

Maui Wildfires

Team ID: 15

Team Members: Leah Kegerreis, Andrew Flynn, Enrique Morales
Emails: leahkegerreis@utexas.edu, aflynn523@utexas.edu,
enrique.morales@utexas.edu

The Hawaiian Islands are widely known for their unique flora and fauna. Many Hawaiian species are endemic, or restricted, to only those islands. When natural disasters strike protected ecological zones such as Maui, they gain national attention. The wildfires of August 2023 threatened many critical habitats on the island of Maui. This project uses ArcGIS Pro software to analyze where these fires were located, and then seeks to determine which threatened or endangered species on Maui were most affected. This study calculated a burn index in order to trace the footprint of the wildfires. This burn raster was used in tandem with critical habitat polygons in order to determine which species were most affected. This study determined that the most affected species were five endangered plants, each endemic to Hawaii or Maui. This information will be key in prioritizing certain areas on the island for intense habitat recovery.