

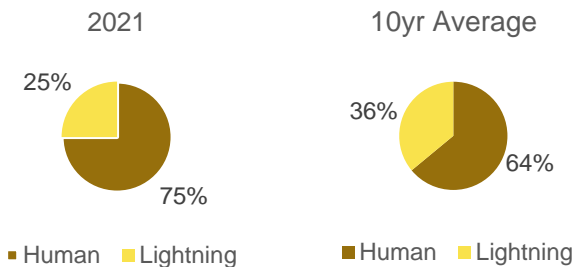
# 2021 Wildfire Summary

## A record-breaking fire year

The 2021 fire year in two words- record breaking. From drought to preparedness levels, firefighters faced one of the most significant fire years in recent memory in Oregon and Washington. In total more than 1.1 million national forest acres burned, with more than 8,600 personnel assigned during peak fire activity.

### 75 Percent Human Caused

Humans accounted for 75 percent of the all new fire starts in 2021, far exceeding the 10-year average of 64 percent for the greater Pacific Northwest.



Graphic: Two pie charts illustrate the increase in human caused starts in the 2021 fire year in the Pacific Northwest. Source: NWCC

### Hotter and Hotter

Temperatures were well above the 1895-2020 average for much of Oregon and Washington. Record breaking temperatures include a Washington state record of 120 degrees as well as record heat in Portland, Seattle, and numerous smaller communities on both sides of the Cascades. This event became known as the heat dome of 2021.

### Resources Roundup

Significant wildfire activity across the West heavily impacted resource availability in 2021. From the

Southwest to the Northern Rockies, air and ground resources were in high demand across the nation. Northwest based Incident Management Teams spend a total of 1,240 days assigned to wildfires.

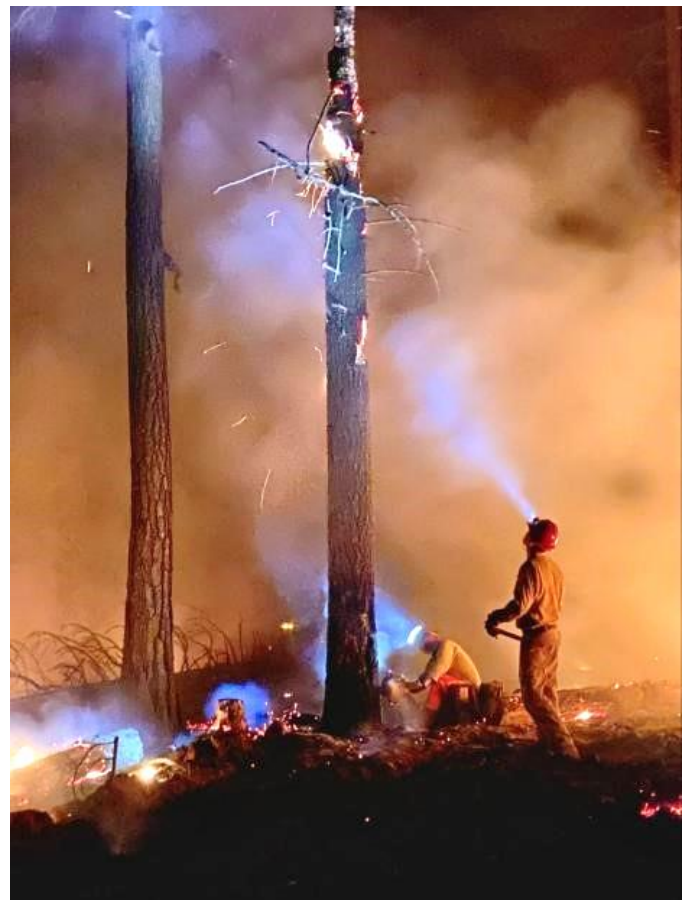
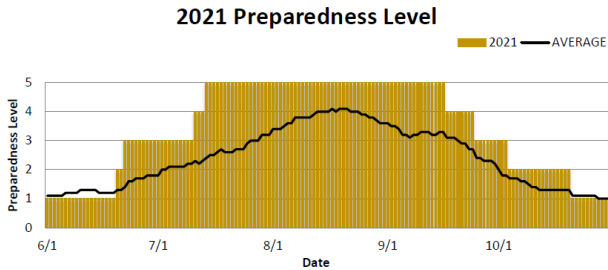


Photo: Nightshift firefighters fell hazard trees near the line on the Cougar Peak Fire in Oregon on September 26, 2021. Credit: USDA Forest Service

### Extended Preparedness

In 2021 the geographic area spent 65 days at preparedness level (PL) five, breaking the previous record of 40 days set in 2017. Due to an early

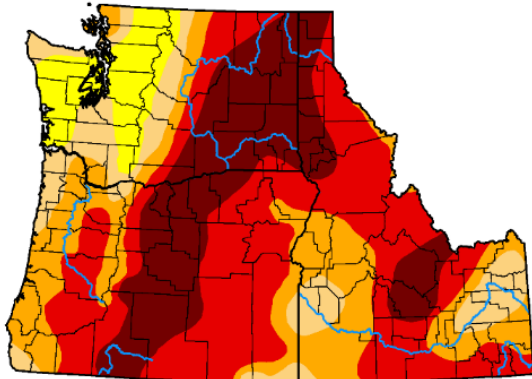
summer heat dome, increased fire activity, and limited resources, the PL level moved rapidly from PL one to five in less than a month. Once reached on July 14, 2021 PL five did not drop again until September 17, 2021.



Graphic: This chart highlights the record breaking length of time spent at above average preparedness levels in the Pacific Northwest. Source: NWCC

### Exceptionally Dry

What is worse than extreme drought? Exceptional drought. By the end of July 2021 crews faced wildfires burning during the most widespread and severe drought since the federal Drought Monitor program began.



Graphic: This chart highlights the record breaking length of time spent at above average preparedness levels in the Pacific Northwest. Source:

### 3rd Largest in Oregon State History: The Bootleg Fire

On July 6<sup>th</sup> 2021, a lightning strike near the small community of Beatty, Oregon on the Fremont-Winema National Forest would quickly erupt into

the third largest wildfire in Oregon state history with more than 413,000 acres burned. At the height of response, the fire was the largest in the nation with more than 2,200 resources assigned.



Photo: A pyrocumulonimbus stacks up miles high on the Bootleg Fire in southern Oregon on July 14, 2021. Credit: Inciweb

### Big Fires, Big Smoke

From the dry Cascade slopes of Central Washington to the Blues of Eastern Oregon, large wildfires changed the regional landscape. Smoke from these and other wildfires contributed to 222 total days of unhealthy or worse air quality for communities in 54 counties across greater Pacific Northwest.

Fire Name	Acres	National Forest
<b>Bootleg</b>	413,717	Fremont-Winema
<b>Schneider Springs</b>	107,322	Okanogan-Wenatchee
<b>Cougar Peak</b>	91,810	Fremont-Winema
<b>Lick Creek</b>	80,421	Umatilla
<b>Devils Knob Complex</b>	70,110	Umpqua
<b>Cedar Creek</b>	55,572	Okanogan-Wenatchee
<b>Rough Patch Complex</b>	50,409	Umpqua
<b>Green Ridge</b>	43,694	Umatilla
<b>Middle Fork Complex</b>	30,928	Willamette
<b>Bull Complex</b>	24,894	Mt Hood