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Project Info

“We are studying how a large fire in the Columbia Gorge changed patterns of

outdoor recreation throughout the region. Specifically, we know the

amount of trail visitation (the number of people using hiking trails per

month) before and after the fire and subsequent closures of some trails.

We are open to ideas, but one opportunity is to visualize visitation

rates at our study sites for many months before and after the fire. We

want users to be able to see how visitation changes 1) during seasons of

the year, 2) in response to the wildfire, and 3) as trails reopen. This

visual would support a paper that we expect to be published in the

summer.

Our data consists of estimates of the number of visits, by month, to

recreation trails in the Columbia River Gorge area that straddles the

Columbia River of Oregon and Washington. Our data cover the period

September 2014 to August 2019. The 41 trails in our study are in the

western Columbia River Gorge and in an area that experienced a large and

dramatic wildfire (the Eagle Creek Fire) in September 2017. We have

2460 data points tied to months and individual trails. After the

wildfire, a subset of our study trails were closed for visitor safety--

some of those trails have re-opened.”

“If students want to play with other datasets, you could start by

pointing them to the dashboard at [https://trailtrends.outdoorrd.org](https://trailtrends.outdoorrd.org/) and

the underlying code at <https://github.com/OutdoorRD/trails-viz>.

The dashboard shows visitation data from sites around WA (eg

<https://trailtrends.outdoorrd.org/dashboard/WestCascades>) and elsewhere.

It calls an API. We could show students how to use the API to access

raw data. And/or they might like to fork and add features our viewer.

We have a good number of feature requests at

<https://github.com/OutdoorRD/trails-viz/issues>.

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