

Ministry of **Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations**

Fire Management Planning for Communities At All Scales

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Wildfire Management Branch**

**Regional District CAO / CEO Forum
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Fire Management Planning for Communities At All Scales

- 1. Converging Challenges**
- 2. Management Solutions**
- 3. Fire Management at all Scales**
 - **Private Land & Property: FireSmart**
 - **Wildland Urban Interface: Community Wildfire Protection Planning**
 - **Landscape Fire Management Planning**
- 4. Questions**

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Wildfire Management In British Columbia

1. Converging Challenges

- Increasing development in the forest - more values to protect
- Limited suppression capacity
- increasing forest fuels
- New mountain pine beetle forest fuel types
- Wildfire incidence and severity increasing due to climate change



Extreme wildfire with mountain pine beetle fuels

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Changing Climate, Changing Forests

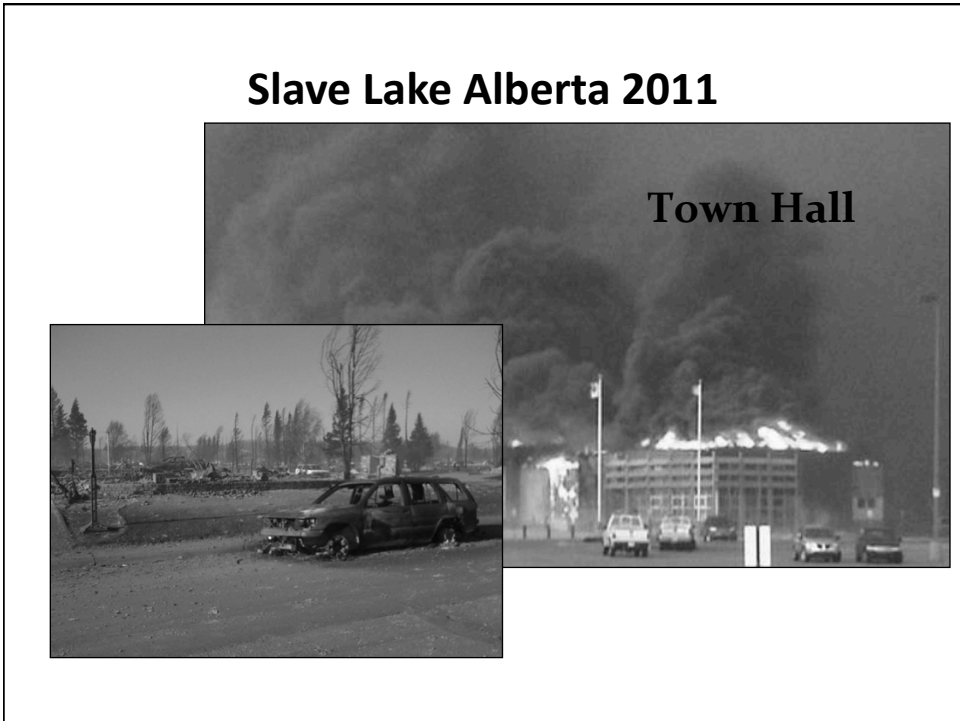
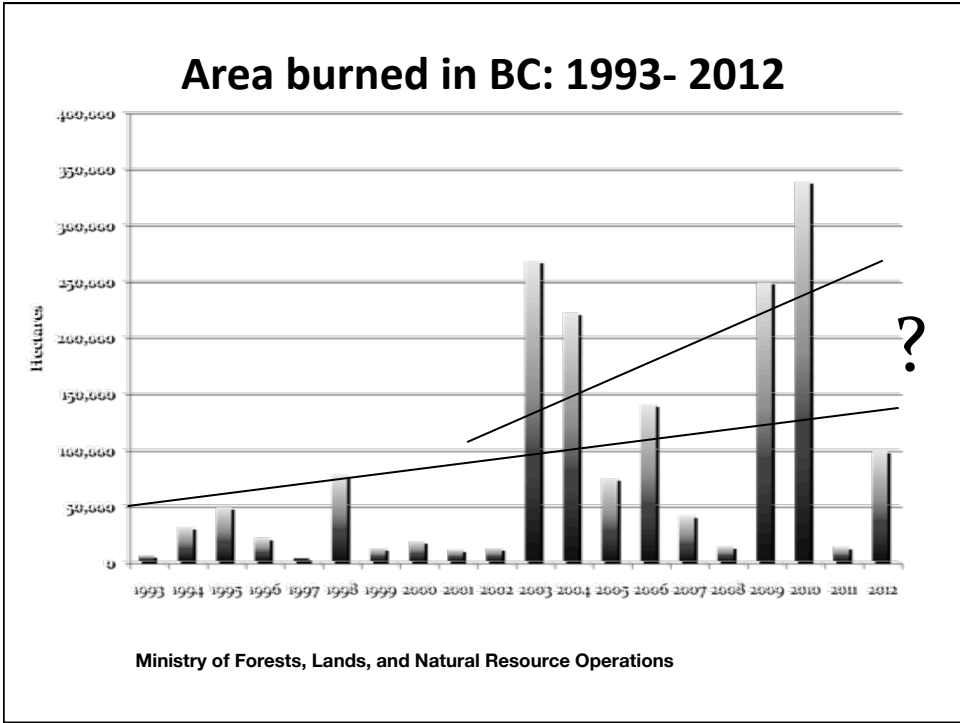
Trends & Projections

- Summers to be longer, hotter, and drier
- Frequency, size and intensity of forest fires expected to increase
- Longer fire season & more extreme fire days
- Winters expected to be shorter, milder
- Earlier melts mean drier forest fuels
- Back and front country activity begins sooner & ends later : higher risk of ignitions
- Cost of controlling wildfires increasing



Warmer summers & milder winters are forecast

Climate Change



Slave Lake Alberta 2011

- Building extreme fire risk
- Multiple fire starts
- Power failed
- Water supplies were cut off
- Communications failed
- Evacuation routes were cut off
- Air support was grounded (high winds)
- Small municipal fire fighting agency overwhelmed
- 1 loss of life, + 500 structures lost
- Lots of structure to structure fire ignitions
- Use of heavy equipment on structures to prevent fire spread



2. Management Solutions

Long-term solution

Invest in fire adapted communities and fire-resilient ecosystems and landscapes

- More effective wildfire suppression
- Reduced costs
- Reduced impacts to communities, natural resource values and ecological values

Fire Management at all Scales

- Site Level: Private land & Property
- Community Level: Community Wildfire Prevention Planning
- Landscape Level: Landscape Fire Planning and Management



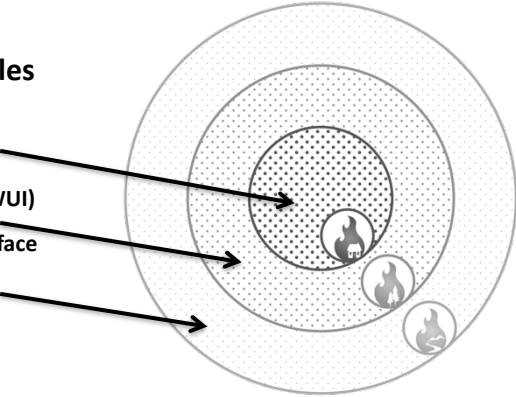
Healthier forest ecosystems, communities at less risk and more cost-effective fire suppression

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3. Fire Management at all Scales

Planning and action required at all scales

- 1. Private Land & Property
- 2. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
- 3. Landscape Beyond the Interface



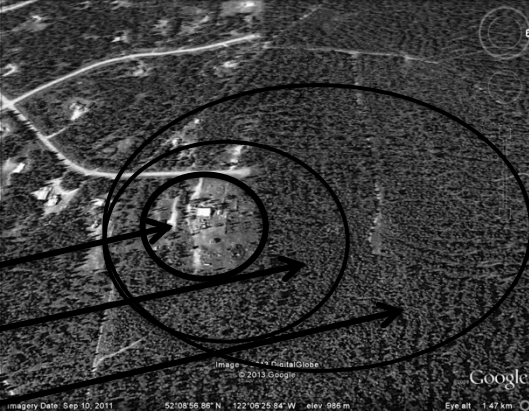
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Wildland Fire Management at all Scales

Planning and action required at all levels

A full suite of management actions at all scales is required to provide the maximum wildfire protection for communities and critical values.

- 1. Private Lands – FireSmart
- 2. WUI – Community Wildfire Prevention Planning
- 3. Landscape Fire Planning and Management



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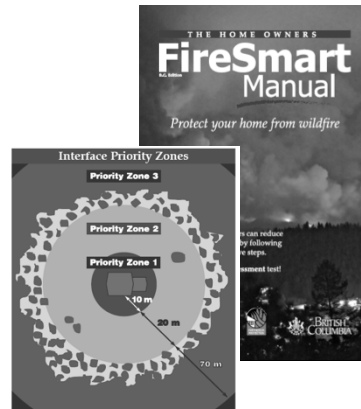
Private Land & Property

Protecting your home and community

FireSmart: A Program for Communities

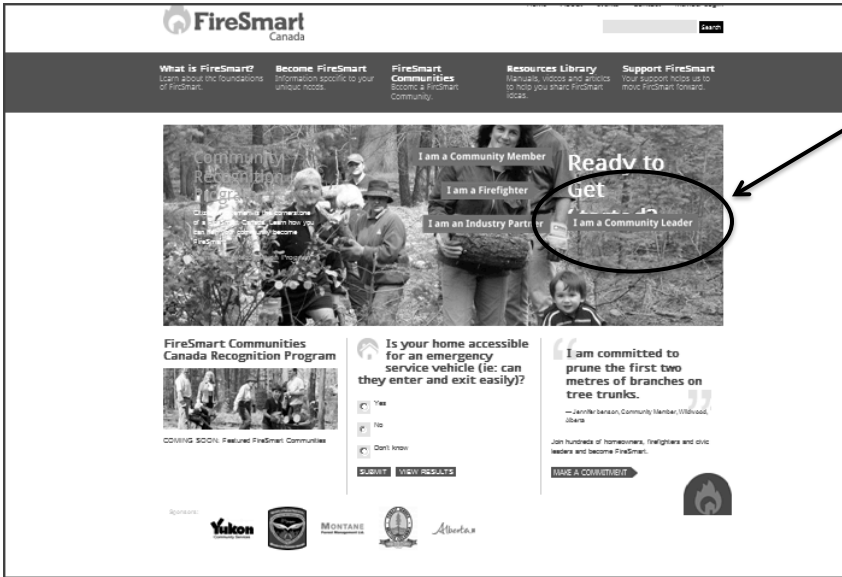
A Shared Responsibility

- Reducing wildfire risk around homes and in communities
- Resources for homeowners, industry and government to lessen wildfire threat & effects
- Applying FireSmart protects private lands and homes, critical infrastructure and communities
- Promote FireSmart Home Assessments
- Convene FireSmart workshops



FireSmart is a program of Partners In Protection Canada


Private Land & Property



The screenshot shows the FireSmart Canada website. At the top is the FireSmart Canada logo and a search bar. Below the logo is a navigation menu with five items: 'What is FireSmart?', 'Become FireSmart', 'FireSmart Communities', 'Resources Library', and 'Support FireSmart'. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'Community Ready to Get' and several icons representing different roles: 'I am a Community Member', 'I am a Firefighter', 'I am an Industry Partner', and 'I am a Community Leader'. An arrow points to the 'I am a Community Leader' icon. Below the banner is a section for the 'FireSmart Communities Canada Recognition Program' with a 'COMING SOON' notice. To the right is a survey question: 'Is your home accessible for an emergency service vehicle (ie: can they enter and exit easily)?' with radio button options for 'Yes', 'No', and 'Don't know'. Below the survey is a quote from Jennifer Hansen: 'I am committed to prune the first two metres of branches on tree trunks.' At the bottom of the page are logos for sponsors: Yukon, MONTANA, and Alberta.

Private Land & Property

Private Land & Property



A black and white photograph showing a family of three—a woman, a man, and a young child—participating in a fire prevention activity in a forest. The woman is in the center, holding a large log. The man is standing behind her, and the child is sitting on a log in the foreground. In the background, other people are visible, some wearing hard hats, engaged in similar activities.

A shared responsibility

Private Land & Property



Wildland Urban Interface

Protecting Communities through Community Wildfire Prevention Planning

Fire-adapted Communities

Living Safely in the Forest

- Partnership between Provincial Government, Local Government and First Nations to address BC's forest fuel challenges
- Local governments play a key role: identifying threat, engaging public, administering projects
- Objective is to change forest fuel to reduce aggressive fire behavior
- Treatments include tree thinning, spacing, pruning, and removal of woody debris
- Reducing fuel loads reduces potential for devastating wildfires



Forest fuel treatment reduces the threat of wildfire

Wildland Urban Interface

Community Wildfire Protection Planning

Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI)

Grant funding and guidance to communities to prepare Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), prescriptions and operational treatments in areas identified at high or extreme wildfire risk

Administered by the Provincial Fuels Management Working Group:

- Wildfire Management Branch
- Union of BC Municipalities
- First Nations' Emergency Services Society



Fuels Management in the Wildland Urban Interface

Wildland Urban Interface

Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative

Continuous Improvement

Program is regularly reviewed based on performance and community feedback

- \$25 Million in new funding 2011
- Meeting with Tri Region Districts spring of 2012.
- New operational treatment funding ratio:
 - SWPI 90 % up to \$400,000 for municipalities and First Nations and,
 - \$600,000 for regional districts.
 - 10% community contribution can be an in-kind contribution (e.g. staff time).
- Consideration of options to support LG delivery model
- Update to the Provincial Strategic Threat Assessment

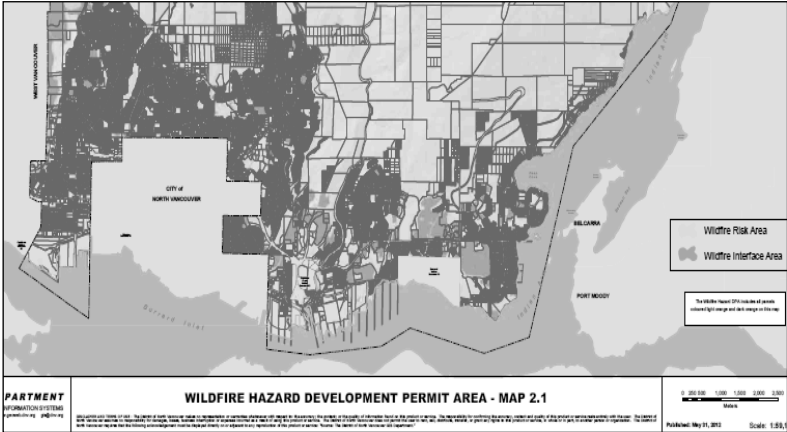


Wildfire Management Branch Crews conduct fuel management activities near communities when not fighting fires.

Wildland Urban Interface

Community Planning

Proactive Community planning and development utilizes “firesmart” planning standards and building codes and bylaws for fire resistant materials to design a wildfire adapted community



Wildland Urban Interface

Safer Communities - Healthier Forests



Wildland Urban Interface



Landscape

Landscape Fire Planning and Management

Landscape Fire Planning and Management

Looking at the landscape from a fire perspective

An integrated approach where the risks of wildland fire are fully recognized and considered in resource management decisions at all levels.

Proactive landscape fuels and forest management to stop a running crown fire 2 km (spotting distance) from a community



Crown fire rank 6 with extreme fire behavior and long distance spotting

Landscape Fire Planning and Management

Landscape Planning and Management

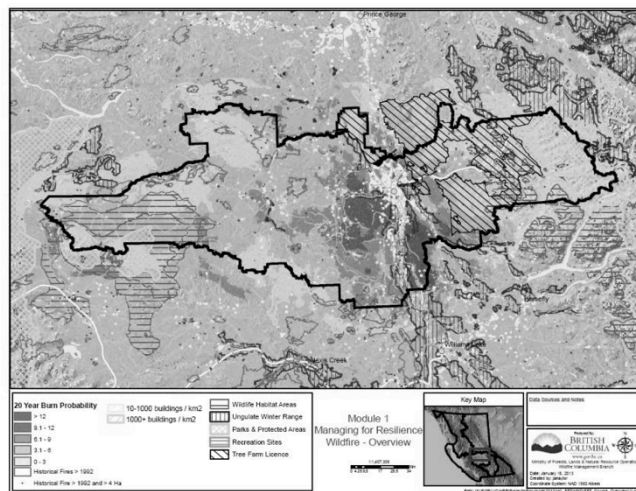
3 Phase Process:

1. Identify wildfire threats and critical values - communities, critical infrastructure, watersheds etc.
2. Consultation with Communities and Local Governments, First Nations, Industry and Stakeholders to determine level of threat reduction and management actions.
3. Implementation of management treatments.



Landscape Fire Planning and Management

Wildfire Threat Modeling



Landscape Fire Planning and Management

Management Options

- **Harvesting & commercial thinning**
- **Liner corridor fuel breaks**
- **Increased prescribed fire**
- **Large scale fuel breaks**
- **Alternative silviculture regimes**
- **Energy/biomass use**
- **Better Initial Attack success (access, response resources)**



Landscape Fire Planning and Management

Fire Management Planning for Communities At All Scales

Questions & Discussion



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