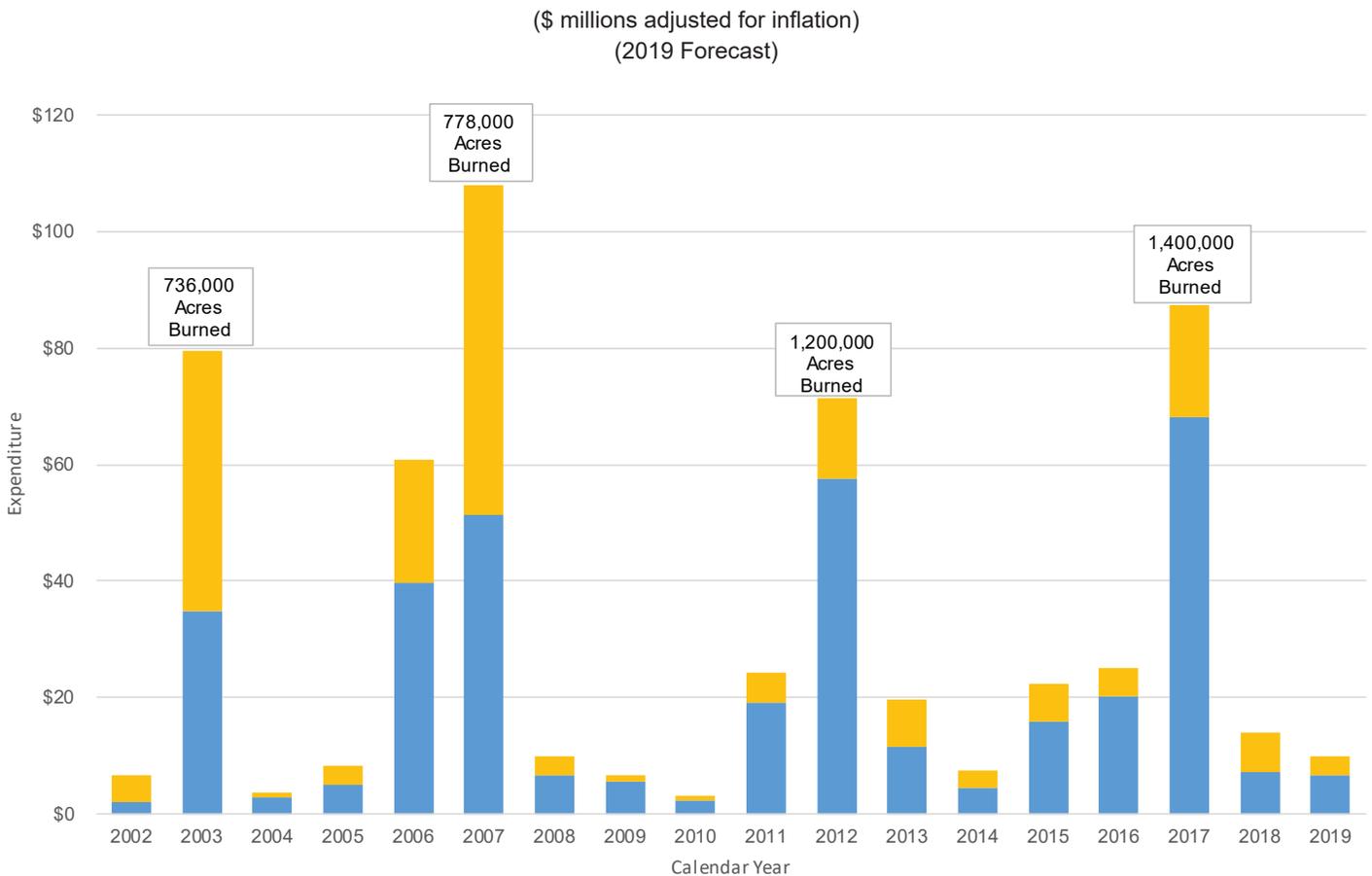


**The volatility of Montana’s fire seasons**

Each column below represents the total dollar amount expended by the state for fire suppression on both **state** and **federal** land. The gold portion represent funds reimbursed to the state by the federal government for state fire suppression efforts on federal lands.



During the summer of 2017, Montana was experiencing drought conditions. The fire season started a month early and did not end until the rain and snow late in September. That year, the Lodgepole Complex Fire burned 271,000 acres in eastern Montana by the end of July. The Rice Ridge fire burned 160,000 acres just east of Seeley Lake and was designated the nation’s top wildfire priority. There were four fires measuring more than 50,000 acres and 16 fires over 20,000 acres. In total that summer, state and federal fire fighters managed more than 2,400 fires on 1.4 million acres. Montana’s share of the cost was \$64.3 million.

**The good news** - in contrast, the fire seasons of 2018 and 2019 have been mild, with less than 150,000 acres burning over the two summers combined. Montana’s share of the cost was \$9.0 million in the summer of 2018 and \$7.2 million year-to-date for 2019.