

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands



Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality
Appropriations Subcommittee

February 5, 2019

Brian Cottam, Director/State Forester

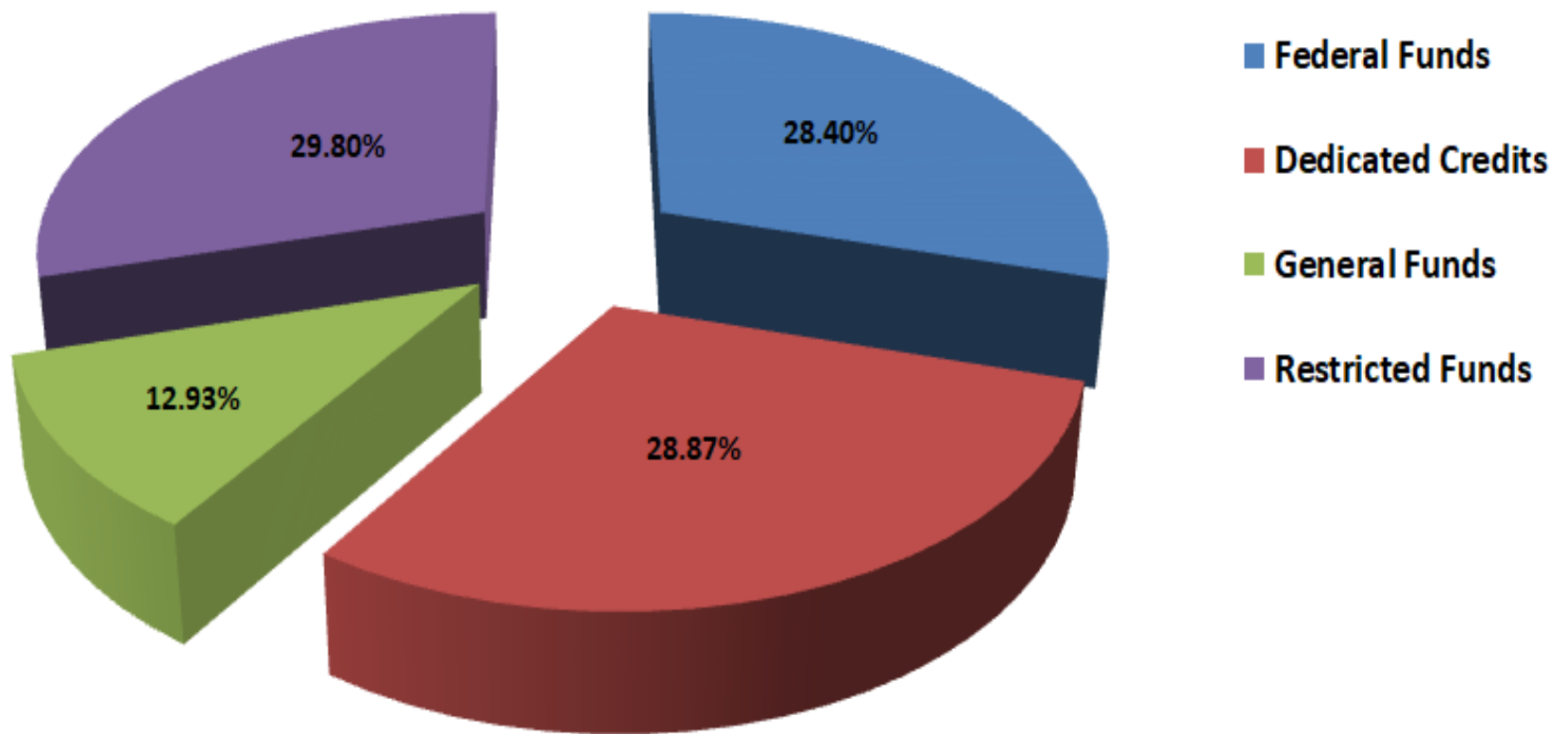


PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Base budget
2. Brief overview of **Fire** and **State Lands**
3. 2018 wildfire season statistics
4. Building block requests for FY20



FY2020 BASE BUDGET REQUEST = \$23,204,800



FIRE

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



FIRE services & programs

- Wildfire incident management and suppression
- Wildfire Suppression Fund
- Implementation of new Cooperative Wildfire System (“fire policy”)
- Utah Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (UWRAP)
- Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy (“CatFire”)
 - National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy
 - 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
- Fire Department Assistance grants to local FDs
- Federal Excess Personal Property program management

Utah Code 65A chapters 3 & 8



UTAH'S 2018 FIRE SEASON

- 1,327 wildland and urban-interface fire responses across all jurisdictions (*5 yr avg=1,107*)
- 486,063 total acres burned (*5 yr avg=178,437*)
- 91% caught in initial attack (*only 126 fires > 10 acres*)
- 52% human-caused, 48% lightning human-caused in 2017; 5 yr avg=55% (63%)
- However, 72% of state & local fires were human-caused!



UTAH'S 2018 FIRE SEASON

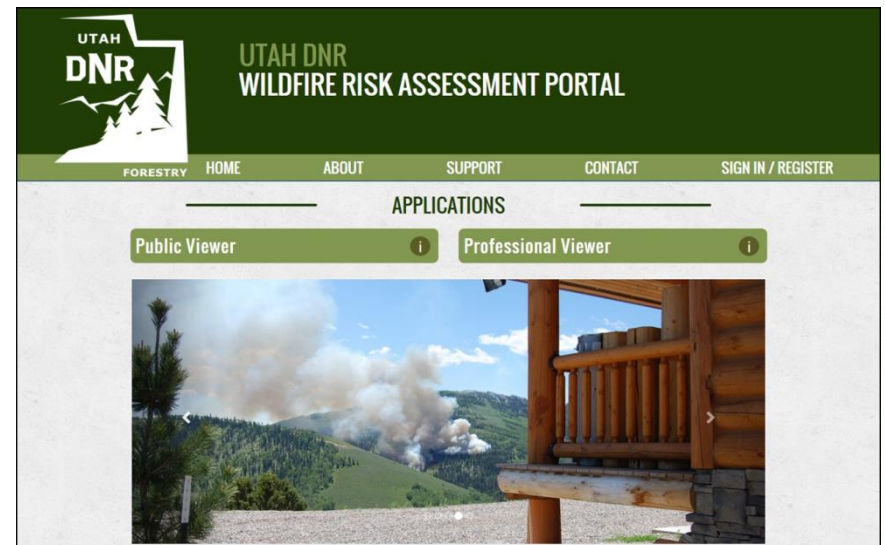
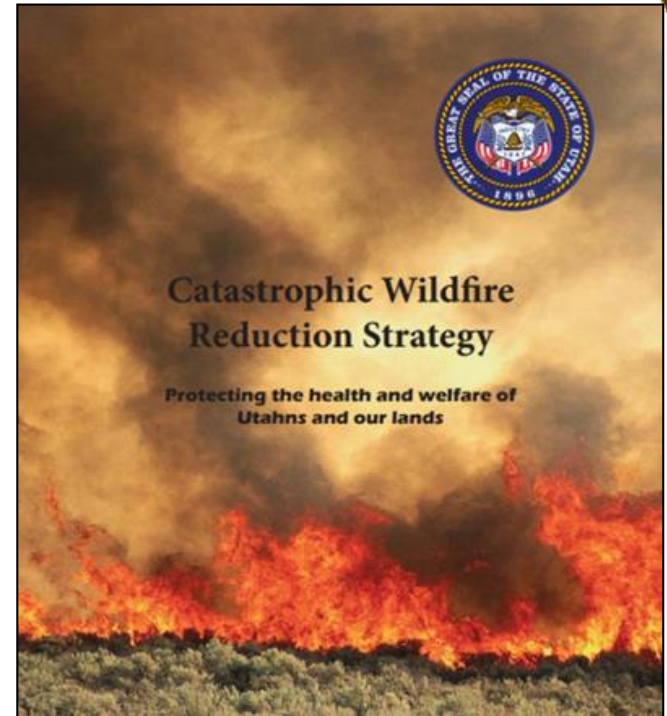
- Most expensive fire season in history (*State costs*)
- Estimated \$42 million in State costs (*\$18M in 2017*)
- Dollar Ridge Fire was most expensive state-managed fire and fifth largest fire by acreage ever
 - \$27.2M total costs (~\$16M state); 70,003 acres
- Requesting \$19.8M of supplemental funding for 2018 suppression and post-fire rehabilitation costs



FIRE public benefits

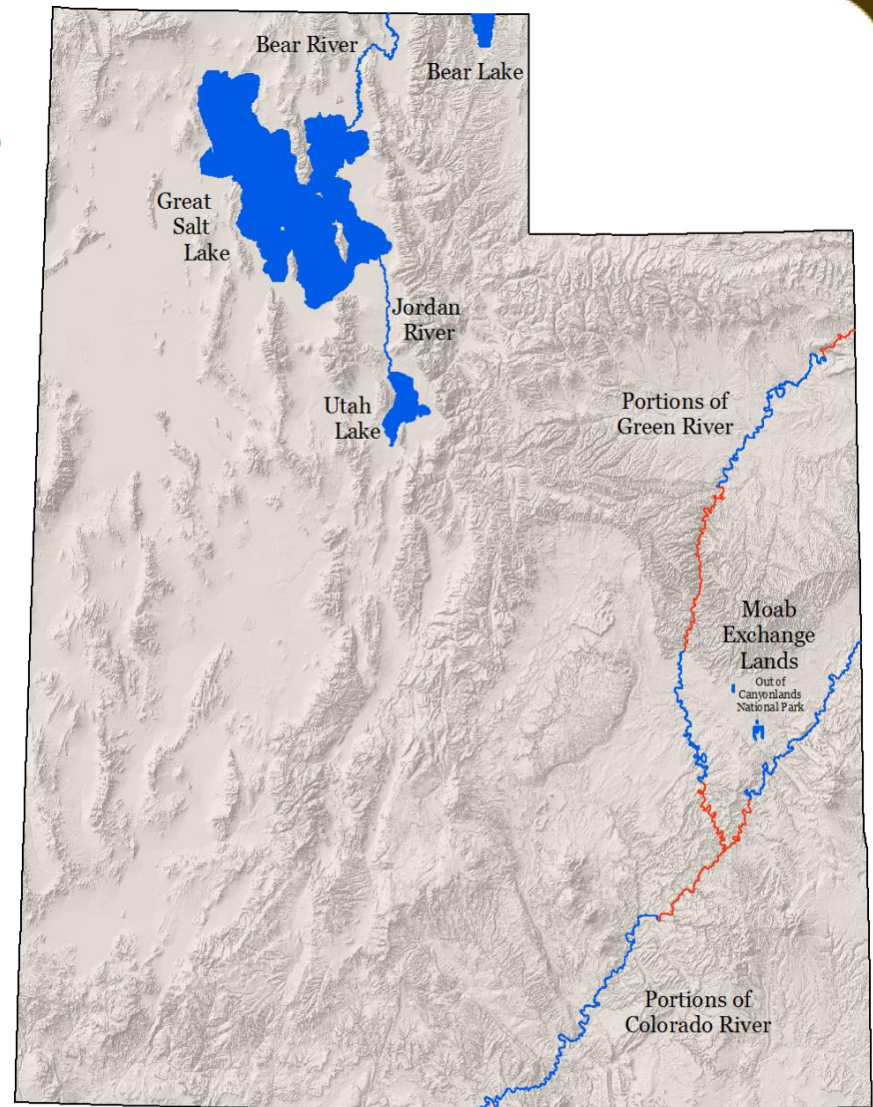
Avoiding the Total Costs of wildfire:

- 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



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



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.

65A-1-1



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

FY20 FFSL BUILDING BLOCKS

Sovereign lands

- Great Salt Lake phragmites control
- Bear Lake CMP update
- Dalton Wells management
- Land lease database completion

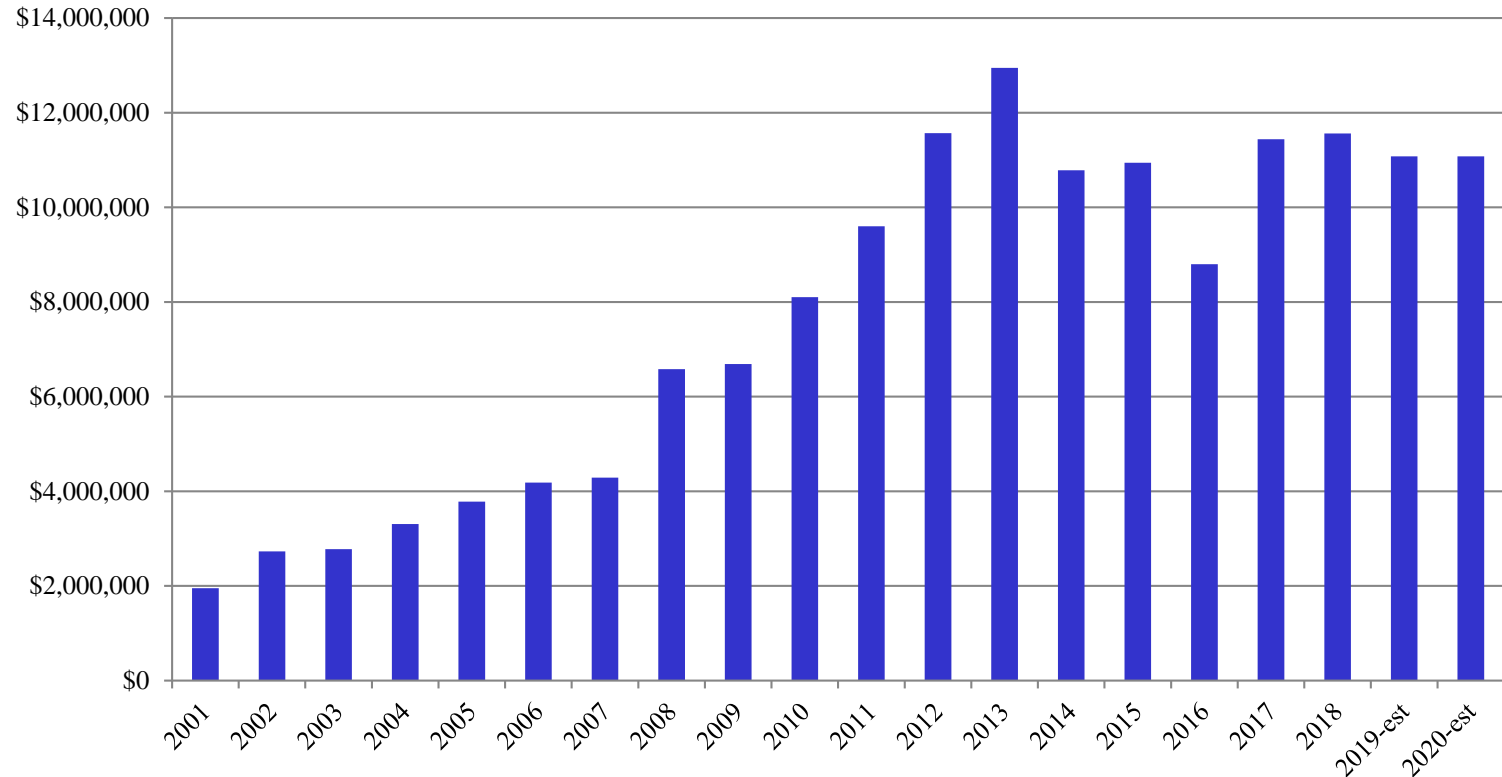
Fire

- Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy



SOVEREIGN LANDS MANAGEMENT RESTRICTED ACCOUNT

Revenue Projection for FY20 ~\$11M



SOVEREIGN LANDS

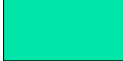



FY20 Funding Request

Great Salt Lake Phragmites Control

\$500,000 ongoing



Past, Present and Future of FFSL Phragmites Control on the Great Salt Lake

-  Restored Area (3+ years of treatment) – 2,900 acres
-  Treatment Underway (1-2 years) – 4,100 acres
-  Future Treatment Areas – 25,000 acres
-  Great Salt Lake Meander Line

Before



Howard Slough 2016

After



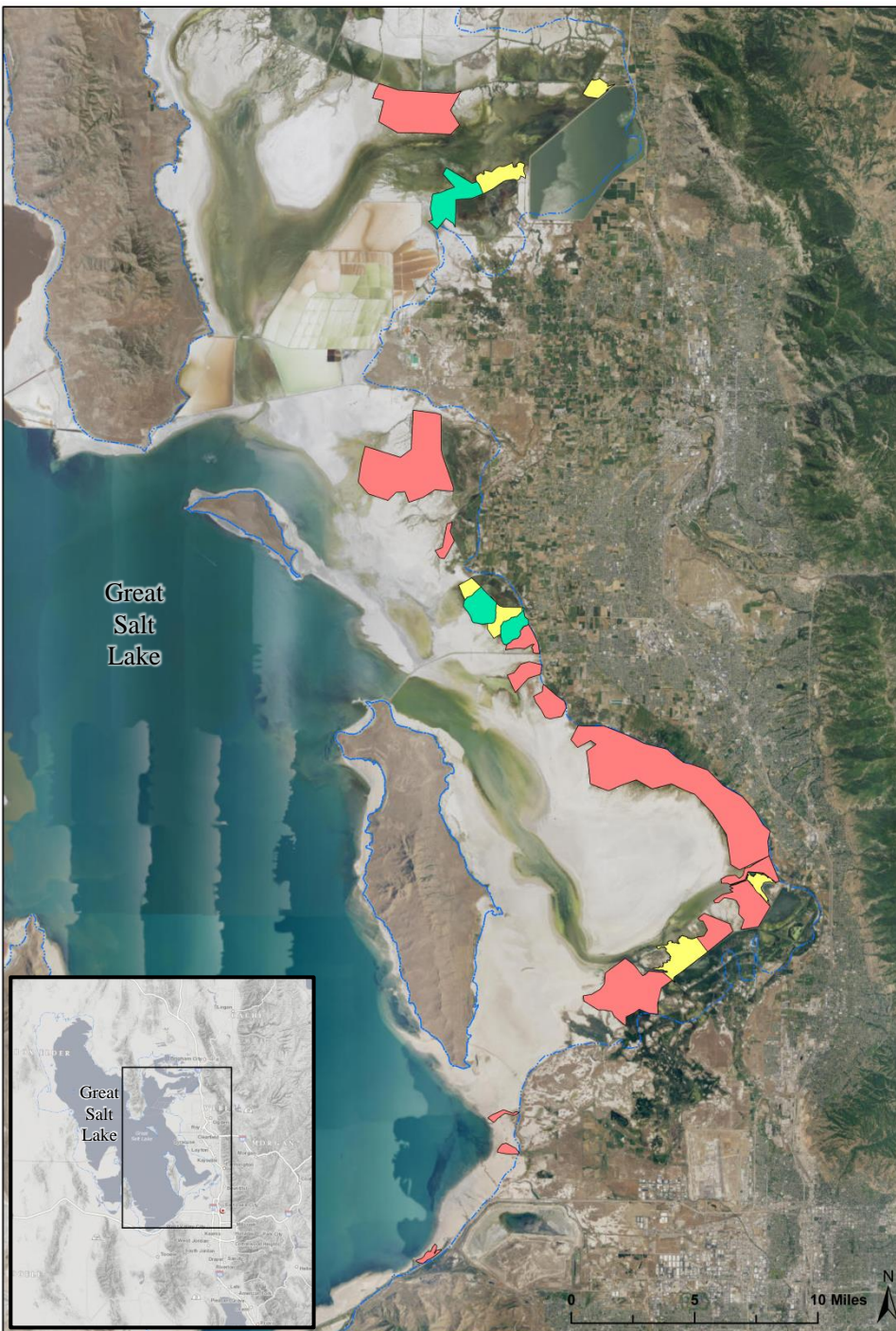
Howard Slough 2018



Harold Crane 2016



Harold Crane 2018



SOVEREIGN LANDS

FY20 Funding Request

Bear Lake Comprehensive Management Plan Update

\$300,000 one time



SOVEREIGN LANDS

FY20 Funding Request

Dalton Wells Management and Improvements

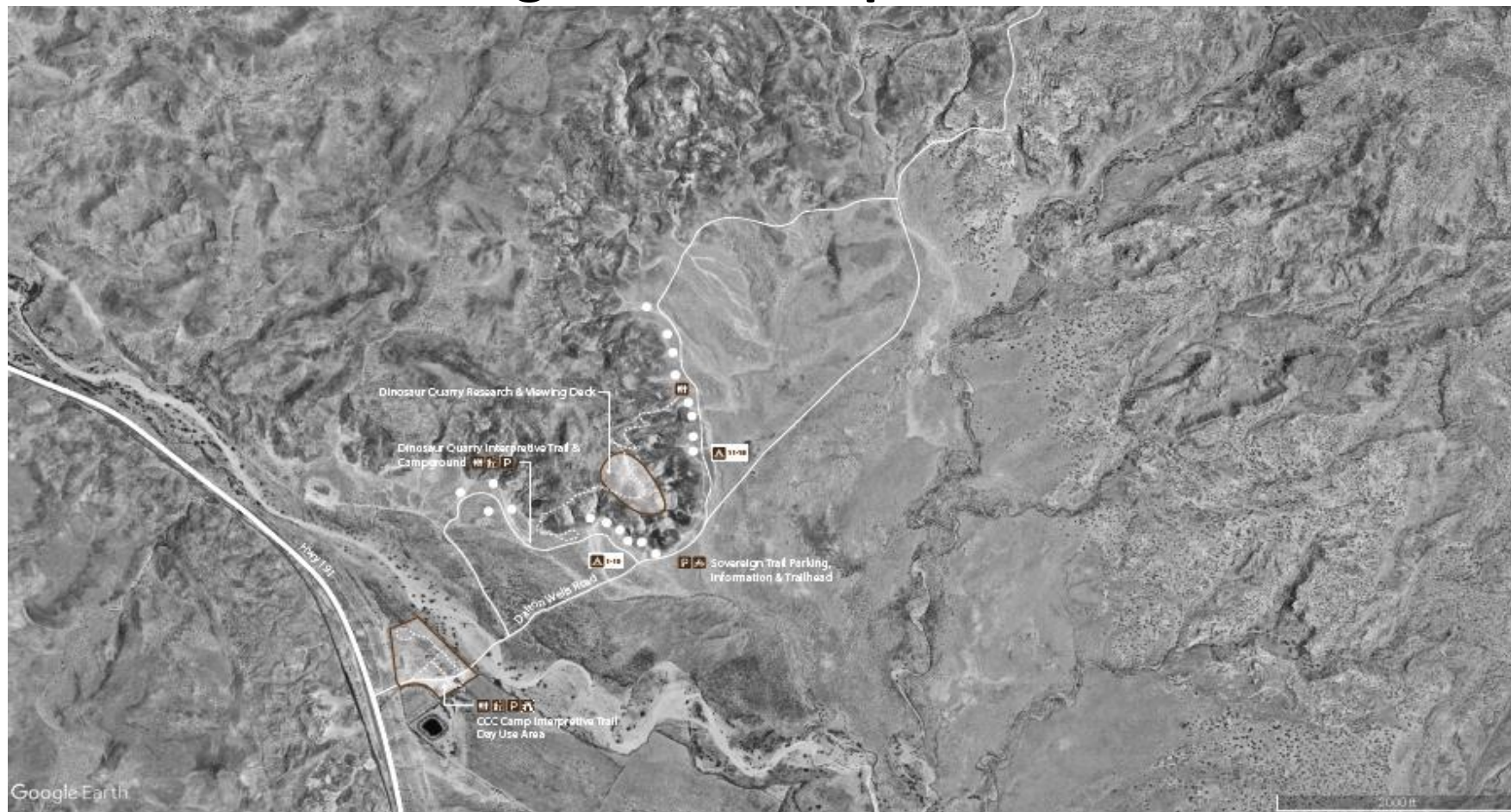
\$100,000 one time



SOVEREIGN LANDS

FY20 Funding Request

Dalton Wells Management & Improvements



SOVEREIGN LANDS

FY20 Funding Request

Land Lease (Tririga) Database Completion

\$100,000 one time



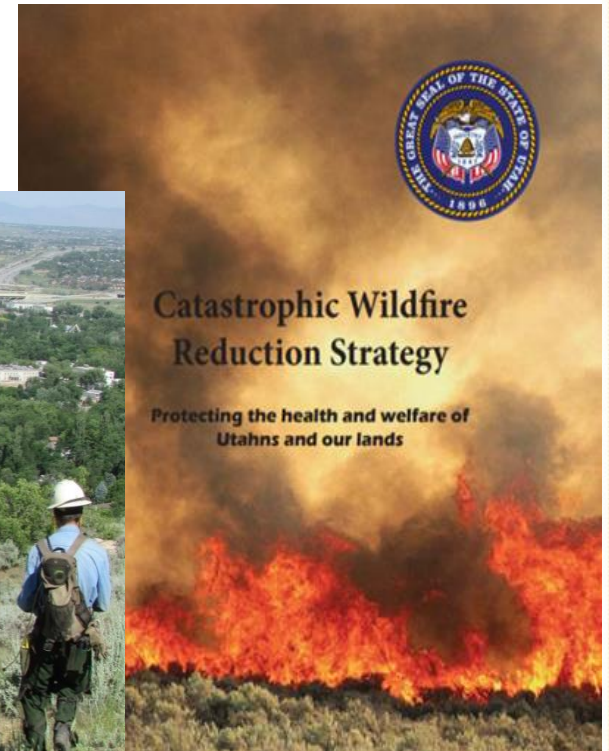
FIRE

FY20 Funding Request

Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy

\$1,000,000 one-time

12 projects approved by the Statewide Steering Committee for FY20





Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

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FORESTRY

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



FORESTRY services & programs

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

Utah Code 65A chapter 8



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

