

Christiana Saldana
GEOG 640
2/13/19
Class Notes

Increasing western US forest wildfire activity: sensitivity to changes in the timing of spring
By Anthony Westerling

- Goal/Hypothesis: Pg. 2 ¶ 1-3 (Before data and methods)
 - Effects of climate change on forest wildfire activity as update on previous 2006 study
 - New hot spots?
 - Recent wildfire activity associated w/ temperature & spring snowmelt timing?
 - Spatial variation?
 - Fire activity changing in other vegetation types?
- “Data and Methods”
 - Issues with how “Data and Methods” section is written
 - *How data is represented makes for rough reading, but pro is that they are “self-aware”*
 - Decadal Average vs. Trend Line (interesting choice)
 - Pg. 4 Never explain variables or how they chose them
 - Results in the methods section! (Figures)
- “Fire Season” – as defined by authors
 - Traditional is April-September through LARGE body of research – making it strange that they deviate from this
 - Possibly because they settled on a curve w/ highest correlation (fiddling)
- “Results/Discussion”
 - BLM data – BLM manages a lot of rangeland versus the other sources of data
- Westerling vs. Keeley
 - Attribution differences
 - Westerling – Climate Change! (Variable analysis)
 - Keeley – Anthropogenic (Not only climate change)
 - His article as a response to Westerling/similar researchers

Side Notes

Moisture – Increased potential fuel volume

Temperature – More (dry) fuel

If you pick the wrong scale, data manipulation (intentionally or not) can occur

Possible emergence of research about ***Homeless vs Hazards***