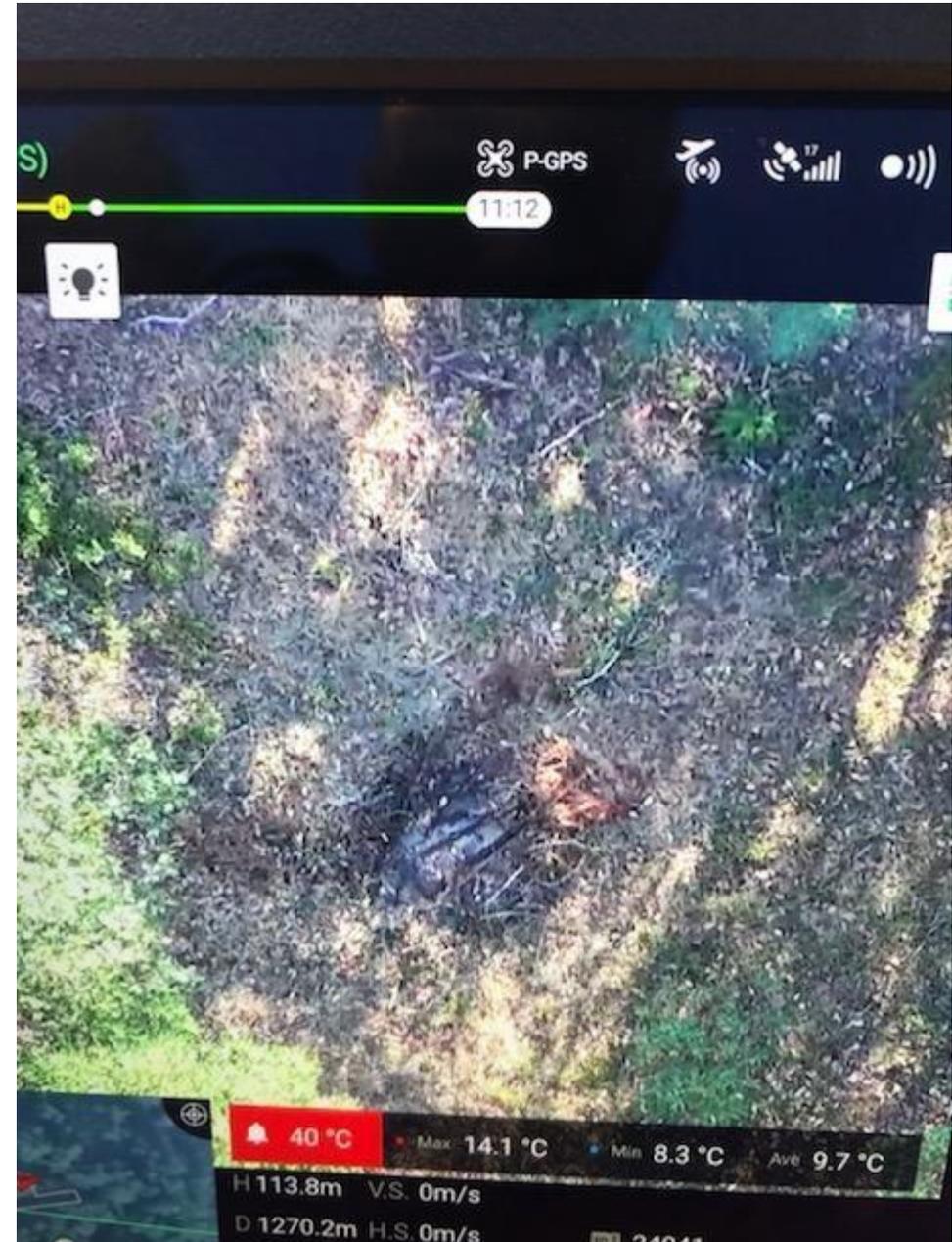
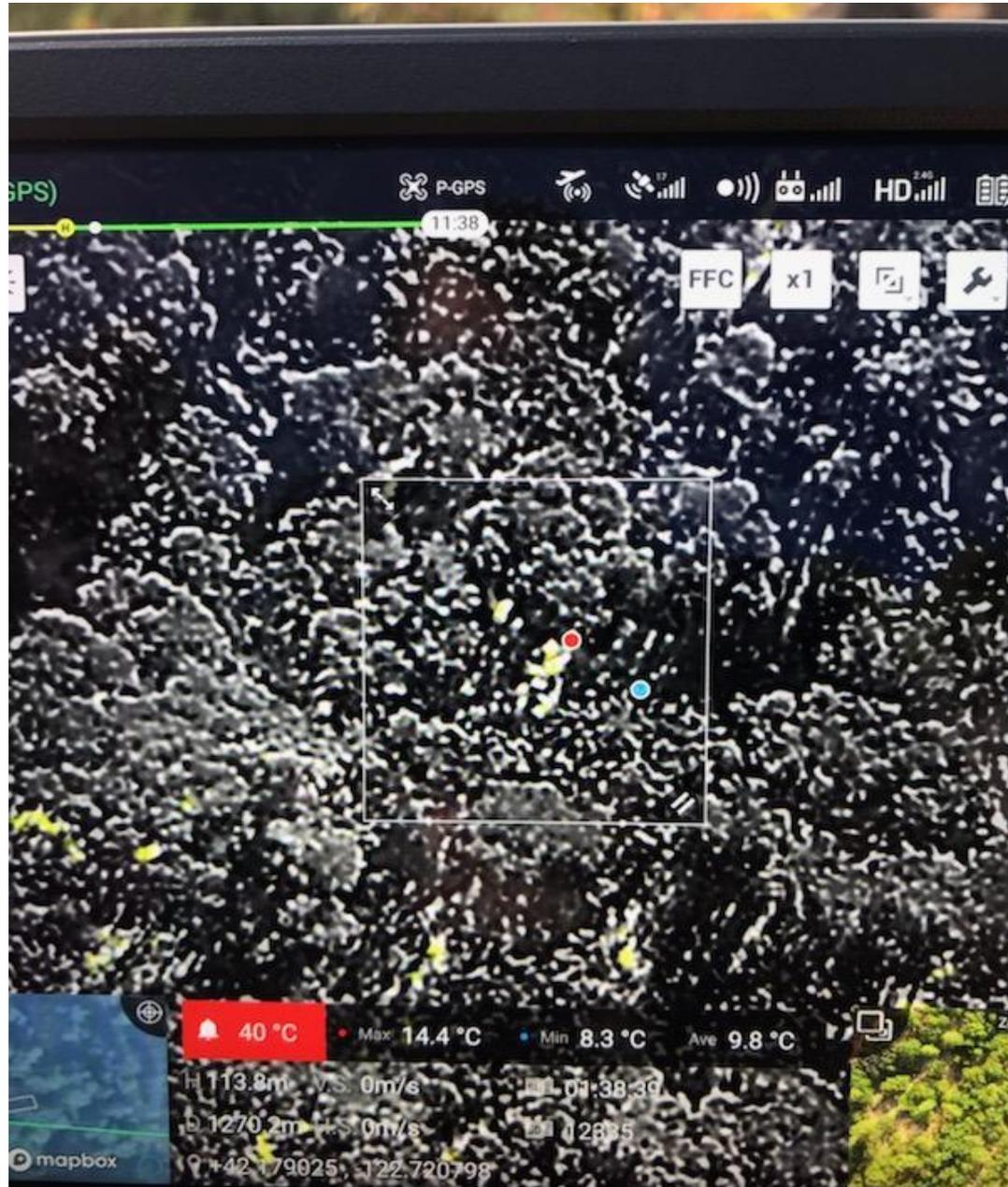
Pre-Programmed Flight Route



Pilot's Screen Using Infrared Detection Imagery



Infrared Heat Detection and Location



Budget Allocation and 2019 Costs

- **Created an Intergovernmental Agreement with Rogue Valley Council of Governments in 2019 for drone services**
- **Utilizes previously allocated funds from the well established watershed foot patrol program dating to 1990's**
- **2019 costs were \$5,982.16 including travel, flights, and processing time.**
- **Ashland Police Department enforces illegal camping on City lands inside and outside the City limits. USFS follows up in watershed. All under current resources and budgets.**

2019 Patrol Results

- **22 Days/39 flight hours, from July 17 to September 19th**
- **Recorded nine incidents that required follow up:**
 - **Eight illegal camping incidents (seven on City, two on USFS)**
 - **One arrest for outstanding warrants**
 - **One recovered and returned purse**
 - **One suspected fire incident investigated (old burn pile, no fire) by Ashland Fire & Rescue**

2020 Adjustments Anticipated

- Fire Season Started a Month Early at May 1st
- Longer season expected, adjustments by days/week will be made to stay in budget
- May – June – July Climate Predictions show strong chances of warmer than normal and drier than normal conditions.
- Strong chances of warmer than normal continue July-September

