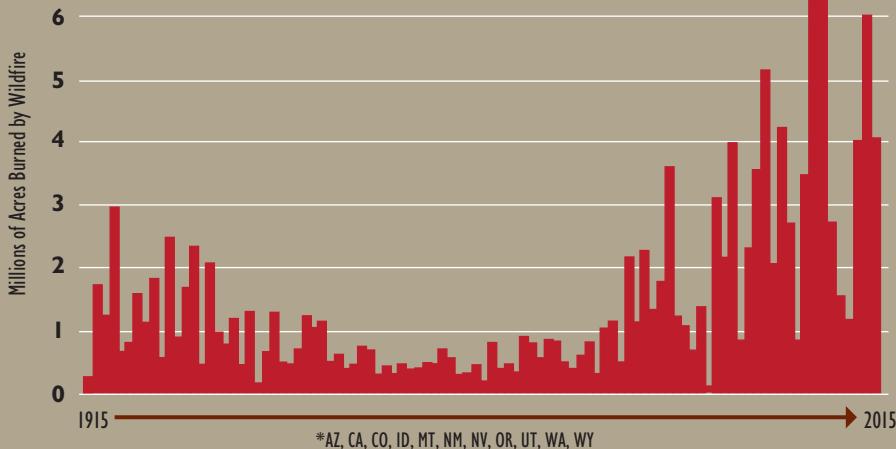


## FIRE RISK

Idaho's forests evolved with fire, and in some cases, fire can be used as a management tool. However, current forest conditions are not the same as in the past. Wildfires today are larger, more severe and more dangerous to watersheds and ecosystems due in large part to overcrowded, unhealthy forests.

Bigger wildfire seasons are associated with several factors: rising levels of biomass fuels, changing climatic conditions, and an increase of homes near forest lands. Idaho's fire season is 32 days longer than in 1984.

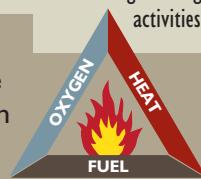
### WILDFIRES IN 11 WESTERN STATES\* 1916-2015



"High forest mortality and low timber removal rates in the Western States promise hazardous fuel accumulations and big fires." U of I

### FIRE TRIANGLE

Three elements are necessary for a fire to burn. Fuel is the only one humans can impact through management activities

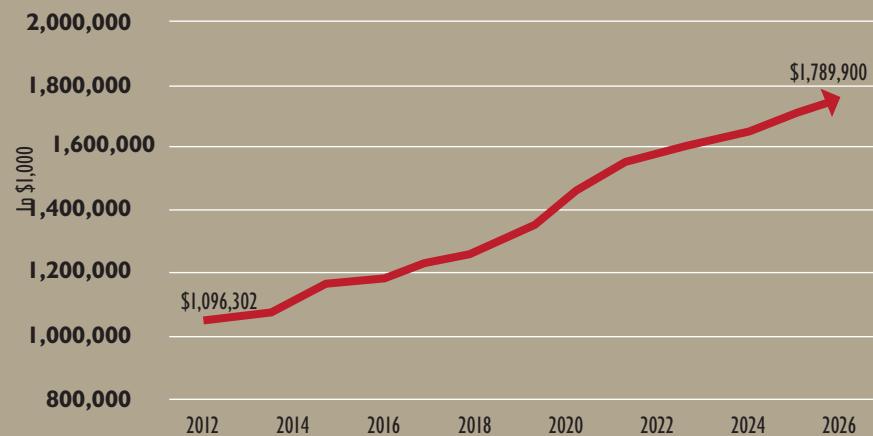


## RUNAWAY COSTS

Wildfire suppression costs alone exceeded \$1 billion in 11 of the past 15 years. Wildfire protection and suppression costs have exceeded \$3 billion annually for over a decade.

Much of current costs are spent protecting homes in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) which comprises 10% of the West. This number is expected to triple as more homes are built near and in the forest.

### PROJECTED COST OF FIRE SUPPRESSION



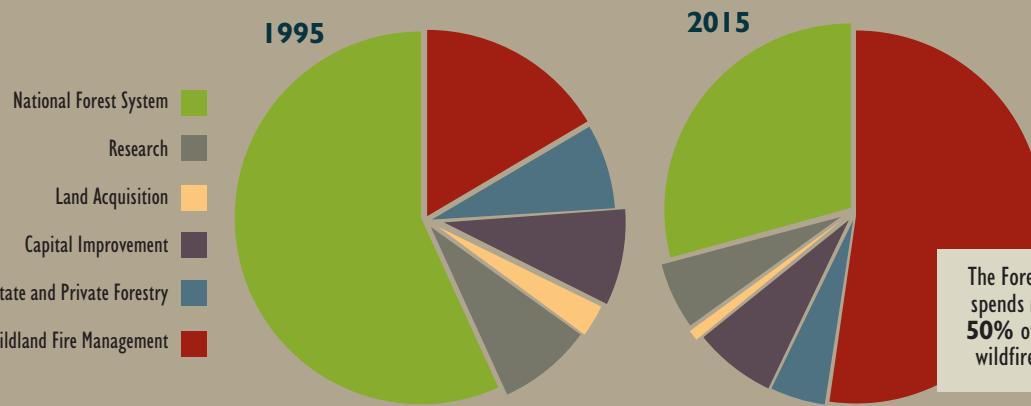
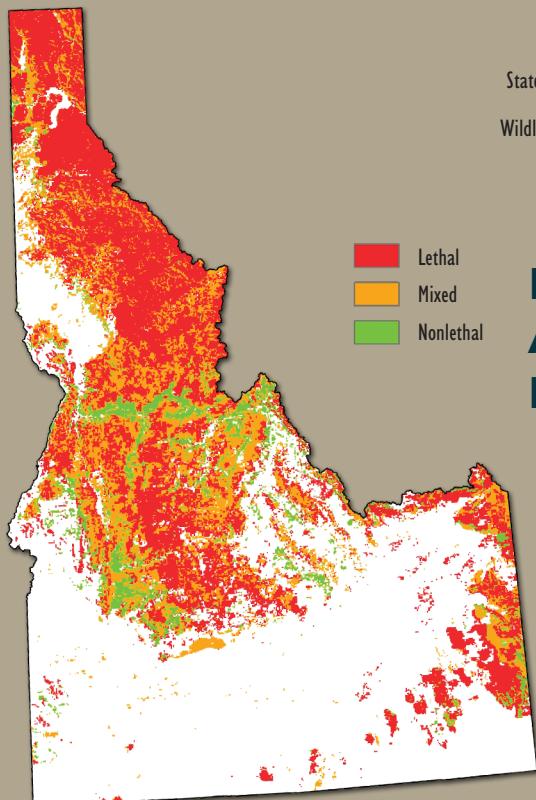
\*AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY

## FIREFIGHTING COSTS GROW MANAGEMENT BUDGETS SHRINK

Congress currently allocates a fixed amount of money to put out wildfires. When these funds are spent, the Forest Service is forced to take money from other programs. This impacts critical management activities, restoration projects and forest users.

### CARBON & FIRE

In an active fire year, wildfires in Idaho emit the same amount of carbon dioxide into the air as 4.7 million cars.



## INCREASED TREE DENSITY AND CHANGES IN SPECIES = MORE SEVERE FIRES

In Idaho 12.7 million acres of public lands are at high risk, including 3.85 million acres of “high water supply importance.”

Down the road, 2-5 TIMES MORE AREA is predicted to burn.

## STAFF SHIFTS IMPACT FOREST STEWARDSHIP

Since 1998, fire staffing within the USFS has increased 114%, from around 5,700 employees in 1998 to over 12,000 in 2015. Over the same period, staffing levels for those dedicated to managing National Forest System lands has decreased by 39% from approximately 18,000 in 1998 to fewer than 11,000 in 2015.

The Forest Service now spends **more than 50%** of its budget for wildfire suppression.