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Fighting Forest Fires in the Western United States: an Educational Filmstrip and Manual for Teaching Forest Conservation

[William Dale Moody, Central Washington University](#)

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Abstract

The author's purpose in undertaking this project was to plan and produce a filmstrip and manual appropriate for informing people about the methods of forest fire control employed in the Western United States. The project was specifically intended to assist the teacher of forest conservation at the seventh grade level, but it should also prove useful in teaching at other levels.

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Map of 1910 fires in the national forests of the western U.S. Does not show fires on state, private, or other federal lands, which could triple total area. Blackfeet, and Kaniksu National Forests. But Forest Service leadership and forestry leaders like Gifford Pinchot thought otherwise and worked for years to suppress and discredit such arguments. In the aftermath of 1910, Chief Graves staked the agency's continued existence on the belief that it could in fact defeat fire. Now the folly of fighting backcountry fires is widely accepted and the role of fire in maintaining forest health is understood. The impact of the campaign is the most important legacy of the 1910 Fires and the Big Blowup—and it is a legacy that we are still coping with today. Selected Resources During the past two years, forest fires in the western United States have been analyzed and discussed in depth because of the severity of the fires and the associated damage to personal property. The number and extent of forest fires has been increasing, and many scientists believe that this increase will continue in the future. One example of a federal change in forest management practice is the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, enacted in 2001, which prohibited road construction in roadless National Forests. Opposition to the Rule is based in part on the assumption that roadless National Forests are more prone to forest fires, or conversely, managed forests are less prone to forest fires.