SCIENCE WESTERN WILDFIRES & CLIMATE CHANGE

Wildfires are increasing and wildfire season is getting longer in the Western U.S.



Average length of wildfire season

Early 1970s: 5 months



Today: 7+ months

Climate change is driving up temperatures and increasing wildfire risk.



TEMPERATURES ARE RISING

Average annual temperatures in the Western U.S. have increased **1.9°F** since 1970.

SNOW MELTS SOONER

Winter snowpack melts up to 4 weeks earlier than in previous decades.



Conditions are primed for wildfires to ignite and spread.

Wildfires are projected to burn more land as temperatures continue to rise.

Projected increase in annual burn area

with an additional 1.8°F rise in temperature

0% -<mark>— 200% ——</mark> 400% — - 650%

By mid-century, temperatures in the Western U.S. are expected to increase even more (2.5°–6.5° F) due to heat-trapping emissions from human activity.

The choices we make today will determine how much temperatures increase this century, how long and damaging wildfire seasons become, and how prepared communities are for the growing risks of wildfires.