Wildfires have increased in number, duration, and acres of coverage in the recent years. This change has been covered in national and global news as national forests are consumed and firefighting teams scramble to contain the problem. The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service has made their data on two decades of fires available to the public. I propose using this data to see if there is a chance that a prediction can be made about where the coming years fires might exist. This kind of information would be of great value to public health, as it would give communities in these areas a warning before a fire is even detected that they are at risk.

Hi, my name is Leah Zulas and I have a PhD in Experimental Psychology and a masters degree in computer science from Washington state university. As a resident of Washington State, wild fires are becoming real and present danger every fall. I propose to look through the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service wildfires data to map the most common areas of fires from year to year, and to attempt to predict future fire locations. It may be that the fires occur in the same location multiple times over the years, but it is more likely that fires occur in nearby segments of forest from one year to the next. I believe that there may be a way to use K-NN or Bayesian learning algorithms to determine the next most likely fires. I hope that you enjoy my proposal. Thank you.