



Fire Management in Canada Today and Tomorrow: The Director's View

British Columbia's Wildfire Reality

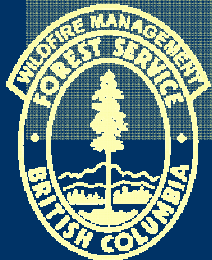
Wildland Fire Canada 2010 – October 5 Kitchener, Ontario



Today's Reality

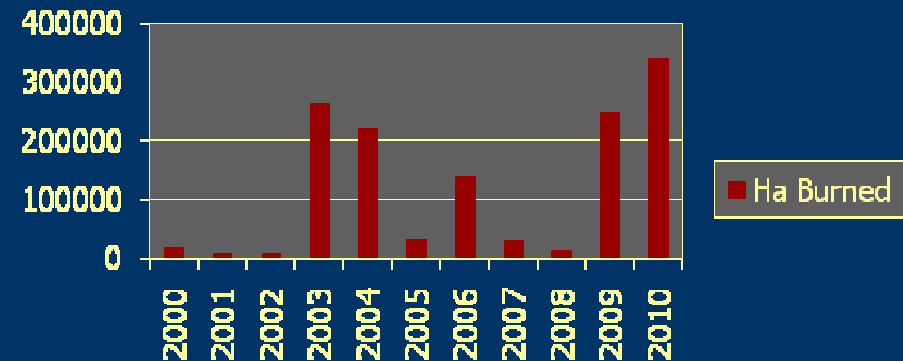
Fire Workload/Costs

- Workload & cost of wildfires steadily increasing
- Hotter, drier, longer seasons a new normal (1 day longer /year)
- Fire behaviour conditions exceed historical thresholds on a regular basis
- Hectares burned trend on an upward spiral (2003,2004,2006,2009,2010 all exceeded 100,000ha)
- Direct fire costs becoming unsustainable
- True impact or costs undetermined (USA study Direct Fire costs only 3-30% of total costs)

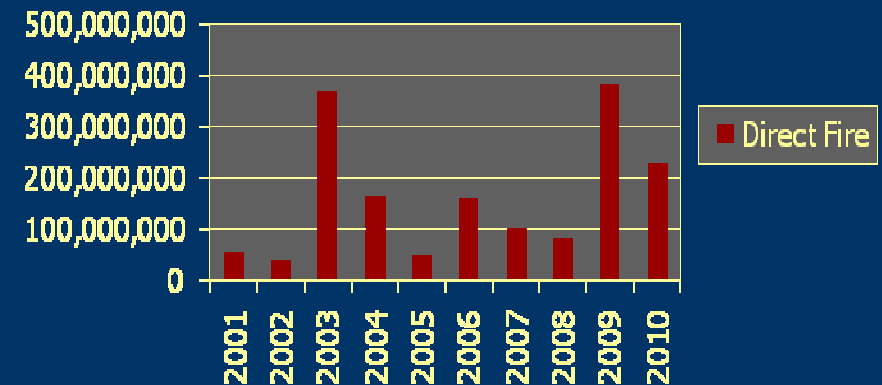


Wildland Fire Canada 2010

Hectares Burned



Direct Fire Costs



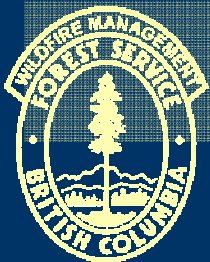
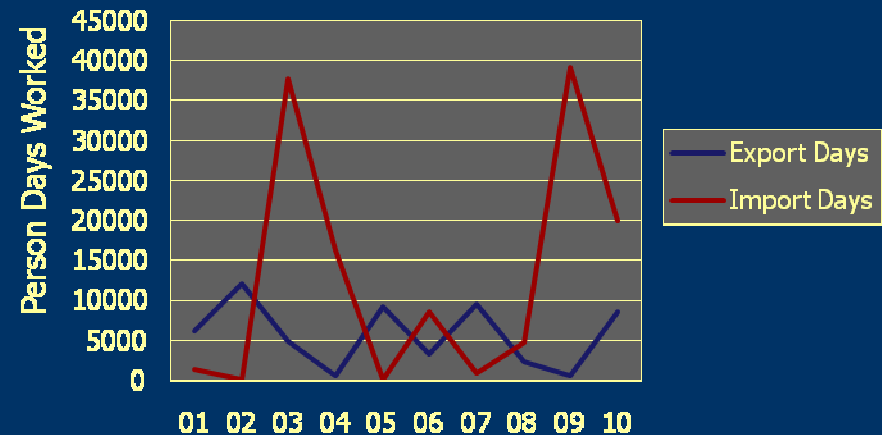
Today's Reality

Resources and Mutual Aid

- Fire seasons now regularly taxing resources (last 10 years BC net importer of resources , used to be net exporter)
- National resource shrinking? (2003 – 7600 F/E, 2009 hard to find 4500 out of province)
- Reliance on CIFFC jurisdictions , USA & now Australia/New Zealand
- More integration essential (does ICS go far enough?)
- Staff succession bubble, BC peaks 2014 (50% of senior wildfire managers in Canada retire within 10 years)



WMB National Import/Export



Wildland Fire Canada 2010

Today's Reality

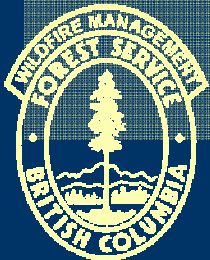
Complexities and Impacts

Complexity of controlling wildfires steadily increasing:

- MPB generated fuel types (16.5 million infested to date)
- More urban interface (213 WUI fires in 2009 alone)
- Increasing critical infrastructure on the landscape
- Other values to consider – endangered wildlife habitats, community watersheds, cultural heritage sites etc.

Wildfire impacts :

- Air quality impacts
- Public safety/evacuations
- Loss of tourism revenues
- Watershed impacts
- Timber supply
- Private & public infrastructure



Wildland Fire Canada 2010

Today's Reality

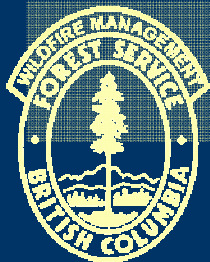
Fuel Management

Fuel management model:

- Community delivery/ownership
- Partnership between Federal, First Nations, Provincial and Local Governments
- Provincial Fuel Management Working Group guides program
- Union British Columbia Municipalities administers process
- First Nations Emergency Services facilitates program on & adjacent to IR lands

Fuel management accomplishments:

- 189 LG's and 201 FN Communities
- 197 CWPPs either completed or in the process of being completed
- 18 LG's have initiated Pilot Projects
- 83 Operational Treatment Projects
- 191 WMB crew projects initiated
- 42,500 ha treated
- Total to be completed: 685,000 ha classified as high risk and 1.7M ha classified as being at risk

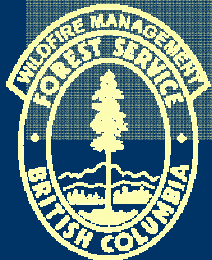


Wildland Fire Canada 2010

Today's Reality

Litigation and Government Liabilities

- Recover fire control costs, damages , issue penalties
- Trend to “U.S.A.” environment of litigation; 16 active cases & potential 7 more in2010; last 5 years legal fees paid >\$3.4M; 7 cases >\$1M liability; 2003 Barrier Fire\$50-\$100m;
- Last 10 years, recovered \$8.3M
- Now 3rd party claims addressed directly via claims manager on the ground (108 claim files opened 2009-2010)
- Major prevention, enforcement, compliance campaign past 2 years early results positive
- Continuous activity on arson hot spots with RCMP



Wildland Fire Canada 2010

WE TAKE FOREST FIRES SERIOUSLY. SO SHOULD YOU.

3 YEARS IN PRISON
2 PENALTIES
1 MILLION DOLLAR FINE
0 TOLERANCE

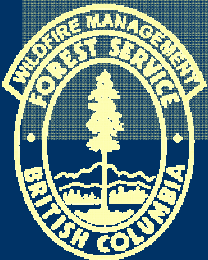
FIRESAFEBBC.CA

**TO REPORT A FOREST FIRE
CALL *5555**



Future Challenges

- Climate change & increased fire behaviour
- Mountain Pine Beetle, what's next?
- Meeting suppression resource need especially given succession bubble
- Fuel management with community ownership & secure long term funding
- Increased fire presence on the land including more prescribed fire & better Fire Management planning
- Improved integration/consistency
- Meeting increased complexities on the landbase
- Rapidly increasing level of risk management



Wildland Fire Canada 2010

Action Being Taken

- BC Wildland Fire Strategy approved for implementation
- Canadian Wildfire Strategy
- Accelerated Fuel Management program
- Pursuing new budget framework, shift to preparedness from response for better cost management including increased resources
- Improved integration and consistency across province
- Priority on completion of comprehensive Fire Management plans across the province
- CIFFC strategic direction



Wildland Fire Canada 2010

In Memory

Robert Woodhead (2009)

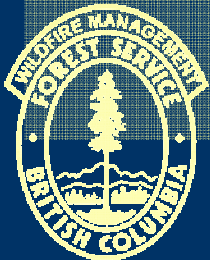
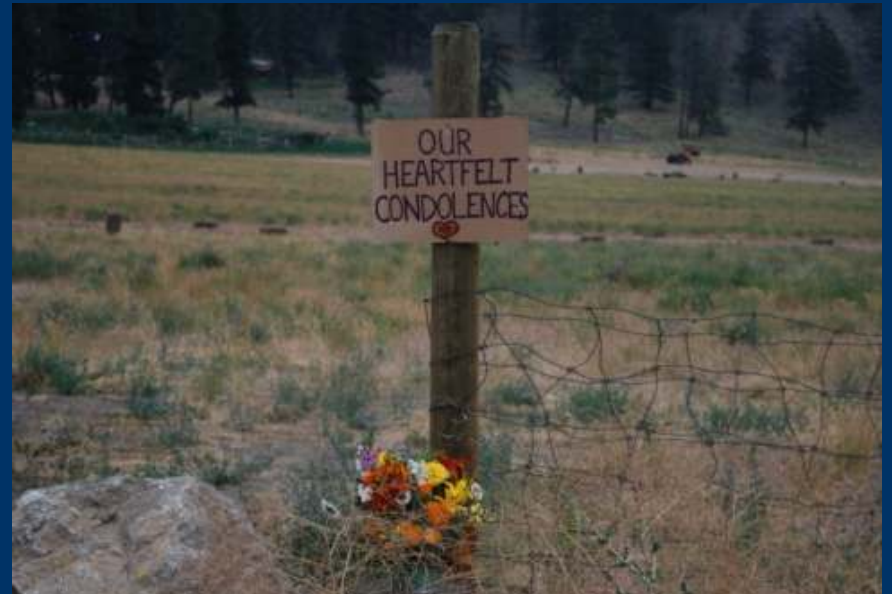
Helicopter pilot from Stoney Creek, ON

Tim Whiting (2010)

Airtanker Captain from Langley, BC

Brian Tilley (2010)

Airtanker First Officer from Edmonton, AB



Wildland Fire Canada 2010