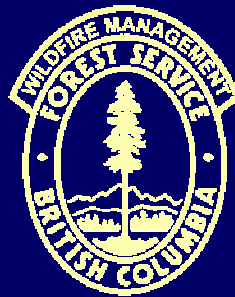
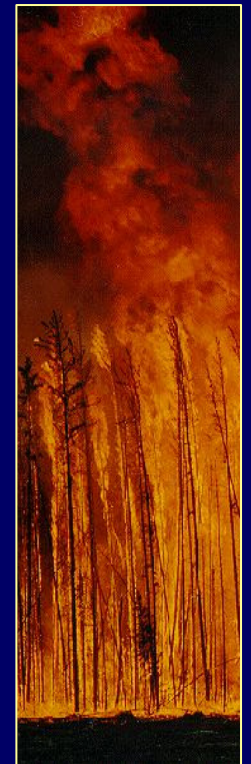


British Columbia's Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program

Wildland Fire Canada 2010 –Kitchener, Ontario

Presented by: **Lyle Gawalko**
Manager - Fire Management
Ministry of Forests and Range
Wildfire Management Branch



Agenda



1. **Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program**
 - Program History
 - Strategic Threat Analysis
2. **Wildfire Planning and Risk Management**
 - Community Lead Delivery Model
 - Partnerships
3. **Accomplishments to Date**
4. **Examples**
 - Treatments
 - Successes



Fire Storm 2003

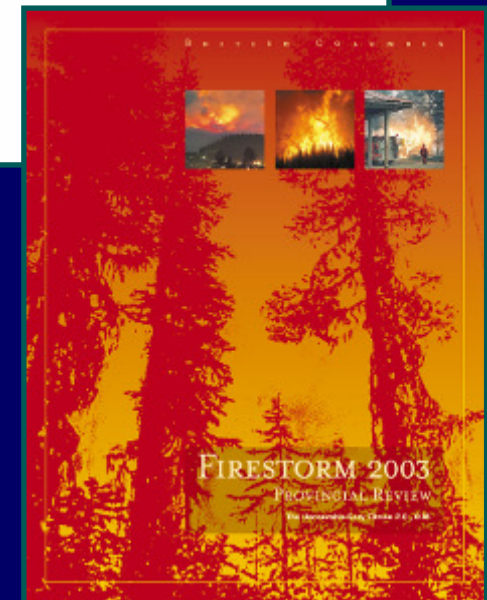
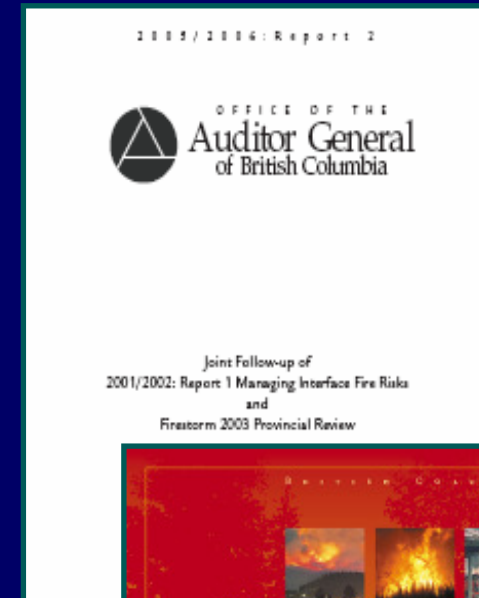


Okanagan Mountain Park Fire, Kelowna

Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program

History

- Fuel Management Program was initiated after the 2003 fire season
- Recognized that no single agency or government will be able to resolve the fuel management issues facing the province.
- Responder and Public Safety is the top priority



History Continued:

- **Province to Lead Strategic Plan Development, to address fuel management**
- **Require a Community Protection Plan for communities with a high probability and consequence of fire in the interface zone.**
- **Be cost shared with local governments**
- **Give priority for funding, fire management planning, fuels mitigation and protection to these areas.**
- **Mandate long-term community fireproofing programs which will build upon local zoning and building codes.**

Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program

Threat Analysis

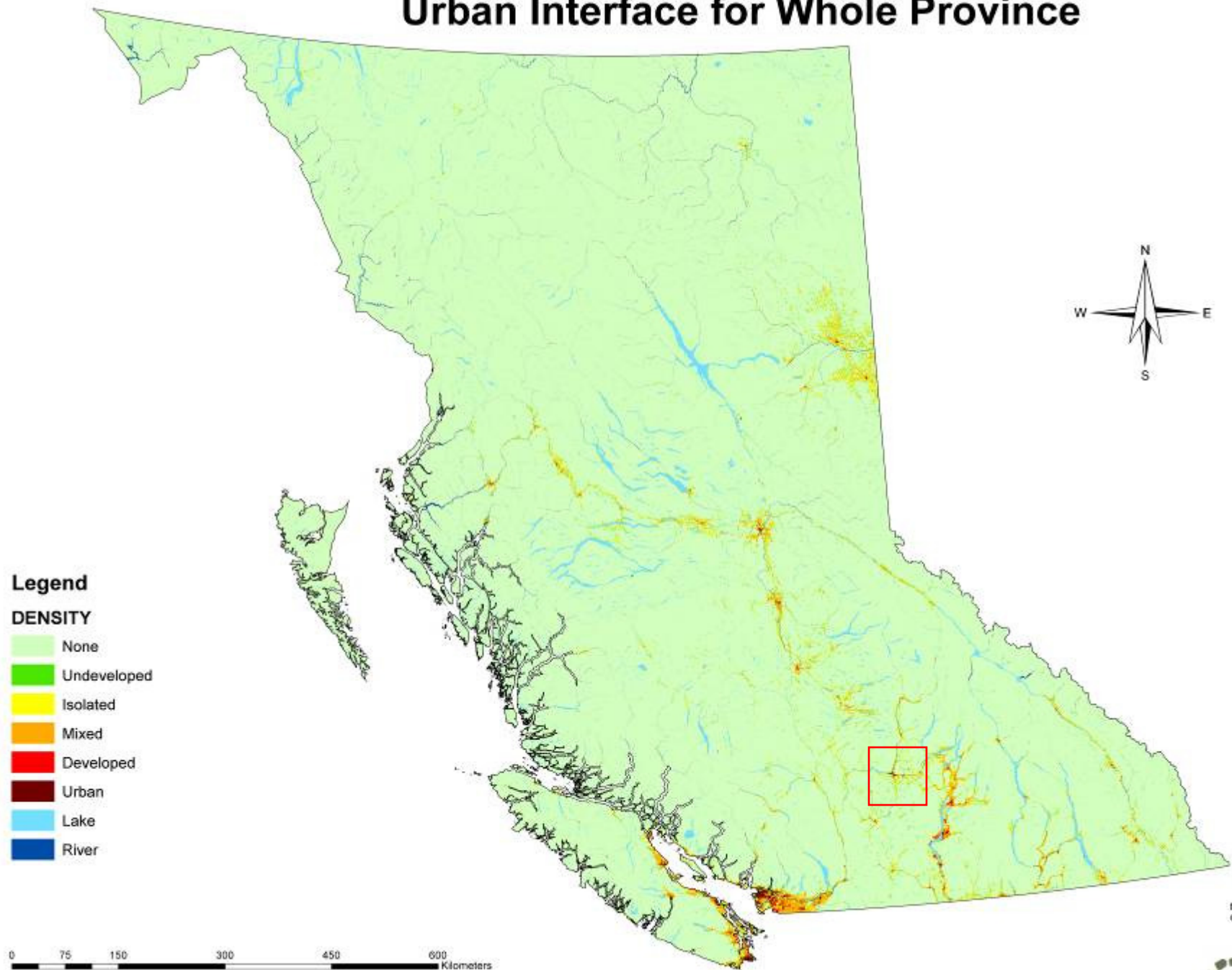
2004 Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis shows:

- 1.7 million ha's of forest land that may pose a threat of fire to communities in B.C - 685,000 high risk

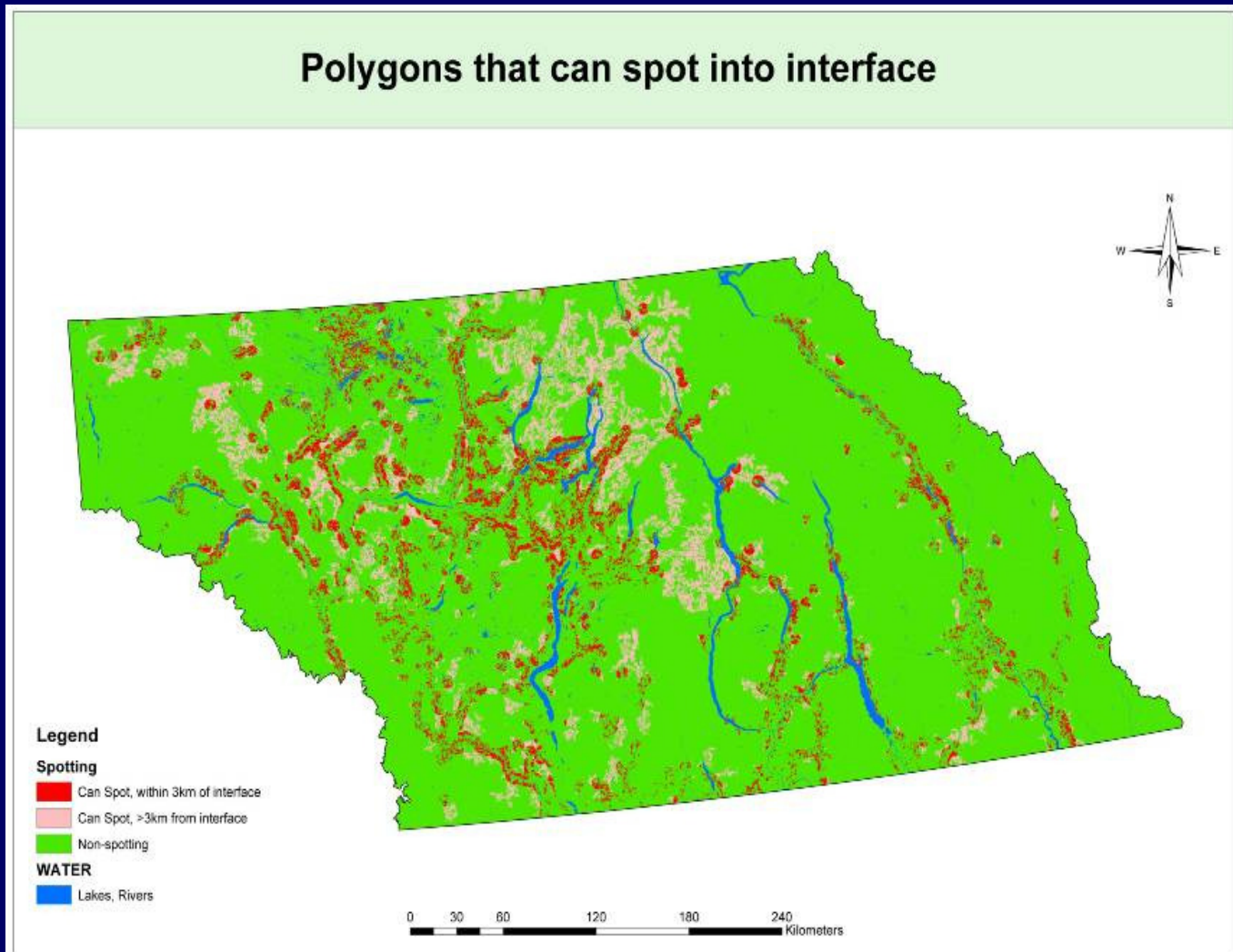
Strategic Threat Analysis

- **Strategic threat analysis of the province to assess:**
 - **Interface areas,**
 - **Fire Risk,**
 - **Fire Behavior potential,**
 - **Combined risk / fire behavior,**
 - **Spotting potential into the WUI**

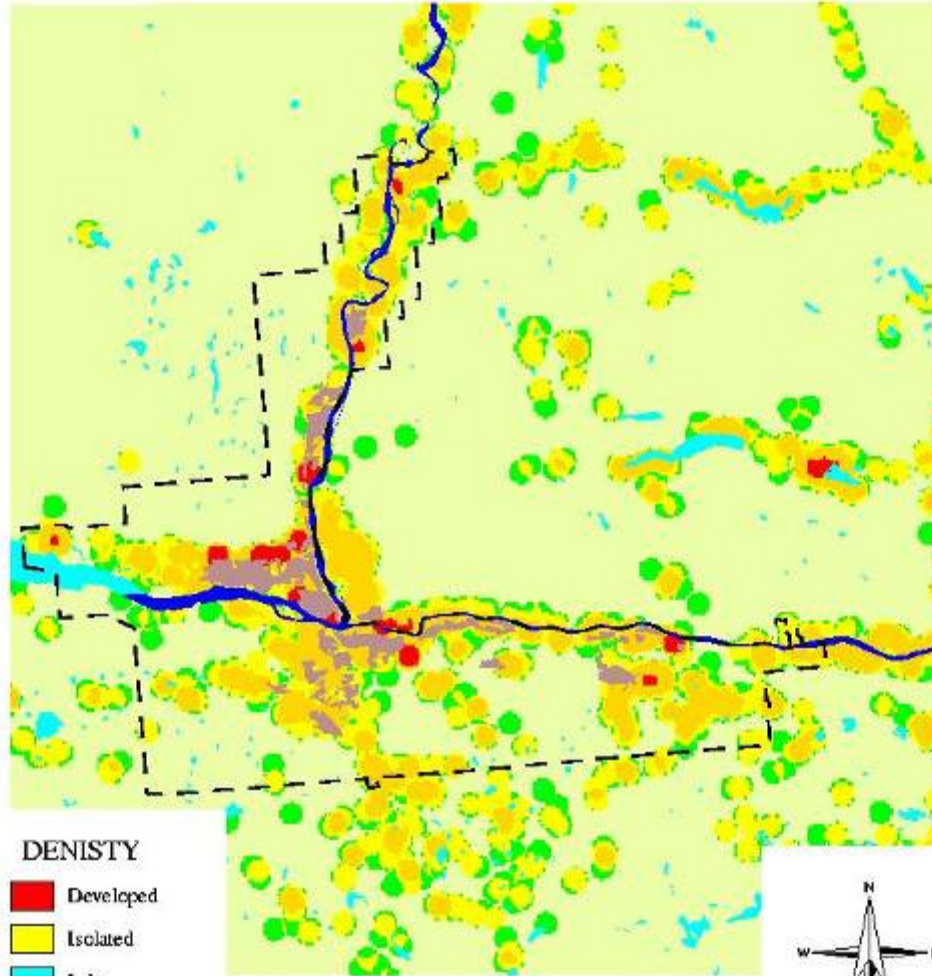
Urban Interface for Whole Province



Interface Spotting Potential for Southern BC



Urban Interface for Kamloops Area



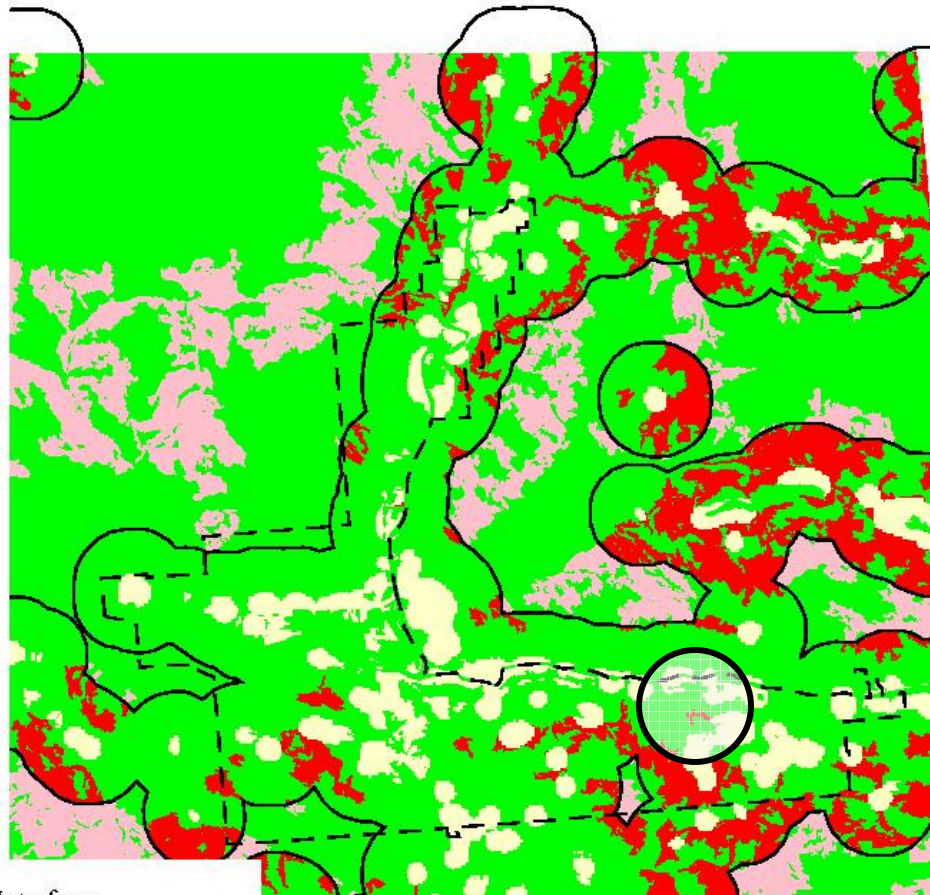
DENISTY

- Developed
- Isolated
- Lake
- Mixed
- None
- River
- Undeveloped
- Urban

0 5 10 15 20 Kilometers

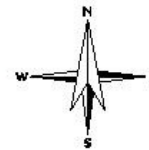
Plot Produced by: Protection Branch
Ministry of Forests
January 17, 2005

Interface Spotting Potential for Kamloops Area



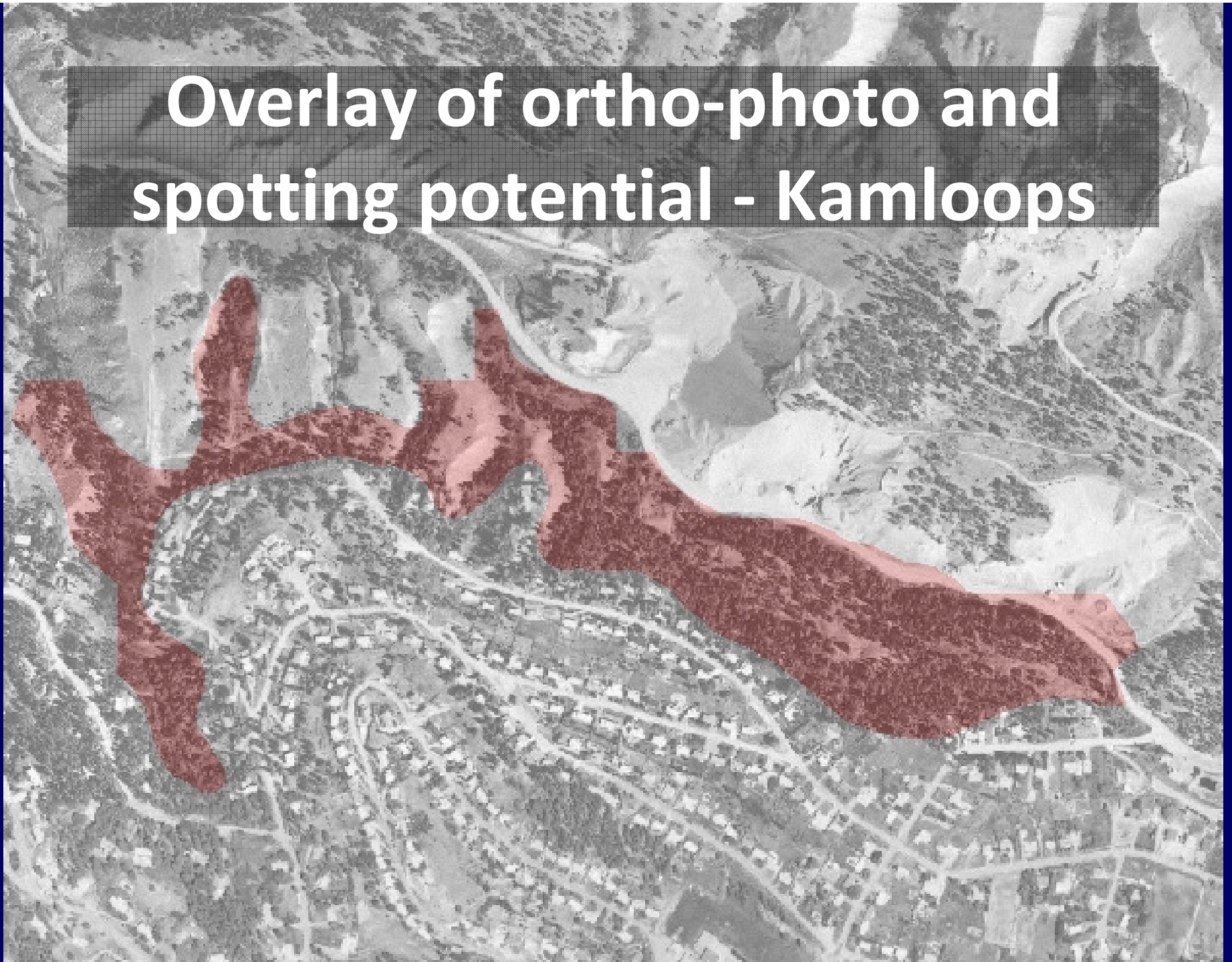
Interface

-  Mixed/Developed
-  Can spot in within 2km of interface
-  Can spot in >2km from interface
-  Cannot spot in
-  2 km buffer
-  PG Municipal Boundary



Plot Produced by: Protection Branch
Ministry of Forests
January 17, 2005

Overlay of ortho-photo and spotting potential - Kamloops



Mountain Pine Beetle



Mountain Pine Beetle



Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis shows:

1.7 million ha's of forest land that may pose a threat of fire to communities in B.C

**Further GIS analysis shows:
~ 460,000 ha of this land is MPB affected**



Wildfire Planning and Risk Management

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP):

Ultimately the tool that identifies areas that require treatment and their priority

CWPP

Funded 50% up to \$15,000

Pilot Projects

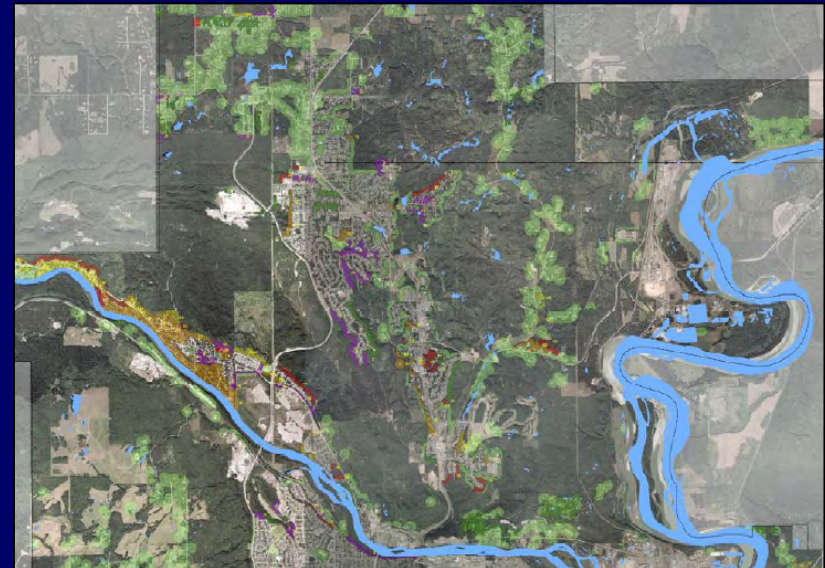
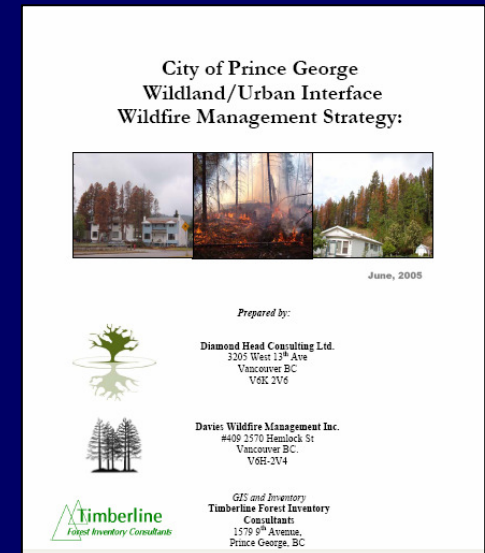
Funded 50% up to \$25,000

Prescriptions

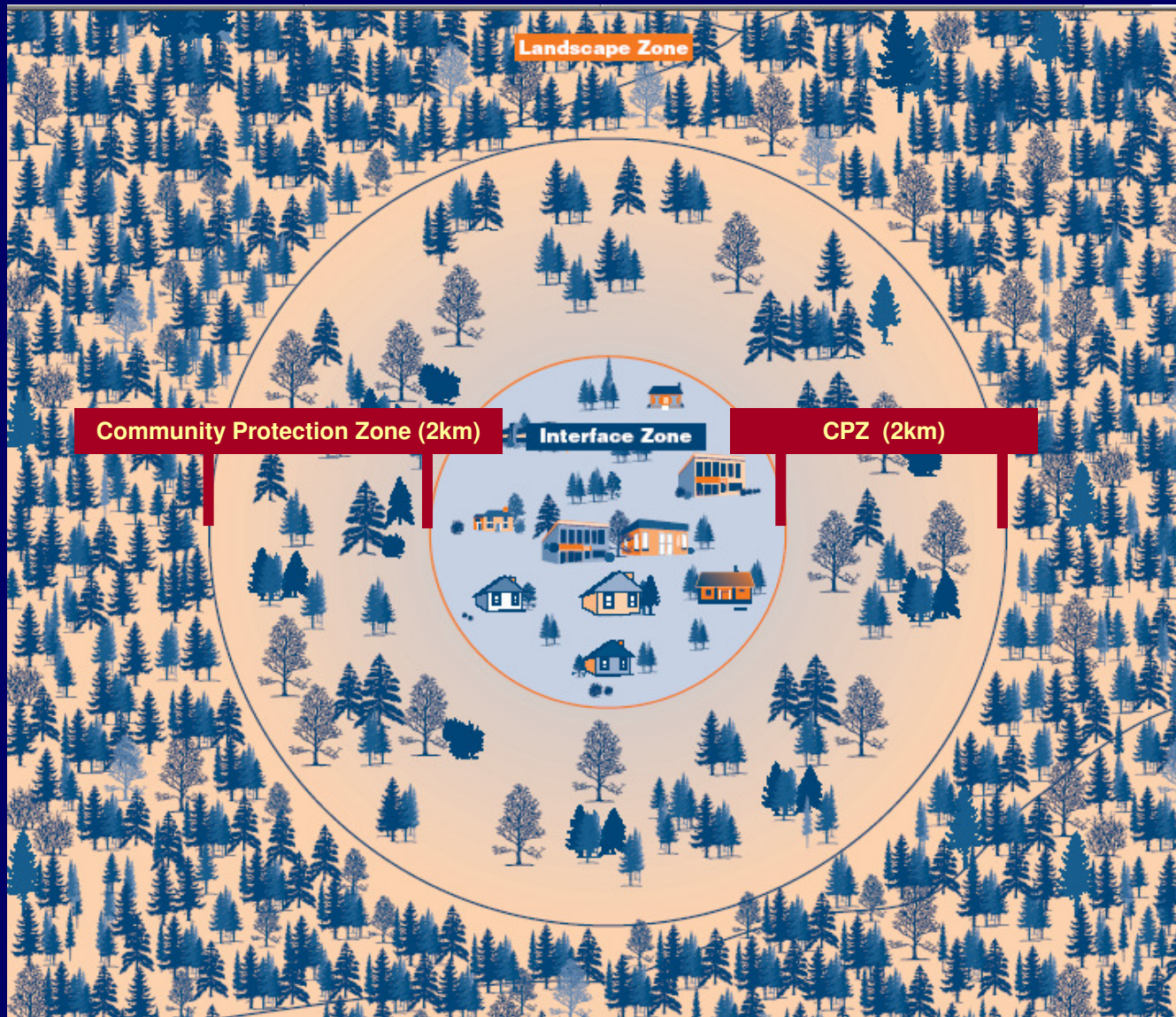
100% funded

Operational Treatments

75% funded



Planning



Treatment Options

- **Harvesting & commercial thinning,**
- **Thinning and pruning,**
- **Under-burning,**
- **Shaded fuel break,**
- **Mulching and chipping,**
- **Large scale fuel breaks,**
- **Energy/bio-fuel use**



Objectives of Fuel Management

Untreated



Treated

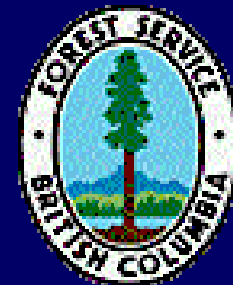


A change in fire behaviour under the same weather and topographic conditions

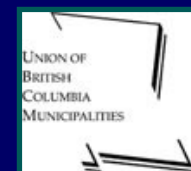
Wildfire Planning and Risk Management

Community initiated delivery model for fuel management activities:

- Partnership between Federal, First Nations, Provincial and Local Governments
- Provincial Fuel Management Working Group facilitates/guides program
- UBCM administers funds
- First Nations Emergency Services facilitates program for areas adjacent to First Nations communities



Strategic Prevention Program Partnerships



Accomplishments to Date

- **189 L/G's & 201 First Nations Communities**
- **197 CWPP's either completed or in the process of being completed**
- **18 L/G's have initiated Pilot Projects**
- **83 Operational Treatment Projects**
- **191 WMB crew projects initiated**
- **42,500 ha treated (24,455 MPB/18,055 non MPB)**

Examples: Treatment

- Small scale salvage, woodlots, community protection LtC, CFA, major licensees
- Community protection needs to be planned for not an afterthought
 - Fuel management prescription
 - Stocking standards
 - Species selection
 - Silviculture levy



Moore's Meadow Park – Prince George



Rainbow Park - PG



Mt Robson Provincial Park



Evergreen Estates - Kamloops

Treatment Successes

- 2005 West Kelowna estates
- 2009 Alexis Creek
- 2009 Glenrosa
- 2010 Barnhartvale



Treatment Successes

Treatments instrumental in:

- Allowing quicker/safer access for resources (snag removal)
- Easier/Quicker access for resources (less debris)
- Giving F/F time to construct guard
- Quicker guard construction (less line resistance)
- Giving F/F's time to set up structural protection units
- Giving emergency services time to carry out evacuations
- Reduction of surface and ladder fuels enabled successful control & containment
- Little to no aerial support required (lower fire intensities)

I/C – “The fuel management work that was done was a huge contributing factor to the success of the fire not making it across the guard, and threatening values.”





Questions and Comments

