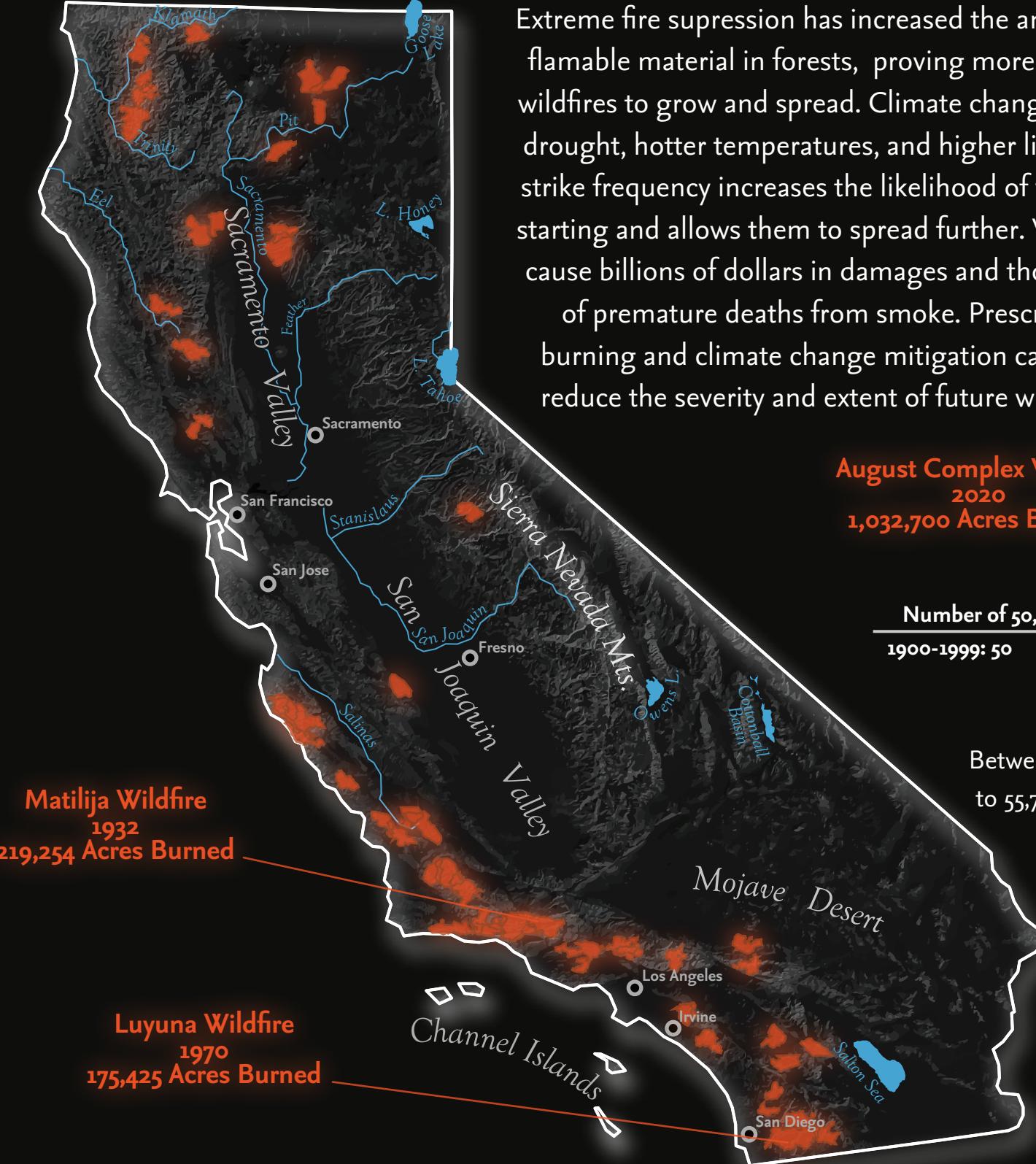


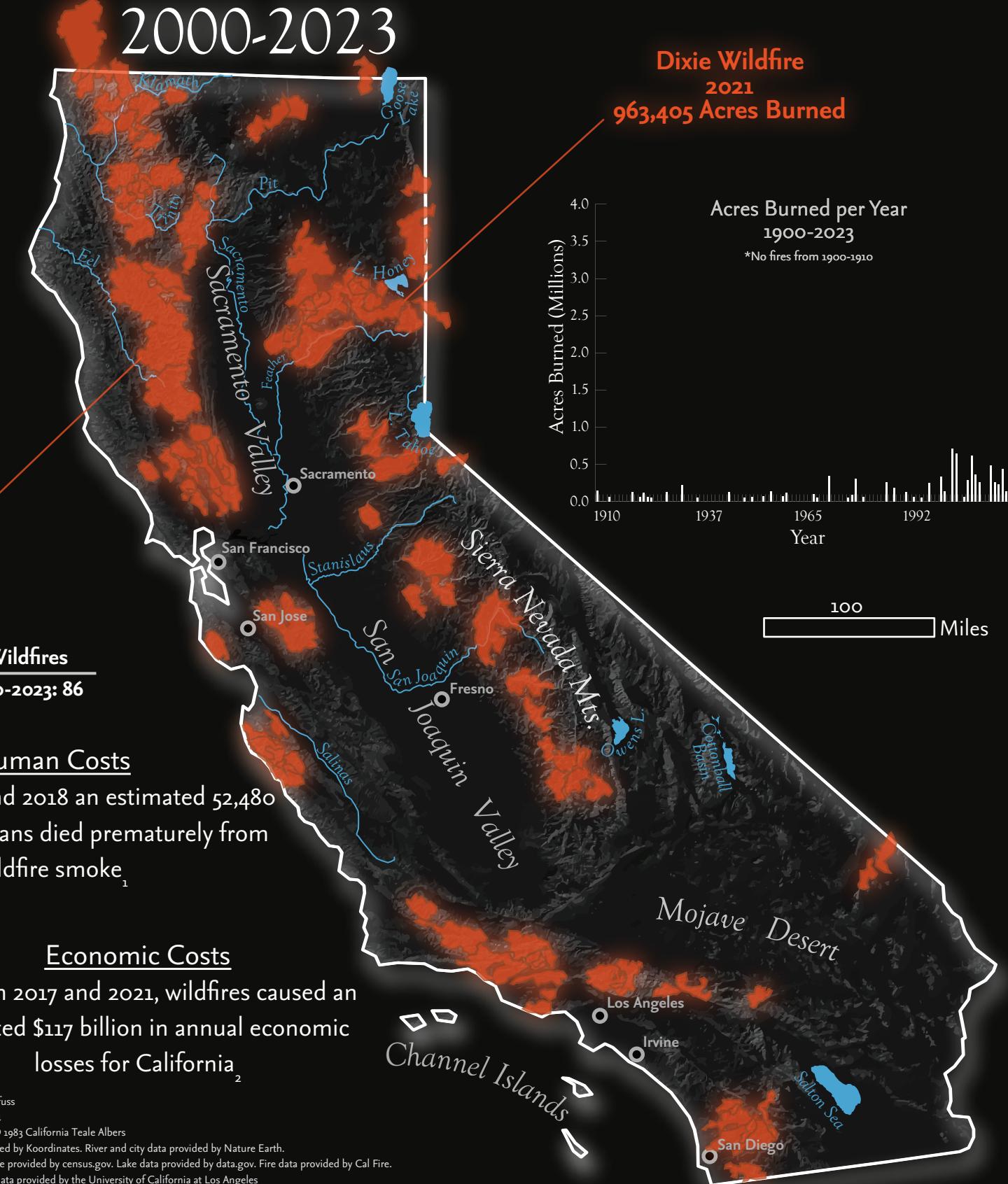
Increasing Frequency of Large California Wildfires

The number of 50,000+ acre wildfires in the 21st century is already almost twice that of the 20th century, posing significant health and economic risks

1900-1999



2000-2023



Extreme fire suppression has increased the amount of flammable material in forests, providing more fuel for wildfires to grow and spread. Climate change driven drought, hotter temperatures, and higher lightning strike frequency increases the likelihood of wildfires starting and allows them to spread further. Wildfires cause billions of dollars in damages and thousands of premature deaths from smoke. Prescribed burning and climate change mitigation can help reduce the severity and extent of future wildfires.

August Complex Wildfire
2020
1,032,700 Acres Burned

Number of 50,000+ Acre Wildfires
1900-1999: 50 2000-2023: 86

Matilija Wildfire
1932
219,254 Acres Burned

Luyuna Wildfire
1970
175,425 Acres Burned

Human Costs
Between 2008 and 2018 an estimated 52,480 to 55,710 Californians died prematurely from wildfire smoke.¹

Economic Costs
Between 2017 and 2021, wildfires caused an estimated \$117 billion in annual economic losses for California.²

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Projection: NAD 1983 California Teale Albers
Basemap provided by Koordinates. River and city data provided by Nature Earth.
California outline provided by census.gov. Lake data provided by data.gov. Fire data provided by Cal Fire.
1: Human cost data provided by the University of California at Los Angeles
2: Economic cost data provided by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation