The Cost of Not Responding: Wildfire Costs in Colorado

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Front Range Fire Costs

- **Black Tiger Fire (Boulder County)**
  - July 9 – 13, 1989
  - 2,100 acres
  - $4,761.91/acre (Suppression and Property Damage)

- **Hourglass Fire (Pingree Park)**
  - July 1 – 5, 1994
  - 1,275 acres
  - $1,725.49/acre (Suppression and Property Damage)
Front Range Fire Costs

- **Buffalo Creek Fire (Jefferson County)**
  - May 18, 1996
  - 11,900 acres
  - $2,000+/acre (Suppression, Property, and Flood Damage)

- **Bobcat Gulch Fire Roosevelt National Forest (Larimer County)**
  - June 12 – 24, 2000
  - 10,599 acres
  - $933.94/acre (Direct and Impact Costs)
2002 Wildfire Season

- 88,458 wildland fires
- 6.938 million acres burned
- Suppression costs of $1.6 billion (Federal agencies only)

Colorado:
- More than 2,000 fires
- About 502,000 acres burned
- 81,000 people evacuated
- 783 structures consumed in the Hayman and Missionary Ridge fires
Hayman Fire Costs

- Data compiled by Denny Lynch
- June 8 – July 18, 2002
- Location: Pike National Forest (Teller, Park, Jefferson, & Douglas Counties)
- 137,759 acres burned (included 20,819 acres of state and private land)
Hayman Fire Costs - Summary

Costs through 2004:

- Direct costs $135.5 million
- Rehabilitation costs $47.9 million
- Impact costs $5.2 million
- Special value losses $41.1 million
- Total costs $229.7 million ($1,668 per acre)
### Summary of Costs for Selected 2002 Colorado Fires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire</th>
<th>Acres Burned</th>
<th>Total Cost ($)</th>
<th>Cost / Ac ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hayman Fire</td>
<td>137,759</td>
<td>229,731,157</td>
<td>1,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missionary Ridge Fire</td>
<td>70,475</td>
<td>152,803,785</td>
<td>2,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal Seam Fire</td>
<td>12,229</td>
<td>24,551,623</td>
<td>2,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Zirkel Complex</td>
<td>31,016</td>
<td>16,785,613</td>
<td>541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burn Canyon Fire</td>
<td>30,292</td>
<td>12,682,441</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>281,771</strong></td>
<td><strong>436,554,619</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,549</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fourmile Canyon Fire (Boulder County)

- 6,181 acres burned in September 2010 (Source: InciWeb)
- Suppression costs were $10.2 million as of September 14, 2010 (Source: InciWeb)
- Nearly 170 homes destroyed (National Underwriter, 9/21/2010)
- Insured property losses of $217 million (National Underwriter, 9/21/2010)
- Additional direct losses such as damage to roads, power lines, etc. and other cost associated with rehabilitation and special value losses have yet to be determined
The Black Forest Fire

• The fire began around 1:00pm on June 11, 2013.

• The fire burned about 14,280 acres (out of 81,664 acres for the Black Forest).

• Two people were killed, nearly 500 homes and over 200 outbuildings were destroyed, and thousands of structures were damaged.
The Black Forest Fire

- The cost to suppress the fire: $9.3 million.
- Insurance losses exceeded $420.5 million.
- Estimated total market value loss: $116.3 million (about $29 million came from trees lost to the fire).
- Additional costs are possible over time.
Community Impacts – Burn Canyon Fire Salvage Sales

- Data collected by Denny Lynch & Steve Kelly (2006)

- Timber volume salvaged was 3.05 million board feet log scale

- Total return on the sale of sawn wood to the sawmill was $1.46 million
Community Impacts – Burn Canyon Fire Salvage Sales

- $21,436 to US Treasury & $13,546 to GMUG NF

- Logging, trucking, and sawmill business spent an estimated $772,500 in locally in the region

- As consumers, Forest Service employees, along with business owners and employees spent an after tax total of $364,300 locally and $338,600 outside the region
Figure 1- FINALIZED BURN CANYON SALVAGE SALE ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY FLOWCHART
D. Lynch 2005 for Public Lands Partnership

BASIC INDUSTRY – SALE PREP. & ADMIN, LOGGING, TRUCKING, SAWMILLING, PRODUCT SALES

LESS GOVERNMENT TAXES $226.7K

TO SERVICE INDUSTRY FROM BUSINESS EXPENDITURES AND CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN SAN MIGUE, DELTA, AND MONTROSE COUNTIES AND OUT OF THE REGION

$131K Housing
$29.6K Utilities
$207K F&L
$14.7K A&S
$22.3K HC
PI&S $23K IITL $194K

ERM $209K D $121K
$74.6K Transportation
$22.3 K PCS&M
C $14.6 K E $21.9 K CS $34.5 K G&A $48.4 K

$21.4 K Treasury
$28K Approp.
$13.5K SSF SRR
$144.1K
$44.8K
$28K
$565.4K
$293.6K
$226.7K
$1,460.7K Product Sales
$566.7 K
$13.5K
$21.4 K
$131K
$29.6K
$207K
$14.7K
$22.3K
$14.6 K
$21.9 K
$34.5 K
$48.4 K
Questions?