

Policy Analysis Group

Jay O'Laughlin, Director
 (208) 885-5776 jayo@uidaho.edu
 www.cnrhome.uidaho.edu/pag

University of Idaho

College of Natural Resources
 Steven Daley-Laurson, Dean
 (208) 885-6442 stevendl@uidaho.edu

Trends in U.S. Wildfires and Idaho Forest Fuel Loading – Fact Sheet #3

Prepared for Forestry Day at the Legislature – January 10, 2008



Number of Fires in U.S. (blue line →)
 • 77,000 annual average since 1985



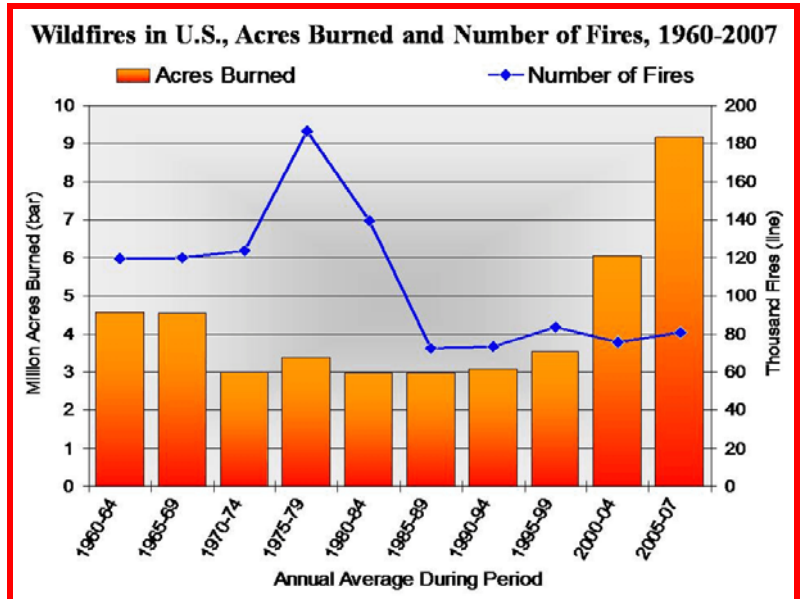
Extent of Fires in U.S. (orange bars →)
 • 3 million acres/year 1970-1999
 • 6 million acres/year 2000-2004
 • 9 million acres/year 2005-2007



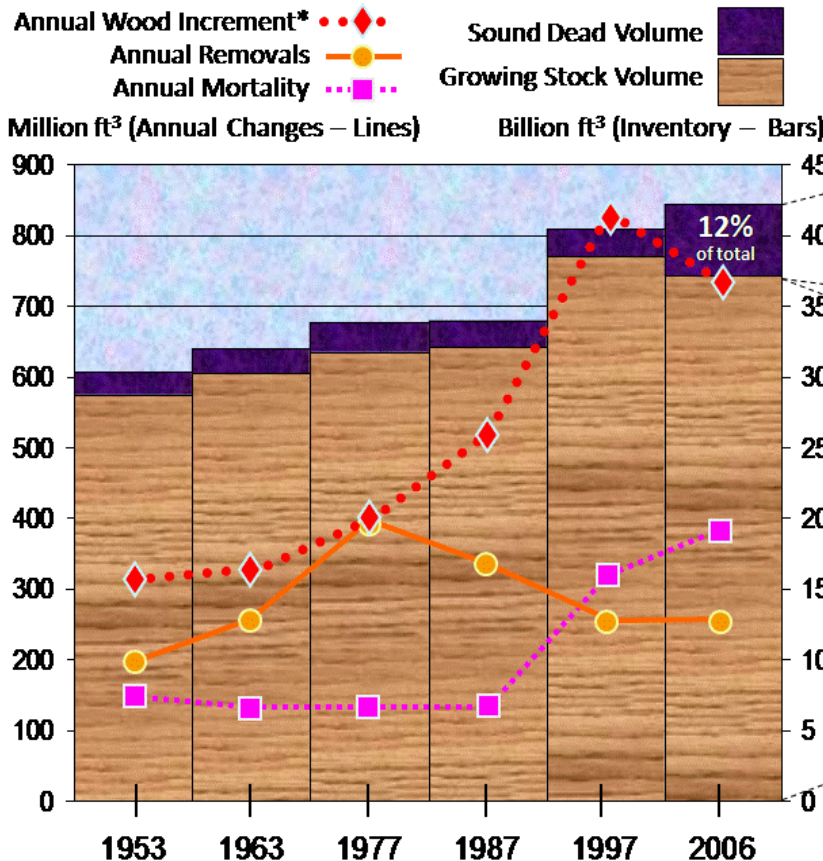
Idaho Forest Fuel Loading (below)
 • forest density increase 30% since 1953
 • annual increment 750 million cubic feet
 • annual mortality at 50-year high



National Forest System Lands
 • 72% of Idaho timberlands
 • 85% of annual mortality
 • 10% of Idaho timber harvest removals



Idaho Forest Inventory Change, 1953-2006



Inventory by Ownership, 2006

