

OUR WILDFIRE PANDEMIC MAKES OUR CLIMATE CHANGE GOALS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE.

Last year, in the United States wildfire destroyed 10.3 million acres of forest and rangeland.

- ~ The U.S. land area ravaged by wildfire in 2020 equates to a land mass 53 times the size of New York city - 705 times the size of Manhattan.
- ~ Imagine more than one third of New York State reduced to charred remains - ecosystems and communities destroyed.

~ Instead of carbon sequestered, 309 billion pounds - 154.5 Million tons - of carbon dioxide was released into the atmosphere in 2020 - the crushing weight of 423 Empire State buildings. The Empire State building weighs 365 tons.

~ The U.S. average for the deadliest type of air pollution in 2020 rose nearly 7 percent over 2019 - due to smoke from wildfires.

~ Wildfire smoke wiped out the country's pandemic-related clean air gains in 2020. Smoke from wildfire reached Hawaii to the west and Michigan to the east.



Wildfire



Air Now



Carbon



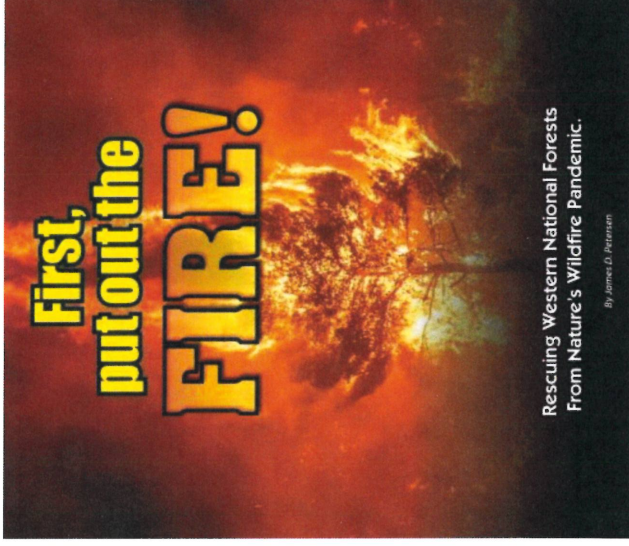
Smoke

FIRST, PUT OUT THE FIRE!

First, Put Out the Fire!, by veteran writer and Evergreen founder - Jim Petersen - traces the historic, environmental and regulatory roots of the West's increasingly destructive forest fires.

Petersen's book is a summation of more than 35 years spent researching, interviewing and writing about the shifting management paradigms impacting the West's national forests.

Fire ecologists estimate about half of the West's 190-million-acre federal forest land base is ready to burn or soon will be and the impacts are already touching every aspect of our interaction with nature.



"Those who read this book will never again look at America's forests and trees the same way."

Michael Rains, Forest Service retiree

We know how to do the work but we have lacked the political resolve to move forward.

We have only two choices. We can stand by while nature burns our federal forest heritage to the ground, or we can roll up our sleeves and get to work repairing the damage man and nature have done in our forests.

We have maybe 30 years left to save what we all love. Wildfire will claim what we don't fix.

"Wildfire and Wildfire smoke directly impact carbon sequestration, climate change, environmental health and environmental justice.

As the stewards and owners of our national forests, I urge you to publicly advocate for sustainable science and experience-based solutions.

We must be proactive in mitigating the long-term consequences of neglecting the causes of extreme, unmanaged wildfire activity."



Land Ownership



Order First PUT OUT THE FIRE!

Jim Petersen

"Counties on Fire" is Evergreen's grassroots initiative - to educate and engage the public in a dialogue about the economic and environmental costs of the increasing size, damage, and frequency of wildfire.



Whether started by nature or man, forest fires grow more destructive each year.

A decrease in harvest, salvage, and prescribed burn - combined with an increase in forest density, and urban sprawl into the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) - have given us forests and communities that are fuel laden and ready to burn.



There are solutions but time is running out to reverse course.

We must understand how we got to this point and begin the proactive practice of fire resiliency within our forests, the Wildland Urban Interface, and our communities.

It is time for sustainable, active stewardship at the local level.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR FOREST?

EVERGREEN

FOUNDATION

Evergreen is a nonprofit forestry education foundation that has produced educational, science-based content for over 35 years.

Our mission is to advance the support of science-based forest policy and practice - and to promote proactive stewardship of our public lands and and National Forests.

Evergreen seeks to be a valuable public education resource that advances the pursuit of healthy, productive, resilient forests. We give voice to the consistent forest practices, and forest policies that leave a legacy for generations to come.



At Evergreen we believe forest-to-community health is possible - and essential.

Help us continue our work for another 35 years..



Evergreen Magazine



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Fix America's Forests

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WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR FOREST?

"HOPE IS NOT A STRATEGY. SCIENCE IS A PROCESS, NOT A RELIGION."

Peter Kolb, PhD eco-physiologist

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