

State Responsibility Fires 2011 - 2014

	<u>Encumbered</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>2011</u>		
Four Mile	\$5,200,000	
Reservoir Road	\$3,000,000	
Indian Gulch	\$1,500,000	
Crystal	\$1,700,000	
Bear and Purgatorie / Las Animas Fires	\$2,500,000	\$13,900,000
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<u>2012</u>		
Navajo	\$200,000	
Shell Complex	\$1,100,000	
Duckett	\$1,900,000	
Track	\$1,450,000	
Lower North Fork	\$3,865,000	
Hewlett Gulch	\$1,000,000	
High Park	\$25,000,000	
Stuart Hole	\$200,000	
Springer	\$1,000,000	
Waldo Canyon	\$6,370,000	
Weber	\$2,135,000	
Flagstaff	\$2,500,000	\$46,720,000
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<u>2013</u>		
Pine Ridge	\$500,000	
Bull Basin	\$200,000	
Powell Complex	\$210,000	
Highway 13	\$150,000	
Wetmore	\$3,515,000	
Roatcap	\$250,000	
Fern Lake	\$13,000	
Cedar Knob	\$110,000	
Big Meadows	\$50,000	
Royal Gorge	\$1,500,000	
Black Forest	\$13,000,000	
Klickus	\$150,000	
East Peak	\$3,000,000	
West Fork	\$12,500,000	
Red Canyon	\$2,000,000	
Lime Gulch	\$550,000	\$37,698,000
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<u>2014</u>		
Alkali	\$19,285	\$19,285
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		\$98,337,285

These amounts do not include post-fire recovery, remediation, or flooding, nor does it include reimbursements, if any.

Total State Cost of Wildfire Preparedness and Response

The following table displays the total appropriations made for purposes related to wildland firefighting for each of the last four fiscal years. The table also reflects those encumbrances for calendar years 2012 to 2014 for state responsibility fires (fires in which all or part of the management and fiscal responsibility has been transferred to the State).

	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16
Wildfire Preparedness Fund	<u>\$3,250,000</u>	<u>\$3,250,000</u>	<u>\$4,150,000</u>	<u>\$4,150,000</u>
Fire Aviation Program (GF)				
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$9,462,891	\$0
Operating	\$0	\$0	\$9,934,857	\$9,491,686
Subtotal	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$19,397,748</u>	<u>\$9,491,686</u>
State Engine Program (GF)				
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,666,000
Operating	\$0	\$0	\$566,524	\$472,492
Subtotal	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$566,524</u>	<u>\$2,138,492</u>
Wildfire Emergency Response Fund (WERF)	<u>\$608,200</u>	<u>\$500,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Other Related Programs				
Center of Excellence	\$0	\$0	\$274,252	\$998,496
Fire Prediction Model	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$607,078
Subtotal	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$274,252</u>	<u>\$1,605,574</u>
Total Wildfire Appropriations	<u><u>\$3,250,000</u></u>	<u><u>\$3,250,000</u></u>	<u><u>\$24,388,524</u></u>	<u><u>\$17,385,752</u></u>
	2012	2013	2014	2015
EO Encumbrances for State Responsibility Fires *	<u>\$46,720,000</u>	<u>\$37,698,000</u>	<u>\$19,285</u>	
Number of State Responsibility Fires	12	16	1	
Lower North Fork Victims Compensation	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$18,190,292</u>	<u>\$0</u>	
Total Cost of Wildfire Preparedness & Response	<u><u>\$49,970,000</u></u>	<u><u>\$59,138,292</u></u>	<u><u>\$24,407,809</u></u>	<u><u>\$17,385,752</u></u>



	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total Number of Wildland Fires	7,104	5,454	4,798	
Acres Burned	268,558	52,041	2,944	
Structures Lost	696	550	7	
Civilian Fire Deaths	6	2	0	
Reported Dollar Loss	\$371,494,080	\$321,286,962	\$1,295,908	

Notes:

1. The amounts for Executive Order Encumbrances for State Responsibility Fires does not include post-fire recovery, remediation, or flooding, nor does it include reimbursements, if any. The list of State Responsibility Fires for 2011-2014 is attached.
2. The amount identified for Lower North Fork Victims Compensation only includes the amounts appropriated in Senate Bill 14-223.

Conclusion

The number, intensity, growth and complexity of wildfires in Colorado have been growing exponentially and experts predict that it will get worse over the next couple of decades.

In the 1990's the average annual number of wildfires in Colorado was 1,300 or so and these fires burned an average of 22,000 acres annually. By the 2000's the average number of fires and acres burned had more than doubled and between the 2000's and this decade, the average number of fires and acres burned had more than doubled yet again.

In 2012 alone, there were a reported 7,104 wildland fires in Colorado. These fires destroyed more than 696 structures, killed 6 civilians, burned more than 268,558 acres and have caused at least \$538 million in insured property losses.

The improvements in technology and capabilities funded by the General Assembly will not ensure that Colorado will be free of wildfires, but they will improve our ability to protect people, property, and the environment from the ever-increasing toll that wildfires bring. These improvements in technology and capabilities will likely also result in a decrease the overall cost of fire suppression and post-fire recovery. Put another way, if these improvements in technology and capabilities prevent just one megafire annually, the savings in suppression costs alone will pay for the DFPC Wildland Fire Management Program.

