

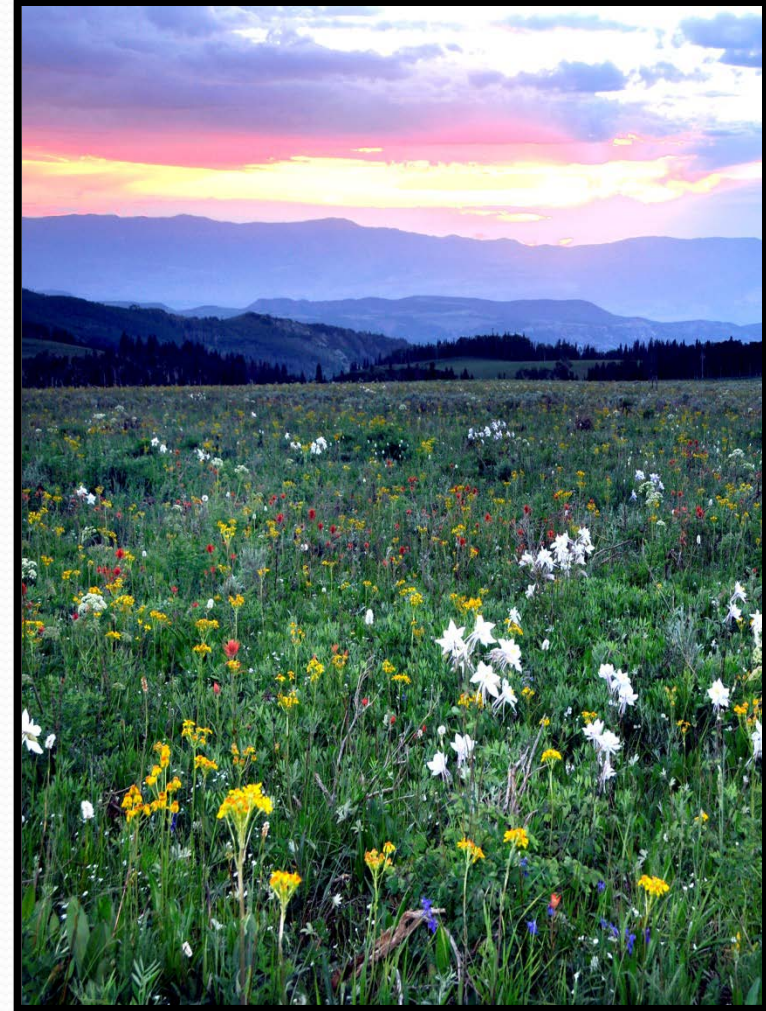


# UTAH'S WATERSHED RESTORATION INITIATIVE



# What is WRI?

- 13 year old State led partnership driven effort to improve high priority watersheds in Utah
- What ecosystem values do we focus on improving?
  - Watershed health and biological diversity
  - Water quality and yield
  - Opportunities for sustainable uses of natural resources



# Why was WRI Created?

- Cooperatively address “threats” to Utah’s watersheds/wildlife/livestock through proactive, on-the-ground management actions
  - Out of balance ecosystems
    - Pinyon-juniper over abundance
    - Unhealthy forests/aspen decline
    - Suspended livestock AUMs
    - Reduced wildlife populations
  - Inappropriate fire frequency and intensity
  - Decline of healthy stream/riparian areas
  - Invasive non-native species



# 1.6 Million Acres Treated since 2006



# WRI Led Fire Rehabilitation

- WRI helps facilitate state-led centralized/cross-boundary rehabilitation
  - Funding centralization
  - Cultural resource inventories
  - Contracting across boundaries through State of Utah purchasing
- Properly rehabilitated areas are more resilient – re-seeding helps defer future fire costs
  - Lower fire return interval
  - Less invasion from more fire-prone plants
  - More productive/diverse/healthy forage for livestock and wildlife

# Centralized Seed Mix Development, Testing, Mixing, Storage



# Aerial Seeding



# Aerial Seeding





# Aerial Seeding

# One-Way Chaining



# One-Way Chaining



# Drill Seeding



# Drill Seeding



# Herbicide Spraying



# Check Dams

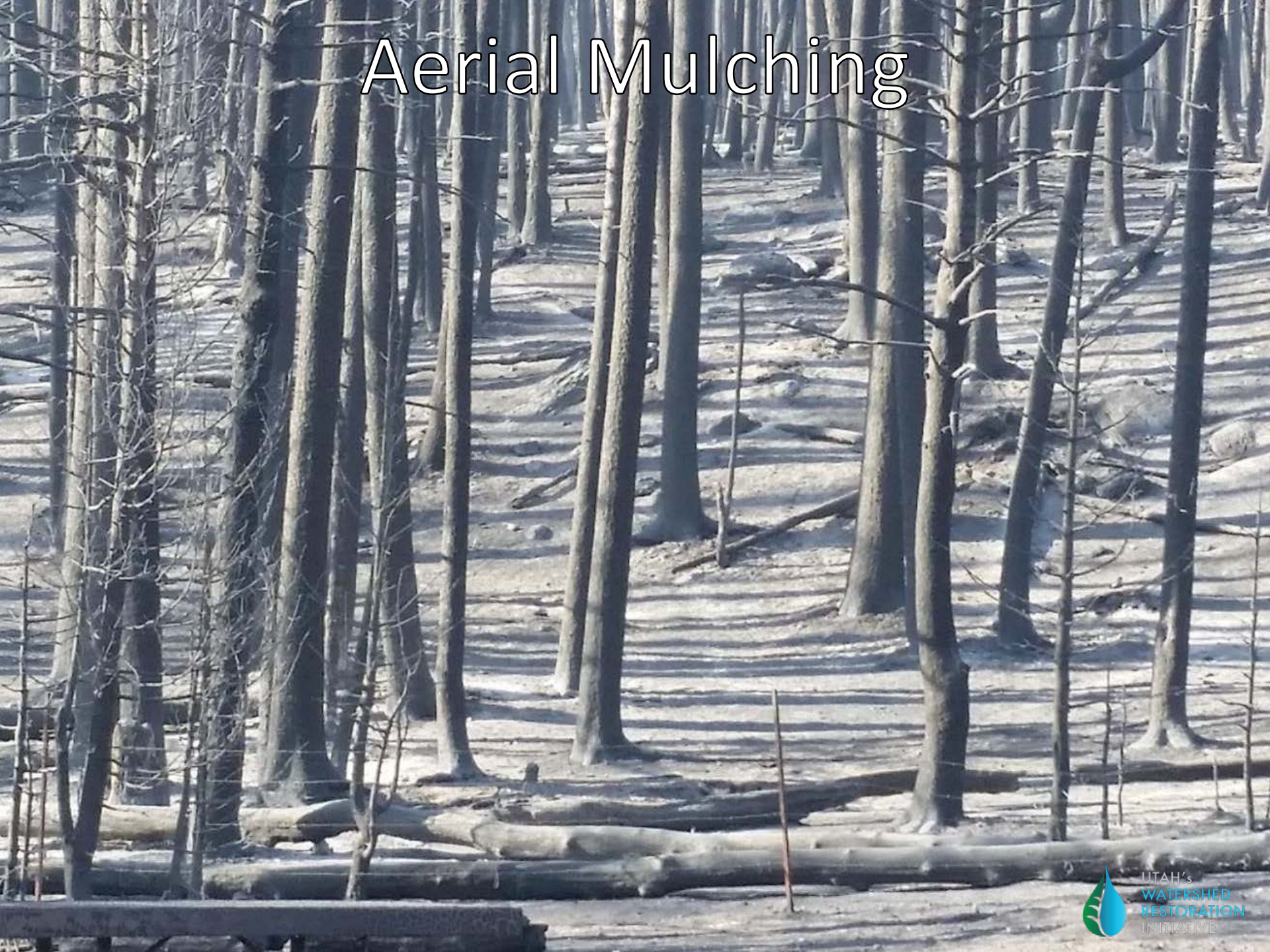


# Check Dams





# Aerial Mulching



# Aerial Mulching



# Aerial Mulching



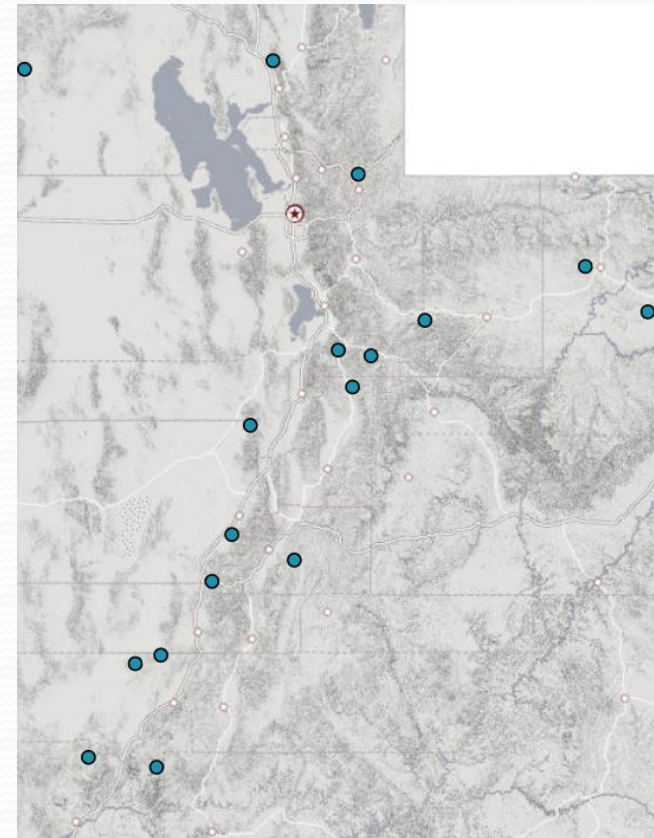
# Aerial Mulching



# WRI Led Fire Rehabilitation – FY19

## 17 Fires - 84,000 Acres Treated

- Goose Creek Fire – 24,684 acres
- Pole Creek/Bald Mtn. Fire – 18,720 acres
- Dollar Ridge Fire – 17,713 acres
- Willow Patch Fire – 4,583 acres
- Coal Hollow Fire – 3,768 acres
- Trail Mountain Fire – 3,096 acres
- Black Mountain Fire – 2,523 acres
- Wood Canyon Fire – 2,021 acres
- Hilltop Fire – 1,845 acres
- West Valley Fire – 1,792 acres
- Horse Valley Fire – 1,131 acres
- Other Fires - Cove Creek, Tervels, North, Coldwater, Maeser Highway, Meadow Canyon



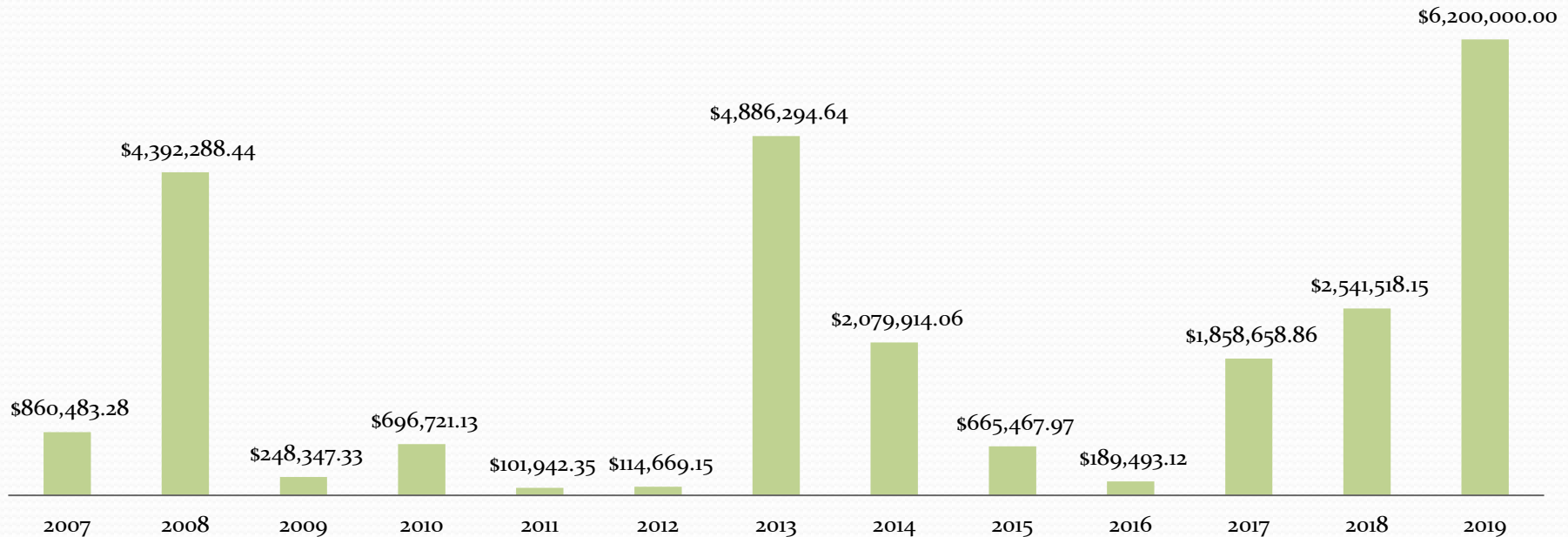
# WRI Led Fire Rehabilitation – FY19

17 Fires - 84,000 Acres Treated

- Statewide Fire Rehab Cost - \$11.6 Million (funds through WRI)
  - \$6.2 Million State Funding
  - \$800,001 SITLA funding
  - \$300,000 Private Landowner In-Kind
  - \$4.3 Million Federal Funding
- 1.1 Million pounds of seed



# Fire Rehabilitation Costs - State/NGO/PR Funds Average: \$1.9 Million/Year



# Fire Rehabilitation Fund

\$1 million one-time FY2020 request

- Similar to FFSL fire suppression fund – line item
- Removes the need to ask for supplemental funding in fire years with lower burned acres
- Lessens disruption to WRI proactive work
- Easier to fund multi-year fire rehabilitation work and post-fire research/monitoring
- Allows DNR to pre-purchase and warehouse seed when market is more favorable



# WRI Water Development Fund

- New forage underutilized due to lack of water
- 2018 - WRI received \$2 million one-time funding to develop water for livestock
- Over 120 proposals submitted – requesting over \$7 million
- WRI was able to fund 40 of these proposals
- Preference given to projects that:
  - Had secured water rights/clear public benefit
  - Opened up use of previously unused or underused areas
  - Provided relief for permittees hauling water
  - Improve livestock distribution/timing to help alleviate pressure on sensitive areas

# South Canyon Water Development











# Questions?