



Overview

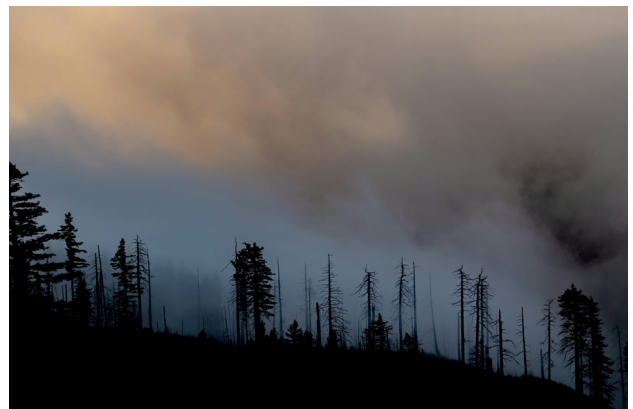
Rising temperatures from climate change are leading to [longer and more intense](#) fire seasons. Warmer and drier conditions are making the environment more susceptible to burning by causing an [increase in the evaporation of moisture](#) from soil and vegetation, drying out trees, shrubs, and grasses, and turning leaf litter and fallen branches into kindling. Wildfires can be caused by [human activity](#) such as campfires, discarded cigarettes, and electrical equipment, or by natural events like lightning strikes. As wildfires continue to become more [frequent and severe](#), it is important for states to implement different climate adaptation and resilience strategies to protect humans and the environment.

Policy Options Please note (**) indicates bipartisan support.

- **California A.B. 9 (enacted 2021):** Established the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program within the Department of Conservation to support regional leadership in creating fire-adapted communities and improving ecosystem health.
- **Colorado H.B. 1273 (enacted 2023):** Created the Wildfire Resilient Homes Grant Program Cash Fund to assist homeowners for retrofitting homes with wildfire mitigation measures.
- **Oregon S.B. 80 (enacted 2023):** Mandated the creation and maintenance of a comprehensive statewide wildfire hazard map to educate residents about wildfire risks, prioritize mitigation resources, and identify areas where home retrofits are needed.
- ****Washington H.B. 1578 (enacted 2023):** Directed the Department of Natural Resources to develop a comprehensive approach to improved community preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience to wildfires, smoke exposure, and postfire hazards.

KEY POINTS

- Wildfires cost the U.S. between [\\$394 to \\$893 billion](#) each year in economic costs and damages.
- The [annual cost and number of deaths](#) from wildfires in the United States [have increased](#) over the past four decades.
- Fire season is [105 days longer](#) than it was in the 1970s, and is approaching the point where the notion of a fire season will be made obsolete by the reality of year-round wildfires.



Other Resources

- **NCEL:** [Climate Adaptation Policy Options](#)
- **EPA:** [Climate Change Indicators - Wildfires](#)
- **WRI:** [The Latest Data Confirms - Forest Fires Are Getting Worse](#)
- **U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit:** [Climate Mapping for Resilience & Adaptation](#)

