



Office of State Lands & Investments

2025 WILDFIRE UPDATE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Highlights (*updated 10/29/25)



Sleeper Ranch Fire (Frank Mitchem)

- Wyoming experienced an average wildfire season in 2025.
- As of October 29th, 1,560 wildfires have impacted 209,871 acres on all lands within Wyoming.*
- Approximately 79% of the wildfires reported were on state and private land covering 54,749 acres.*
 - ~26% of total acres burned in Wyoming*
- The 10-year (2015-2025) average is 997 fires and 202,529 acres.
- 21 counties issued fire bans from August through September.
- Some counties experienced higher moisture levels than in 2024 and by mid-September fuel conditions changed, reducing the fire activity.

Emergency Fire Suppression Account (EFSA)

- As of October 8th, the Wyoming State Forester has approved 18 EFSA fires in 8 counties and 4 on state lands.
- Estimated total state suppression costs are ~\$21 million.
- The state's portion for wildfire costs has exceeded \$20 million for the last 2 years.



Muddy Fire (Russell Haynes)

Fire Management Assistant Grant (FMAG)



Red Canyon Fire, Inciweb

- The Red Canyon Fire in Hot Springs County was the only FMAG-qualifying wildfire in 2025.
- Over 124,700 acres were burned.
- Mostly state and private lands (61%).
- Nationally, the #1 priority fire for 4 days.



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Aviation Resources



2025 Helitack Crew

- The additional resources added by the Legislature in the 2025 General Session allowed for quick response to multiple fires simultaneously.
- **Wyoming Helitack Program (Type 3)**
 - 52 Initial Attack fires in 8 counties
 - Over 200 flight hours
 - 117,684 gallons of water
- **1 Medium Helicopter (Type 2)**
 - 17 Initial Attack fires in 6 counties
 - 34 Missions (drops)
 - 102,048 gallons of water

- **4 Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATS)**
 - 76 fires in 18 counties
 - ~189,550 gallons of retardant
 - 32,000 gallons of water
- **Gillette SEAT Base (est. Summer 2025)**
 - Hub for 2 SEATS late August through September
- **New Helibase at Casper airport (broke ground June 2025)**
 - Anticipated completion: Late Summer/Early Fall 2026



SEATS at Casper/Natrona County International Airport Base

Wyoming Forestry Conservation Program



2025 Smokebuster Crew

- **"Smokebuster" inmate program**
 - 10 fire assignments in 6 Counties
 - 1 fire in Custer, SD through SD/WY agreement
 - 22 initial fire-qualified inmates
 - Average 18 available for the season
 - 4 crew supervisors
 - All officially approved with WDOC clearance to supervise inmates

July 2, 2025

Coyote Run Fire
T2 Helo

Powder River Fire
T3 Helo, W/G SEATs

Alkali Fire
W/G SEATs

Bear Fire
T3 Helo, CPR
SEATs

Spring Creek Fire
CPR SEATs

Legend

- W/G - Worland/Gillette Bases
- CPR - Casper Base
- SEAT - Single Engine Air Tanker
- T2 Helo - Helitack Helicopter (Water Only)
- T3 Helo - Helitack Helicopter (Water & Firefighters)



Image Landsat / Copernicus

September 10, 2025



School Draw Fire
T2 Helo

Rawhide Buttes Fire
W/G SEATs

Logan Creek Fire
T3 Helo

Cherry Creek Fire
W/G SEATs

Lester Lake Fire
T2 Helo, CPR SEATs



2024 EFSA Final Cost Summary

Fire Start Date	Fire Name	County	Estimated Total Fire Cost	Estimated EFSA (State) Cost Committed	Actual Fire Cost	Actual EFSA Cost (Cost Share)
3/1/2024	Happy Jack (FMAG)	Laramie	\$500,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$87,000.00	\$86,113.95
6/11/2024	Creek	Crook	\$1,000,000.00	\$910,000.00	\$593,982.43	\$535,577.90
7/24/2024	Owen Creek	Albany	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$145,000.00	\$144,753.05
7/24/2024	Badger	Sheridan	\$1,500,000.00	\$750,000.00	\$201,000.00	\$200,684.84
7/30/2024	Pleasant Valley (FMAG)*	Goshen	\$5,500,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	\$1,426,704.55	\$1,338,953.13
7/30/2024	Haystack (FMAG)*	Platte				
8/3/2024	Wildcat Creek	Campbell	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$978,054.29	\$341,349.09
8/4/2024	Deer Creek**	Johnson	\$850,000.00	\$600,000.00	\$453,269.70	\$318,979.43
8/4/2024		Campbell				
8/4/2024		Sheridan				
8/13/2024	Merna Butte	Sublette	\$1,000,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$53,100.00	\$53,037.28
8/21/2024	House Draw (FMAG)	Johnson	\$6,500,000.00	\$6,250,000.00	\$4,890,388.37	\$4,442,878.16
8/21/2024	Flat Rock	Campbell	\$3,500,000.00	\$3,000,000.00	\$2,051,915.31	\$1,712,796.89
8/21/2024	Constitution	Campbell	\$3,000,000.00	\$2,500,000.00	\$1,868,468.53	\$1,406,626.55
8/21/2024	Remington	Sheridan	\$6,500,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$5,366,450.43	\$1,699,827.85
8/21/2024	Weston County Complex	Weston	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$153,000.00	\$152,296.29
9/1/2024	Silver Spoon	Campbell	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,800,000.00	\$1,039,262.37	\$922,371.37
9/9/2024	West Warm Springs	Hot Springs	\$500,000.00	\$450,000.00	\$398,457.41	\$368,327.84
9/10/2024	Hazeltown	Washakie	\$300,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$237,857.62	\$197,579.56
9/11/2024	Short Draw	Campbell	\$4,250,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$3,085,836.57	\$546,991.64
9/12/2024	Bear Creek	Albany	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$424,000.00	\$423,307.69
9/13/2024	La Bonte	Converse	\$6,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	\$3,193,396.22	\$2,729,953.94
9/17/2024	Livingston Draw	Johnson	\$850,000.00	\$630,000.00	\$688,137.12	\$476,161.17
9/24/2024	Passaic 2	Sheridan	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$79,447.11	\$55,000.00
9/30/2024	Elk Fire (FMAG)	Sheridan	\$55,000,000.00	\$20,000,000.00	\$48,637,939.93	\$17,871,563.32
10/5/2024	Sweetwater	Weston	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$34,000.00	\$33,143.22
2024	Initial Attack - Aviation			\$1,000,000.00		\$1,000,000.00
Totals:	24 EFSA Fires	13 Counties	\$103,300,000.00	\$54,465,000.00	\$76,086,667.96	\$37,058,274.16

Note: When multiple counties are involved in a fire, each county has to apply and be approved to utilize the EFSA for their costs associated with the fire.

*The Haystack Fire was an EFSA-approved fire. The Pleasant Valley Fire burned into the Haystack Fire, and the Haystack Fire is now considered the Pleasant Valley Fire. Both Goshen and Platte Counties applied for EFSA.

**The Deer Creek Fire started in Johnson County and burned into Campbell and Sheridan Counties.

10/14/2025



2025 Estimated EFSA Wildfire Costs

Fire Start Date	Fire Name	County	Estimated Total Fire Cost	EFSA (State) Cost Committed (Based on Cost Share)
6/21/25	Red Rock	Crook	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
6/27/25	Pocket	Sublette	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
7/1/2025	Powder River	Johnson	\$350,000.00	\$250,000.00
7/2/2025	154 Fire	Platte	\$200,000.00	\$150,000.00
7/26/2025	Veas Fire	Washakie	\$4,000,000.00	\$3,000,000.00
7/27/2025	Muddy	State	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
8/2/2025	Logan Mountain	Park	\$400,000.00	\$200,000.00
8/8/2025	Beartrap	State	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
8/12/2025	Big Spring	Washakie	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
8/13/2025	Spring Creek	Washakie	\$4,000,000.00	\$3,000,000.00
8/13/2025	Red Canyon (FMAG)	Hot Springs	\$16,000,000.00	\$10,000,000.00
8/13/2025	Reese Mountain	Albany	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
8/14/2025	Sleeper Ranch	Park	\$1,000,000.00	\$500,000.00
8/27/2025	Dollar Lake	Sublette	\$4,600,000.00	\$250,000.00
9/1/2025	Wall Creek	Johnson	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
9/3/2025	Strong Draw	Johnson	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
9/10/2025	Cherry Creek	State	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
9/11/2025	Pearson Reservoir	State	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00
	Pre-position Resources			\$75,000.00
	Initial Attack - Aviation			\$1,000,000.00
Est. Totals	18 EFSA Fires	Counties 8 State 4	\$33,450,000.00	\$21,325,000.00