# Peer Feedback Session

Team: Visualizing US Fires 2020
Github Repo: https://github.com/reepoi/data-vis-2020-fires

Classmates Giving Feedback: Joachim Meyer, Abishek Krishnan

**General Questions**

- Are the objectives interesting to the target audience?
    - Yes, as a fire educational website, to show a map and a static number allows the user to get the full picture of where and how much area was burned.
- Is the scope of the project appropriate? If not, suggest improvements.
    - Yes, it gives enough information for the user but not too much to overwhelm them
- Is the split between optional and must-have features appropriate? Why?
    - Yes, there are many possible extensions to the visualization, but they aren't completely necessary to the story/data. These optional features are more of 'wow' factor items than showing meaningful data.
- Is the visualization innovative? Creative? Why?
    - Yes, the visualization has several avenues for storytelling, from navigating current fires, to viewing the history, to exploring causes.
- Does the visualization scale to the used dataset? Could it handle larger but similar datasets?
    - This may be the main challenge of this project - there is a lot of data but it needs to be balanced to show the data while not throwing many large datasets at the user. The current visualization design should scale well, but larger polygon datasets will need to be reduced in size (reduce vertices, or load subsets at one time).
- Is the project plan detailed enough? Is a path to the final project clear?
    - Yes, there is a path to the must-have features and the optional features are only added if time allows.
- Is an interesting story told?
    - Yes, the visualization guides the user through the story with direct navigation and gives interesting facts and meaningful data.

**Visual Encoding**

- Does the visualization follow the principles used in class?
    - Yes, the visualization shows the data and only the data. Design is clean and uses proper encodings.
- What is the primary visual encoding? Does it match the most important aspect of the data?
    - Location and size are two of the primary encodings, as well as length and position for any additional charts or views. Since the fire data is location specific, it makes sense to put this data on a map.

- What other visual variables are used? Are they effective?
    - Color will be used to encode the active metric (acres, cost, etc). The color scheme is graduated. This seems to be effective when used on a map.
- Is color sensibly used? If not, suggest improvements.
    - The color scale is graduated and follows a yellow to red scheme that seems fitting for a visualization about fire. The color encoding is good for getting a general idea of where the worst fires are. This seems to be the best encoding for this, as the other option is 3D.

**Interaction and Animation**

- Is the interaction meaningful? If not, suggest improvements.
    - Yes, the main interactions are panning and zooming and selections. The viewer is able to select either coordinated view and the map updates to that feature. This is pretty intuitive and interesting.
- If multiple views, are they coordinated? If not, would it be meaningful?
    - There are multiple views where the map view is the center piece, the left are charts, and the right is selection information. The chart coordinated with the map gives the viewer an idea of how the selected fire compares to other fires.
- Is there any animation planned? Is it clear? Is it intuitive?
    - Yes, at least for the map. The storytelling will jump to specific areas of interest, and an animation will provide context.

Other comments:
Add copyright information to map

**After the session, also briefly comment on the quality of the feedback you received. Was it fair? Was it helpful?**

The quality of feedback was very good. The other group made several suggestions and there were good discussions about our data, what our visualization is trying to do, and the choices we made in the design. They were fair and helpful - some of their ideas have moved into our ‘optional features’ list.