

Not Your Father or Mother's Fire Organization: Jurisdictional Complexity in the New Era of Wildfire

**Fall 2019 Third Annual National Cohesive Wildland Fire
Management Strategy Workshop – Plymouth, MA**

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Meet the Fire Chasers

www.firechasers.ncsu.edu



Co-PIs:

- ❖ Toddi Steelman, Duke University
- ❖ Anne-Lise Velez, Virginia Tech

Collaborator:

- ❖ Kate Albrecht, University of Illinois at Chicago

Current Graduate Students:

- Shannon McGovern
- Elliot Nauert
- Ryan Scott



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2017

Today: Guiding Question

What does the new normal of jurisdictional complexity look like?



The challenge...

- ❖ It's hard to prepare for something we don't fully understand
- ❖ Need to understand how changes in wildfire are leading to changes in wildfire management
- ❖ There were 115 Type 1 and Type 2 fires in 2018

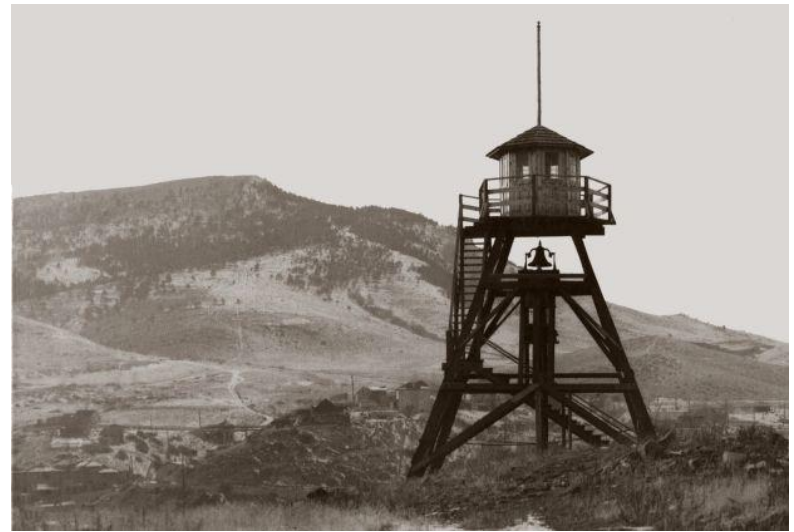


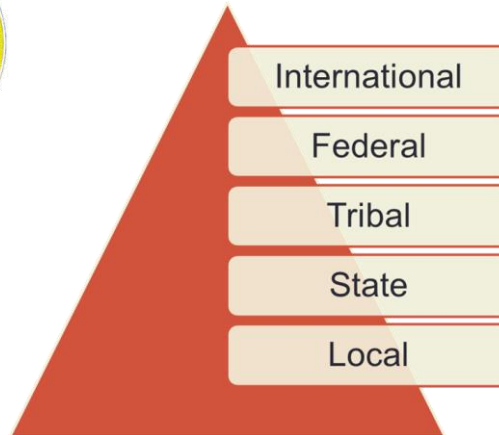
Photo credit: AL KNAUBER
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What do we mean by jurisdictionally complex?

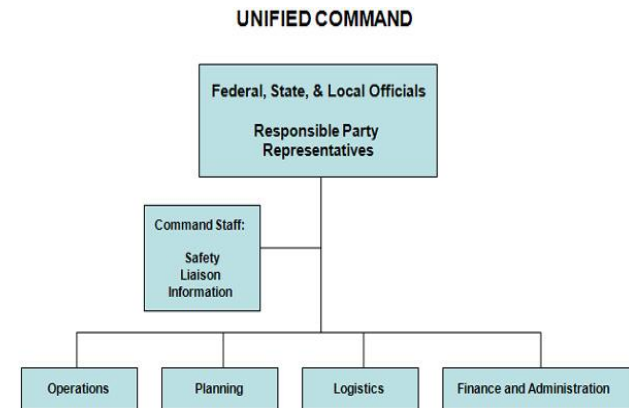
Multiple Jurisdictions Impacted



Multiple Levels of Jurisdictions Involved

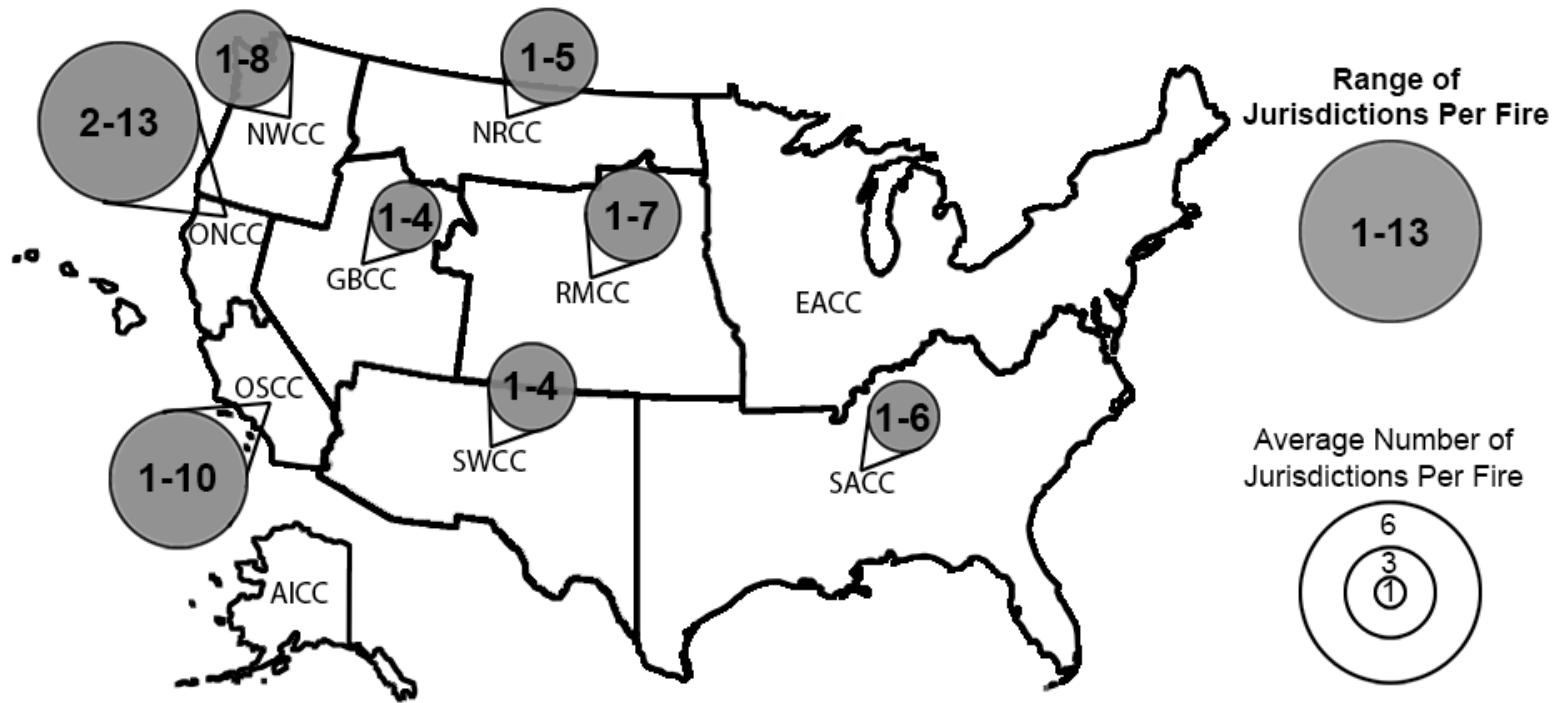


Fire Organization



Jurisdictional Complexity Profile of 2018 Fire Year

Multiple Jurisdictions Impacted



Jurisdictional Complexity Profile of 2018 Fire Year

Multiple Levels of Jurisdictions Involved

% of Fires Involving
3+ Jurisdiction Levels

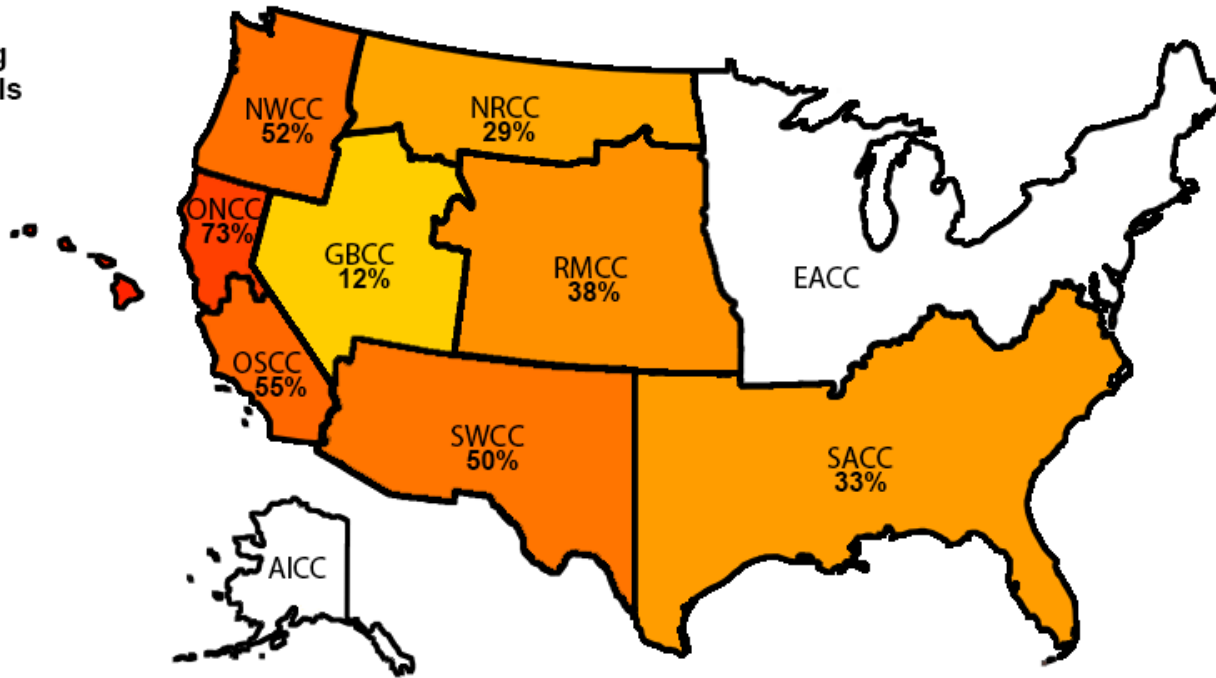
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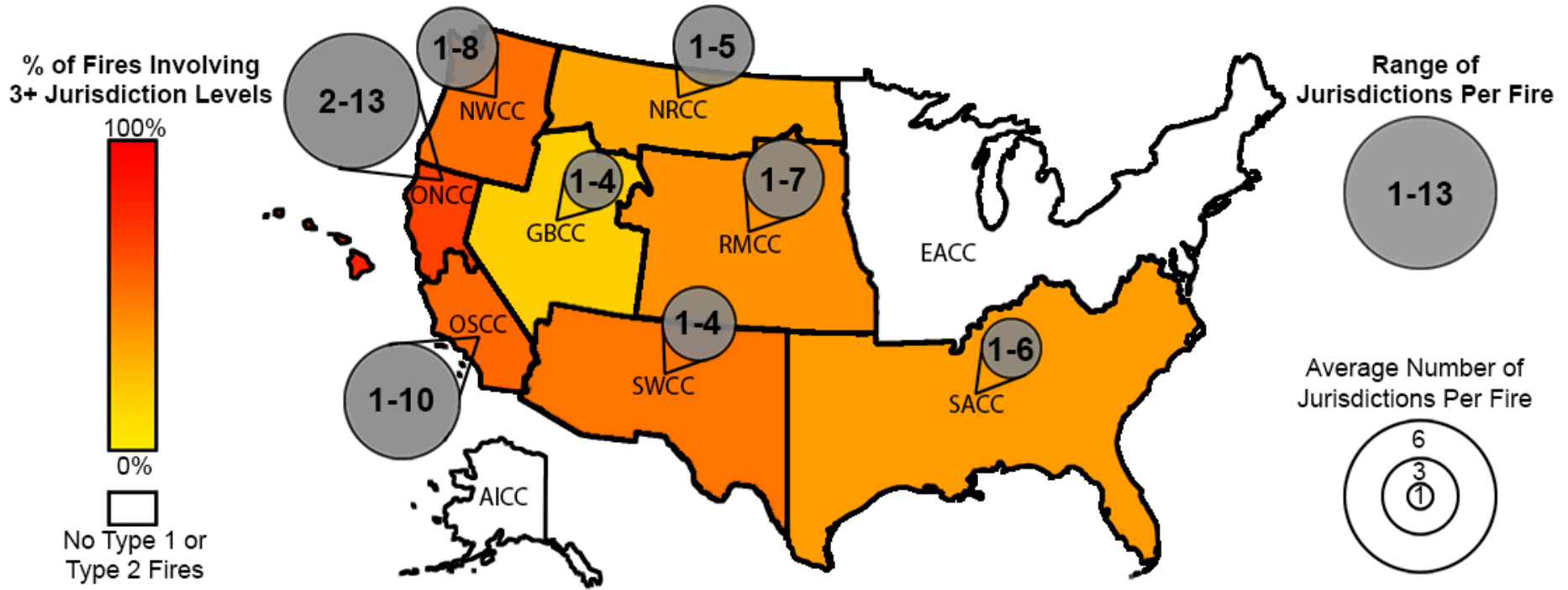


No Type 1 or
Type 2 Fires



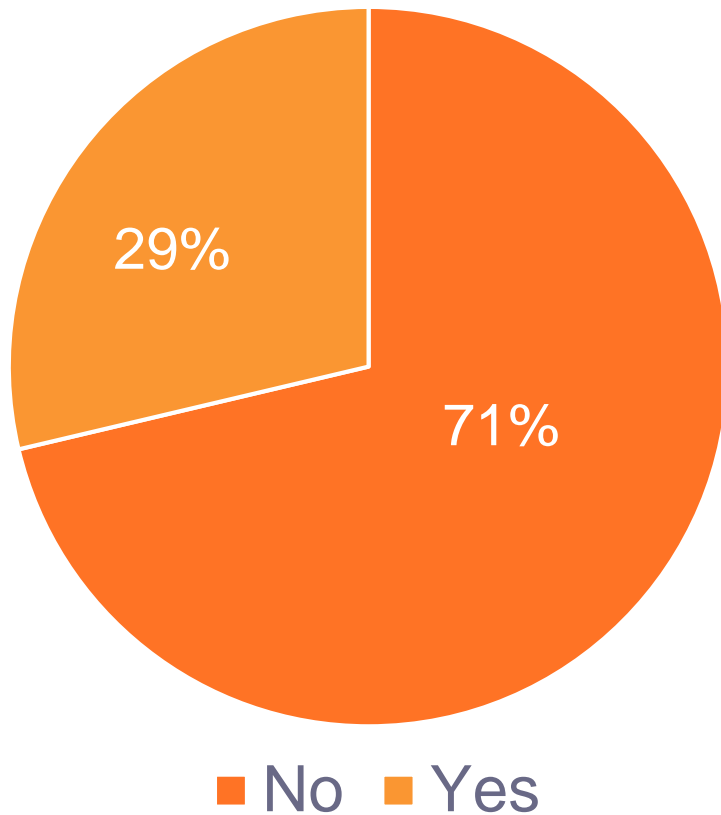
Jurisdictional Complexity Profile of 2018 Fire Year

Jurisdictional Complexity



Jurisdictional Complexity Profile of 2018 Fire Year

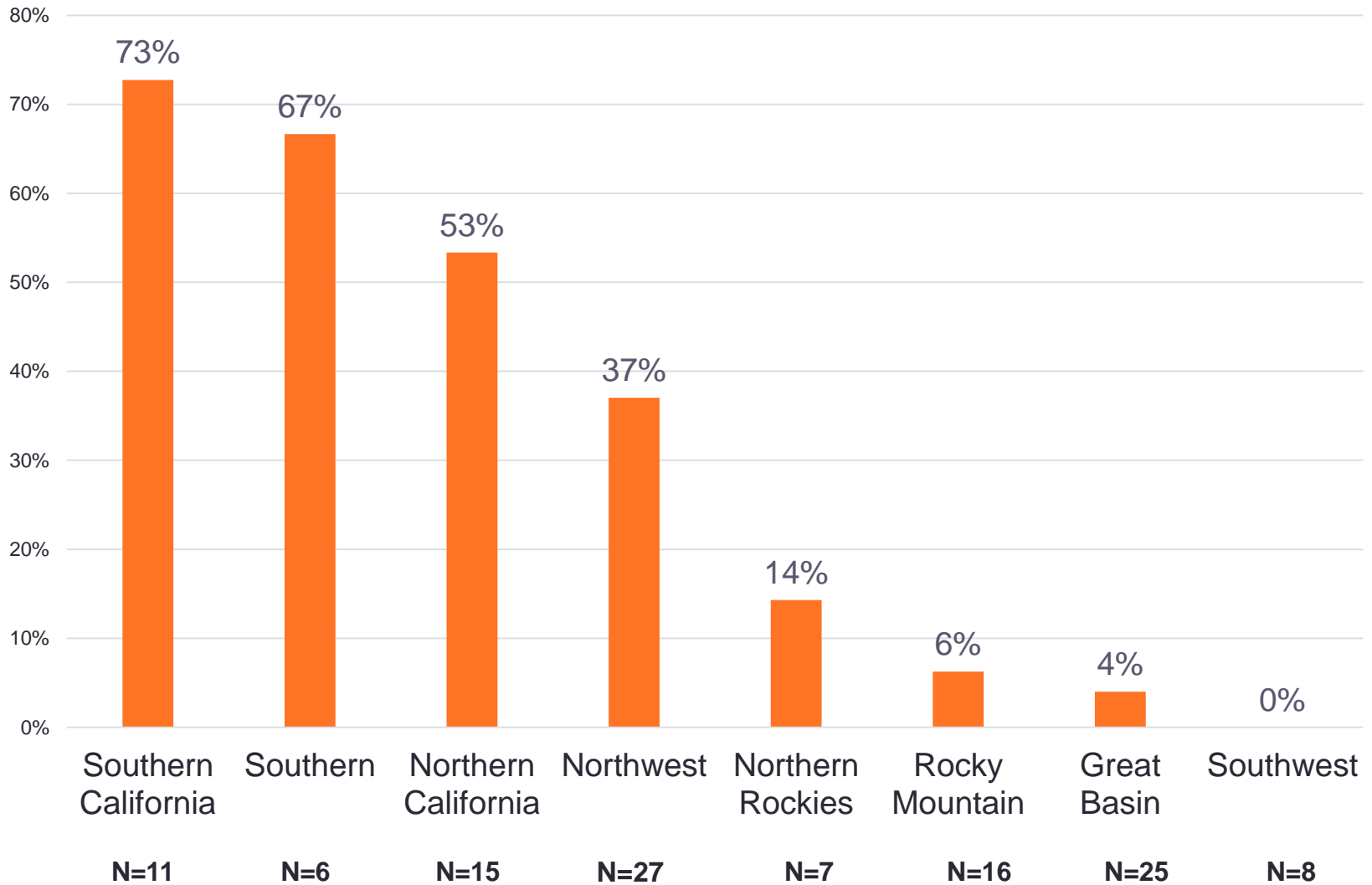
Fire Organization: Use of Unified Command



Of the fire organizations that went into UC, 64% involved **BOTH** federal and state actors

Jurisdictional Complexity Profile of 2018 Fire Year

Use of Unified Command by GACC



Big Take Aways

- ❖ In 2018, Type 1 and 2 fires routinely had 3 to 4 jurisdictions impacted representing 3 levels of government
- ❖ None of the current complexity analysis includes representation of private interests which is a whole additional layer of complexity
- ❖ Improving fire management will require improving our ability to govern large multi-jurisdictional fire organizations... but what does that mean?

Shameless Self-Promotion



❖ Future Fire Chasers presentations:

#45. Preparing for Jurisdictionally Complex Wildfire: Are the Right Actors Having the Right Conversations?

❖ **Presented by Toddi Steelman on Thursday, October 24 at 1:45 pm in Regency A Room**

#51. Models of Co-Management

❖ **Presented by Anne-Lise Velez on Thursday, October 24 at 2:25 pm in Standish Room**