



September | 2021 Legislative Council Staff
CO Wildfire-Related State Spending

Presentation to the Wildfire Matters Review Committee

September 14, 2021

- **Purpose:** Provide detailed funding information for Colorado's primary agencies responsible for wildfire-related activities in the state
- **Scope and Approach**
 - Historic spending from FY2016-17 through FY 2021-22 (budgeted)
 - Aggregates DNR, CSFS, and DFPC and classifies by fund source (federal vs. state), frequency (one-time vs. ongoing), and category (preparedness vs. response vs. mitigation)
 - Excludes direct federal government expenditures, local government, community, individual, and other organizational spending, and tax expenditures



Brief History of Wildfires in Colorado

Colorado's Ten Largest Wildfires by Acreage

Rank	Fire	Acres	Year
1	Cameron Peak	208,913	2020
2	East Troublesome	193,812	2020
3	Pine Gulch	139,007	2020
4	Hayman	137,760	2002
5	Spring Creek	108,045	2018
6	High Park	87,284	2012
7	Missionary Ridge	70,285	2002
8	West Fork	58,570	2013
9	416	54,129	2018
10	Papoose	49,628	2013

*Source: Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Colorado
Department of Public Safety*

Wildfire Spending Categories

Preparedness

- Fire prevention and management

Response

- Response to a wildfire incident (i.e. suppression)

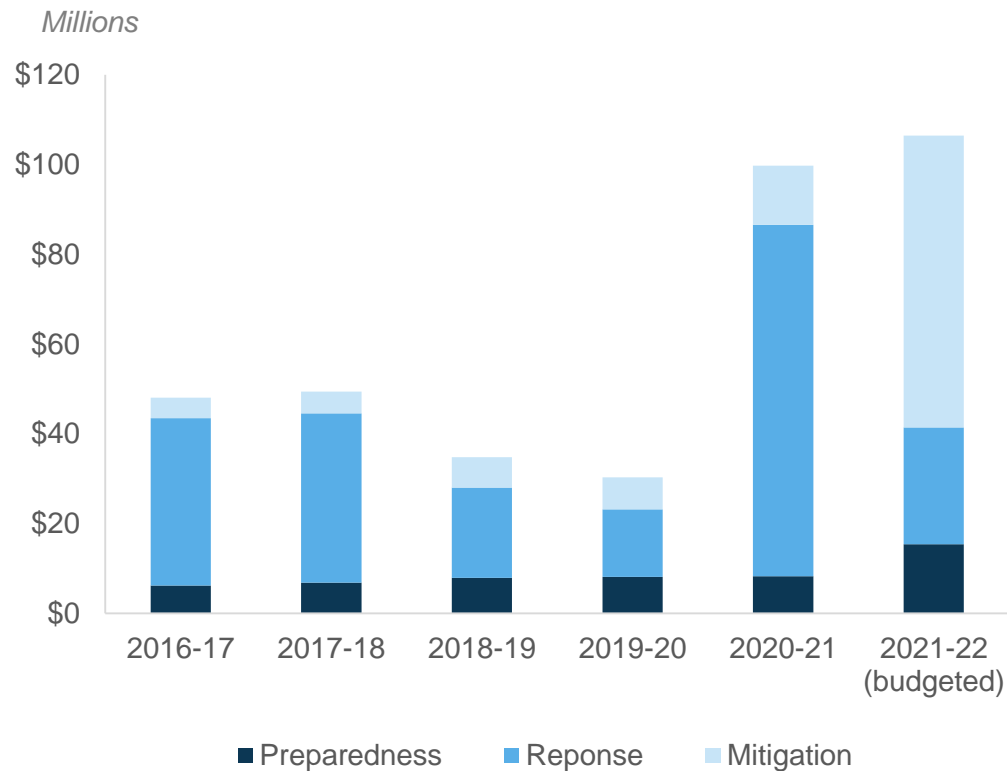
Mitigation

- On-the-ground activities to reduce the potential for unwanted impacts caused by wildfires

Wildfire-Related Spending by Category

- Response spending spiked in FY2020-21
- Increasing budget for mitigation in FY2021-22
- Mitigation historically 15% of wildfire-related spending, up to 61% in FY2021-22
- FY2021-22 budget for wildfire preparedness and mitigation nearly doubled from previous years.

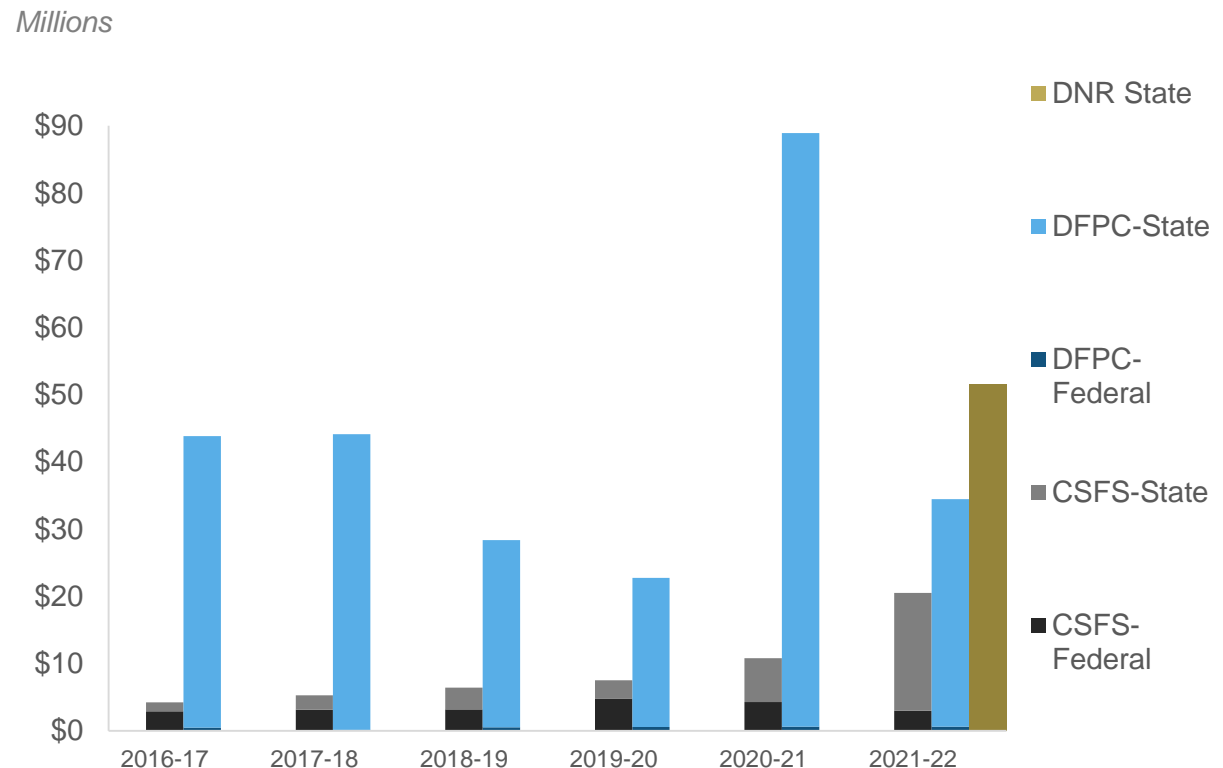
Figure 3
Wildfire-Related Spending by Category
FY 2016-17 to FY 2021-22 (budgeted)



Wildfire-Related Spending by Fund Source

- State funds increased in FY 2020-21 following 4 years of general decline, largely due to increases in funds to DFPC.
- CSFS has received increasing state and federal funds in recent years, largely from the General Fund.
- DNR received one-time state resources through 2021 legislation for wildfire mitigation and post-fire restoration.

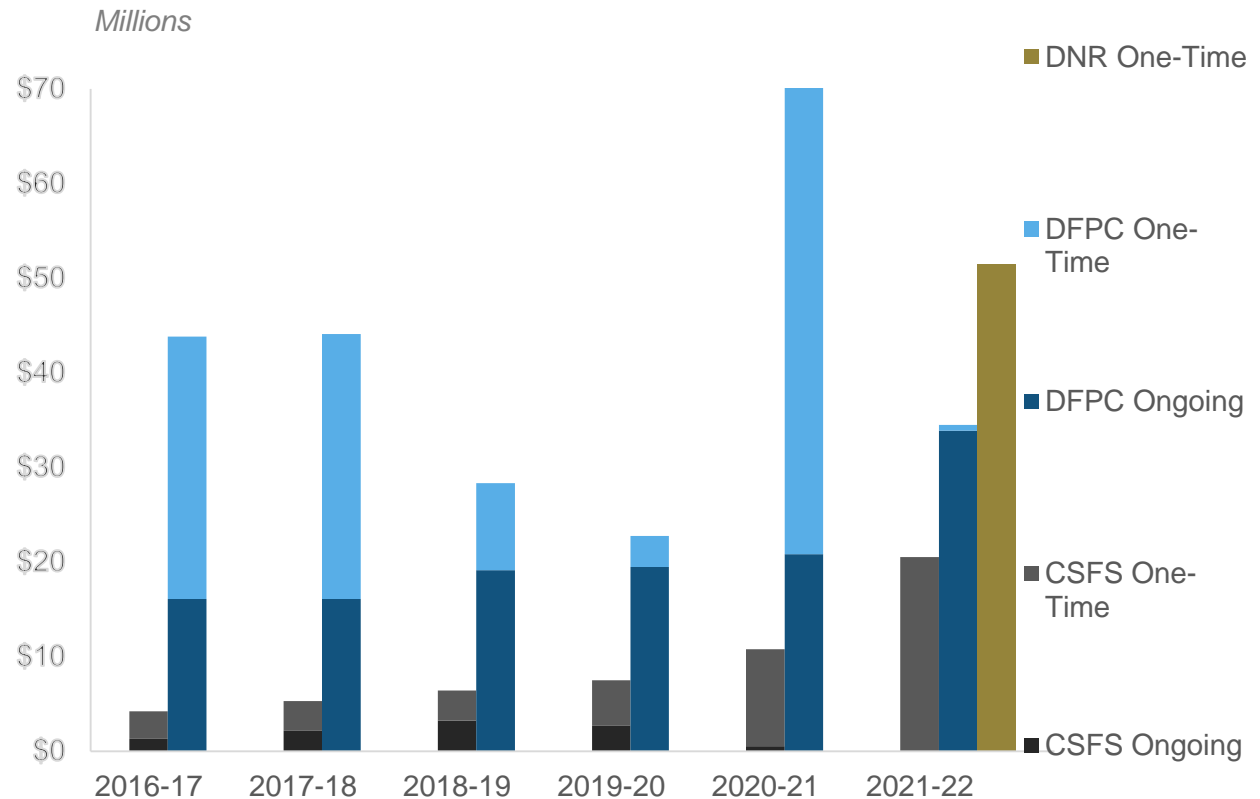
Figure 1
Wildfire-Related Spending by Fund Source
FY 2016-17 to FY 2021-22 (budgeted)



Wildfire-Related Spending by Frequency

Figure 2
Wildfire-Related Spending by Frequency
FY 2016-17 to FY 2021-22 (budgeted)

- Predominately one-time funded
- DFPC ongoing funding increasing
- CSFS transition from ongoing sources (i.e. severance taxes) to one-time (i.e. GF transfers)



Questions?

Christina Van Winkle

Senior Environmental Analyst • Legislative Council Staff

christina.vanwinkle@state.co.us • 303-866-6289

www.leg.colorado.gov/lcs

