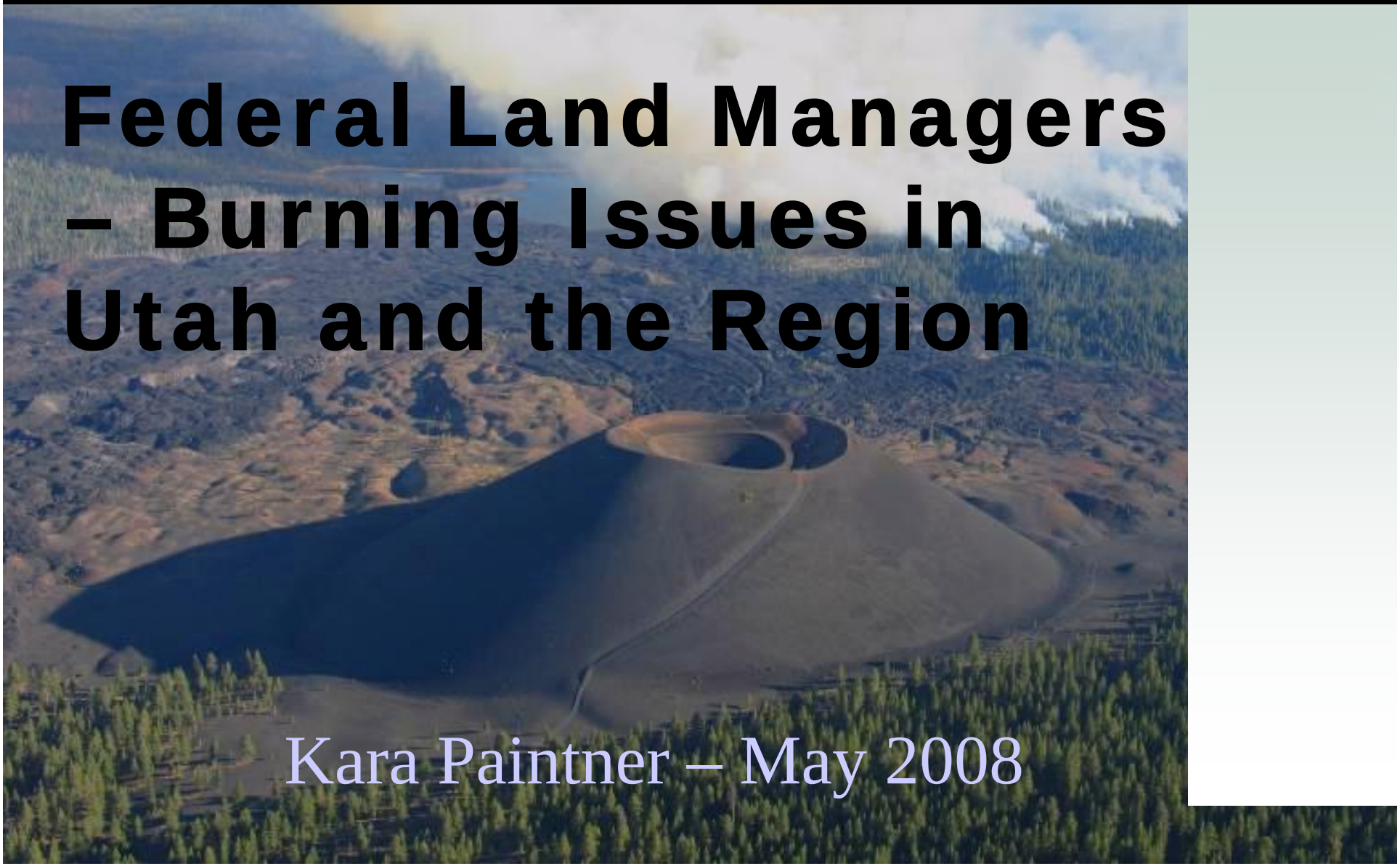

Federal Land Managers – Burning Issues in Utah and the Region

Kara Paintner – May 2008

National Park Service

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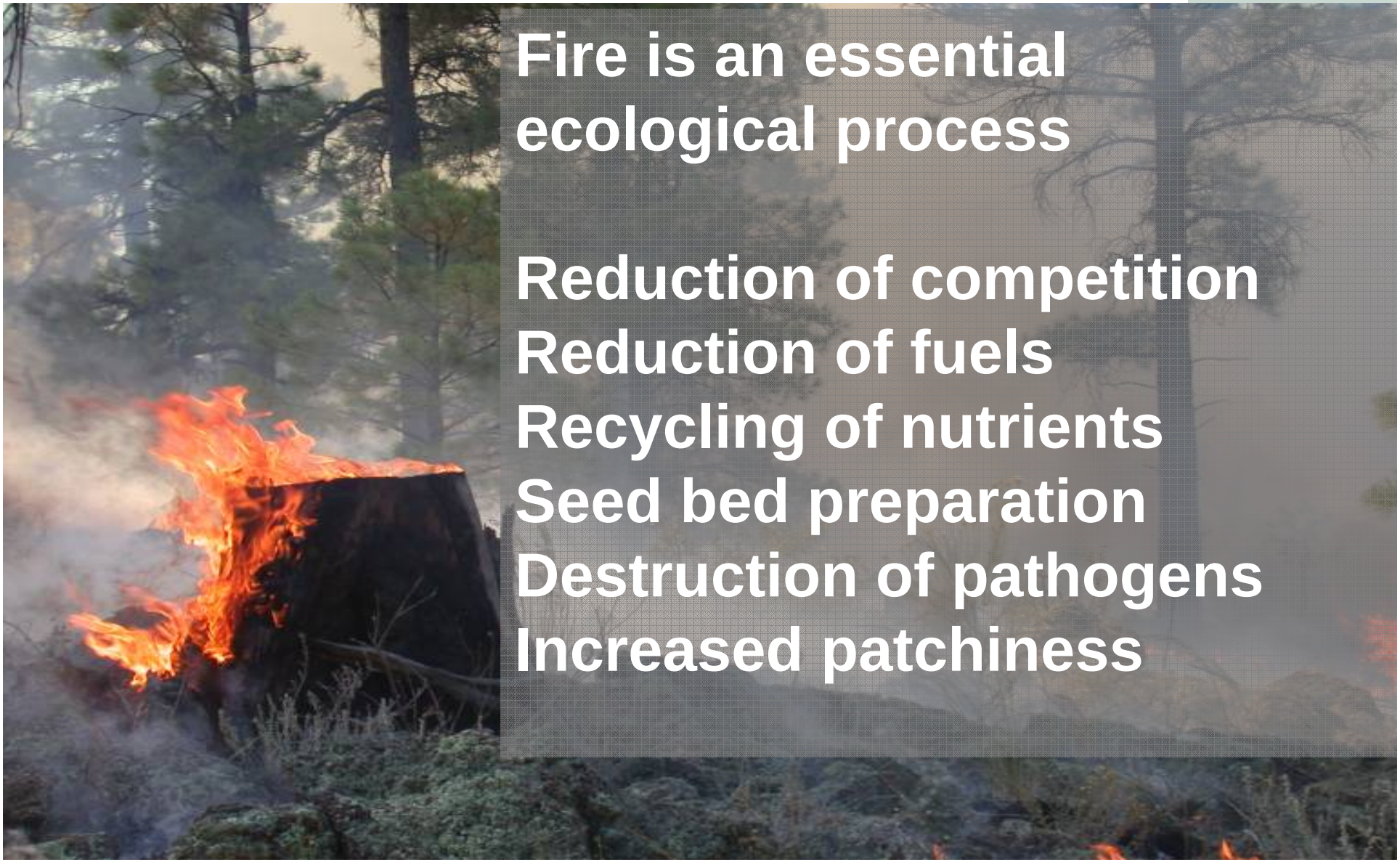
- Fire is going to happen and is an essential ecological process
- Federal Land Managers are trying to balance public health with ecosystem heath
- New nonattainment areas for Ozone and PM2.5 will make coordination with air regulators and other burners critical in the continued use of fire as a management tool

National Park Service



Fire is an essential ecological process

Reduction of competition
Reduction of fuels
Recycling of nutrients
Seed bed preparation
Destruction of pathogens
Increased patchiness

Prescribed Fire

- Restore & maintain fire adapted ecosystems
- Maintain cultural landscapes
- Reduce threat of catastrophic wildfire, especially in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Reduce targeted invasive plants

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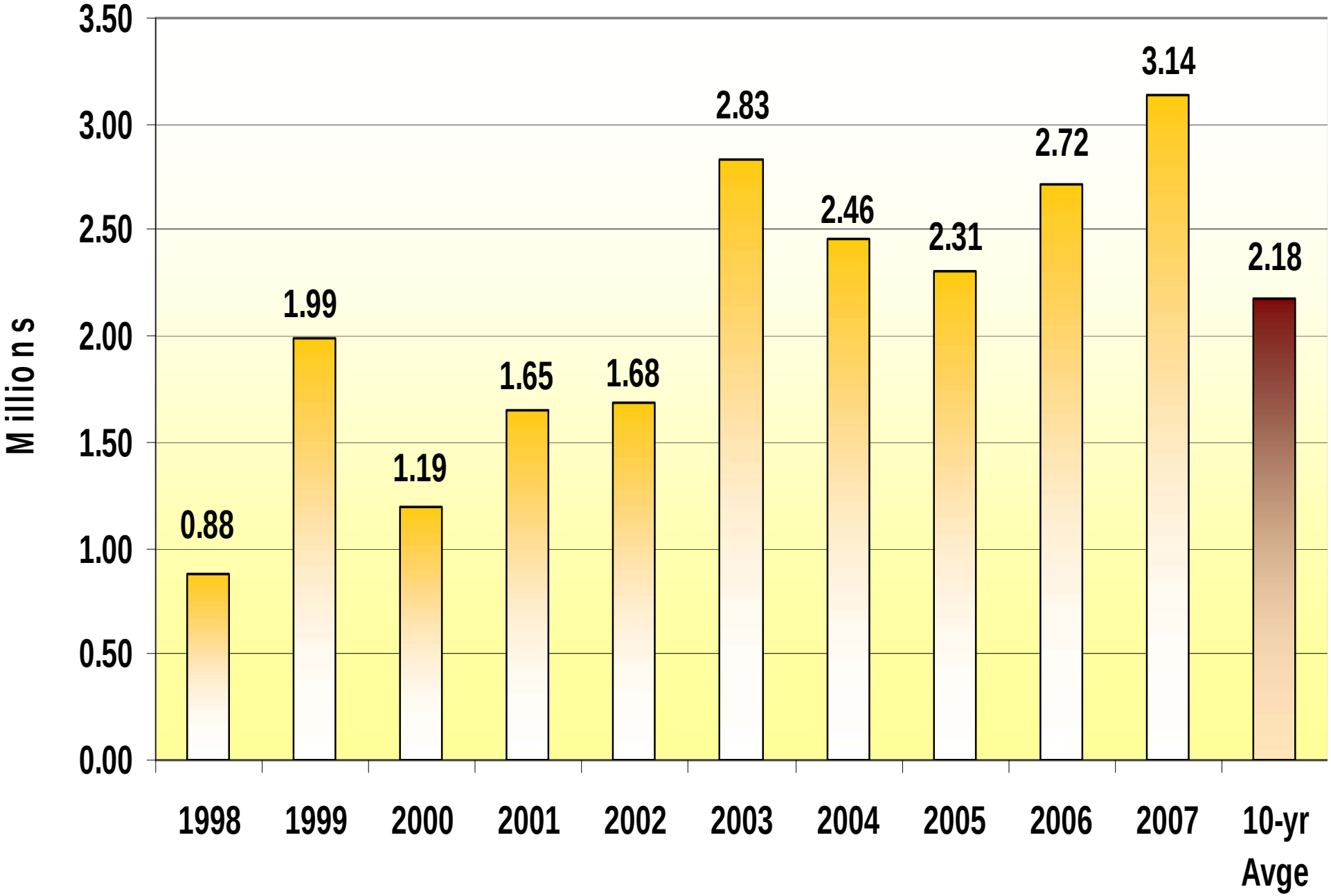
Annual Number of Prescribed Fire Acres Nationally



Wildland Fire Use

- Management of natural ignitions
- Wilderness tool
- Maintaining fire adapted ecosystems
- Often used in areas with little departure from natural fire regime

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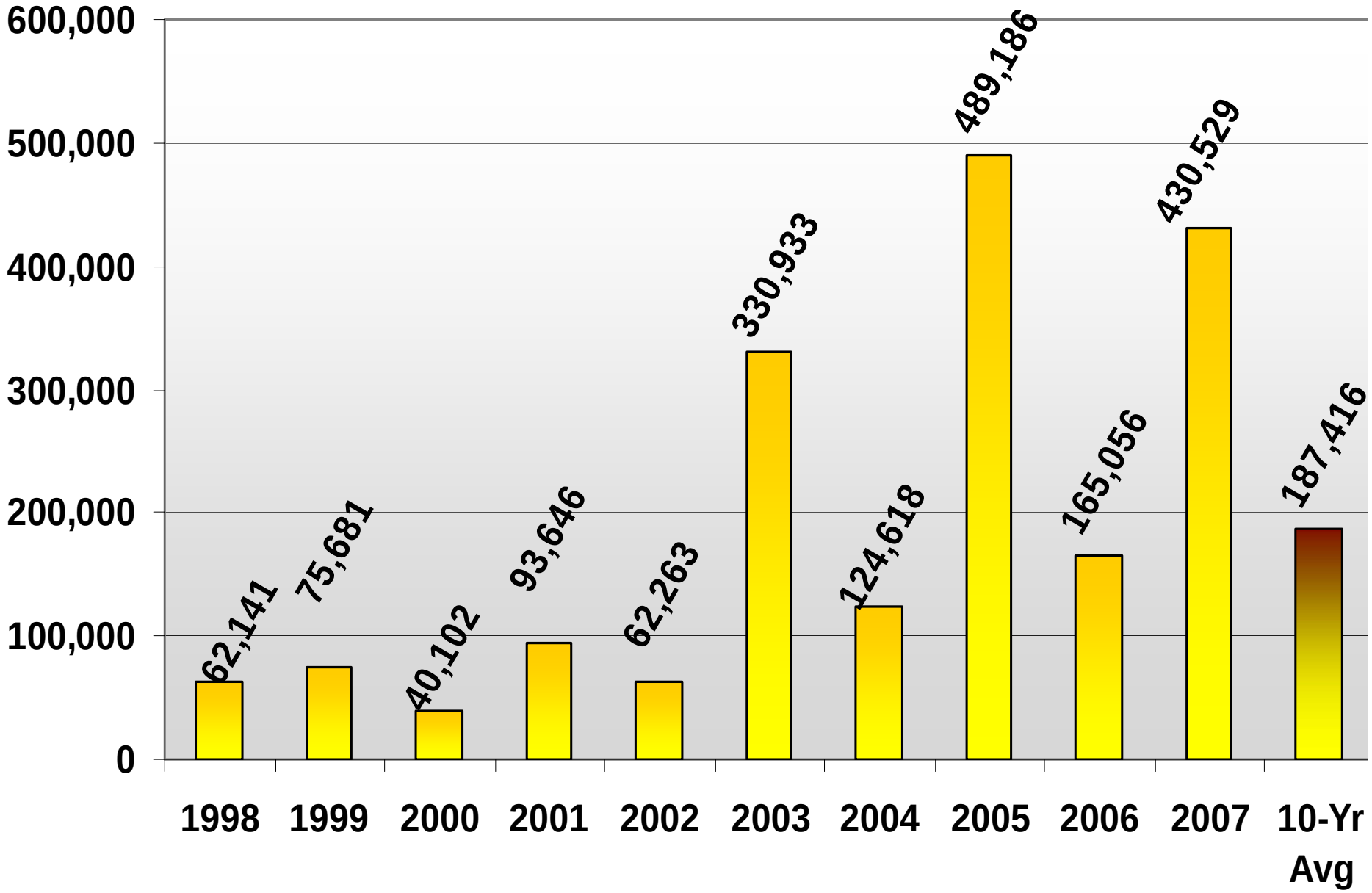
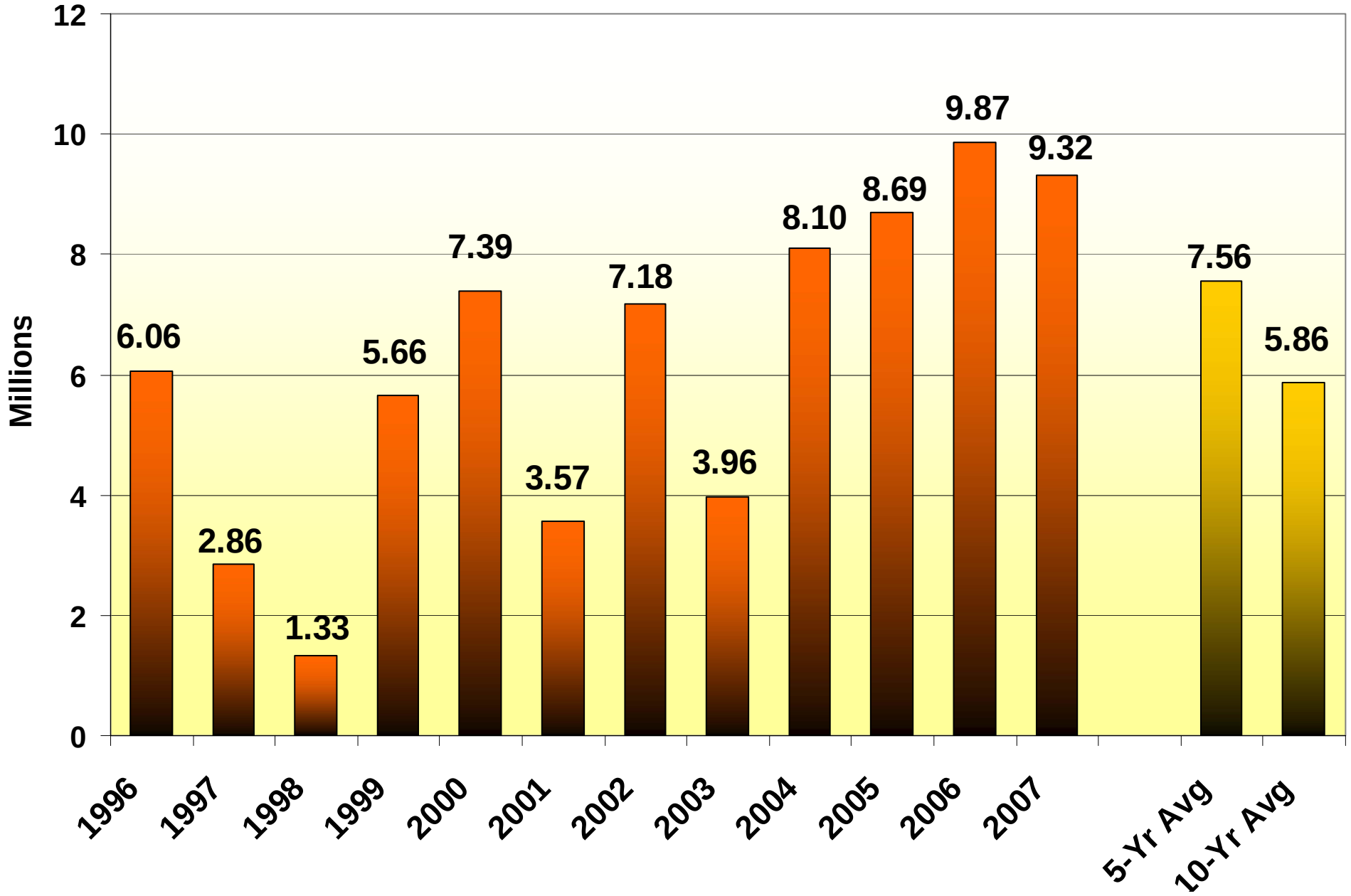
Annual Number of Wildland Fire Use Acres Nationally

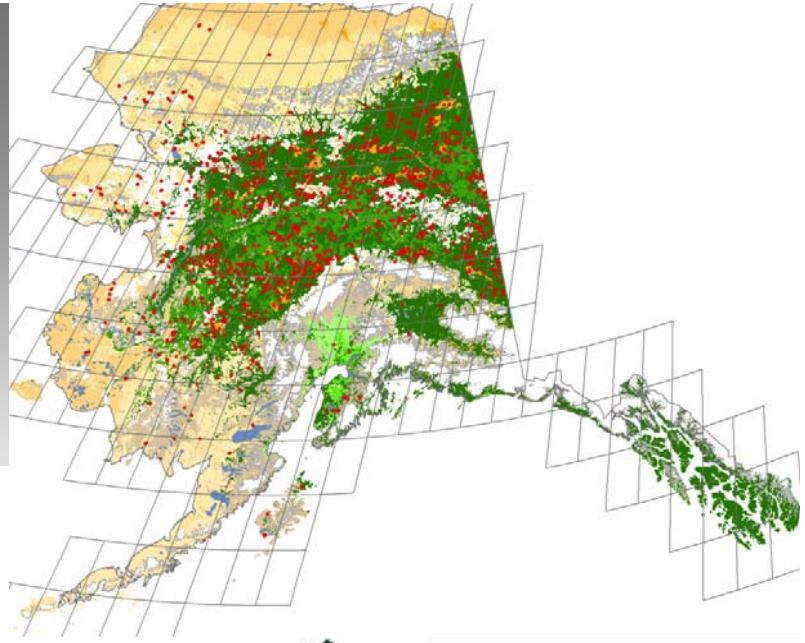


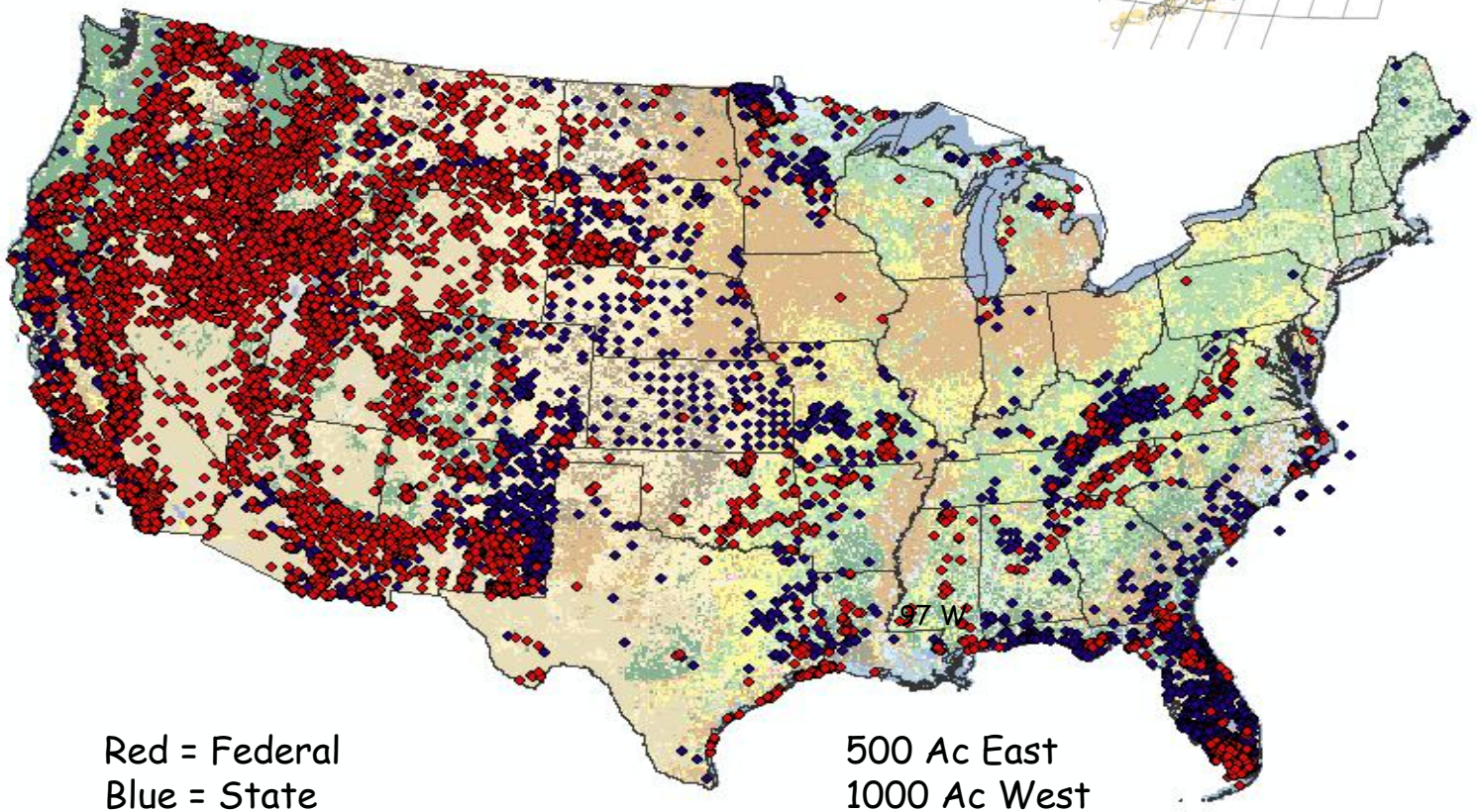
Annual Number of Acres Nationally



Fire Locations

Reported State and Federal Fires
1984 - 2004

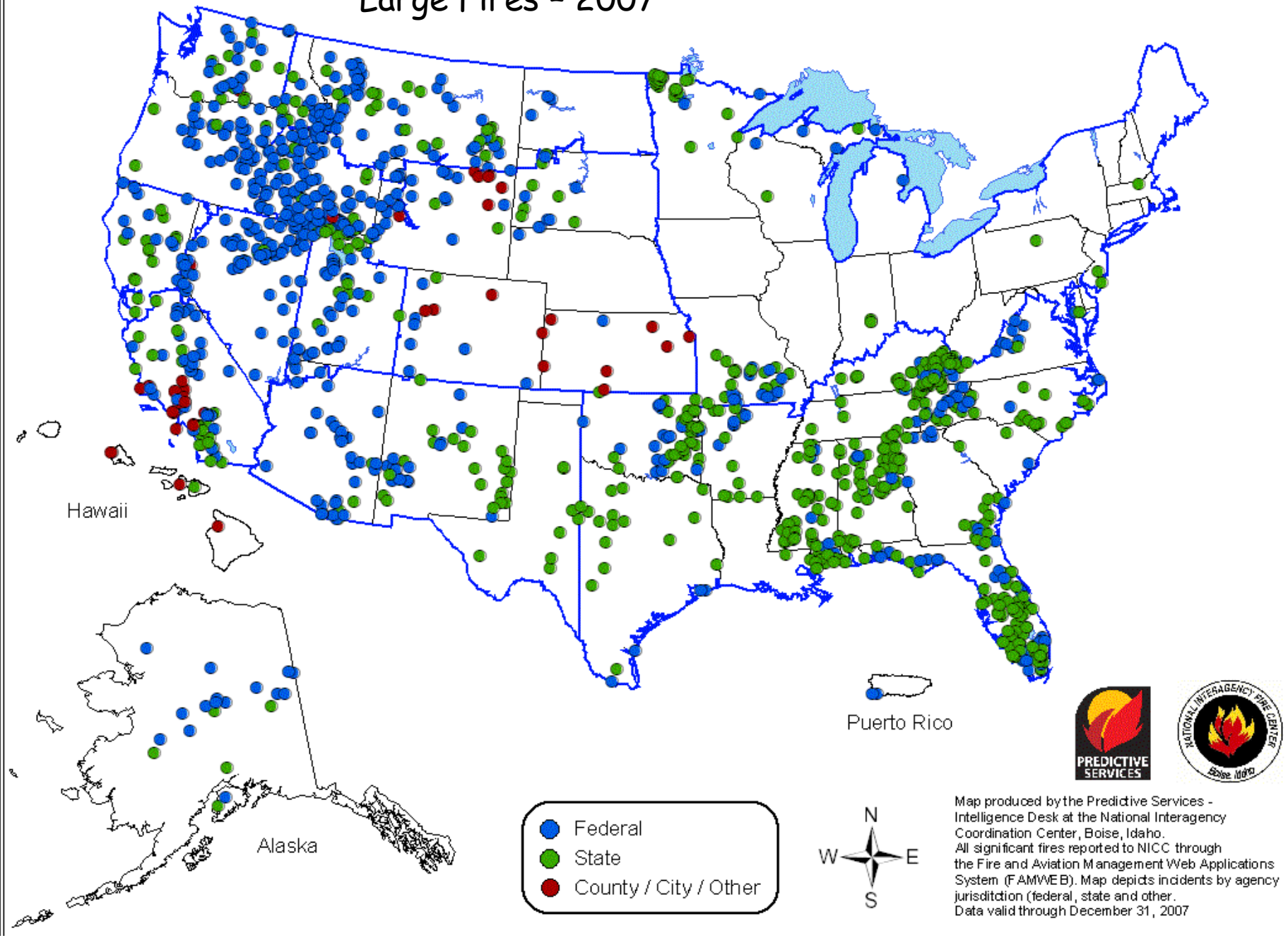




Red = Federal
Blue = State

500 Ac East
1000 Ac West

Large Fires – 2007



Map produced by the Predictive Services - Intelligence Desk at the National Interagency Coordination Center, Boise, Idaho.
All significant fires reported to NICC through the Fire and Aviation Management Web Applications System (FAMWEB). Map depicts incidents by agency jurisditction (federal, state and other.
Data valid through December 31, 2007

Air Quality Priorities

- Coordinate with state and local air quality regulators
- Burn permits for prescribed fire,wildland fire use and pile burning
- Emissions/smoke are less and of shorter duration from managed fires than large wildland fires

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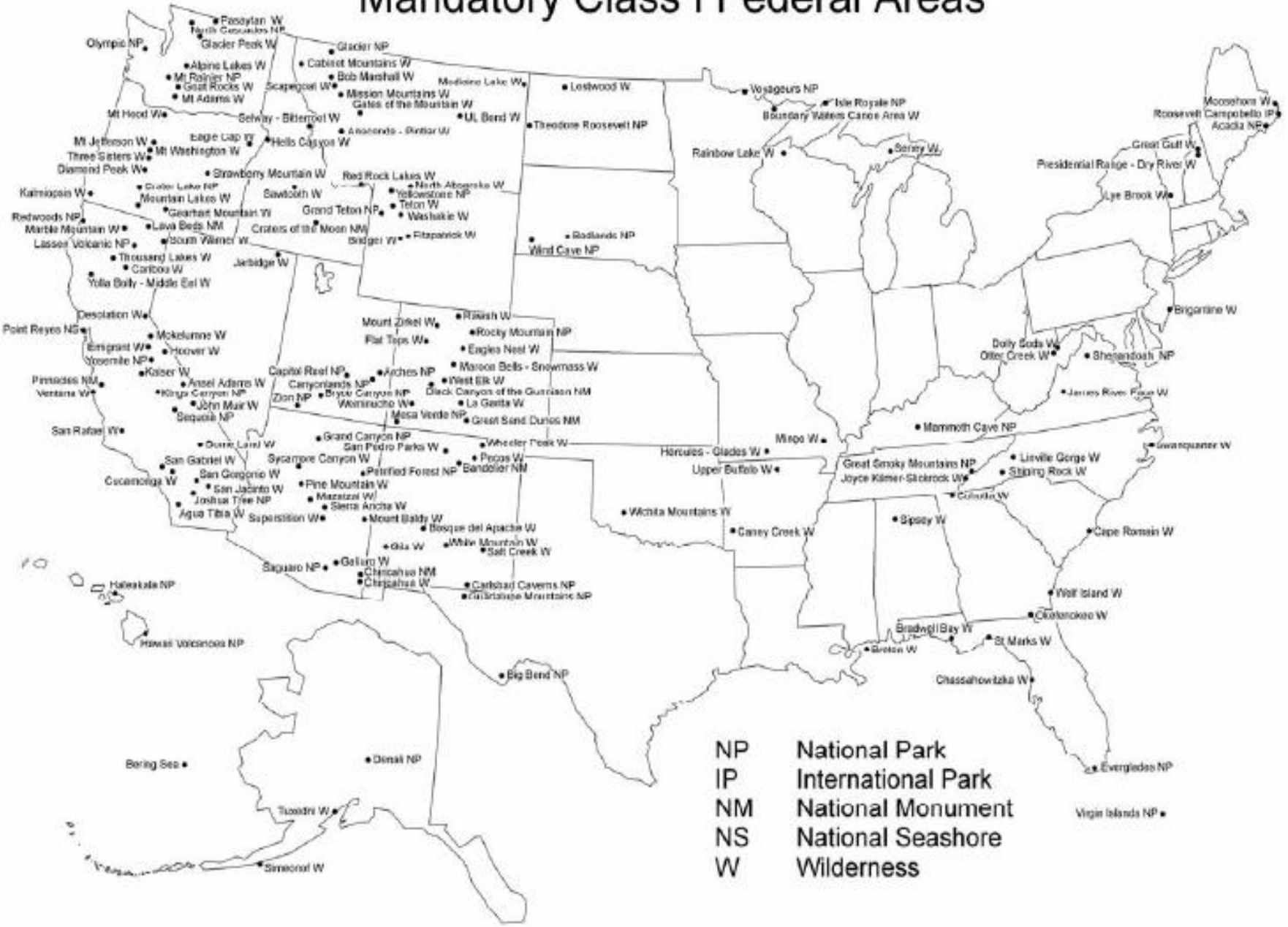
Visibility - Regional Haze Rule

In 1977 Congress designated certain National Parks and Wildernesses as Class I. For these areas they declared as a national visibility goal

"*…the prevention of any future, and the remedying of any existing, impairment of visibility…which impairment results from manmade air pollution.*"

NPS, USFS and USF&W manage these lands

Mandatory Class I Federal Areas



EPA Rule and Policy Changes

Revision of Interim Policy - July 2008

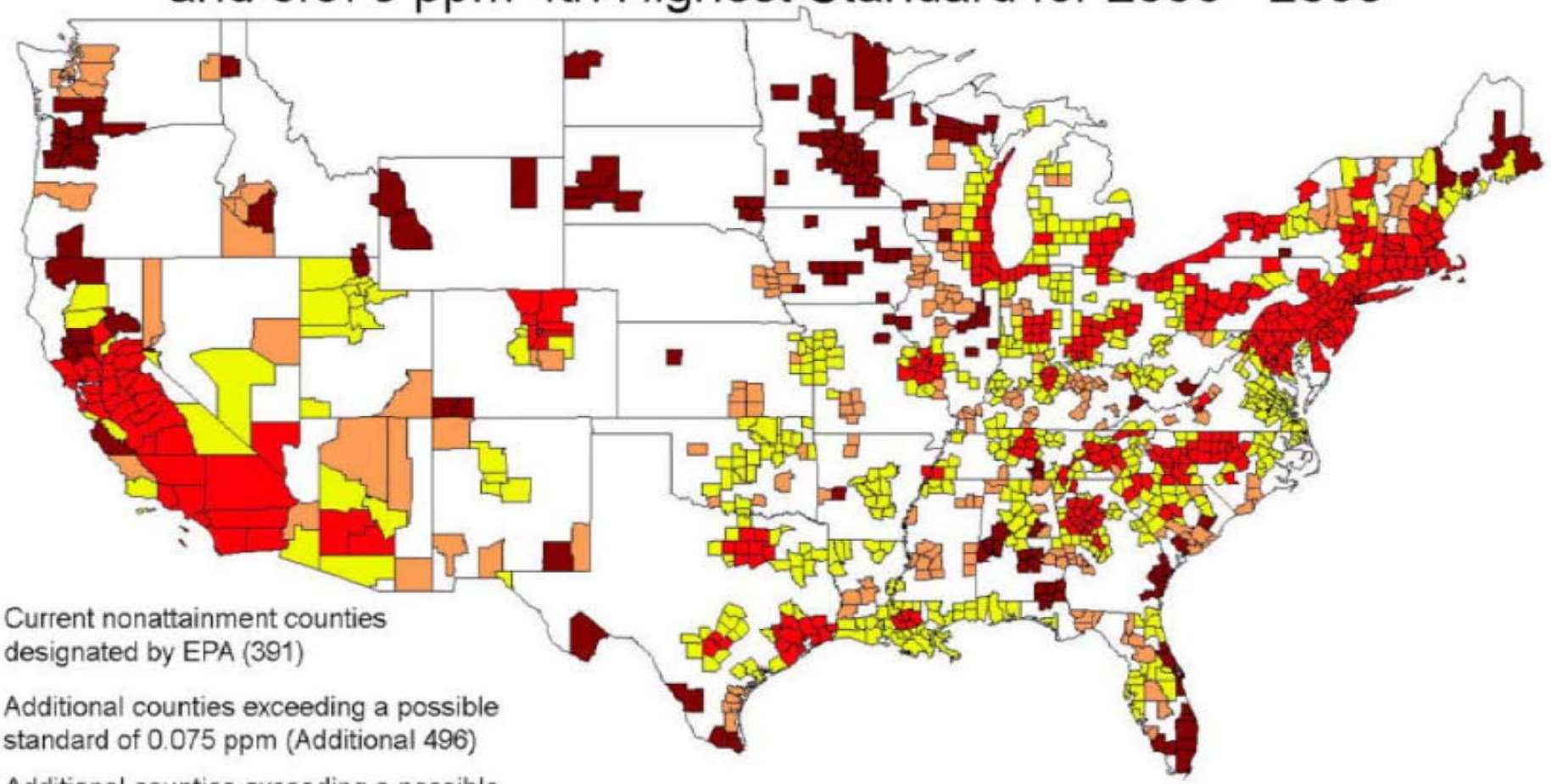
Air Quality Index for PM2.5 – any day now

Emergency Episode Rule – ?? 2008

Revision of Ozone NAAQS – March 2008

Streamlining of General Conformity – Fall 2008

Summary of Current 8-Hour Ozone Non-Attainment Areas and Additional Areas that Exceed Possible 0.060, 0.070, and 0.075 ppm 4th Highest Standard for 2003 - 2005

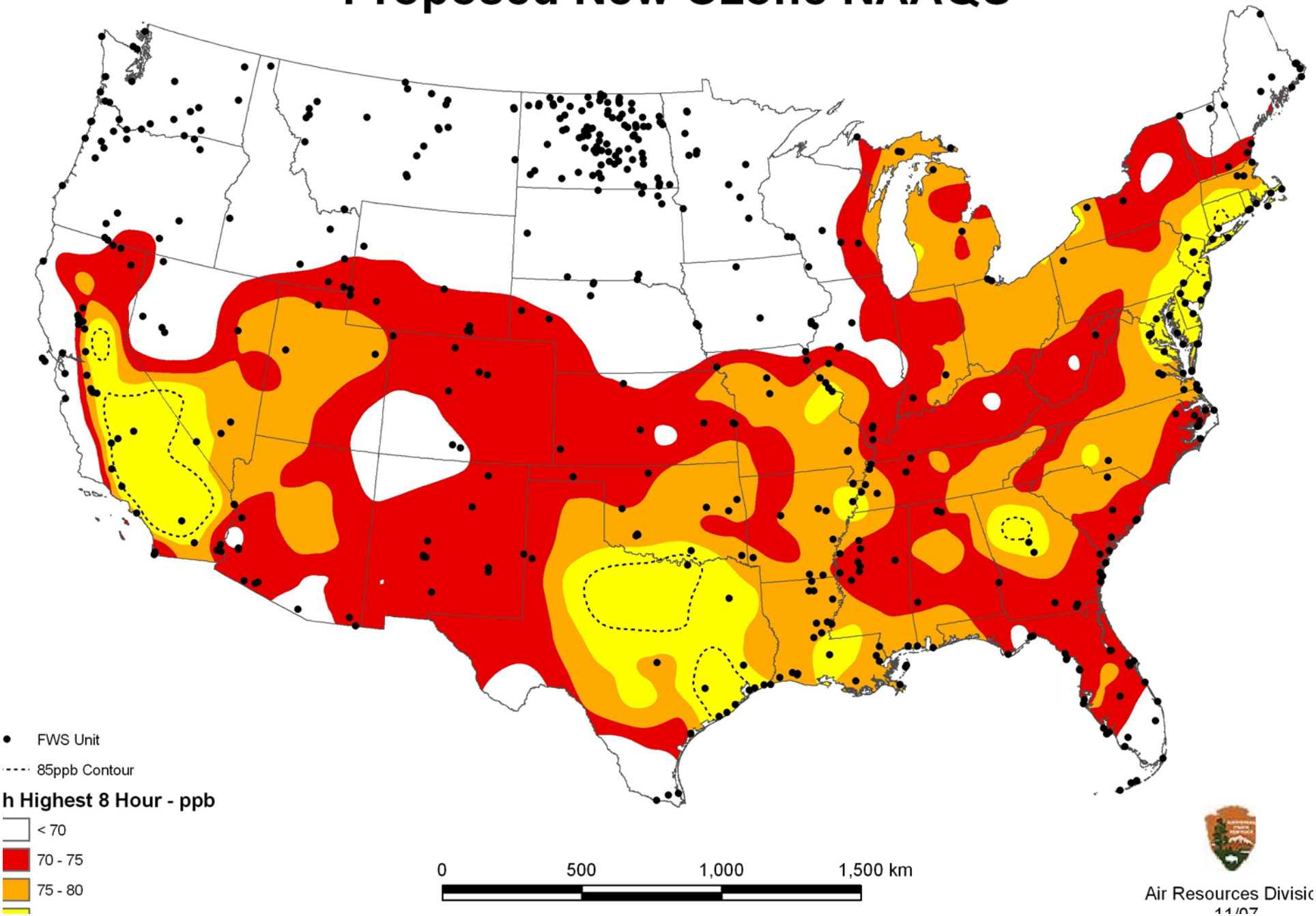


- Current nonattainment counties designated by EPA (391)
- Additional counties exceeding a possible standard of 0.075 ppm (Additional 496)
- Additional counties exceeding a possible standard of 0.070 ppm (Additional 204)
- Additional counties exceeding a possible standard of 0.060 ppm (Additional 152)

Source: Based upon U.S. EPA data interpreted by A.S.L. & Associates, Helena, MT

7/2007

Ozone - 4th Highest 8-Hour: 2004 - 2006
Proposed New Ozone NAAQS



Appropriate Smoke Regulations

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- Written and revised in Stakeholder process – if possible
- 3 levels
  - Basic Smoke Management Practices (BSMP)
  - Smoke Management Program (SMP)
  - Enhanced Smoke Management Program (ESMP)

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BSMP - smoke from prescribed fires is not a significant source of air pollution

SMP - prescribed fire using BSMPs contribute to repetitive NAAQS exceedances in an area or is/projected to be a significant source of air pollution contributing to non-attainment or Class 1 area visibility impairment

ESMP - minimize prescribed fire emissions for the protection of public health and welfare including visibility of Class I areas

Fire Air Coordination Team

- To provide coordination and collaboration between the fire and air resource management programs on fire-related air quality issues.
- To facilitate a framework for collaborative approaches in addressing fire and air issues at the local, state, Tribal, and national level.
- To establish consistent and cost-effective air quality planning, documentation, and emission reporting processes in implementing the National Fire Plan.

USFS – Anne Acheson and Pete Lahm

BLM – Paul Schlobohm and Angela Zahniser

USF&W – Dennis Haddow and David Brownlie

BIA – Ron Sherron and Mary Taber

NPS – Kara Paintner and Mike George

State Foresters – Darrell Johnston – WA, Gary Curcio – NC

NRCS – Susan O'Neill

GOAL – Establish Interagency Smoke Coordination Teams

Members could include:

- **Federal Land Managers – from both air and fire including BLM, BIA, USFWS, USFS, & NPS, DOE, DOD**
- **NGOs – TNC**
- **NRCS,**
- **State Forestry agencies,**
- **State or local air regulators**
- **EPA**
- **Private landowners**
- **Research – University, Federal or other**

How would Coordination teams work?

- Teams needed in many but not all states
- Incorporate existing groups (CA, MT/ID, Utah…)
- Maintain for the long-term due to science & regulatory changes
- FACT provides policy and technical support
- Training to teams – one Southeast and one Midwest workshop – 3 days training with Monday/Friday travel – Fall 2008, Winter 2009

Federal Land Manager Support for Smoke Management

- Regional Planning Organizations (RPO) are vital in good smoke management and communication
- Joint Fire Science Program (DOI and USDA)– focused line of research on smoke and air quality
  http://www.firescience.gov/JFSP_Focused_Research.cfm
- USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) – air research program
  http://www.csrees.usda.gov/airquality.cfm

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Why do this….

Smoke Management Programs that have been made in a stakeholder process are best

Relationships are important