Utah's

"Comprehensive, Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness and Suppression Policy"

(SB 56, 2015)

Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Interim Committee

September 21, 2016

Brian Cottam, Director/State Forester Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

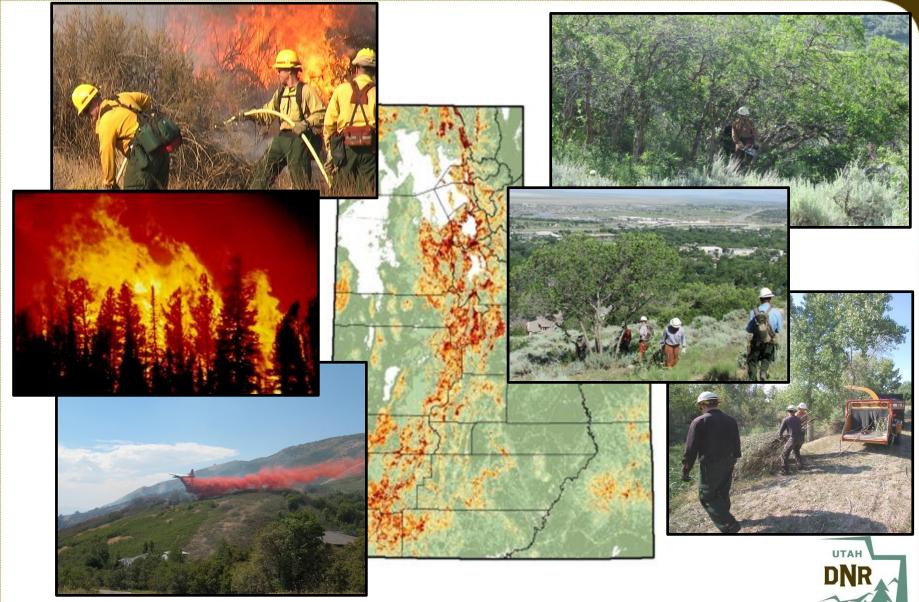


PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. A Shift in Philosophy

- 2. System Goals
- 3. System Components
 - a. Watershed Restoration Initiative ("WRI")
 - b. Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy ("CatFire")
 - c. New Wildland Fire Statutes ("fire policy")
 - d. Utah Wildfire Risk Assessment Tool ("UWRAP")





REDUCE THE RISK OF WILDFIRE!



Cornerstones of a Successful Policy Change

- Emphasize "pre-suppression" prevention, preparedness & mitigation—not just suppression
- Everyone shares in paying the TOTAL costs of wildfires; therefore, we should all play a role in the reduction of wildfire risk & costs
- Mutually agreeable solution for state, counties and cities/towns
- LEAD TO LOWER TOTAL COSTS!







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Wildfire Risk Reduction Goals

as found in 65A-8-103

Improving wildfire <u>prevention</u>, <u>preparedness</u> and <u>mitigation</u> through:

- Restoring and maintaining landscapes, ensuring landscapes across the state are resilient to wildfire-related disturbances...;
- 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.

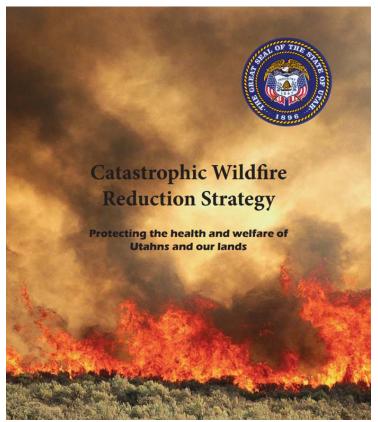


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Comprehensive, Statewide Wildfire Management System

Wildland Fire

Policy



Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy

Wildfire Risk Assessment

Watershed Restoration Initiative

Watershed Restoration Initiative

- Landscape scale
- Watershed and land health
- Multiple benefits (wildlife habitat, fire mitigation, sage grouse, etc.)





WRI helps meet the risk reduction goal of "restoring and maintaining landscapes."



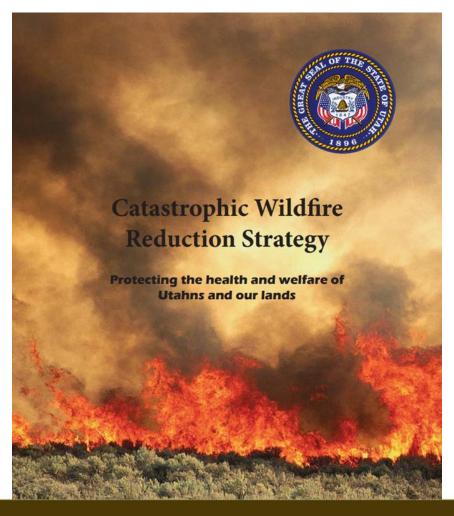
Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy

"...develop a comprehensive and systematic strategy to reduce the size, intensity and frequency of catastrophic wildland fire in Utah..."

Governor Herbert,

following the 2012 fire season

Completed and Presented to Governor Herbert December 2013





"CatFire"

Process

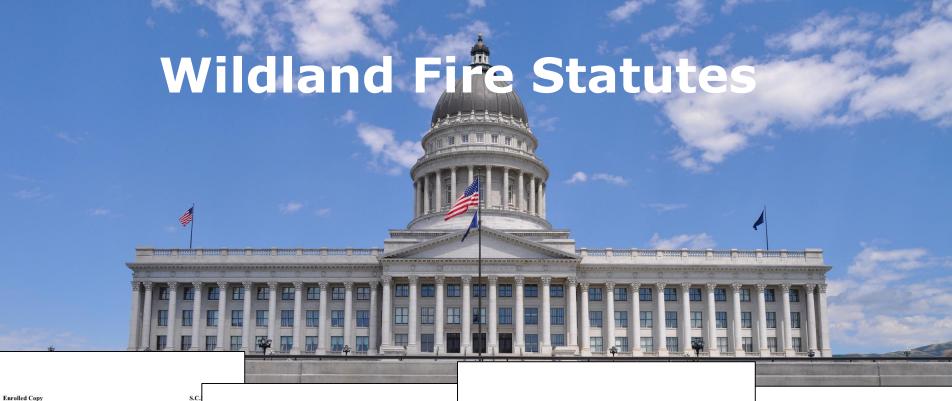
- Statewide Steering Committee
- Regional Work Groups
- Decisions of priority areas, values at risk, and actions to reduce risk



<u>Outcomes</u>

- All partners invited to participate
- Unique statewide prioritization
- Wildfire risk reduction funding and projects
- Measurably reduced risk





CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS, AND SUPPRESSION POLICY

> 2014 GENERAL SESSION STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

House Sponsor: Joel K. Briscoe

LONG TITLE

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor expresses support for

Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy and strongly urges its implementation.

Highlighted Provisions

- · expresses the Legislature's strong desire to reduce catastrophic wildfires: · expresses support for the recommendations in the Catastrophic Wildfire Reducti
- · strongly urges the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to implement the
- recommendations in the Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy in partnership with the Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Steering Committee and guided by the
- report's recommendations: · strongly urges the state forester to report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, Environment Interim Committee regarding progress on implementing the strategy,
- particularly the progress of the "Regionally Significant Projects"; and · strongly urges the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to coordinate
- development of a Comprehensive Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness, and Suppression Policy

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WILDLAND FIRE POLICY

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

House Sponsor: Joel K. Briscoe

General Description

This bill modifies the responsibilities of the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands. **Highlighted Provisions:**

11 12

14

15

16

21

- · requires the director of the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to:
- · coordinate the development of a state-wide wildland fire policy; and
- · report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim
- Committee on the director's recommendation for a state-wide wildland fire

- · describes the goals of a state-wide catastrophic wildfire reduction strategy; and
- · states that the division may use funds to promote wildfire prevention, wildfire
- mitigation, and wildfire preparedness.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

Other Special Clauses:

Utah Code Sections Affected:

65A-8-103, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 342

65A-8-103.5. Utah Code Annotated 1953

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S.B. 56

WILDLAND FIRE POLICY UPDATES

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

House Sponsor: Joel K. Briscoe

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies procedures surrounding the management of wildland fire

Highlighted Provisions:

21

24

- - · requires a municipality to abate uncontrolled wildfire on private or
- municipality-owned land within its boundaries, under certain circumstances.
- · authorizes a municipality, county, or certain special districts to enter into a
- cooperative agreement with the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands;
- · states that a city, town, county, or special district that enters into a cooperative agreement may be eligible to have the costs of catastrophic wildland fire
- suppression paid by the state;
- · states that a city, town, county, or special district that does not enter into a cooperative agreement shall be responsible for wildland fire suppression costs
- 23 · describes the requirements to enter into a cooperative agreement; and
 - · makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates:

· to the Department of Natural Resources -- Forestry, Fire, and States Lands, as a

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S.B. 122

WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION FUND

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

House Sponsor: Joel K. Briscoe

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund.

Highlighted Provisions:

- · creates a source of funding for the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund;
- · modifies the structure of the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund; and
- makes technical changes

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates:

- · to the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund, as a one-time appropriation:
- from the Mineral Bonus Account, \$2,000,000.

Other Special Clauses:

Utah Code Sections Affected:

59-21-2, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapters 212 and 242 63J-1-314, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 295 63J-1-315, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 283 63J-3-103, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 63 63N-3-106, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 283

2014: SCR 7 (Vickers/Briscoe)

Concurrent Resolution on Comprehensive Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness and Suppression Policy

"...expresses support for the Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy and strongly urges its implementation." As well, "...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."

2014: SCR 7 Comprehensive Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness and Suppression Policy

2015: SB 56 (Vickers/Briscoe)

Wildland Fire Policy

Codified the three goals – resilient landscapes, fire-adapted communities, and improved wildfire response – and directed the State Forester to coordinate the development of a Comprehensive, Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness and Suppression Policy

2014: SCR 7 Comprehensive Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness and Suppression Policy

2015: SB 56 Wildland Fire Policy - three goals

2016: SB 122 (Vickers/Briscoe)

Wildland Fire Policy Updates

Completely rewrote the Division's wildfire statute and creates the State's new comprehensive wildland fire management system ("fire policy") in partnership with UAC, ULCT and Utah State Fire Chiefs Association.

2014: SCR 7 Comprehensive Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness and Suppression Policy

2015: SB 56 Wildland Fire Policy - three goals

2016: SB 122 *Wildland Fire Policy Updates* – new fire management system

2016: SB 212 (Vickers/Briscoe)

Wildland Fire Suppression Fund

Creates new funding sources for the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund.

CatFire, Wildland Fire Policy & WRI together reduce wildfire risk and cost!

GOALS FROM THE STRATEGY



- Fuels Treatments
- · Prescribed Fire
- Forest Products Industry (Logging)
- · Managed Wildfire



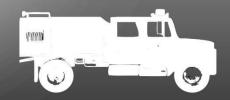


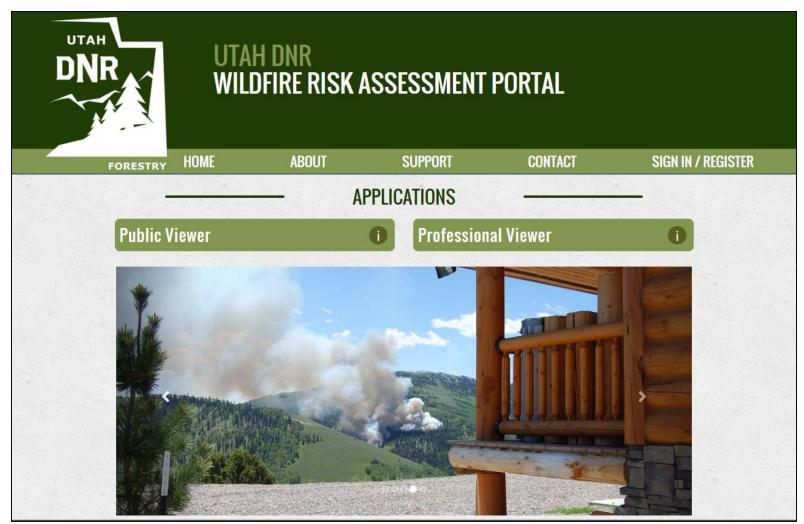
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- Prevention & Education Programming to Reduce Fire Ignitions
- Homeowner Incentives
- Ready Set Go! Program through Local Fire Departments
- · Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code





- Local FDs with Wildland "INITIAL ATTACK" Capacity
- State Wildland Crews
- Protection of Homes and Infrastructure in Anticipation of Long-Duration Fires

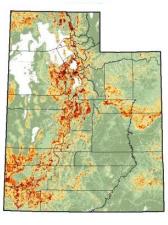




Nate Barrons

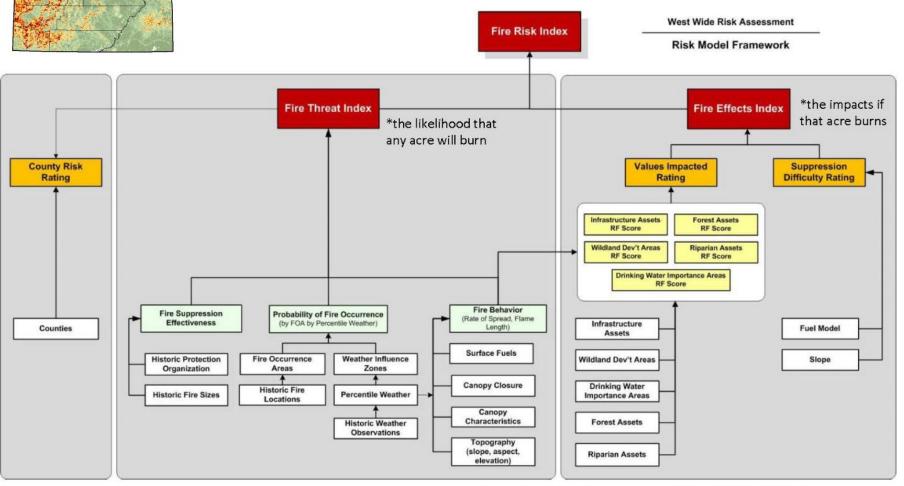
Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy Coordinator and FFSL Liaison to the National Cohesive Strategy





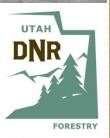
How We Measure Wildfire Risk

UWRAP Data Structure



Based on the Interagency West Wide Risk Assessment

Utah has created a wildland fire management system that emphasizes proactive risk reduction and more effective fire response. If implemented correctly, over time, this system will help slow the ever-increasing rate of wildfire suppression costs and the exponentially increasing total costs of wildfire.





Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

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