

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****RDBN FORESTRY COMMITTEE  
(Committee of the Whole)****Agenda****Thursday, March 12, 2015**

<b><u>PAGE NO.</u></b>		<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
	<b><u>Agenda – March 12, 2015</u></b>	<b>Adopt</b>
	<b><u>Supplementary Agenda</u></b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>MINUTES</u></b>	
<b>2-4</b>	<b>Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes - January 15, 2015</b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>DELEGATION</u></b>	
	<b><u>MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS (Tentative)</u></b> <b>Eamon O'Donoghue, Regional Executive Director Skeena RE: Mid Term Timber</b>	
	<b><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></b>	
<b>5-6</b>	<b>RDBN Letter to the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations RE: Stumpage</b>	<b>Receive</b>
<b>7-33</b>	<b>Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – Fire Management in BC “Our New Reality” – Omineca Beetle Coalition</b>	<b>Receive</b>
	<b><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></b>	
	<b><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></b>	

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**(Committee of the Whole)****Thursday, January 15, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Chair Rob MacDougall

Directors Taylor Bachrach  
Eileen Benedict  
Shane Brienen  
Mark Fisher  
Tom Greenaway  
Dwayne Lindstrom  
Thomas Liversidge  
Bill Miller  
Rob Newell  
Jerry Petersen  
Darcy Repen  
Luke Strimbold

Directors Absent Ralph Roy, Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural)  
Gerry Thiessen, District of Vanderhoof

Alternate Director Mark Parker, Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural)

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair MacDougall called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

**AGENDA**Moved by Director Liversidge  
Seconded by Director Greenaway**F.C.2015-1-1**

"That the Forestry Committee Meeting Agenda of January 15, 2015 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****MINUTES****Forestry Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes – July 17, 2014**Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Lindstrom**F.C.2015-1-2**

"That the Forestry Committee Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2014 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## DELEGATION

### MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS – David Van Dohla, District Manager VanJam Forest District RE: Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District – Name Change from Vanderhoof Forest District and Fort St. James Forest District

Delegation presented at the January 15, 2015 RDBN Committee of the Whole Meeting at the request of the Regional Board.

Moved by Director Miller  
 Seconded by Director Bachrach

F.C.2015-1-3

"That the Forestry Committee receive the correspondence titled "District Name Change" regarding the Fort St. James and Vanderhoof Natural Resource District's name change to the Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## CORRESPONDENCE

Vancouver Sun – Report Warns of Soaring Risk of "Mega-fires" in B.C. Moved by Director Bachrach  
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

F.C.2015-1-4

"That the Forestry Committee receive the correspondence from the Vancouver Sun titled "Report Warns of Soaring Risk of "Mega-fires" in B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Tabular Rates/Stumpage Rates

Community Forest stumpage rates are based on a tabular rate and BC Timber Sales (BCTS) has voiced concerns to Assistant Deputy Minister in regard to the influence this formula has on BCTS. Chair MacDougall noted that Community Forests are approximately 2% of the total cut of the province. If the rate for Community Forests is changed it would impact the money returning to the communities.

Discussion has also taken place at the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition and further research is being conducted in regard to Community Forests tabular rates.

Chair MacDougall and Director Miller indicated that they will be investigating and bringing information forward.

## NEW BUSINESS

Director Newell brought forward resident concerns in regard to cutting and burning of wood from wildfires, and the decommissioning of access ways by removing bridges in the Buck Flats Road area. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Nadina Office is the oversight agency to contact in regard to said issues.

**NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)**

Forestry Initiative

Moved by Director Fisher  
Seconded by Director Newell

F.C.2015-1-5

"That the Forestry Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors include funding in the 2015 RDBN Budget in regard to a forestry related small scale locally controlled project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair MacDougall and Director Fisher will have further discussions with staff.

Forestry Related Ideas/  
Concerns/Challenges

Chair MacDougall mentioned to the Forestry Committee that any forestry related ideas, concerns and/or challenges can be brought forward to Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Miller  
Seconded by Director Newell

F.C.2015-1-6

"That the meeting be adjourned at 3:23 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

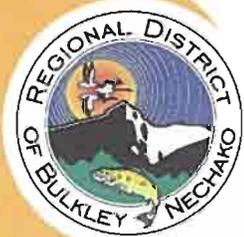
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

---

Rob MacDougall, Chair

---

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



37, 3RD AVE, PO Box 820  
BURNS LAKE, BC  
VOJ 1E0

REGIONAL DISTRICT  
OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

"A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR REGION"

March 2, 2015

The Honorable Steve Thomson,  
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
PO Box 9049, STN Provincial Government  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Thomson,

It has come to our attention through the British Columbia Community Forest Association, that the current stumpage regime applied to Community Forest Tenures is attracting scrutiny from departments within your Ministry. This scrutiny comes from the perception that Community Forest stumpage rates and marketing behaviors undermine the integrity of BCTS pricing mechanisms and the ability of BCTS to establish market indicators. As the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, we would like to express our grave concerns over any potential impacts to the stumpage regime of Community Forests and defend allegations that market indicators are substantially distorted across the Province as a result of this regime.

The allegation is predicated by the assumption that Community Forests are putting logs into regional log markets at prices substantially below market, thus distorting regional log prices and affecting market data generated by BCTS.

Should your Ministry be asked to contemplate the validity of this claim, we would ask that you consider the following points:

- 1) There may be certain locations where Community Forest Agreements have momentary impacts on log markets, due to surplus of supply. Typically, this momentary surplus is due to Mountain Pine Beetle or occurs in regions of endemic low demand. In regions of low demand, supply/demand relationships are in precarious balance and are distorted by small volumes, regardless of their source. Momentary surges in volumes occur with regularity outside of Community Forests. By way of example, a cut-control period provision may direct a major licensee to liquidate what could be millions of cubic meters within a single year, which is surplus to current market demand. These occurrences are common and have a far greater ability to generate market distortion than Community Forest volumes. The critical pieces are that many things influence the market on a regional level. It should be viewed as a larger picture, in that the aggregate of big and small anomalies in supply and demand are what comprises the market and Community Forests should not be

MUNICIPALITIES:

SMITHERS FORT ST. JAMES  
VANDERHOOF FRASER LAKE  
HOUSTON TELKWA  
BURNS LAKE GRANISLE

ELECTORAL AREAS:

A - SMITHERS RURAL E - FRANCOIS/OOTSA LAKE RURAL  
B - BURNS LAKE RURAL F - VANDERHOOF RURAL  
C - FORT ST. JAMES RURAL G - HOUSTON RURAL  
D - FRASER LAKE RURAL

INQUIRIES@RDBN.BC.CA  
WWW.RDBN.BC.CA

PH: 250-692-3195  
FX: 250-692-3305  
TF: 800-320-3339

6

considered discretely. Regional log pricing, like most pricing, is supply/demand driven and not a function of appraisal regimes.

- 2) Community Forest volumes make up a very small portion of the market data. On the Provincial level, it is statistically impossible to skew the market in a meaningful way with 2% of the market share.
- 3) As a business, Community Forests generate profit margins for the Communities. The size of the margin is market driven (supply and demand) and has the same effect in the marketplace as a stumpage.
- 4) First Nations Community Forests that were awarded for reasons related to unresolved Rights and Title, should be considered discrete from any data set, because of the uniqueness of their objectives and the provisions allowed for First Nations accommodations under the Softwood Lumber Agreement. When we remove the First Nation's Community Forests from the data set, the total applicable volume is substantially lower than 2%.
- 5) As Communities operating Community Forest Agreements, we fully expect that your Ministry would undergo a comprehensive, statistically defensible and transparent process to substantiate the validity of any claims of undue, and widespread market distortion that was directly a result of the Community Forest Stumpage regime, prior to granting any considerations to those claims. We would also expect that this process involve our Community Forest Association.

As the Communities of the Bulkley-Nechako Regional District, we appreciate your time, efforts and ongoing support of the Community Forest program in the Province of British Columbia. Community Forests are critical to success and resilience of rural Communities.

Yours truly,

Bill Miller, Chair

Rob MacDougall, Chair Forestry Committee

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



# **Fire Management in BC “Our New Reality”**

*Omineca Beetle Coalition*

*January 16, 2015*

# Agenda

---

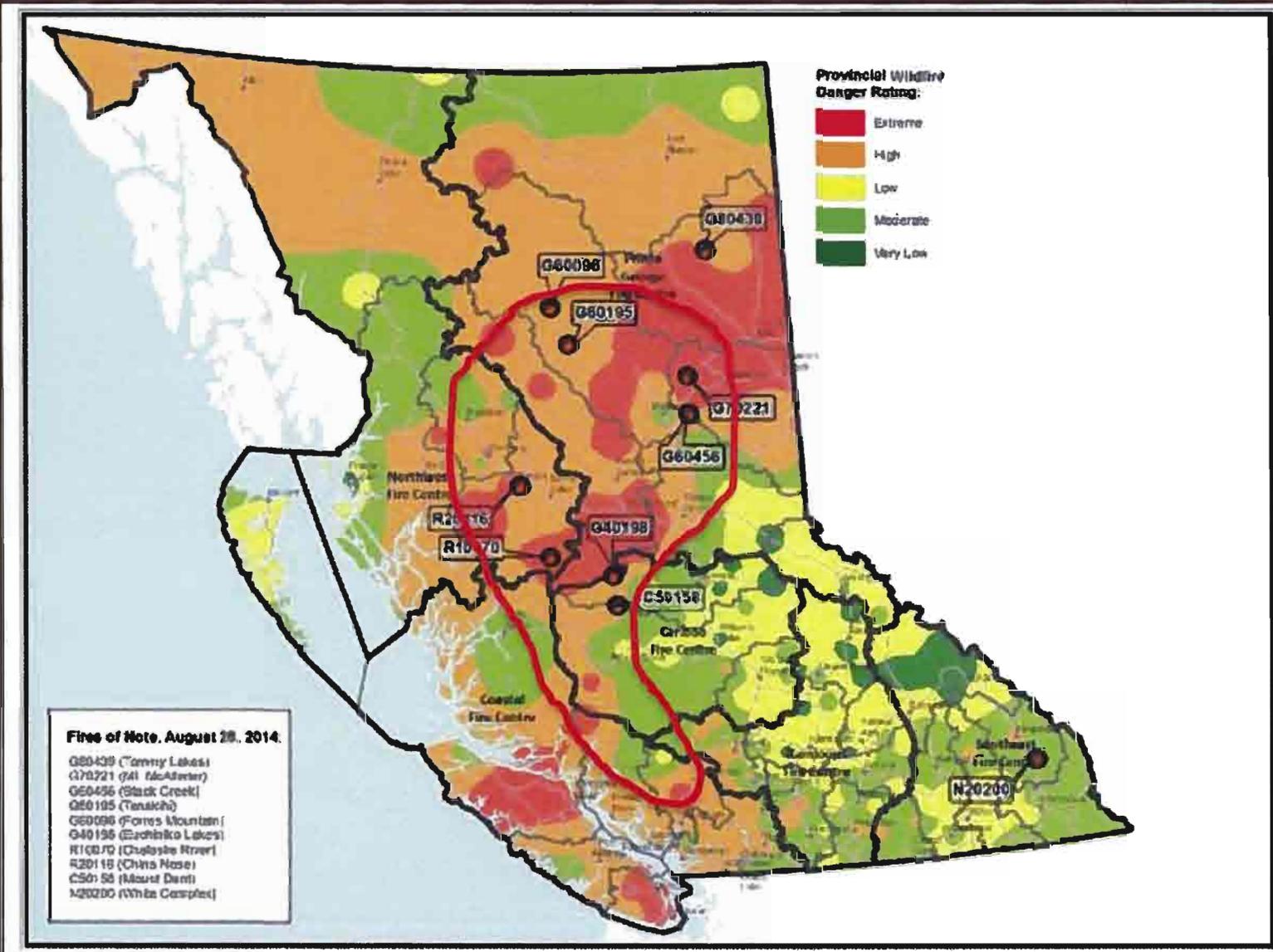
- 1. Fire Season 2014 in Review**
- 2. Converging Challenges**
- 3. BC Strategic Needs**
- 4. Fire Management at all Scales**
- 5. Questions**

# 2014 Season By The Numbers

- **Number of Fires: 1,333**
- **Number of Human Caused Fires: 531**
- **Number of Interface Fires: 33**
- **Evacuation: Alerts 17/Orders 9 – 4500 people (West Kelowna/Hudson Hope)**
- **Values at Risk: over \$1 Billion (est.)**
- **Suppression Costs: \$300M**
- **Area Burned: 368k ha (largest area since 1961)**
- **23.5M m<sup>3</sup> burned (30%AAC)**

9

# 2014 Problem Areas



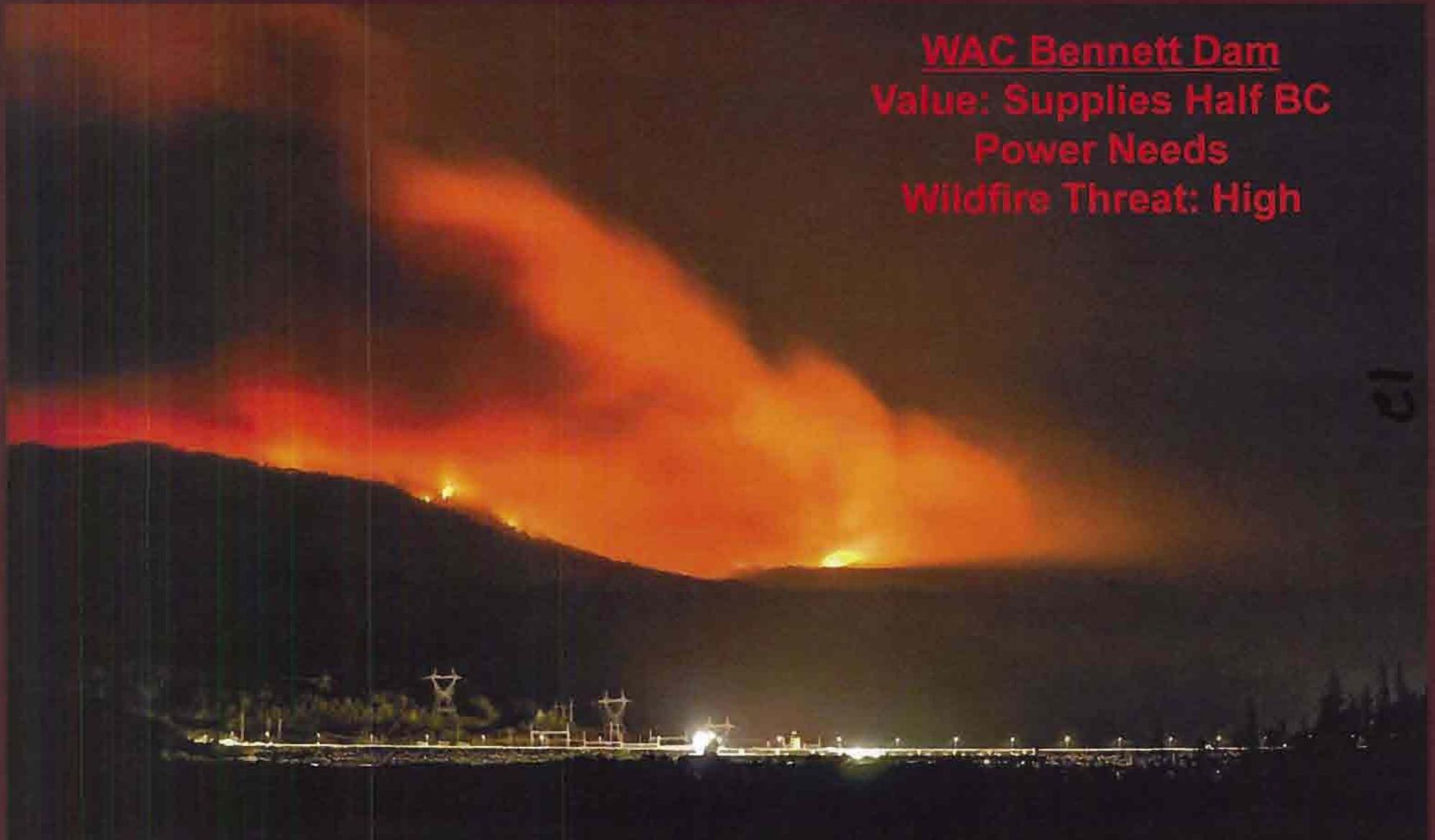
# Timber Loss Predictions

- Past decade 2004-2013:  
1.15M ha burned (340,000 THLB)
- At current rate of increase, in next decade 2014 – 2023:
  - >1.6M ha of forest and grassland are predicted to burn
  - With climate change may increase to 2M ha with 500,000 to 600,000 ha or 150M m<sup>3</sup> of HLB impacted
  - Predicted THLB area burned roughly equivalent 3 years of forest industry harvest (at 200,000 ha/yr. harvested)



# 2014 Fire Season

WAC Bennett Dam  
Value: Supplies Half BC  
Power Needs  
Wildfire Threat: High



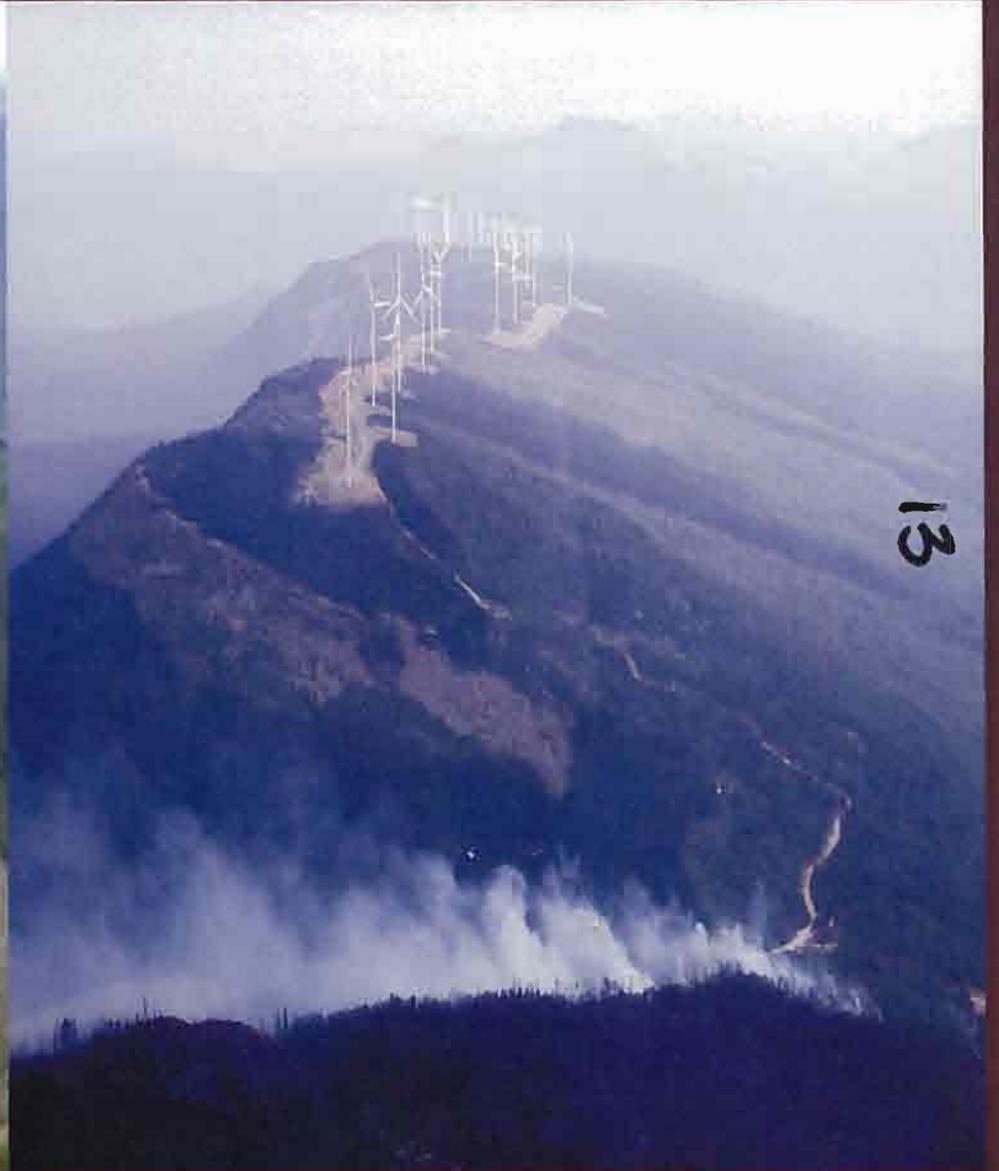
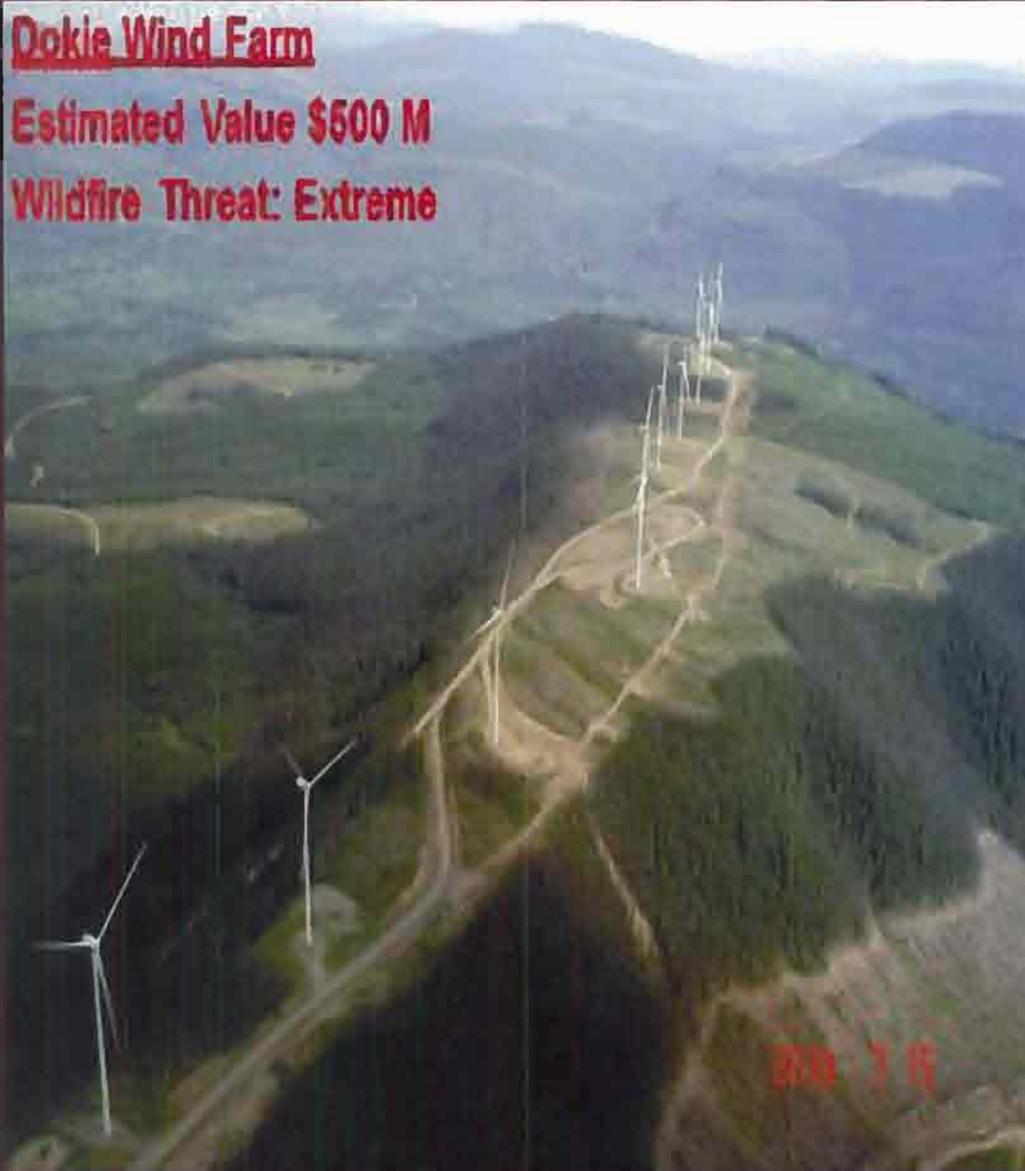
12

# 2014 Fire Season

## Dokie Wind Farm

Estimated Value \$500 M

Wildfire Threat: Extreme



# 2014 Fire Season

Bobby Burns CMH Lodge  
Estimate Value \$12M  
Wildfire Threat: High



HI



# 2014 Fire Season

Smith Creek West Kelowna



# 2014 Fire Season

Mackenzie TSA  
Fire Resistant Cut Blocks



# 2014 Fire Season

## Timber losses

- >136,000ha THLB & Mid-Term Timber Supply burned (23.4M m<sup>3</sup>, 30% AAC)
- Over \$1 Billion in economic/stumpage loss



# 2014 Fire Season

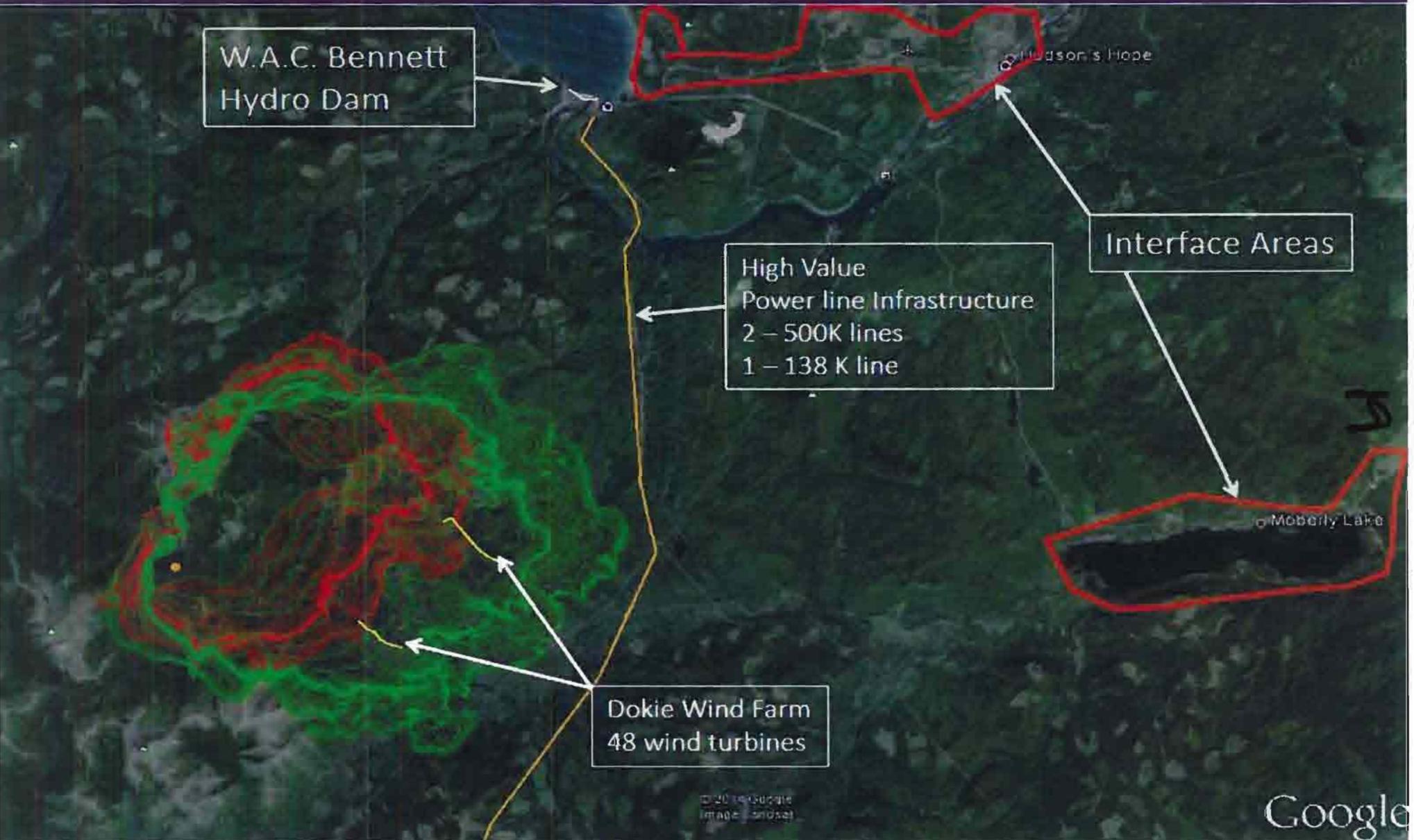
## Silviculture Losses

- 13,000 ha of silviculture investments burned
- Value: \$ 29M lost



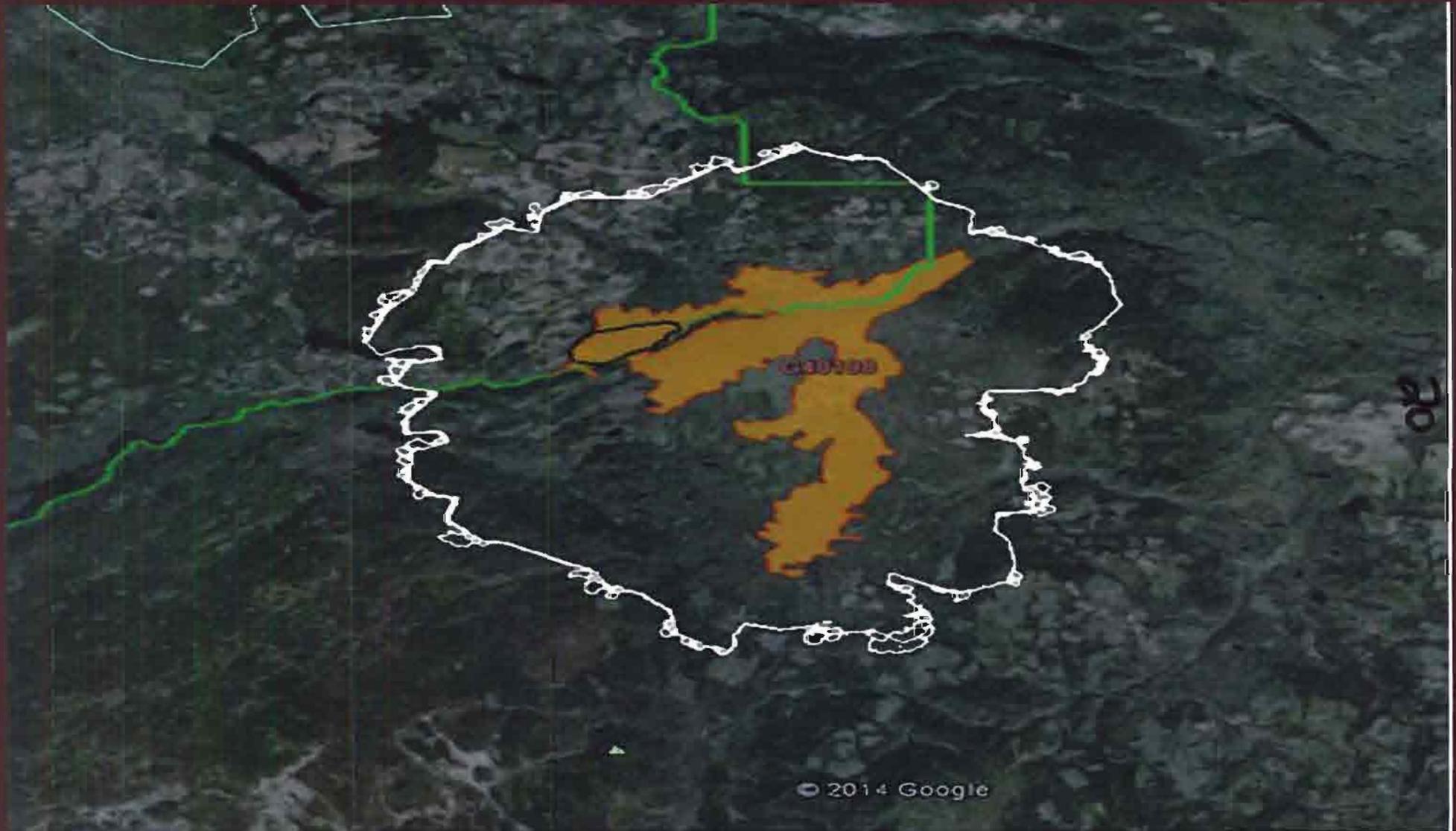
# "Wind Event Scenario"

Fire#G70291 Mount McAllister(Hudson Hope)  
16,096 ha to 28,150 ha (Final size 26,281 ha)



## "No Suppression" Scenario

Eucheneko Lake Fire #G40198 7/13-7/21 9 day run (Chilako Wx. Sta.)  
Starting size 1,263ha (black line); Simulated end size 123,822ha (white line); Actual size today 19,923ha (orange line)

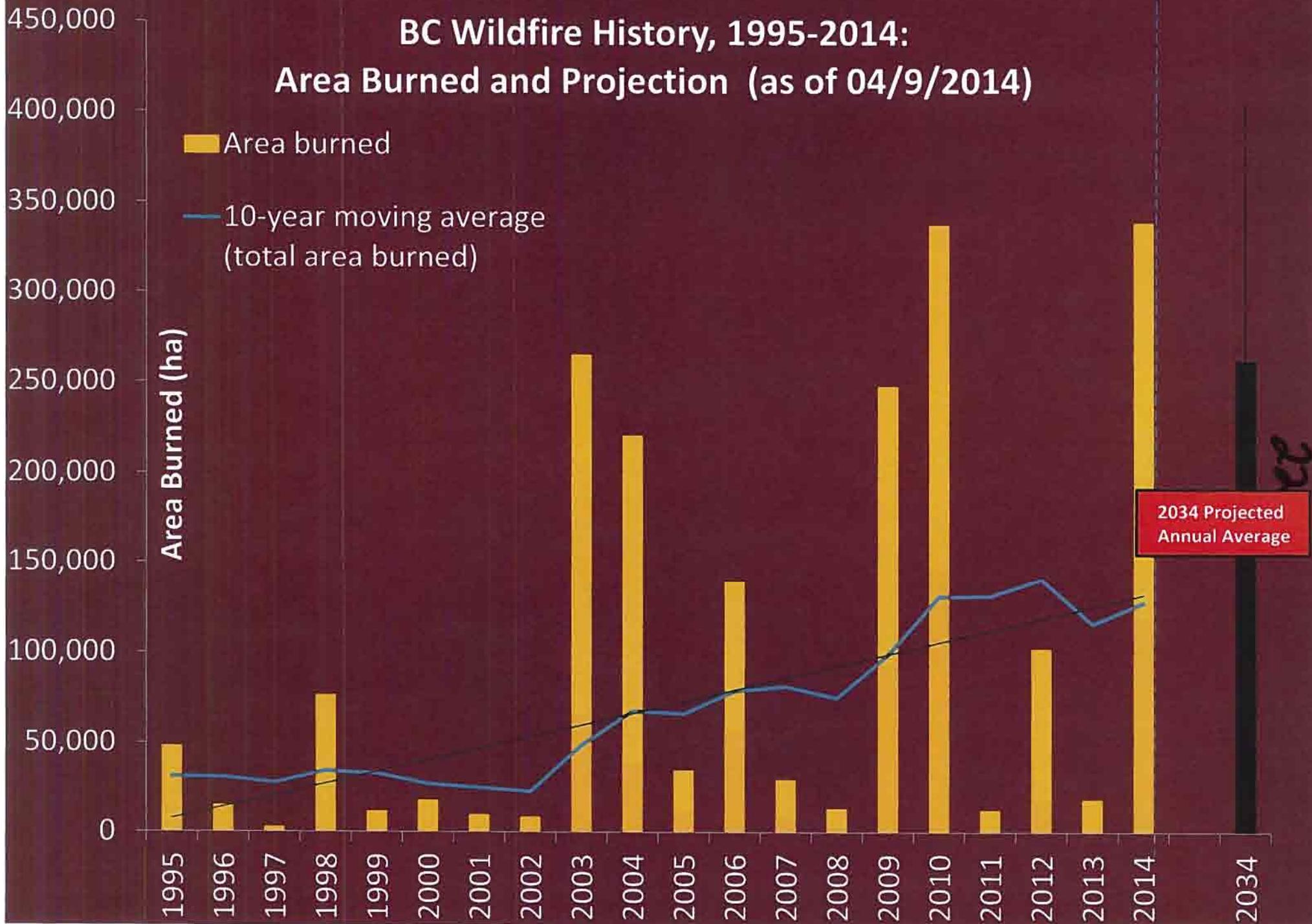


# Converging Challenges

- **Increasing development more values to protect**
- **Limits to suppression capacity & budgets (\$600M spent 2009-10; \$300M 2014)**
- **Mountain pine beetle forest fuel types**
- **Severe fire expected to double by 2050 due to climate change (all trends up)**
- **Increased impacts to natural resources, government assets, industries, communities and jobs**



# BC Wildfire History, 1995-2014: Area Burned and Projection (as of 04/9/2014)

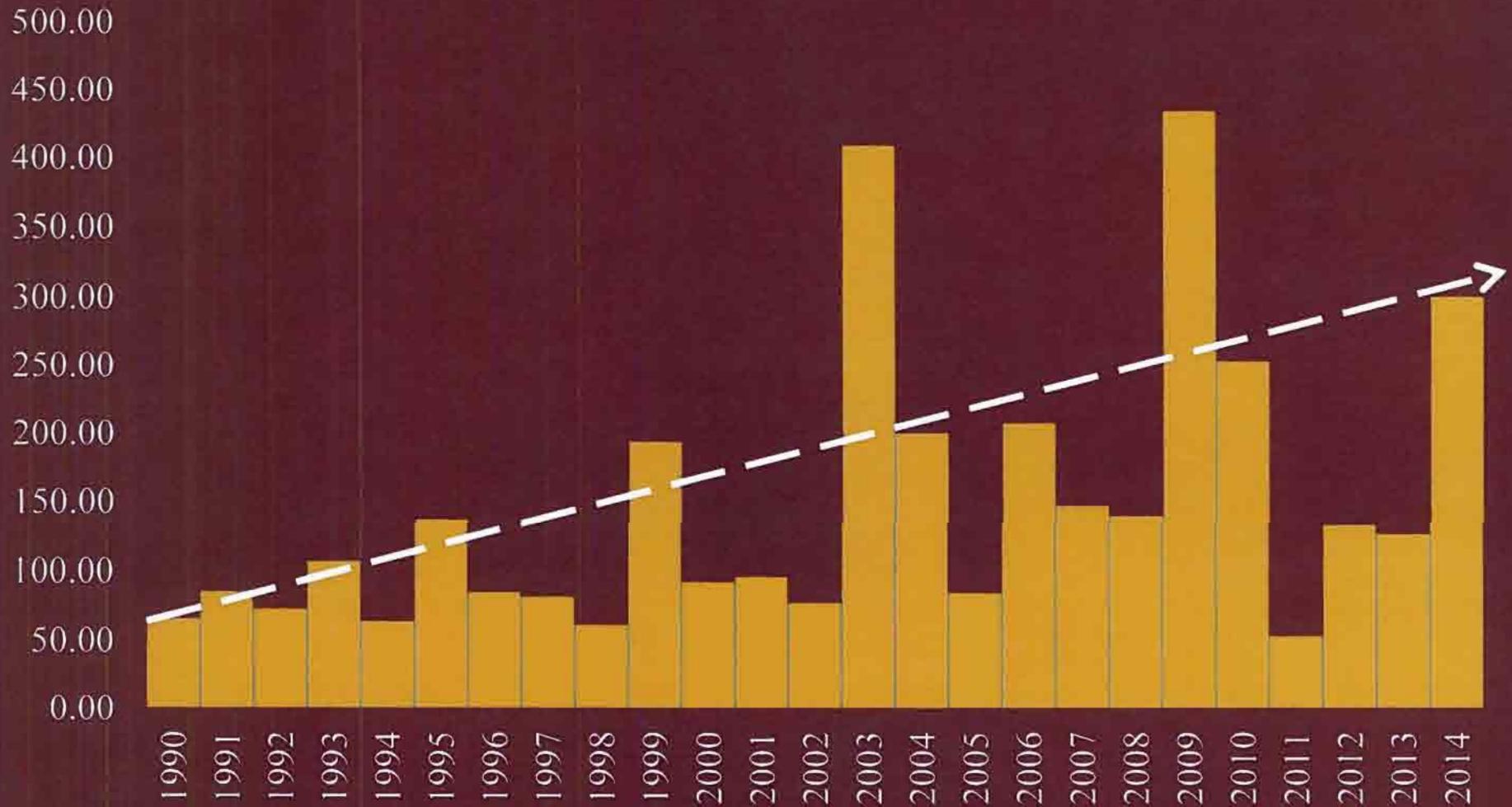


# Timber Loss Predictions

- Past decade 2004-13, 1.15M ha burned (340,000 THLB)
- At the current rate of increase, in next decade (2014 – 2023):
  - >1.6M ha of forest and grassland are predicted to burn
  - With climate change may increase to 2M ha with 500,000 to 600,000 ha or 150 million m<sup>3</sup> of THLB impacted
  - Predicted THLB area burned roughly equivalent 3 years of forest industry harvest (at 200,000 ha/yr. harvested)



# Direct Fire Expenditures



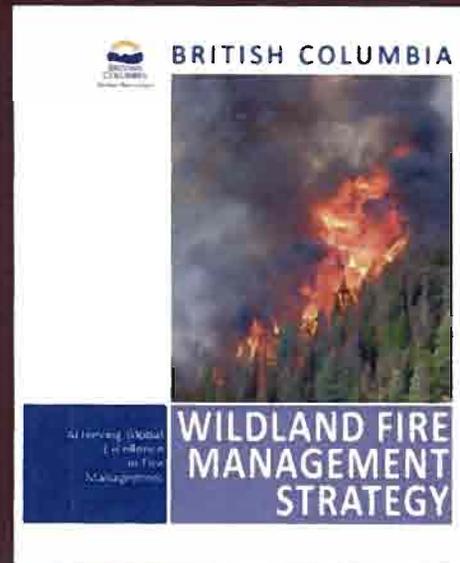
*(budget components shown in \$millions)*

# BC Fire Management Strategy

## From

- Limited response to build-up of hazardous fuels
- Passive approach to ecological benefits of fire
- Limited inter-agency management of wildland fire
- Escalating costs and Impacts

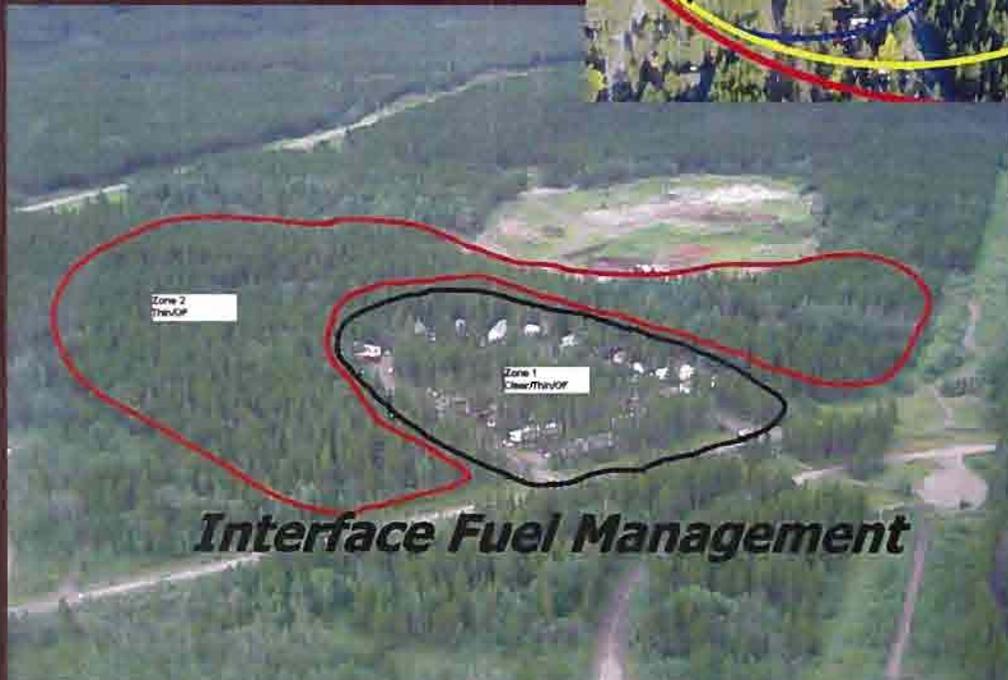
## Strategic Shift



## To

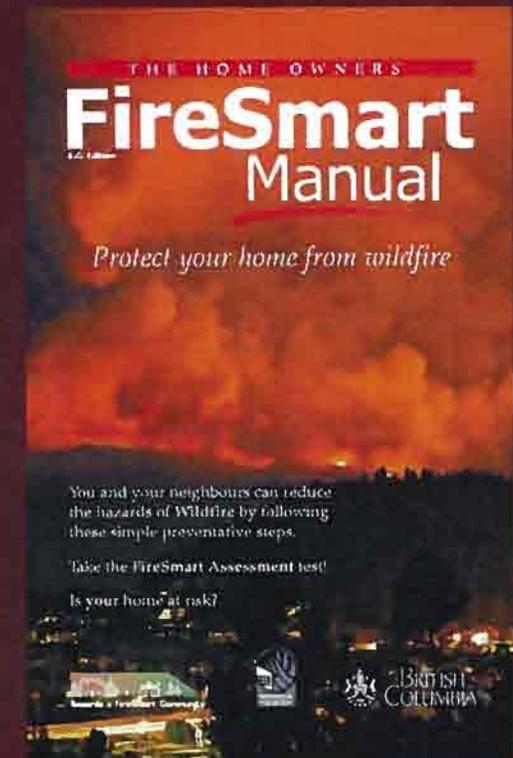
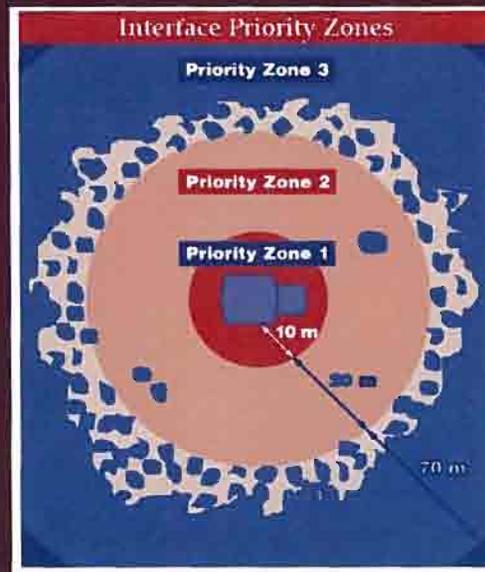
- Proactive management of fuel build up
- Active management for ecological benefits of fire
- Collaborative inter-agency land management
- More efficient response to wildfire outbreaks

# Fire Management All Scales



# "Private Land" Scale

Owners responsible for "FireSmart" near their homes; development guided by local building codes; bylaws; design standards; insurance financial incentives



21

# "Community Scale" (WUI) Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative

## Cooperative Program:

- Started 2004
- Union of BC Municipalities
- First Nations Emergency Services Society
- BC Wildfire Management Branch
- Over 300 community plans in place
- >50,000 ha. high risk areas treated across province
- Funding now suspended except for planning



# “Landscape Scale” Fire Management & Planning (LFMP)

- Integrate wildland fire risks in all resource management decisions
- Active management to create fire resilient landscapes
- Foundational building block for all landbase planning, authorizations & activities
- Wildland fire from one of the key drivers to “**The Key Driver**”?



# LFMP Process Steps

- Confirm threat & values at risk (current & future)
- Bring all stakeholders & government land managers together
- Agreement on priority, confirm what level of risk is acceptable & commit to do something
- Develop mitigation opportunities & strategies
- Integrate strategies into current activities (look for alignment)

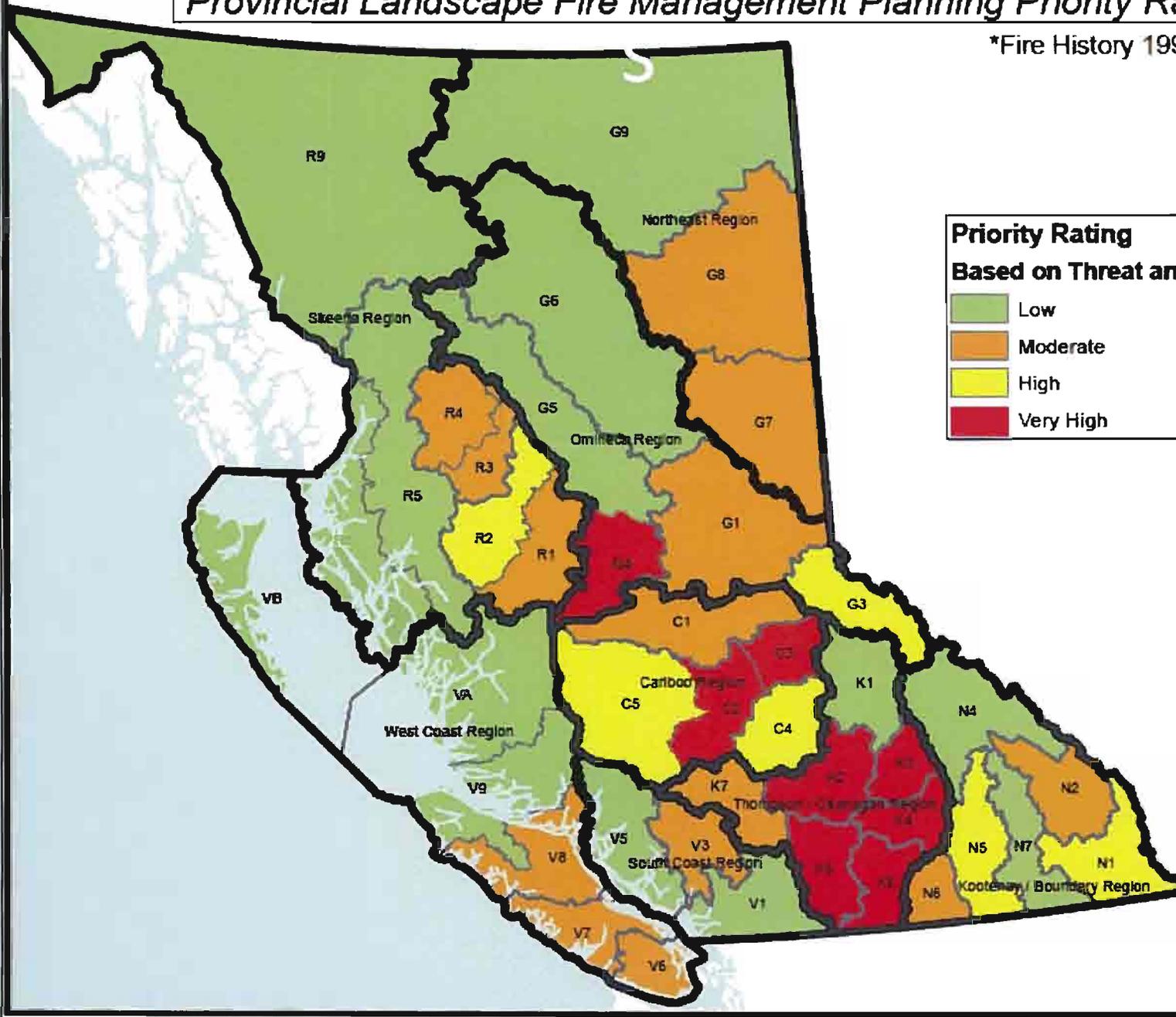


# Provincial Landscape Fire Management Planning Priority Rating

\*Fire History 1993 - 2012

**Priority Rating**  
Based on Threat and the VA ratings

	Low
	Moderate
	High
	Very High



-  FLNRO - Regions
-  Fire Zone Boundary
-  Fire Centre Boundary

0 25 50 100 150 200 250 Km



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Wildfire Management Branch

Created By: dbrizan Date: January 10, 2014

31

**“This isn’t the outcome we want”  
Slave Lake 2011**



32

# Questions and Discussion



“Beautiful BC” Summer 2014

93