

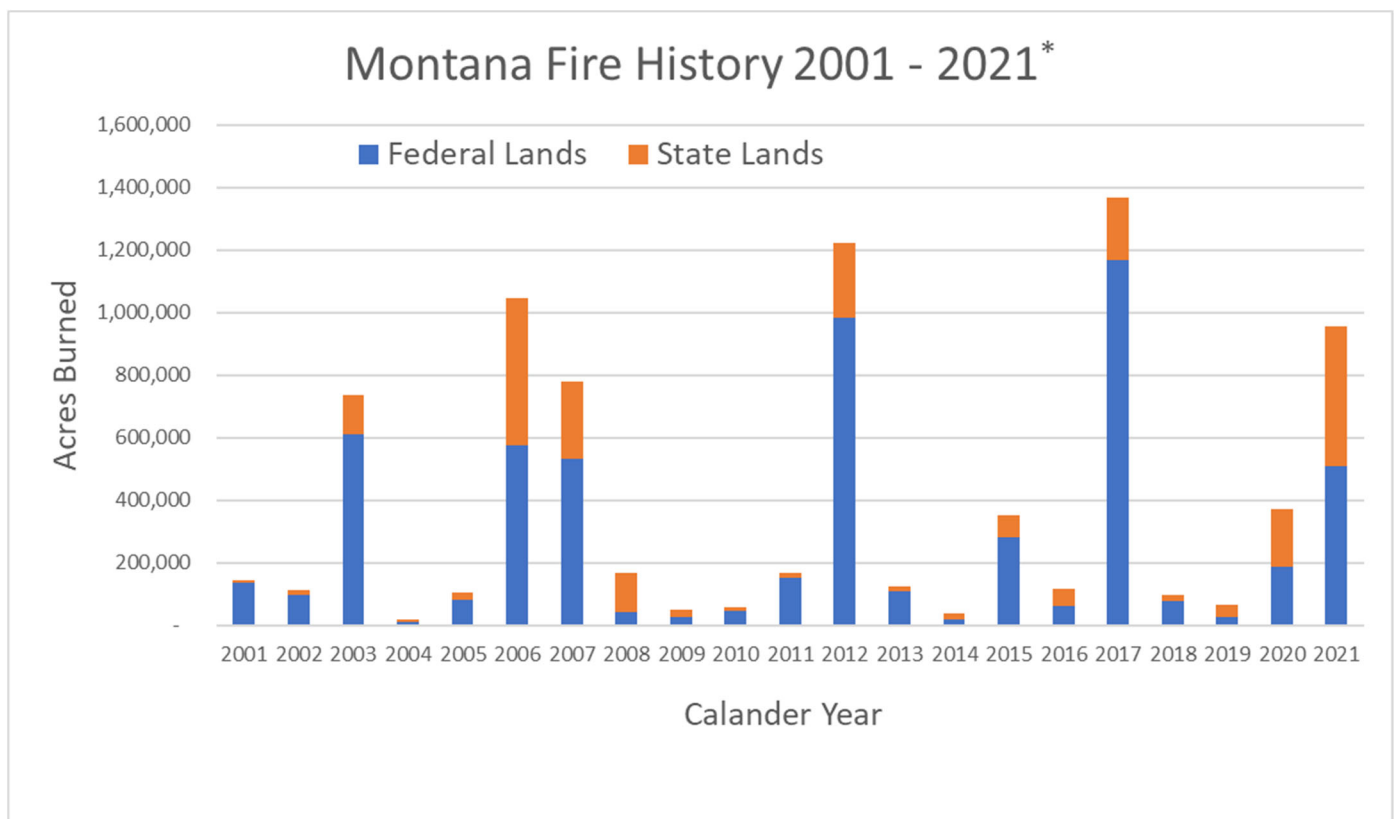
# Section C Interim Committee, Fire Fund Update

## Montana Fires, Acres Burned

The Robertson draw fire was the first large fire of the season starting in the middle of June and burning most of the summer. In July and August alone, there were 62 fire starts that eventually burned over 100 acres each, four burned more than 50,000 acres;

- Richard Spring Fire, near Colstrip – 171,130 acres
- Poverty Flats (PF) Fire, near Hardin – 66,134 acres
- Trail Creek Fire, near Wisdom – 62,013 acres
- Woods Creek Fire, near Townsend – 55,449 acres

All totaled year to date state, local, and federal fire fighters managed 2,773 fires on 950,000 acres. For comparison the table below shows total acres burned each year since 2021.



## Fire Fund Balance

As of the November 30, 2021 the fire fund has a balance of \$79.7 million.

The fund started the fiscal year with a balance of \$70.3 million. On August 15<sup>th</sup> the fund received a \$35.4 million transfer from the general fund to bring the balance to \$105.7 million, statute caps the fund balance at that amount. Year to date, \$26.0 million has been expended on fire suppression activities leaving a balance of \$79.7 million as of November 30, 2021. DNRC anticipates that another \$19.2 million will be expended bringing total expenditures for the fire season to \$45.2 million. It is anticipated that another \$2.5 million will be spent on fuel reduction, mitigation, and forest restoration. LFD estimates the FYE 2021 balance in the fire fund will be \$58.0 million.

\* Norther Rockies Coordination Center