

*MUSSELHELL  
RIVER  
WATERSHED*

*Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee*

*August 30, 2017*

*Musselshell  
River  
Distribution  
Project*

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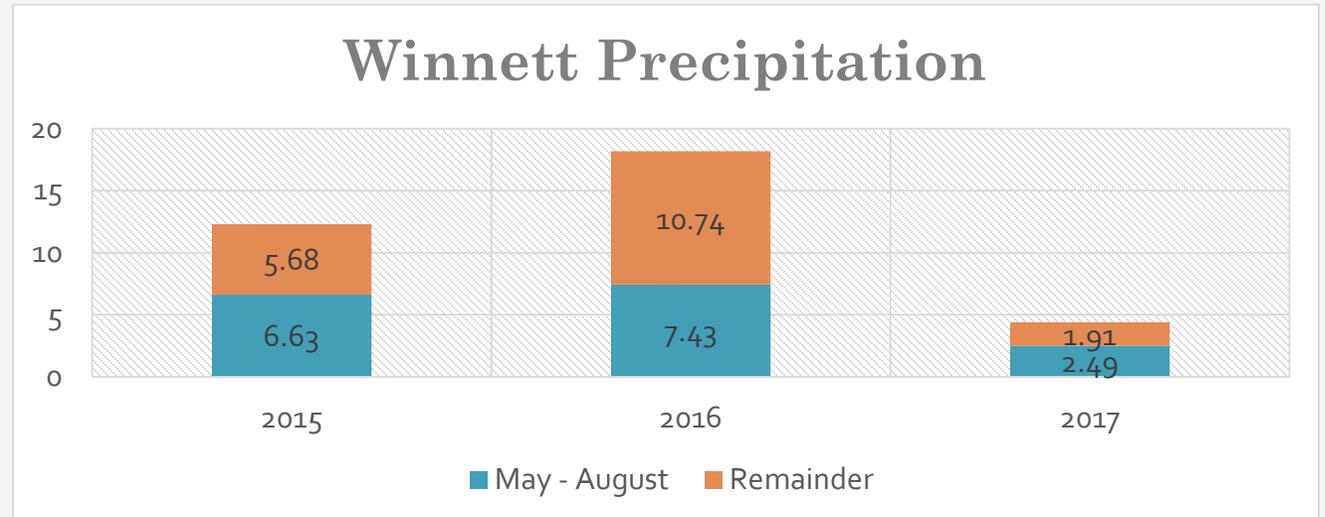
Musselshell River at Roundup on August 14, 2017



# *Drought Status*

*“We (ranchers) hate looking at what this country looks like in a drought.”*

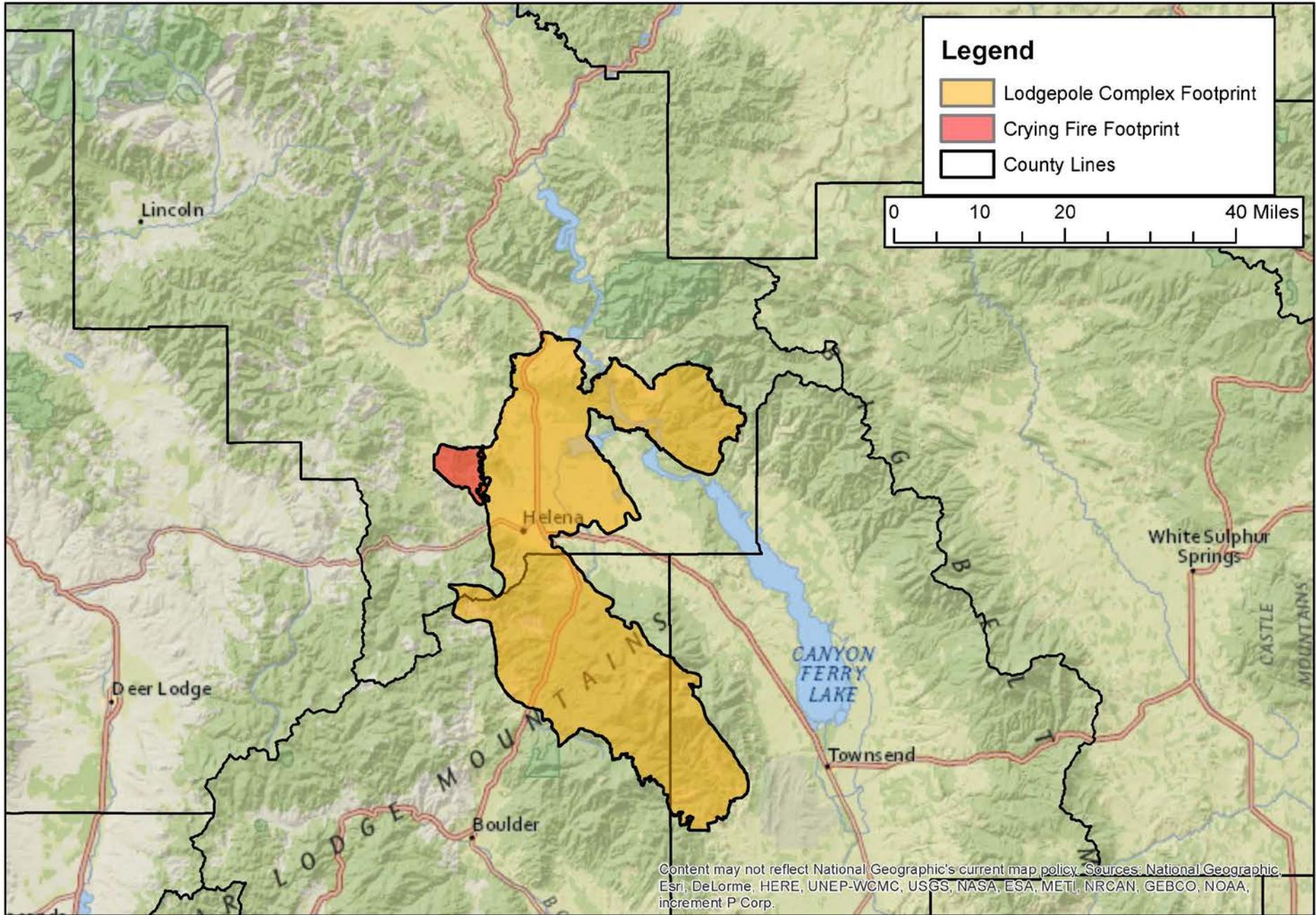
- Dean Rogge,  
Landowner and  
Garfield County CD



# *Lodgepole Complex Fires*

- July 19 - 26
- 270,140 acres
- 16 structures
- \$16.5 million in fence lines
- Hay
- Rangeland





*“Hell  
(laughter) is  
about as close  
as you can  
explain it.”*

– Tim  
Browning,  
landowner

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*“We fought the flames, we fought the fight... we & our wonderful neighbors, fought well into the night...”*

- Trish Rowton Smith,  
landowner

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*“It was just a wall of black came at us and it just covered us. And it was daylight out, and it just turned black. You couldn't see right in front of you...”*

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*“And when it started lifting in a matter of just two minutes, the whole valley was on fire.”*

- Sarah Browning,  
landowner

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*“Have you ever  
seen a line of fire  
miles wide coming  
towards your  
houses, corrals,  
pastures and  
neighbors?”*

- Mary Brown,  
Landowner

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*“Lord we thank  
you no one has  
been hurt and that  
you have  
everything under  
control.”*

- Berkley Stroh, 16  
year-old granddaughter  
of landowner

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“During evacuations that included her parents and despite knowing the fire was burning her future residence, Wood continued to remain on-shift working to ensure others in the area were safe and assess their needs.”



- Garfield County DES about  
Undersheriff, Mira Wood

*“It’s the people I worry about losing – they are the most important.”*

- Dean Rogge, landowner and Conservation District Board Supervisor, Garfield County



*“We've seen many stoic residents of Garfield and Petroleum counties who have handled the emotional stress, strain and turmoil with an amazing amount of grace, grit and dignity.”*

- Rick Connell, BLM  
Incident Commander

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*“Well, we saved the heifers but this is what the pastures look like for miles.”*

- Charlie Ahlgren,  
Leasee

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*“The fire has  
destroyed  
everything in  
its path for  
miles and  
miles.”*

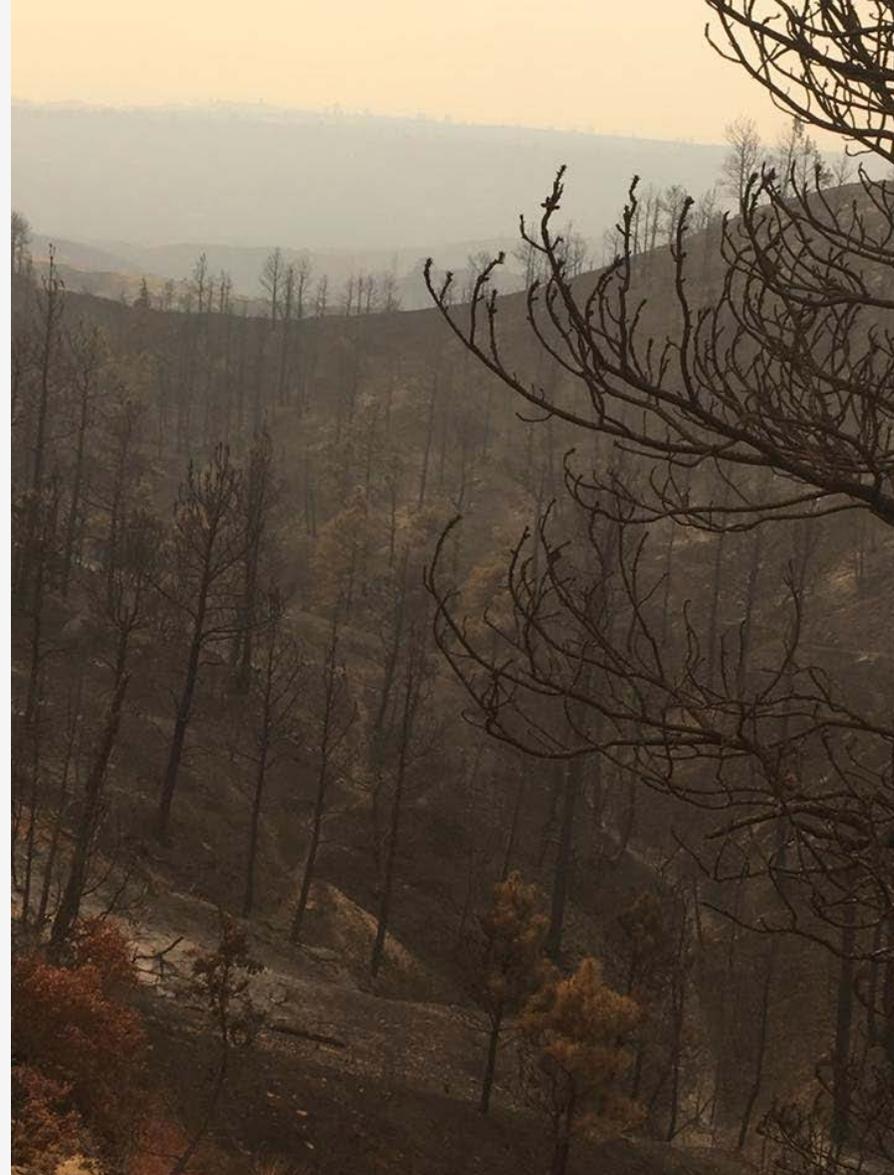
- Sean Heavey,  
photographer

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*“Humbling  
and  
devastating...”*

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*“Then, I come  
to town, and  
see all of the  
volunteers and  
donations and  
my faith in  
humanity is  
renewed”* - Jerry  
Collins,  
Garfield County  
Commissioner

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*“The ranch can be rebuilt, but knowing who will be there for you when things get tough, that is irreplaceable.”*

– Mary Brown,  
Landowner

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*“Don't  
doubt for a  
minute that  
neighbor is  
a verb out  
in these  
parts!”*

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*“When you look  
at a community,  
people just kept  
rolling in from  
all over. People  
are so generous,  
it’s unreal.”*

– Gary Eliasson,  
Leasee

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*“Montanans  
help each  
other out in  
times of need,  
so figured  
we’d come up,  
pitch in, and  
do our part.”*

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*“When you  
have people  
by this  
number come  
to help you,  
it’s awesome.”*

- Larry Peterson,  
landowner

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*"More tears last night  
when 5 riders and  
horses came rolling in  
to help with cows  
today. Complete  
strangers that just  
meant to help.....but  
forever our friends."*

- Landowner Alaina  
Browning

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*“It’s going to be  
beneficial, it’s  
going to take  
some time, but  
we’ll get there.”*

*– Diane Ahlgren, Neighbor  
and Conservation District  
Board Supervisor, Petroleum  
County*

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*“What  
defines us is  
how we rise  
after we  
fall.”*

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