



WESTERN REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

# Western Regional Partnership

IMMEDIATE THREATS TO THE WEST: DROUGHT  
AND WILDFIRES WEBINAR



**WRP Principals' Meeting**

Salt Lake City, UT ❖ August 2016

# Thank you for attending the WRP Eighth Principals' Meeting

- August 17-18, 2016 in Salt Lake City, Utah
- 145 senior policy-level leaders in attendance
- WRP Co-Chair remarks provided by:
  - Utah Governor Herbert
  - DOI Assistant Secretary Janice Schneider
  - Frank DiGiovanni, Acting DoD Principal
- Four Plenary Sessions:
  - Immediate Threats to the West: Drought and Wildfires
  - Energy Trends in the WRP Region
  - Endangered Species Act: Challenges, Trends and Efforts
  - Integrating UAS in Airspace: Challenges, Trends and Efforts
- Keynote remarks by Utah Congressman Chris Stewart
- Around the Room Discussion on Land Management Issues
- Delivered WRP Regional Strengths, Areas of Commonality and Emerging Issues 2016 Report

# WRP Eighth Principals' Meeting - Actions

- Approved:
  - 2016-2017 WRP Priority
  - 2016-2017 WRP Chair: Mike Mower and Vice Chair: Ryan McGinness
  - Next WRP Principals' Meeting Rotation: 2017 in NM and 2018 in CO
- Bestowed the Hanson Scott Award for Outstanding Leadership to Steve Arenson, Jim Bartridge and Joy Nicholopoulos
- Affirmed: WRP Charter and WRP Mission/Vision Document; WRP Structure (Including Committees); and WRP Tagline



# WRP Vision, Mission and Tagline

## WRP Vision

WRP will be a significant resource to proactively identify and address common goals and emerging issues and to develop solutions that support WRP Partners.

## WRP Mission

WRP provides a proactive and collaborative framework for **senior-policy level Federal, State and Tribal leadership** to identify common goals and emerging issues in the states of **Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah** and to develop solutions that support WRP Partners and protect natural resources, while promoting sustainability, homeland security and military readiness.

## WRP Tagline

Reliable Outcomes for America's Defense, Energy, Environment and Infrastructure in the West

# WRP Structure

5



## WRP Co-Chairs:

**Honorable Gary Herbert**

Governor of Utah



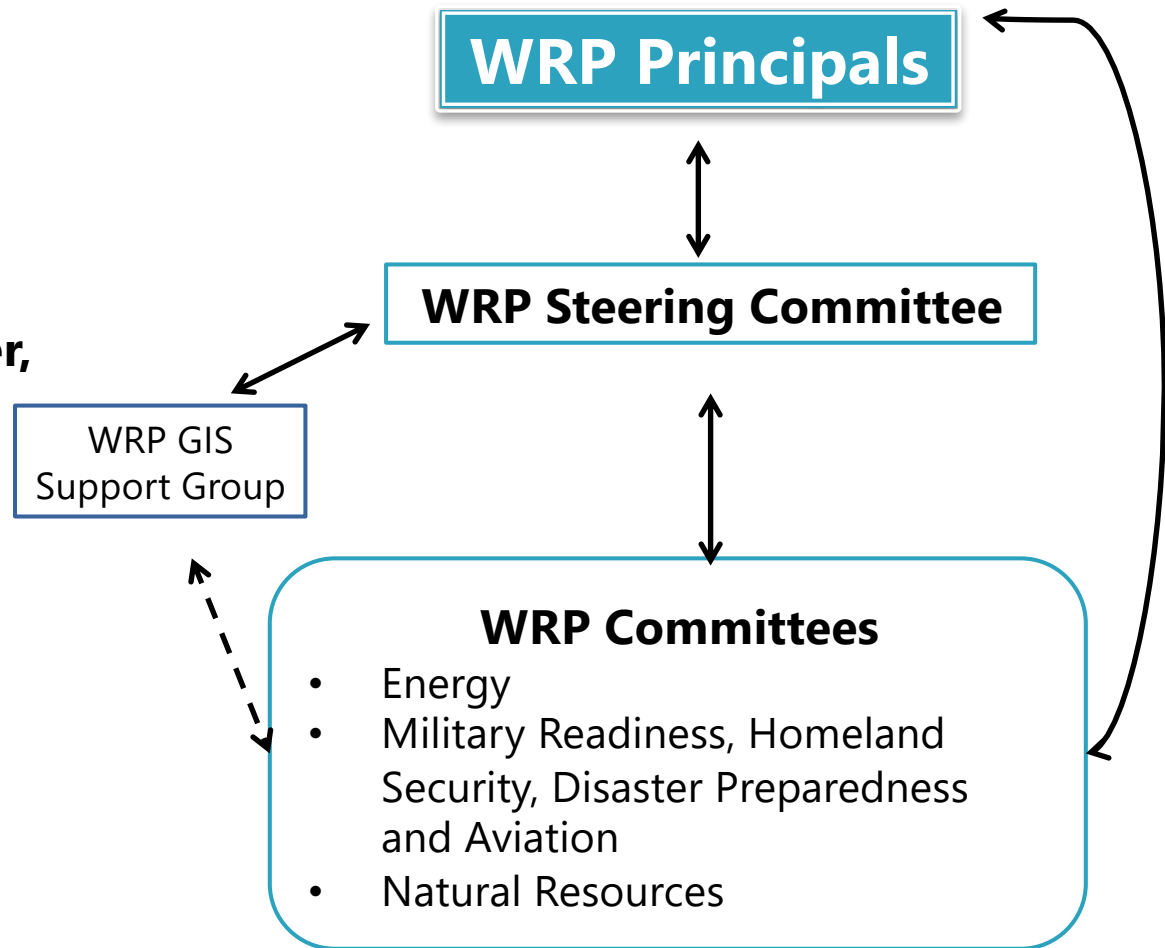
**Ms. Janice Schneider,**

Assistant Secretary,  
Land & Minerals  
Management, DOI



**Mr. Dave Duma**

Principal Deputy  
Director, Operational  
Test & Evaluation,  
DoD



# WRP Steering Committee



- Representatives of each of the six WRP States:
  - Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Federal Highway Administration
- National Park Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Office of Secretary of Defense
- U.S. Air Force Headquarters
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U. S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Marine Corps Installations West
- U.S. Navy
- Native American Leadership:
  - Navajo Nation, Inter-Tribal Council of CA, Inc.
- Western Governors Association Liaison

# 2017 Regional Assessment



## Survey WRP Partners:



- Top 3 WRP-relevant issues within the region
  - e.g. land use issues, ecological goals, airspace, water, etc.



- Top 3 needs

- e.g. better awareness of upcoming agency changes or efforts, finding agencies with similar issues, etc.

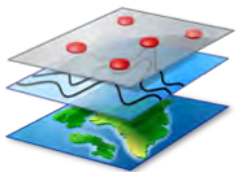


- Significant state/regional planning efforts

- Expected to occur 2017-2020 and potential collaboration opportunities

- Authoritative data layers/web mapping services

- To assist with Partners' efforts and for use in regional planning



# Seeking Your Input

- This webinar is meant to be collaborative and we seek updates on your agency's efforts with fire and drought
- We encourage you/your staff to be involved in WRP throughout the year:
  - Sign up for a WRP account to get updates ([www.wrpinfo.org](http://www.wrpinfo.org))
  - Contact your agency's WRP SC member to provide further inputs and get updates
  - Send agency information (news releases, studies, etc.) to Amy to include in the WRP Updates
  - Provide your recommendations on future webinars, WRP 2016-2017 Priority efforts, etc.
  - Let us know if you recommend anyone receive a WRP 101 briefing



# WRP Energy Committee Webinar: December 8<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm MST

- Webinar on the Section 368 Regional Review Project
- Conducted by Georgeann Smale, Sec. 368 Program Lead, BLM WO and James R. Gazewood, Project Manager, Regional Reviews Project, BLM WO and supported by Argonne National Laboratory staff. This webinar will highlight:
  - Background on the Section 368 Energy Corridors established under the 2005 Energy Policy Act and the 2012 settlement agreement requirements
  - Information on the six regional reviews to be conducted and timeframe
  - End product – land use recommendations that might be carried out through subsequent land use planning actions
  - Tools to facilitate stakeholder understanding and critical input
  - Opportunities for engagement and information resources

Brief Remarks by  
Mr. Dave Duma,  
WRP Co-Chair; Principal  
Deputy Director, Operational  
Test & Evaluation, DoD



# Today's Webinar on Immediate Threats to the West: Drought and Wildfires

- First such webinar, tailored to WRP Principals, Steering Committee, Committee Co-Chairs and other senior-making members who attended the 2016 WRP Principals' meeting
- Opportunity to hear from two key presenters who were unable to make the Principals' Meeting (air travel issues)
- This webinar will highlight:
  - Federal Drought Resilience Partnership
  - Efforts to enhance drought planning and water resource management as well as exploring fire emergency response and restoration

# Today's Presenters



- Ann Mills, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
  - Has responsibility for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



- Tom Iseman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior
  - Primary policy lead for the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Reclamation



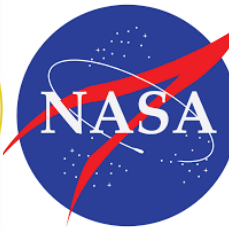
- Chief Ken Pimlott, State Forester, CA Department of Forestry & Fire Protection
  - Appointed in 2011 as the Director of CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE); also serves as State Forester
  - Serves as chair of the Council of Western State Foresters

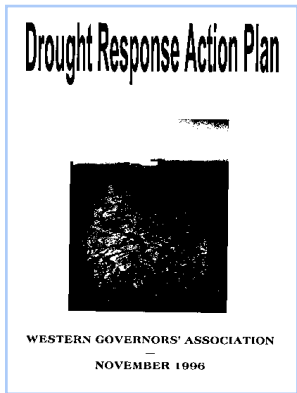
# THE NATIONAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

DECEMBER 2016

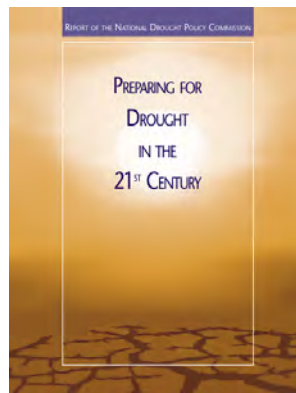


US Army Corps  
of Engineers®





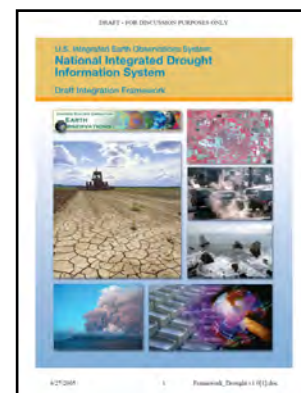
Western Governors Association  
(1996)



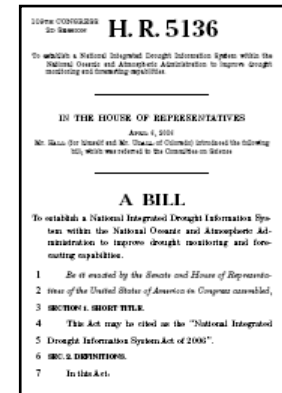
National Drought Policy Council  
(2000)



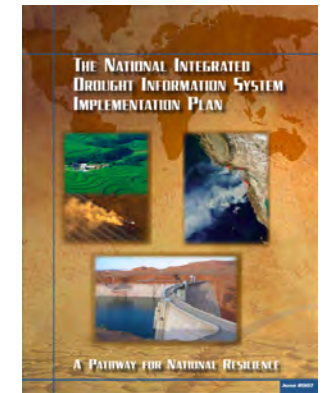
Western Governors Association  
(2004)



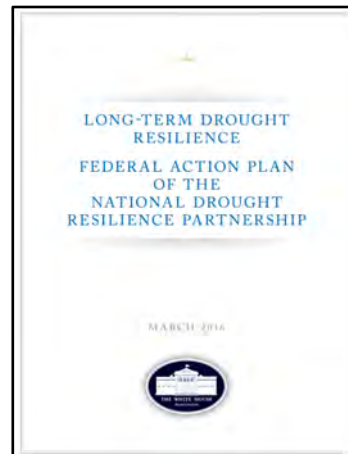
US Integrated Earth Observations System  
(2006)



NIDIS Act  
(2006)



NIDIS Implementation Plan  
(2007)



Long-Term Drought Resilience  
Federal Action Plan of the National  
Drought Resilience Partnership  
(2016)



## **The National Drought Resilience Partnership**

Goal 1: Data Collection and Integration

Goal 2: Communicating Drought Risk to Critical Infrastructure

Goal 3: Drought Planning and Capacity Building

Goal 4: Coordination of Federal Drought Activity

Goal 5: Market-Based Approaches for Infrastructure and Efficiency

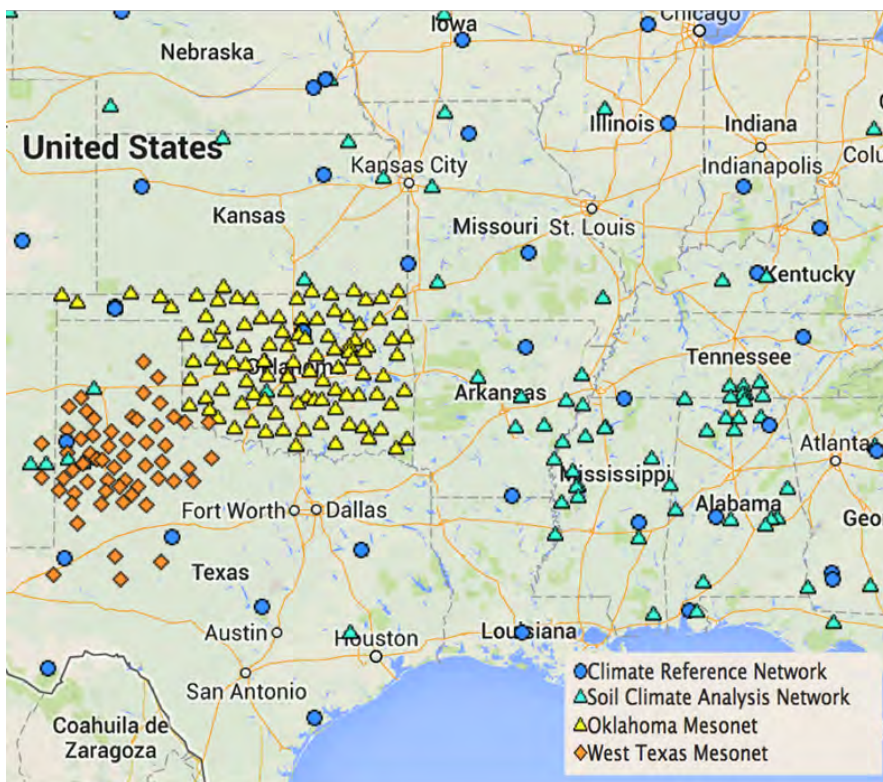
Goal 6: Innovative Water Use, Efficiency, and Technology





## 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Goal 1: Data Collection and Integration **Building a National Soil Moisture Network**



- NDRP agencies are working together to develop a coordinated national soil moisture network
- A pilot of a regional soil moisture network including Texas, Oklahoma and other Southern states
- Going forward, organizers plan to establish a common location for soil moisture data and develop standards for installation of new sensors and sharing of data.

## 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

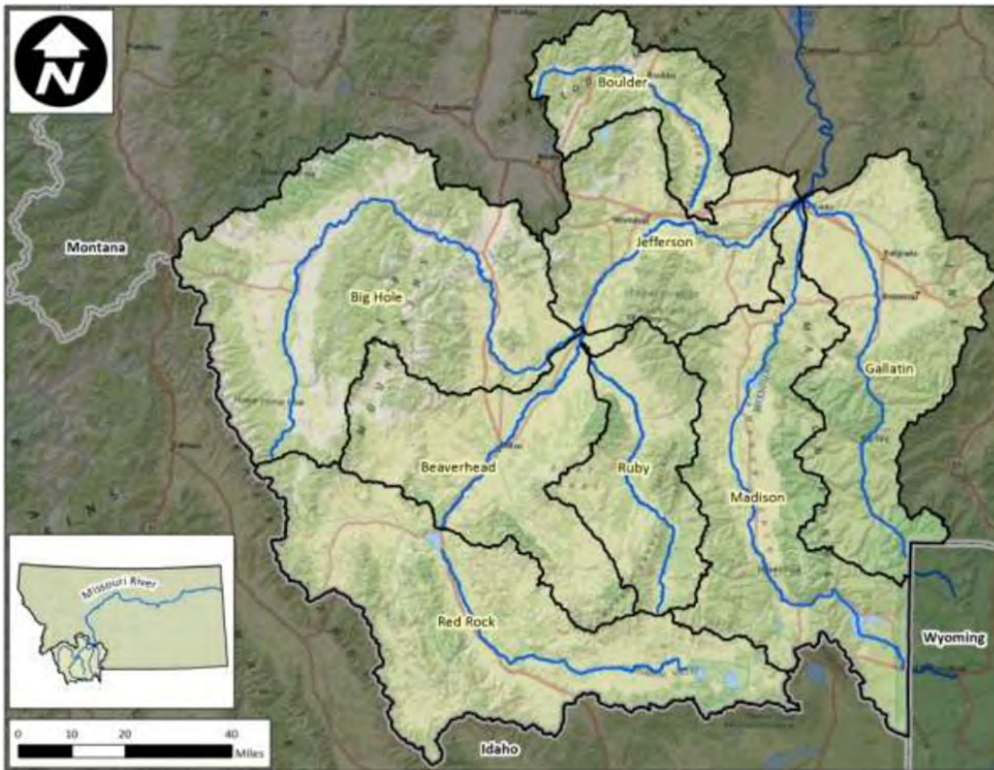
### Goal 4: Coordination of Federal Drought Activity **Expansion of the EQIP-WaterSMART Partnership**



- USDA Secretary Vilsack and Bureau of Reclamation Commission Lopez announced more than \$47 million in investments in 11 Western States
- Reclamation funding will support 53 projects through the Department of the Interior's WaterSMART program. Funding from NRCS will support on-farm water delivery system improvements through EQIP, in tandem with Interior-funded projects
- The partnership supports a coordinated, watershed-scale approach to drought resilience

## REGIONAL FOCUS

### Missouri River Headwaters Basin Demonstration Project



- In July 2014, Gov Steve Bullock announced the National Drought Resilience Demonstration Project for the Missouri River Headwaters Basin, a large area that includes six counties and seven million acres
- The state of Montana, in collaboration with nine federal agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and diverse watershed stakeholders, are working together to leverage and deliver technical, human and financial resources to build drought resilience within the project area.

## REGIONAL FOCUS

### The Yakima Basin



- In 2009, the Yakima River Basin partnership began between stakeholders in the region including the Yakama Nation, agriculture, irrigators, environmental groups, and local, county, state and federal governments.
- Working together, these diverse groups have been able to collaboratively advance key projects that will ultimately provide ecosystem restoration in the Yakima River basin
- Federal agencies have been integral in this partnership and include the Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation, NOAA, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

## STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

- American Farmland Trust
  - American Forest Foundation
  - American Rivers
  - American Soybean Association
  - American Water Works Association
  - Arizona State University
  - Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
  - Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
  - Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
  - Bowman Environmental Consulting
  - Chalk Board Enterprise, Instream Flow Council
  - Circle of Blue
  - City of LA, Emergency Management
  - City of Plano, TX, Emergency Management
  - Colorado State University
  - Electric Power Research Institute
  - Encourage Capital
  - Environmental Council of the States
  - Environmental Defense Fund
  - Family Farm Alliance
  - Grand View Group Consulting
  - Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance
  - Imagine H2O
  - Iowa Soybean Association
  - Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
  - National Alliance for Public Safety
  - National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
  - National Association of Conservation Districts
  - National Association of Water Companies
  - National Congress on American Indians
  - National Corn Growers Association
  - National Environmental Health Association
  - National Ground Water Association
  - National Milk Producers Federation
  - National Water Resources Association
  - Natural Resources Results
  - OFW Law
  - Public Policy Institute of California
  - Sand County Foundation
  - Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
  - Sonoma Water County Agency
  - Stanford Woods Institute
  - The Ferguson Group
  - The Coca-Cola Company
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
  - Tree People
  - Trout Unlimited
  - Trust for Public Lands
  - University of California, Davis
  - University of Arizona
  - Water Environment and Reuse Foundation
  - Water in the West
- State Partners**
- Arizona Game and Fish Department
  - California Department of Food and Agriculture
  - California Farm Bureau
  - California Natural Resources Agency
  - California State Water Resources Control Board
  - Maine Emergency Management Agency
  - Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environment
  - Nevada Department of Wildlife
  - Nevada, Governor Sandoval's Office
  - New York State Dept of Environmental Conservation
  - Oklahoma Water Resources Board
  - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
  - Western States Water Council

## PRIORITIES AND GOALS: 2017 AND BEYOND

- The NDRP should continue to focus on soil moisture, groundwater, and consumptive use
- The NDRP should continue to focus on the impacts on drought on critical infrastructure and building resilience to extremes
- The NDRP should have a greater focus on the health effects of drought, and connecting drought to health outcomes- further engaging with the CDC, FEMA and USDA Rural Development
- The NDRP should focus on implementing and expanding the EQIP-WaterSMART partnership- the Department of the Interior and USDA should expand their partnership to include other programs, such as the Systems Conservation Pilot Project
- The NDRP should focus on the connection between fire and drought- incorporating work from the USDA Forest Service, NOAA Fire-Weather team, and Bureau of Reclamation
- Under Goal 5, the NDRP should host regional finance forums geared towards certain geographies and develop white papers on market frameworks

**Western Regional Partnership  
“Immediate Threats to the West:  
Drought and Wildfires”  
Chief Ken Pimlott  
CAL FIRE**

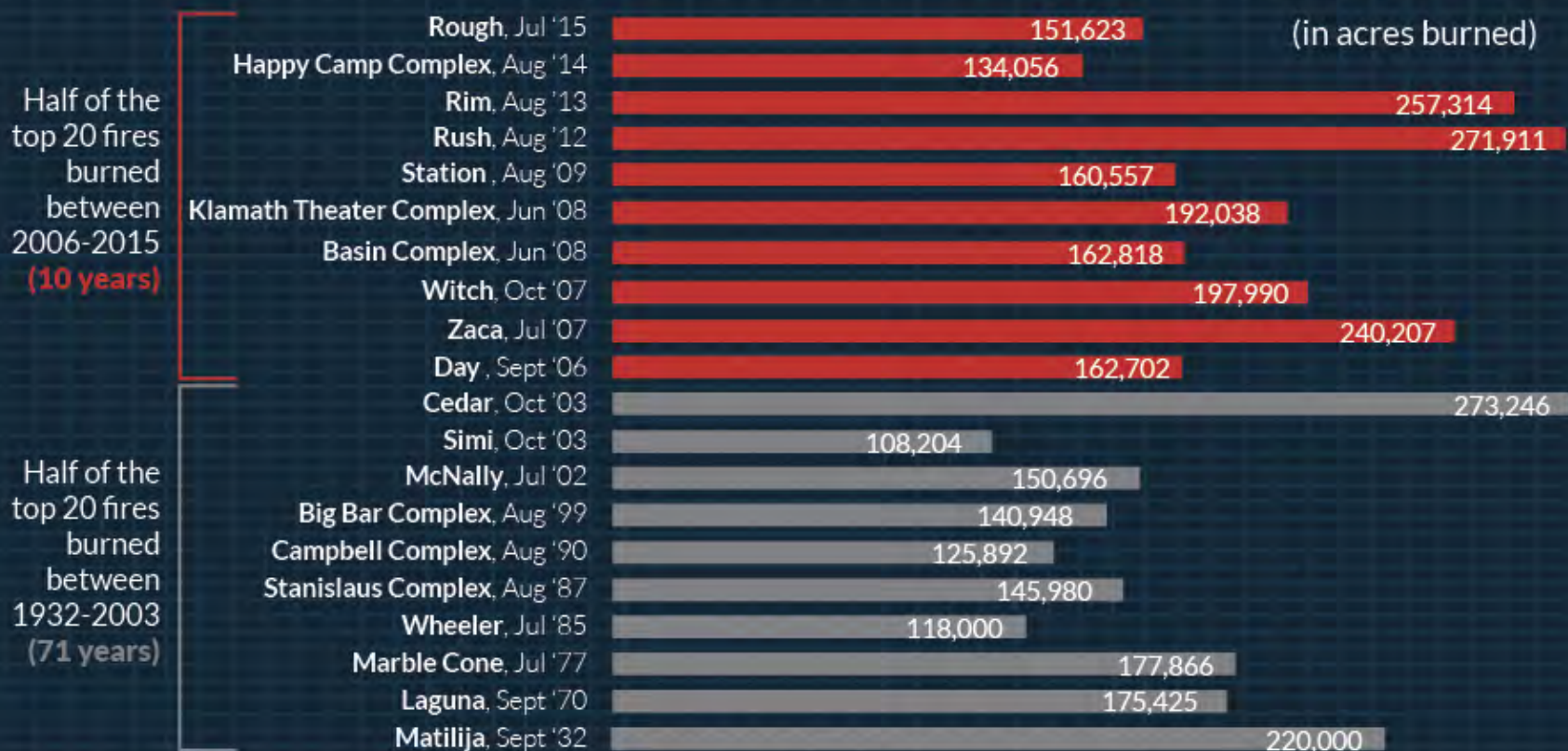


# Impacts

- Five years of prolonged drought
- Mean temperature rise
- Changing weather patterns
- Changing vegetation regimes
- Overstocked/unhealthy forests
- Impacts of development in Wildland/Urban Interface
- Longer fire seasons
- Increasing overall number of fires and number of large/damaging fires



## 10 of California's 20 largest wildfires burned in the last 10 years.



Source: [fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact\\_sheets/Top20\\_Acres.pdf](http://fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/Top20_Acres.pdf)



# 2016 Fire Season Statistics

- From January 1 – November 26:
- 2016 (CAL FIRE) – 5,706 fires for 147,362 acres. For CAL FIRE a 23% increase in wildfires.
- 2016 (Federal) – 1,192 fires for 412,554 acres
- 2016 (combined) – 6,898 fires for 559,916 acres
- 2015 (CAL FIRE) – 5,021 fires for 307,521 acres
- Average (CAL FIRE) – 4,629 fires for 164,762 acres
- 23 new wildfires over the past week in California, including 21 in CAL FIRE's protection area.

# TREE MORTALITY

NORTHERN FRESNO COUNTY

MAY 2015



FEBRUARY 2016



# Actions/Response

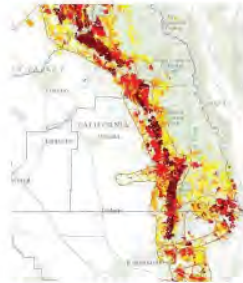
- Augmented staffing and resources
- Cooperative agreements for sharing local, state, federal and military resources
- Landscape level forest/watershed management
- Prescribed fire/fuels treatment
- Fire prevention/public education
- Land Use Planning
- Tree Mortality Executive Order/Task Force

# Tree Mortality Task Force

## One Year Review and Status of Executive Order Directives

In October 2015, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order addressing tree mortality and established the Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF). The TMTF is comprised of more than 80 State and federal agencies, local governments, utilities, and other stakeholders working together to address epidemic levels of tree mortality driven by California's fifth year of drought. Since its inception, the TMTF has made significant progress on the 19 directives set forth in the Governor's Executive Order.

### Tracking & Monitoring Mortality Spread



Using data from the U.S. Forest Service annual aerial flights, CAL FIRE developed an interactive map that enables the public to easily see how tree mortality impacts their area and shows tree mortality development since 2012.

### High-Hazard Counties Identified



10 counties starting in Placer County and extending along the Central Sierra into Kern County have been identified as high-hazard zones for tree mortality. Each county has a disaster declaration and a task force to help address the risks from tree mortality.

### Triage



423,134 dead trees removed from high-hazard zones.

51,607 miles of roads and powerlines inspected and cleared of dead trees.

26,062 acres treated and 1,375 acres of fuel breaks created and maintained.

### Tree Removal Equipment

\$6 million of state funds spent on equipment to remove dead and dying trees in high-hazard zones.



### Grants Awarded

Over \$15 million awarded in grants for local projects to help combat tree mortality.



### Public Education & Outreach

Development of educational campaigns including brochures, factsheets, radio PSAs and websites to inform the public about tree mortality, bark beetles and steps the public can take on their lands.



# Challenges Looking Ahead

- Scope and magnitude continue to increase
- Sustainability of prolonged increased response needs
- Changing political climates and priorities at national level
- Public engagement/social license to engage
- Market viability for forest product/waste utilization

QUESTIONS?