

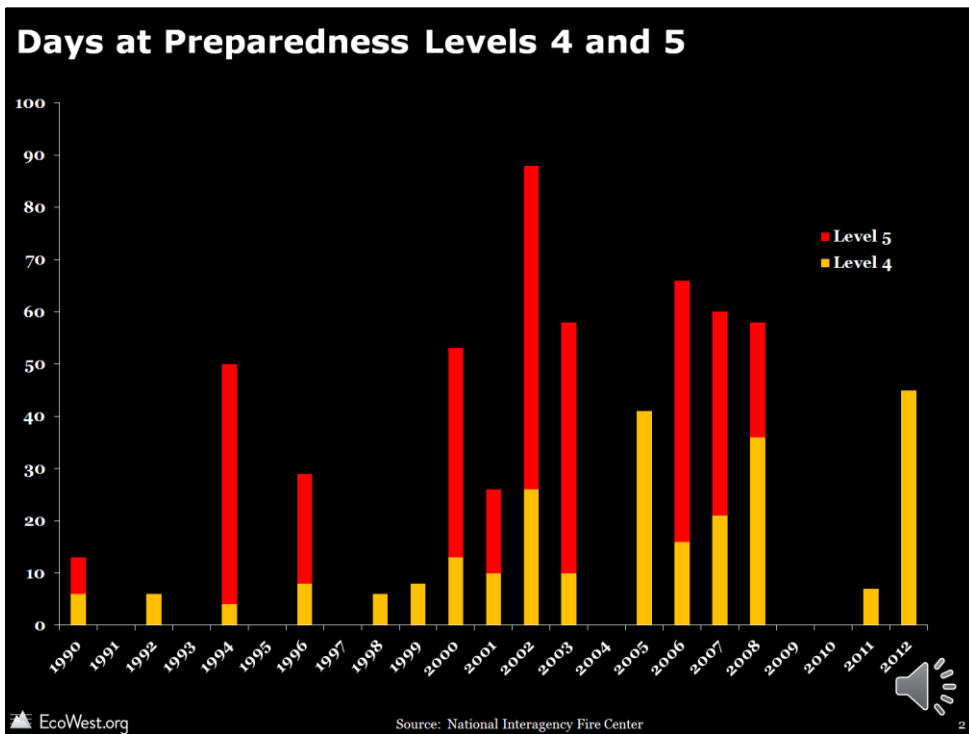
Wildfire severity and suppression metrics



5/17/2013



Narrative: In this EcoWest.org presentation, we discuss metrics for tracking the severity of the wildfire season that focus on fire suppression activity.

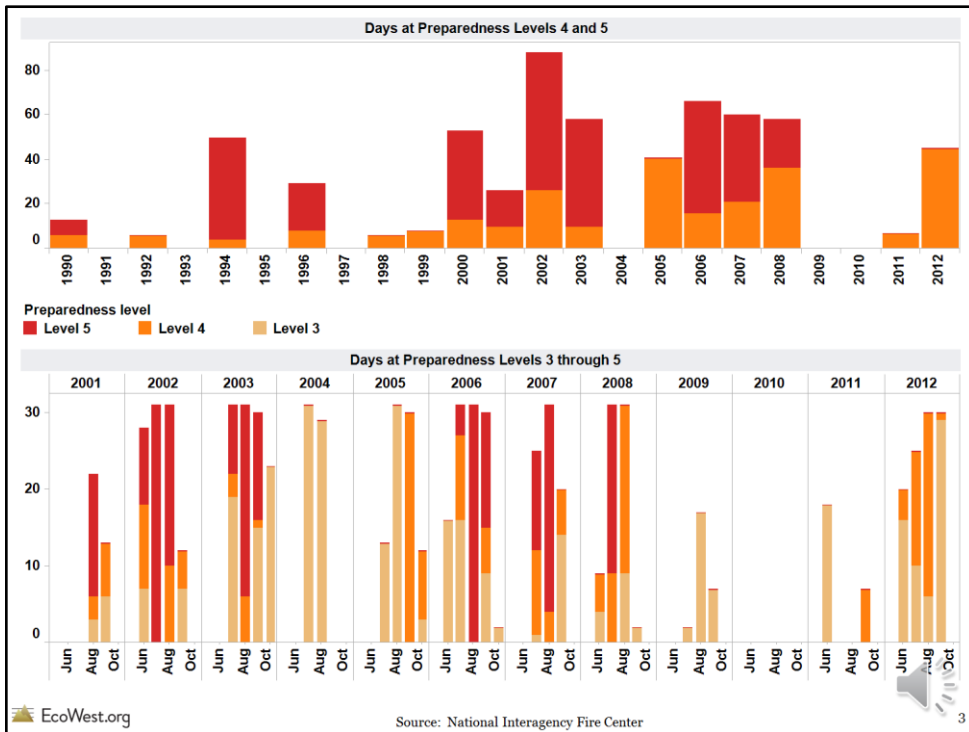


Narrative: One way of gauging wildfire activity is to look at how many days the federal government was operating under various preparedness levels. The National Interagency Fire Center uses five categories, similar to the now-abandoned Homeland Security threat levels. Preparedness level 5 is reserved for the most active times, while under level 4 the competition for firefighting resources is a bit less intense, and so on down to level 1, when not much is happening as far as fires go. This graphic shows how many days the government was under levels 4 and 5.

Source: National Interagency Fire Center

URL: http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/fireInfo_statistics.html

Notes: See historical fire summaries

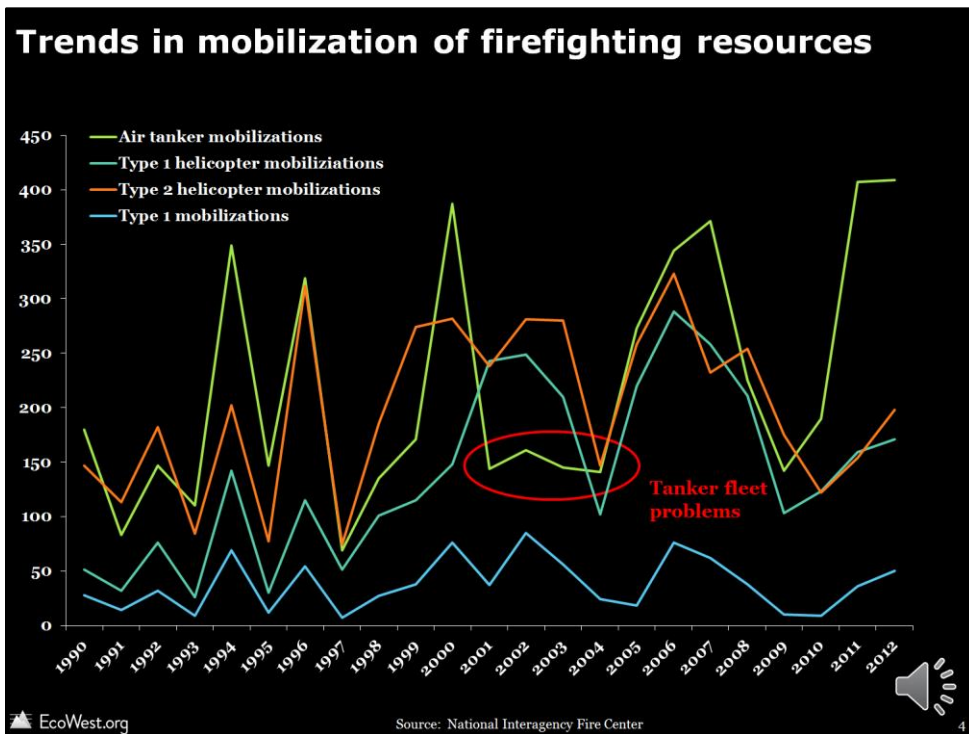


Narrative: Here’s another look at the same data from the dashboard on EcoWest.org. The bottom pane shows how many days the nation was under levels four and five by month.

Source: National Interagency Fire Center

URL: http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/fireInfo_statistics.html

Notes: See historical fire summaries

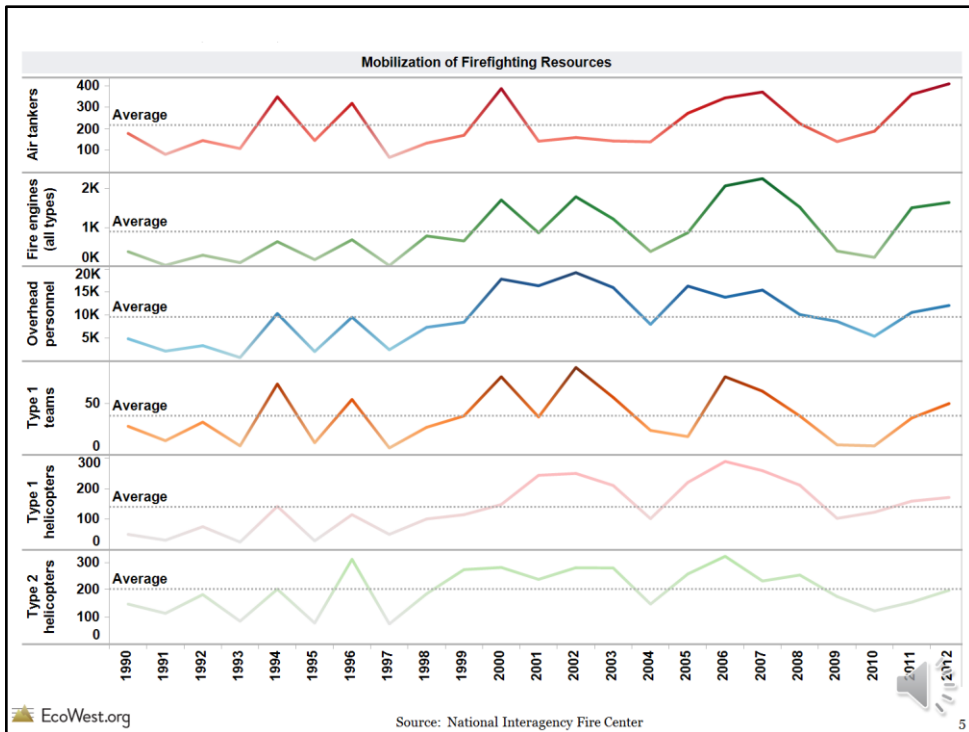


Narrative: The federal government closely monitors how it deploys its firefighting resources each year, and those figures also serve as a barometer of wildfire activity. Here you can see the trends back to 1990. Type 1 helicopters are larger than type 2 helicopters, and type 1 mobilizations refers to the number of times that top-level incident command teams are deployed (smaller, less complex fires are managed by type 2 teams). Finally, there are the air tankers that drop flame retardant. These categories tend to move together, but you'll notice that the number of air tankers mobilized dropped around 2001—that's because safety concerns over the aging fleet forced many planes to be grounded, even during some very active fire seasons.

Source: National Interagency Fire Center

URL: http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/fireInfo_statistics.html

Notes: See historical fire summaries; type 1 management team mobilizations do not include non-fire-related incidents



Narrative: Here's another visualization of the same data from the dashboard on EcoWest.org

Source: National Interagency Fire Center

URL: http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/fireInfo_statistics.html

Notes: See historical fire summaries; type 1 management team mobilizations do not include non-fire-related incidents

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The screenshot displays the EcoWest website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "Visualizing environmental trends" and a search box. Below this is a main content area with a large article titled "2012 was hottest year on record for U.S." featuring a map of the United States with temperature anomalies. To the left of this article is a video player with the title "2012 was hottest year on record in U.S." and a play button. Below the main article are four smaller article thumbnails: "Hawaii, West and South have most at-risk species", "Ebb and flow of snow, fuels, and fire", "2012 was hottest year on record for U.S.", and "Which states have the most federal land?". The website footer includes the EcoWest logo and social media icons.

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