

2013 Fire Suppression And Restoration Costs

(And the rest of the story)

Director Mike Styler
Department of Natural Resources

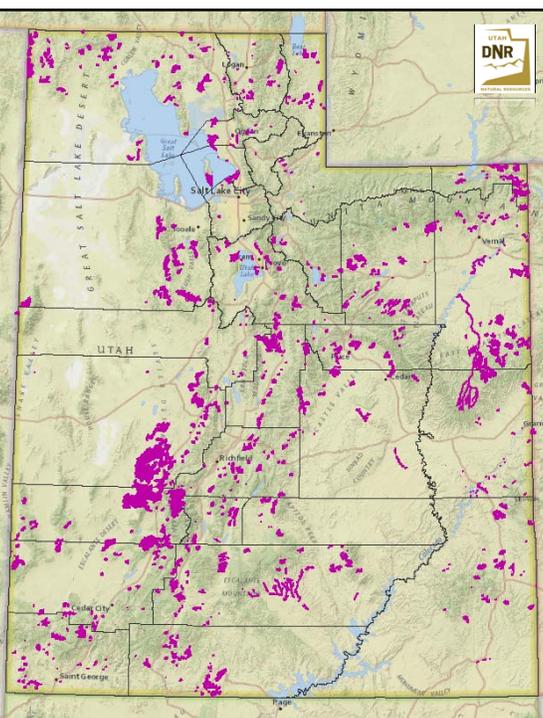


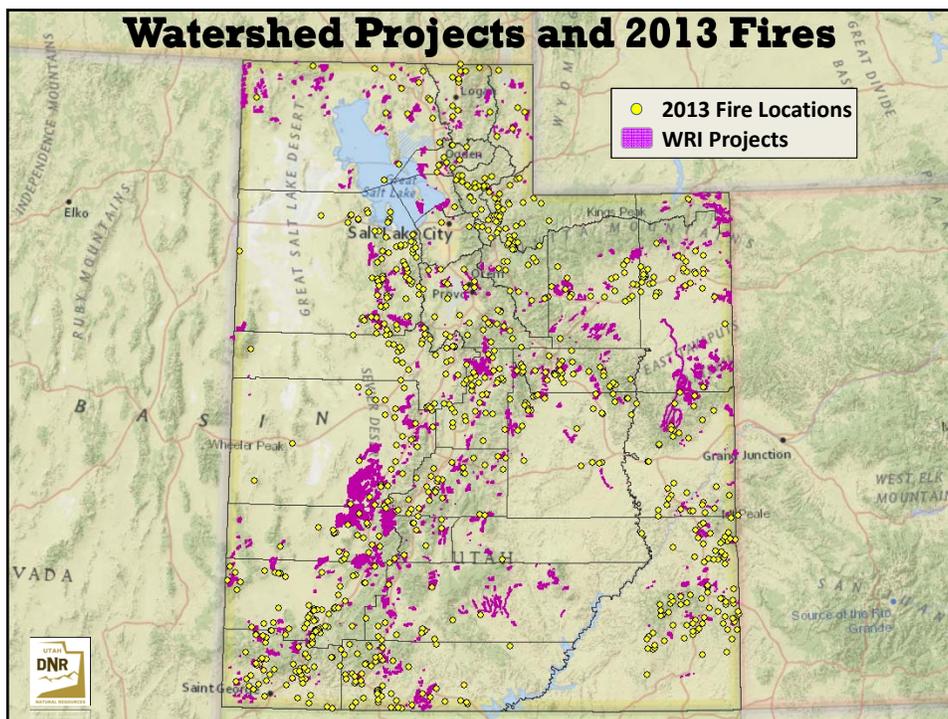
Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative

Completed and Current Projects:

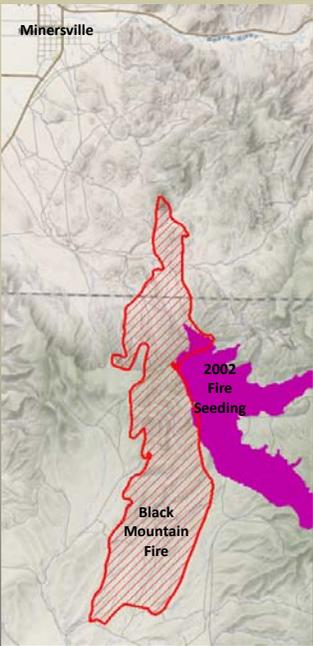
- 1,299 projects since FY 2006
- 1,120,491 acres
- \$19,853,723 DNR funds
- \$107,790,688 partner contributions

For every DNR \$1 spent, we have leveraged nearly \$6 from partner contributions.





Black Mountain Fire



Minersville

2002 Fire Seeding

Black Mountain Fire

Fire Direction

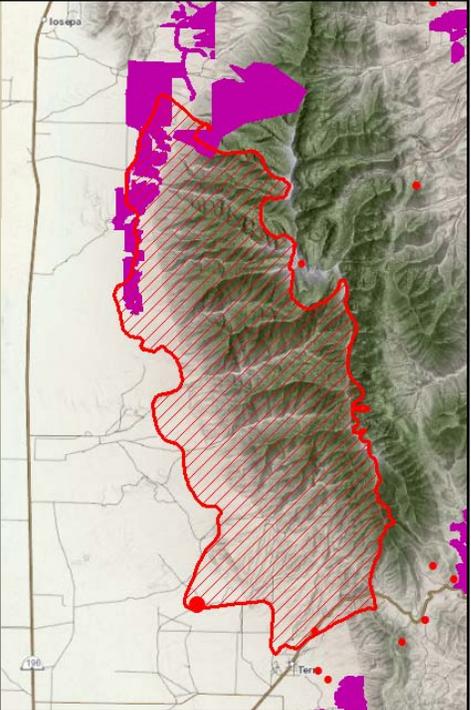
2002 Fire Seeding

“The return on the investment from this one wildfire alone potentially saved millions of fire suppression dollars and clearly shows how healthy ecosystems are likely to thrive when post fire rehabilitation efforts are implemented successfully. Eliminating or reducing funding for these post fire treatments and pro-active hazardous fuels reduction treatments is not good business as evidenced by the photos.”

-Paul Briggs, District Fuels Program Manager

Patch Springs Fire

- WRI projects to the north helped to slow its spread and provided firefighters with a safe place to work
- Risks to the town of Iosepia were minimized

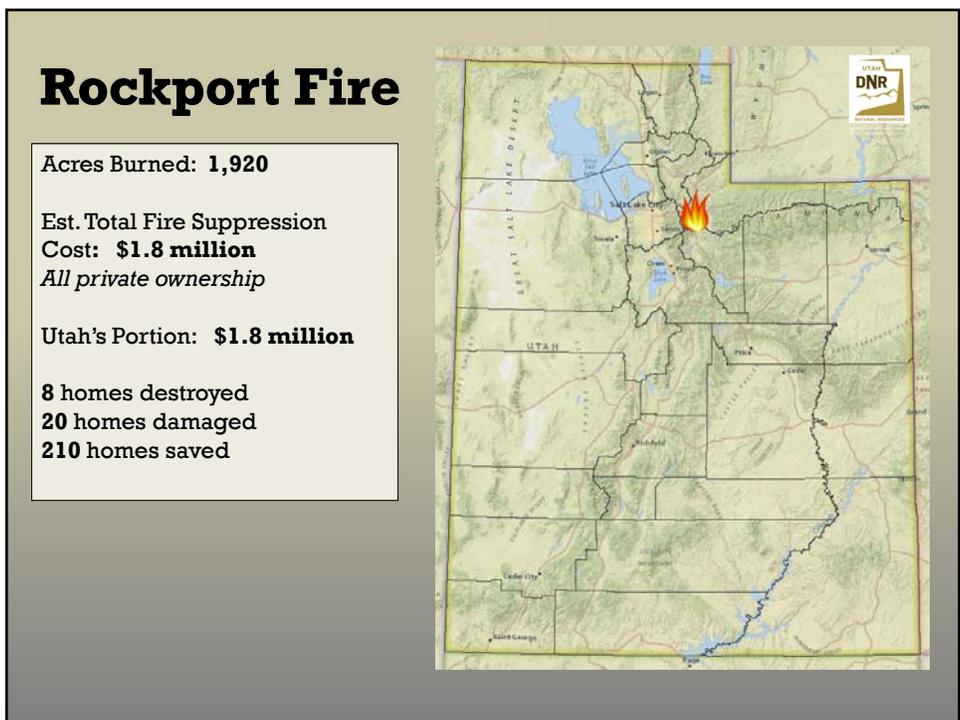
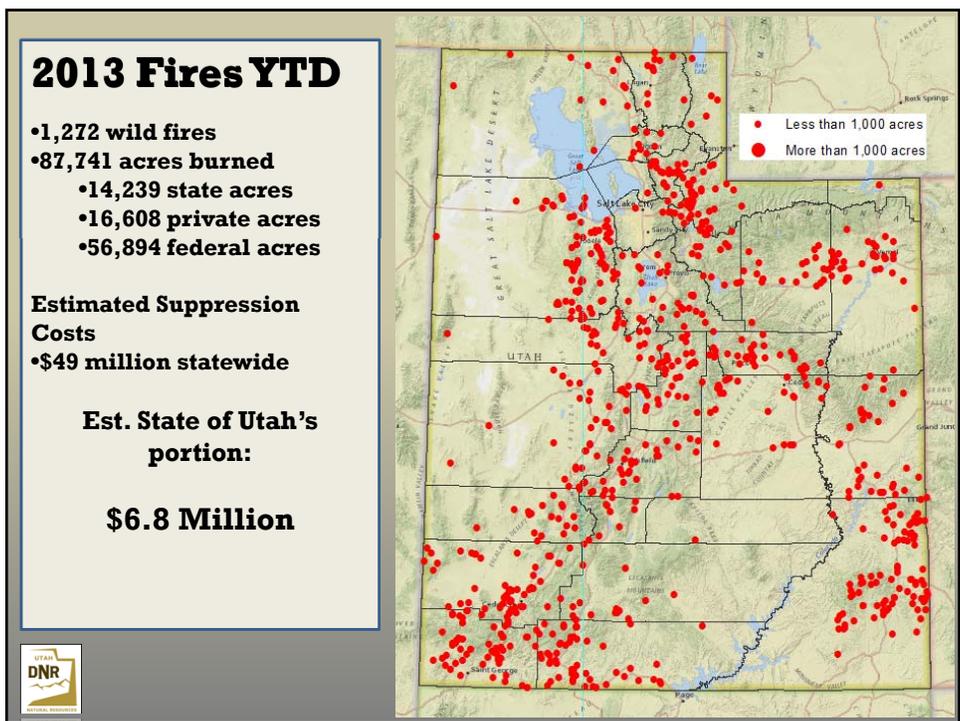


Iosepia

196

Ter





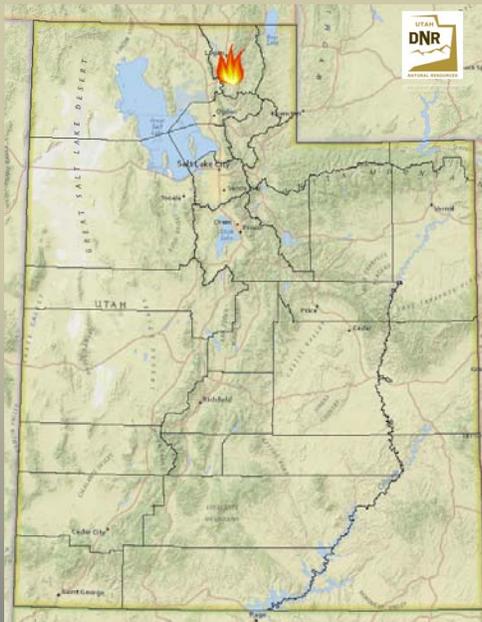


Millville Fire

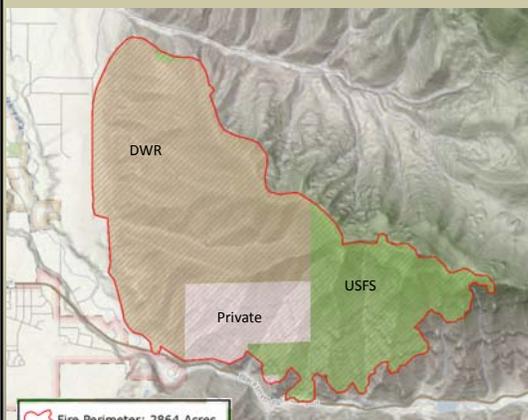
Acres Burned: **2,868**

Est. Total Fire Suppression Cost: **\$2.5 million**

Federal Portion: **\$732,500**
 Utah's Portion: **\$1.77 million**
Private: \$307,500
DWR: \$1,462,500



Millville Fire



	Fire Perimeter: 2864 Acres
Land Status	
	USFS: 838 Acres - 29.3%
	Private: 352 Acres - 12.3%
	DWR State Wildlife Reserve: 1674 Acres - 58.5%



The Bad and Not So Bad News...



- **Burned almost 87,000 acres versus 500,000 last year**
- **Mudflows and flooding**
- **Increased sedimentation into reservoirs**
- **Structures burned**
- **Loss of wildlife habitat**
- **Loss of grazing opportunities**
- **Possible fish kills in "blue ribbon" fisheries**

The Good News Is....



- **Significantly fewer acres were burned**
- **Firefighters caught 98% of fires at their start**
- **Results from past treatments are becoming evident**

This Provides an Opportunity To:

- **Manage the recovery of the watershed**
- **Improve water quality and quantity**
- **Increase forage for both livestock and wildlife**
- **Reduce the threat of future catastrophic wildfire**
- **Replace invasive plants with desirable species**

This is how we do it....



- **Seed purchasing**
- **Seed storage/mixing facility in Ephraim, UT**



This is how we do it....

- **We already have all the machinery**
- **Use private contractors**



Watershed Rehab/Treatment Methods



What will it cost?

(best current estimate)

DNR fire fighting supplemental request:

- **\$0** (best estimate)

Rehabilitation/re-seeding costs: (Supplemental)

- **Seed and planting costs: \$600,000**



Conclusion:

**We have a plan.
We know how to fix this.**

Healthy Landscapes = Good Public Policy

