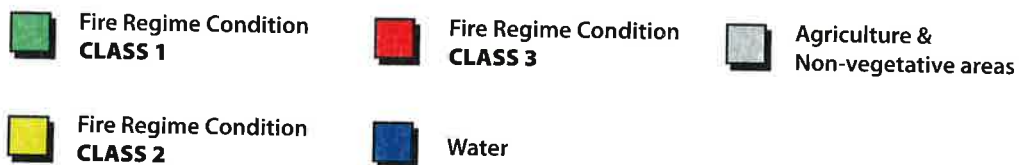
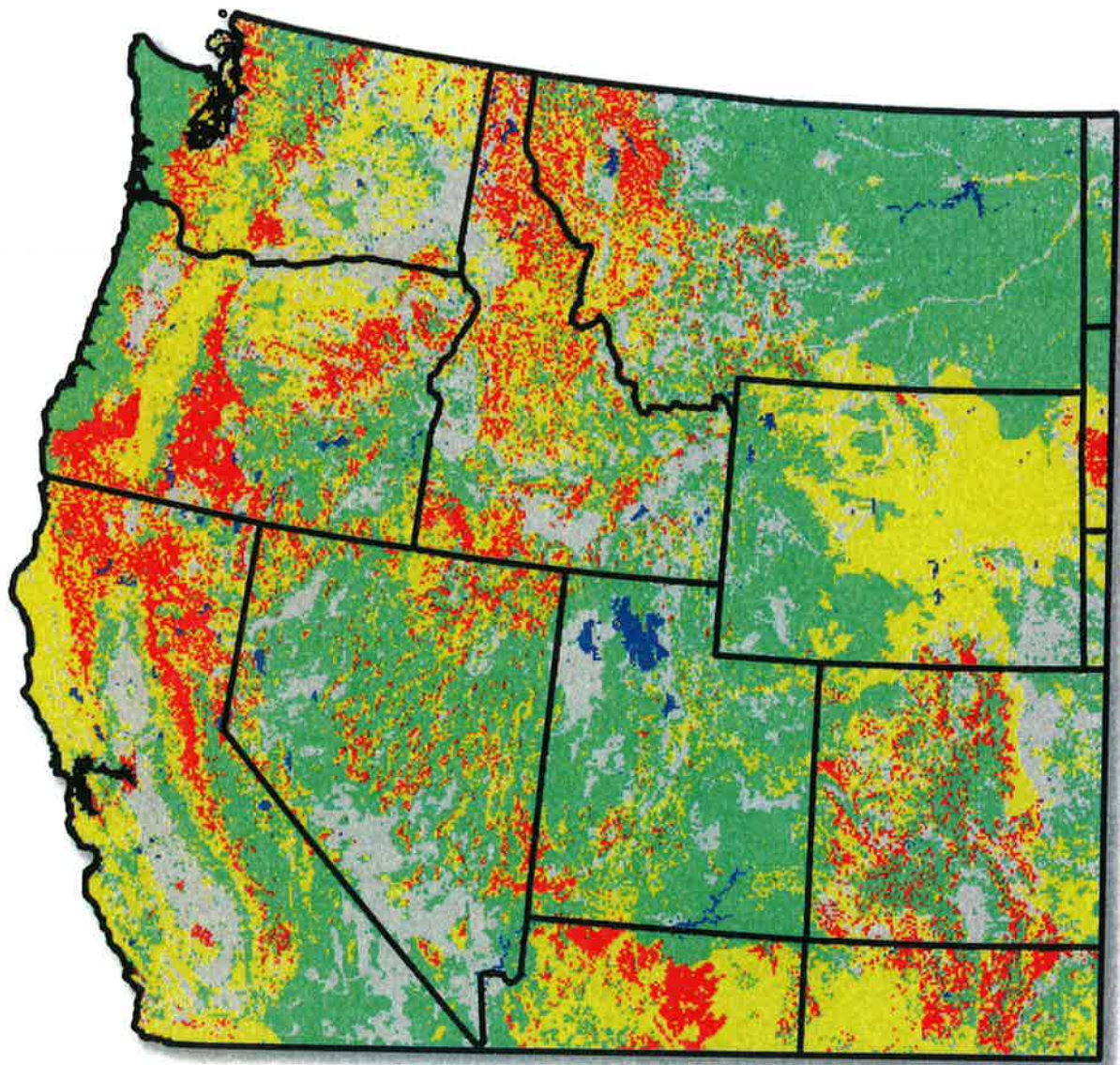


Idaho's ticking time bomb:

# MAPPING THE WEST'S ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE WILDFIRE CRISIS

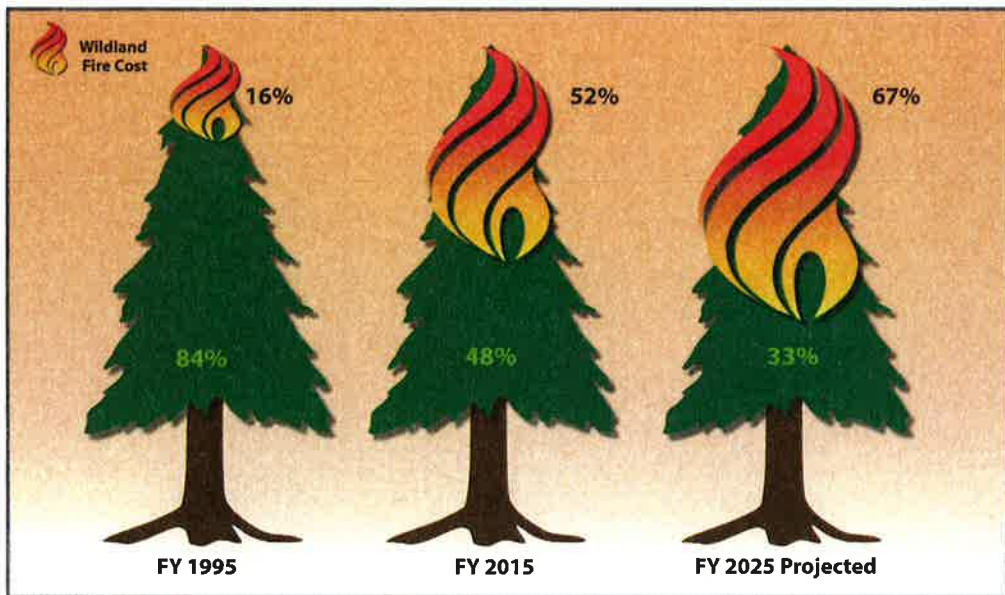


This Forest Service map illustrates ecological conditions in the West's national forests. Fire ecologists use "condition classes" to describe the likelihood that a forest will burn and to what severity. Forests in Condition Class 1 are said to be healthy and able to recover naturally from wildfires that fall within what is called "the range of natural disturbances." Forests judged to be in Condition Class 2 are not as healthy, and will suffer far greater damage than forests in Condition Class 1. Condition Class 3 forests are in poor condition and are likely to suffer catastrophic damage. Virtually all of the West's national forests are in Condition Class 2 or 3.

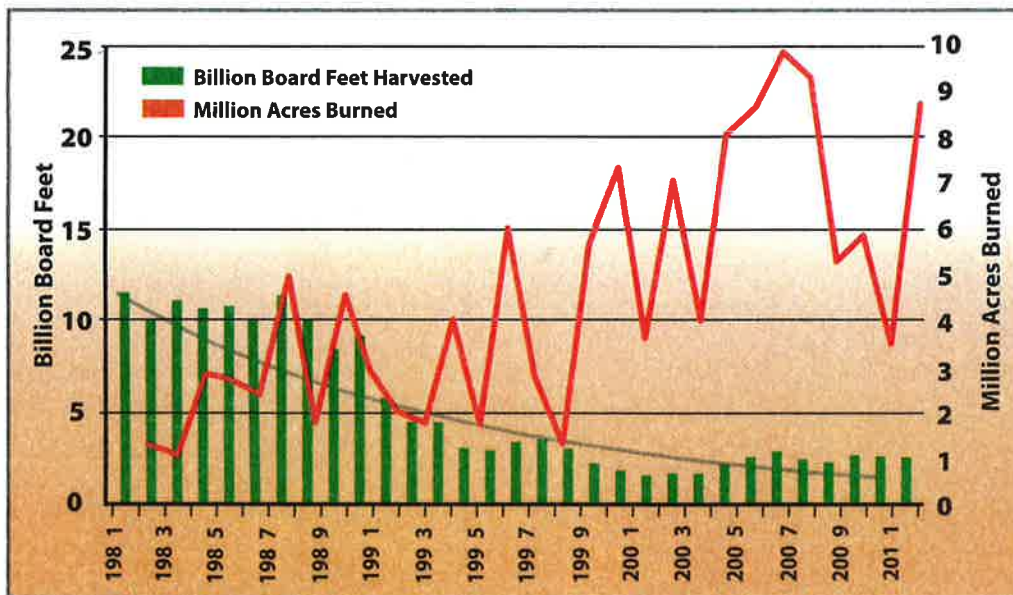
Most of Idaho and western Montana – the pathway followed by the Great 1910 Fire – is in Condition Class 3. Short of a massive forest restoration effort, these forests will be lost in a stand replacing wildfire unlike anyone living in this region has ever seen. The region's highly prized four-season outdoor lifestyle will be lost for at least a century.



## Wildland Fire Cost Consumes Forest Service Budget *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*



## Timber Harvested vs. Burned on Federal Forests



### The relationship between these two illustrations is startling.

"Timber Harvested versus Burned in Federal Forests" shows that as federal timber harvesting declined from 1985, there has been a dramatic increase in the millions of acres of forestland burned annually.

"Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" forecasts that by 2025, wildland firefighting costs will consume 67 percent of the entire Forest Service budget. Firefighting costs this year consumed 52 percent of the agency's budget, compared to just 16 percent 20 years ago. The forest restoration budget declines in direct proportion to the increase in firefighting costs.

The only possible way to end this vicious cycle is to significantly increase the number of acres of federal forestland that are treated annually. The dead and dying trees that are fueling these wildfires must be removed from as many acres as is humanly possible.

Treating at risk forests – those in Condition Class 2 or 3 {See maps on Page 6, 7 and 12} - before they burn is far less expensive than the costs associated with putting out a wildfire and restoring the land.