Instructions to Authors

Please note noncompliance with these instructions may lead to potential rejection of the paper. However, following these requirements will be greatly helpful in smooth processing of your manuscript.

Cover Letter: A cover letter (addressed to the Editor-in-Chief) is mandatory for all manuscript submissions. Cover letters must clearly state that:

(1). Research is original and has not been published elsewhere;

(2). Presented material is that of the authors';

(3). Research is conducted with scientific integrity and known norms of science;

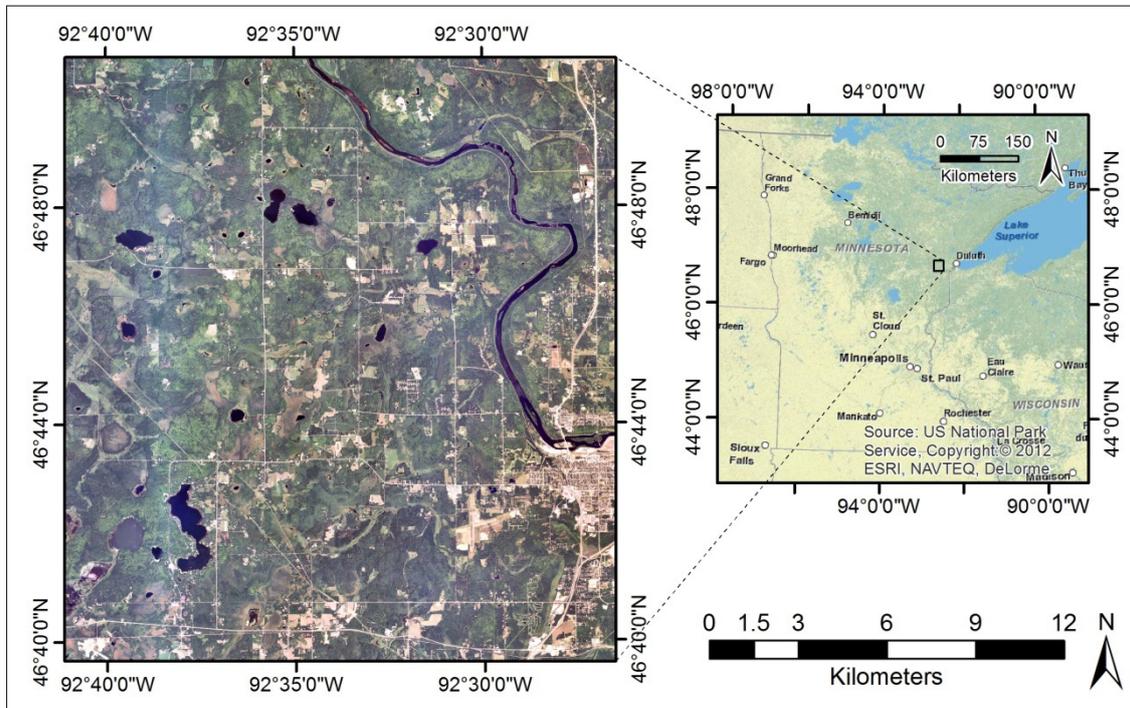(4). Whether there is any duplication and, if so, state the relevant facts.

The cover letter will also be checked and reviewed during the review process and editorial scrutiny. No submissions will be accepted without a proper cover letter stating the above required facts. We also encourage submission of the cover letter on an institutional letterhead signed by the main author. Please note, however, that a cover letter for submissions to Special Issues can be addressed to the Guest Editor.

Abstract: The abstract should be written as one paragraph (of about 300 words). The abstract must state the overarching goal or main objective(s) as well as the purpose/rationale of the study in two or three sentences. This should be followed by succinct statements concerning the data used, approach adopted, and methods used. The scope and study design may also be mentioned. The key focus of the paper should be highlighted. Furthermore, one should point out what was achieved and/or what were the strengths and limitations of the studies. Any societal benefits and/or breakthroughs are also worth mentioning. The abstract must be self-contained. A reader should not have to read through the paper to understand it. Therefore, please define any acronyms.

Keywords: A list of three to ten keywords must be given, and placed after the Abstract.

Key Components of the Paper: Overall, all papers should comprise of most of these (ideally all of these) sections: Abstract, Background and Rationale, Goal and/or Objectives, Study Area, Approach, Methods, Discussions, Conclusions, References, Figures, and Tables. In rare cases, appendices should also be included. Where necessary, and in very rare cases, acronyms and abbreviations should also be provided. Papers should be based on sound theory, data, analysis, validation, and conclusions. Good English should also be utilized.

Figures: All images and maps **MUST** have a scale, a north arrow, and coordinates (e.g., see Figure 1 below from doi:10.3390/rs5073212). Figure captions must be self-contained. A reader should not have to read through the text to understand a figure. Papers that do not meet these requirements will not be accepted.

Discussions: It is essential to discuss one's results in detail. One should take into consideration other published work on the subject. One should tell the readers how one's results compared with other studies and/or how one's work is a groundbreaking study. In discussions, it is essential to appropriately refer to other published work, relative to the results obtained in one's paper.

Uncertainties, Errors, and Accuracies: This can be part of the Discussion section. However, it is essential to discuss the strengths and limitations of one's study. Accuracy assessments must be performed where appropriate. Discussions of uncertainties and errors are required in most papers.

Conclusions: Conclusions must provide quantitative guidance to readers. Vague subjective words should be avoided while strengths and limitations should be clearly stated. Conclusions should be concise and precise and include: (a) a description of the significant achievement or outcome of the study; (b) any new findings; (c) a statement of how knowledge is advanced; (d) an explanation of how the study is unique; and (e) the way forward. In case of review papers, the conclusions should summarize the "state-of-art" of knowledge, knowledge gaps, and suggest ideas for the going forward. Sometimes authors combine discussions and conclusions into a single section. This is unacceptable. The purpose of the conclusion is to show the real contribution of the research (*i.e.*, how the research enhances overall knowledge of the field). In contrast, discussions are meant to show how one's study compares with other studies, and in rare cases how one's study sets the stage for subsequent inquiries. Conclusions must be self-contained, *i.e.*, a reader should not have to read through the paper to understand it and it would help if any acronyms were written in full.

Point by Point Response to Reviewers' Comments: A very thorough point by point response to every review comment must be provided. To the extent possible, review comments must be addressed with respect. Where there is disagreement, a clear response on why review comments cannot be addressed must be stated. Such a point by point response may be required for multiple rounds of reviews.

References: Please ensure that a comprehensive list of all relevant references is provided in numerical order, e.g., relevant papers published in this journal.

Review Papers: Review papers must be very comprehensive. Overall, they should provide the current state of the art on the subject. Content must include summary tables and figures that capture methodologies, approaches, and results of various studies. The discussion section must compare and contrast advances and limitations. In the end, review papers must capture what the advances have been, and where the limitations and knowledge gaps are. Shallow, non-comprehensive review papers will not be accepted.

Abstract Graphic: Authors are required to provide a self-explanatory graphical abstract of the paper to be used along with the abstract in the Journal's Table of Contents and search results. The graphic should not exceed 550 pixels width/height and can be provided as a PDF, JPG, PNG or GIF file. The minimum text size in the graphic should be 12 pt.