

# Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands



Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality  
Appropriations Subcommittee

February 4, 2020

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



# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Brief overview of **Forestry**, **Fire** and **State Lands**
2. 2019 wildfire season statistics
3. Building block requests for FY21



# FORESTRY

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



# FORESTRY services & programs

- Forest Stewardship
- Forest Health
- Utah Forest Action Plan
- Forest Water Quality Guidelines and monitoring
- Urban and Community Forestry
- Forest Legacy
- Operator (industry) Registration
- Forest Practices Notification
- NRCS Technical Service Provider and EQIP-Forestry
- Shared Stewardship with the US Forest Service

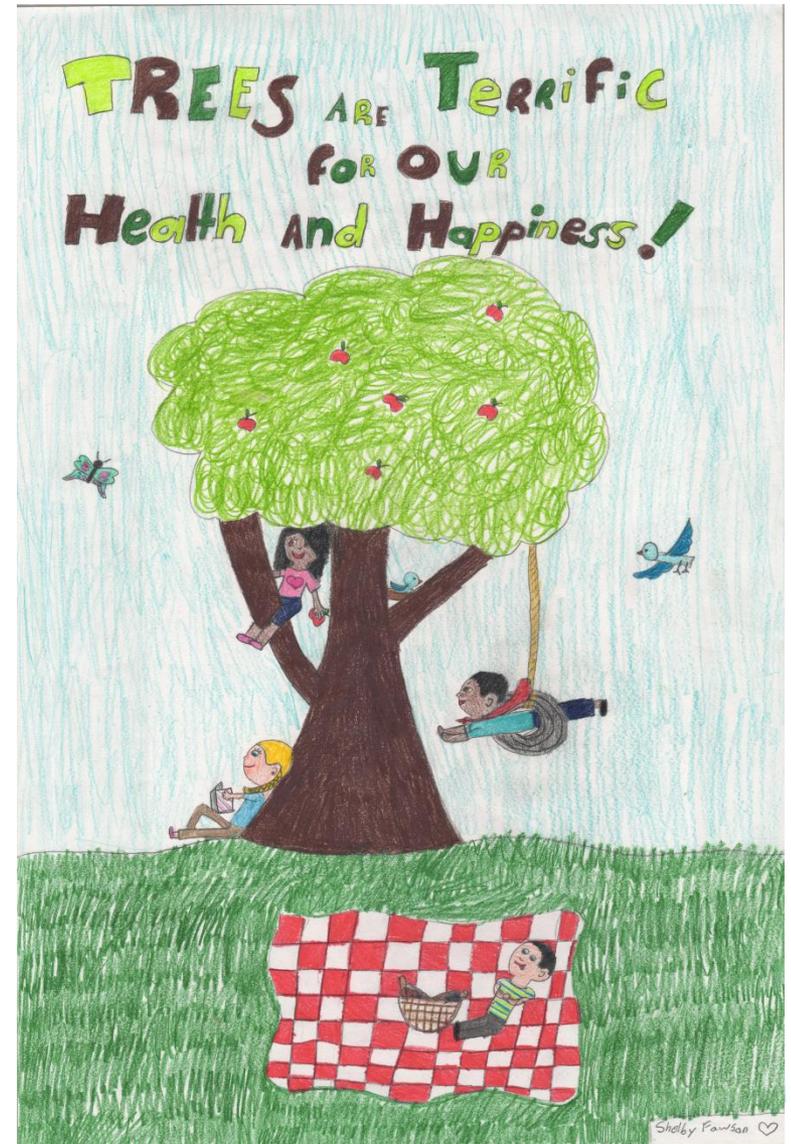
Utah Code 65A chapter 8



# 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



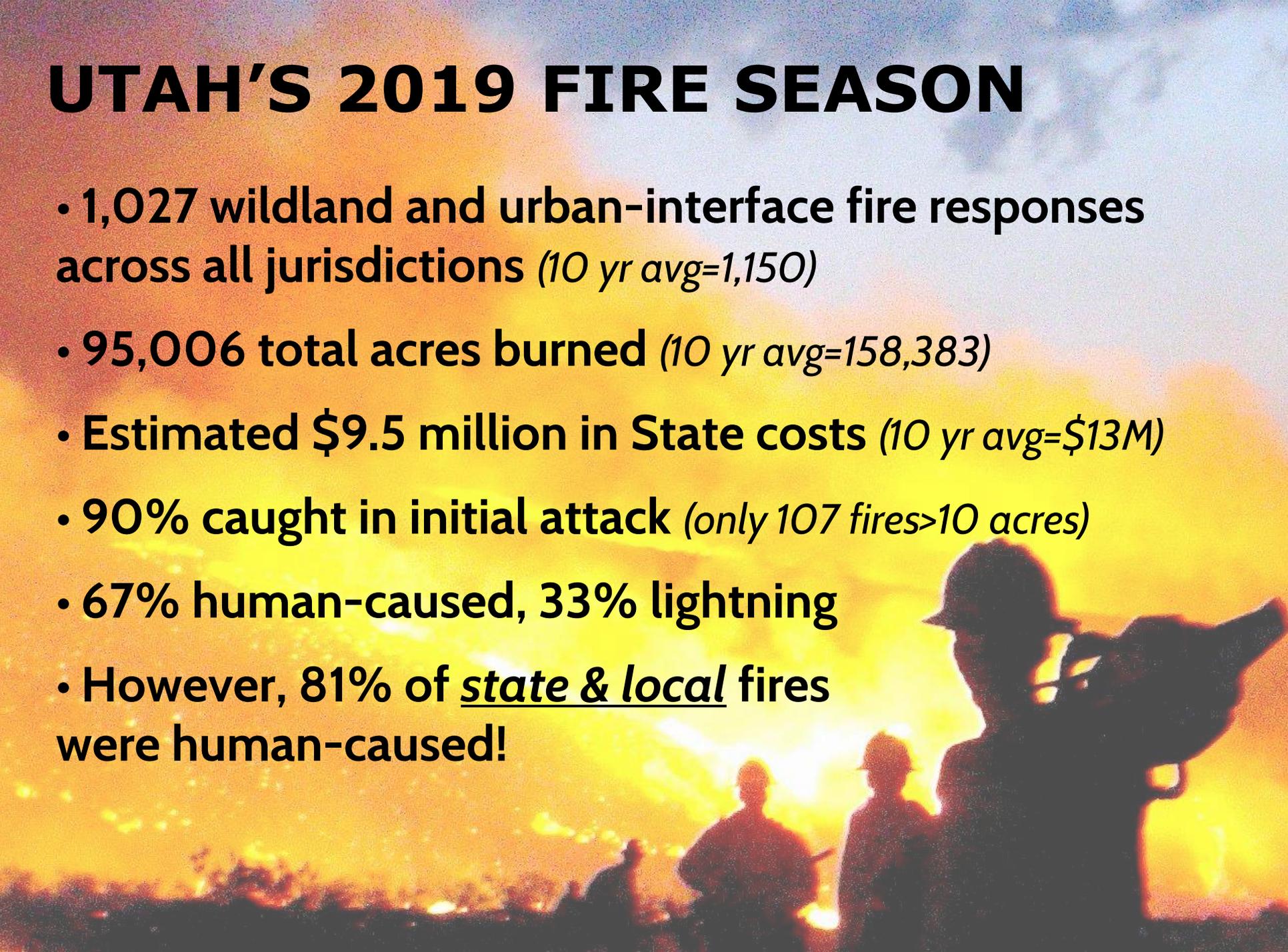
# FIRE

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



# UTAH'S 2019 FIRE SEASON

- 1,027 wildland and urban-interface fire responses across all jurisdictions (*10 yr avg=1,150*)
- 95,006 total acres burned (*10 yr avg=158,383*)
- Estimated \$9.5 million in State costs (*10 yr avg=\$13M*)
- 90% caught in initial attack (*only 107 fires >10 acres*)
- 67% human-caused, 33% lightning
- However, 81% of state & local fires were human-caused!





**Think You've Got What it takes  
to be a Wildland Firefighter?**



# **FIRE** services & programs

- Wildfire incident management and suppression
- Wildfire Suppression Fund
- Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG) via FEMA
- Implementation of State's Cooperative Wildfire System ("fire policy")
- Utah Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (UWRAP)
- Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy ("CatFire")
  - National Cohesive Strategy for Wildland Fire Management
  - 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 Property program (e.g., fire trucks for local FDs)

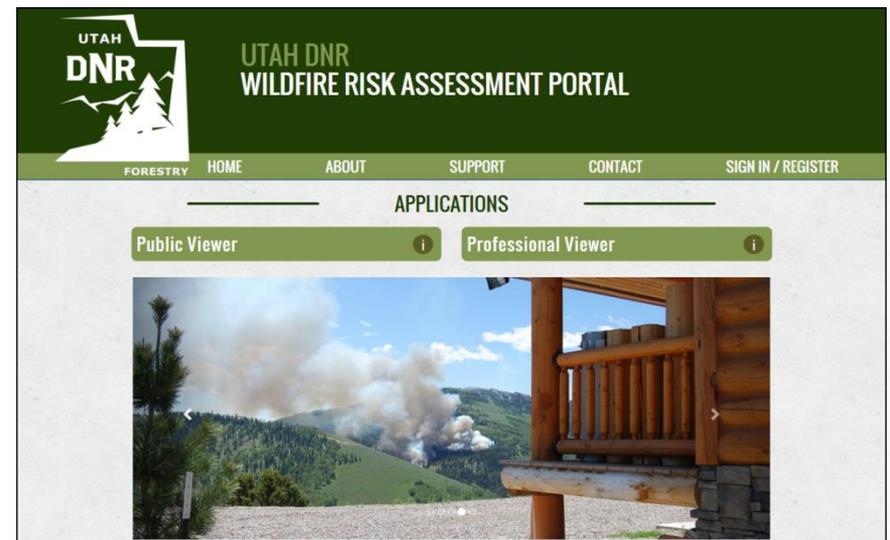
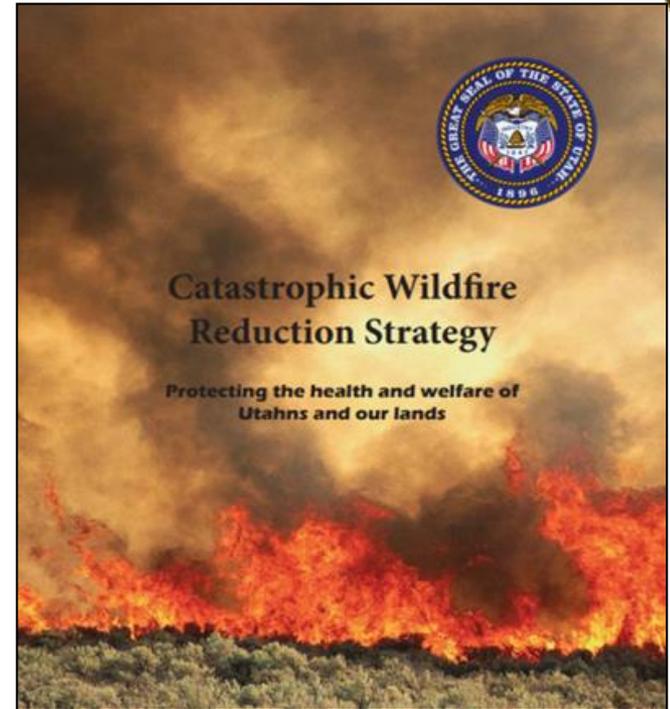
Utah Code 65A chapters 3 & 8



# **FIRE** public benefits

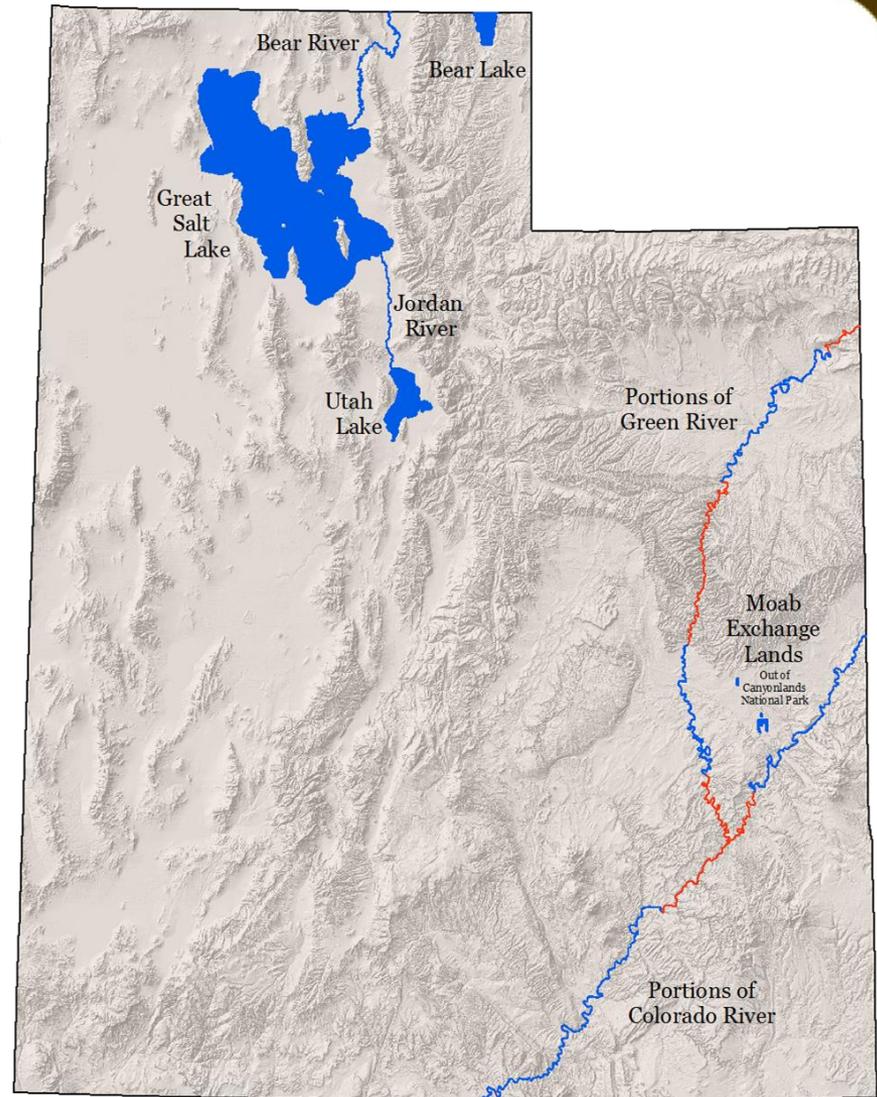
Avoiding the Total Costs of wildfire:

- 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.

 Sovereign Land

 Not Sovereign Land



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
- 
- A background image of a beach scene. In the foreground, a young boy in green shorts is running through shallow water, splashing. To his left, another person is wading. In the distance, a person is visible on a small boat. The water is clear and blue, with gentle waves. The sky is bright blue with a few white clouds. In the far background, there are low mountains or hills under a clear sky.

# FY21 FFSL BUILDING BLOCKS

## Forestry

- Shared Stewardship

## Fire

- Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy
- Wildfire Prevention
- FY 2020 Supplemental for 2019 Fire Season Suppression

## Sovereign Lands

- Green & Colorado Rivers Motorized Use Plan

Division-wide Safety Program



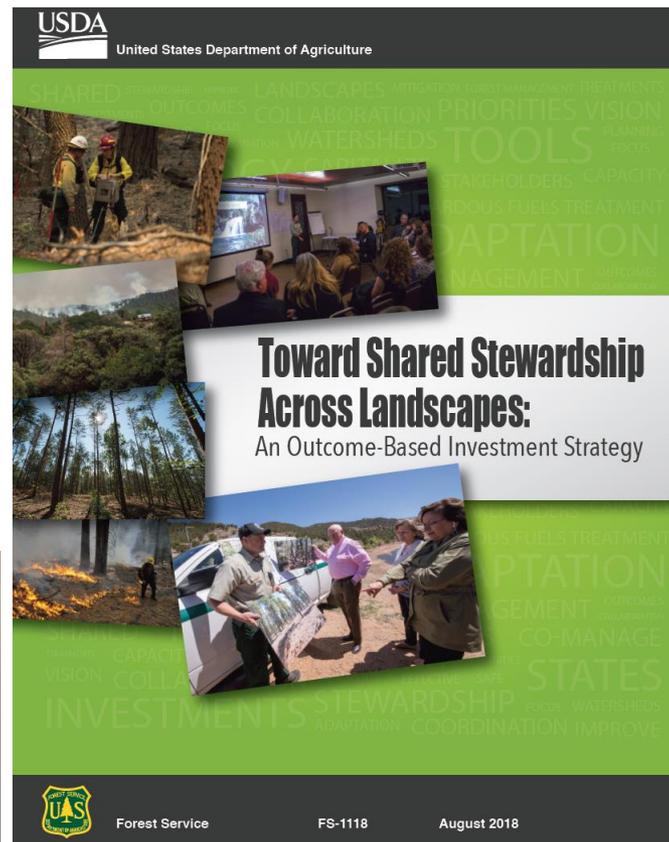
# FORESTRY

## FY21 Funding Request

### Shared Stewardship

\$1,500,000 one-time (GF)

Unlocks \$2.5M USFS WO match



# FORESTRY

## FY21 Funding Request

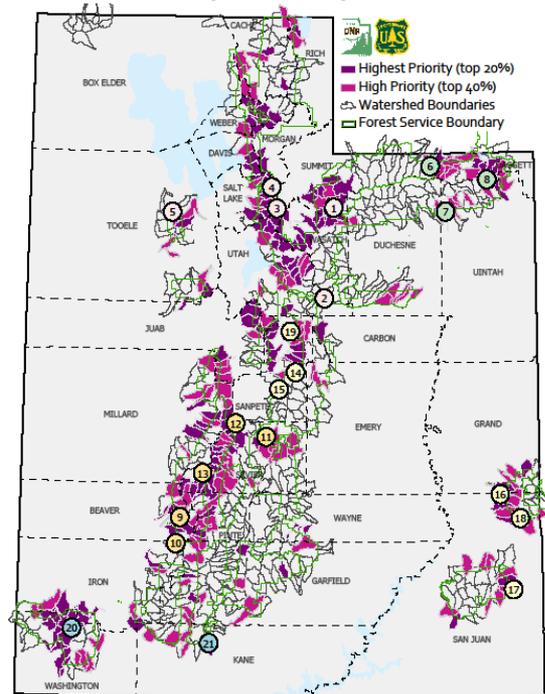
### Shared Stewardship

\$1,500,000

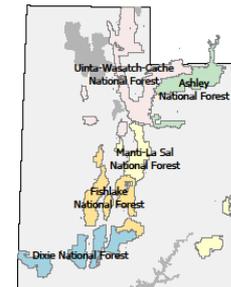
one-time

\$2.5M USFS  
match

Shared Stewardship  
2020 Proposed Project Areas



ID	Project Name	Acres
1	Upper Provo Watershed Restoration Phase 5	1,935
2	Sheep Creek Rx Phase 2	6,010
3	Central Wasatch Front Conservation Phase 1	8,498
4	Parley's Canyon Watershed Restoration	11,364
5	Stansbury Mountains Watershed Improvement	15,781
6	Cow Hollow Fuelwood	525
7	Whiterocks Watershed Improvement	1,487
8	Greater Cart Creek Hazardous Fuels Reduction	161,480
9	Beaver River Watershed Improvement	1,824
10	South Beaver Watershed Improvement	2,153
11	Gooseberry Phase 1	4,931
12	Hans Pumpnickle Habitat Restoration Phase 1	6,111
13	Joseph Habitat Restoration Project	6,617
14	New Canyon Watershed Restoration	212
15	Willow Phase 3	882
16	Mill Creek Watershed Restoration Partnership	1,368
17	Shingle Mill Phase 2	2,174
18	LSSC Habitat Improvement Phase 1	4,106
19	Skyline West Archeological and Wildlife Surveys	94,841
20	Pinto Watershed and Defensible Space Restoration Phase 2	2,479
21	Deer Springs Wildlife Habitat and Fuels Reduction	3,096



# FORESTRY

## FY20 Funding

### Shared Stewardship

\$2,000,000  
one-time

\$2M USFS match



United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Intermountain Region



#### SHARED STEWARDSHIP ACTION PLAN

Following the signing of the Utah Agreement for Shared Stewardship, the State and Forest Service worked collaboratively to develop a Utah Shared Stewardship Action Plan to guide our efforts, which consists of the elements described below:

##### 1. Accelerate planning

The Forest Service will expedite National Environmental Policy Act analysis and documentation for forest management projects that reduce community wildfire risks and stimulate forest-based economic development. This will increase the amount of on-the-ground forest management work available for funding and implementation in priority areas.

##### 2. Increase the pace of implementation

The State and Forest Service will combine resources to increase the amount of forest management work that is funded and implemented in agreed upon priority areas.

##### 3. Focus on economic development

The State and Forest Service will support a concerted economic development initiative to increase forest-related economic opportunities in Utah.

##### 4. Provide more training

The State and Forest Service will increase fire prevention outreach and education efforts in an effort to curtail the number of human caused fires. The Forest Service will also continue its efforts to educate employees on the topic of the 2001 Roadless Rule and forest management activities that can be performed utilizing the rule's exceptions.

##### 5. Convene stakeholders and leverage their interests

The State and Forest Service will collaborate with a broad spectrum of partners to develop informed plans for forest management projects that meet the goals of Shared Stewardship in Utah. Collaboration with partners will help build support for priority projects and increase project funding opportunities.

#### FUNDING

An initial 4-year investment to support the Shared Stewardship Action Plan was agreed to by the State and the Forest Service. This investment is subject to Congressional appropriation and State legislative approval:

Year	State	Forest Service
2019	\$2 million <sup>1</sup>	\$2 million match
2020	\$1.5 million (optional)	\$2.5 million plus <sup>2</sup> \$1.5 million match
2021	\$1.5 million (optional)	\$2.5 million plus <sup>2</sup> \$1.5 million match
2022	\$1.5 million (optional)	\$2.5 million plus <sup>2</sup> \$1.5 million match
Total	\$6.5 million	\$14 million

<sup>1</sup>Appropriated by the State during the 2019 Utah Legislative Session <sup>2</sup>USFS funds contingent on State of Utah match

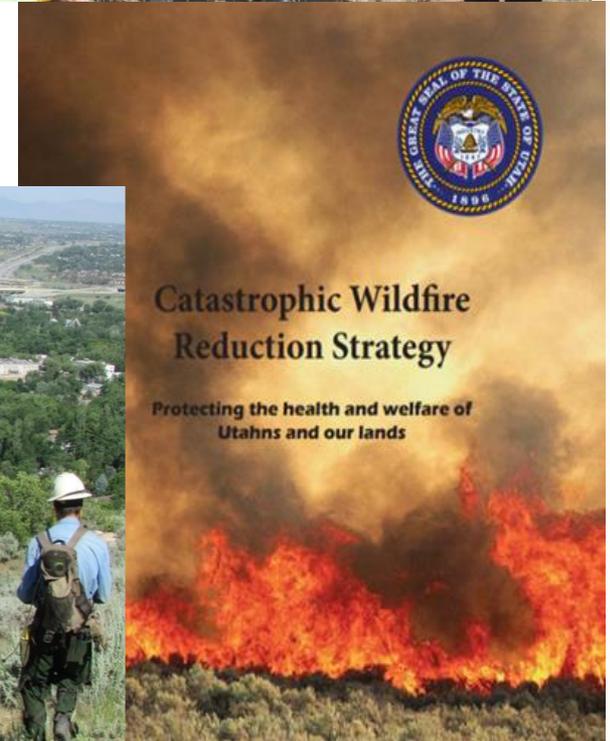
# **FIRE**

## FY21 Funding Request

### Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy

\$1,000,000 one-time (RA)

13 projects approved by the Statewide  
Steering Committee for FY21



# FIRE

## FY21 Funding Request

### Wildfire Prevention

\$135,000 ongoing (RA)



**You'll Never Believe How this Fire started.**

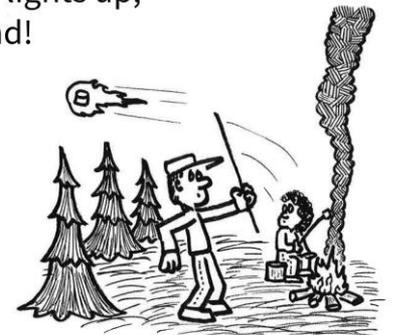


**Why Are There So Many Wildfires in Utah?**

### **Cause #56 Flaming Marsh Mallows**

When that mallow lights up, don't fling it around!

It may come off the stick and land in dry grass.



How We Start Wildfires...

# IT'S NOT WORTH THE VIEW!

Drones are **ILLEGAL** to fly near wildfires in Utah.

They put our firefighters, residents, and homes at risk.



## Utah Interagency Wildfire Prevention and Communication

Guide



### Cause #15

### Dragging Trailer Chains

Metal bouncing off of the pavement on highways, or rocks on trails, can easily throw sparks into dry grasses and brush.



How We Start Wildfires...

# ONE LESS SPARK



# ONE LESS WILDFIRE

UtahFireInfo.gov

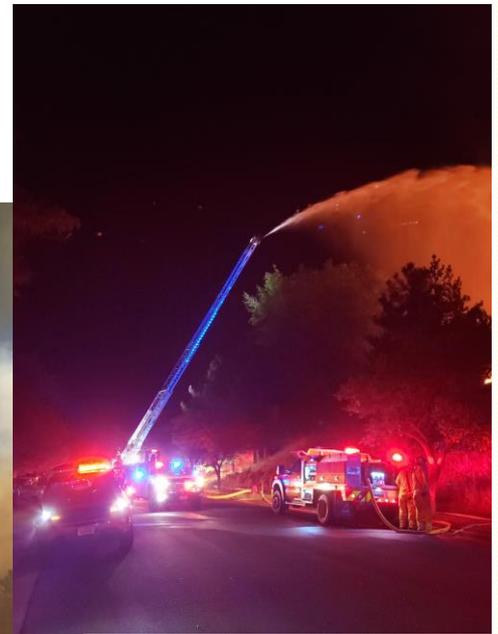
# **FIRE**

## FY21 Funding Request

### 2019 Fire Season Suppression Supplemental

\$10,000,000 one-time (GF)

\$9.5 suppression + \$500,000 post-fire rehab  
via WRI

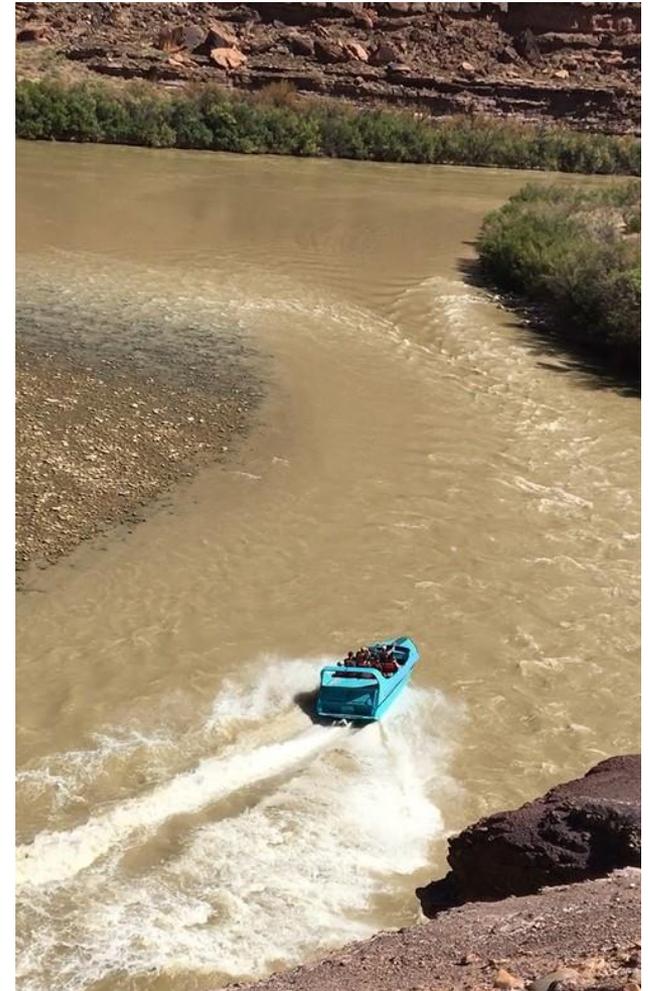


# SOVEREIGN LANDS

## FY21 Funding Request

### Green & Colorado Rivers Motorized Use Plan

\$150,000 one-time (RA)



# DIVISION-WIDE FY21 Funding Request

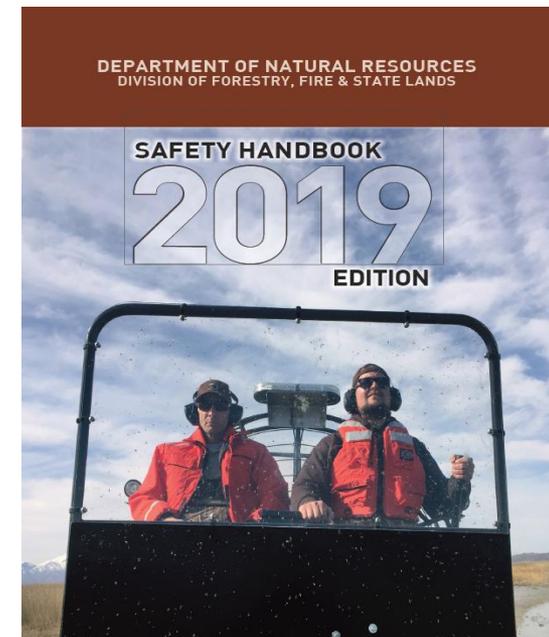
## Safety Improvement Program

\$135,000 ongoing,  
\$35,000 one-time (RA)



# Recent Safety Improvement Initiatives

- Creation of a **Division Safety Committee** in 2014 that includes representation from all Areas and Units
- Development and delivery in 2018 of the first **FFSL Safety Handbook**, which included participation and input from numerous external safety related entities
- Lone Peak Conservation Center **Safety Coordinator** position created in 2015
- LPCC's operational **Safety Plan** submitted to **Utah OSHA** for review in 2017
- Established a **partnership with the University of Utah** using interns to conduct field research with regard to safety and ergonomics
- Beginning in 2016, FFSL now regularly joins interagency fire management partners in **Facilitated Learning Analysis and Rapid Lesson Sharing** incident reviews after accidents or injuries during field operations
- Development and testing of a Division-wide **“Near Miss” app** to begin reporting and tracking all incidents to inform safety improvement efforts



*Shane Freeman*  
Shane Freeman  
Chair, Safety Committee

*Neil Barrons*  
Neil Barrons  
Vice Chair, Safety Committee

*Carolee Christensen*  
Carolee Christensen  
Deputy Director



# Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

**801-538-5555**

**[briancottam@utah.gov](mailto:briancottam@utah.gov)**

**[www.ffsl.utah.gov](http://www.ffsl.utah.gov)**