

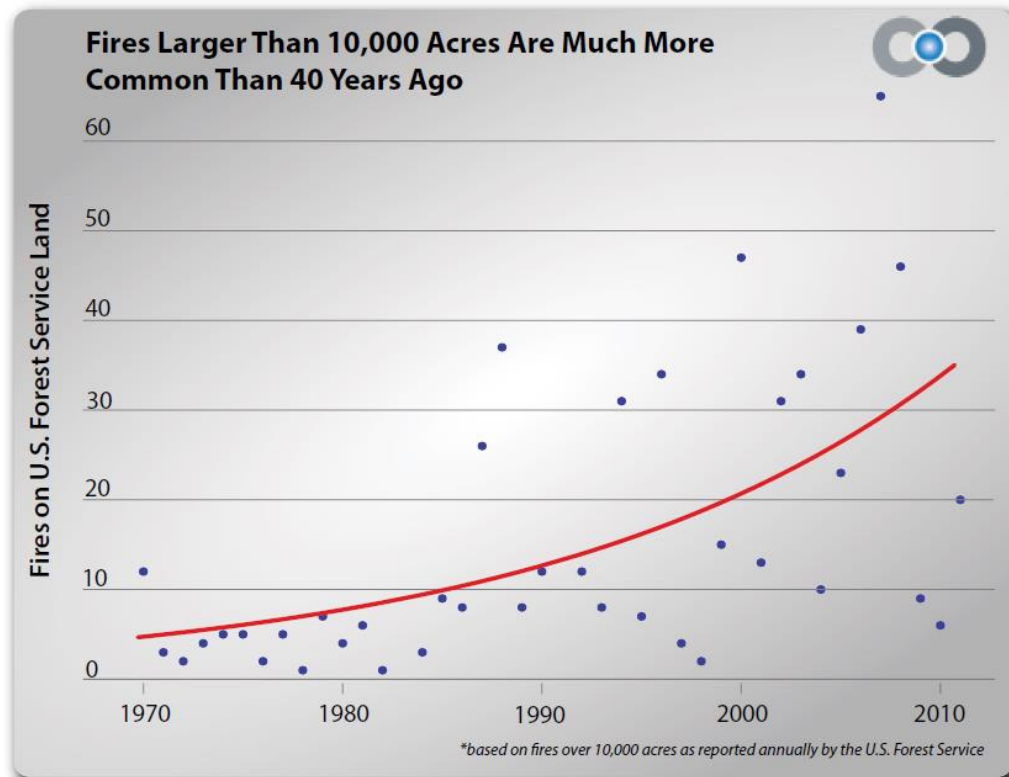
CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES INSTITUTE



Tom Harbour
US Forest Service
Director, Fire & Aviation Management
December 16, 2015



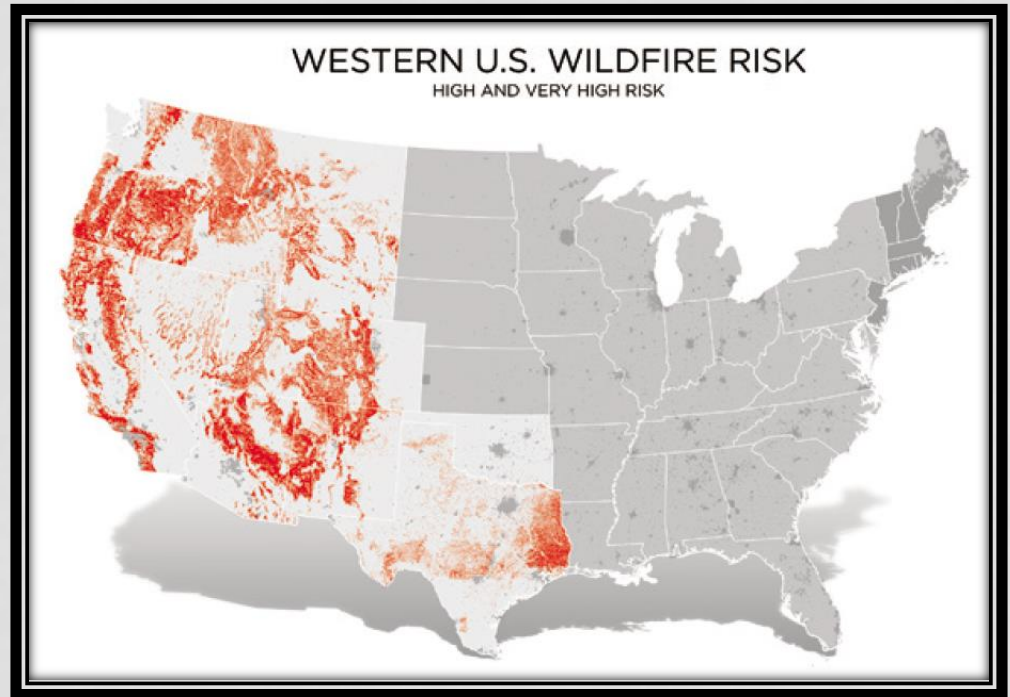
THE NUMBER OF LARGE FIRES ON FOREST SERVICE LAND IS INCREASING



Wildfires larger than 10,000 acres are about seven times more common now than they were 40 years ago on U.S. Forest Service Land.

HOMES AT RISK

In their 2015 report, CoreLogic estimates there are nearly 900,000 residential properties in the western U.S. that are located in the High or Very High wildfire-risk categories, with a reconstruction value of more than \$237 billion.



Source: CoreLogic

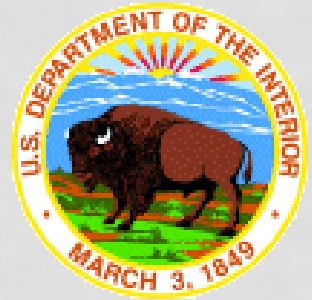
WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

- As of 2010, the WUI of the lower 48 states includes about 44 million houses, equivalent to one in every three houses in the country, with the highest concentrations of houses in the WUI in California, Texas and Florida.
- The WUI is home to about 100 million people, or about one-third of all people in the United States.



INTERAGENCY APPROACH TO WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), located in Boise, Idaho, is the nation's support center for wildland firefighting. Eight different agencies and organizations are part of NIFC. Decisions are made using the interagency cooperation concept because NIFC has no single director or manager.



2015 FIRE SEASON

- More than 9 million acres burned across the United States.
- Over 27,000 firefighters were mobilized from federal, state and local agencies to wildfires.
- The Forest Service spent \$1.7 billion to suppress fire during Fiscal Year 15.
- Over the last few decades, wildfire suppression costs have increased as fire seasons have grown two and a half months longer.
- The management of wildfires has increased in complexity faster than our systems can change. Between 1990 and 2000 alone, 60% of all new housing units built in the United States were located in the wildland urban interface, or WUI.
- This year alone we saw the destruction of 2,500 single residences.
- Currently nearly 65 million acres of WUI are adjacent to or near national forests and grasslands.

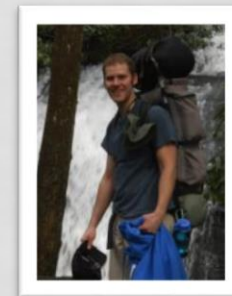
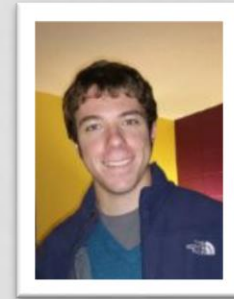
THE US FOREST SERVICE

- The Forest Service manages 193 million acres in 44 States and territories representing 30 percent of all federally owned lands.
- There are 154 national forests, 20 national grasslands, and eight national monuments managed by the Forest Service.
- Those same lands provide 20 percent of the Nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.
- The Forest Service employs approximately 35,000 scientists, administrators, and land managers.
- Working with partners, Forest Service programs restored or enhanced more than 6.1 million acres of public and private forest lands in FY 2014, making them more resilient to the effects of wildfire.
- Various activities on Forest Service lands contribute more than \$36 billion to America's economy each year supporting nearly 450,000 jobs.

FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS



Let us never forget
the risks faced on a
daily basis by our
wildland firefighters
as they protect lives,
property, and our
Nation's natural
resources.



Dan Olsen

Acting Director (effective January 2016)

US Forest Service, Fire & Aviation Management



202-205-1410
404-909-0247
dolsen@fs.fed.us

