

Idaho Wildfire Update 2022

A Tale of Two Seasons



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Agenda

- Compare 2021 and 2022 wildfire seasons
 - acres burned
 - emissions
 - fire distribution
 - air quality
- Consider smoke transport differences between seasons
 - outreach
 - engagement

Comparison of total acres and distribution of fires in 2021 and 2022

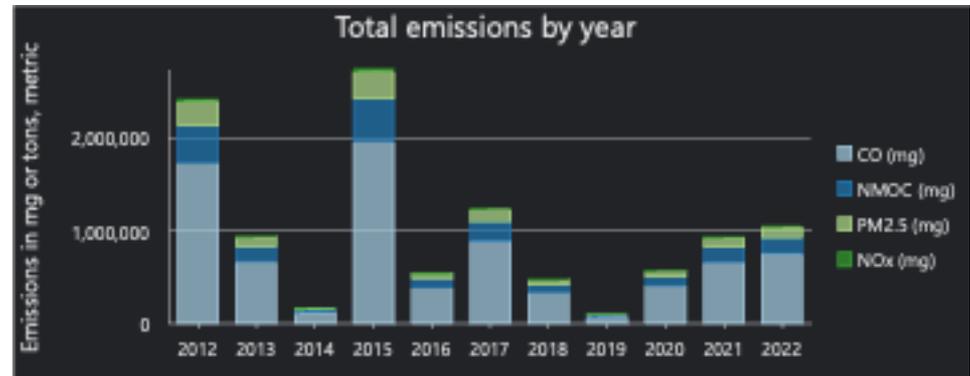
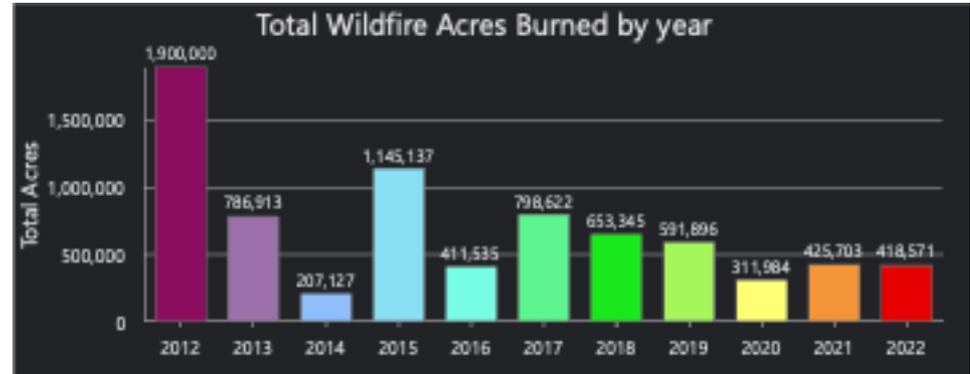
- Total acres burned was slightly less in 2022 than 2021.
- Total emissions was slightly higher in 2022 than 2021.
- Overall, acres burned, and total emissions were similar for both years and less than average.

- Fire distribution in 2021:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/fcc89fcc74743998ea6a71e60844758>

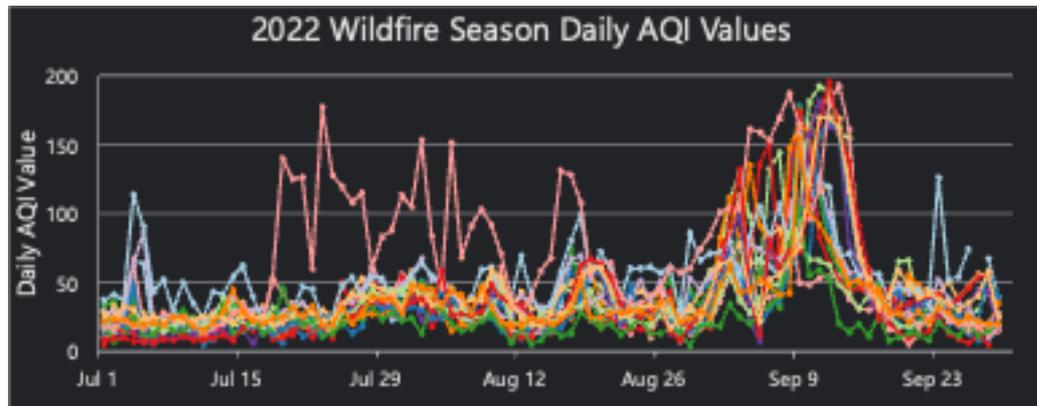
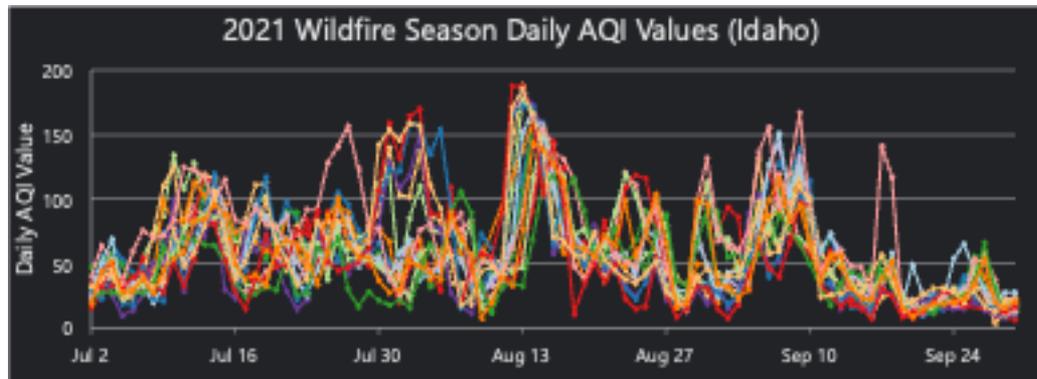
- Fire Distribution in 2022:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/1f77cd90bc4b4a01924b4799cf2d36ff>



Comparison of air quality in 2021 and 2022

- 2021 had many more days over 100 AQI, especially in July and August
- 2021 exhibits classic regional transport signature 3 times
- 2022 experienced 1 major transport episode in early September
- Salmon was the most highly impacted monitor in 2022; early season was otherwise quiet



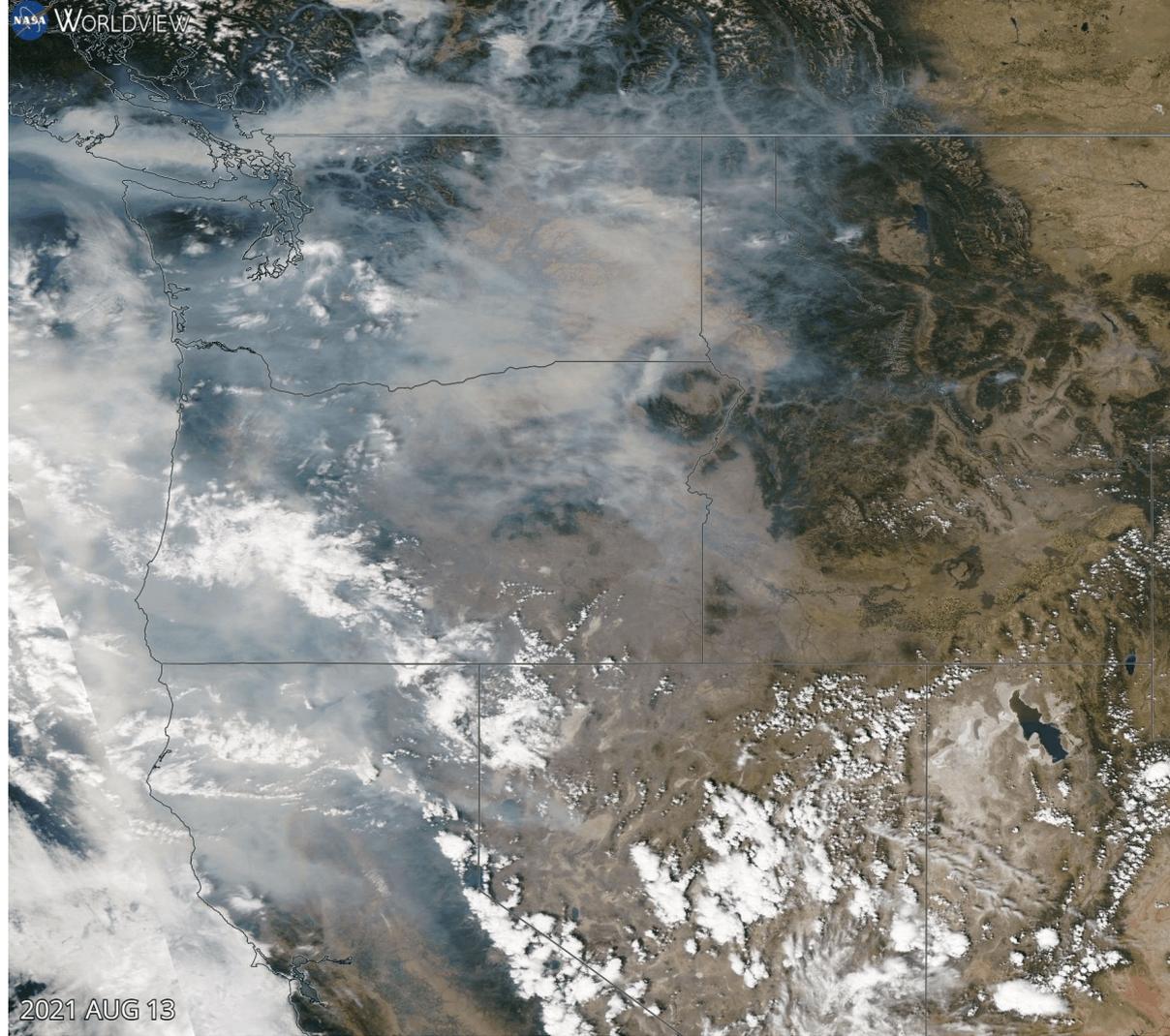
Comparison of AQI Days > 100

- Except for the Idaho Falls Regional Office, the number of AQI days > 100 in 2022 were half or less than those in 2021

Regional Office	2021	2022
Lewiston	16%	8%
Twin Falls	9	4
Boise	14	7
Idaho Falls	11	11
Pocatello	7	1
Coeur d'Alene	12	6

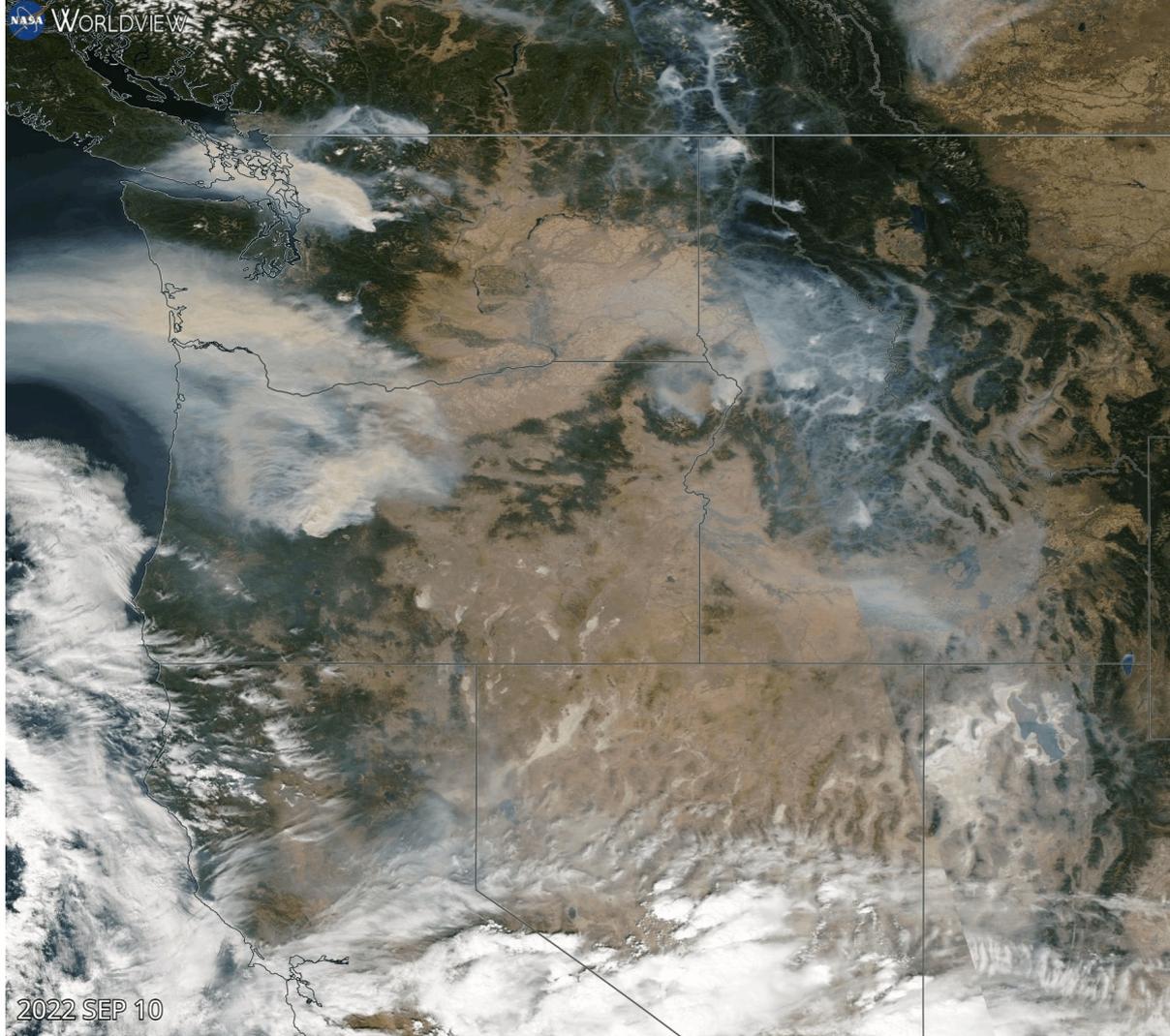
Transport Examples

- August 13-17, 2021



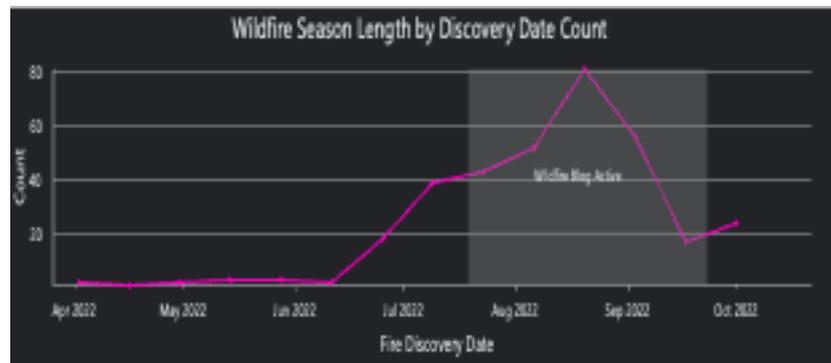
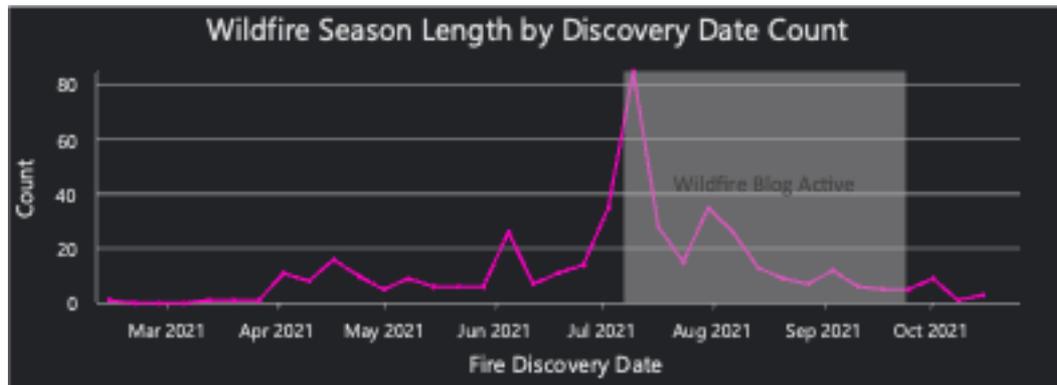
Transport Examples

- September 10-14, 2022



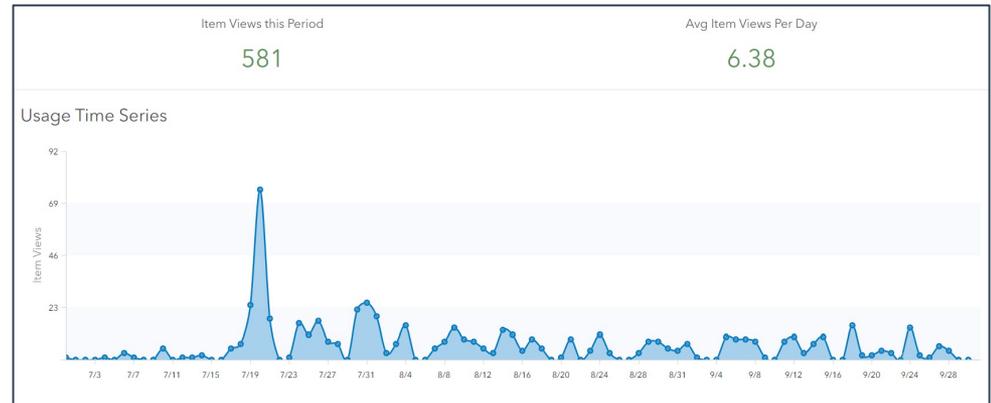
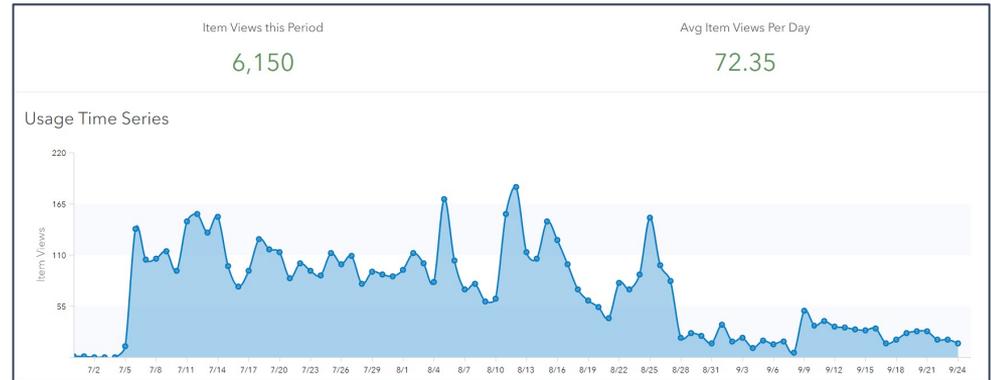
Comparison of outreach in 2021 and 2022

- Blog active from July 7 to September 24 in 2021.
- Blog active from July 19 to September 23 in 2022.



Comparison of outreach in 2021 and 2022

- Wildfire portal active and updated daily from July 6 to September 21 in 2021.
- Wildfire portal active and updated daily from July 19 to September 30 in 2022.



Comparison of engagement in 2021 and 2022



2021

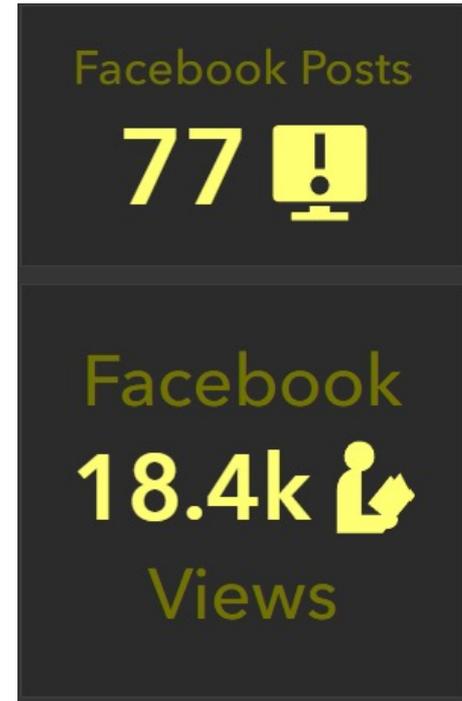


2022

Comparison of engagement in 2021 and 2022



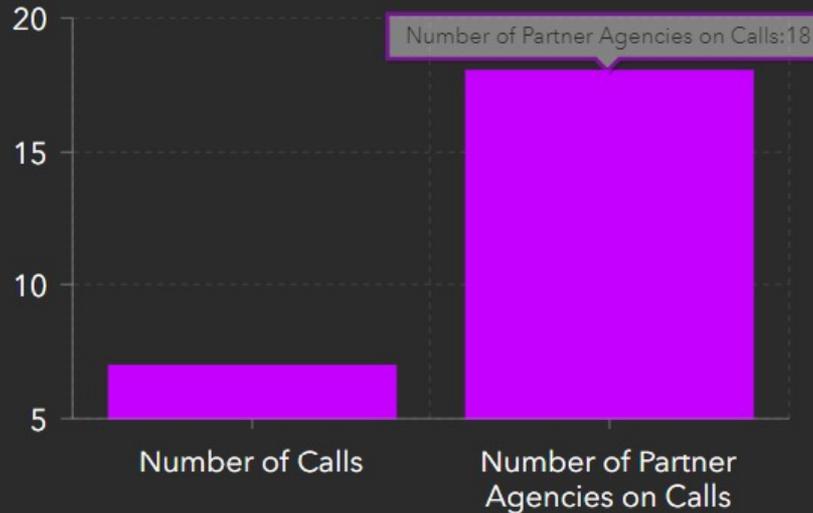
2021



2022

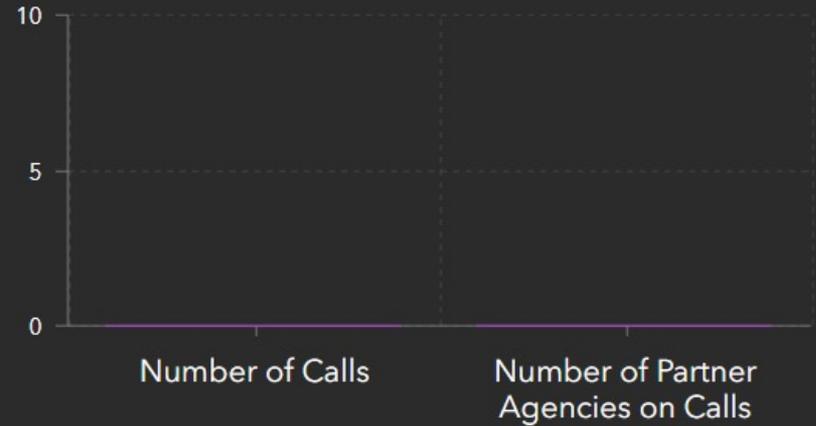
Comparison of interagency cooperation protocol calls in 2021 and 2022

Interagency Cooperation Protocol Calls



2021

Interagency Cooperation Protocol Calls



There were zero calls during the 2022 season.

2022

Conclusions

- Based on acres burned and emissions produced, the 2021 and 2022 wildfire seasons in Idaho appear to be similar.
- Air quality impacts between seasons were very different.
- Smoke transport is an important driver of wildfire air quality impacts in Idaho.
- Outreach is maintained throughout variable seasons.
- Stakeholder and public engagement varies with air quality impacts.

Questions?



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Notable fires in 2022

- Moose
- Ross Fork
- Russell Mountain/Kootenai Complex
- Four Corners
<https://arcg.is/e1CmD>

