

A lasting heatwave and wildfires affect western US

Sentinel-3 SLSTR LST acquired on 09 July 2021 from 17:04:40 to 18:09:16 UTC

...

Sentinel-3 SLSTR RBT acquired on 17 July 2021 from 16:57:11 to 18:41:10 UTC

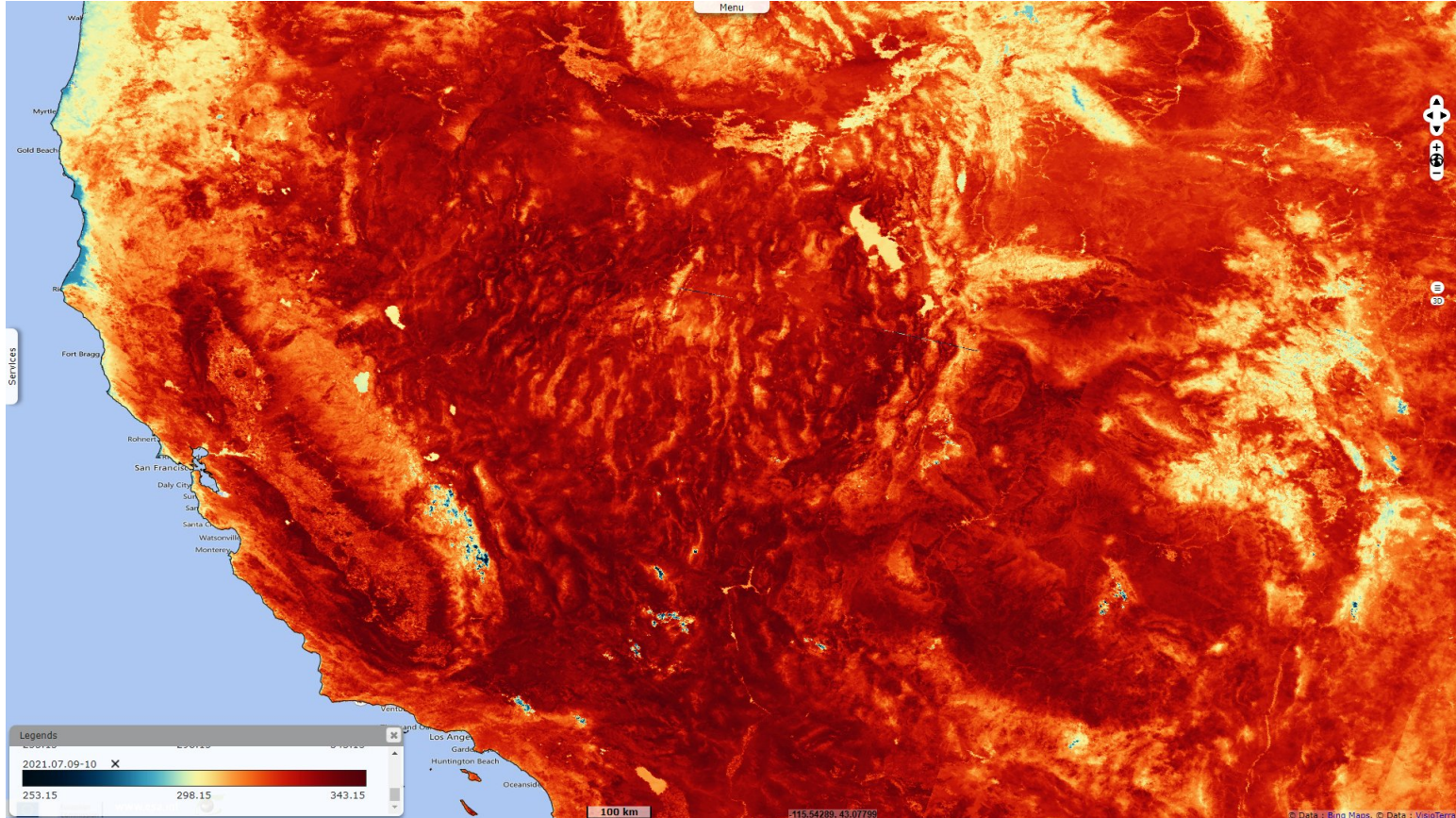
Sentinel-3 SLSTR LST acquired on 19 July 2021 from 05:31:54 to 05:34:54 UTC

Author(s): Sentinel Vision team, VisioTerra, France - svp@visioterra.fr

Keyword(s): Drought, wildfires, emergency, climate change, global warming, snow melt, United States, USA, Canada

[2D Layerstack](#)

Fig. 1 - S3 SLSTR (09-10.07.2021) - After a previous series of heat records, temperatures measured in the western US have peaked again. [2D view](#)



The Death Valley recorded 53°C, Las Vegas equaled its record of 47.2°C, Phoenix and San Jose have also reached some of their highest values.

Fig. 2 - S3 SLSTR (11.07.2021) - Combined with the drought, it caused tens of fires along the coastal areas and as far as Colorado state. [2D view](#)

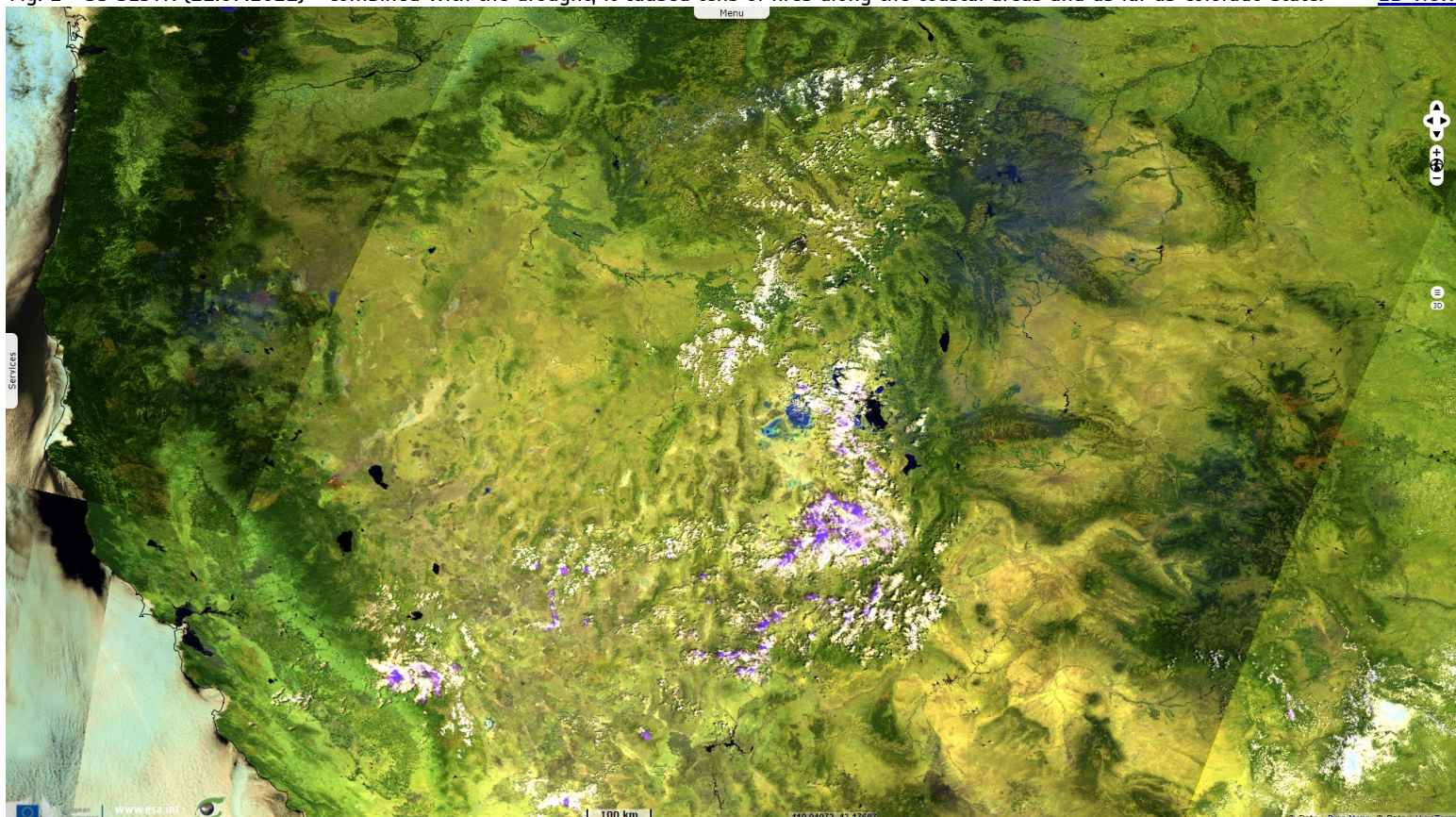


Fig. 3 - S3 SLSTR (17.07.2021) - A week later, the wildfires have largely spread, such as the 1200 km² Bootleg fire in Oregon.

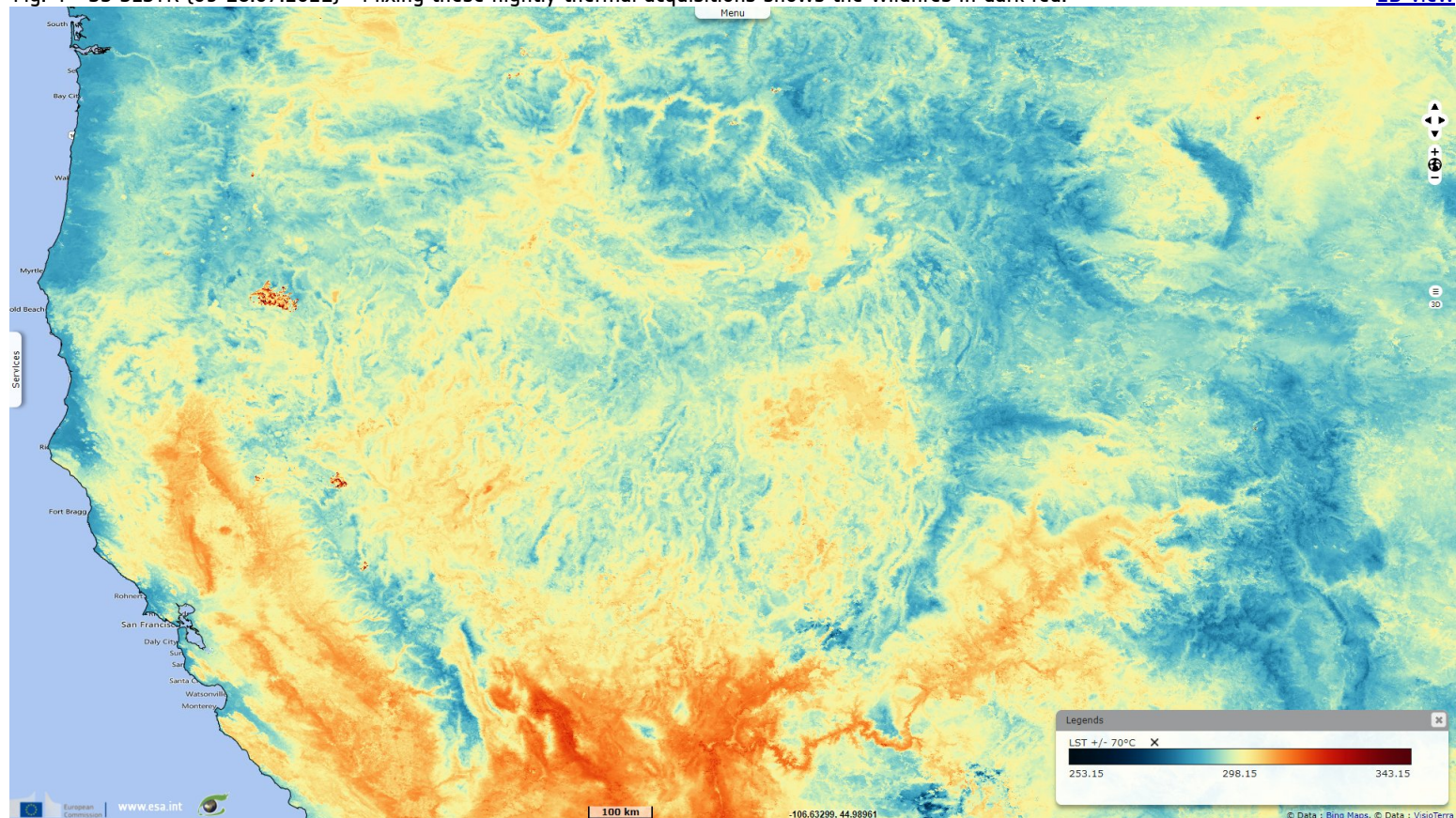
[2D view](#)



So far, human activity has caused global temperatures to rise by $\sim 1.1^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Fig. 4 - S3 SLSTR (09-18.07.2021) - Mixing these nightly thermal acquisitions shows the wildfires in dark red.

[2D view](#)



It results in more destructive storms, more intense heat waves, droughts and more forest fires.

Fig. 5 - S3 SLSTR (14.07.2021) - By mid July, very little snow covers the Sierra Nevada. The last 6 years are the 6 warmest years on record. [2D view](#)

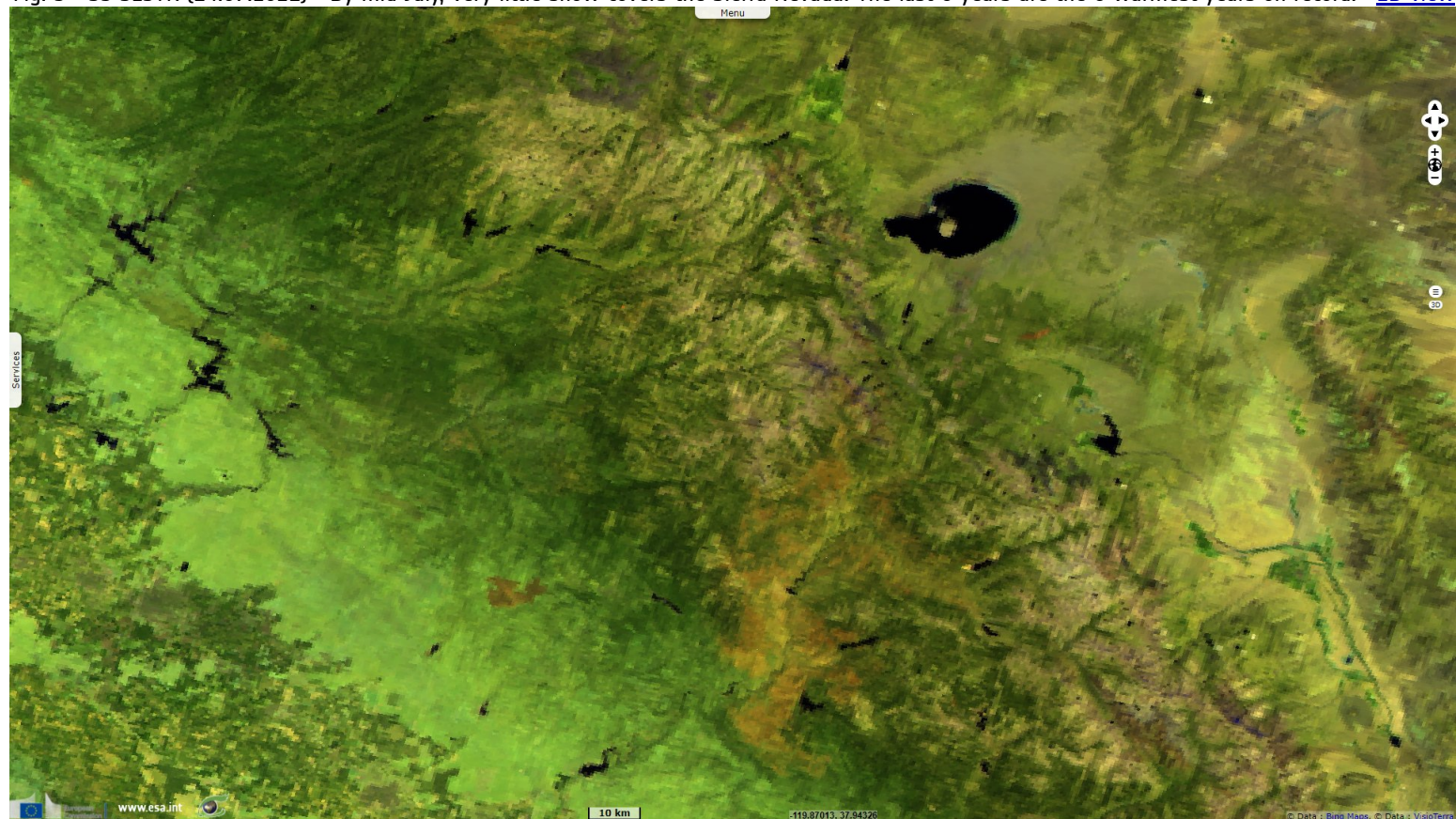
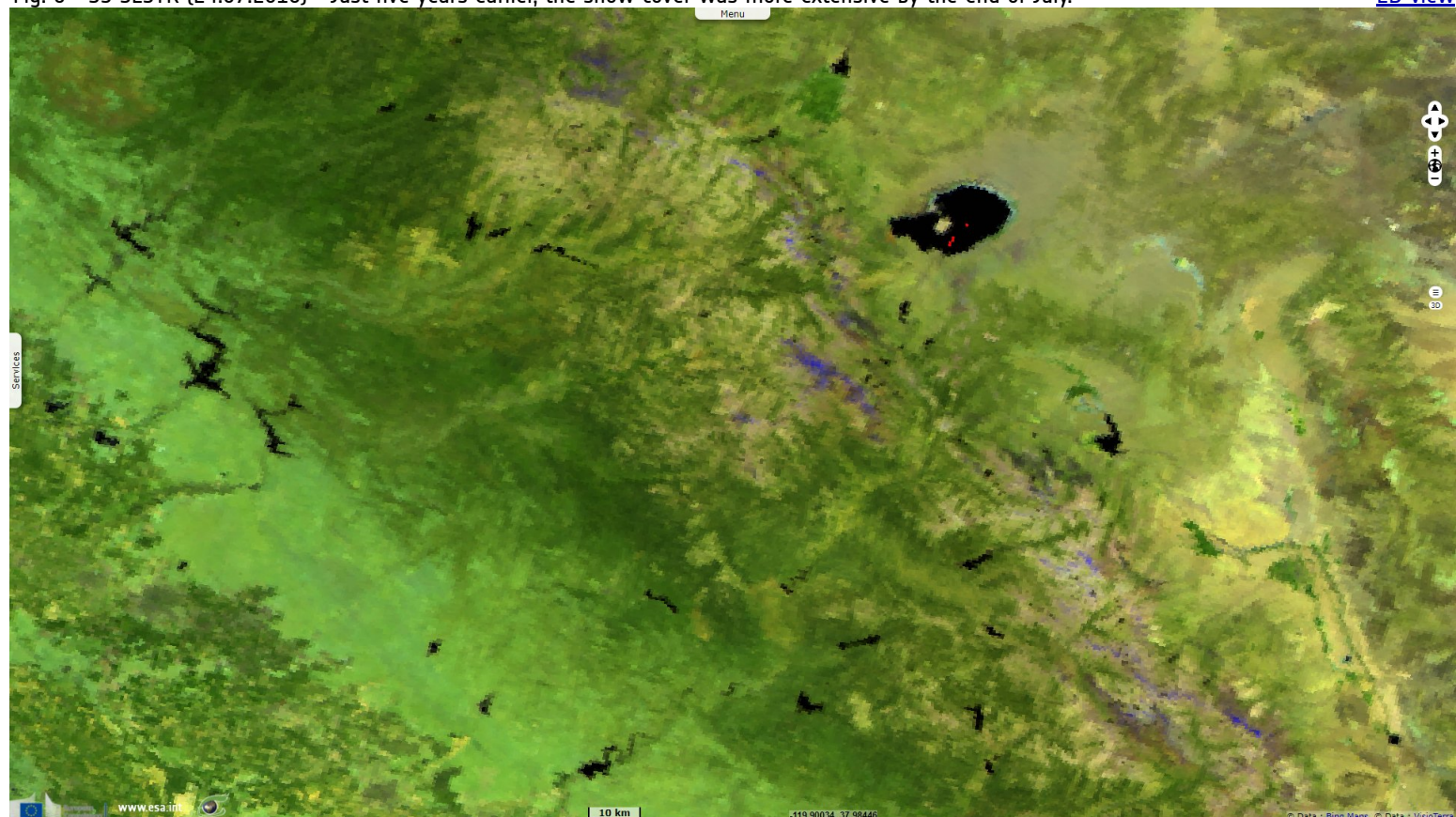


Fig. 6 - S3 SLSTR (24.07.2016) - Just five years earlier, the snow cover was more extensive by the end of July. [2D view](#)



*The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Space Agency or the European Union.
Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data 2021, processed by VisioTerra.*

More on European Commission space:						
More on ESA:				S-1 website	S-2 website	S-3 website
More on Copernicus program:				SciHub portal	Cophub portal	Inthub portal
More on VisioTerra:				Sentinel Vision Portal	Envisat+ERS portal	Swarm+GOCE portal
					CryoSat portal	