



**AMERICAN
LANDS COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC LANDS
BETTER ACCESS
BETTER HEALTH
BETTER PRODUCTIVITY**

PART 1 of 2

**CONSTITUTIONALLY SOUND
SOLUTIONS FOR OUR PUBLIC LANDS**

**Because we all want Healthy air, water and wildlife,
Abundant outdoor recreation, and Safe, vibrant
communities.**

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Jennifer Fielder

Elected to Montana State Senate 2012

Chaired SJ 15 State Study of Federal Land Management 2013-14

CEO – The American Lands Council 2016-Present



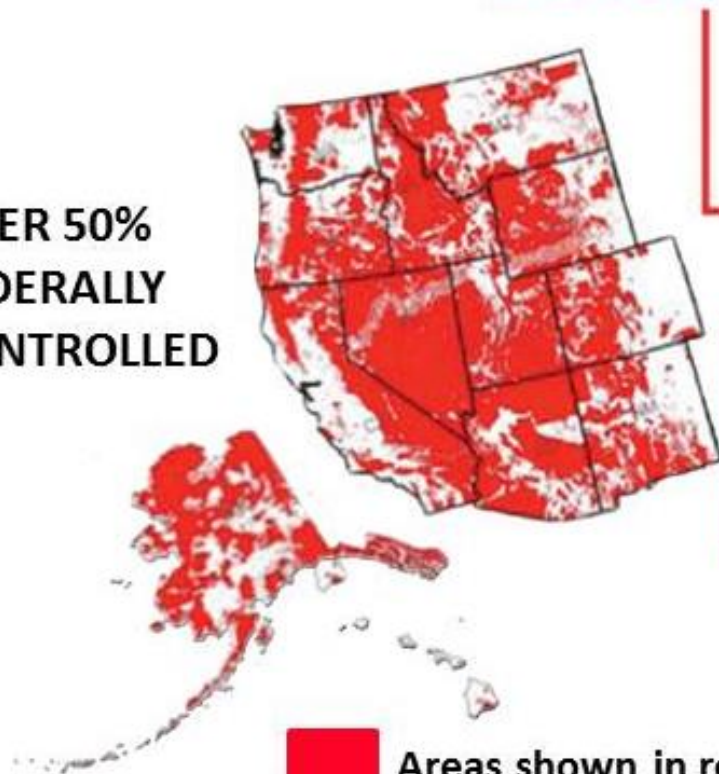


**AMERICAN
LANDS COUNCIL**

ACCESS · HEALTH · PRODUCTIVITY

THE FEDERAL FAULT LINE

**OVER 50%
FEDERALLY
CONTROLLED**

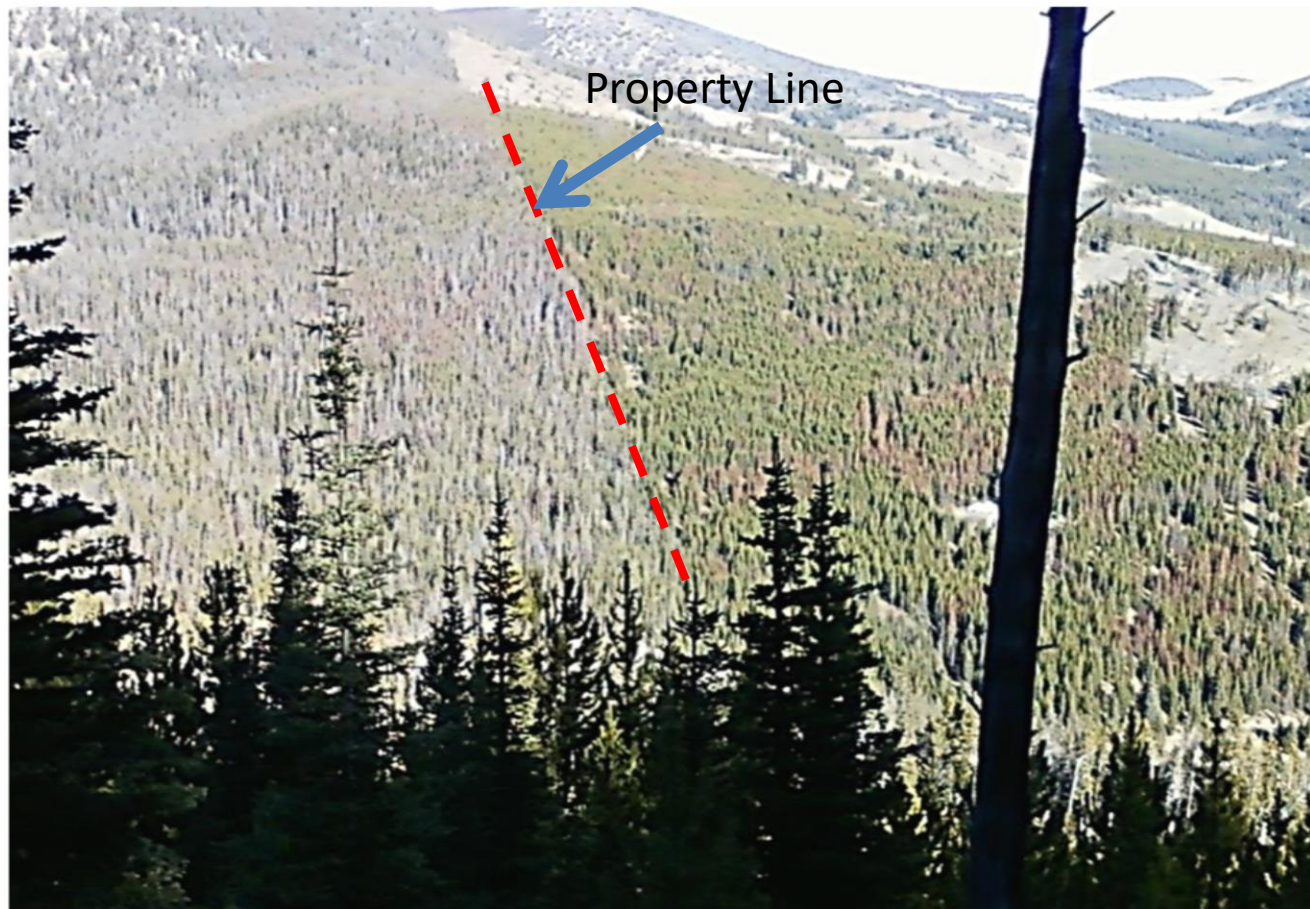


**LESS THAN 5%
FEDERALLY
CONTROLLED**



Areas shown in red are federally controlled lands.

Does it Matter? Absolutely!



Guess which half is owned by Washington DC?

TYPICAL, UNTENDED NATIONAL FOREST

Dense, overgrown, unhealthy...

**A catastrophic wildfire
waiting to happen.**



Deadly toxins in OUR air and water



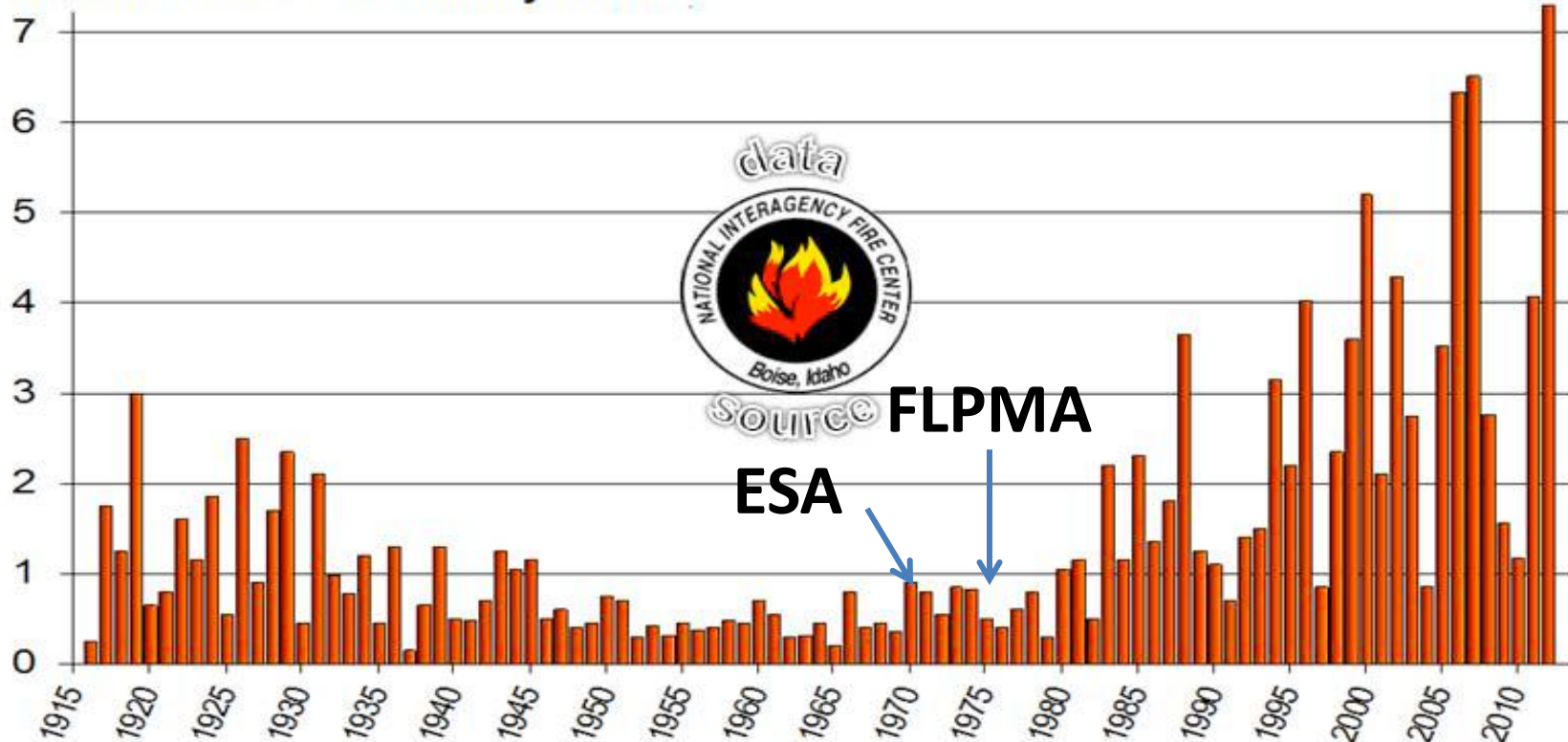
Cory DeStein
Photography

Destruction of everything in sight

WORSENING TRENDS

Wildfires in 11 western states,* 1916-2012

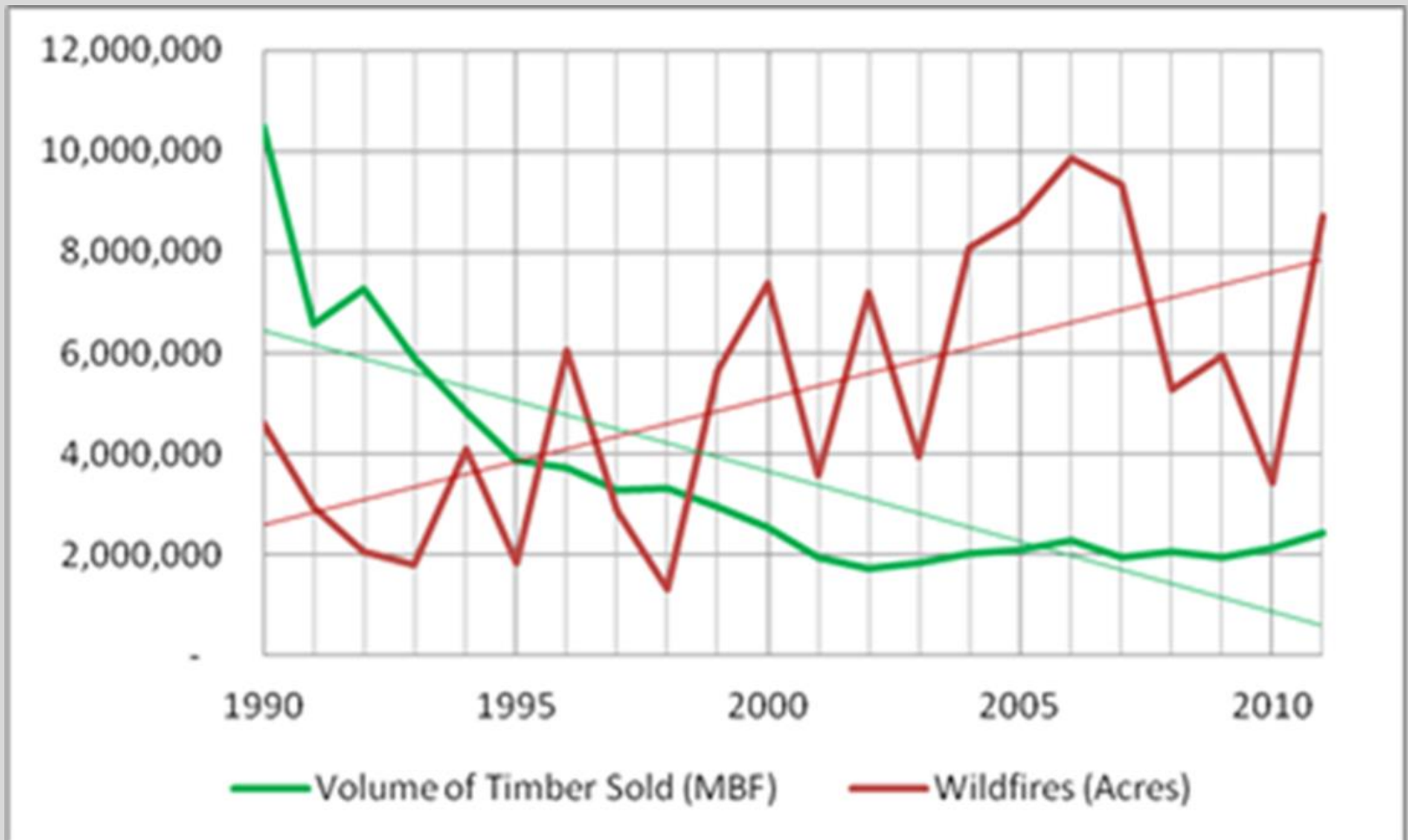
Millions of acres burned by wildfire



*11 states: AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY

TIMBER SOLD vs. BURNED

■ Decreased Harvest ■ Increased Wildfire



WORSENING TRENDS

“Anyone of school age knows the history of the U.S. Forest Service in seeking reductions of A.U.M.s (Animal Unit Months) or even in the elimination of cattle grazing during the last four decades.”

-- Nevada Federal Chief Judge Robert Jones
United States vs. Wayne Hage, 2012

A Systematic Dismantling of Livestock Ranching in Utah

By Randy Parker, Chief Executive Officer, Utah Farm Bureau

Have the federal land management agencies engaged in a systematic dismantling of the family livestock ranches in Utah? The agencies deny any charge of anti-grazing bias, but are they guilty of federal bullying?

“Anyone of school age knows the history of the U.S. Forest Service in seeking reductions in AUMs (Animal Unit Months) or even the elimination of cattle grazing during the last four decades. Not so much for the BLM – they have learned that in the last two decades.” That was the determination of Nevada Federal Chief Judge Robert Jones in *United States vs. Wayne Hage* (2012).

Congressional concerns regarding anti-grazing actions by federal land management agencies were aired in 2014 before the House Committee on Natural Resources, where ranchers vividly reported on “bullying” tactics like over-filing on livestock water rights, unwarranted grazing cuts and denial of access to grazing allotments. This would be similar to any business complaining about government actions that put their business at a competitive disadvantage and threaten their livelihood.

“A systematic dismantling of livestock ranching in Utah”

--Randy Parker, CEO
Utah Farm Bureau

WORSENING TRENDS




ACCESS OBSTRUCTED

WORSENING TRENDS



ACCESS DESTROYED



Since 1995 the Federal Gov't has CLOSED
over 20,000 miles of access roads on
federally controlled public lands – just in
Montana alone.

That's a loss of 1,000 miles per year!

Data from HJR13 Montana EQC Legislative Study
Inventory of roads closed to motorized access

TM

Photo by Ann Koopman

WORSENING TRENDS




SOLUTIONS IGNORED

Environment 2:31 PM TUE MAY 12, 2015

UC Merced Expert: Forest Thinning Could Free Up Water, Reduce Fire Risk

Share Tweet +1 E-mail 44 1 Comment Print

By JOE MOORE



Listen 9:39

Listen to our interview with Roger Bales of UC Merced

Forest managers throughout California say that thinning forests to a more natural state is a good way to reduce the severity of wildfires. Now scientists suggest that it also could offer help in saving water in the drought.

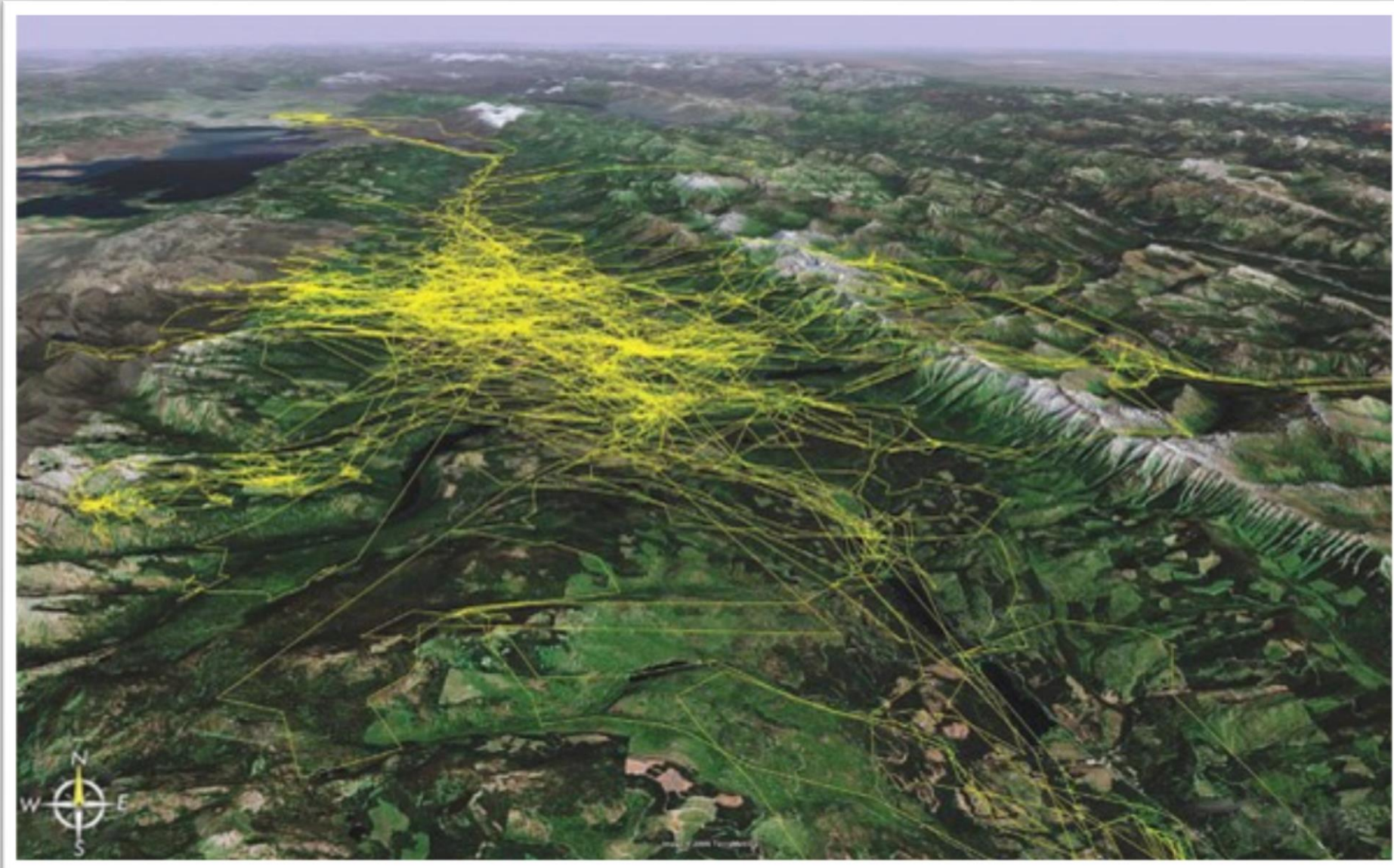
Researchers at UC Merced think that thinning overgrown forests throughout the Sierra could result in as much as a million acre feet of extra water each year for the state. That's enough water to fill Pine Flat Lake on the Kings River east of Fresno.

Roger Bales is the director of the Sierra Nevada Research Institute at UC Merced. He says years of fire suppression have left much of the Sierra overgrown with small trees that consume a lot of water.

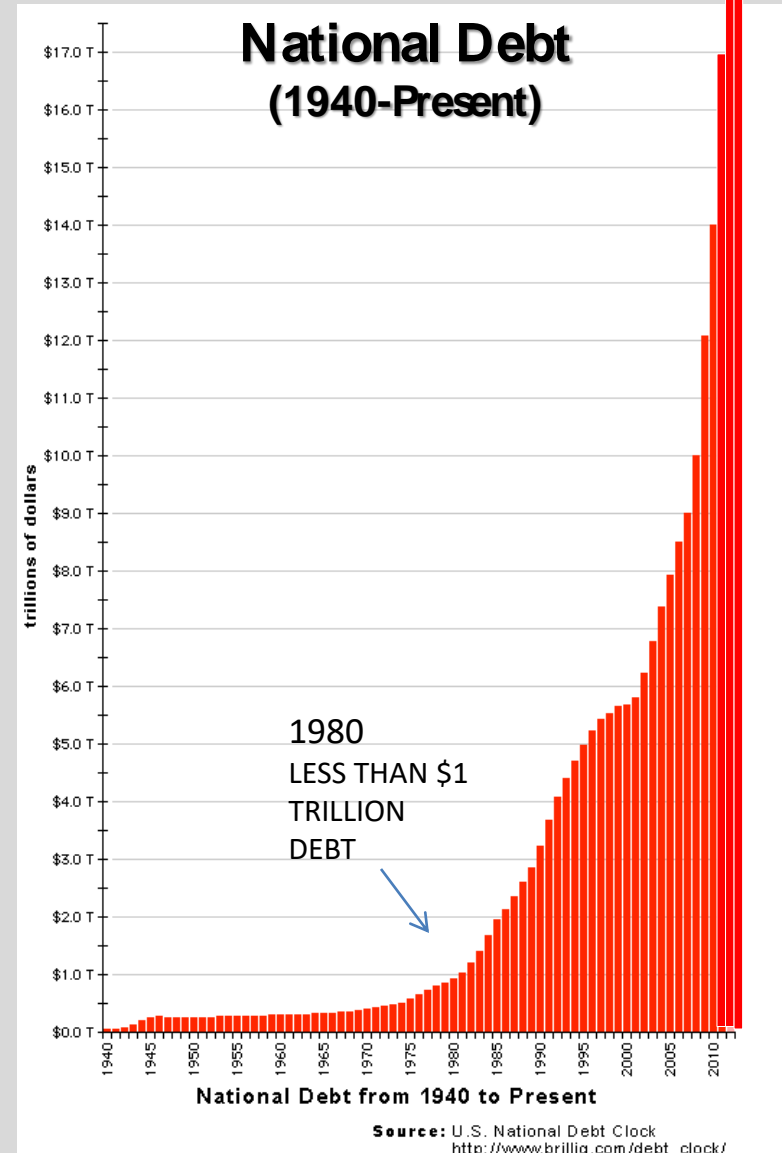
“Researchers at UC Merced think that **thinning overgrown forests** throughout the Sierra could result in as much as a **million acre feet of extra water** each year for the state.”

- 1 AF (Acre Foot) of water = 326,000 gallons
- 1 Million AF = 326 billion gallons
- **Enough To Supply More Than 2 Million Families For One Year!**

POLITICIZED SCIENCE

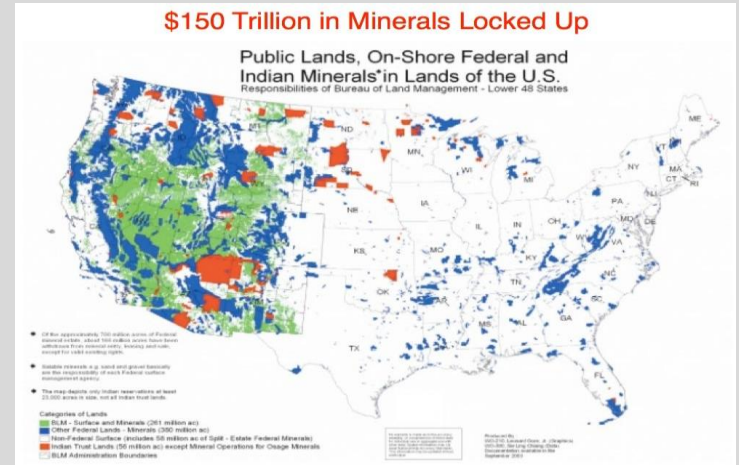


IRRESPONSIBLE ECONOMICS

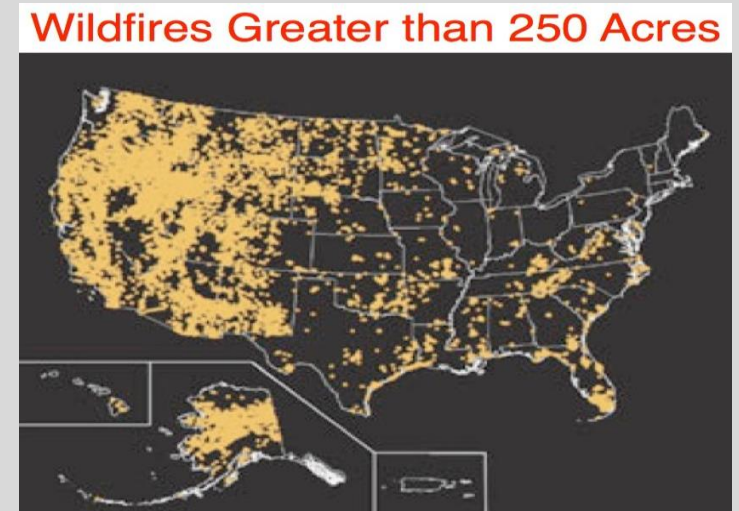


RESOURCES SQUANDERED

- **\$150 trillion mineral value on federal lands**



- **\$6 billion timber value on federal lands in Montana**



“The Decision Makers”



“The People”



“The Plan”

“The selected alternative will limit our ability as resource managers to respond to fire, wind throw, insects and disease, and to provide timber or other commodities.”



Page 34, Record of Decision, USFS Forest Plan Amendments - Motorized Access Management Within the Selkirk & Cabinet/Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone.

-UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

Kootenai & Idaho Panhandle National Forest Plans, 2013



**PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT PREVENTS
DEVASTATING WILDFIRES, SAVES MONEY, GENERATES
REVENUE & IMPROVES WILDLIFE HABITAT.**

BENEFITS OF ACTIVE MANAGEMENT:

- FIRE RESILIENCY
- CLEAN AIR & WATER
- IMPROVED WILDLIFE HABITAT
- MULTI-USE ACCESSIBILITY
- WOOD, MINERALS, ENERGY & AG PRODUCTS
- JOBS, RECREATION, SCENERY, HEALTH
- = ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



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**For every \$1 spent on active
vegetation management:
\$17 can be saved on wildfire suppression
costs; and \$500 can be saved in total losses.**

-The Total Cost of Fire by Mowery & Gray, 2013

Don't we all want
HEALTHY AIR, WATER & WILDLIFE?



ABUNDANT OUTDOOR RECREATION ?





SAFE, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES ?