

2023 Wildland Fire Management Season Summary

Utility Advisory Committee Meeting February 21, 2024

Wildland Fire Management Division

**As described in the December 1, 2023, Legislative
Report.*



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Oregon [Road] mop up

dnr.wa.gov

2023 FIRE SEASON OVERVIEW

MAY



- Snowpack normal – SWE in all basins reporting between 94% and 148% of normal.
- By end of month, fuels became dryer. Shannon Lake Fire north of Concrete took off in logging slash and burned 85 acres of reproduction forest.

JUNE

- First week of June, fire danger trending a month ahead of schedule
- Sutherland fire started outside of Port Angeles and burned 108 acres of forestland.
- At the end of June – 48 hours of rain across state plummeting fire danger everywhere except the Columbia Basin.

JULY



- McEwen Fire started on July 4 just outside of Shelton and burned 250 acres.
- By end of July, ERC values in the Lower Basin FDRA were up to 98th percentile with live woody FM around 65%.
- Tunnel Five Fire, Eagle Bluff, and Newell Road were also significant fires during this month.



2023 FIRE SEASON OVERVIEW

AUGUST

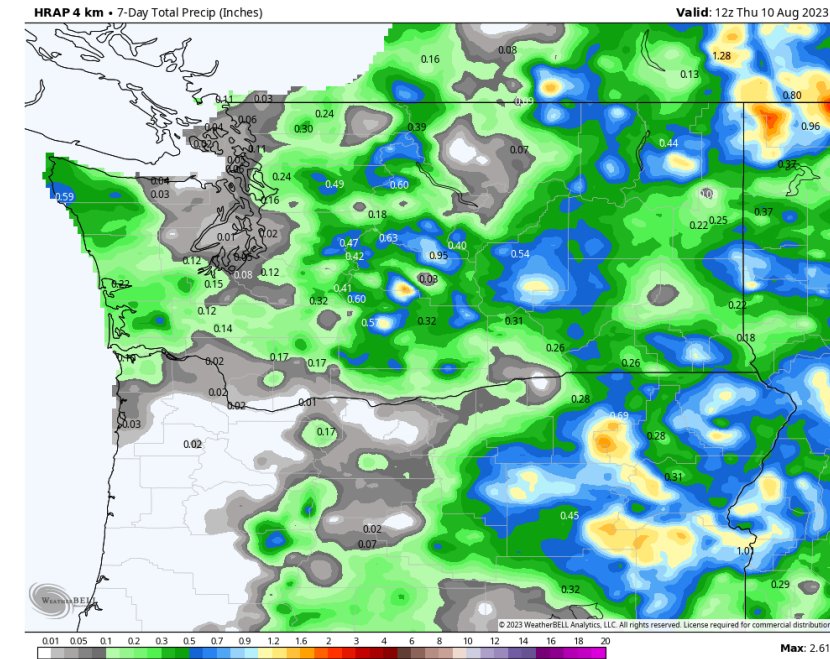
- Another cold front tamped down fire danger again.
- Lighting started several fires in mid-August.
- Fires of significance included Sourdough, Oregon [Road], and Gray Fires

September

- Wind events with extremely low RH brought wilderness fires to life, like Airplane Lake in the Olympic NP.

OCTOBER

- Three long-duration precipitation events contributed to a quiet fall.
- Critical fire events were characterized by strong westerly winds ahead of frontal systems.
- Fortunate not to have any significant east wind events.

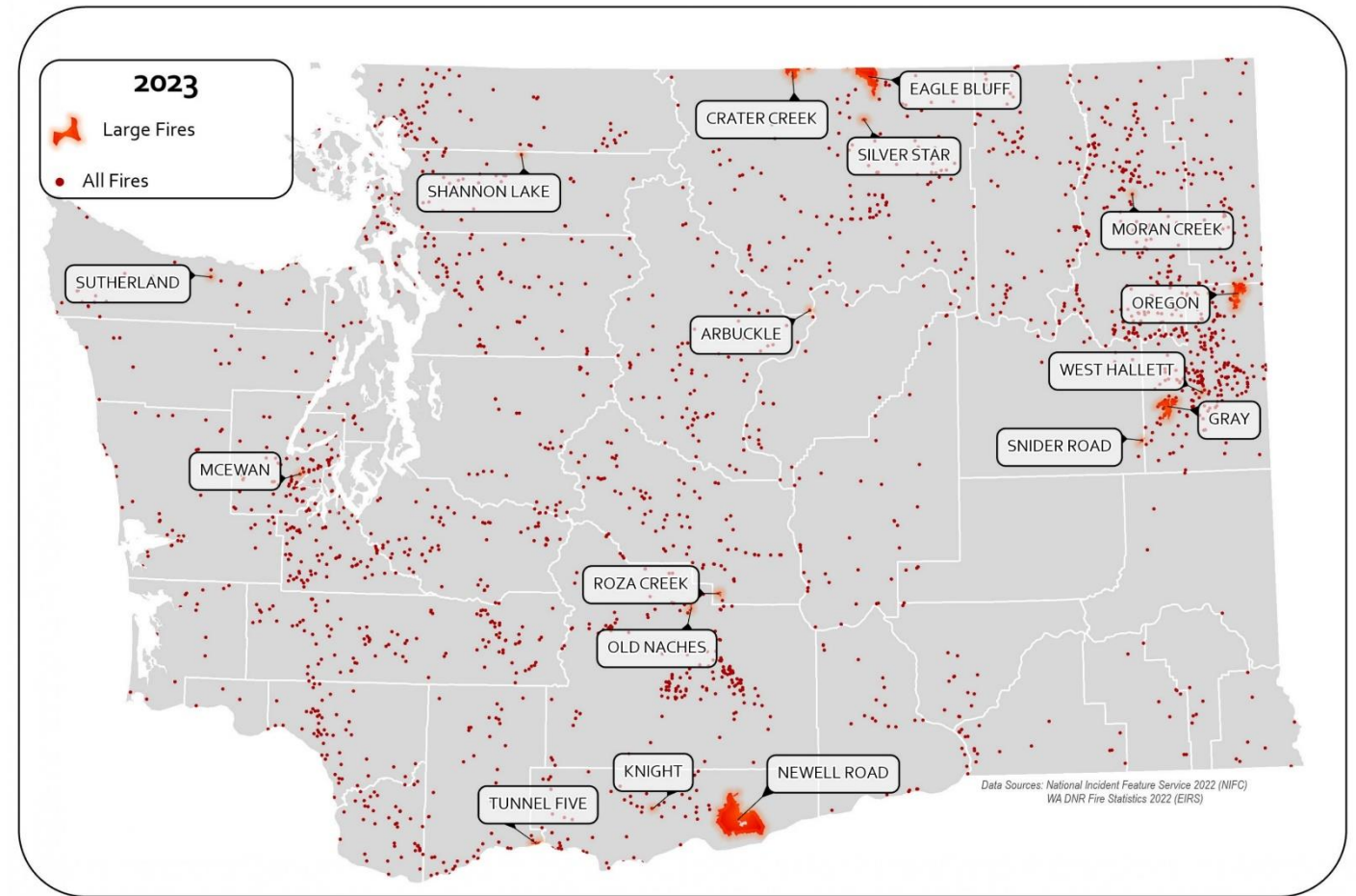


2023 LARGE FIRE LOCATIONS AND STATISTICS

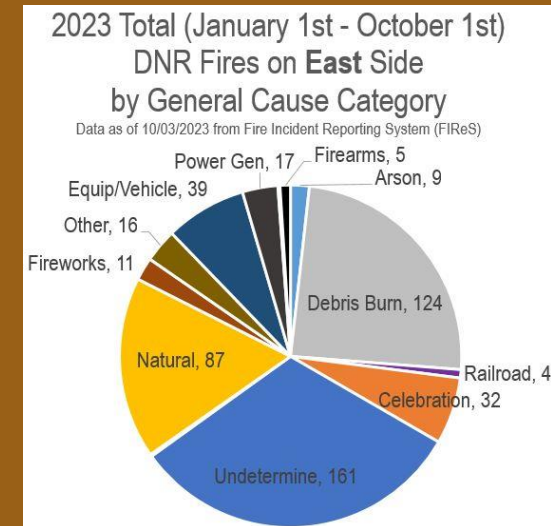
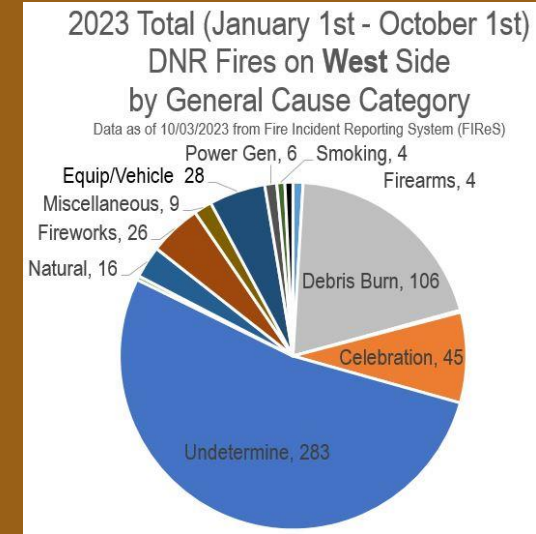
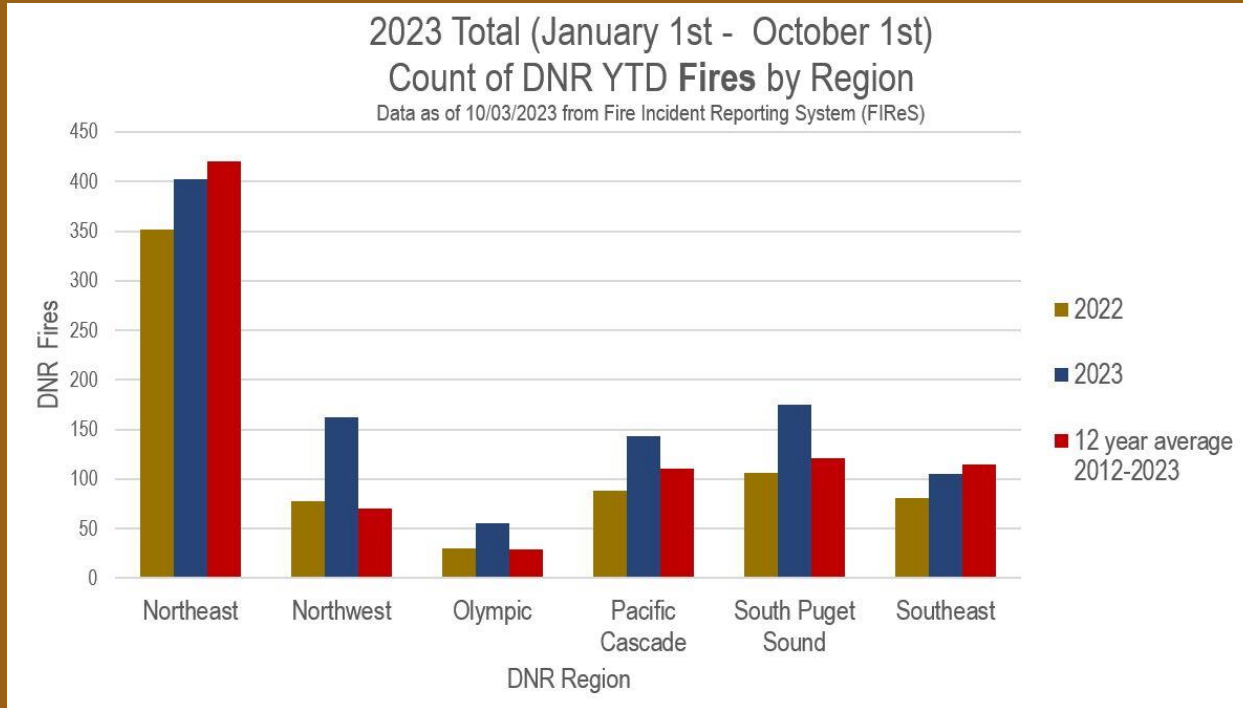
A total of 1,042 DNR Classified fires burned 102,942 acres during the first nine months of the fire year across Washington.

On average, 95.2% of all DNR fires kept at less than 10 acres.

Large Fires of Concern



2023 Other Stats



DATA SOURCES: NATIONAL INCIDENT FEATURE SERVICE 2023 (NFI), WA DNR FIRE STATISTICS 2023



NOTE: Large fires represented here are considered DNR classified fires (included our involvement in some way, either as a threat or started on DNR, or DNR supported). This may not be "all" large fires in Washington. This is explained in the Legislative report.

What about other highlights?

- Aviation technology in place
- Detection cameras operational
- New Kodiaks operational
- Dozers and hand crews made a difference
- Assisted and were assisted



Thoughts?



Tunnel Five DNR Helicopter with bucket



Eagle Creek fire behavior

