Over 150 fire scientists urge the western U.S. to forego fireworks this Fourth of July

June 30, 2021

The July 4th weekend in the United States this year will be like no other we’ve experienced in the nation’s history. The extreme heat impacting the northwestern United States and Canada this week comes on top of an already record-setting drought across much of western North America. This is setting the stage for widespread fire activity.

We are gravely concerned about the potential for humans to accidentally start fires – from fireworks and other activities – by adding ignitions to this combination of historic drought, heat, and dry vegetation.

We urge people to skip the fireworks this July 4th and to avoid other activities that could start an unintentional wildfire. This will be critical for a safe Independence Day holiday, good practice for the rest of the fire season, and one way we can adapt to more safely live in increasingly flammable landscapes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Bomfim</td>
<td>Berkeley National Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Dolman</td>
<td>Boise State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mojtaba Sadegh</td>
<td>Boise State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke Montrose</td>
<td>Boise State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carson MacPherson-Krutsky</td>
<td>Boise State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Jakober</td>
<td>California Air Resources Board</td>
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<td>Alan Tepley</td>
<td>Canadian Forest Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winslow Hansen</td>
<td>Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Walsh</td>
<td>Central Washington University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Lipton</td>
<td>Central Washington University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Barnes</td>
<td>Colorado College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andreas Wion</td>
<td>Colorado State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wade Tinkham</td>
<td>Colorado State University</td>
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<td>Monique Rocca</td>
<td>Colorado State University</td>
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<td>Courtney Schultz</td>
<td>Colorado State University</td>
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<td>Sarah Hart</td>
<td>Colorado State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camille Stevens-Rumann</td>
<td>Colorado State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arianna Varuolo-Clarke</td>
<td>Columbia University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caitlin Littlefield</td>
<td>Conservation Science Partners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wynne Moss</td>
<td>Conservation Science Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Mietkiewicz</td>
<td>CoreLogic</td>
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</tbody>
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John Kominoski  
Florida International University
Jennifer Russell  
Idaho Department of Lands
Morey Burnham  
Idaho State University
Norris Muth  
Juniata College
Dylan Darter  
Kansas State University
Alex Jonko  
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Mark Suchyta  
Michigan State University
Dave McWethy  
Montana State University
Cathy Whitlock  
Montana State University
Bruce Maxwell  
Montana State University
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Montana State University
Tony Hartshorn  
Montana State University
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Montana State University
Jane Mangold  
Montana State University
Ann Marie Reinhold  
Montana State University
Scott Powell  
Montana State University
Jacquelyn Shuman  
National Center for Atmospheric Research
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North Carolina State University
Peter Fulé  
Northern Arizona University
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Northern Arizona University
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Northern Arizona University
Xanthe Walker  
Northern Arizona University
Adrianna Foster  
Northern Arizona University
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Ocean Associates
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Oregon citizen scientist
Meg Krawchuk  
Oregon State University
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Oregon State University
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Oregon State University
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Retired
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Scientist
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University of Arizona
Chris Guiterman  
University of Arizona
Beth Roskilly  
University of British Columbia
Hannah Palmer  
University of California Davis