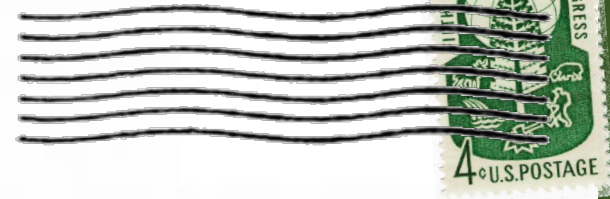


FROM:

**DAVEY**   
Resource Group

*...the ROW edge*

*Anywhere, USA*



# Wildfires and Habitat Management for Utilities

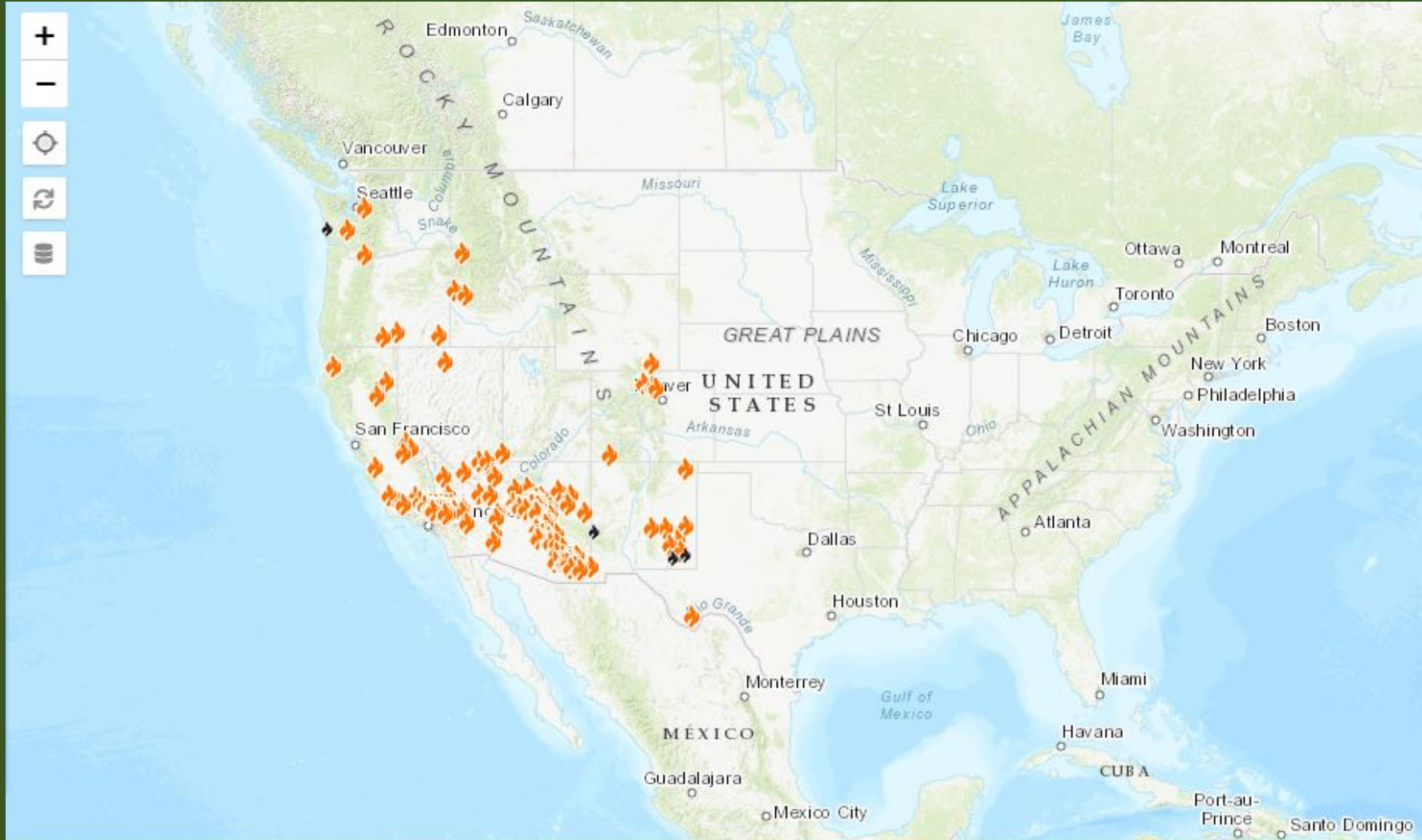
Postcards from the ROW Edge

Jack McCabe, VP and GM, Utility Vegetation Management Solutions  
Davey Resource Group, Inc.

Dan Williams, Project Developer  
Davey Resource Group, Inc.

*Wildfires and Habitat Management for Utilities*

# Active Fires February 14, 2019



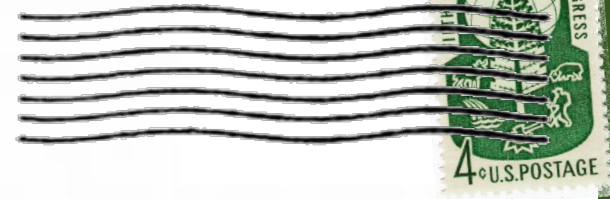
FROM:



*...the ROW edge*  
*Anywhere, USA*

## Wildfires, Habitat... AND ROW

- Wide range of ecosystem diversity intersects ROW corridors: desert, tropical, alpine meadow...
- ROWs exist within each ecosystem landscape
- Fires happen
  - some ecosystems have evolved to depend on fire and require "fire" like conditions for sustainability



TO:

*The Rights-of-Way as*

*Habitat Working Group*

*c/o Iris Caldwell*

*ERC - UIC*

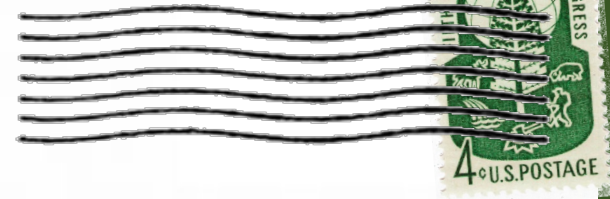
*Chicago, IL 60607*

FROM:



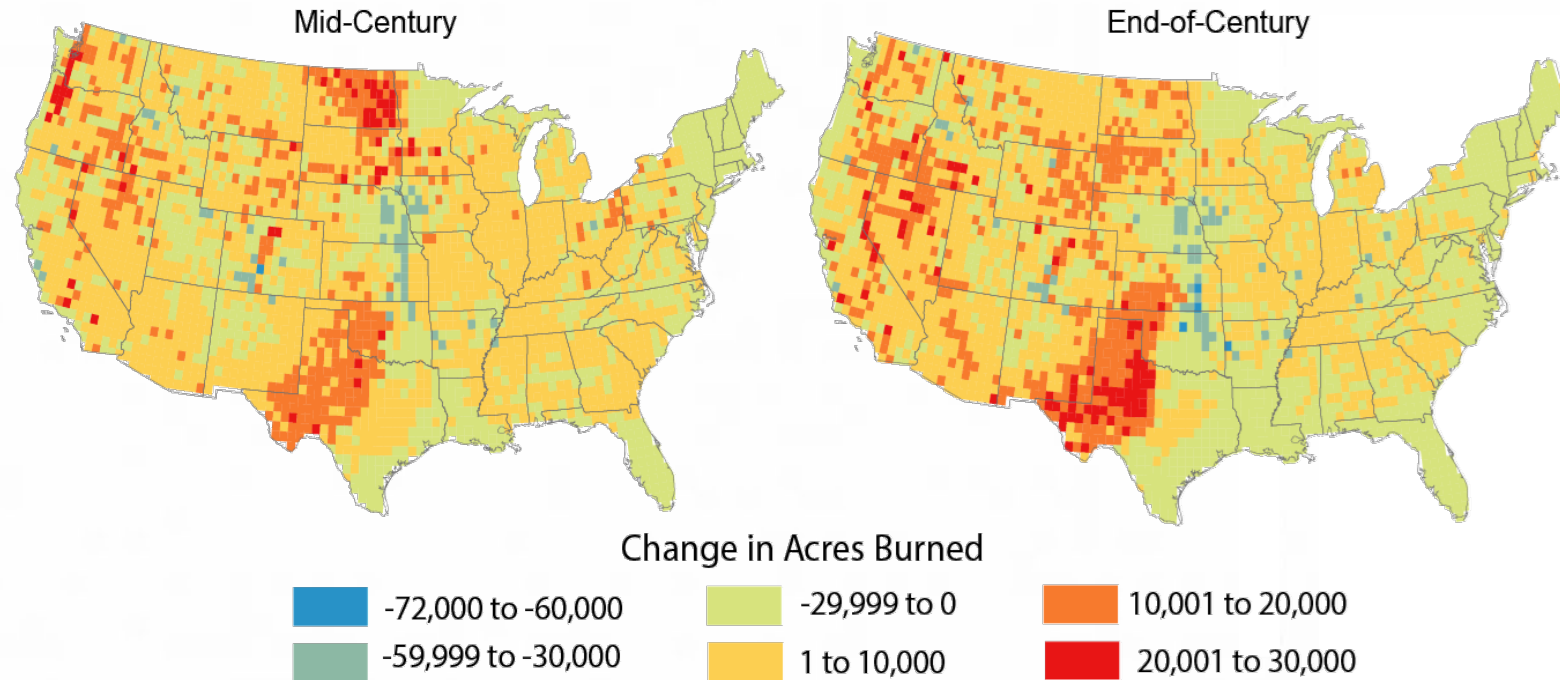
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## Projected Mid-21<sup>st</sup> Century/ End 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fire Activity



### **Figure 1. Projected Impact of Unmitigated Climate Change on Wildfire Activity**

*Change in average annual acres burned under the Reference scenario by mid-century (2035-2064) and end of century (2085-2114) compared to the historic baseline (2000-2009) using the IGSM-CAM climate model. Acres burned include all vegetation types and are calculated at a cell resolution of 0.5° x 0.5°.*



Source: US EPA

For more information, visit EPA's "Climate Change in the United States: Benefits of Global Action" at [www.epa.gov/cira](http://www.epa.gov/cira).

*Wildfires and Habitat Management for Utilities*

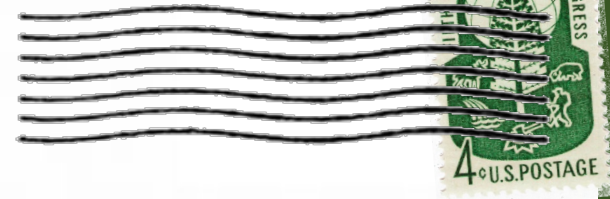
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## Changing Conditions & Consequences

- Historical and varied forest management practices
- Drought, forest pests and habitat conversion resulting from climate change
- The Wildland Urban Interface and Land Use Planning
- Increased frequency of incidents competes with resources required for recovery



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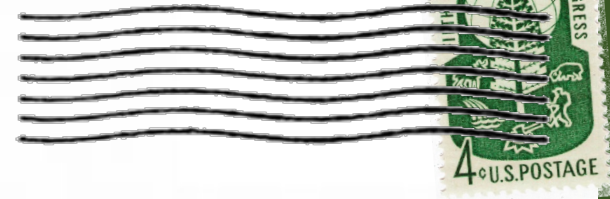


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## A Western DOT Highway Manager Perspective

- Traditional on-ROW considerations (clearance and hazard abatement)
- Concern for ignition sources: dragging chains/hot rims
- Defensible space considerations
- Post fire erosion control



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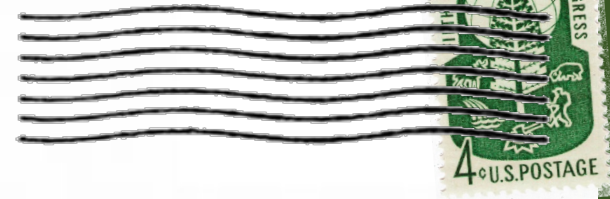


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## An Energy Utility Manager Perspective

- Compliance & Risk Management Come First
- Scale of the management challenge
- Asset protection and system continuity
- Poor habitat vegetation types may support operational objectives



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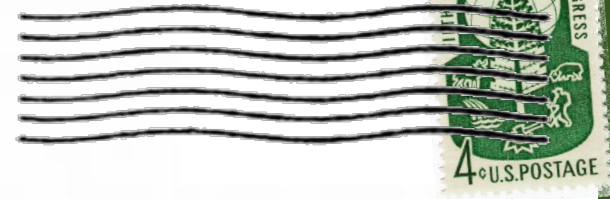
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## Post Fire Considerations

- The concept of Recovery
  - In Nature (self-managed) systems
  - In Non-natural (human-altered & managed) systems
- Fire intensity affects vegetation recovery; weed and invasive management may be required
- Erosion control and site disturbance
- Regular, consistent management is required to avoid a reoccurrence of dangerous fuel loads



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