

# Wildland Fire Canada 2010

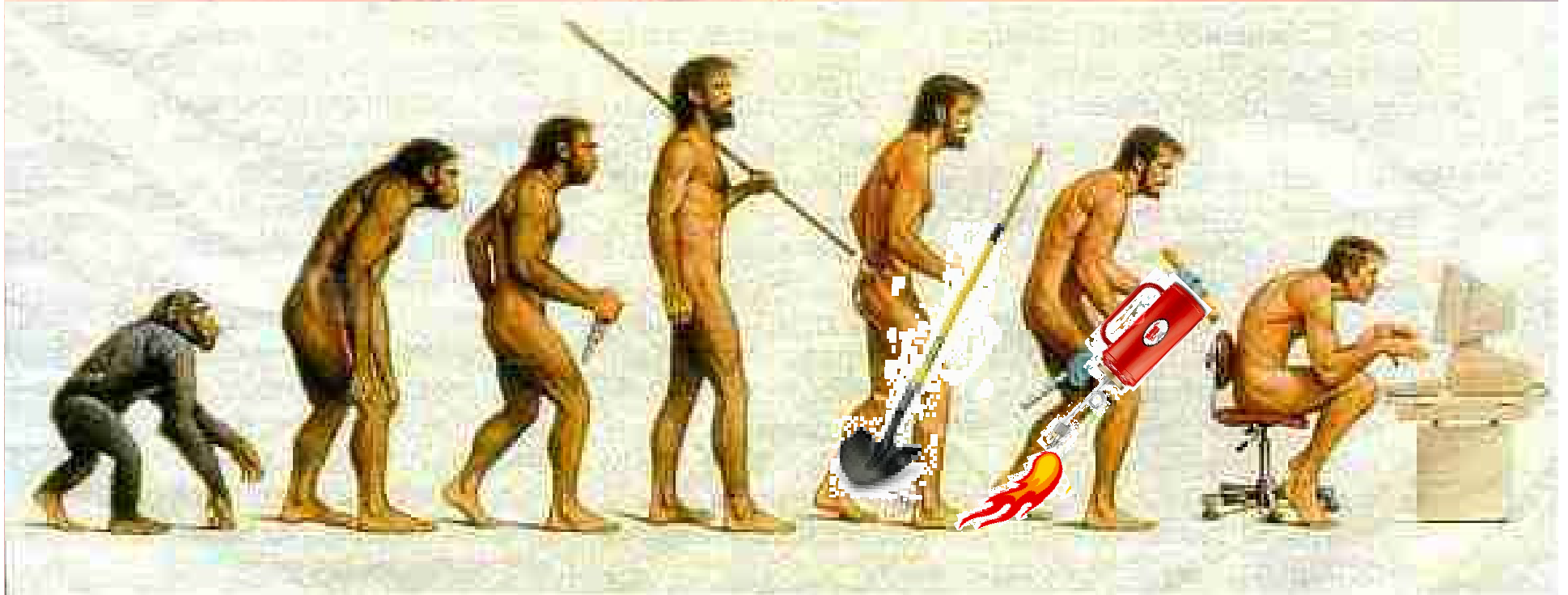
## Who is the fire community?

by Peter Fuglem



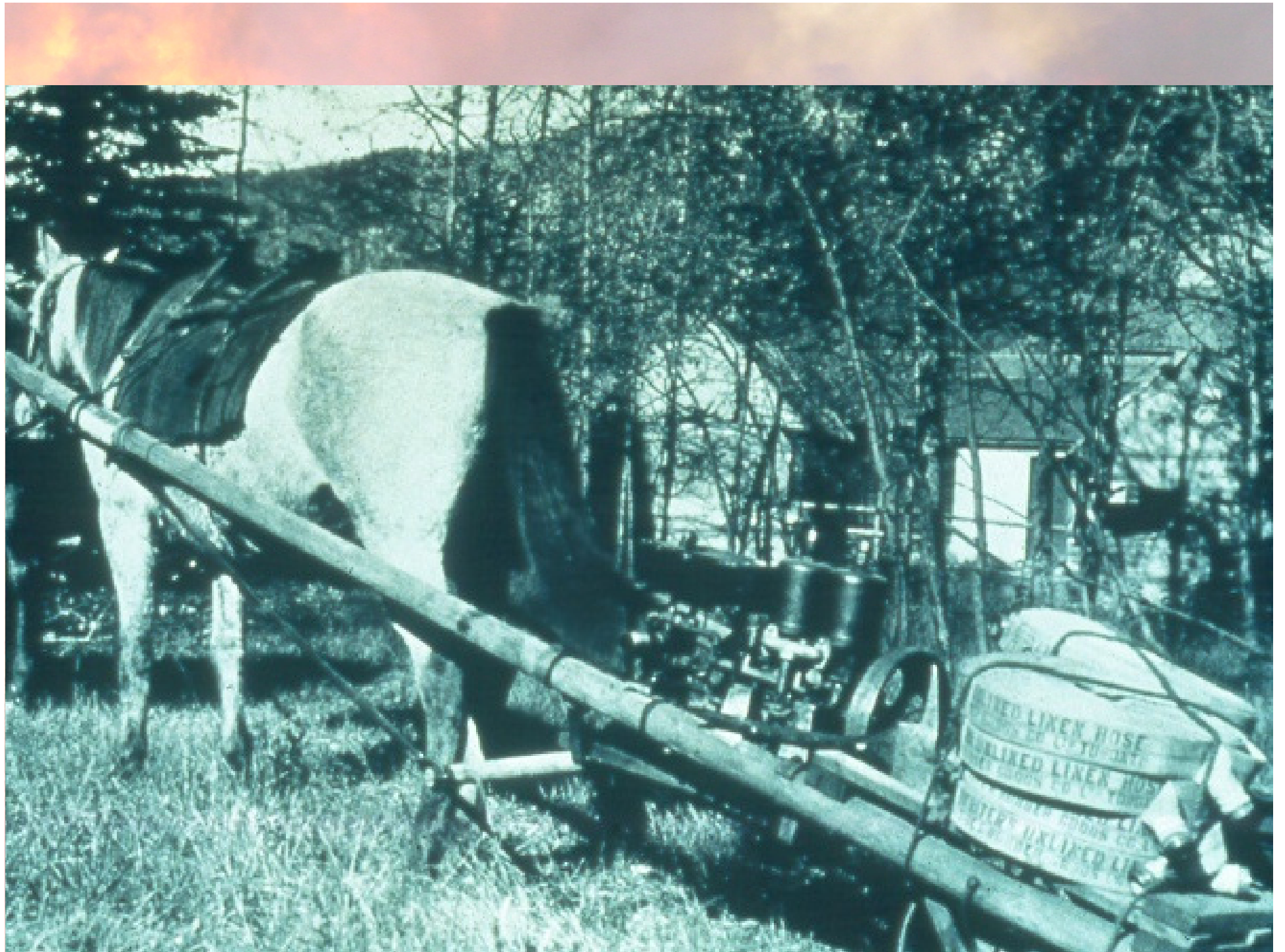


# Evolution of the fire community

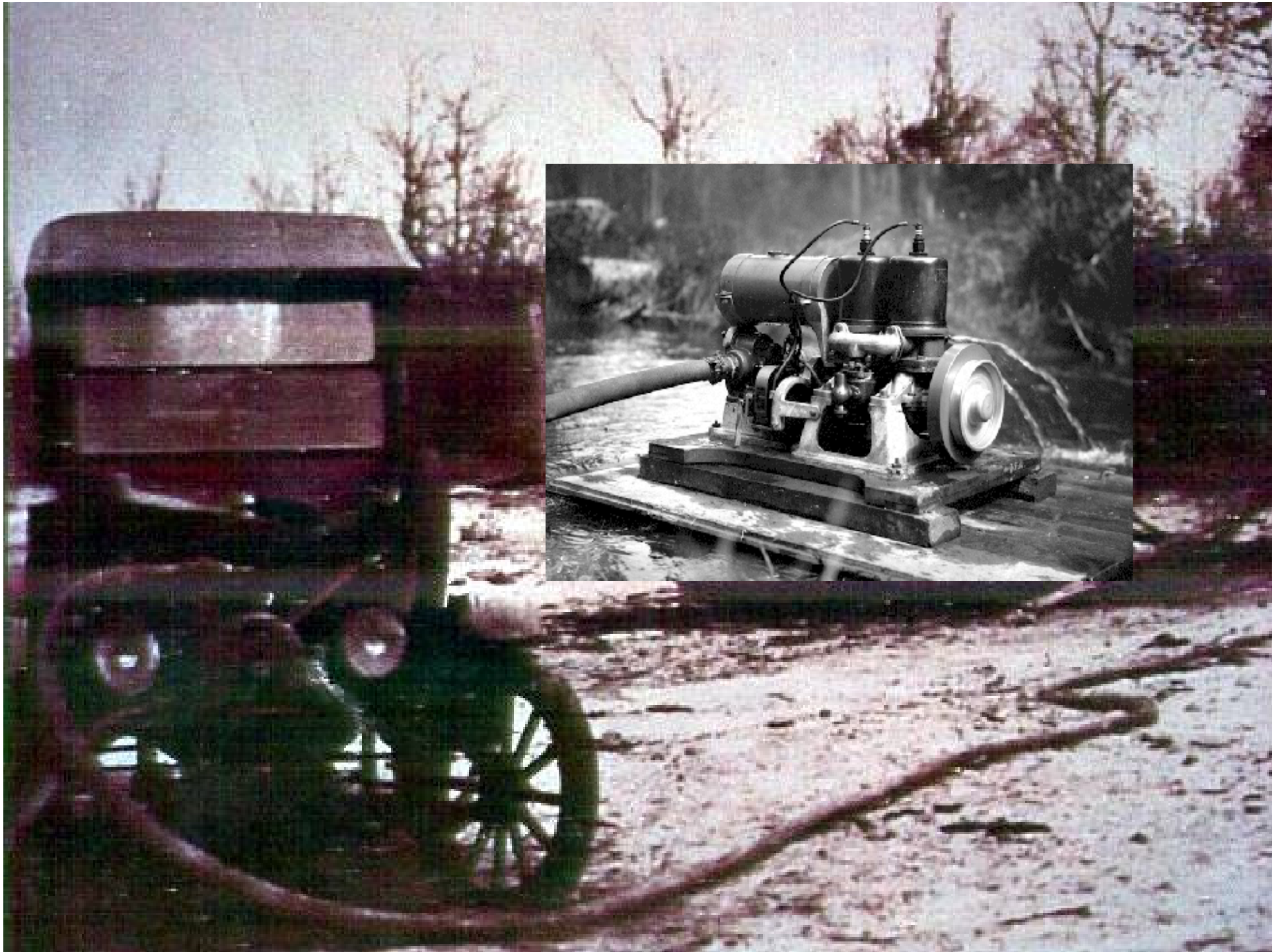
















Ye Olde  
Manning Park  
Gallows

**THE ONE WHO  
DROPPED IT SHOULD  
ALSO BE HANGED**  
PREVENT FOREST FIRES  
B. C. FOREST SERVICE

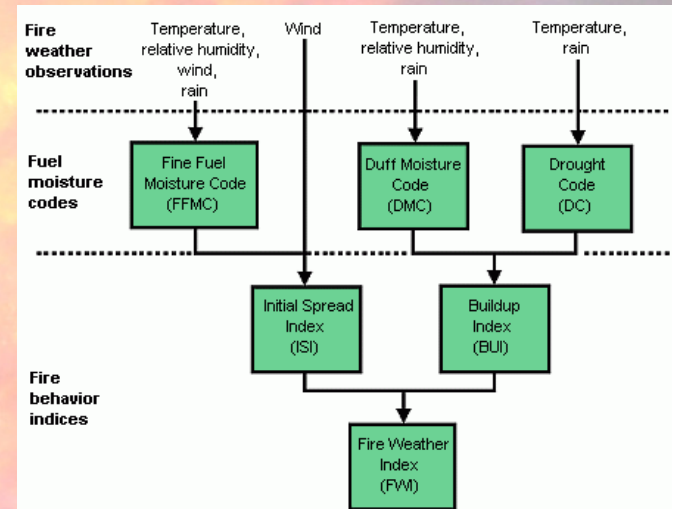




# Focus of the 1970s



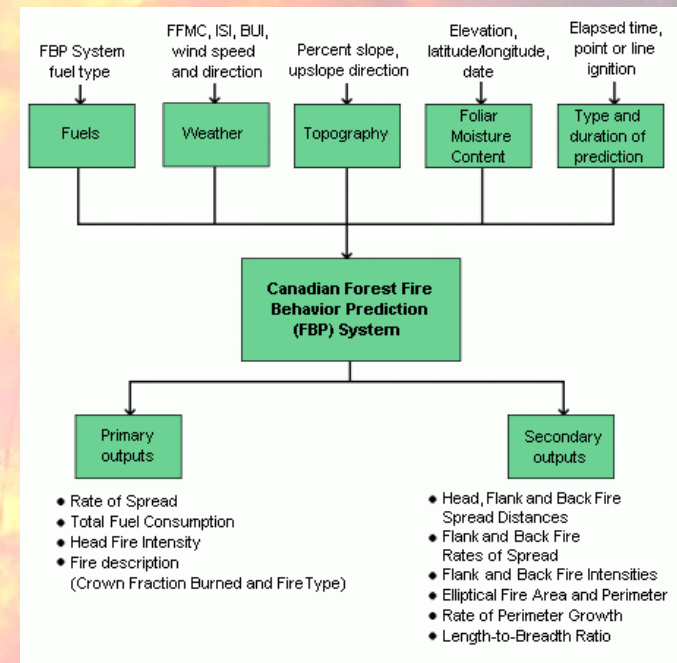
- Canadian Committee on Forest Fire Control
  - Airtankers, CL215, helicopter systems and fire retardants
- CFS research/development
  - Equipment development/testing
  - CFWIS implementation
- Training and safety programs
- Early computerization of fire/weather data
- CFS/Universities
  - Operations research concepts
  - Emerging fire ecology concepts





# Focus of the 1980s

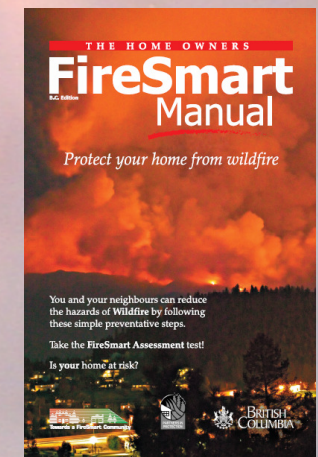
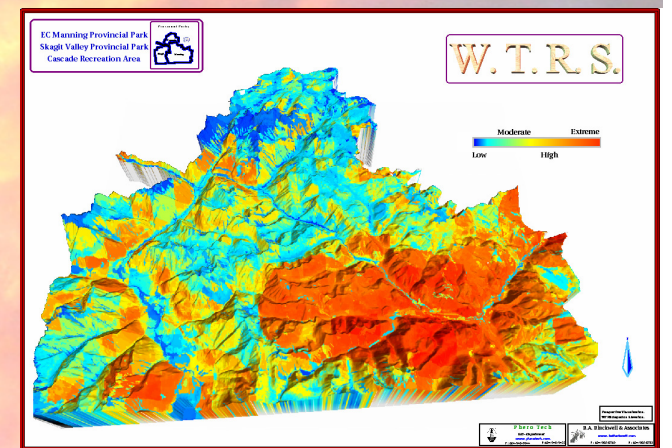
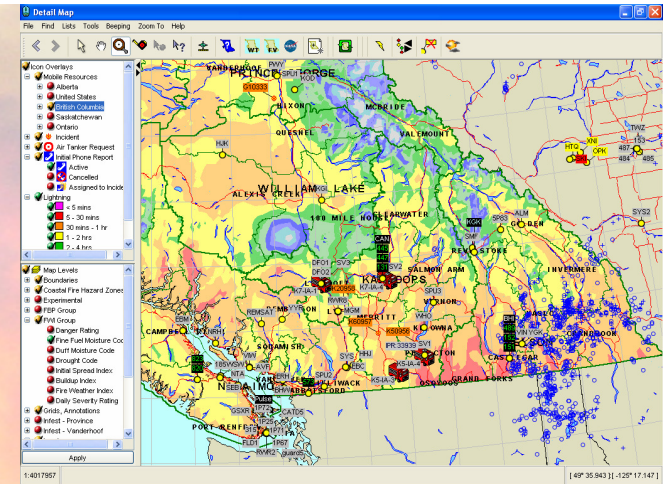
- Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre
- National Airtanker Fleet
- Firefighting foam introduced
- Fire Behaviour Prediction System
- Computer networking and reporting systems
  - Fires, CFFDRS, weather, lightning
- Remote sensing –
  - fuels mapping, fire mapping and detection
- Early values at risk concepts/systems
- Early wildfire management concepts
- Early community protection
  - (Beware & Prepare, Community Planner)





# Focus of the 1990s

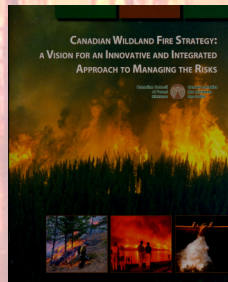
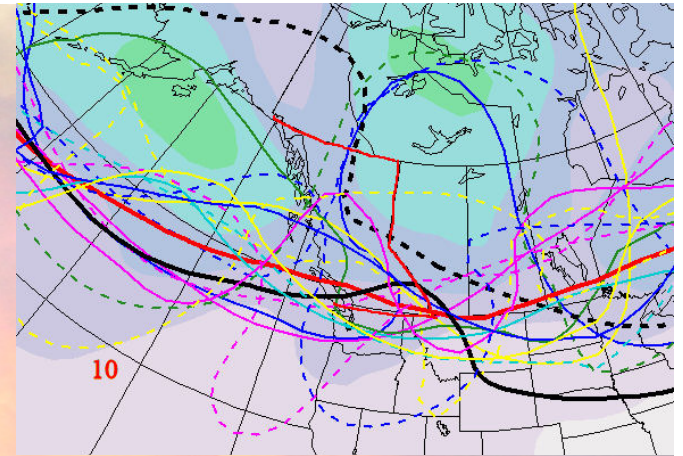
- Operationalizing Decision Support Systems
  - Real time data
  - Fire Behaviour Prediction
  - Fire Occurrence Prediction
  - Wildfire Threat Assessment
- Wildland-Urban Interface, FireSmart development, Fuel treatment techniques
- Wildfire management plans
- Regional Compacts
- The 5-Point Plan initiated





# Focus of 2000-2010

- Strengthening National Standards
- Long range forecasting
- Engagement with communities –
  - Dissemination of FireSmart, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, bylaws, cross-training with Fire Departments
- Social/economic impacts of fire & smoke
- Increased partnerships – local, provincial/territorial, national and international
- Climate change
- Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy






# Were we fooling ourselves back then?

- The original fire community tried to do it all themselves
- Technology was going to solve everything
  - Aircraft, computers, satellite communications
- Governments should be prepared to pay
- The public understood and believed what we were telling them
- Everyone coming into the fire business would want to be just like us!!





# A new and improved fire community also includes:

- Community planners
- Fire departments, Fire chiefs, and Fire marshals/commissioners
- Emergency programs and first responders, health workers
- Legislators and enforcement community
- ICLR and the insurance industry
- Forecasters, Ecologists, Economists, Social scientists
- Media
- Military
- NGOs like Nature Trust, Nature Conservancy and Land Conservancy
- Carbon managers?



# Focus of 2011 and beyond?

- Funding coming with increased expectations
- Increased recognition of social/economic impacts (disruption, health, employment, etc.)
- Integration of wildfire in the landscape
  - What does it mean with climate change?
- National Response Plan
  - Are we prepared for the next bigger fire season?
- Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy version 2?









How does it feel in the hot seat  
as a Wildfire Director?







Is a senior  
wildfire  
position a  
ladder to  
career success?



A photograph of a sunset over a forested hillside. The sky is a vibrant orange and red, with a bright sun visible in the upper center. The foreground shows the dark silhouettes of evergreen trees on a slope.

*Thank you and I look forward to your questions and discussion*

*“Our eyes are placed in front because it is more important to look ahead than back.”*

*Source: unknown*