Role of Fire in Front Range Forests

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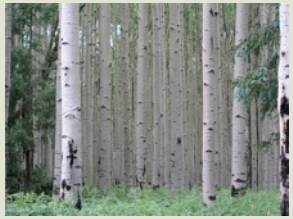
Presentation to Lower North Fork Fire Commission
August 13, 2012

Presentation Overview

1 Fire Ecology of Front Range Forests



2 Fire Behavior

3 Fire as a Management Tool

4 Concluding Thoughts

The Ecology of Front Range Forests

The Importance of Disturbance

Forest Health

Regular Disturbance

Historic Condition

Insects and Disease

The Ecology of Front Range Forests

State Assessment Data

Imperiled Plants, animals

Drinking Water

Personal Property

The Ecology of Front Range Forests

The Wildland-Urban Interface

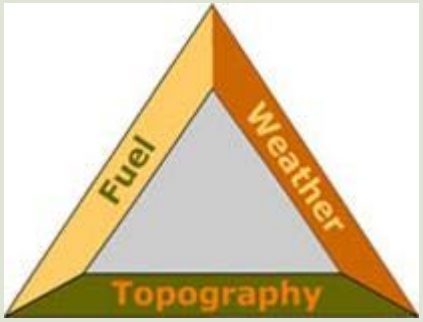
Jefferson County Forests

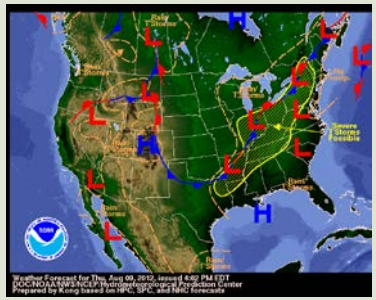
JEFFERSON COUNTY
Wildland Statistics

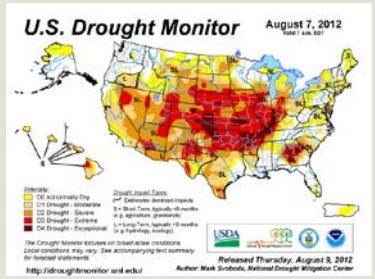
Forests		Acres
Non Forest	33%	161,000
Total Forested	67%	333,000
Ponderosa and Mixed Conifer	77%	256,000

Other forest information		Acres
Urban Interface	51%	171,000
Important drinking water	100%	333,000
High Risk	90%	303,000

What Drives Large Uncharacteristic Fires?







Management Needs

Science/
Monitor

Prescribed Fire

Planning

Healthy Forest

Thinned Forest

Forest Product
Utilization

Treatment

The Nature Conservancy & Forest Management

Colorado Prescribed Fire Council

Increase appropriate use of fire

Members from all areas

Contact Information

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