Upstream Fires, Downstream Impacts
Reframing the spatial and temporal understanding of fire impacts

- The impacts of a fire are not bounded by the fire perimeter, and they are not done when the fire is called out... arguably, they have only just begun

- Amount/potential for flooding
- Quality
- Large debris flows
- Sedimentation
- Reduction in reservoir storage

“Projected increases in the frequency and magnitude of wildfires will double the rates of sedimentation in one-third of 471 large watersheds in the western U.S. within the next 33 years. In almost nine out of 10 of the watersheds assessed, sedimentation could increase by at least 10 percent. In some watersheds erosion and sedimentation could increase by 1,000 percent.”

“The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then dipped suddenly down, so suddenly that Alice had not a moment to think about stopping herself before she found herself falling down a very deep well. Either the well was very deep, or she fell very slowly, for she had plenty of time as she went down to look about her and to wonder what was going to happen next.”
So there’s a fire...

- Are *your* assets/values mapped and available for sharing?
  - Triaged and prioritized?

- Do you know what assets/values you rely on?

- Expect the Expected

“Speak English!” said the Eaglet. 'I don't know the meaning of half those long words, and I don't believe you do either!”
The Pyrocene*

- Fire season is getting longer and the climate is moving out of a cooler, wetter cycle, to a warmer drier one
  - More direct fire impacts
  - More indirect fire impacts
- Shameless plug for science and countering “fake news”: The PNW has a fire acreage deficit, but the fires are more severe**

- Do not depend on being notified regarding fires
- Know what your risk is (avoid analysis paralysis and modeling Wonderland)

*The term “pyrocene” was coined by Dr. Stephen Pyne in 2015 to explain human’s relationship with fire and impacts on our world.

** “The missing fire: quantifying human exclusion of wildfire in the Pacific Northwest Forests, USA” Ecosphere 10(4)
Communication and Info-gathering

- Attending cooperator meetings for information
- Visit InciWeb [https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/](https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/)
- Visit NIFC EGP [https://maps.nwcg.gov/sa/](https://maps.nwcg.gov/sa/)
- Search using hashtags “#Tubbsfire”
- Do you know who your federal or state partners are, and do you have relationships in place?
- Attend After Action Reviews (AARs), if possible

*Fire season is not the time to prepare*

“But I don’t want to go among mad people,” the utility company remarked. “Oh, you can’t help that,” said the friendly fire people: “we’re all mad here. I’m mad. You’re mad.” “How do you know I’m mad?” said the utility company. “You must be,” said the friendly fire people, “or you wouldn’t have come here.”

-Adapted from Luis Carroll *Alice in Wonderland*