

# { Wildfires & Climate Change

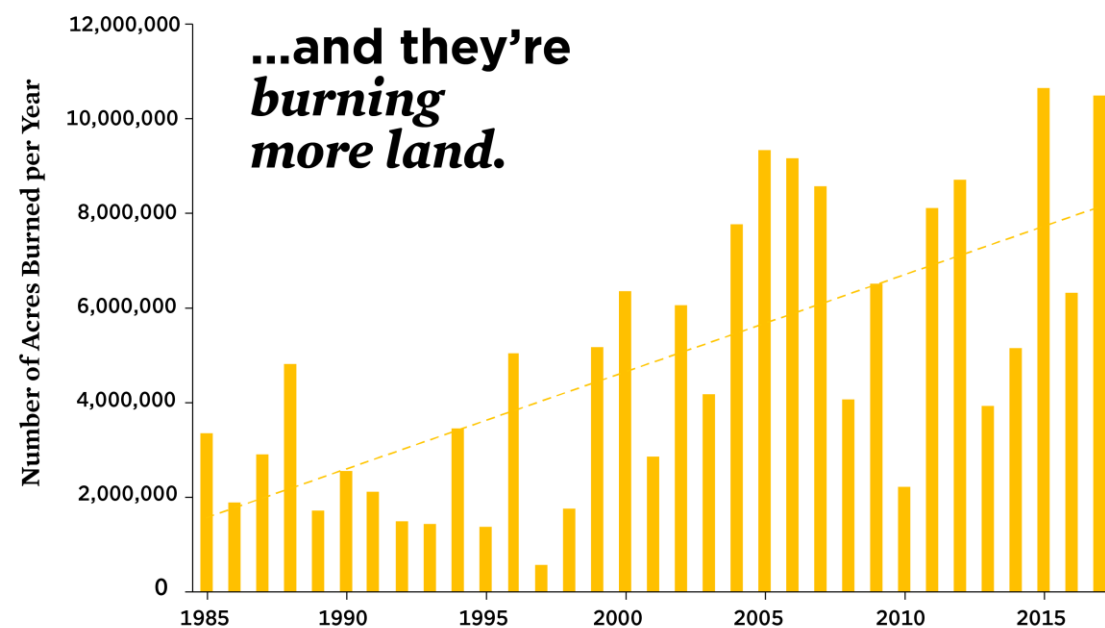
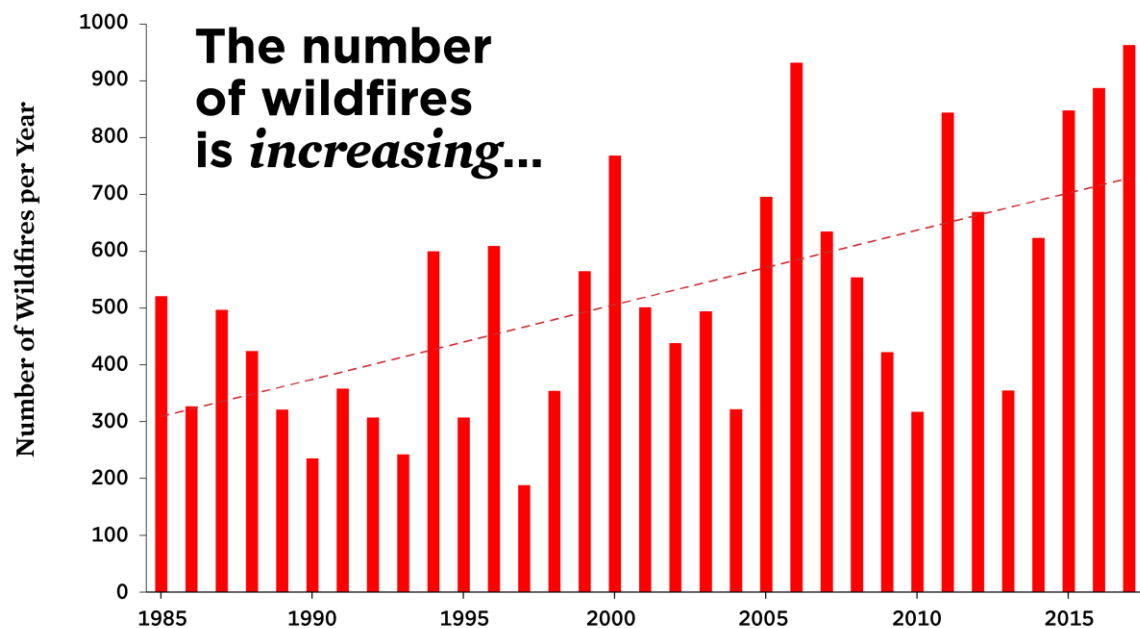
Living with Climate Change: Wildfire  
EESI Briefing  
Carly A. Phillips  
Union of Concerned Scientists

Science for a  
healthy planet  
and safer world.

[Union of  
Concerned Scientists]



# { Our current wildfire situation



Data from *Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity* dataset

Image credit: ucsusa.org



# { Drivers of current wildfire situation

- Loss of burning by Indigenous communities
- Widespread fire suppression
- Land management
- Human development
- Climate change

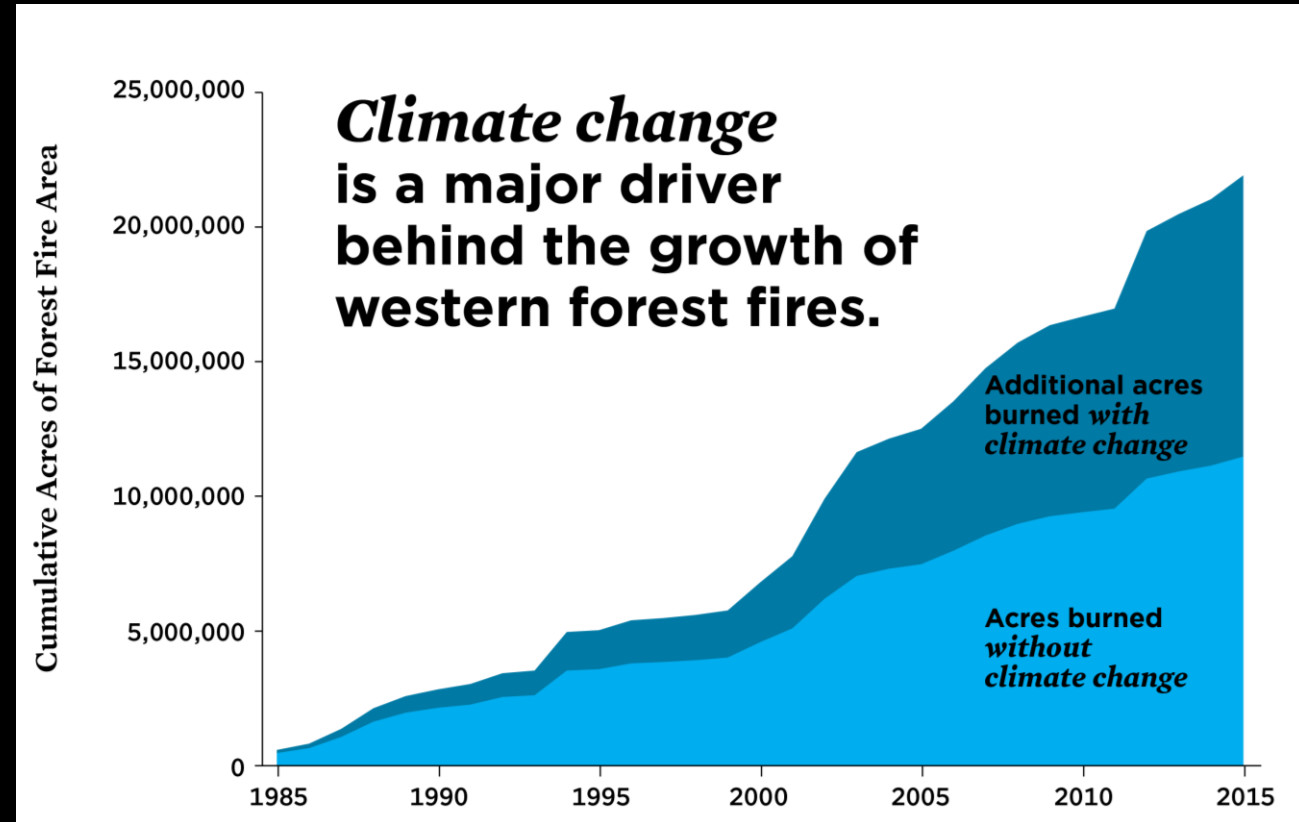


Image credit: ucsusa.org

Abatzaglou & Williams 2016, Impact of anthropogenic climate change on wildfire across western US Forests, *PNAS*

# { Wildfires & Climate Change

- Drought
- Higher temperatures
- Insect outbreaks
- Greater frequency of extreme fire weather
- Extension of wildfire season and shifts in seasonal dynamics

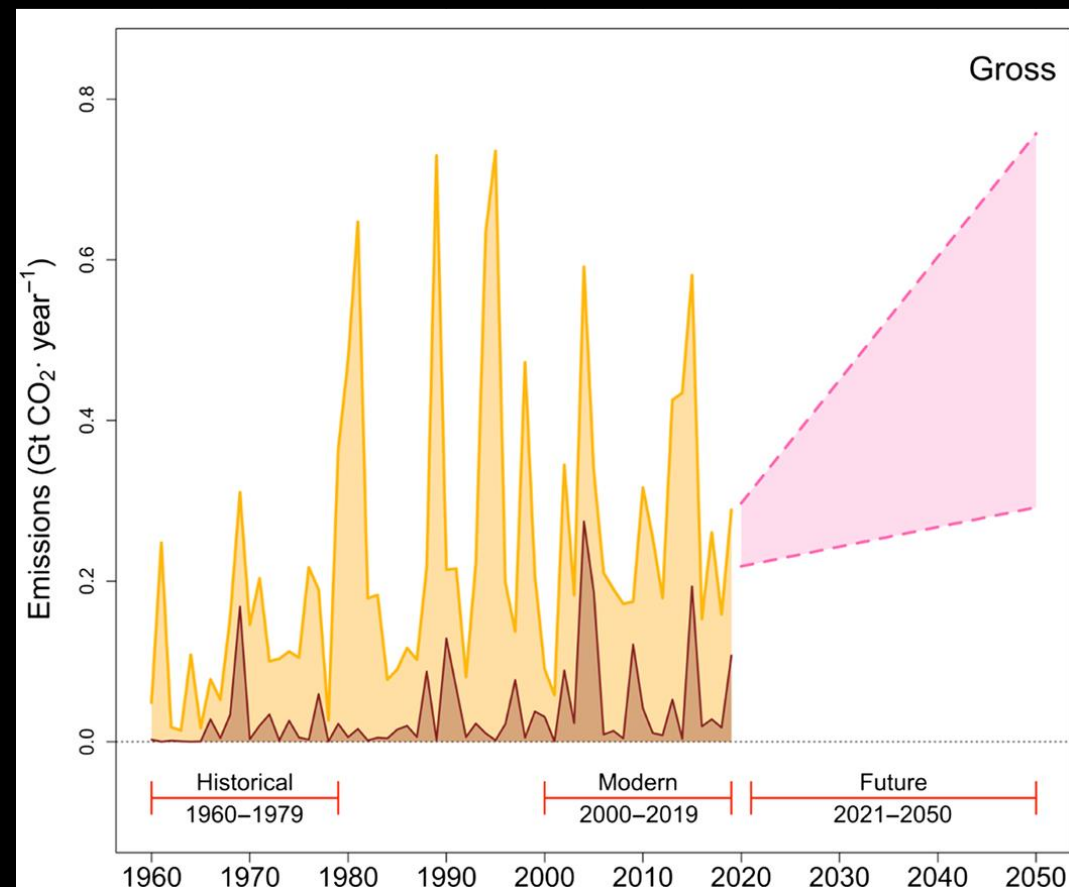


# { Wildfire impacts

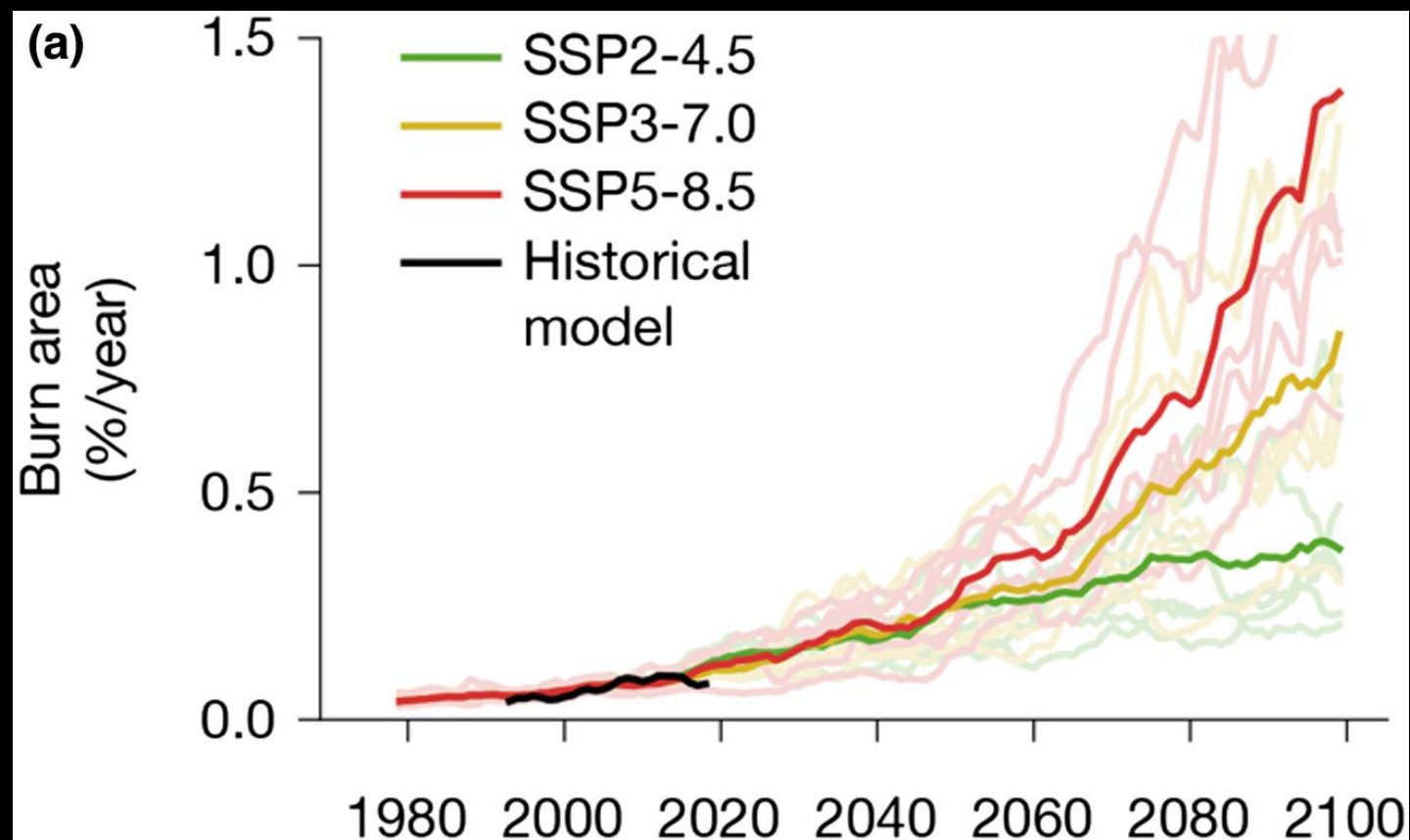




# { Carbon emissions from boreal wildfires



# { Future wildfires & climate change





# { Interconnected solutions

- Reduce our production of heat-trapping emissions
- Remove excess fuel from forests and restore historical fire regimes
  - Prescribed burns
  - Managed wildfire
  - Forest thinning
- Promote Indigenous fire stewardship
- Invest in resilient infrastructure
- Provide community level support
  - Address housing challenges
  - Home hardening
  - Air filtration
  - Water resources



{ Thank you