

U.S. Wildfires Reports

Actuaries should consider the potential for increased wildfire risks across business practices: life, health, and property and casualty.



U.S. FAST FACTS

WILDFIRES*



125%

Increase in annual property loss due to wildfires by 2050 in the western U.S. (under an assumed RCP 8.5, business-as-usual, climate change scenario).



Megafire

A fire that burns more than **100,000 acres**

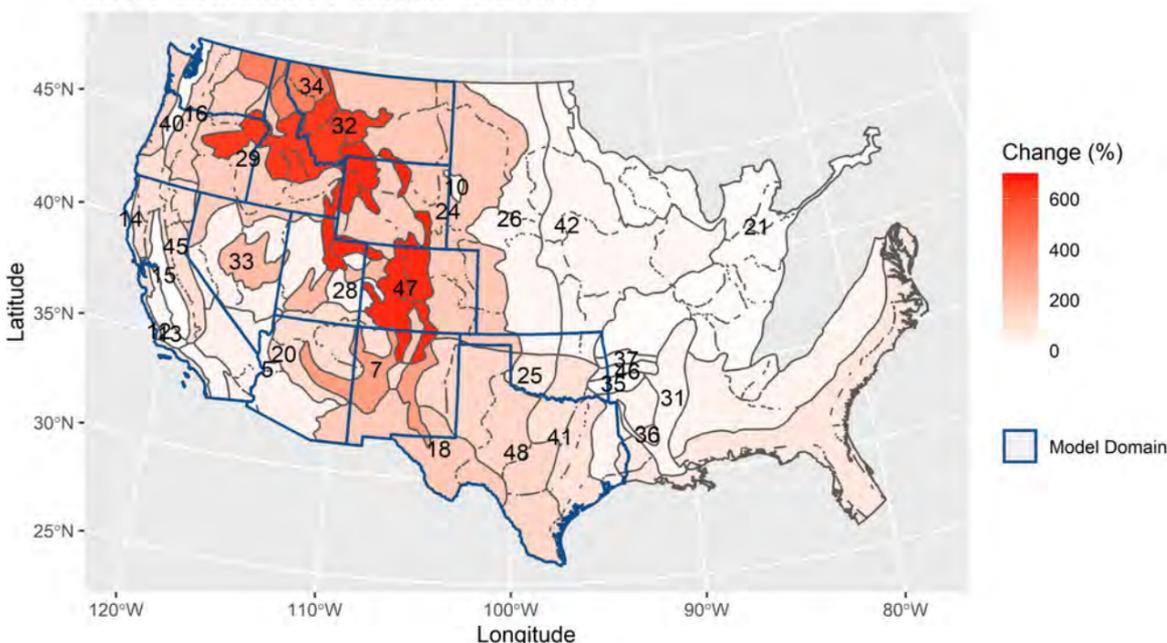


Gigafire

A fire that burns more than **1 million acres**

Projected change in average annual burned area by 2050 relative to 2018, based on the mean general circulation model (GCM). Exo-provinces are labelled.

Annual Burn Area 2018-2050: Mean GCM



Three factors that may increase wildfires and the loss incurred:



Development in fire-prone wilderness



Invasive plant species that affect fire behavior



Policies that lead to a build-up of plant biomass and altered forest structures

Common causes of wildfires:



Humans



Structural failure of electricity distribution networks



Lightning

Increase in annual area burned by 2050 (under an assumed RCP 8.5, business-as-usual, climate change scenario).

100%
California

600%
Colorado

To learn more, the download SOA Research Institute report:

*** Potential Impacts of Climate Change on U.S. Wildfire Risk by Mid-Century**