MEGAFIRE ACTION

Why Strategic Investment in Wildfire Risk Mitigation Can't Wait

vibrant planet data commons

New modeling shows "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

The growing crisis: Since 2020, catastrophic fires have destroyed more than 100,000 structures and caused hundreds of billions in damage.* **Today, more than 1 million structures face extreme wildfire exposure**, representing up to $600 billion in direct property risk, according to 2025 modeling from Vibrant Planet and Pyrologix. But we're not powerless—strategic investment in wildfire mitigation can save lives, protect homes, and prevent billions in losses—if we act before fire strikes.

Modern modeling and decision support tools can guide and accelerate action: New commercially available tools combine fire behavior simulations, and structure-level exposure data to show where fuel treatments like thinning and prescribed fire, plus community hardening, will have the greatest impact. When guided by modern analytics, targeted wildfire mitigation returns can reach 6:1 to 11:1—reflecting billions in avoided losses to communities, infrastructure, and reaching many other industries including finance and insurance. Vibrant Planet's nonprofit arm, Vibrant Planet Data Commons, brings this data to life for the public with one of the most compelling narratives yet— the history of how we got here, what the science says about current and forecasted risk, and the ROI of strategic investments in places like Elko, Nevada.

Increasing the pace and scale of treatments: With fires growing faster and more destructive, the lack of effective prioritization of projects and delay in execution is untenable. That's why the Fix Our Forests Act is so important. By expanding categorical exclusions to 10,000 acres in the highest-risk firesheds, it will give agencies the tools to rapidly implement high-ROI treatments at scale. And by creating new structures for the federal government to leverage commercial technologies—like the modeling platform behind this analysis—it ensures that investments are guided by the best available data for the greatest impact. **We can't protect communities like Elko without robust federal funding—nor without the legislative reforms needed to make that funding effective.**

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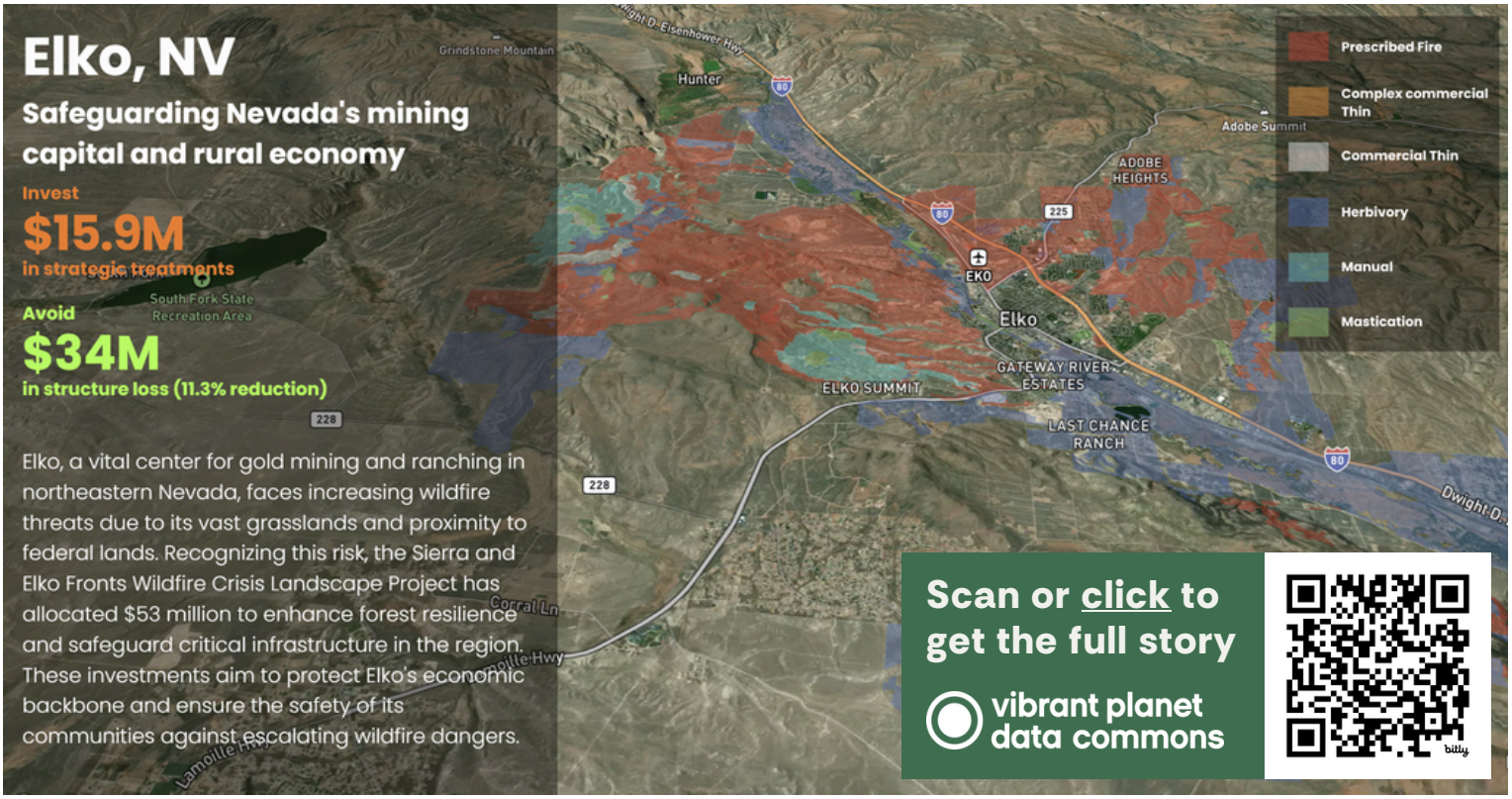

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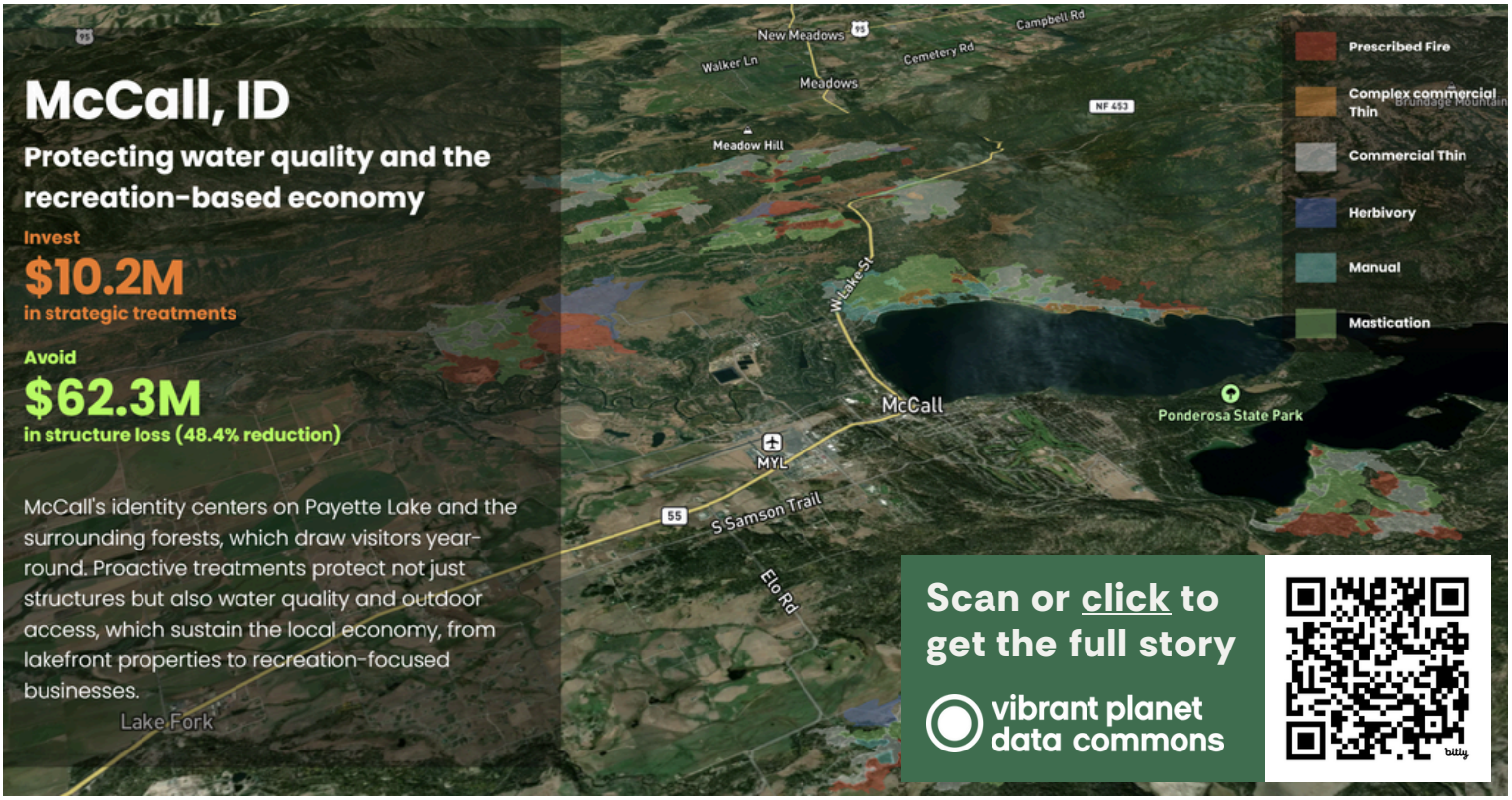

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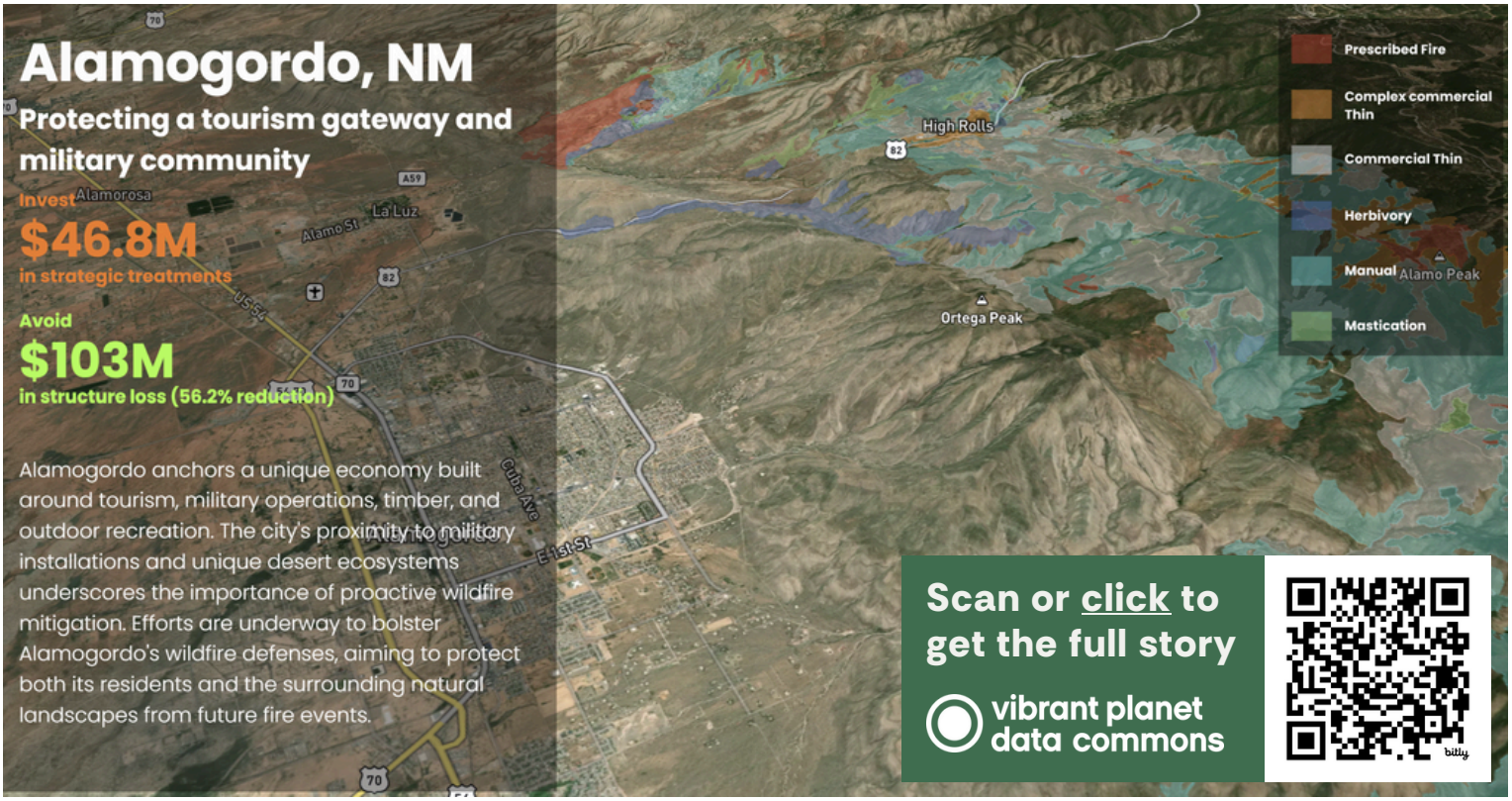

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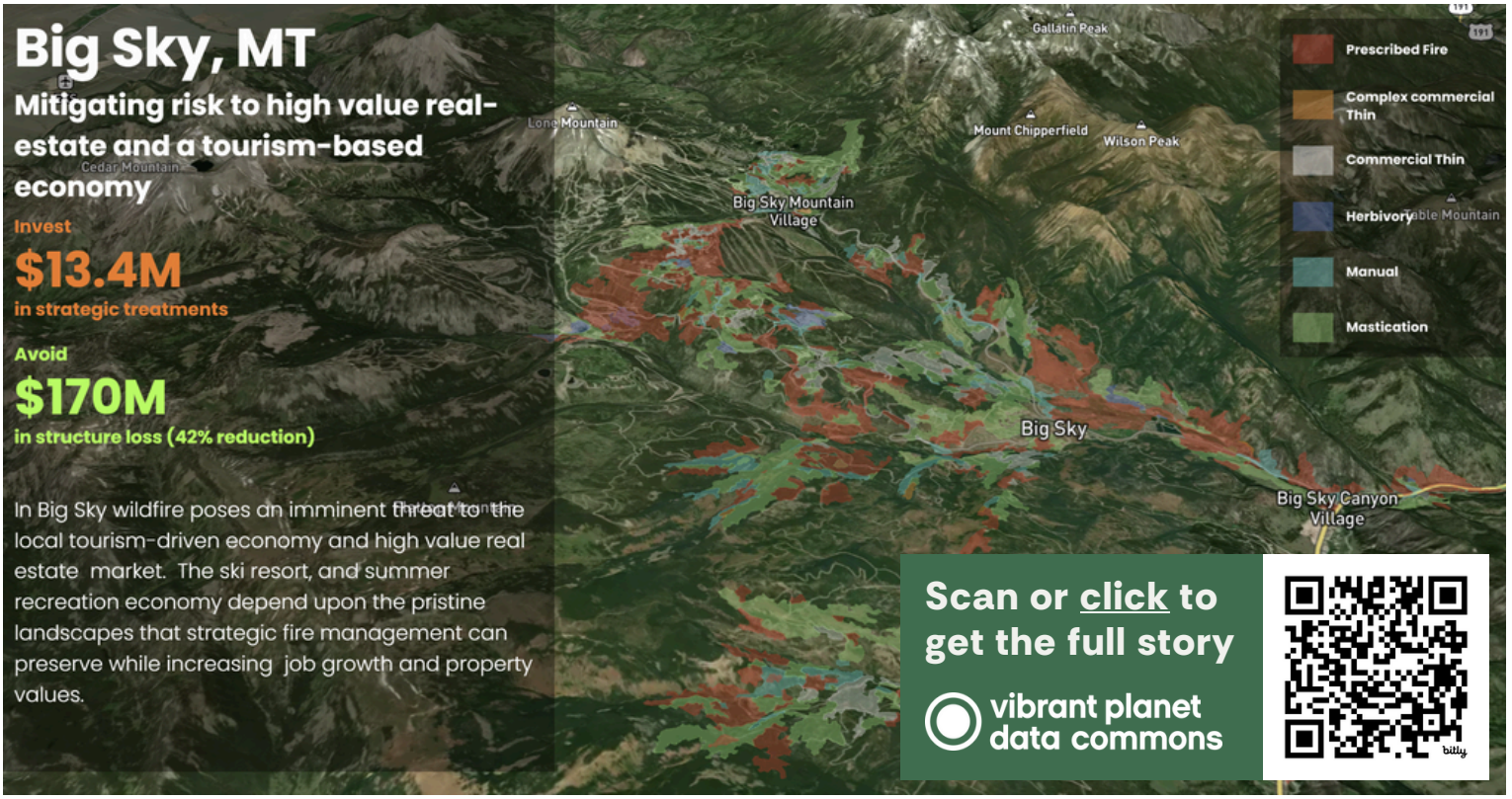

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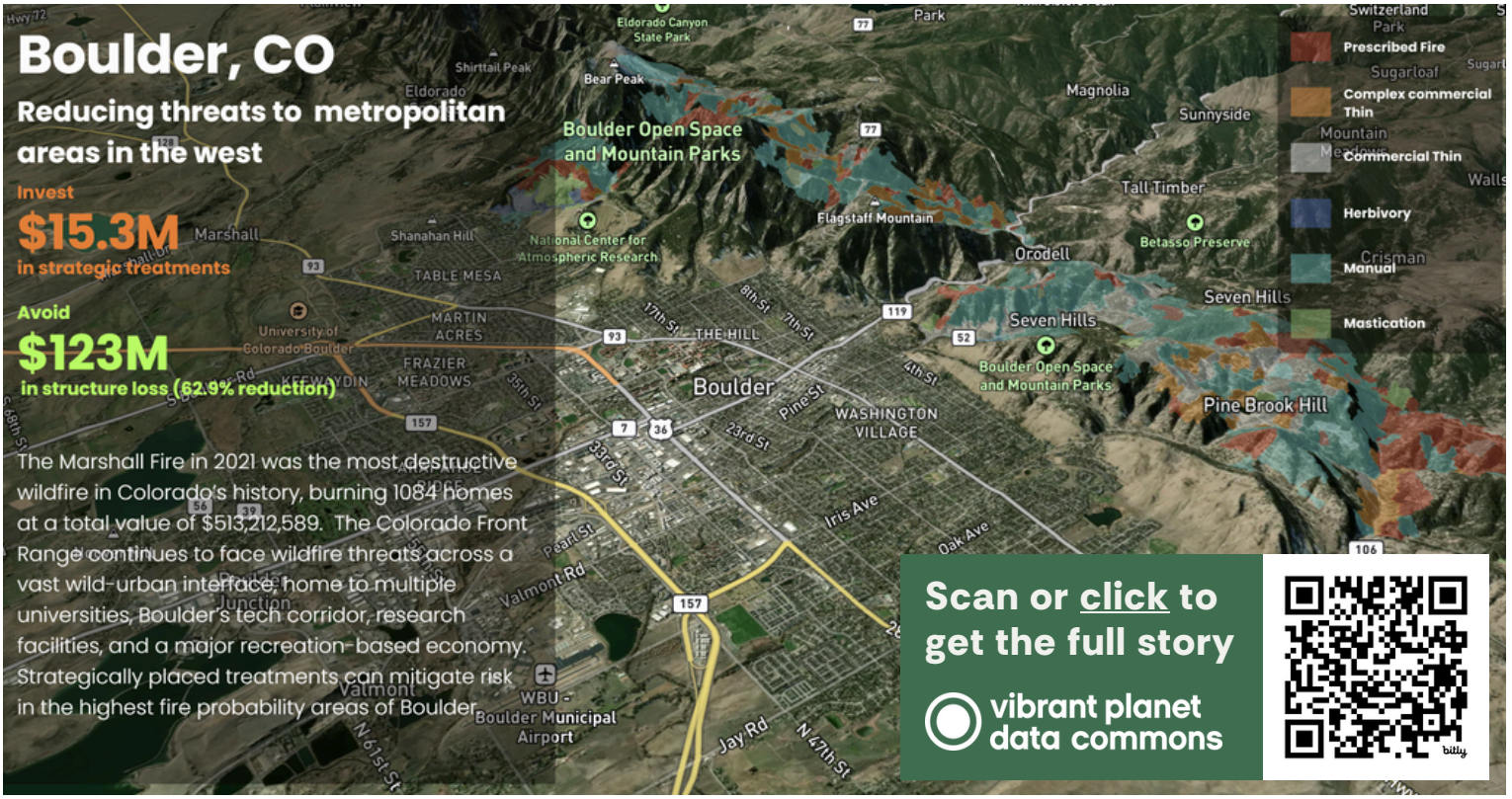

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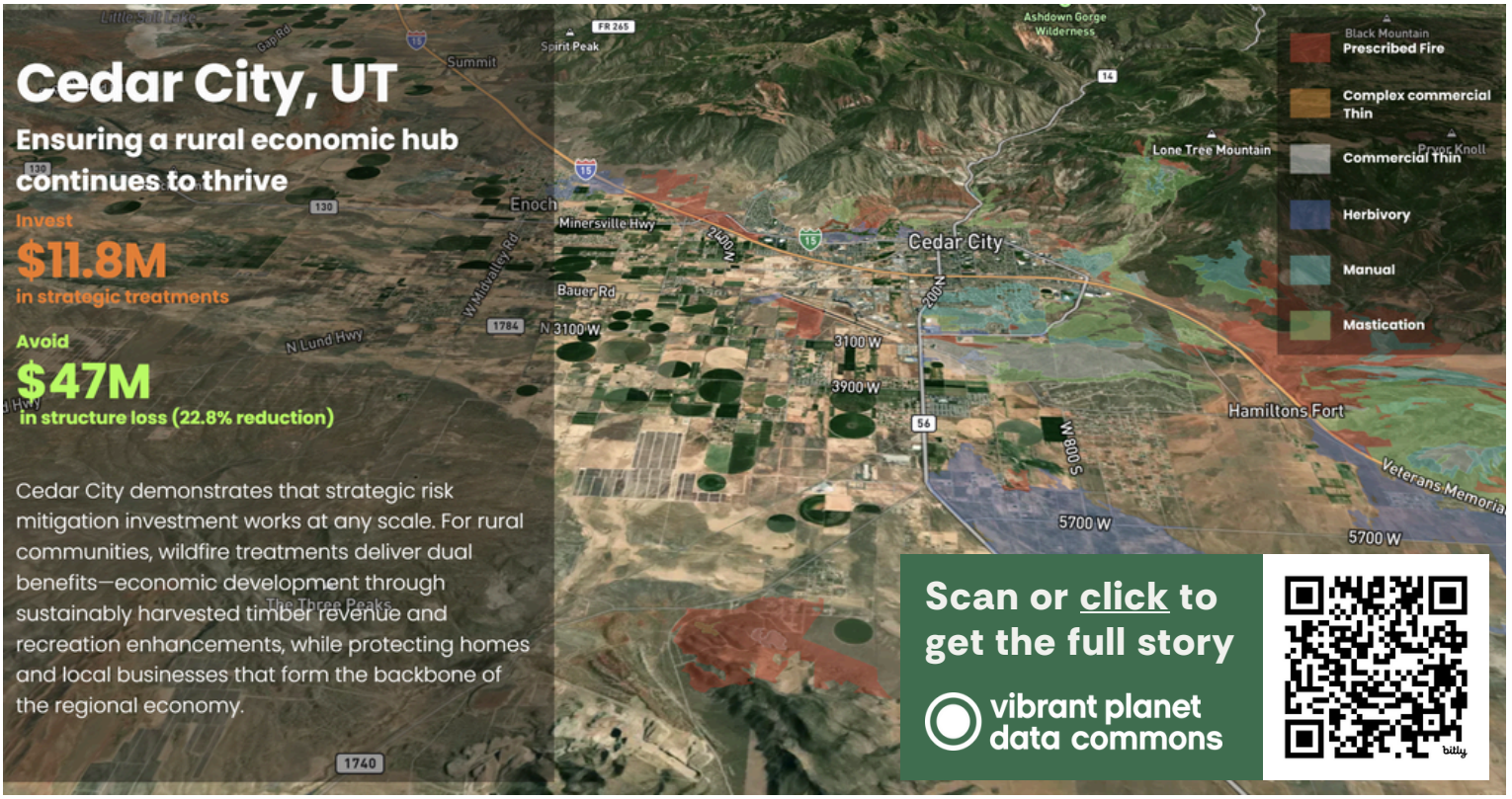

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