Study of Wildfires across US

GROUP No.: 22

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Wildfires has been one of the most prominent disasters lately in the US- some of these being natural and the others being man-made. According to Wikipedia, more than 10.2million acres of land was burned in wildfires in the Western US alone! While this affects the vegetation of the forests and their inhabitants, there are more casualties and concerns. According to WHO, Wildfires is not just affecting the wildlife but the release of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and other toxic substances is increasing the air pollution which in effect is causing health issues- both physiological and psychological. Climate change being one of the serious concerns, we want to research more about the wildfire spread across the US. For this, we found a spatial database of wildfire from 1990 – 2015, where in the data was acquired from Federal, State and Local fire organizations. Some of the aspects we are interested in looking at is:

- **Visualizing the trends of wildfires over the 24yr period**
- **Highlighting some common causes of the wildfires**

Another attribute we noticed was that prescribed burns are becoming increasingly common. Also known as controlled burns, prescribed burns are the practice of intentionally igniting fires to remove hazardous vegetation that can serve as fuel for larger and hotter fires. This has been a prominent occurrence especially in the Western US. So, in addition to the above tasks, we plan to **analyze the effectiveness of the control burns in California by comparing the Wildfire occurrences in presence and absence of control burns**.