

Pre-Fire Prevention on Public Lands

Issue:

The condition and health of Utah public forest lands and rangeland managed by the U.S. Forest Service and BLM have and are deteriorating.

Problem:

Inadequate funding and burdensome regulations to implement best-management-practices needed to improve resource conditions and health.

How this could affect your constituents:

In Utah two thirds of the state is managed either by the Forest Service or BLM. Like other western public lands U.S. forests have and are at significant risk from insect and disease mortality. Forests and rangeland are under attack by non-native invasive plants. Hazardous fuel buildup and the number of wildland forest fires have been unusually high and million of acres are at risk to catastrophic wildfire. The nation's resources, public property, and local economies are at risk and damages are in the billions of dollars annually. The resource values are lost annually on millions of acres that provide for and benefit wildlife, recreation, protect soil, clean water, and produce wood.

The public pays billions for fire suppression and post fire restoration when a better policy would be to invest in pre-fire resource best management practices to improve our natural resources condition and health.

What you can do about this issue:

Include in the federal budget for the Forest Service and BLM additional funds for pre-fire management and restoration of our public forests and rangelands. Support legislation that improves environmental regulation so that it is not able to be used by extreme groups to delay and prevent good resource management.

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