

Adapting to future fire regimes across ecosystems of the NC region

Kimberley Davis
Research Scientist
University of Montana

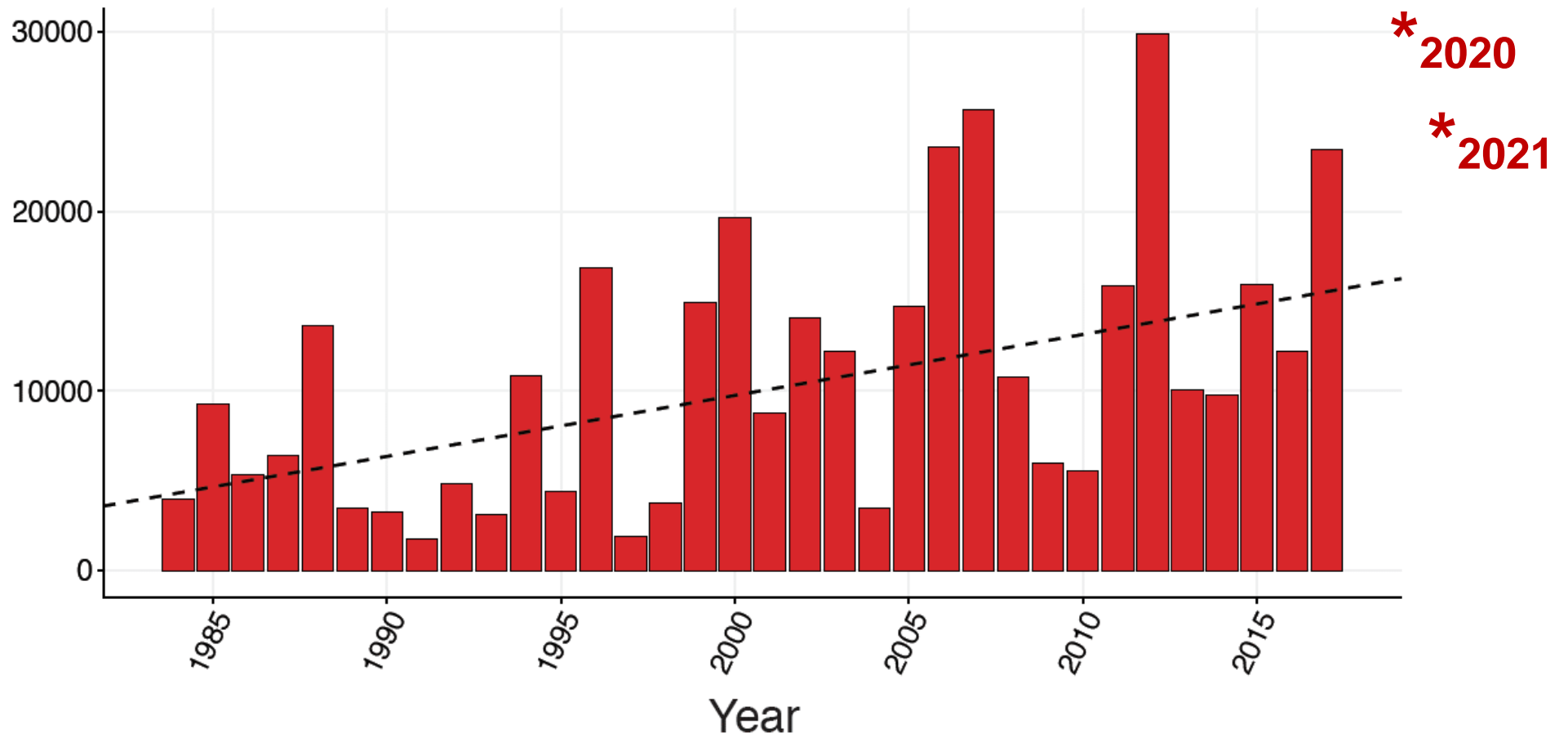


Agenda

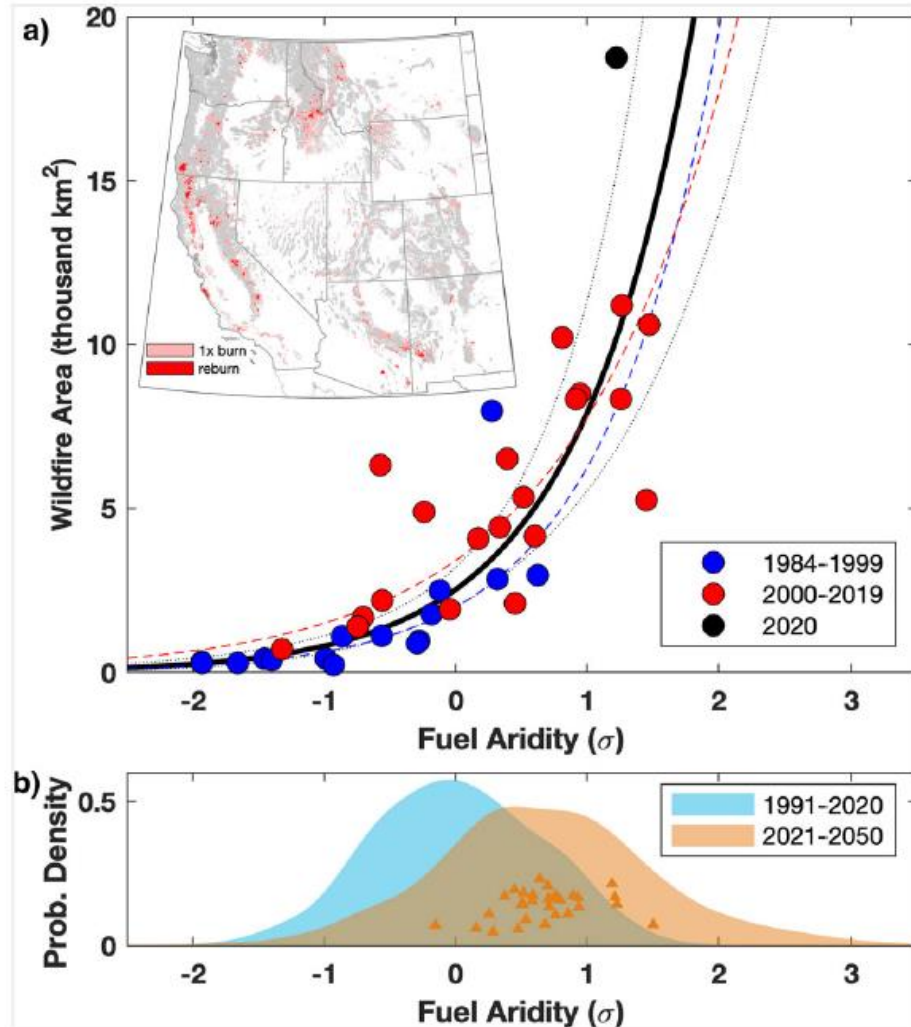
- Brief overview of impacts of climate change and humans on wildfire
- Presentations on fire and adaptation in forests, grasslands, and sagebrush
- Breakout discussions: How can management help communities and ecosystems adapt to these changing fire conditions?

Wildfires are burning more area

Area burned in wildfires, Western contiguous US (km²)

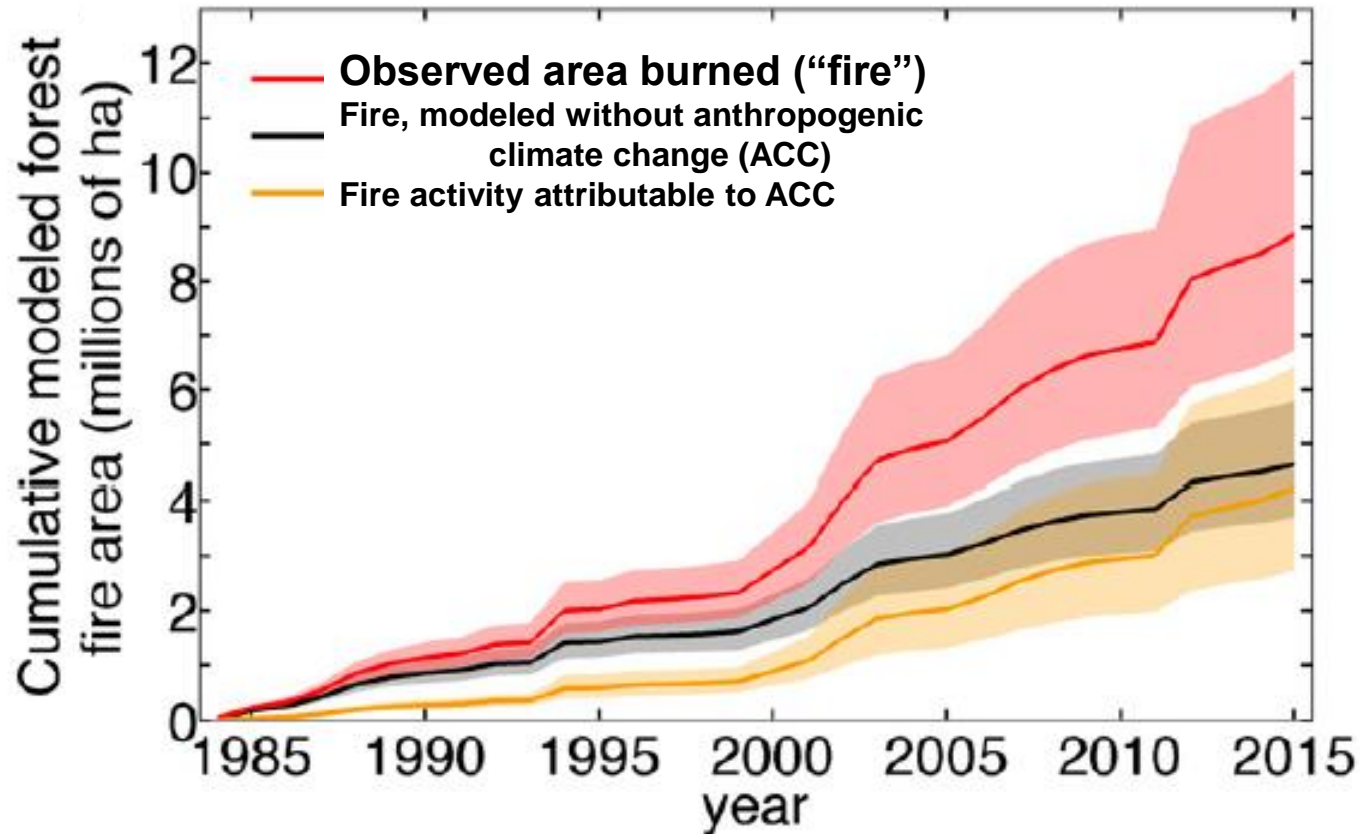


Climate is a key driver of annual area burned



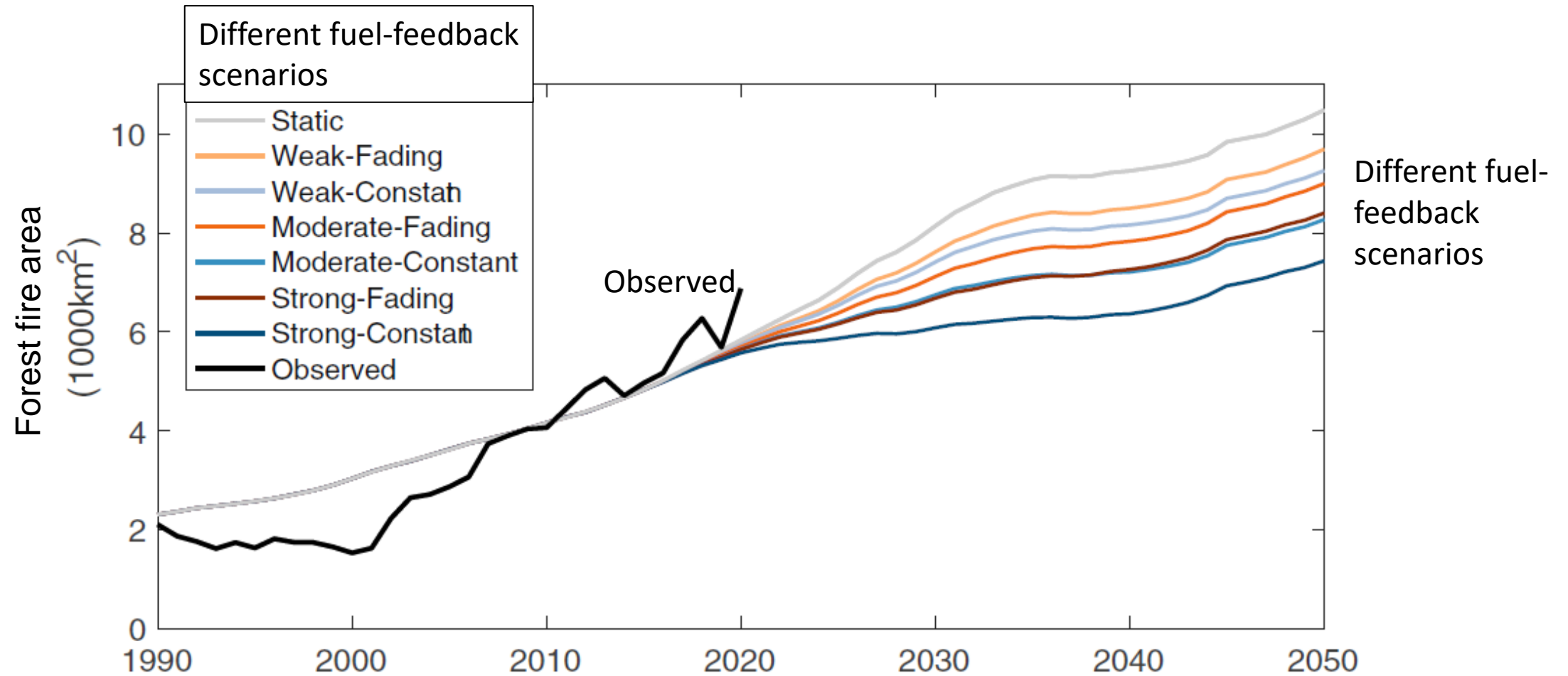
Colorado's East Troublesome Fire, started on Oct. 14, and grew to just under 200,000 acres; 2/3 in just two days, under red-flag conditions, jumping the Continental Divide at 12,000'.

Human-caused climate change is increasing fire activity

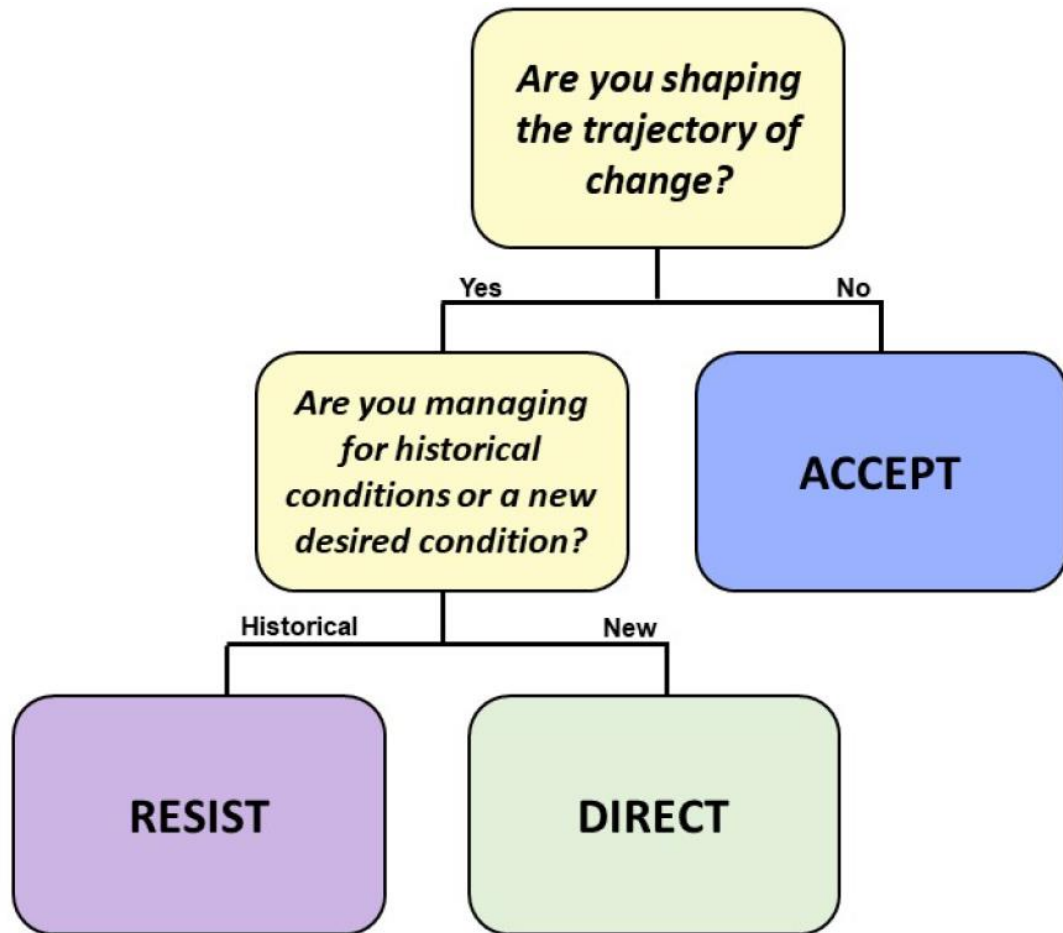


Anthropogenic climate change accounts for ~45% of the total forest area burned from 1984-2015

Area burned projected to increase despite fuel limitations



Resist, Accept, Direct Framework (RAD)



RESIST the trajectory of change, by working to maintain or restore ecosystem processes, function, structure, or composition based upon historical or acceptable current conditions.

ACCEPT the trajectory of change, by allowing ecosystem processes, function, structure, or composition to change, without intervening to alter their trajectory.

DIRECT the trajectory of change, by actively shaping ecosystem processes, function, structure, or composition towards desired new conditions.

Breakout discussions

- How can management help communities and ecosystems adapt to these changing fire conditions?
- What adaptation strategies have you implemented and what have been the outcomes?
- What barriers are there to using management to help communities and ecosystems adapt to changing fire conditions?