The Burning Effects of Humanity on the Amazon

RESEARCH QUESTION

What kind of effects does humanity have on the burning of the Amazon Rainforest?

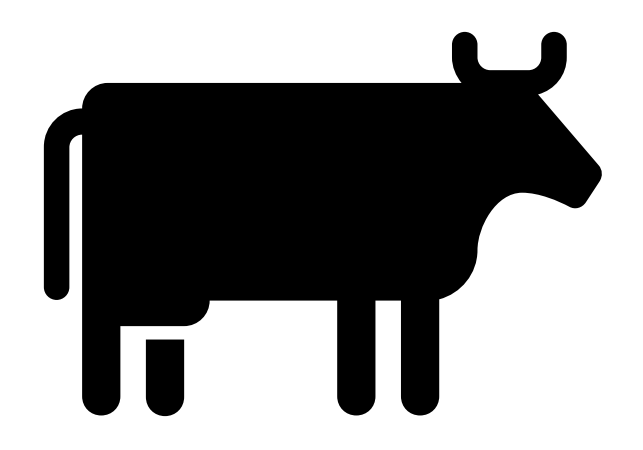https://news.gsu.edu/2020/02/20/forest-fire-an-update-on-the-amazon-wildfires/

BACKGROUND

- The media has a huge impact on the knowledge, prevention, saving, and defense of wildfires when it comes to the public. Wildfires are only shown as spectacles during peak seasons. Damages are only described in the media to capture interest. This is a serious hindrance on the realization of risk and learning, which involves perceiving the risk of wildfires as a social, political, economic, and environmental problem.
- The use of fire by cattle ranchers is a major source of wildfires. Loggers and farmers are also at fault of clearing the land for economic purposes. Farmers clear the land for planting and these fires spread to unintended areas. These fires contribute to the overwhelming amount of deforestation that happens every year.
- The combination of lack of prevention and lack of care for the environment is a great detriment to the life of the Amazon Rainforest.
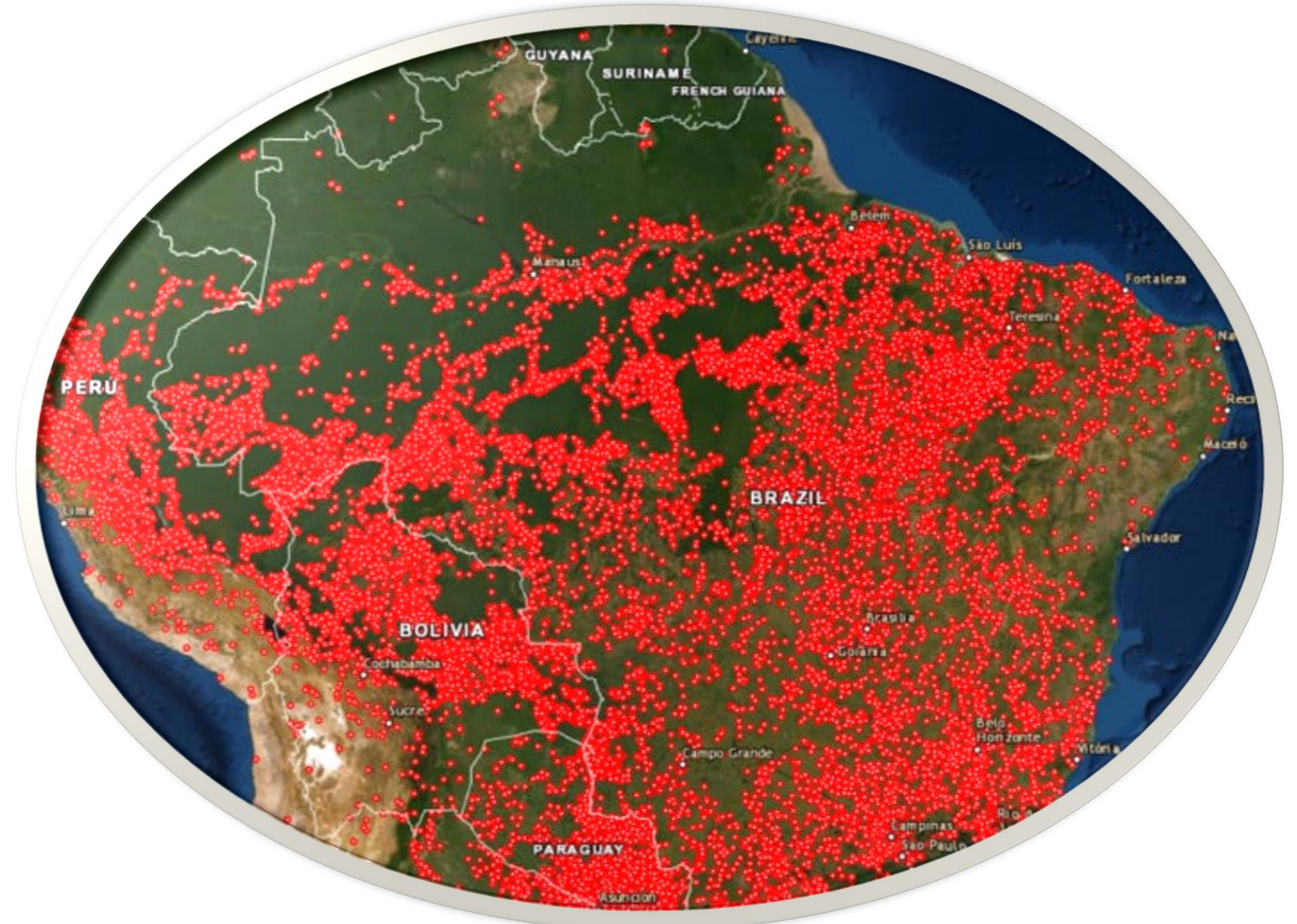
METHODS OF RESEARCH

- Read, review, and research scholarly and peer-reviewed journals pertaining to the wildfires of the Amazon rainforest caused by deforestation, logging, farming, and cattle ranching.
- Watch, examine, and research popular news media videos covering the wildfires of the Amazon. Evaluate the topics covered in these videos in terms of awareness, prevention, and knowledge. Determine what kind of cause is given for the wildfires.
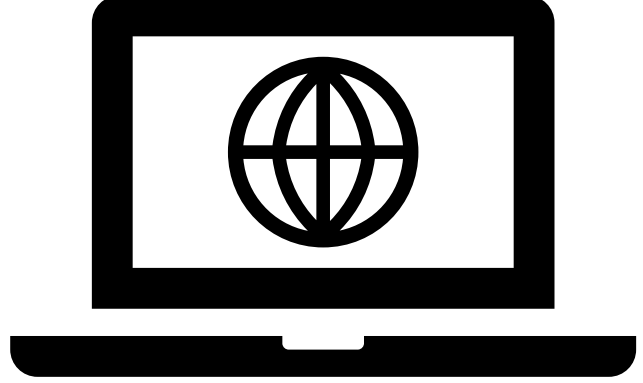
RESULTS

- In 2019, 70% of Nasa fire alerts were in the estimated buying zones of beef companies.
- The estimated buying zones of 128 slaughterhouses were combined with locations of forest fire alerts.
- Fires were three times more common in beef-producing zones than in the rest of the Amazon this summer.
- Cattle ranchers are responsible for 80% of land clearing in every country with Amazon forest cover.

https://www.businessinsider.com/map-south-america-on-fire-amazon-2019-8
This map shows every fire that burned during the month of August in 2019 across central South America.

- The most common topic among news media is the increase in the amount of clearing fires.
- The media mentioning the impacts of the fire on health, cities, and housing can convey the message that the environment is becoming more hazardous to humanity in general.
- The focus on forecasts and early warnings as topics are limited even though they are a central policy in risk governance.
- The real reasons for the wildfires, logging, cattle farming, and deforestation, are synonymous with economic development. Therefore, they are mentioned far less by the media than that of supposed natural causes, like drought and dry weather.

https://rainforests.mongabay.com/amazon/amazon_destruction.html

CONCLUSION

- It is clear that more is needed to be done in effort to protect the Amazon and the environment. It does not only begin with furthering limitations on logging and cattle ranching. The spread of knowledge about prevention, care, risk, and learning is an immense measure to conservation.
- Greater restrictions on logging and cattle farming need to be put in place.
- Offenders need to be held to adequate charges.
- Proper information needs to be expressed to the public in adequate ideas.
- More global effort needs to be invested into preventing these wildfires.

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