

OFFICE OF THE
LEGISLATIVE
FISCAL
ANALYST

JONATHAN C. BALL
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FROM: Ivan Djambov, Analyst
DATE: July 5, 2016
SUBJECT: Catastrophic Fire Prevention Program

The Legislature passed the following pieces of legislation directing the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to develop a comprehensive catastrophic wildland fire prevention, preparedness, and mitigation strategy:

- [S.C.R. 7](#), “Concurrent Resolution on Comprehensive Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness, and Suppression Policy” (2014), which stated that “...the Legislature and the Governor strongly urge the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to coordinate the development of a Comprehensive Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness, and Suppression Policy.”
- [S.B. 56](#), “Wildland Fire Policy” (2015), which codified the three goals (listed below) and directed the State Forester to coordinate the development of a comprehensive, statewide wildland fire prevention, preparedness and suppression policy.
- [S.B. 122](#), “Wildland Fire Policy Updates” (2016), which is also referred to as “fire policy,” created the new wildland fire management system.
- [S.B. 212](#), “Wildland Fire Suppression Fund” (2016), which created new funding sources for the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund.

The three goals (as found in [65A-8-103](#)) embraced by the division are:

- *restoring and maintaining landscapes:* ensuring landscapes across the state are resilient to wildfire-related disturbances, in accordance with fire management objectives;
- *creating fire-adapted communities:* ensuring that human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life or property;
- *improving wildfire response:* ensuring that all political subdivisions can participate in making and implementing safe, effective, and efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

The Legislature appropriated the following funding from the Sovereign Lands Management Restricted Account for catastrophic fire prevention:

- FY 2015: \$3.9 million (\$1.9 million to the division and \$2.0 million to the Watershed Program),
- FY 2016: \$4.5 million (\$2.5 million to the division and \$2.0 million to the Watershed Program),
- FY 2017: \$3.0 million (\$1.0 million to the division and \$2.0 million to the Watershed Program).

The division director will make a brief presentation and answer questions about the direction, goals, and performance measures of the Catastrophic Fire Prevention Program.

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