

Week 2 - Activity 8 - A web-based GIS map using ArcGIS online

Wildfire - Getting Ready (California)

News about California fires never gets old. Recently, there was another fire on the southern side. An article on Wikipedia mentioned, “The 2019 wildfire season is the current-running fire season in California, United States. So far, over 4,090 fires have been recorded according to Cal Fire and the US Forest Service, totaling an estimated 51,079 acres (20,671 ha) acres of burned land as of August 18.”

So, I decided to create a map in this domain. In this map, I have used 6 layers, 4 vector and 2 raster for displaying data related to wildfires, fire stations and nearby hospitals in California. 3 of the 4 vector layers show hospitals, fire stations, and US State boundaries on the map. The fourth vector layer (Fire Station Planning Note) is used to highlight a particular area on the map where there is a need to deploy more resources relating to control and prevent wildfire hazards.

The first raster layer, a tile layer shows data about the historic wildfire perimeters for California. The second raster layer, another tile layer, portrays the Wildfire Hazard Potential (WHP) in the United States. Color variations from very high to very low have been used to represent the ranging potential of wildfires.

A filter for displaying just California based data has been applied on the vector layers.

This map can be useful for identifying places where one should place fire stations or hospitals. At the same time, it can also be used to understand the redundant placement of fire stations and resources. I have used the option of adding a map note to represent one of these areas on the map. Authorities would have a better idea of how such information can help them plan ahead of time. The map can be thought of as an initial step towards the much-required planning!

Link to Map

<https://arcg.is/1Ly1GP0>