

# Can We Eliminate Fire From Occurring in Colorado?



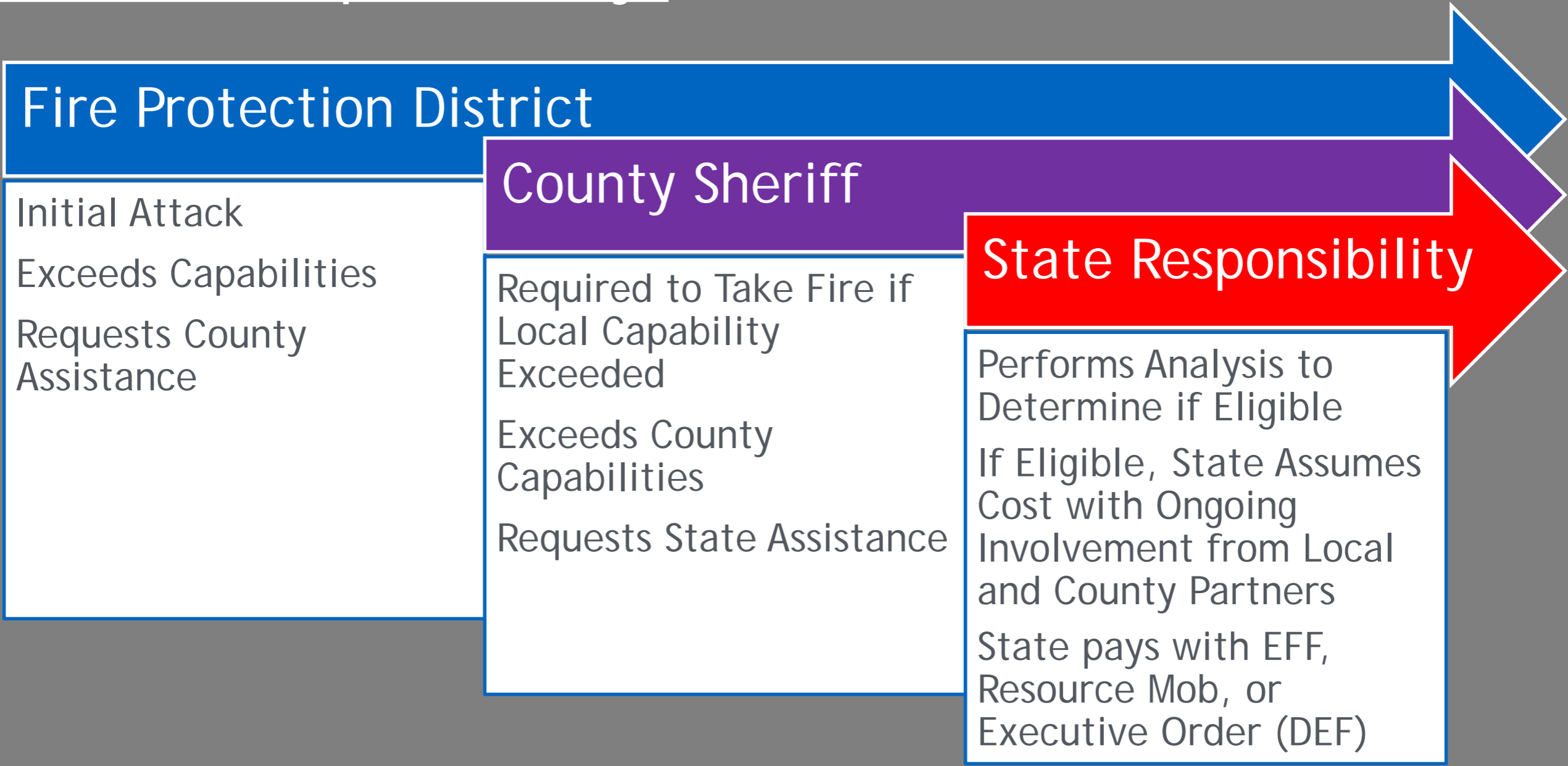
# We Will Never “Not” Need to Respond



Lake Christine Fire near Basalt, CO July 2018

# Wildfire in Colorado

## Wildfire Responsibility:



# DFPC Wildfire Program Base Funding

## DFPC Engine Program

- \$0.5 million/yr
- General Fund
- Personnel and operating expenses for DFPC Engines (7)

## Wildfire Preparedness

- \$4.15 million/yr
- Insurance Tax Premiums
- Leadership; field staff; DFPC Squad (1); additional funding for DFPC Engines (7); and general operating

## Colorado Firefighting Air Corps (CFAC)

- \$8.9 million/yr
- General Fund
- Aviation contracts and operating; DFPC staff for MMA, SEATs & Helitack; and CWN Large Air Tankers
- Aircraft flight time for initial attack response on county and local fires

## Additional Wildfire (new)

- \$3.0 million/yr
- General Fund
- Field Staff; PPT Firefighters to PFT; and Fire Modules.
- Increase overall capacity and services, with a focus on mitigation planning & implementation

# State Funding Sources – Local Capacity Exceeded

## Emergency Fire Fund (EFF)

- \$1 million/year
- Voluntary County Contributions (42)
- Authorized by DFPC Director

## Resource Mobilization Fund

- Available to Support Local Agencies during Emerging Event
- Authorized by CDPS Executive Director or Designee

## Executive Order/Disaster Emergency Fund

- Available when EFF Depleted
- Requires Governor Approval and Executive Order

## FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant

- 75% Reimbursement for Eligible Costs
- Fire must Qualify as a “Major Disaster”
- Must be Submitted while Fire is Burning

# Growing Wildland Fire Seasons

Years	State Responsibility Fires (SRF)	SRF Average/Year
1967-1969	0	0
1970-1979	1	.1
1980-1989	8	.8
1990-1999	15	1.5
2000-2009	65	6.5
2010-2019*	74	7.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	

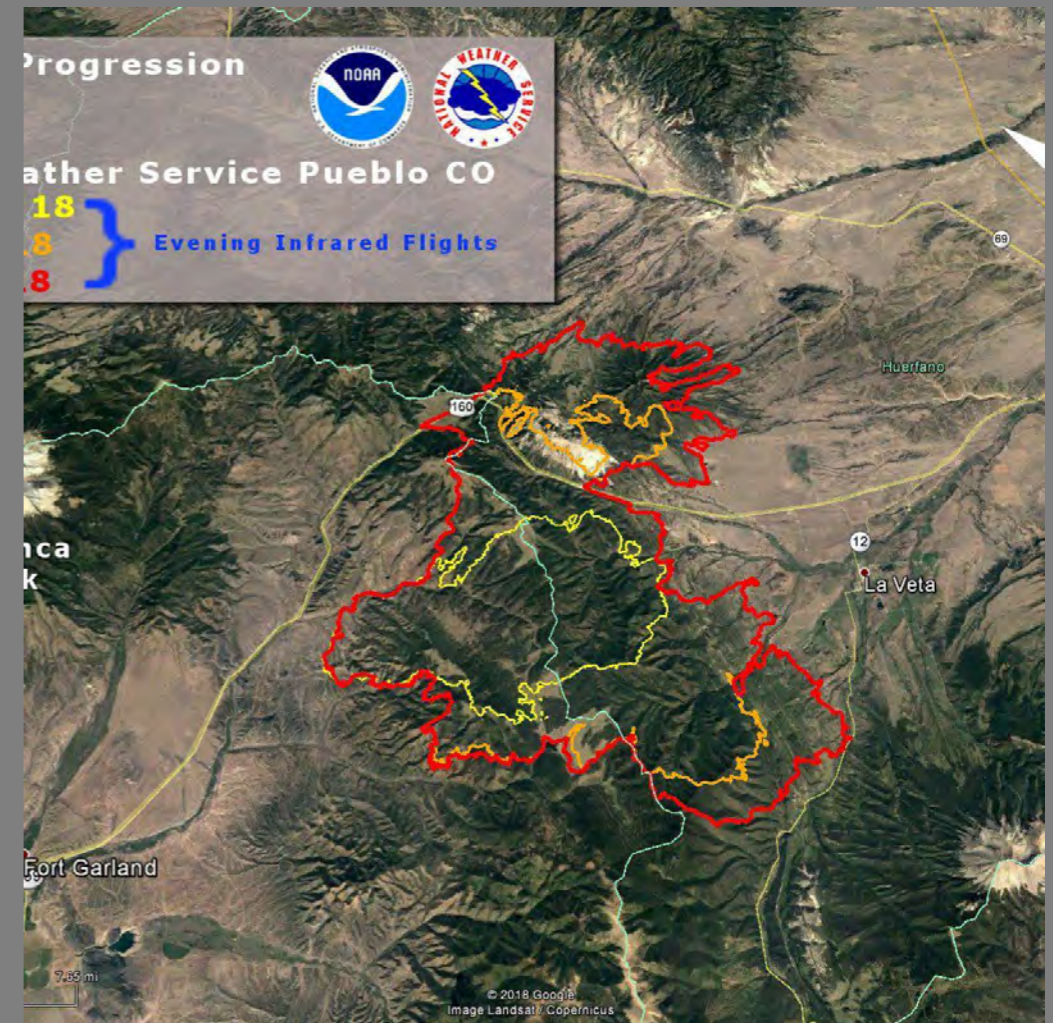


# Background and History

Top 20 Largest Wildfires in Colorado History		
1. Hayman	137,760	2002
2. Spring Creek	108,045	2018
3. High Park	87,284	2012
4. Missionary Ridge	70,485	2002
5. West Fork	58,570	2013
6. 416	54,129	2018
7. Papoose	49,628	2013
8. Bridger	45,800	2008
9. Last Chance	45,000	2012
10. Bear Springs	44,662	2001
11. MM 117	42,795	2018
12. Beaver Creek	38,380	2016
13. Badger Hole	33,421	2018
14. Logan	32,546	2017
15. Burn Canyon	31,300	2002
16. Bull Draw	29,038	2018
17. Mayberry	25,385	2008
18. Little Sand	24,900	2012
19. Heartstrong	24,400	2012
20. Bircher	23,607	2000

# State Large Fire Suppression Costs by Year

Year	SRF Cost*
2010	\$7,878,000
2011	\$7,175,000
2012	\$15,876,000
2013	\$12,975,000
2014	\$244,000
2015	\$0
2016	\$15,025,000
2017	\$6,453,000
2018	\$40,079,000
2019	\$0



\* Costs shown here are incident estimates



# Denver Post Research on Insured Losses

- 2010 Fourmile Fire: 168 homes, 231.8 million in insured losses
- 2012 High Park Fire: 259 homes, 113.7 million in insured losses
- 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire: 346 homes, 460.3 million in insured losses
- 2013 Black Forest Fire: 511 homes, 420.5 million in insured losses

## Comparison of 2018 versus 2019:

Item	CY 2018	CY 2019
# of Funding Requests	75	29
# of Agencies Requesting Funding	36	24
Estimated Handcrew Expenses	\$440,000	\$132,000
Estimated Aviation Expenses	\$2,182,310	\$889,700
Estimated Total Expenses	\$2,622,310	\$1,021,700

- \$3,644,010 estimated total expenses in 2018 and 2019 to WERF and CFAC
- Estimates shown do not include DFPC personnel overtime or other operating expenses for overhead, engines, modules, etc.

## How are we tracking?

- 25% of Colorado's 20 largest fires occurred in 2018  
65% of Colorado's 20 largest fires occurred since 2010  
100% of Colorado's 20 largest fires occurred since 2000

84% of Colorado's State Responsibility Fires (135 of 163) have occurred in the past two decades

## 2019 is the Calm Before the Next Storm

# Colorado's Reality

Wildfire in Colorado has grown beyond a natural resource problem and has become a public safety problem impacting lives, homes, watersheds, tourism, economy, and quality of life.



# Strategic Plan Development



**Objective: Formalize and Document an Intentional Long-Term Strategy for the Future of DFPC Support to Fire Agencies in Colorado**

# The Concept of a Fire Commission

- Several groups working on forest health and water shed issues (not a duplicate group)
- Who is evaluating and making recommendations on other efforts related to Colorado's Fire Problem?
- Who are the stakeholders?
- Geographical representation!
- What can be done to reduce impacts and fiscal impacts of our Fire Problem?
- CDPS, CSFS, Federal partners, DNR, County Sheriff's, Fire Chief's, Colorado Professional Firefighters, Volunteer Firefighters, County Commissioners, Special Districts, Municipalities, Insurance, Realtors, and beyond

# Statutory Responsibilities

- Including but not limited to:
- Evaluating funding mechanisms for effective response to large fires, with consideration given to appropriate cost-share agreements, financial contributions, mitigation and preparedness, mutual aid participation, and local actions and plans
- Strengthening regional and statewide coordination of mutual aid resources and initial attack capabilities for fire and other hazards.
- Developing methodical approaches to and recommendations on Colorado's fire service concerns and issues
- Developing an accurate understanding of Colorado's fire problems, including the number of injuries and fatalities, overall fire losses, and the causes and origins of structural and wildland fires

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# Commission Synopsis

- Stakeholder driven consensus based solutions and recommendations
- Annual reports to the legislative body
- Stakeholder driven solutions to the legislature to assist in the decision making processes
- An “expectation” that the hard conversations will take place
- “Other duties as assigned”: fire resistive construction materials, governmental immunity on prescribed fires

# How Far Have We Gotten?

- First meeting October 9<sup>th</sup> in Glenwood Springs
  - What is success and what is failure?
- Three subcommittees
  - Large funding, state assist, and general process (November 6)
  - Data (November 7)
  - Regional and Statewide mutual aid (November 21)
- Next Commission meeting
  - Colorado Springs January 7<sup>th</sup>

# Wildfire Matters Review Committee

- Mitigation Match Reduction for certain communities 10-0
- Military Vehicles license plates 7-3
- Camera's and additional firefighting aviation (Failed 4-6)
- DFPC Benefits (heart, cancer, pension) 10-0
- Homeless education of wildfire dangers 7-3
- Restore Governmental Immunity (Died, asked for Commission review)
- Building Materials in the WUI (withdrawn and forwarded to Commission)
- 100 percent tax credit for mitigation efforts up to 3500.00

# Questions?

