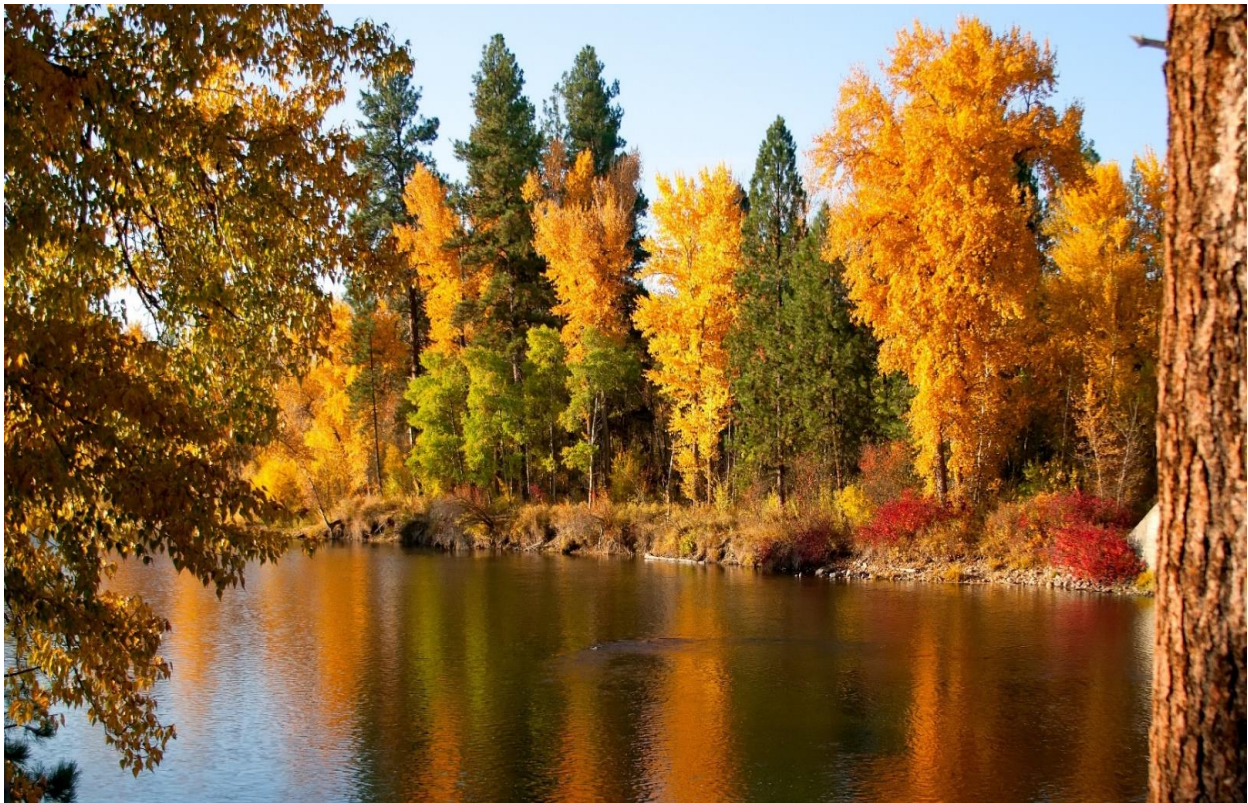




**Dude Ranch Foundation
Wildfire Mitigation Survey Results**

2022



Ensuring Healthy Lands and Forests

Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Partners,

The Dude Ranch Foundation is working with forest management consultants, Federal and State land management agencies and officials, and the insurance industry in developing services and information for the dude ranching industry. The Foundation's objective is to provide ranches, and the industry partners, with tools and resources regarding effective fire mitigation and forest management practices both on and outside their property.

As part of this effort the Dude Ranch Foundation contacted Foundation members, industry partners, and the Dude Ranch Association members to gather information to create a baseline regarding fire mitigation land management practices. Nearly 22% of those invited to take the survey responded. We deeply appreciated those responding to the survey. The information and comments provided are very informative. The following is a summary of the survey results. An independent party, Dan Ostgaard, Ph.D. of Workforce Architects, Inc., worked with the Dude Ranch Foundation in conducting a review and analysis of the responses. Please note all responses were reviewed to ensure to the confidentiality of individual respondents. Hence, responses to Question 1 were not included as it included individual names and contact information.

Over the next few months, the Dude Ranch Foundation Board of Directors will work with industry partners in developing pillars of an action plan. We continue to welcome your input. You can contact me at Colleen@duderanchfoundation.org or info@duderanchfoundation.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen Hodson". The script is cursive and fluid.

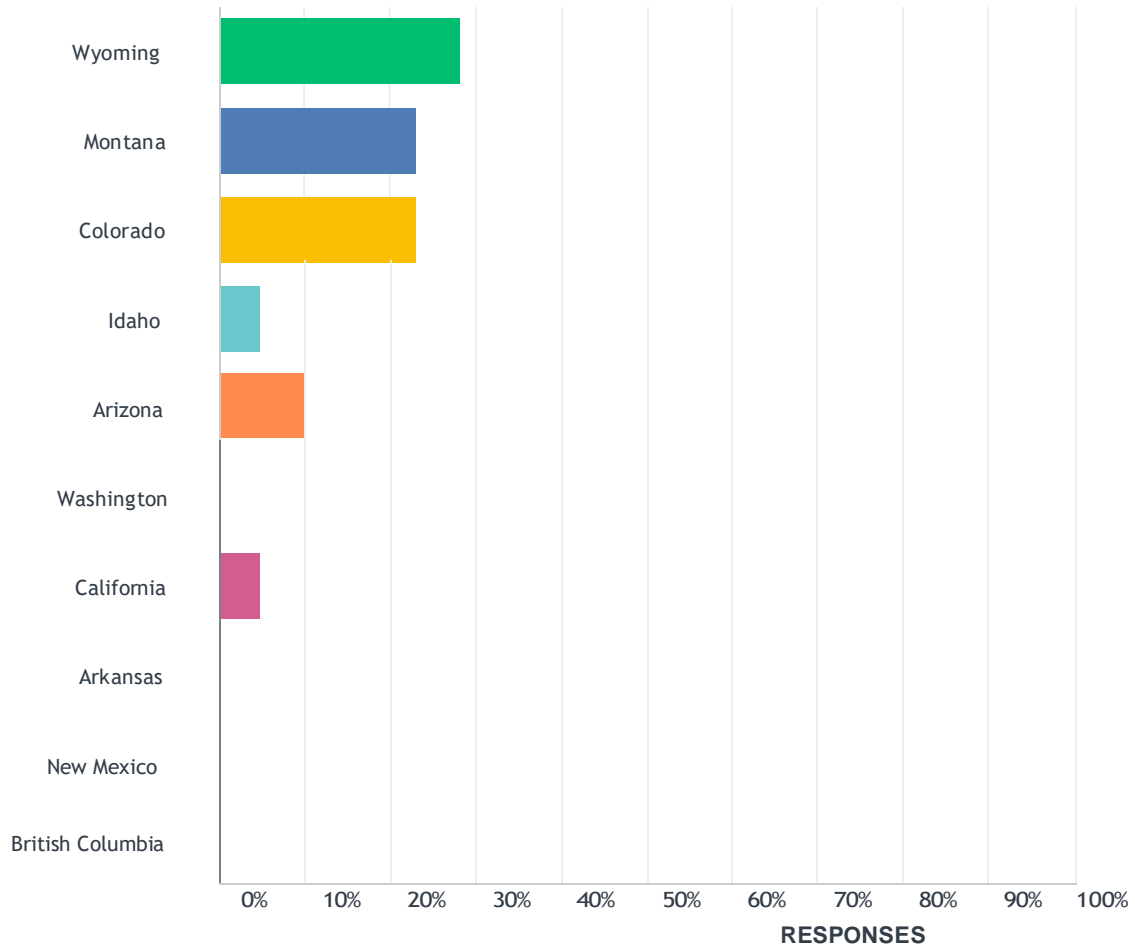
Colleen Hodson
Executive Director
Dude Ranch Foundation

Executive Summary

- ✓ The participation rate in the Dude Ranch Foundation Wildfire Mitigation Survey was strong with a 22% response rate. All survey respondents are being provided this report.
- ✓ Except for Question 16, "Is your ranch a member or supporter of the Dude Ranch Foundation?" all respondents answered the core survey questions. Question 17 provides the written responses which provide actions that can be taken to reinforce the value being a member or supporter of the Dude Ranch Foundation. As well as delineate the role of the Dude Ranch Foundation versus State and National Dude Ranch membership associations.
- ✓ The total amount of land controlled, as reported in Questions 3 and 4 is 16,249 million acres. This is compelling data that could influence in a positive manner the Dude Ranch industry with the business community and government agencies. Extrapolating the combined total by a conservative factor of 3 projected the total of all acres controlled by dude ranch to be 48,748 million acres. A detailed break out of the data is found on page 7. Obtaining the actual data of acreage under their control from all ranches would be extremely helpful.
- ✓ The response to the expanded written responses to Questions 13, 15, 17 and 18 were not edited. The response rates to these four questions ranged from 33% to 80%.
- ✓ The proximal threat of fire, not just the actual fire experience, is illustrated when correlating the responses to Questions 6 and 12. These two questions should be considered together as they suggest that threat of fire in a respondent's area is greater than that experienced by respondents on their properties(s). Responses to Question 6, "*What was the year of the most recent fire in your area?*" indicate 65% report a fire "near" their property within the last 5 years and 80% report a fire "near" their property within the past 10 years. While responses to Question 12, "*Have you experienced a fire(s) on your properties*" indicate slightly less than half (48%) of respondents report a fire on their property. Written comments to Questions 13 and 18 expand on the respondent's fire experience.
- ✓ The correlation of responses to Questions 7, 8, and 9 indicate that respondents interested in fire suppression may not want a forest management plan (FMP) (-.32 correlation), but they believe FMR are effective (.46 correlation). Written comments provided in Question 18 expand on the response to Questions 7, 8, and 9. The written responses suggest several follow-up opportunities. Would respondents be interested in a fire mitigation plan (FMP):
 - If the FMP development support were offered by the DRF or another non-governmental organization.
 - Is there difference in the response based on geographic area or governmental agency partners.
 - If insurance programs provided direct benefits for a FMP.
- ✓ The two following questions are not included in this report as they are reference points.
 - Q10 What are three towns or cities near your ranch?
 - Q 11 What is the nearest commercial airport to your ranch? Please provide the approximate distance in miles?

Q2 In what State or Province are you located?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

Wyoming	28.33%	17
Montana	23.33%	14
Colorado	23.33%	14
Idaho	5.00%	3
Arizona	10.00%	6
Washington	1.67%	1
California	5.00%	3
Arkansas	0.00%	0
New Mexico	1.67%	1
British Columbia	1.67%	1

Q3 How many acres do you have a grazing or agricultural lease on?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
State Lands (Forested)	73.33%	44
State Lands (Non - Forested)	66.67%	40
Federal Lands (Forested) *Please note what type (BLM, Forest Service, Nat. Park).	76.67%	46
Federal Lands (Non - Forested) *Please note what type (BLM, Forest Service, Nat. Park).	61.67%	37
Private Lands (Forested)	71.67%	43
Private Lands (Non - Forested)	71.67%	43

Based on response this represents the following acreage:

Grazing or Ag

State - Forested	61,132
State - Non-Forested	16,780
Federal - Forested	1,010,740
BLM	200
FS	29,160
Combo	11,000
Federal - Non-Forested	1,231,747
BLM	1,800
FS	12,000
Combo	2,000
Private -Forested	35,065
Private - Non-Forested	61,023

On the following page the combined totals for reported acreage for Question3 & Question 4

Q4 How many acres do you have a permit to ride or outfit on?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
State Lands (Forested)	43.33% 26
State Lands (Non - Forested)	43.33% 26
Federal Lands (Forested) *Please note what type (BLM, Forest Service, Nat. Park).	95.00% 57
Federal Lands (Non - Forested) *Please note what type (BLM, Forest Service, Nat. Park).	43.33% 26
Private Lands (Forested)	53.33% 32

Based on the Q4 response this represents the following acreage:

Ride or Outfit

State - Forested	173,952
State - Non-Forested	37,400
Federal - Forested	12,775,465
BLM	0
FS	9,041,960
NP	1,822,000
Other	4,500
Federal - Non-Forested	962,687
BLM	200,000
FS	328,687
NP	0
Other	1,000
Private -Forested	41,078
Private - Non-Forested	61,445

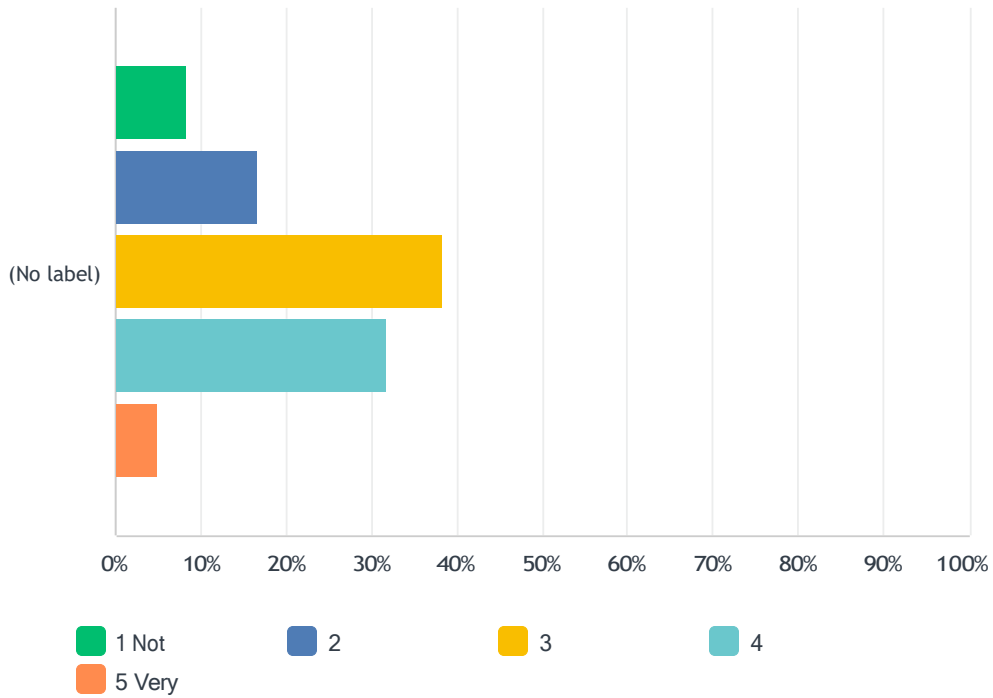
Total Acreage for Q3 & Q4

Segments	Totals	Extrapolated 3x
Grazing / Agriculture		
State Forested	61,132	183,396
State Non-Forested	16,780	50,340
Federal Non-Forested	1,231,747	3,695,241
Riding / Outfitting		
State Forested	173,952	521,856
State Non-Forested	16,780	50,340
Federal Forested	12,775,465	38,326,395
Federal Non-Forested	962,687	2,888,061
Grand Total	16,249,283	48,747,849

Private Lands (Non - Forested)

Q5 On a scale of 1 to 5 how healthy is the forest in your area?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



	1 (VERY UNHEALTHY)	2	3	4	5 (VERY HEALTHY)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(No label)	8.33%	16.67%	38.33%	31.67%	5.00%	60	3.08
	5	10	23	19	3		

This is a more granular view of the responses

Average

3.1

Response

Frequency

1	5
2	10
3	23
4	19
5	3

Q6 What was the year of the most recent fire in your area? (Within twenty miles of the deeded or leased property you operate on.)

Answered: 60 Skipped: 0

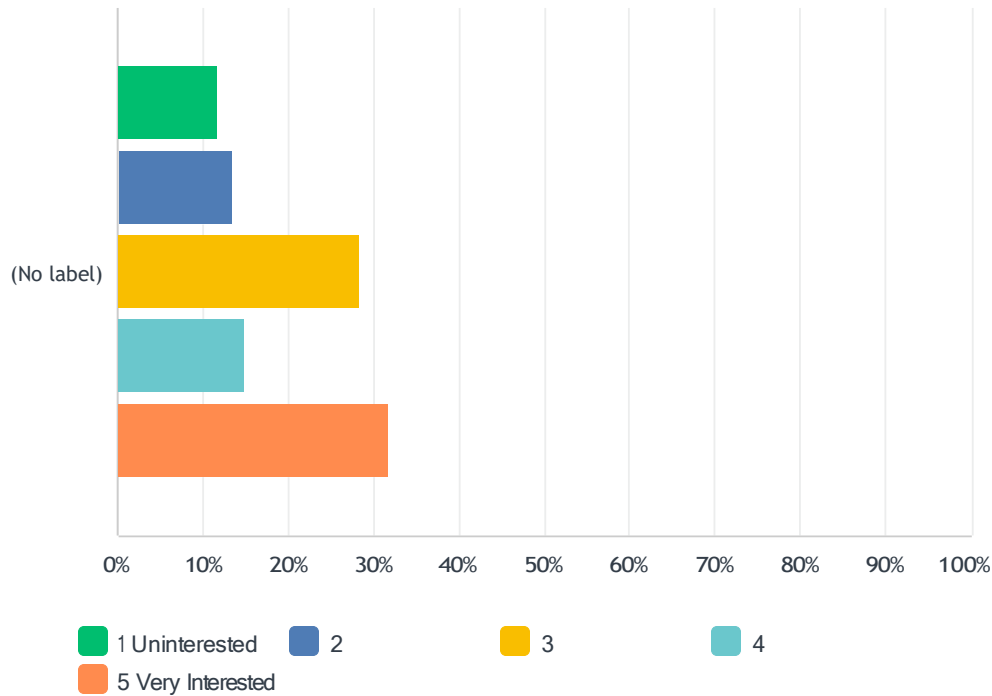
- ✓ Please note, one ranch reports no fires in over 50 years, this skews the data. Without that ranch being included the average would be 5.6 years. The range of years spans 1988 to 2022.

Average	6.4 years	
	Frequency	%
One Year or less	17	28%
Less than three years	26	43%
Less than five years	39	65%
Less than 10 years	48	80%

- ✓ Respondents Comments:
- ✓ 2021-neighboring property and FS land.
 - ✓ never had one.

Q7 On a scale of 1-5, how interested are you in having a forest management plan prepared for your ranch?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 0

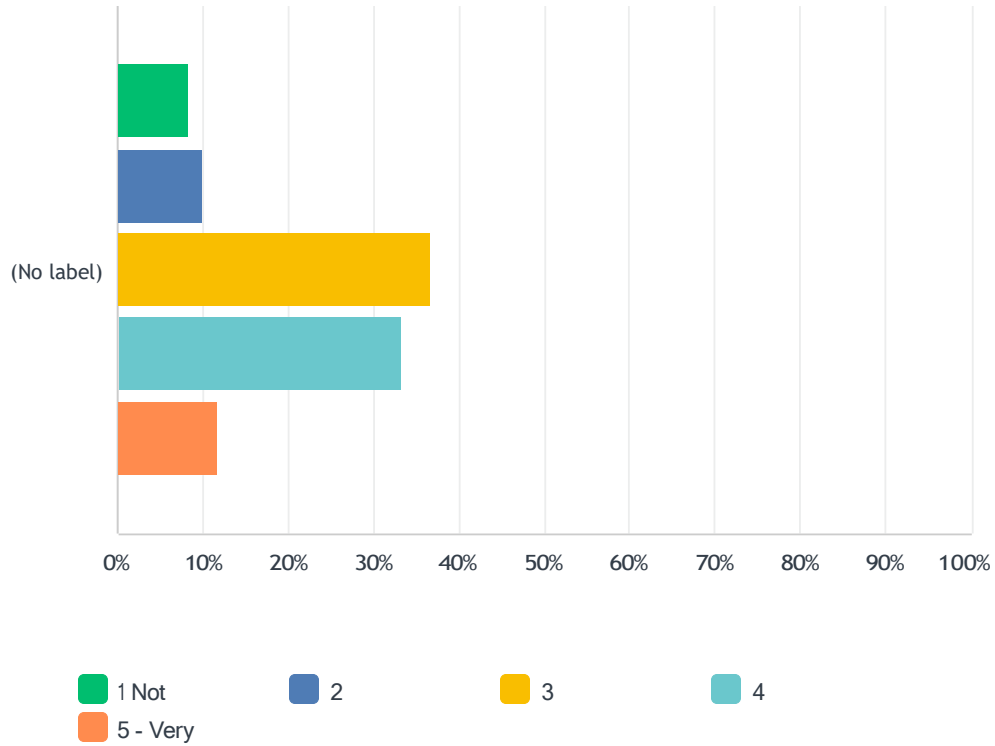


	1 (UNINTERESTED)	2	3	4	5 (VERY INTERESTED)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(No label)	11.67%	13.33%	28.33%	15.00%	31.67%	60	3.42
	7	8	17	9	19		

- ✓ As referenced in the Executive Summary there is a correlation of responses to questions 7, 8, and 9. The data indicates that respondents who are interested in fire suppression don't want a forest management plan (-.32 correlation) but believe they are effective (.46 correlation).
- ✓ While the averages for questions, 8, and 9 are about the same, it is the distribution of responses that's interesting.

Q8 On a scale of 1 to 5, how confident are you in the fire suppression efforts in your area?

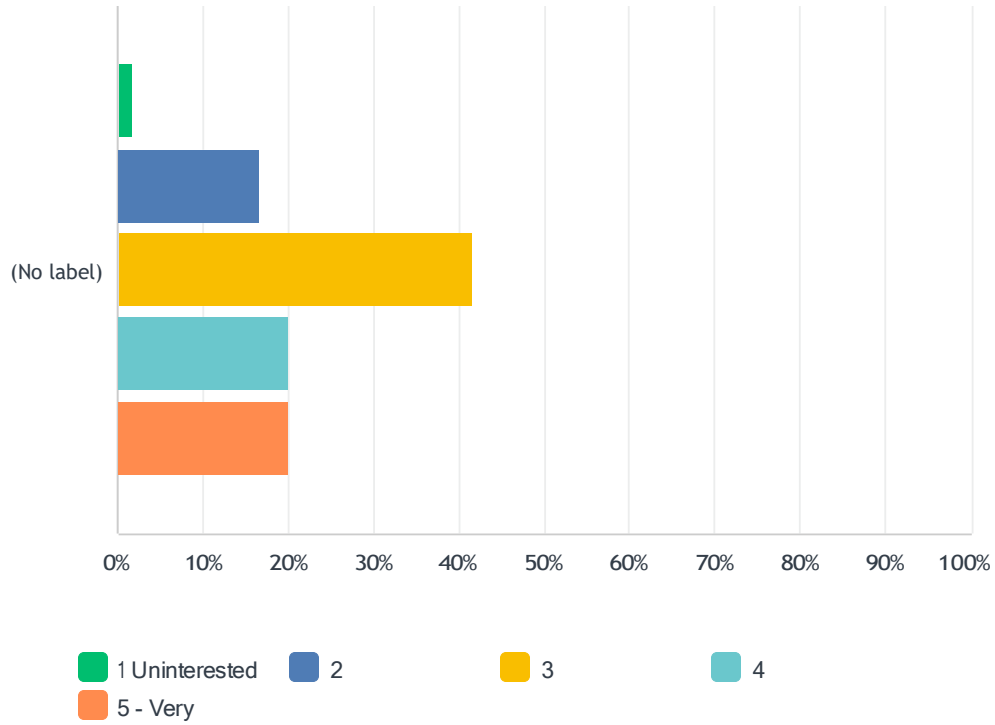
Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



	1 (NOT CONFIDENT AT ALL)	2	3	4	5 (VERY CONFIDENT)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(No label)	8.33%	10.00%	36.67%	33.33%	11.67%	60	3.17
	5	6	22	20	7		

Q9 On a scale of 1 to 5, what is the perception of the level of effectiveness of a forest management plan?

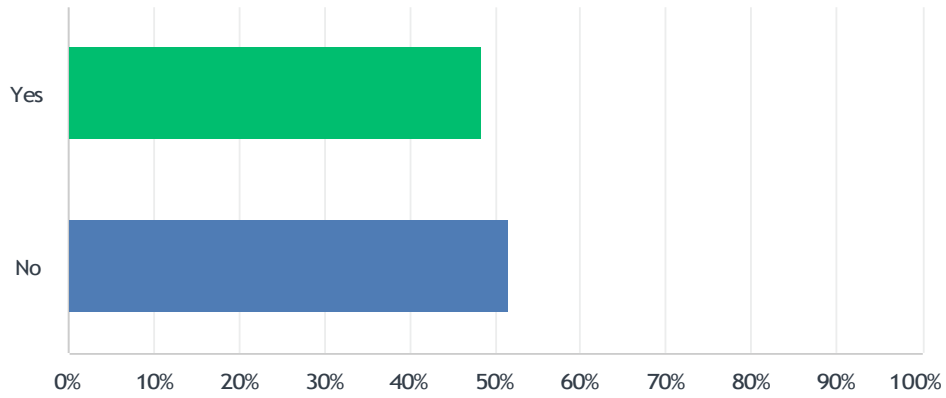
Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



	1 (NOT EFFECTIVE)	2	3	4	5 (VERY EFFECTIVE)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(No label)	1.67%	16.67%	41.67%	20.00%	20.00%	60	3.40
	1	10	25	12	12		

Q12 Have you experienced a fire(s) on your properties?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	48.33%	29
No	51.67%	31
TOTAL		60

Q13 If you answered yes to Q12, please share your experience.

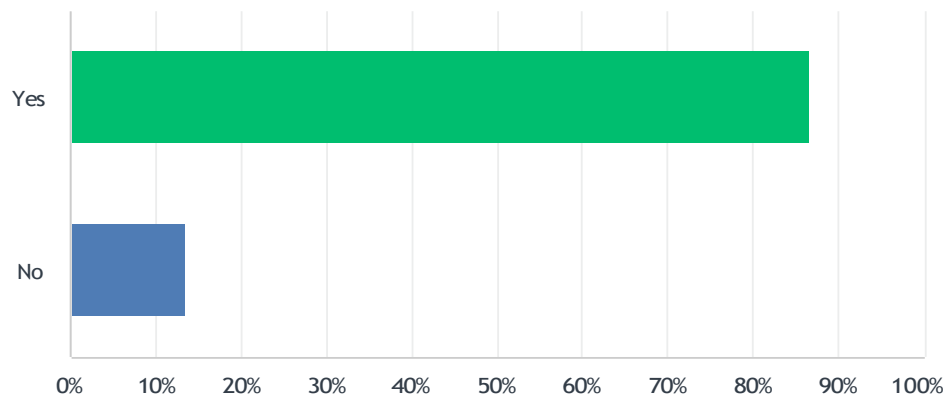
Answered: 28 Skipped: 32

The following are responses from survey participants. They have not been edited.

- ✓ 1991 small fire from neighbor logging-in April-about 100 acres, 2007 hunter from neighboring private land trying to get to public land started a "warming fire" that did not get put out-burned thousands of acres on our cattle ranch and neighboring properties, 2021 fire from lightning but not on us-as close as a quarter mile--shut down operations for a few weeks and all fed grazing/day use for 6 weeks.
- ✓ the fire was in 2002 and burned forest land, but not any buildings. It was the Missionary Ridge Fire.
- ✓ 1 lightning strike twice.
- ✓ We had a tree flare up started by a spark from a 1000 acre fire in the drainage to the west of our ranch.
- ✓ Horrible. Got evacuated. lost a lot of trees.
- ✓ We've had 3 fires near our ranch in 30 years but federal agencies fight them.
- ✓ Burned approx. 10 acres of sagebrush in 2010.
- ✓ East Troublesome Fire - Consumed most the property. Lucky on buildings to proactive work. DRA, CDGRA, Community, & guests were huge help in our success. Once fire was over, our team worked together to set goals for reopening and then divided and conquered. Insurance is a time suck so having some ready to work through that is important.
- ✓ In 2017 The Rice Ridge fire burned USFS land within 2 miles of our ranch.
- ✓ the fire luckily turned around 2 miles from the property but we did cancel/evacuate staff and guests.
- ✓ We have had substantial loss of grazing lands. No facility damage. We have a multi-year history of effective fire coordination with wildland fire related to a watershed group called Altar Valley Conservation Alliance. We have a fire operations plan for the region via that organization. It is very helpful if/when fire hits. Most of our fires are due to migrants crossing over from Mexico, and some are lightninging.
- ✓ Desert grass fire that we suppressed ourselves.
- ✓ Wildfire in 2018. No buildings damaged.
- ✓ Fire was controlled before any serious damage but was a very close call. Most likely started by teenage guests. Noticed from riders miles away before we saw it.
- ✓ Have you experienced a fire(s) on your properties? Yes Q13 If you answered yes to Q12, please share your experience. I have a lot to say about this one! Our experience with the Woods Creek Fire in 2021 was horrific. The fire started on July 3 in some old pine beetle kill USFS that borders our ranch. Due to the terrain and inability to access a helicopter, the fire smoldered for 3 weeks. It picked up steam on July 23 and finally burned down onto our private property July 30. The fire ended up burning the majority of our summer/fall/winter grazing, a large portion of the forest on and bordering the ranch, displaced our cattle and our guest operation. Although we have had some exceptional type 1 hot shot crews, type 1 management personnel, locals that have connected us with grant funding, and community support, we strongly feel that the fire could have been managed much better and unnecessary land was lost. Response was slow (moving from type 3 to type 2 management to type 1, monitoring intact fire line, etc.), several irreplaceable homesteads were burned, and the fire scar will be deep. We greatly appreciated the protection of our business structures, but the fire burned within 300 yards. We worked extremely hard over the last 10 years to log unhealthy timber, thin trees, and graze pasture to mitigate the wildfire risk. The ranch was even honored with the Leopold Conservation Award for our efforts. The areas where we managed forest on private ground fared much better compared to the neighboring BLM and USFS areas where we were willing, but unable, to mitigate risk. We are currently facing over 300k in damages to fences, in excess of 500k to log burnt timber and mitigate erosion and falling trees, hundreds of acres of grazing ground to reseed, and have had to sell a portion of our cattle herd. On top of that, we face a significant change to the aesthetics of the guest ranch. Though we will see financial support to recover from these losses, it will not be from our insurance company and the cost share is still substantial. I wouldn't wish the chaos and loss of a wildfire on anyone. Unfortunately, the cost to insure a ranch of our size for wildfire loss just didn't make sense. It isn't something we could afford as a yearly expense.
- ✓ building fire.
- ✓ cabin burned in 2006.
- ✓ It was up in the backcountry, and we chose to evacuate the horses and cattle, but didn't leave the main ranch. It came within 3 miles of us!
- ✓ pasture fire.
- ✓ The East Troublesome fire burned almost all of our land (~500 acres) and uptown the ranch buildings in 2020. We were very fortunate to have help from the federal firefighters, county and local officials. Happy to expand if requested... a long process that is still going with flooding and federal projects.
- ✓ 20 years ago, dragging chain sparks caught cottonwood trees on fire.
- ✓ My staff and I put one out in the wilderness. not fun.
- ✓ We had a small spot fire that flared up due to lightning 2 years ago. One of our wranglers discovered it on a ride we immediately got our pumper out there and called our local fire department and BLM. Spotfire was put out immediately and stayed small and was not an issue.

Q14 Are you insured for loss due to fire?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	86.67%	52
No	13.33%	8
TOTAL		60

Q15 If you answered yes to Q14, is your ranch self-insured or with a firm? Please elaborate.

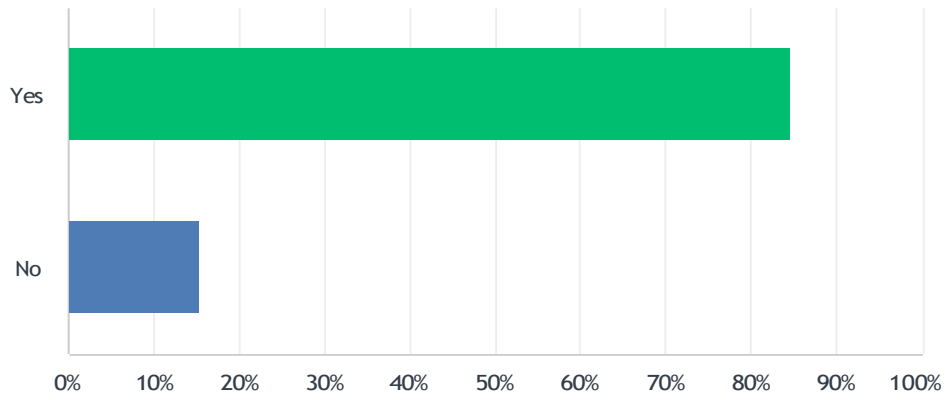
Answered: 48 Skipped: 12

The following are responses from survey participants. They have not been edited.

- ✓ Buildings, hay base but not operational/business losses, Farm Bureau carrier.
- ✓ Our agent works very hard to find insurance every year. This year it's through the California fair plan. Very expensive.
- ✓ Firm - at about 3 times the normal rate.
- ✓ We were insured by a firm when the fire hit. Post fire we are looking at doing a mix of self insured and using a firm.
- ✓ We are fortunate that our ranch is in the middle of meadows and is not surrounded by timber which makes us insurable.
- ✓ K&K insurance however our renewal comes 07/14/2022 and do not know what will happen Q.
- ✓ Property insurance absolutely unaffordable this year. We are self-insured.
- ✓ we are actually partially insured. We cover our kitchen/dining room and one group of cabins. Otherwise we are essentially selfinsured.
- ✓ Property insurance absolutely unaffordable this year. We are self-insured.
- ✓ Insured through a firm.
- ✓ Both, We were forced to have some type of fire insurance, but opted for a smaller policy and covered the rest by self insuring.
- ✓ Firm. Building have fire insurance k.
- ✓ Philadelphia. We are located at 500 yards from fire department, surrounded by irrigated land, lawn sprinklers, ponds, pool and no forest.
- ✓ We are with a firm now after getting dropped in January.
- ✓ With a firm. We are in the process of changing firms and need to choose this week which one. Philadelphia for limited number of buildings & self-insured

Q16 Is your ranch a member or supporter of the Dude Ranch Foundation?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	84.75%	50
No	15.25%	9
TOTAL		59

Q17 If you answered no to Q16, please explain why.

Answered: 20 Skipped: 40

The following are responses from survey participants. They have not been edited.

- ✓ The Foundation supports the heritage and mission of dude ranches.
- ✓ It's important to support our future (YES).
- ✓ Not sure (NO).
- ✓ Cause we are nice people :-)
- ✓ I think we are. Is there a way to make sure? (From survey 40 – said yes).
- ✓ It's not something we are opposed to, just something we don't know much about. No.
- ✓ Good programs. Believe in it. Positive to work together as an industry. Better bargaining power when there are problems such as fire, or other insurance issues! YES.
- ✓ Education, horse safety YES.
- ✓ Member (YES).
- ✓ Cost/benefit (NO).
- ✓ Can only support so many causes. Perhaps in the future (NO).
- ✓ Can't afford to do everything (No).
- ✓ We don't want to solicit guests.
- ✓ Continued Promotion of Dude Ranching and the folks keeping it alive.
- ✓ The Jessups have been ranching since 1946 and consider themselves stewards of the land. The Dude Ranch Foundation helps keep the legacy alive!
- ✓ Great mission.
- ✓ Its an organization that helps the advocate for sound agricultural practices (yes).

Q18 Please provide any additional comments you feel are relevant to the issue of wildfires.

Answered: 22 Skipped: 38

The following are responses from survey participants. They have not been edited.

- ✓ We would have left question 5 and 9 blank as we do not have forests here. The survey would not allow us so our answer is not applicable.
- ✓ question 5 does not pertain to us because we do not have forests.
- ✓ Happy to discuss the fire piece in more detail. Here is our story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4eZMwBZqzbw> .
- ✓ We have worked with the forest service to put timber contracts on 50% of the timber surrounding the ranch in an effort to mitigate wildfire risk.
- ✓ Thanks.
- ✓ Lightning is always a concern but many are started by people, too. We put out campfires from the recreating public multiple times per summer
- ✓ Hopefully this survey can somehow assist Ranches in acquiring reasonable/affordable Property Insurance
- ✓ Forest policies need to shift from absolute fire prevention, to a policy of "good fire" which enables fuel loads to be reduced in planned and manageable fashion.
- ✓ Grazing in our area keeps fire risk down. Only trees on north facing slopes and steep coulees.
- ✓ Montana has a good neighbor authority to blend state and federal intial attack on wildfires.
- ✓ Regarding question 9, the FMP is a great thing to have but the effectiveness of the FMP is solely dependent on the ability to implement the plan. That requires money and resources, which are hard to come by.
- ✓ We have a very in-depth fire plan, and have spent tens of thousands in suppression, tree work, planning.
- ✓ Our ranch and staff are intimately aware of the issues surrounding wildfires. Not only has in impacted our guest ranch, but we also see the impact on a working ranch, an outfitting operation and a family. We are fortunate that we didn't lose EVERYTHING, and deeply grateful for the community support, but the path to recovery is a daunting one. We are passionate about land and wildlife health and would be happy to be part of this conversation.
- ✓ Insurance companies are not willing to actually look at our ecosystem to see We have low fire danger to structure.
- ✓ The only reason I answered the question that we do not want a forest management plan is because we already have a current working plan. We continually log our area then clean up after and manage it for marketable Timber and wildfire prevention.
- ✓ would love more recourses and options for fire mitigation.
- ✓ Insurance costs skyrocketed.
- ✓ Hopefully this survey can somehow assist Ranches in acquiring reasonable/affordable Property Insurance.
- ✓ The threat of fire is an issue that cannot be ignored. The DRA should look into a self-insured plan as rates will just climb and climb.
- ✓ The location of the ranch makes it less risky for fire.
- ✓ would like us to coordinate a semi self insurance program.
- ✓ We have quite bit of home ranch fire protection equipment - fire hose and risers plus irrigation system (this repondant has limited insurance then self insured.
- ✓ Regarding the acreage covered by riding permits, our permits are actually by the linear mile -- so if you look at the permit the mileage is very tiny. I used the general area to answer your question. In my experience, investing in pro-active coordination and communication with local fire organizations is VERY helpful when a fire starts. Preplanning can be done to help mitigate risk. Landowners should learn to attend daily fire briefings if event occurs. Also can have tools on hand such a pool fire pump.