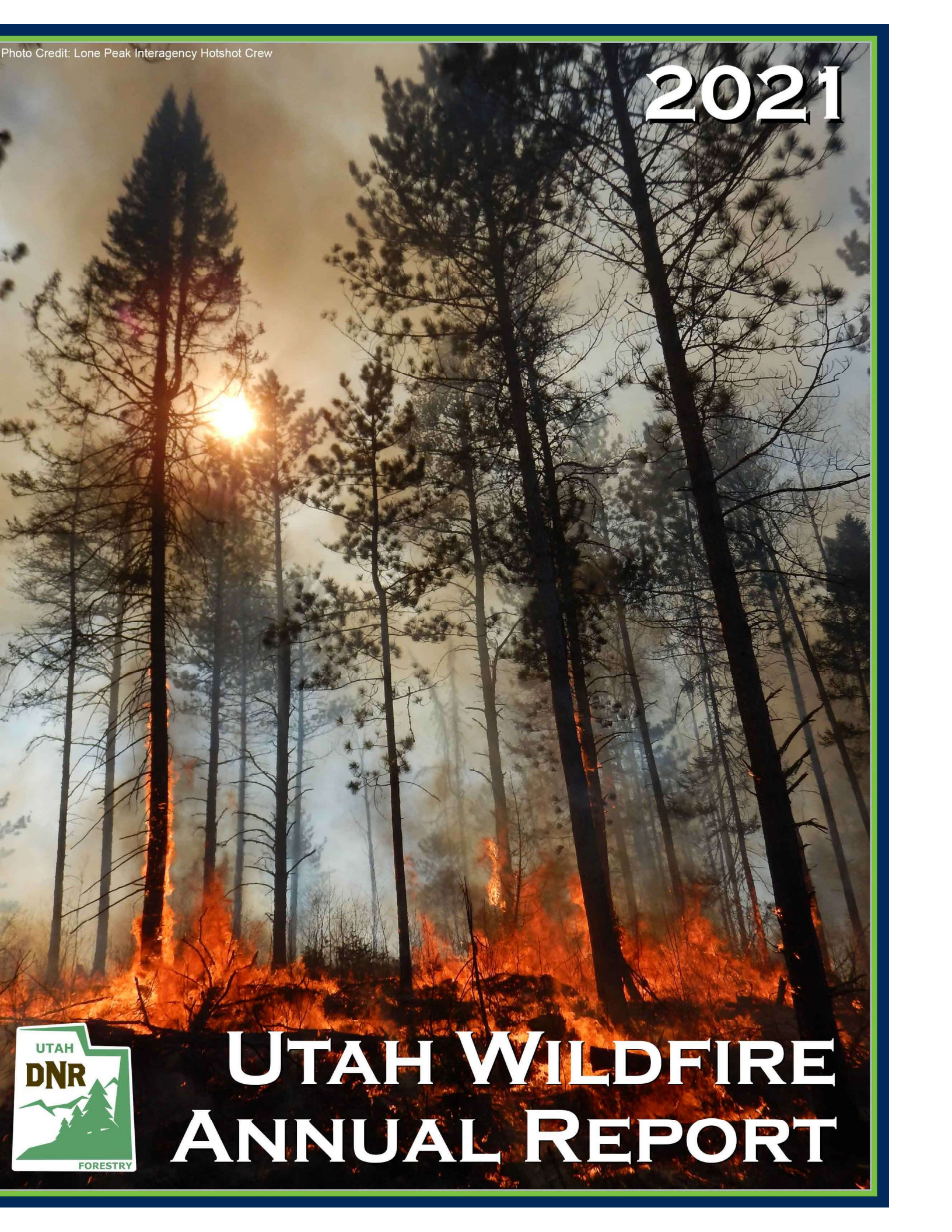


Photo Credit: Lone Peak Interagency Hotshot Crew

2021



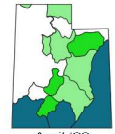
UTAH WILDFIRE ANNUAL REPORT

Fewer Human-Caused

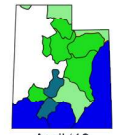
Weather Summary

The 2021 fire season was preceded by an extremely dry spring and winter, with record drought levels across most of Utah, the largest areal coverage of “Extreme” to “Exceptional” drought in the history of the National Drought Monitor. The fire season began two weeks sooner than normal. Several lightning events, followed by dry breezy conditions, increased large fire activity across southern areas in early June. By mid-June, most ERC measurement stations in Utah were at or beyond the 97th percentiles. By mid-July, critically dry fuels covered nearly the entire Great Basin. However, by late July, the Southwest Monsoon rapidly developed, and with it, a diminishment in fire activity. It was the strongest monsoon in several years, and the wettest across northern areas in over a decade. From early August onwards, fire activity never approached the levels of July again.

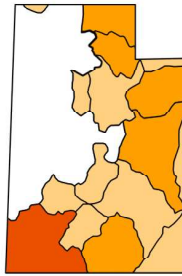
Snow Pack



April '20



April '19



April

Highlights from the Division Director



Here we are at the end of another fire season. This year continued to present challenges

concerning the pandemic, drought, and hot and dry conditions. Due to these hot and dry conditions, our fire season in Utah started early. We experienced five large fires before the end of June. However, after June, Utah began to see a reduction in overall fire numbers and ultimately a 62% decrease in human-caused starts compared to the 2020 wildfire year, which translates into more than 900 wildfires that didn't happen. Credit for these declining numbers is being given to interagency prevention efforts including our statewide wildfire prevention campaign and fire restrictions. The prevention campaign, referred to as Fire Sense, kicked off the hot and dry season sending out messaging across Utah asking Utahns to practice “Fire Sense”. Leading out with messaging on wildfire prevention had never been so important in these times. With nearly 100% of the state

being in drought throughout the summer and 90% of the state being in extreme drought, making Utahns aware of the conditions was extremely important. Utah saw minimal large wildfire starts, while neighboring states did not fare so well. Many surrounding states continued to see hot, dry conditions, extreme fire behavior, and

“...62% decrease in human-caused starts compared to the 2020 wildfire year, which translates into more than 900 wildfires that didn't happen.”

multiple starts throughout their season. We are grateful for the relationships we share with our neighboring states and our interagency wildfire partners at the local, state, and federal levels here in Utah. This allows for the lending of resources and coordination on multiple levels for overall success across all jurisdictional boundaries.

Another successful note for Utah this year was that for the first time in over 5 years, the

division reported to the Utah legislature that a supplemental request would not need to be made to cover the cost of wildfire suppression in Utah for the 2021 season. In addition to that, for the first time in several years, the statutory wildfire season in Utah was not extended, but ended obediently on October 31, 2021, as stipulated in state law.

While there are many positive notes from this fire season, we must stay focused on the future and the increasing number of fires we are seeing nationwide. Interagency wildfire managers in Utah will continue to focus on wildfire prevention outreach and education, proactive mitigation and preparedness efforts, and safe and effective wildfire response. Also, the interagency work being done, such as Shared Stewardship, to reduce hazardous fuels and protect our watersheds is becoming increasingly more important, more work needs to be done on our landscapes.

Jamie Barnes
Director
Forestry, Fire & State Lands

Top 15 Wildfire

Black
Cause:
Start:
Acre:

Litt
Cause:
Start:
Acre:

Le
Cause:
Start:
Acre:

Benn
Cause:
Start:
Acre:

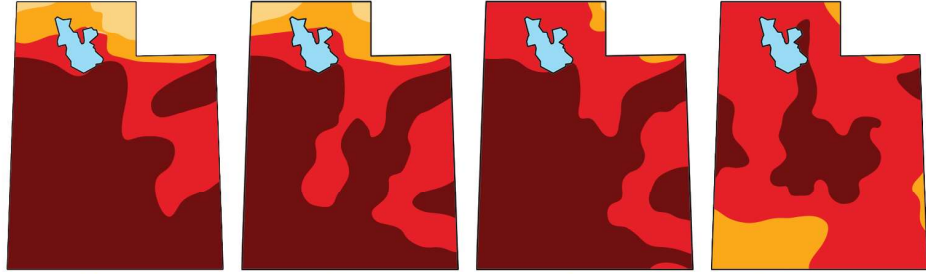
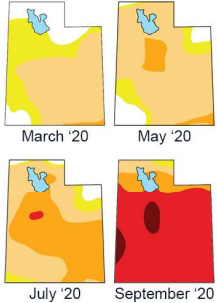
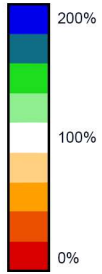
Choke
Cause:
Start:
Acre:

F
Cause:
Start:
Acre:

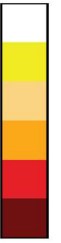
Oak
Cause:
Start:
Acre:

Wildfires Despite Record

Drought



None



Exceptional

5 Largest Fires of 2021

Black Pine
Cause: Human
Start: 07/20/21
Acres: 560

De Pass
Cause: Human
Start: 04/04/21
Acres: 2,186

Magacy
Cause: Natural
Start: 09/10/21
Acres: 1,467

Don Creek
Cause: Natural
Start: 06/04/21
Acres: 8,298

Cherry
Cause: Human
Start: 04/05/21
Acres: 660

Flatt
Cause: Natural
Start: 06/18/21
Acres: 14,366

Grove
Cause: Human
Start: 08/29/21
Acres: 770

2021 Wildfires

- Natural
- Human-Caused

East Canyon
Cause: Human
Start: 06/08/21
Acres: 832

Parleys Canyon
Cause: Human
Start: 08/14/21
Acres: 538

East Myton
Cause: Human
Start: 03/29/21
Acres: 954

Snake John
Cause: Natural
Start: 07/02/21
Acres: 560

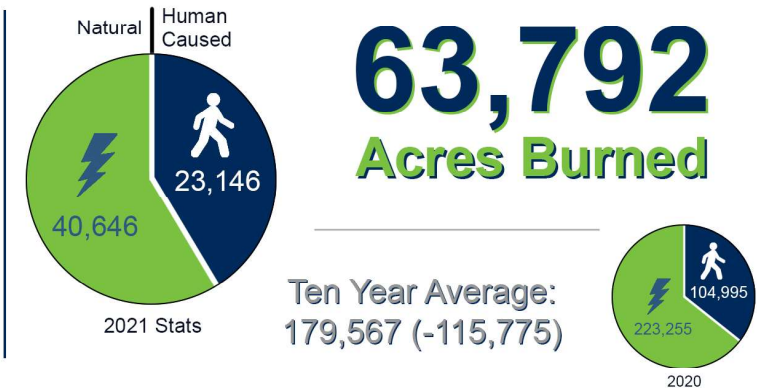
Horsecorn
Cause: Natural
Start: 06/20/21
Acres: 833

Bear
Cause: Natural
Start: 06/08/21
Acres: 12,165

Pack Creek
Cause: Human
Start: 06/09/21
Acres: 8,951

Mammoth
Cause: Natural
Start: 06/05/21
Acres: 707

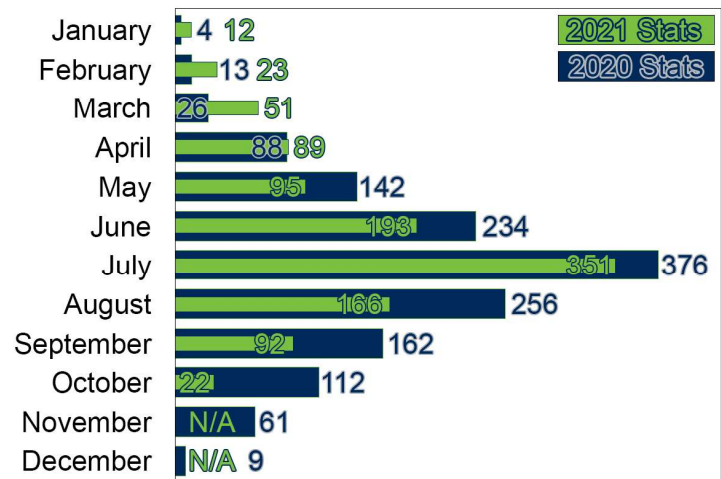
Wild Drought Conditions



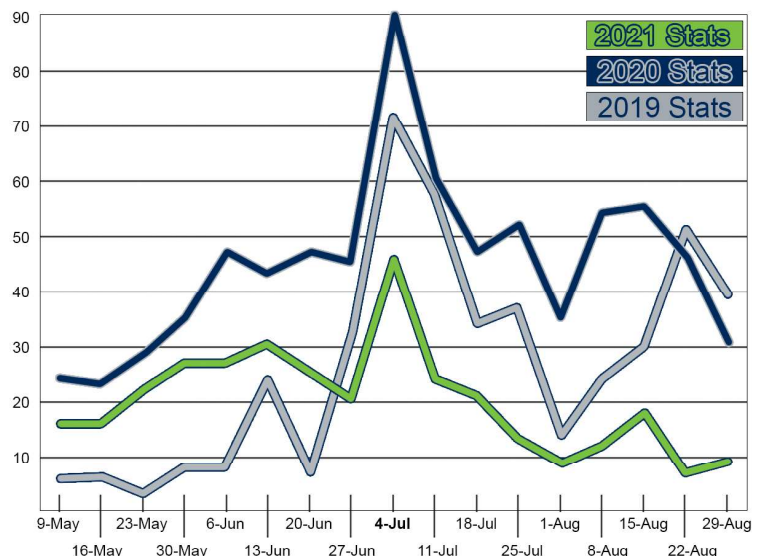
922
Fewer Human-Caused Fires
Comparing 2021 to 2020

99
Consecutive Days with a New Start
May 17th - August 23

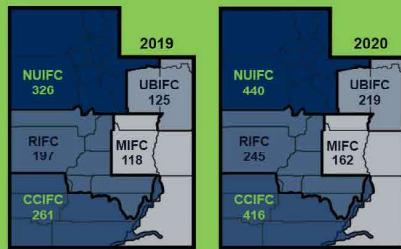
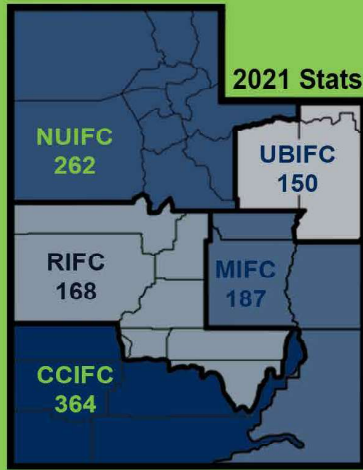
Wildfires by Month



Human-Caused Fire Starts Per Week



Fires by Dispatch



The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

WUI: The populated areas that border our forests and rangelands. As communities expand into wildfire-prone landscapes, fire suppression becomes more complex, expensive, and dangerous.

17

Homes Destroyed

23 Non-home Structures Lost

206 (+32)

Active CWPP's

Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan
Planning before, during, and after a fire



Communities in Action

Every year, FFSL employees energize our communities to become self-resilient against wildfire threats. Every community is different so our approach adjusts to best suit the area we are trying to assist.

198

Chipping Events

Homeowners dispose of their defensible space project slash (+79 from 2020)

21

Education Events

Meaningful interactive events where living with wildfire is discussed (+4 from 2020)

54

HOA Meetings

FFSL employees are able to speak with interested communities (+32 from 2020)



Bear River Area

Chipping Events: 43 (+6)
Edu. Events: 0
HOA Meetings: 6

Events by Area

(FFSL Areas)

Wasatch Front Area

Chipping Events: 112 (+49)
Edu. Events: 6 (+1)
HOA Meetings: 17 (+3)

Northeast Area

Chipping Events: 14 (+11)
Edu. Events: 2 (+2)
HOA Meetings: 8

Central Area

Chipping Events: 63
Edu. Events: 3 (+1)
HOA Meetings: 13 (+3)

Southeast Area

Chipping Events: 25 (+13)
Edu. Events: 6 (+6)
HOA Meetings: 3 (+1)

Southwest Area

Chipping Events: 20
Edu. Events: 4
HOA Meetings: 7

Interagency Wildfire Response

Every square inch of Utah has a Federal, State, and/or local wildfire suppression resource assigned to it. Regardless of agency affiliation, when a fire is reported, the closest firefighting unit will respond and take the appropriate action. All fires are fought aggressively having provided for safety and area objectives first. In cases where resources are spread thin, other firefighting personnel from around the country will respond and assist with suppression needs.



93%

Initial Attack Rate

Only 77 fires exceeded 10 acres

104

Carded Firefighters

Certified and Active Wildland

Lone Peak Conservation Center



The Lone Peak Conservation Center (LPCC), is a State of Utah wildfire management program. Based in Draper, LPCC is home to five different wildfire suppression resources including two Hotshot crews, two Initial Attack hand-crews, and two Heavy Engines. Each year, these crews are available for fire suppression, hazardous fuels reduction projects, and natural resource projects locally and nationally from April to November.



3,874

Project Hours Worked

36,938 hours were worked on wildfires within the state

6,034

Overtime Hours Worked

23 in-state fire assignments
91 out-of-state fire assignments

436,798

Total Miles Driven

141,378 more fleet miles in 2021 compared to 2020. About 15k/vehicle