

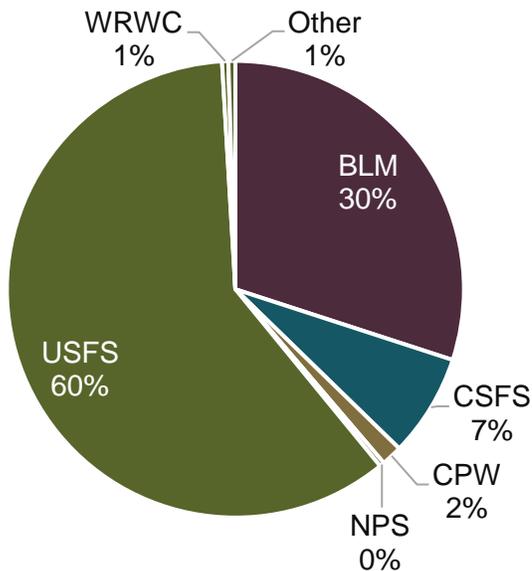
Appendix B

Vegetation Management History

The following summarizes the historical vegetation management data from the Colorado Forest Tracker¹ in Gunnison County. Between 2000 and 2023, 403,468 acres were treated. Also included in this appendix are the Wet Meadows Projects, which are not included in the total acres treated but help reduce the spread of wildfires by creating fire breaks. Below, you will find graphs, tables, and a map to help describe the history of vegetation management in Gunnison County

Breakdown of Acres Treated by Agency

From 2000 to 2023, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) treated the largest amount of land at 241,967 acres, followed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with 121,087 acres, the Colorado State Forest Service with 29,335 acres, Colorado Parks and Wildlife with 5,941 acres, the National Park Service with 1,360 acres, West Region Wildfire Council with 1,775 acres, and other entities providing 2,003 acres.

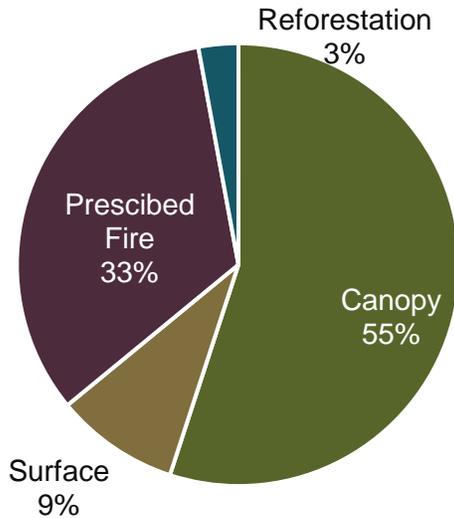


Agency	Acres
BLM	121,087
CSFS	29,335
CPW	5,941
NPS	1,360
USFS	241,967
WRWC	1,775
Other	2,003
Total	403,468

¹ Colorado Forest Tracker Version 1, 2024, <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7eac80a824a64d77864e3e0948ff4f1e/page/Dashboard>

Breakdown of Types of Treatment Performed

From 2000 to 2023, canopy treatments were used on 221,951 acres, followed by prescribed fire at 133,338 acres, surface treatments were used on 36,451 acres, and finally, 11,728 acres were reforested.



Treatment Performed	Acres
Canopy	221,951
Reforest	11,728
Prescribed Fire	133,338
Surface	36,451

Canopy Treatment – Managing the upper layer of trees to improve forest health through thinning trees, reducing canopy bulk density, and increasing canopy base height.



Source: USFS

Reforestation – Planting trees after a clear-cut or high-intensity wildfire to reintroduce native species to the landscape.



Source: USFS

Prescribed Fire – Prescribed fire is a planned and controlled application of fire to land to manage forest health.

Surface Treatments – This strategy targets dry grasses, pine needles, fallen branches, and small shrubs to reduce wildfire risks.



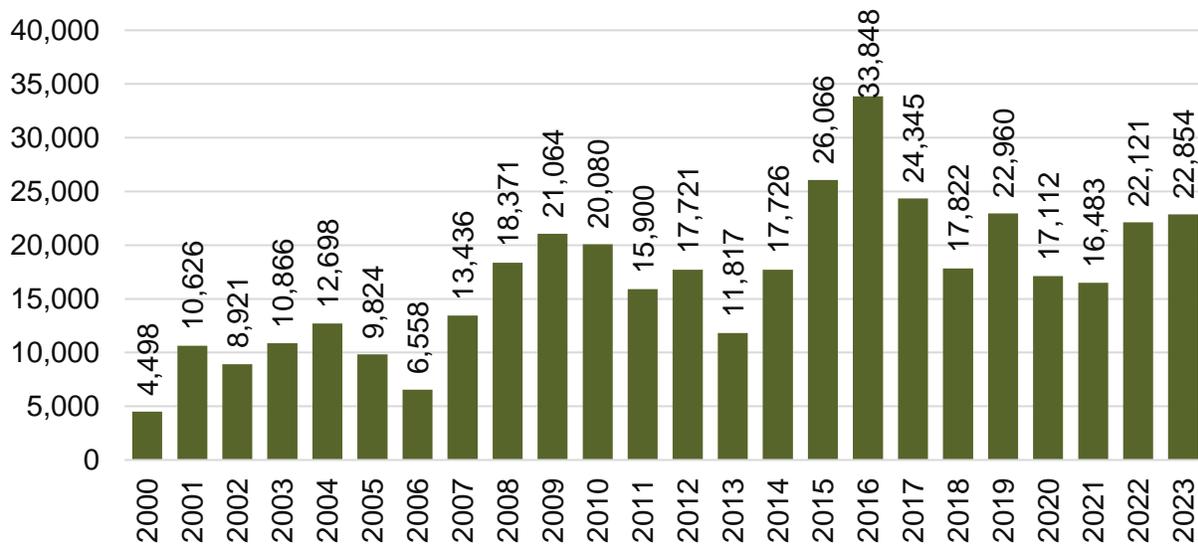
Source: USFS



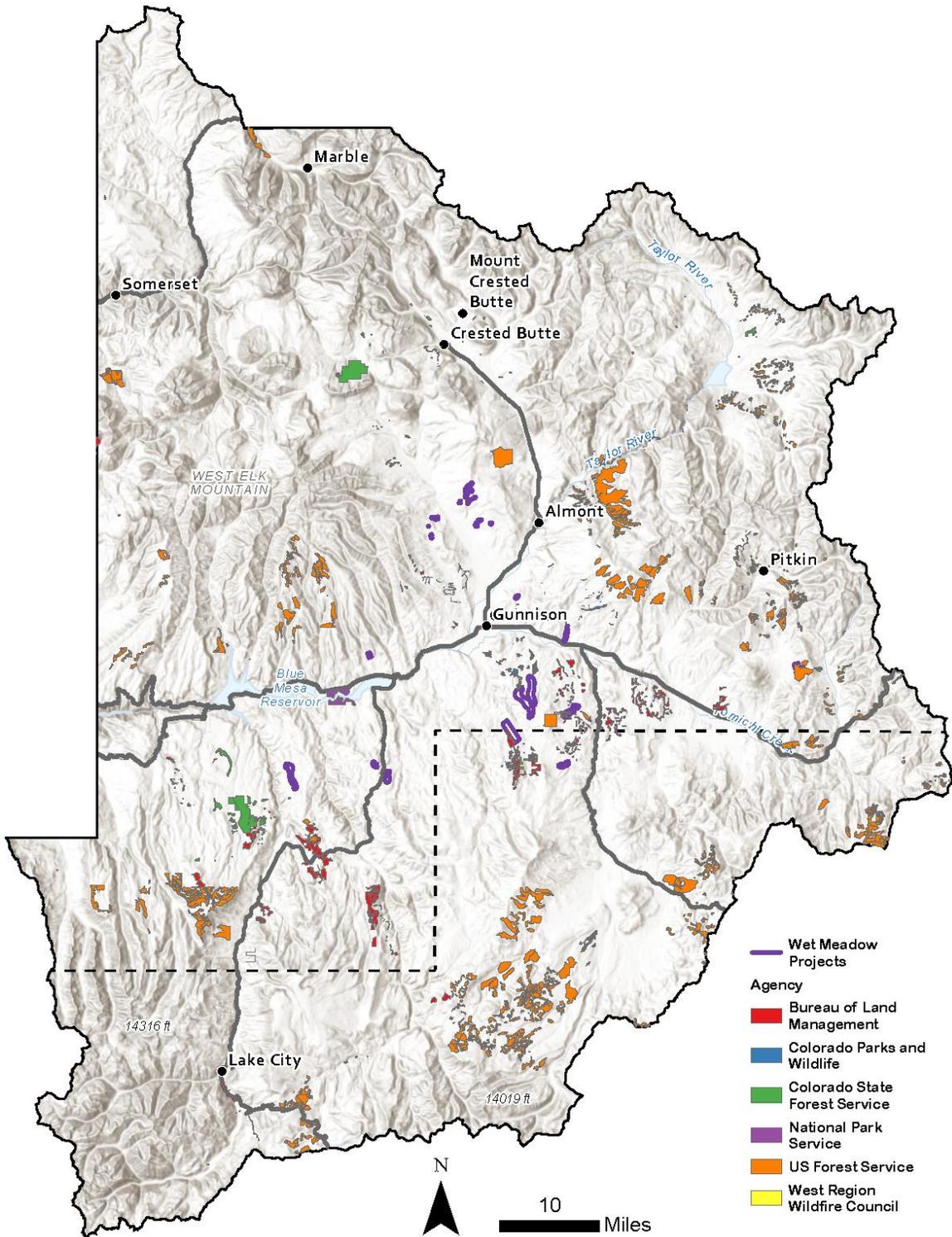
Source: USDA

Acres Treated Each Year Since 2000

The amount of land treated per year has increased since 2000, with a notable increase in 2016 when 33,848 acres were treated. The fewest acres were treated in 2001 at only 4,498 acres.



Historical Vegetation Management in the Planning Area – 2000 to 2023



Wet Meadows Projects

Over 2,600 Zeedyk-style and Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration structures were constructed on 49 miles of streams. This work is estimated to have restored over 121 acres of riparian habitat in the Upper Gunnison Basin. These structures restore habitat and provide fuel breaks by retaining moisture during dry periods. The photos below demonstrate the increase in wetland cover associated with a media luna structure (top row). The lower row shows a log and fabric structure used to heal a head cut.²



Source: Renee Rondeau

² Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District. 2024 "Restoration of wet meadows to enhance Gunnison sage-grouse habitat and drought resilience in arid rangelands."