

# United States Forest Service

## Rocky Mountain Region

### Forest Health/Mitigation/Fire



# Mitigation/Forest Health/Fire



## Planning/Tools/Actions



- Understanding the Risk
- Understanding Capabilities/ Authorities
- Current Collaboration
- Building Relationships/Success stories/education/smoke management/joint projects (Federal, State, County, Public)



Less Damage

Faster Recovery

Resilient Landscapes

Communities Adapted to Wildfire



# Understanding the Risk



# Understanding the Risk-Rocky Mountain Geographical Area Fire Occurrence and Trend.

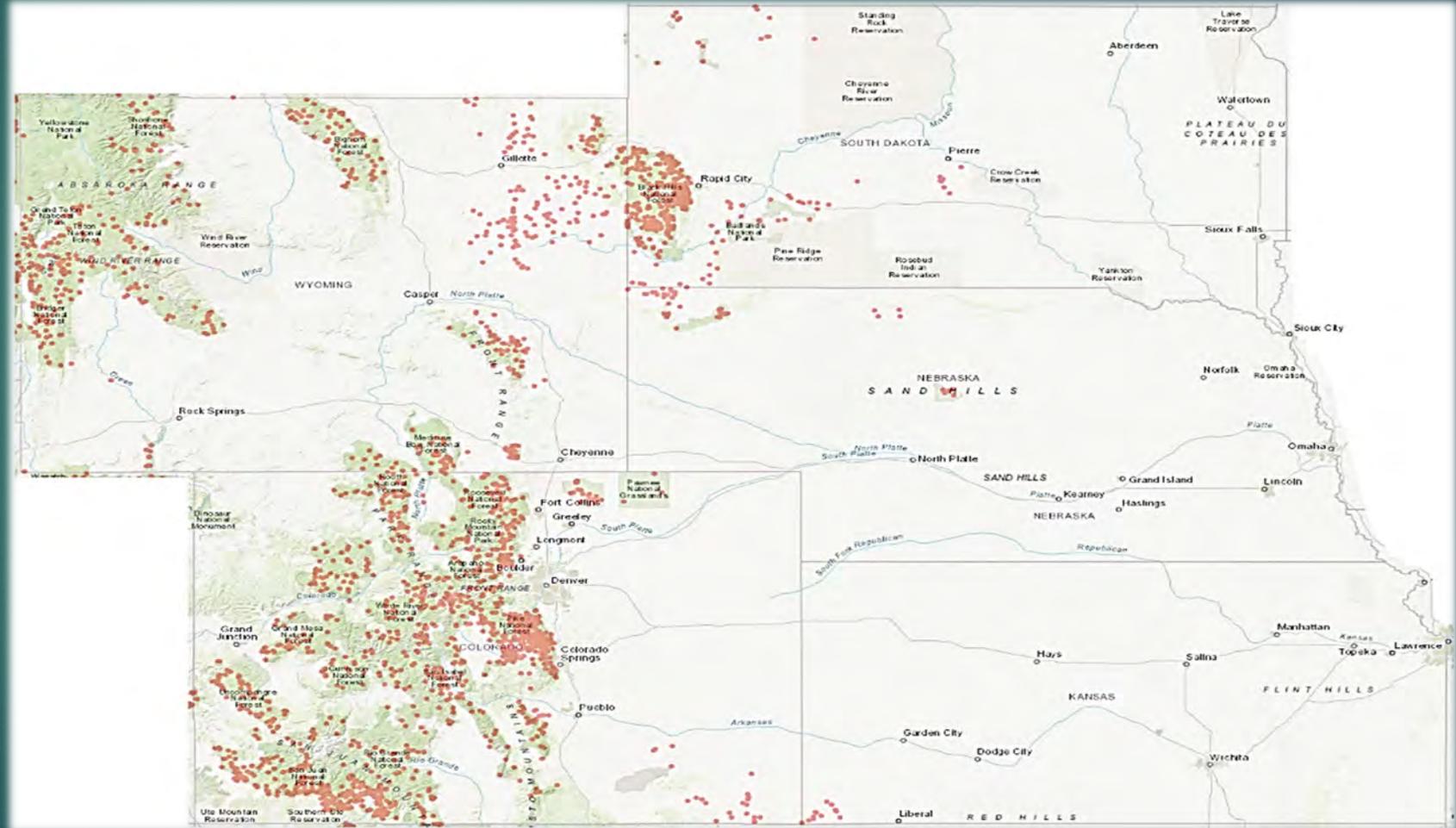


RMA Number of Fires  
2014-2018



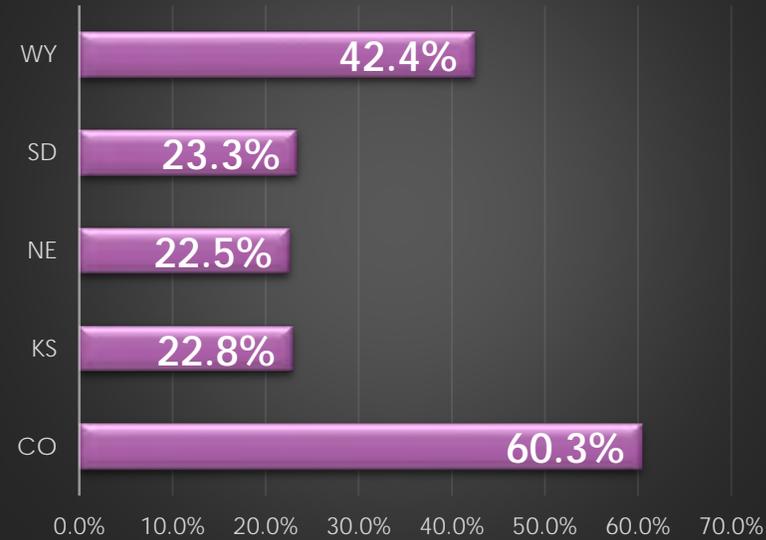
■ Human # of Fires   ■ Lightning # of Fires

## USFS Fire Occurrence over the past 5 years



# Understanding the Risk- The Current view...

R2 State Population Growth  
(1970-2017)



- ▶ Increasing populations/visitors
- ▶ Increasing WUI Areas and the number of homes being built in these areas
- ▶ Increasing human-caused fires
- ▶ Decrease in natural fires (fire adapted ecosystems)

Percent Change in WUI Area  
1990 to 2010



# Understanding the Risk-Looking to the Future...



- ▶ Ecosystems that are missing multiple fire return intervals
  - ▶ Increased fuel loads
  - ▶ More values at risk (WUI, Watersheds, recreation, timber, T/E species, etc...)
  - ▶ [Wildfirerisk.org](http://Wildfirerisk.org)
  - ▶ Experiencing longer growing seasons and more above average hot/drought days
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# Understanding Capabilities/Authorities

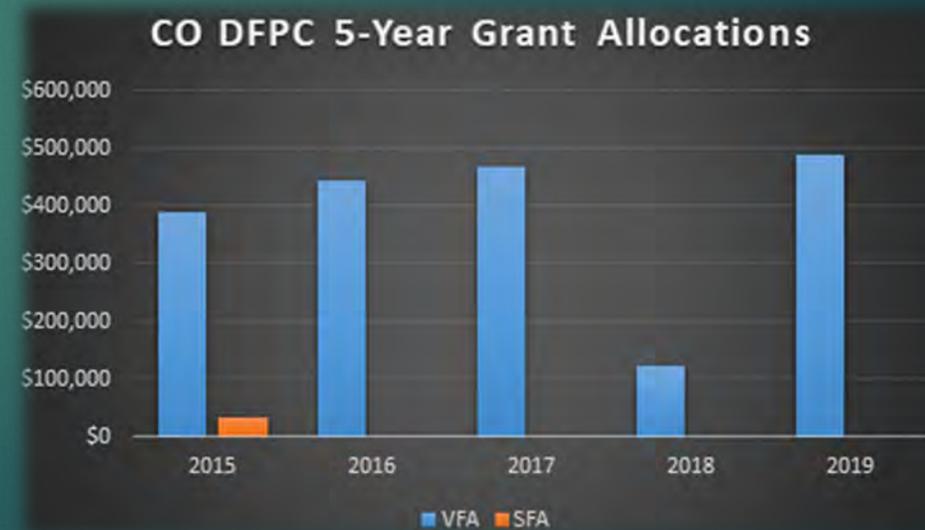
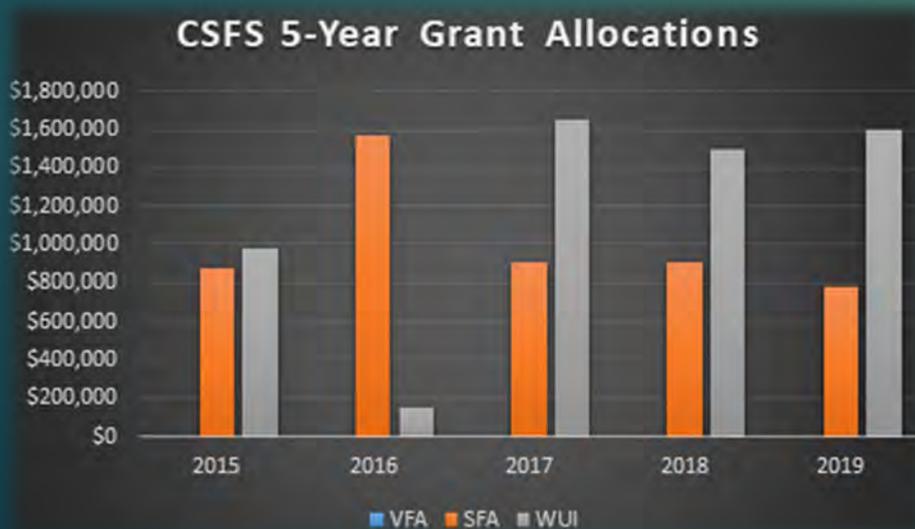


- ▶ A few example authorities/strategies that the USFS utilizes
  - ▶ Farm Bill
  - ▶ Good Neighbor Authority
  - ▶ Cohesive Strategy
  - ▶ Shared Stewardship

# Current Collaboration- SFA and VFA Grant Funds in Colorado



► Five year funding for SFA/VFA/WUI grants in Colorado:



# Current Collaboration- CAFA Grant Funds in Colorado



- ▶ The FS has awarded \$3.1 million since 2015 to the CSFS through the Community Assistance Funds Adjacent to NFS lands (CAFA) grant program to implement hazardous fuels projects on adjacent non-federal lands to maximize strategic risk reduction treatments across jurisdictional boundaries.
- ▶ The 2019 award of \$750,00 will treat approximately **1,600** acres.
- ▶ Solicitation for FY 2020 proposals will be advertised in January.
- ▶ Capacity increase to planning and implementation of hazardous fuels reduction, including prescribed fire through state-wide agreements with DFPC, TNC, BLM

# Current Collaboration- Prevention and Education

- ▶ Wildfire awareness month (May) coordination
- ▶ Fire restrictions workshop in Rifle, Colorado.
- ▶ Room for interagency growth in prevention and education.
- ▶ Encourage homeowners to work on their own property.
- ▶ Firewise.org



<https://skihaussteamboat.com/smokey-says-only-you-can-prevent-forest-fires/>

# Success stories: USFS 2019 Treatment Totals

Treatment acreage totals include: Mechanical, Prescribed Fire and wildfires that meet criteria

	2019 Totals	Percent of Rocky Mountain Region Total
<b>COLORADO</b>	103,291	47%
<b>NFS – WUI</b>	41,894	19%
<b>NFS – Non-WUI</b>	50,191	23%
<b>Non-NFS (SFA/VFA)</b>	11,206	5%

# Success stories

- ▶ [2018 Buffalo Incident outside of Silverthorne, Colorado](#)



<https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/crews-responding-to-wildfire-near-silverthorne-residents-asked-to-evacuate>

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ff-O0GYyNrQ>
- ▶ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=law8BJnVRZo&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=law8BJnVRZo&feature=emb_logo)

# Success stories



## Example of an Incident with land management objectives

- ▶ Bomber Lake Incident (Shoshone National Forest)
- ▶ 5 Rs = Right Plan, Right Resources, Right Place, Right Time, Right Duration
  - ▶ Firefighter and Public safety remain the top priority for all wildland fire management activities.



# Smoke Impacts



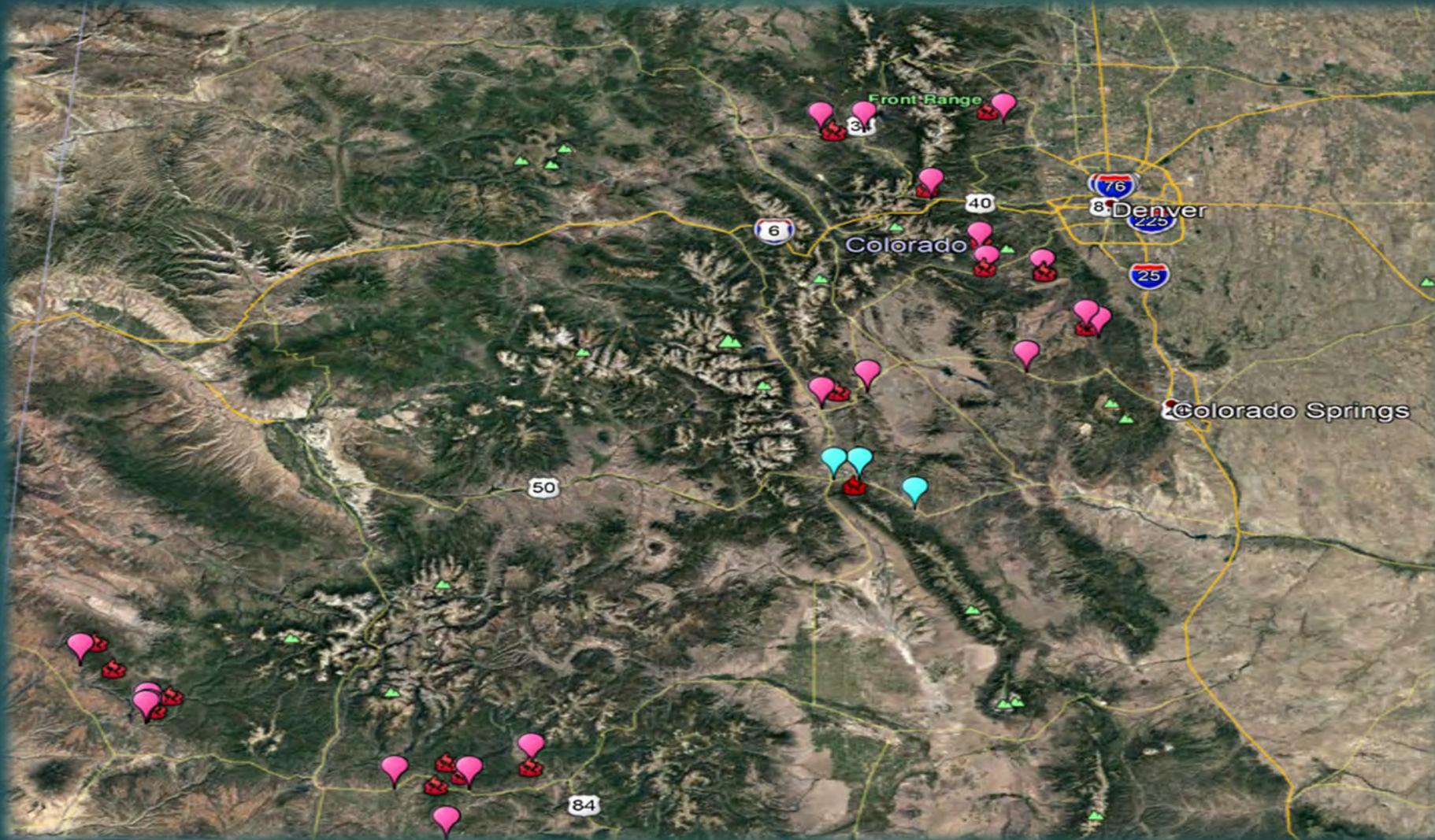
## ▶ Addressing smoke in the Rocky Mountain Region

- ▶ In 2016, the Forest Service filled a long open position for Regional Smoke Management Coordinator.
- ▶ A good relationship with the Colorado DPHE, Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) based on cooperation and transparency has been built.
- ▶ Relocation of the national cache of 36 smoke (particulate) monitors to Colorado has enabled us to increase data collection and verify impacts to communities.
- ▶ The agencies in the State have been trying to burn under better smoke dispersion conditions, increasing the acreage on those days and but not burning for as many days. Which limits the impact.



[http://public.media.smithsonianmag.com/legacy\\_blog/58343\\_web.jpg](http://public.media.smithsonianmag.com/legacy_blog/58343_web.jpg)

# Smoke Program and Colorado Monitor Deployments across Colorado 2019



# Colorado Examples

- ▶ Boggy Draw Rx Burn near Dolores, Colorado
  - ▶ Completed a 2,100 acre unit of the San Juan National Forest in one day. It generated a large smoke plume that was quite visible to the local community, but nearly all smoke moved out of the area with minimal local impacts.
- ▶ Pargin and Brockover II Rx Burns west of Pagosa Springs, Colorado
  - ▶ In September, these multi-day burns were occurring simultaneously. Working together with the APCD and with four portable smoke monitors deployed in the area, we were able to shave a day off of each burn, thus accomplishing the beneficial goals of the burns but minimizing local smoke impacts.

# In Conclusion:



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