

The Denver Post library has compiled the following list of the top 35 largest wildfires in Colorado history in terms of how many acres were burned.

1. 2002 Hayman – 137,760 acres; 2,500 firefighters; firefighting cost \$39 million; five firefighter deaths in transit.

2. 2013 West Fork Complex fire -- 109,049 acres; 1,400 firefighters; firefighting cost est. \$2.2 million.

3. 2012 High Park Fire, Larimer County – 87,250 acres; 1,923 firefighters; firefighting cost \$39.2 million.

4. 2002 Missionary Ridge, near Durango - 71,739 acres; firefighting cost \$40 million; one firefighter death after tree fall.

5. 2012 Last Chance grassland, eastern Colorado -- 44,000 acres;

6. 2002 Trinidad Complex (Spring, Fisher/James John fires) - 33,000 acres; firefighting cost over \$2.18 million.

7. 2002 Mount Zirkel complex, near Steamboat - 31,016 acres; all costs equal at least \$13.3 million.

8. 1879 Lime Creek, San Juan National Forest - 26,000 acres.

9. 2012 Little Sand, Pagosa Springs, Hinsdale County – IN PROGRESS 24,900 acres; 181 firefighters; firefighting cost \$1.25 million.

10. 2012 Heartstrong, Yuma County - 24,000 acres; firefighting cost unknown.

11. 2000 Bircher, near Mesa Verde - 23,607 acres; firefighting cost \$5 million.

12. 2012 Waldo Canyon, Colorado Springs - 18,247 acres; 1,000 firefighters; firefighting cost \$15.3 million.

13. 2002 Big Fish, near Steamboat - 17,056 acres; firefighting cost unknown, as allowed to burn out in remote area.

14. 2002 Burn Canyon, near Norwood - 16,000 acres; firefighting cost unknown.

15. 2013 Black Forest, Colorado Springs - 14,280 acres; firefighting cost \$8.5 million.

16. 2013 East Peak, Huerfano County - 13,571 acres; firefighting cost unknown.

17. 2002 Coal Seam, near Glenwood Springs - 12,200 acres; firefighting cost \$7.25 million.



Linda and Ray White steady themselves amid the charred remains of their cabin on Painted Rocks Road, just off Colorado 67, in June 2002. The 552-square-foot cabin, built in 1935, was to be their retirement home. (Craig F. Walker, *Denver Post* file)

18. 1996 Buffalo Creek, Jefferson County - 12,000 acres; firefighting cost \$1.5 to \$4 million.

19. 2002 Spring Creek, near New Castle - 11,000 acres; firefighting cost \$7 million.

20. 2000 Hi Meadow wildfire - 10,800 acres; 791 firefighters; firefighting cost \$4.5 million.

21. 2000 Bobcat fire, Larimer County - 10,559 acres; 1,075 firefighters; firefighting cost, \$3.3 million.

22. 2002 Million, near South Fork - 9,346 acres; firefighting cost \$9.8 million.

23. 2012 Weber fire, Mancos, Montezuma County - 9,300 acres;

24. 2012 Hewlett, near Ft. Collins - 7,685 acres; firefighting cost \$2.9 million to date.

25. 2010 Fourmile Canyon fire - 6,388 acres; 1,000 firefighters; firefighting cost \$10 million.
26. 2012 Sunrise Mine fire, near Gateway - 6,017 acres; firefighting cost to date \$1.2 million.
27. 2000 Pony, Mesa Verde - 5,250 acres; firefighting cost unknown.
28. 2002 Bear, near Dinosaur National Monument - 4,800 acres; firefighting cost \$1 million.
29. 2002 Iron Mountain - 4,436 acres; 300 firefighters; firefighting cost over \$1.2 million.
30. 2002 Big Elk, near Estes Park - 4,413 acres; firefighting cost \$4 million; three firefighter deaths.
31. 2012 Lower North Fork, near Conifer - 4,500 acres; firefighting cost unknown; three civilian deaths.
32. 2002 Schoonover, Douglas County - 3,860 acres; firefighting cost \$2.4 million.
33. 2012 Fern Lake, Estes Park - 3,500 acres; firefighting cost unknown.
33. 2003 Overland, Boulder county – 3,500 acres; firefighting cost unknown.
34. 2010 Crystal, Larimer County - 3,000 acres; firefighting cost \$3 million.
35. 2002 Snaking, near Bailey - 2,590 acres; firefighting cost \$2.6 million.
36. 1990 Olde Stage, Boulder county - 2,210 acres; \$300,000-\$400,000.
37. 1994 Storm King Mountain/South Canyon fire, 2,000 acres (14 firefighter deaths); firefighting costs \$400,000.
38. 1989 Black Tiger Gulch - est. 2,086 acres; firefighting cost \$1 million.

Sources: National Interagency Fire Center; Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association; U.S. Forest Service; Colorado State Forest Service; Colorado Division Emergency Management; Jeff Mitton, University of Colorado, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Compiled by Vickie Makings, Denver Post Research Library

Read more: [Colorado's largest wildfires \(burn area\) - The Denver Post](http://www.denverpost.com/ci_20934186/colorados-largest-wildfires-burn-area#ixzz2rhzAs6QV) http://www.denverpost.com/ci_20934186/colorados-largest-wildfires-burn-area#ixzz2rhzAs6QV

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