

Title: Severe Fire Conditions: A Brief Look Into What Natural and Human Factors Effect Wildfires

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Using regression analysis, this project looks at the effects of rainfall and temperature on the number of acres burned in each of the 50 states in the United States. The data I used was from the year 2016. I found that states that have very large amounts of rainfall do not experience large amounts of acres burned. I found that for a state to be prone to extreme wildfire it needs to have a Mediterranean like climate. This means warm dry summers and wet mild winters. The perfect condition for wildfires is a dichotomy, a state could not get lots and lots of rain but it also didn't need to be the hottest state to be prone to extreme fire conditions. Many other factors have an effect on wildfires such as the number of thunderstorms, human activity, and where the fire starts. Jeffrey Cardille's literature review covers aspects such as what is causing the fires in the Midwest, and what makes a fire devastating to an environment. They went over the causes of fires and they were able to find that lightning strike fires were the most devastating to a state because of the difficult to access areas by first responders. A policy that could be implemented in a state is general forest management. This is critical to wildfire devastation because dead trees can be removed from an area to mitigate damage to that area. This could be an extremely successful strategy if implemented properly.

Works Cited

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