

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands



Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality
Appropriations Subcommittee

January 25, 2018

Brian Cottam, Director/State Forester
Stacy Carroll, Finance Director



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. For each unit—**Forestry**, **Fire** and **State Lands**—briefly describe *purpose, public benefits* and *2017 highlights* (i.e., performance measures).
2. Conclude with a base budget slide.



FORESTRY

Provide **forestry assistance** to private landowners, communities and local government, and other state agencies.



FORESTRY services & programs

- Forest Stewardship
- Forest Health
- Forest Water Quality Guidelines monitoring
- Urban and Community Forestry
- Forest Legacy
- Operator (industry) Registration
- Forest Practices Notification Re
- NRCS Technical Service Prov
- EQIP-Forestry
- Wood utilization and business development

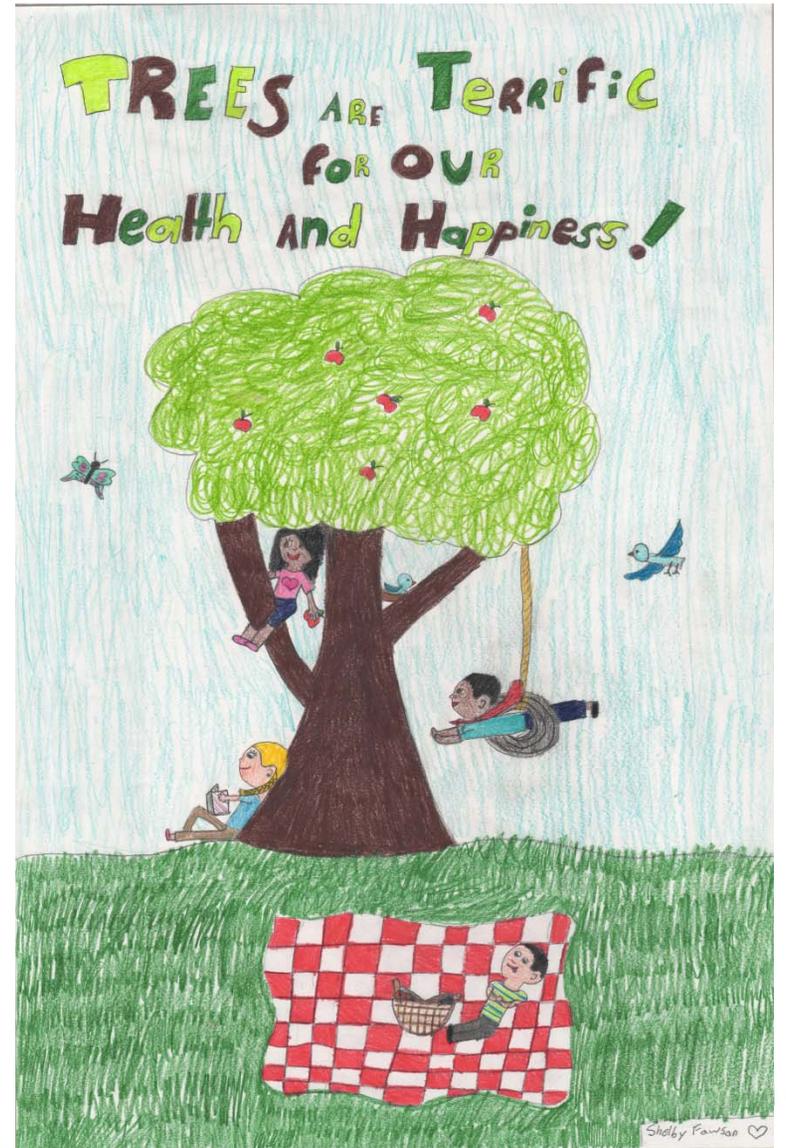
Utah Code 65A chapters 8 & 8a



FORESTRY public benefits

of well-managed private and urban forests:

- Watershed health
- Reduced wildfire risk
- Water quality and yield
- Industry and jobs
- Wildlife and pollinator habitat
- Recreation
- Municipal drinking water
- Carbon sequestration
- Increased property values
- Reduced energy use
- Reduced crime
- Linking urban residents to nature



FORESTRY highlights

- 16 new forest stewardship new record!) covering
 - Statewide total of 100 stewardship plans 300,000 acres
- 87 Tree City USA communities covering 67% of
- Received 13 private land Notices of Intent (6 NOIs is the recent five-year average, so 13 is a significant increase)
- Particular emphasis currently on wood & biomass utilization and associated business development



FIRE

- Coordinate **wildland fire** management on state & private lands in cooperation with local government and other land management agencies.



UTAH'S 2017 FIRE SEASON

- **1,165 wildland and urban-interface fire responses across all jurisdictions** (*5 yr avg=1,090*)
- **Nearly 250,000 total acres burned** (*5 yr avg=90,000*)
- **90% caught in initial attack** (*only 117 fires >10 acres*)
- **63% human-caused, 37% lightning** (*60% human-caused in 2016; 5 yr avg=51%*)
- **However, 81% of state & local fires were human-caused!**



UTAH'S 2017 FIRE SEASON

- **Most expensive fire season in history** (*State costs*)
- **ESTIMATED \$18 million in State costs** (*\$10.3M in 2016*)
- **Brian Head Fire was most expensive state-managed fire and fourth largest fire by acreage**
 - \$38M total costs (~\$12M state); 71,675 acres
- **Requesting \$19.4M of supplemental funding for 2017 suppression and post-fire rehabilitation costs**



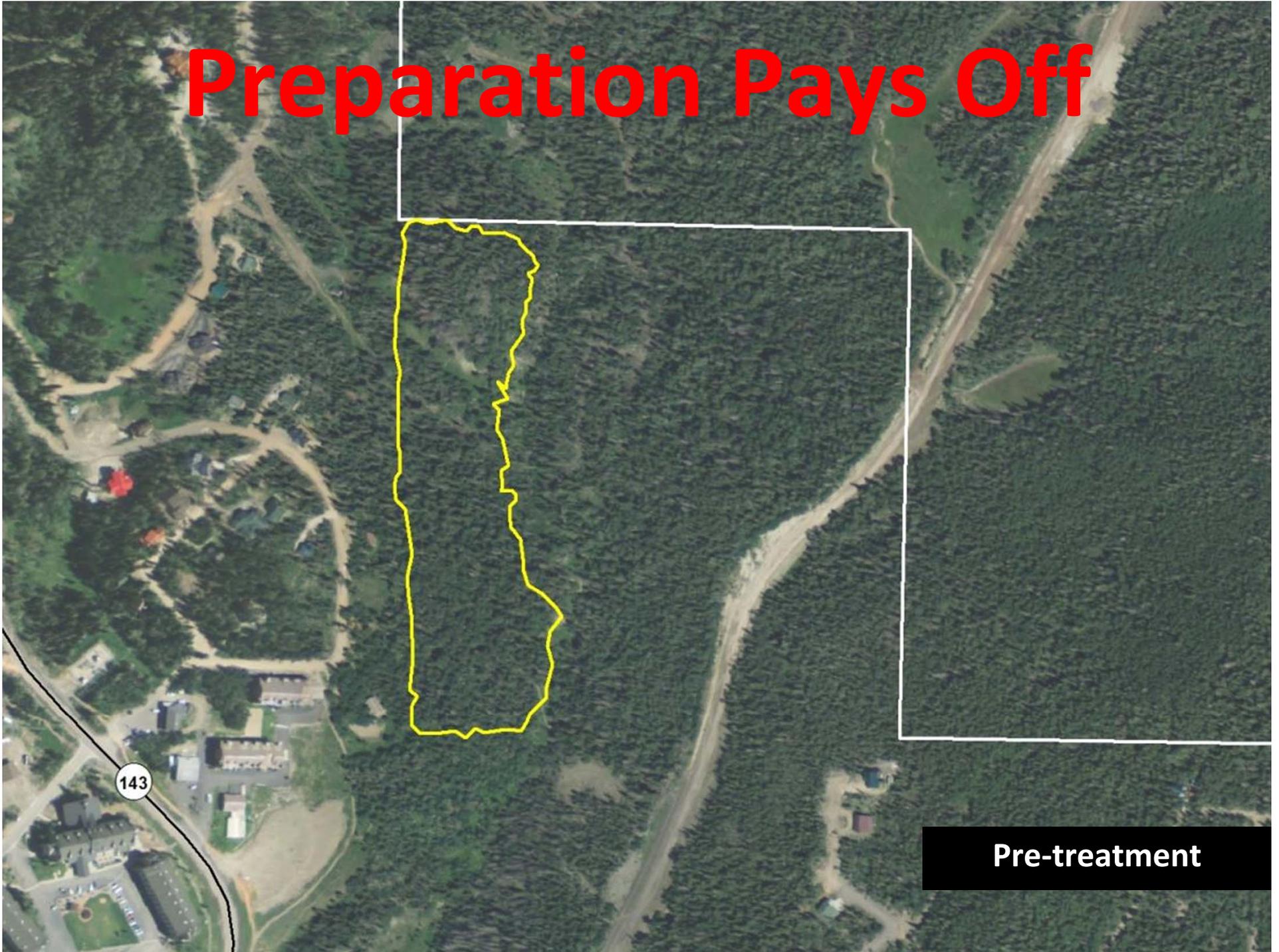
BRIAN HEAD FIRE





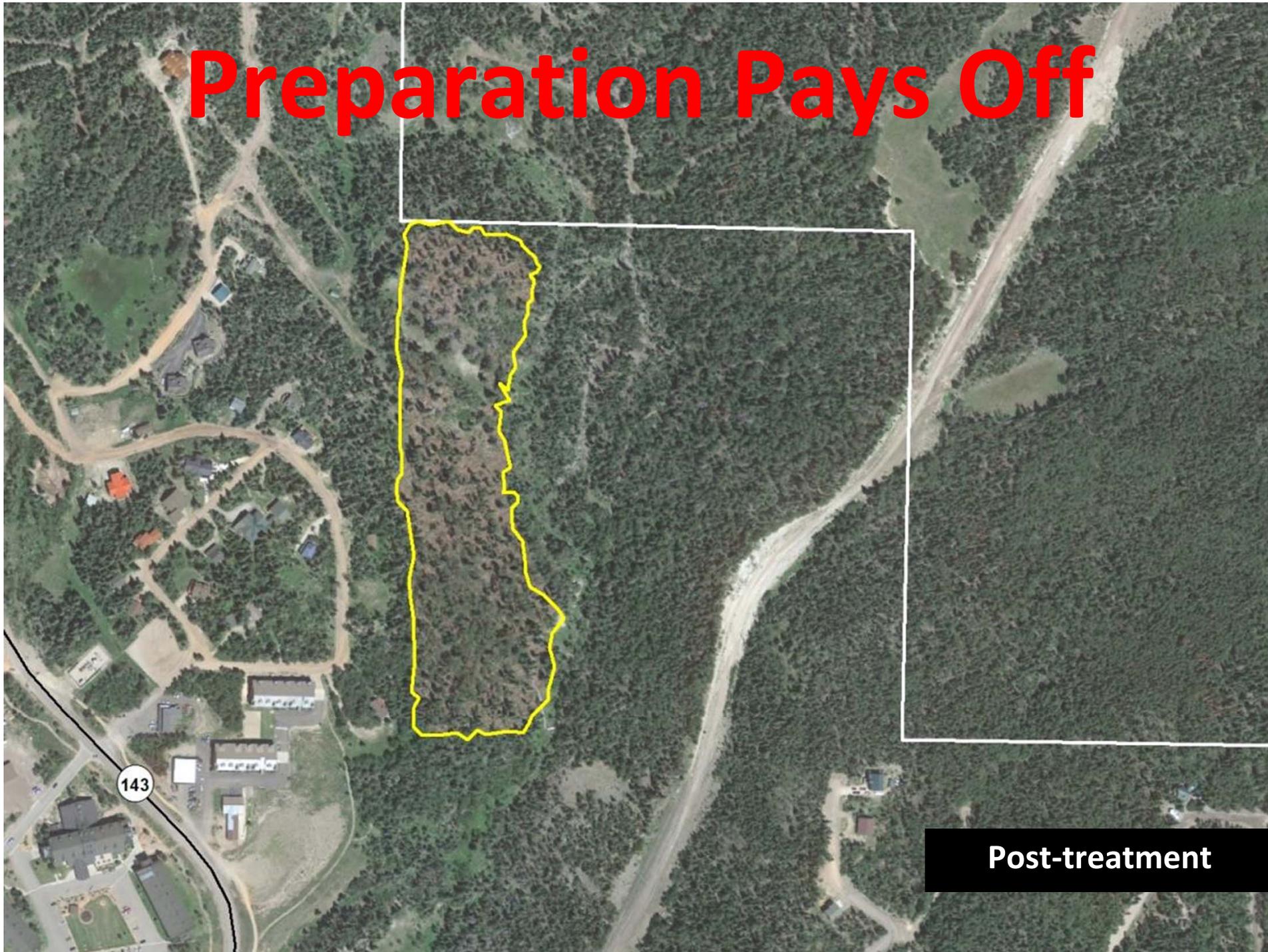
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Preparation Pays Off



Pre-treatment

Preparation Pays Off



Post-treatment

Preparation Pays Off

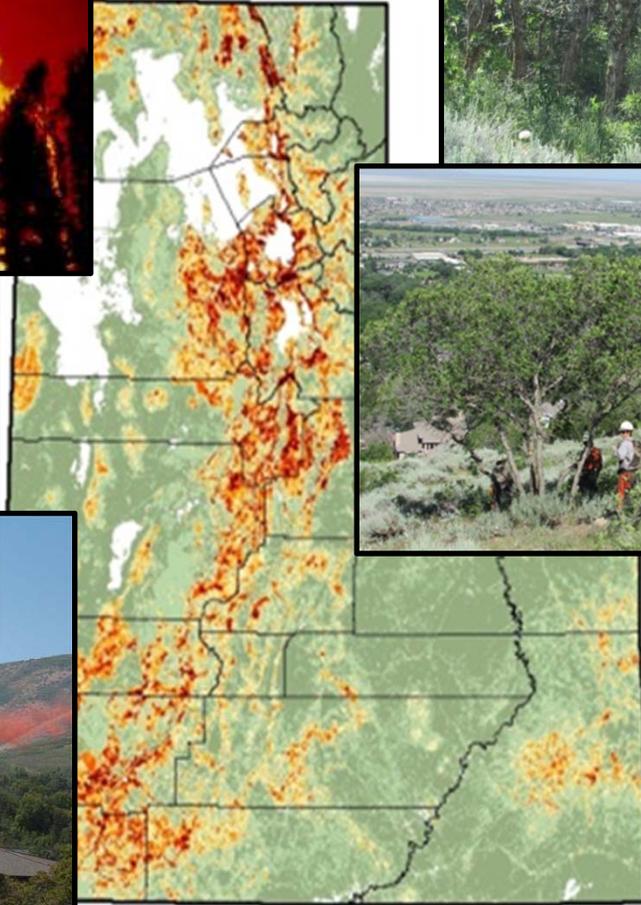


FIRE services & programs

- Wildfire incident management and suppression
- Implementation of new Wildfire Management System (“fire policy”)
- Wildfire Suppression Fund
- Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy (“CatFire”)
 - prevention, preparedness and mitigation
- National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and National Fire Plan
- Lone Peak Conservation Center, including two elite Hotshot crews
- Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans & Firewise USA
- Wildland firefighter training & certification and engine academies
- Volunteer Fire Assistance grants to local fire departments
- Federal Excess Personal Property management

Utah Code 65A chapters 3 & 8





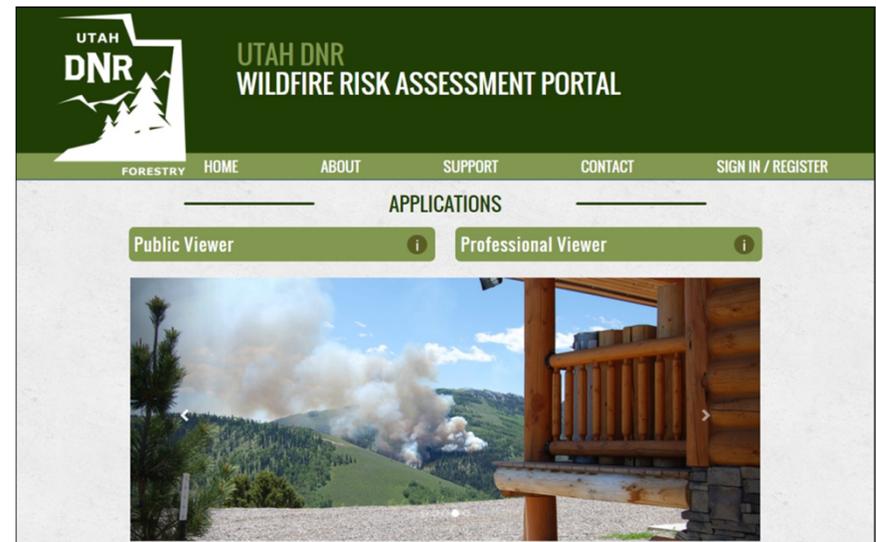
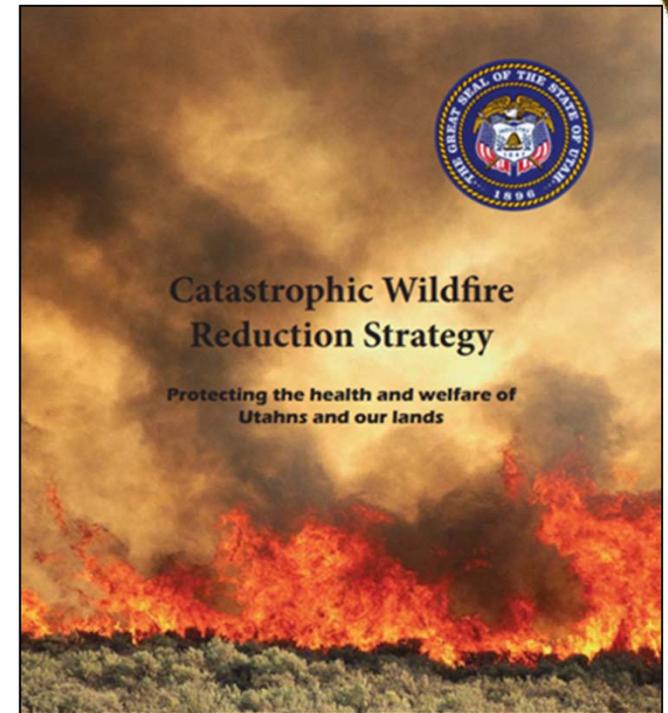
REDUCE THE RISK OF WILDFIRE!



FIRE public benefits

Avoiding the Total Costs of wildfire:

- Suppression costs
- Public & firefighter safety
- Loss of life
- Loss of property, homes and infrastructure
- Infrastructure shutdowns (e.g., highways & airports)
- Lost revenues to business (e.g., tourism)
- Air and water quality impacts
- Wildlife and habitat loss
- Post-fire rehabilitation costs
- Flooding and erosion
- Healthcare costs (e.g., respiratory)
- Evacuation costs



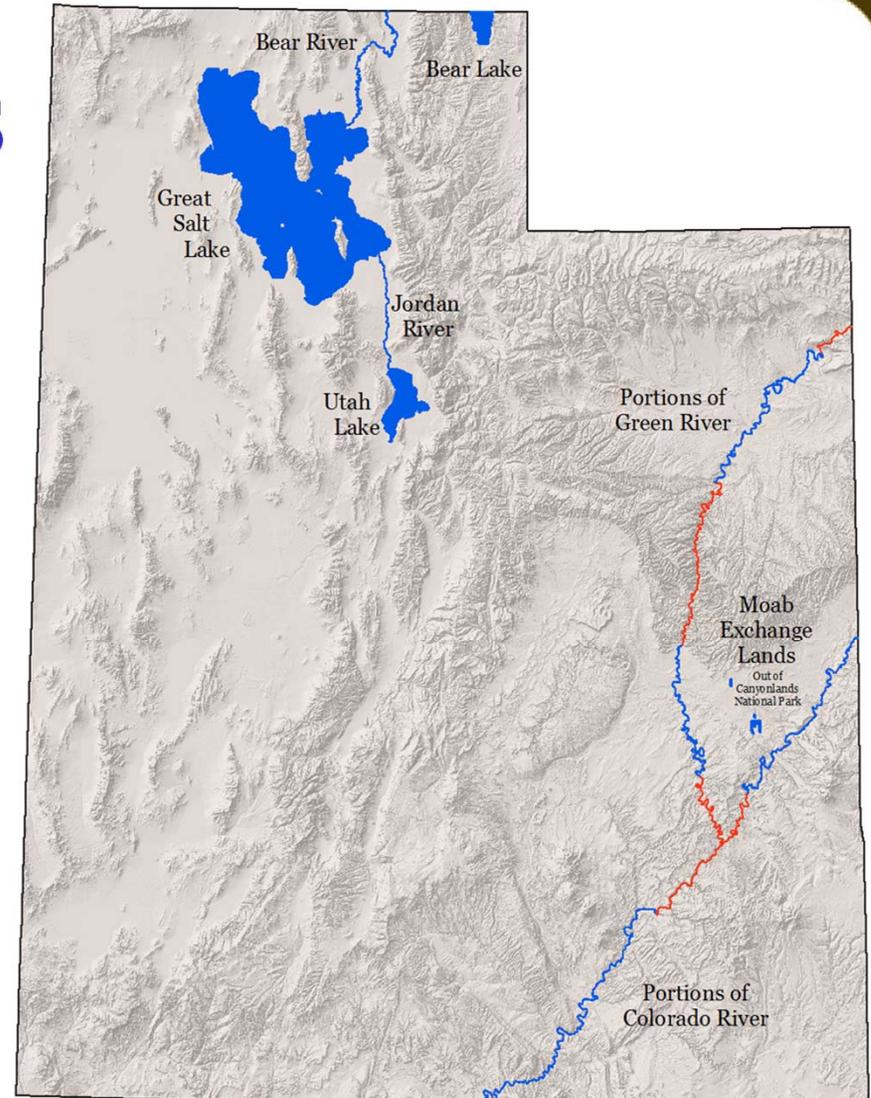
FIRE highlights

- Approximately 2,300 high-risk, priority wildland-urban interface acres treated to protect communities and infrastructure.
- FFSL certified 2,805 state & local wildland firefighters statewide.
- All 29 counties and most municipalities have opted into the new Wildfire Management System. (Sen Vickers' 2016 SB 122)
- 5 new and 28 total Firewise USA communities
- 175 active Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans



SOVEREIGN LANDS

- Lands below the ordinary high water mark of navigable bodies of water at statehood
- Lands exchanged for sovereign lands
- 1.5 million acres
- 2,200 miles of shoreline



Utah's Sovereign Lands

Sovereign lands are lands beneath navigable bodies of water at the time of statehood.

July 2012

1:2,700,000

 Sovereign Land
 Not Sovereign Land



Utah Forestry, Fire, and State Lands

SOVEREIGN LANDS

Multiple Use & Sustained Yield

- **Multiple Use:**
Management of various surface and subsurface resources in a manner that will best meet the present and future needs of the people of this state.
- **Sustained Yield:**
Achievement and maintenance of high level annual or periodic output of the various renewable resources of land without impairment of the productivity of the land.

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SOVEREIGN LANDS public benefits

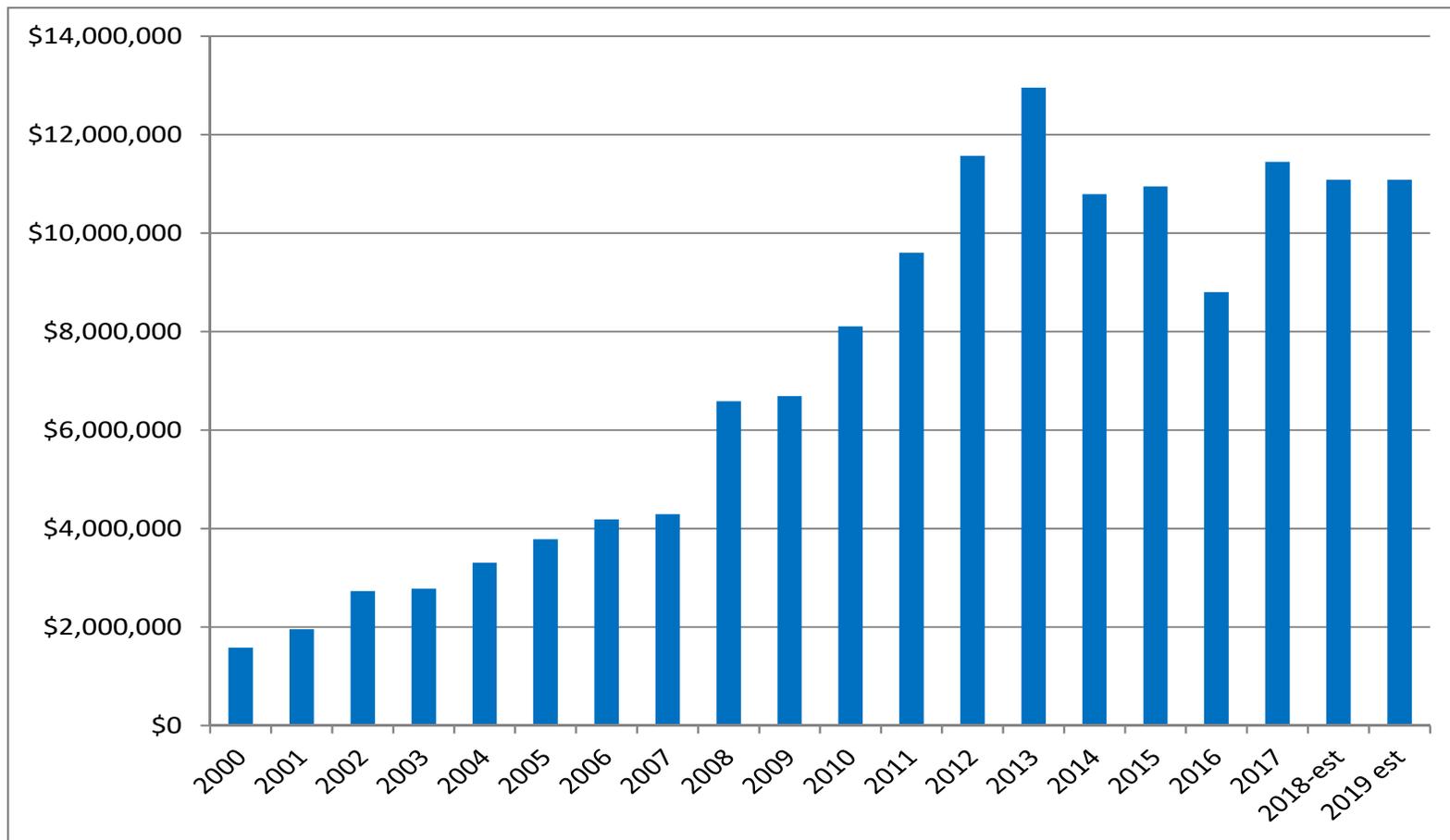
- Public health, safety, and welfare
- Navigation
- Water quality
- Public access and recreation
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Research and education
- Economic development, commerce and jobs

SOVEREIGN LANDS highlights

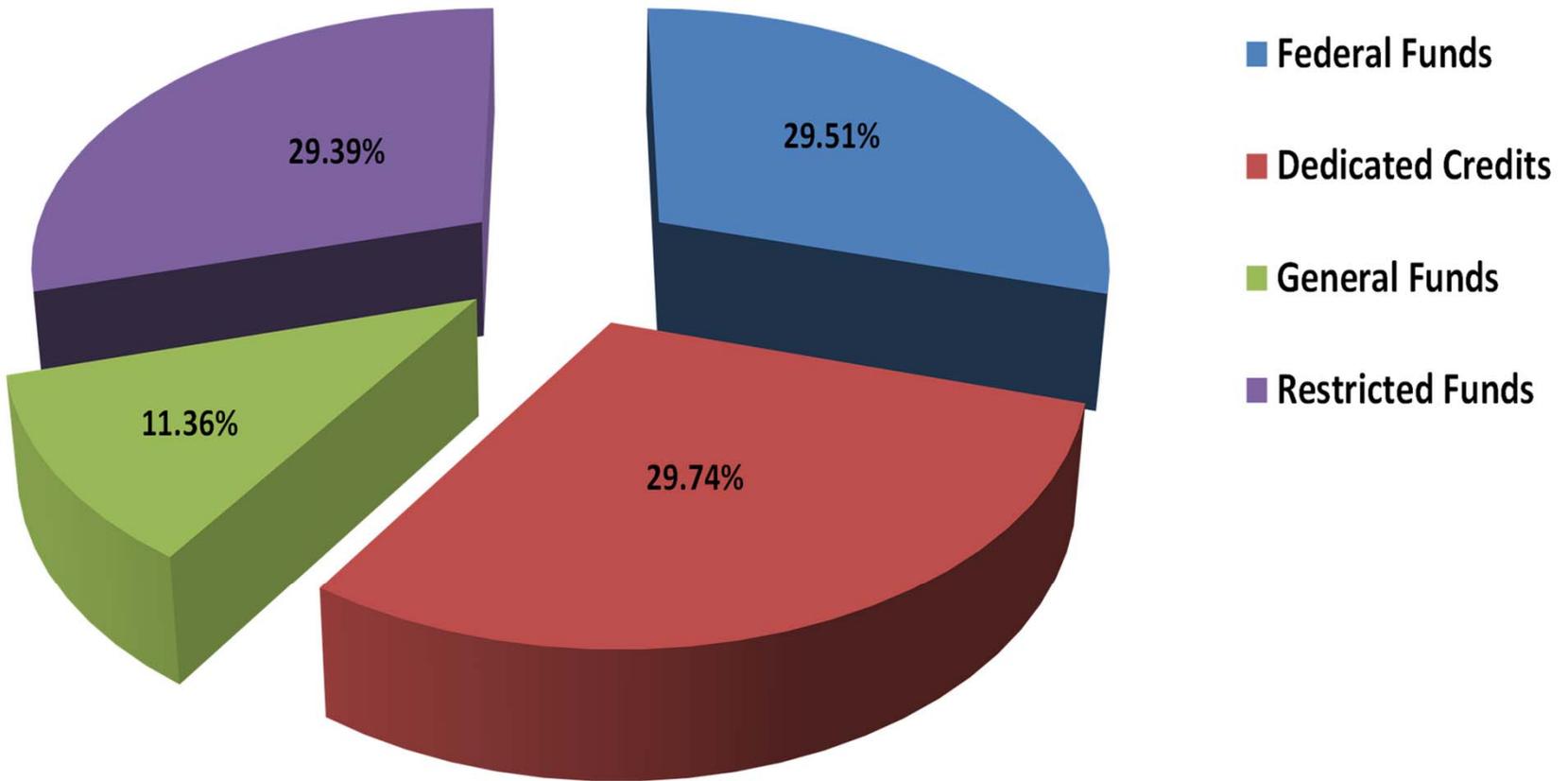
- Phragmites and other invasive species management ongoing on all sovereign lands with an emphasis at **Great Salt Lake** (4,320 acres at GSL and 6,630 acres total in 2017).
- **Great Salt Lake** marina dredging completed and **Utah Lake** marina dredging underway (projects overseen by State Parks).
- Initiated a law enforcement agreement with Utah County for **Utah Lake** similar to the highly successful effort at **Bear Lake** with Rich County.
- Completed the first-ever **Bear River** Comprehensive Management Plan.
- Began the planning process for the first-ever **Green & Colorado Rivers** Comprehensive Management Plan and Mineral Leasing Plan.
- Responding to the Utah Supreme Court's decision finding portions of the **Weber River** to be navigable at statehood.
- LiDAR data finalized for all state sovereign lands.
- **Jordan River** Parkway Trail completed from **Great Salt Lake** to **Utah Lake**!

SOVEREIGN LANDS MANAGEMENT RESTRICTED ACCOUNT

Revenue Projection for FY19 ~\$11M



FY2019 BASE BUDGET REQUEST = \$22,129,500





Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

801-538-5555

www.ffsl.utah.gov

Wildland Fire Suppression Costs

