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United States Department of Agriculture

Wildfires in California

Interactions and Implications for Agriculture

USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum

February 19, 2021

Dr. Toral Patel-Weynand, USDA Forest Service, Research and Development, Moderator



Forest Service

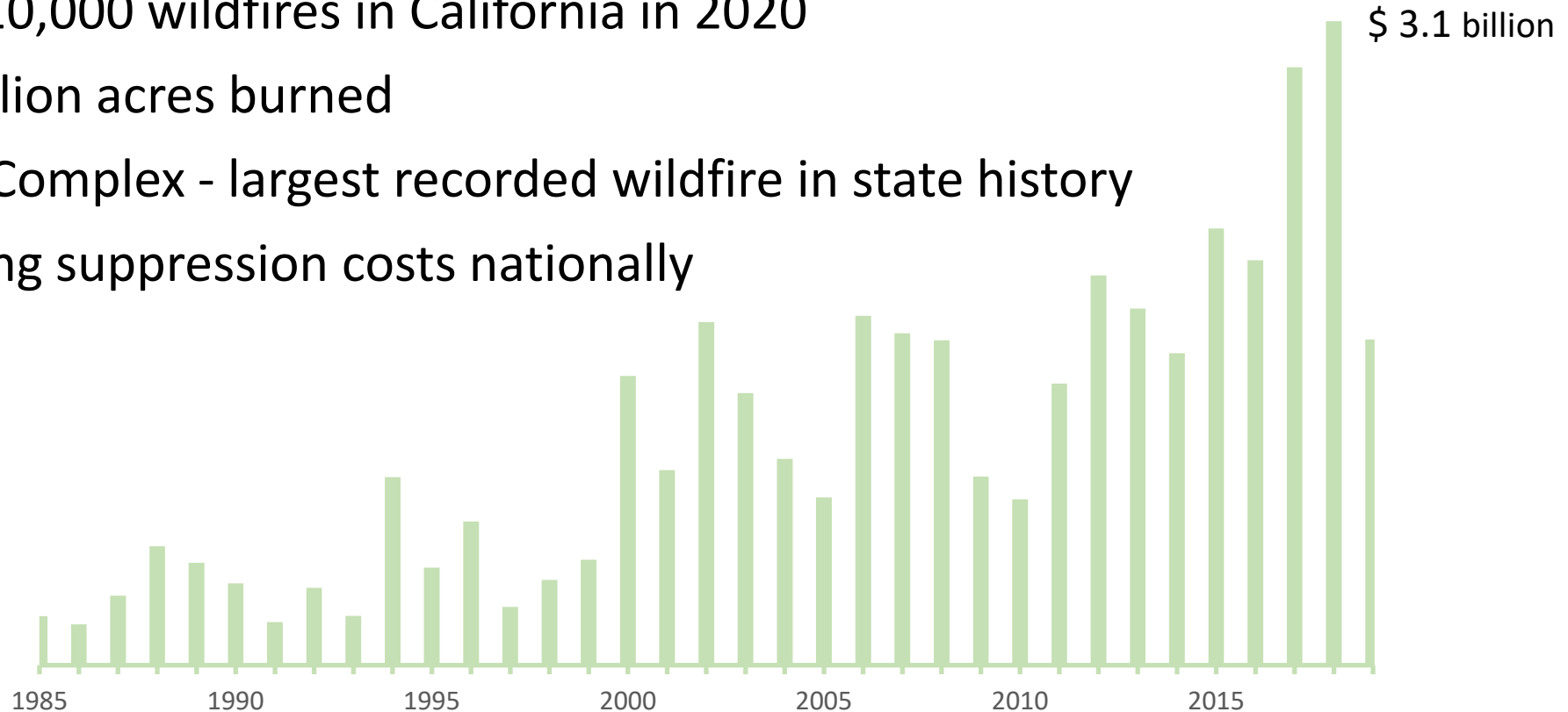
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Unprecedented Challenge

Wildfire

- Nearly 10,000 wildfires in California in 2020
- 4.2+ million acres burned
- August Complex - largest recorded wildfire in state history
- Escalating suppression costs nationally



Federal Fire Suppression Costs
(source: National Interagency Fire Center)



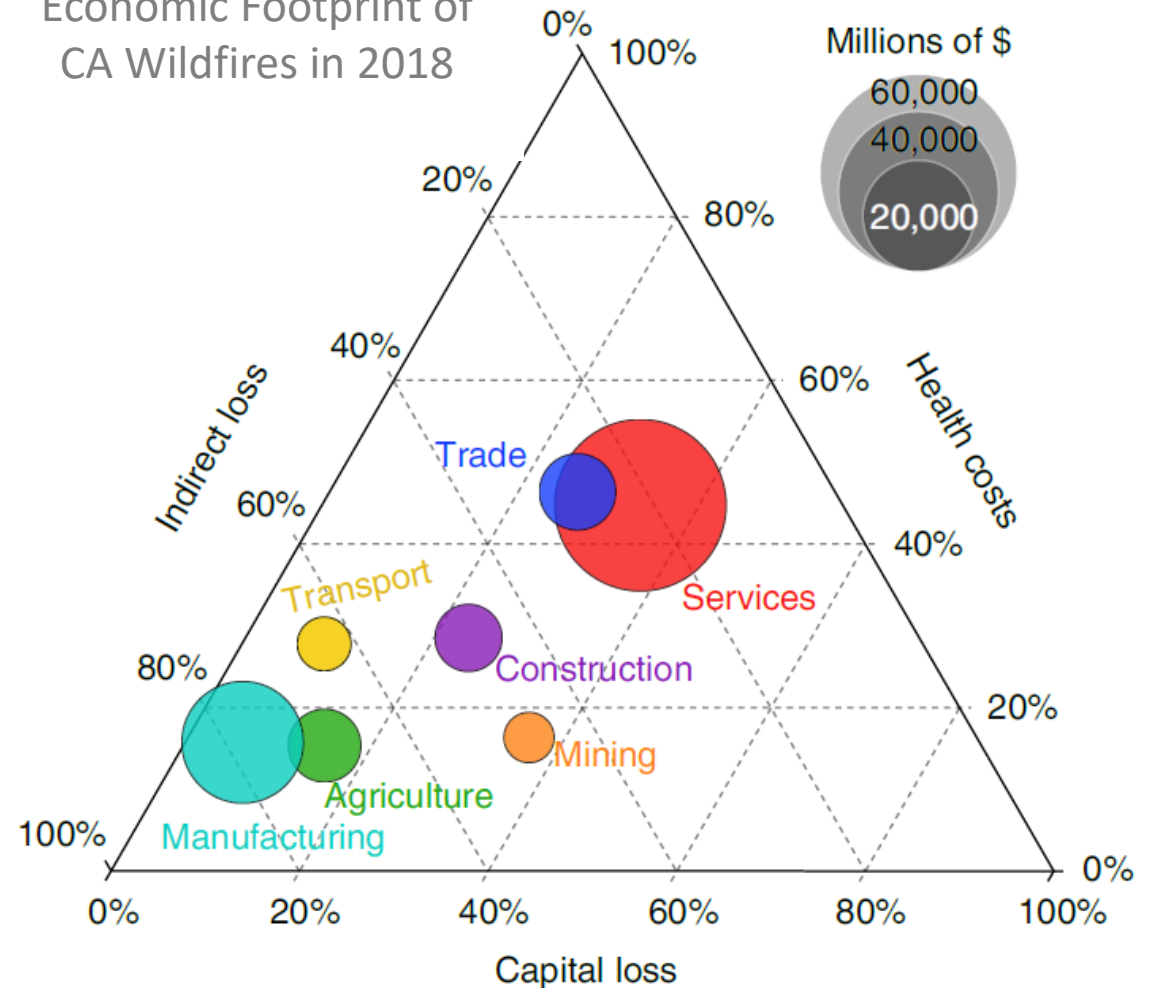
Agriculture

Wildfire Impacts

- Fire and smoke
- Damage to crops, livestock, infrastructure, health, natural resources
- Indirect and out of state economic losses



Economic Footprint of CA Wildfires in 2018





United States Department of Agriculture

Agriculture

Recovery and Renewal

- Wildfire response
- Hazard reduction
- Fire adapted communities
- Build resilience
- Shared Stewardship
- USDA Climate Hubs



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United States Department of Agriculture

Panel Members

Thom Porter, Chief, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

James D. Johansson, Director, California Farm Bureau Federation

Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Kent Pinkerton, Director, UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety



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