



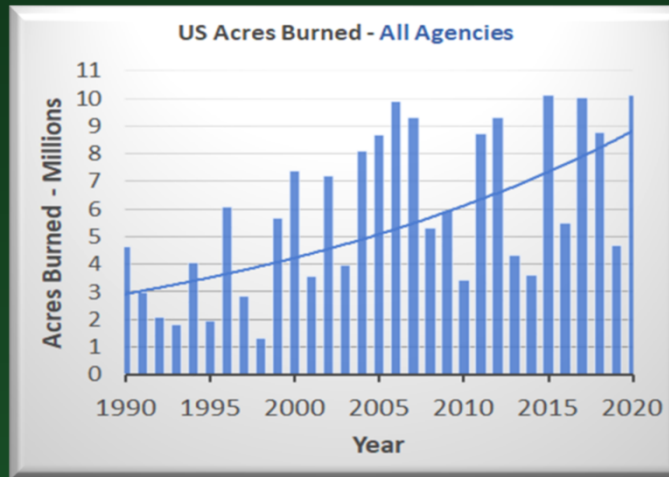
Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Addressing the Risk of Wildfires

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Current Trends

Larger Wildfires (Million-Acre)



A graph showing U.S. acres burned by U.S. Government agencies.

More Intense Fire Behavior



Valley Complex Fire in 2000 in Montana. An early megafire, it burned 292,000 acres.

Current Trends (Cont.)

More Complex Fires



A map showing the Interagency Resource Coordination System to provide rapid mobilization.

Longer Fire Year



Graph of the five National Wildland Fire Preparedness Levels.

Impacts of Wildfires (Economic)

Property Damage



2020 East Troublesome Fire, CO.

Economic Loss



2020 Glass Fire in Napa Valley, CA.

Impacts of Wildfires (Social)

Public Health



2020 Labor Day Fires, Oregon Red Cross.

Infrastructure Damage



*Aftermath of the 2018 Camp Fire
in Paradise, CA.*

Impacts of Wildfires (Ecological)

Carbon Sequestration



Aftermath of the 2020 Rosland Road Fire, OR. Trees in a treated area of ponderosa pine largely survived (right), whereas most trees died in the untreated area of heavy fuels (left).

Clean Water



Water Quality, Flooding, and Soil Erosion Assessment, 2021 Cameron Peak Fire, CO.

Drivers of Wildfires (Climate Change)

Drought



An image of a dry riverbed, showing the impact of drought in California, from 2009.

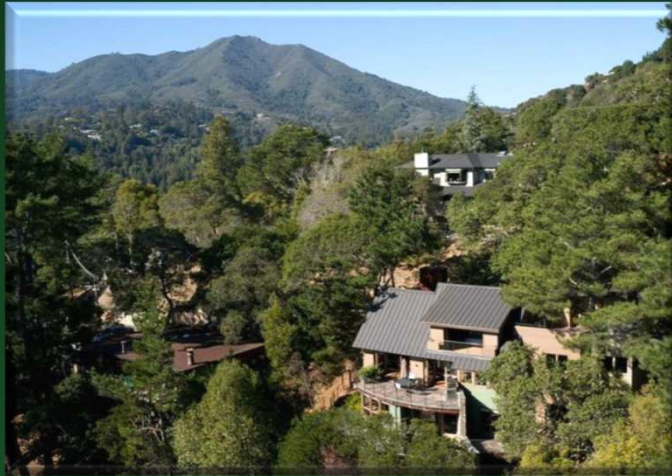
Insects & Disease



Dense forest with trees killed by bark beetles on California's Sierra National Forest in 2015.

Drivers of Wildfires (Human)

Wildland Urban Interface



Homes in Southern California.

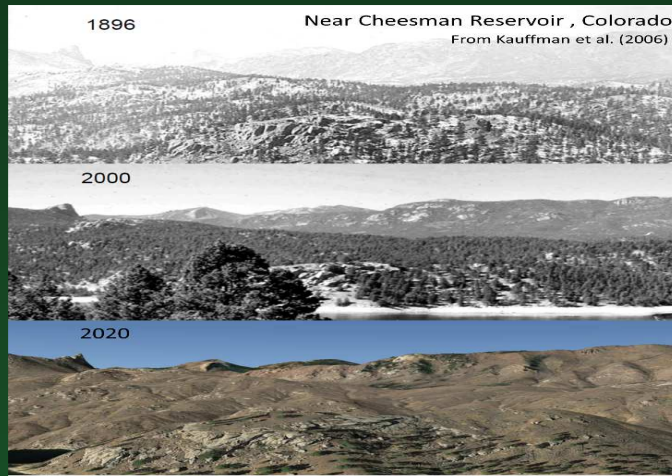
Human Ignitions



In the Southwest, abandoned campfires account for 44% of human ignited wildfires since 2001.

Drivers of Wildfires (Fire Deficit)

Fire Exclusion



Landscape changes over time near Colorado's Cheesman Reservoir. Frequent wildland fires historically sustained open ponderosa pine forests (top), but a century of fire exclusion produced dense forests (middle). Devastated by the enormous Hayman Fire in 2002, the forests never recovered. By 2020, the landscape was dominated by shrubs (bottom).

Measures to Curb Wildfires

National Cohesive Strategy



The North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, a member of the Fire-Adapted Communities Learning Network, uses block parties to bring neighbors together for an afternoon of fire education in Incline Village, NV.

10-Year Framework



Example of a 10-year accelerated fuels treatment scenario for the Western States.

Measures to Curb Wildfires (Cont.)

Applied Science & Knowledge



A scar made on a ponderosa pine by American Indians harvesting bark for food on what is now the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana.

Whole-of-Government



Thinning ponderosa pine under a stewardship contract on the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana.

Measures to Curb Wildfires (Cont.)

Australia



2019/2020 U.S. Support to Australia.

Mexico



2020 Comision Nacional Forestal, Mexico.



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Questions?

