

FOREST FIRE'S IMPACT ON COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH: A CASE STUDY OF THE PARVATI VALLEY

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Abstract

Background: - The Himalayas have experienced repeated forest fires during the past few summers, particularly in the eastern part of the state of Himachal Pradesh in the Kullu district, which includes Kasol and other areas of the Parvati Valley. This study analyzes the significant loss of flora, degradation of soil and forests, loss of biodiversity, and imbalanced climate conditions are all consequences of forests losing carbon to the atmosphere which further leads to the imbalance in forest ecosystems.

Methods: - Every distribution was physically audited after it was assembled, and copy records were eliminated. We took a gander at the article titles, edited compositions, and catchphrases first. The full text was checked if a choice about a distribution's consideration couldn't be made founded exclusively on the theoretical. The information pool included 150 distributions from the years 2012 to 2022, spread across eight different report classes.

Results: - Enormous scope industrialization, deforestation, and uncontrolled abuse of other normal assets have expanded pollution, causing environmental change on a worldwide scale. This natural change welcomed by human action has raised the normal worldwide temperature, causing the Himalayan ice covers to liquefy rashly and prompting an expansion in water-related catastrophes.

Conclusion: - It is crucial to increase the capacity of backwoods executive functionaries at various levels to produce appropriate advance notice and translate it into useful data for field personnel and others to move fire advance notice data in a competent and ideal manner. Additionally, it is necessary to prepare maps of backcountry fire vulnerability in light of historical data and many elements, such as forest vegetation and weather patterns.

Keywords: Forest Fires, Indigenous Communities, Public Administration, Disaster Management and Environmental Science, Ecology,

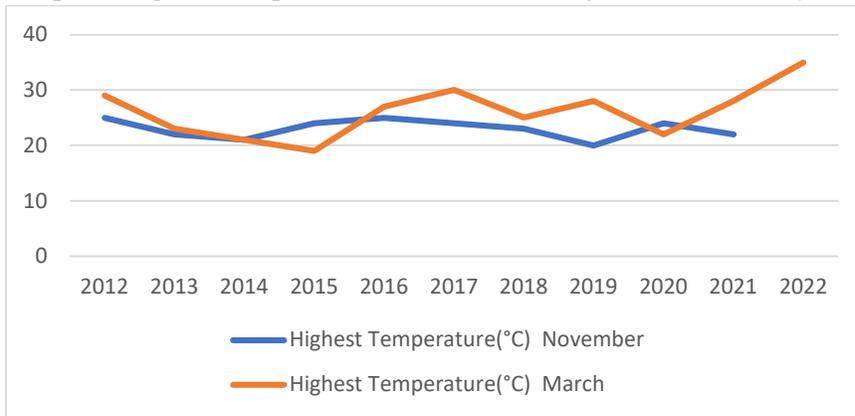
Introduction

Fire is the component of life without which one cannot imagine the existence of human life as of now, as it plays an important role in everyone's day-to-day life, be it cooking or just sitting by the

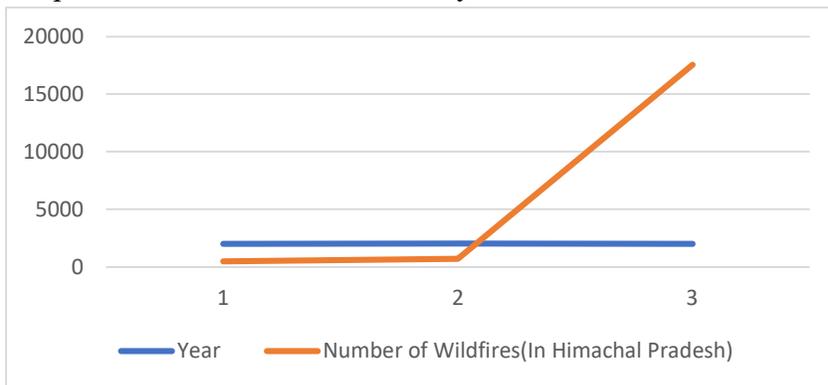
side of the fire to feel the warmth of it in the chilly weather. In the Himalayas, fire has always been an integral part and has played an important role in the environment and ecological balance of the forests. Frequent forest fires have disrupted the balance of ecology in the Himalayas, and forest fires are the most frequent threat to forests. As old as the trees themselves are the fires in the woods. They seriously endanger the bio-diversity, ecology, and ecosystem of a place in addition to posing a threat to the entire regime of fauna and flora. The woodlands get covered with dried, senescent leaves and twinges during the summer when there hasn't been any rain in months and they could catch fire with the smallest spark. The previous several summers have seen frequent forest fires in the Himalayas, especially in the eastwards of Himachal Pradesh in the Kullu district, consisting of Kasol, and other regions of Parvati Valley, which has resulted in a massive loss of vegetation. Biodiversity loss, soil and forest degradation, and unbalanced climatic conditions as a result of the forest's loss of carbon to the atmosphere. Forest fires have a detrimental effect on forest ecosystems all around the world. It has been noticed that, despite the renewal of the forest's flora being a natural process, the frequency of forest fires has increased as a result of shifting climatic conditions. The frequency of forest fires has increased at higher elevations over the past few decades as a result of weather changes, but carelessness on the part of tourists and locals has also contributed to some of these destructive forest fires. Examples include tossing a burning cigarette bud or leaving a campfire or fire unattended after cooking in the wilderness. When villagers visit the forests to gather fodder or for other purposes, they occasionally gather the trash that is lying around and burn it to keep the area clean. This trash can include plastic bags, food wrappers, and other items, and it can also contribute to forest fires. These fires have been seen during the month of October-November and also March-April and understanding the impact of forest fires on flora and the environment requires knowledge about geographical and temporal fire occurrences. Ironically, this side of the Himalayan region now lacks research on topics like fire frequency, fire seasonality, vegetation under forest fire, etc. To derive the aforesaid information, the current work aims to maximize the capabilities of the Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) methodologies. For the years 2002 to 2022, we looked at the temporal patterns and trends of forest fires in the Kullu district. Regarding the land use class of forest fire occurrence points, the seasonality of forest fires within the fire seasons was also investigated. To comprehend the spatial distribution of forest fires, cluster and hotspot analyses have been conducted. In the current review, fire is concentrated as the specialist of change which influences the biotic and abiotic part of the environment and subsequently modifies the useful, defensive capability of a woodland. This is featured in the environment discontinuity, change in biological system construction and capability, and biodiversity status of an area. An endeavor is made to concentrate on the short and long-haul impact of fire on biodiversity status. The principal objective of the examination is to grasp the stint of fire in forming an environment with accentuation on the lengthy and momentary effect of fire, primary weight on biodiversity by fire, and other biotic/abiotic factors in blend with fire that cause biodiversity misfortune. To re-establish more ordinary fire elements in a specific district, chiefs need to realize what fire has generally meant for the neighborhood framework, and how it works today. Such can shape

reason for new strategies pointed toward reestablishing fire cycles that will introduce a lower endanger to human existence and property, and assist with protecting the steadiness and variety of biological systems. Woodland chiefs should take a comprehensive, long-haul scene-level view, and show change in itself is unavoidable. Impressive advancement is achievable, yet requires a joint effort among environmentalists and Pineland directors.

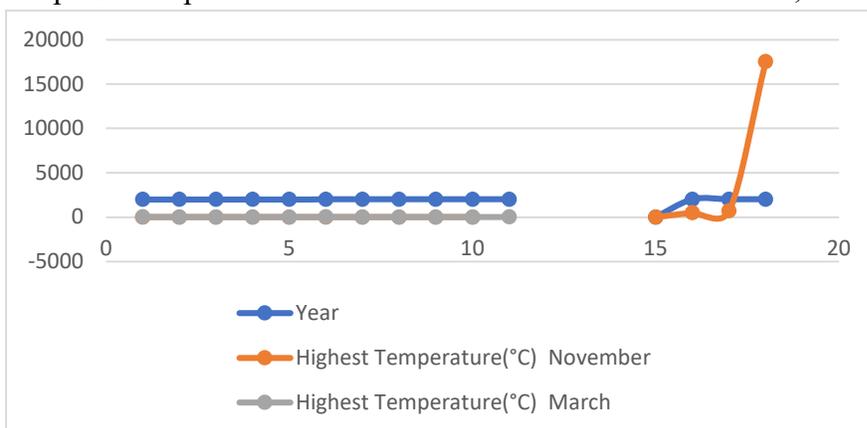
Graph:1 Highest temperature of Parvati Valley in last decade (Source: - Field Work)



Graph 2: Wildfires in the last three years



Graph 3: Temperature Rise and Wildfires in Last Three Years, India.

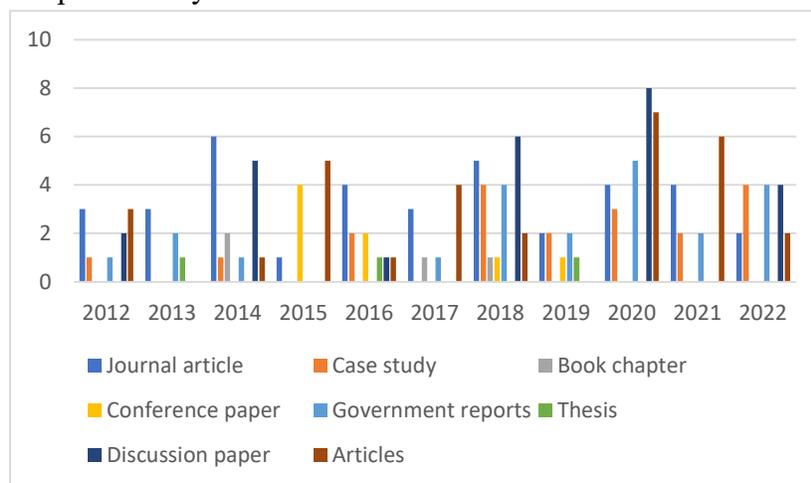


Materials and Methods

To begin with, we performed a high-level pursuit of the multitude of articles in ordered diaries connected with woodland fires and rural consumption in Indian backwoods somewhere in the range of 2012 and 2022. The diaries covered natural, agronomic, and geographic data. In this pursuit, we considered just papers with a title zeroed in on woodland fires in tropical rainforests. We recovered distributions from the accompanying bibliographic data sets: ISI Web of Science, Scopus, ScienceDirect, BIOSIS, and for the high-level pursuit, we utilized the rationale to separate every one of the distributions connected with the Pineland fires. From this pursuit, we made a data set with the accompanying fields: (a) distribution title, (b) distribution year, (c) unique, (d) watchwords and descriptors, and (e) discipline(N=150). Each record was standardized and painstakingly assessed to prohibit those things that were not as per the goal of this work. The papers included were limited to those having a place with the ecological disciplines. Using the data contained in the title, unique, watchwords, and descriptors, we removed explicit information in regards to the distributions, for example, the nation where the review was played out, the kind of soil, and the targets of each work broke down.

Altogether, we examined 150 distributions (S-1) in the period from 2012 to 2022. The accompanying outcomes were gotten from the examination of these records. Throughout the time covered by this review, the quantity of articles on a wood fire in India is developing, for certain variances. The most extreme number of distributions on this subject was kept in 2021, while the most un-number of distributions was seen in 2012.

Graph 4: Analyzation of the Material Collected



Impact of Forest Fires on Environmental Balance

Pineland fires have numerous ramifications for the organic variety. At the worldwide scale, they are a critical wellspring of discharged carbon, adding to an Earth-wide temperature boost that could prompt biodiversity changes. At the territorial and neighborhood level, they lead to changes in biomass stocks, modify the hydrological cycle with resulting impacts on marine frameworks like coral reefs, and affect plant and creature species' functioning. One of the main environmental

impacts of consumption is the expanded likelihood of additional consumption in ensuing years, as dead trees bring down to the ground, opening up the backwoods to drying by daylight, and developing the fuel load with an expansion in fire-inclined species, for example, prophetic grasses. The outcome of rehashed consumption is negative since it is vital to consider the impoverishment of biodiversity in tropical jungle biological systems. Flames can be trailed by bug colonization and invasion which upset the natural equilibrium.

Brushing and fire are connected to establish intrusions. Holes made by extreme focus fires are especially helpless to intrusion by intriguing species for example *Imperacylindricalica* rapidly recuperates after the fire and may answer with an expansion in cover. The condition of the biological system, to be specific the arrangement of fire systems that win in a scene, pre-conditions the reactions of biodiversity and environment cycles to a specific fire. Familiarity with this crucial standard and the idea of fire systems is an obligatory pre-imperative for navigation and assessment of natural impacts of any fire, for example, an extreme focus fire in full-grown backwoods won't be a calamity given that some piece of the territory gives hallway to free development of creatures. Before believing fire to be a debacle we need to think about the following ramifications on Pineland values. In these deciduous forests which are not adjusted to fire, fire can kill essentially all seedlings, fledglings, lianas, and youthful trees since they are not safeguarded by thick bark. Harm to the seed bank, seedlings, and saplings prevent recuperation of the first species. The level of recuperation and need for restoration mediations relies upon the power of burning. Deciduous woods are likewise likely to flames begun by people for rural clearing. Deforestation fires, which are more normal in upset backwoods, can differ in force and consume standing trees, at the most terrible consuming the timberland leaving only exposed soil.

A Necessity for the Woods

Even though the fire has been the essential specialist of deforestation, yet as a characteristic cycle it serves a significant capability in keeping up with the wellbeing of specific biological systems. The conventional perspective of ablaze as a disastrous specialist requiring quick concealment has given way to the view that fire would be able and ought to be utilized to meet land the board objectives under unambiguous natural circumstances. For a long time, controlled consumption has been utilized as veritable back wood the executives measure in the created nations. In western nations, particularly England, the U.S.A., Canada, and so forth controlled fires are scorched at timespans for 12 years to keep up with uniform development. In South and Southeast Asia, including India, the "Slice and Consume" strategy for cultivating is utilized by the tribals of sloping regions, in which they cut down and consume little region of the woods and utilize the cleared land for development. This technique for consuming offers them not just the least expensive means to clear the woods, yet additionally supplies free manures as debris from the consumed vegetation on restricted scales. Regular asset chiefs use fires as a way to recharge the common habitat. To safeguard normal assets and keep the climate solid, supervisors concentrate on an area and compose a fire solution for that area. A solution shows when prepared experts light fire or how long a fire touched off by easing up will be permitted to consume. A solution might incorporate the data that how wet energizes should be, the most extreme speed wind might be blowing or the

most noteworthy external temperature. Fire administrators recommend careful fire remedies before consumption is permitted. These fire solutions depend on climate, dampness content of the energizes, and how the fire can be lit. According to the tales of several societies, there are a few extraordinary fire animals and they perceive fire as a piece of nature. The Egyptians accepted the story of a brilliantly hued bird named the Phoenix, which lived for up to 600 years! Towards the finish of its, like the Phoenix would consume itself in a fire. The new Phoenix would then live for an additional 600 years. The fire was a way for the Phoenix to restore itself and the same is with the woods.

Plant invasions are associated with grazing and fire. High-intensity fire-made gaps are especially prone to invasion by foreign species, as mentioned earlier, after a fire, Imperata cylindrical bounces back swiftly and may even increase its cover. A region's biodiversity is reduced by invasive species through allelopathic processes. Before believing fire to be a fiasco we need to think about the following ramifications on the values of forests,

1. Expanded disintegration/sedimentation, presentation of weeds, and so forth.
2. Present and Expected Worth, loss of sporting use, loss of visual convenience, changed water yield and quality, termination of species.

Many accept that forest fires are terrible however another aspect is that they are really important to advance variety. Woods species change in arrangement after the fire, this might be positive or negative contingent upon the utility of the stands that went before and succeeded the flames.

Although boreal forests frequently experience natural disturbances like fire, and they typically recover quickly after a fire, numerous, high-intensity fires can upset this equilibrium. The condition of the environment, specifically the arrangement of fire systems that win in a scene, pre-conditions the reactions of biodiversity and environment cycles to a specific fire. Familiarity with this basic rule and the idea of fire systems is a compulsory pre-essential for navigation and assessment of biological impacts of any fire, for example, an extreme focus fire in an experienced woodland won't be a fiasco given that some piece of the territory gives hall to free development of creatures.

But fire also serves as the bad master for the woods.

Forest fire- Phoenix yet and Adversity

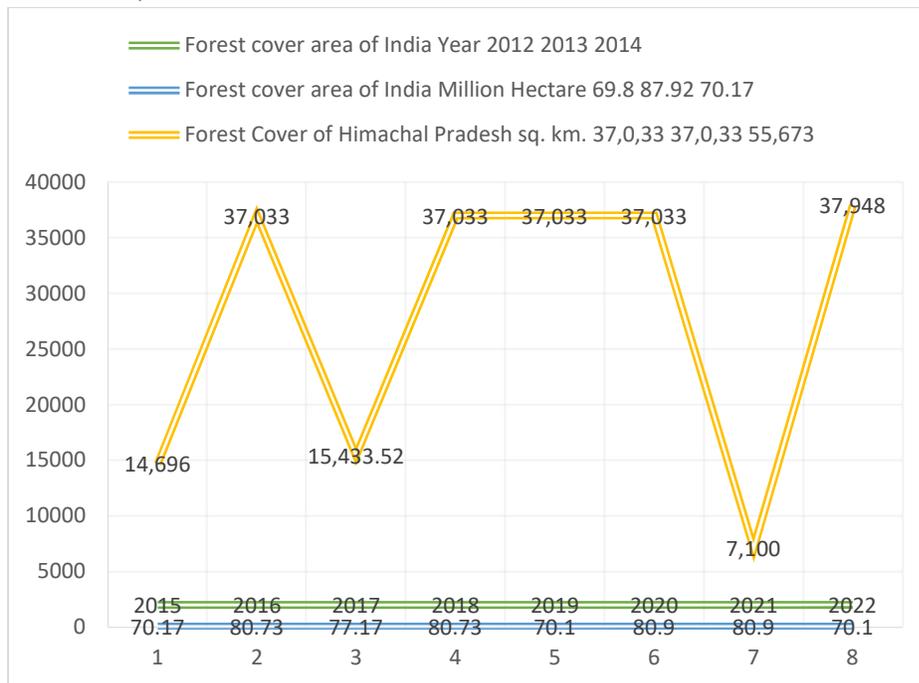
Yet, fire likewise fills in as the terrible expert for the woods. Limited and controlled woodland fires have been exceptionally valuable and fundamental for solid backwoods development. However, an uncontrolled backwoods fire might overwhelm and annihilate sound thick woodland cover in no time. Other than direct misfortune to woodland cover, timberland fire additionally kills natural life, harms climate, corrupts soil quality, and retrogrades backwoods recovery. Since verifiable times, woodland all through the world has been unfavorably impacted by the fire. Fire generally causes many immediate or aberrant impacts on the backwoods environment. They may just be useful yet for the greater part of the time these impacts are decaying. The harm to woodland by fire relies predominantly upon the size of the fire. The principal unfavorable effect of the wild timberland fire incorporates harm to the developing supply of backwoods, loss of biodiversity, expansion in soil disintegration, burning of soil, and decrease in its penetrability and water holding

limit and volatilization of the supplements like Nitrogen. Not just for wood vegetation and climate, the woodland fire makes direct misfortune person likewise as harm to life and property. Outrageous backwoods fire consumes thousands of houses and kills numerous people and steers all through the world. As detailed in the Worldwide Woods Assets Evaluation (GFRA), 2010 the new instances of living souls' misfortune because of timberland fire remember Victoria for Australia in 2003 causing 73 fatalities and Greece fires in 2007 coming about into 70 passings. Enormous uncontrolled backwoods fires result in medical issues because of fire-created smoke. Breathing issues, skin bothering, loss of permeability, and other related issues are extremely normal during woodland fires. Specialists have uncovered that super woodland flames might make conditions, which eventually resulting floods and avalanches, making gigantic misfortune to life and property. The misfortune of lumber increase, loss of soil ripeness, soil disintegration, loss of business, evaporating of water sources, and misfortune to bio-variety are unfathomable misfortunes by woods fire. The enormous flames, yet in specific cases the little flames may likewise cause gigantic misfortune.

Results and Discussion

The exploration interest in forest fires in deciduous forests happened all the while with the deficiency of these biological systems. Regardless of their environmental and monetary worth, deciduous timberlands address 32% of the all-out worldwide woodland misfortune. The pattern in regards to the expansion in distributions in this particular subject (Graph 4) harmonizes with an augmentation of articles in different fields. Nonetheless, this propensity mirrors a worry about fire repeating in deciduous woods that are supposed to deteriorate under a GCC situation. The decrease in woodlands alongside other unfriendly impacts likewise compromised the hereditary variety of the world's plants and creatures. The World Protection Association determined that around 12.5 percent of the world's 270,000 types of plants and around 75% of the world's well-evolved creatures are undermined by woodland decline. There have been significant biological impacts of timberland misfortune, as obvious in the worsening of dry seasons and floods, the arrival of intensity catching temperatures, the appearance of new irritations into trimmed lands, much sedimentation in stream beds and hydroelectric supplies, and loss of useful fisheries. The greatest pineland misfortune in India has been assessed somewhere in the range of 1950 and 1980, not long before the sanctioning of the Woodland Preservation Act. During this period, a tremendous timberland region was distributed to different areas for the sake of improvement. The non-ranger service utilizes, for which the woodland region was changed over during the period included farming, stream valley projects, ventures/municipalities, transmission, streets, and so on.

Graph 5: - Comparative Data of RFA since 2012-2022 of India.(Gathered and analyzed by the researcher)



Despite that the general timberland cover in the nation is on increment, the majority of the woods regions in the nation are naturally in different phases of retrogression. The woodland environments are reeling under the intense type of debasement, which has antagonistically impacted the Indian culture, both socially and monetarily. Attributable to different variables, the crumbling of the woodland is the significant reason for expansion in both physical as well as financial weakness of the country to debacles. It has been generally acknowledged that deforestation builds the power of catastrophic events and is many times the variable that changes a characteristic risk or climatic limit into a debacle

In biologically more touchy and undermined regions like the Himalayas and the Western Ghats, the effect of deforestation/debasement has been more extreme. In the new past, because of supposed formative exercises, especially in touchy areas, the climate has been antagonistically impacted, coming about into outstanding expansion in delicacy of the body of land.

Deforestation and other partnered land debasement exercises, for example, water logging, flooding, gorges, moving development, mining, salinization, soil disintegration, avalanches/rock falls and desertification has impacted the greater part of the absolute topographical region of the country. The deforestation as mangrove evacuation has made beachfront districts of the country helpless to disintegration and harm to human settlements. In environmentally delicate and more delicate or weakened regions like the Himalayas, the effect of deforestation has been more serious, which straightforwardly or in a roundabout way influence the lower fields of the country. Deforestation in the Himalayas has expanded the seriousness of floods during the blustery season and diminished stream furthermore, evaporated springs during dry seasons. The increment of soil

disintegration has diminished the water conveying limit of the streams coming about into shallowing of riverbeds prompting floods in the fields. Always expanding populace pressure and expanding interest for food and grub, with no elective wellspring of occupation have constrained individuals to change over timberland land, even in extremely delicate zones, to agrarian fields, making colossal misfortune climate and solidness of the area. Fast deforestation in the Himalayas and the coming about the debasement of its environment have represented an expected danger to the plant life of the Indo-Gangetic belt, causing irregular floods in one and dry spells in another region. Around two-thirds of the farming place that is known in the nation is impacted by the dry season and around one-fifth is habitually presented to floods. Large-scale industrialization, deforestation, and non-manageable abuse of other regular assets have expanded contamination prompting worldwide change in the climate. This human-actuated environmental change has expanded the generally speaking worldwide temperature, coming about into unnecessary dissolving of icy masses in the Himalayas and the resulting expansion in water-related fiascos. Misfortune in farming creation (especially in downpour taken care of locales), human and steers wellbeing disintegration, shortage of water assets are another unfriendly effect of this peculiarity on society.

Conclusion

Forest fire is a significant reason for injury and misfortune to backwoods. With the populace increment, the recurrence and resulting harm because of woodland fire is expanding step by step. The effect of the fire is different on the timberland biological system. Other than straightforwardly harming the back wood trees, the fire likewise antagonistically influences woodland recovery, microclimate, soil disintegration, untamed life, and so forth. In the vast majority of the cases, the back wood fire causes retrogression of woody vegetation. Timberland fire is one of the major deteriorating factors, which widely harms the developing stock and its ages and makes the region defenseless against disintegration. It has colossal unfavorable biological, financial, and social ramifications. Internationally talking, backwoods fires all around the world are under detailed because of different variables. The current arrangement/arranging reports don't give due thought to Timberland Fire The executives. Modified key strategy reports need to consolidate clear direction about Timberland Division and other partners' jobs and commitments to FFM. Though legitimate and strategy structure exists for fire security, there is a need to reinforce and make it more commonsense and implementable. Existing demonstrations however very compelling in backwoods and natural life preservation, don't focus entirely on timberland fire the executives. As in more than 90 % of cases, woodland fire is a human-prompted peculiarity, there is a pressing need that some unique Demonstration be sanctioned to give proper legitimate edge work at public and state levels both. Such Woods Fire Counteraction Act will likewise reinforce the timberland division in controlling and looking at the criminal operations inside or close to the woodland, prompting extreme backwoods fires. For a proficient and ideal age and move of data connected with fire advance notice, it is important to improve the limit of backwoods the executive's functionaries at different levels to create opportune advance notice and make an interpretation of it into helpful data for field staff and others. Also, there is a need to analyze the previous history

behind backwoods fire and different factors like woods vegetation, weather patterns, etc., Furthermore extensive scattering of woodland fire the executive information and capacitating more assets and gifted drive, it is expected that FFM might be remembered for the course educational programs of the Calamity The board Organizations at public and territorial levels. It will likewise help in better coordination among the woodland office and catastrophe the executives' functionaries. Community cooperation has demonstrated extremely valuable in timberland fire the board. More individual's interest may just be guaranteed by making the local area mindful of the meaning of FFM and its advantage to the local area. Different systems and IEC means might be utilized for it. As more than 90% of instances of timberland fires are lit by person, local area mindfulness may positively assume a huge part in forestalling woodland fires. A public backwoods fire information network should be laid out to cover all components of backwoods fire in the country. Such an organization should be tuned to the felt need, everything being equal, including timberland fire chiefs, strategy creators and organizers, leaders, locals of the area, and so forth. Focal Level Woodland Fire the Executives Establishment might be given over this obligation.

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