

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

Utah's Cooperative Fire Management System

(formerly referred to as "fire policy")

Previous System (which was similar to other Western states):

- Almost entirely focused on fire suppression.
- Few, if any, resources were dedicated to the "ounce of prevention."
- Funded through an "insurance program," though some counties chose not to participate and municipalities were not even part of the system, leaving them unprotected financially.
- The *guaranteed future* for Utah (and other states) with such a reactive, suppression-focused system:
 - Ever-larger, more expensive, and more extreme, dangerous and deadly fires.
- A new system had to be created to avoid this certain future.

Development of the New System

- Philosophical, agency-wide shift to emphasize *proactive wildfire risk reduction*.
- Long-term, progressive, systematic approach to reducing the risk of wildfire and, therefore, the ever-increasing costs of fire.
- Cooperatively built through a three-year, consensus-building planning process with:
 - Utah League of Cities & Towns and Utah Association of Counties
 - Utah Fire Chiefs Association and numerous firefighters
 - Legislators, and staff from FFSL, GOMB and LFA

Utah's New Cooperative Fire Management System

- Went into effect January 1, 2017, following Senator Evan Vickers' SB 122 in 2016.
- The State assumes responsibility for suppression costs of large and extended attack wildland fires in exchange for local government:
 - Providing *effective wildfire initial attack* by local fire departments; and,
 - Implementing measurable *prevention, preparedness and mitigation actions* to reduce fire risk locally.
- Eligible Entities include counties, cities and certain special service fire districts.
 - This is an opt-in system but all 29 counties and most cities have joined!
- Participating Entities opt-in and commit to a "*Participation Commitment*" of measurable wildfire risk reduction work in their jurisdiction each year.
 - Participation Commitment is calculated annually using:
 - *Historic fire cost average* within that jurisdiction; and,
 - *A risk assessment by acreage* using the Division's innovative Utah Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (UWRAP).
 - These two components incentivize the behaviors most critical for reducing wildfire risk and impacts:
 - *Effective initial attack* (keeping fires small and less costly) to reduce historic fire cost average; and,
 - *Well-planned mitigation actions* that reduce an entity's risk assessment.
- Participating Entities sign a five-year cooperative agreement with the Division.
 - With FFSL assistance, must maintain a *Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP)* that:
 - Identifies local values at risk, priority areas, and actions to reduce risk.
 - Remarkably, nearly every acre of the state is covered by a current CWPP.
 - FFSL staff then works with each Participating Entity to help prioritize actions and *cooperatively implement* projects to truly reduce risk in their community.
- Cost-shared county fire warden--50/50 between county and Division—has been maintained.
 - Fire warden is essential for ensuring that local participating entities understand and are successful in the new system, and every county now has a fire warden.
- System fully complements the Governor's *Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy*.



CY2018 *Estimated* Wildfire Suppression Costs & FY19 Supplemental Request

State Suppression Fund at close of SFY18	\$1,686,972
SFY18 Non-Lapsing Supplemental Balance	12,892,479
Total State Suppression Funding at 6/30/2018	14,579,451
Annual GF Appropriation to Division Budget FY19	1,500,000
Saddle Fire FMAG still to be paid FY19	892,000
Mineral Lease Bonus deposit for FY19	331,900
Total Funding Available for SFY2019	17,303,351

YTD <i>Estimated</i> Costs for Ten Largest Fires of 2018 Fire Season	Total Cost	State's <i>Estimated</i> Cost
*Dollar Ridge (Duchesne & Wasatch counties)	21.5M	14,405,000
Coal Hollow (Utah)	13.5M	1,620,000
Goose Creek (Box Elder)	7.8M	2,106,000
Willow Patch (Sevier)	2.2M	2,002,000
North Eden (Rich)	1.8M	1,116,000
*Hill Top (Sanete)	1.3M	1,300,000
Rough Canyon (Box Elder)	1.1M	1,100,000
Avon (Weber)	920,000	892,400
Monviso (Summit)	900,000	900,000
Middle Canyon (Tooele)	900,000	900,000
Estimated State Costs of all other fires (July 1 to date)		8,000,000
Estimated State Costs for fires thru June 30, 2019		2,000,000
CY17 State suppression costs to be paid in October (annual inter-agency "Consolidated Billing")		2,800,000
Total Suppression YTD		39,141,400
Less Total Suppression Costs Paid to date FY19		8,258,085
Less Available Funding (from above)		17,303,351
Total <u>Suppression</u> Supplemental Request		13,579,964
Total <u>Post-Fire Rehabilitation</u> Supplemental Request (state & private lands)		6,200,000
Total Suppression and Rehab Cost for FY19		19,779,964

Estimated FY2019 Supplemental Request **19.8M**

Notable CY18 Federal Fires (No State Obligation)

Trail Mountain	15M	N/A
West Valley	8.8M	N/A
Pole Creek (21.2M) and *Bald Mountain (9.7M) fires	30.9M	N/A

2017 FMAGs for Brian Head and Uintah fires are still outstanding and likely won't be paid until 2019.

*FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) approved

