



# Forest Fires in Canada: The Federal Government's Changing Role

*Wildfire 2010*

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Regional Director General  
Northern Forestry Centre  
Canadian Forest Service  
Natural Resources Canada



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# Federal Role in Forest Fire in Canada

- Past
- Present
- Future





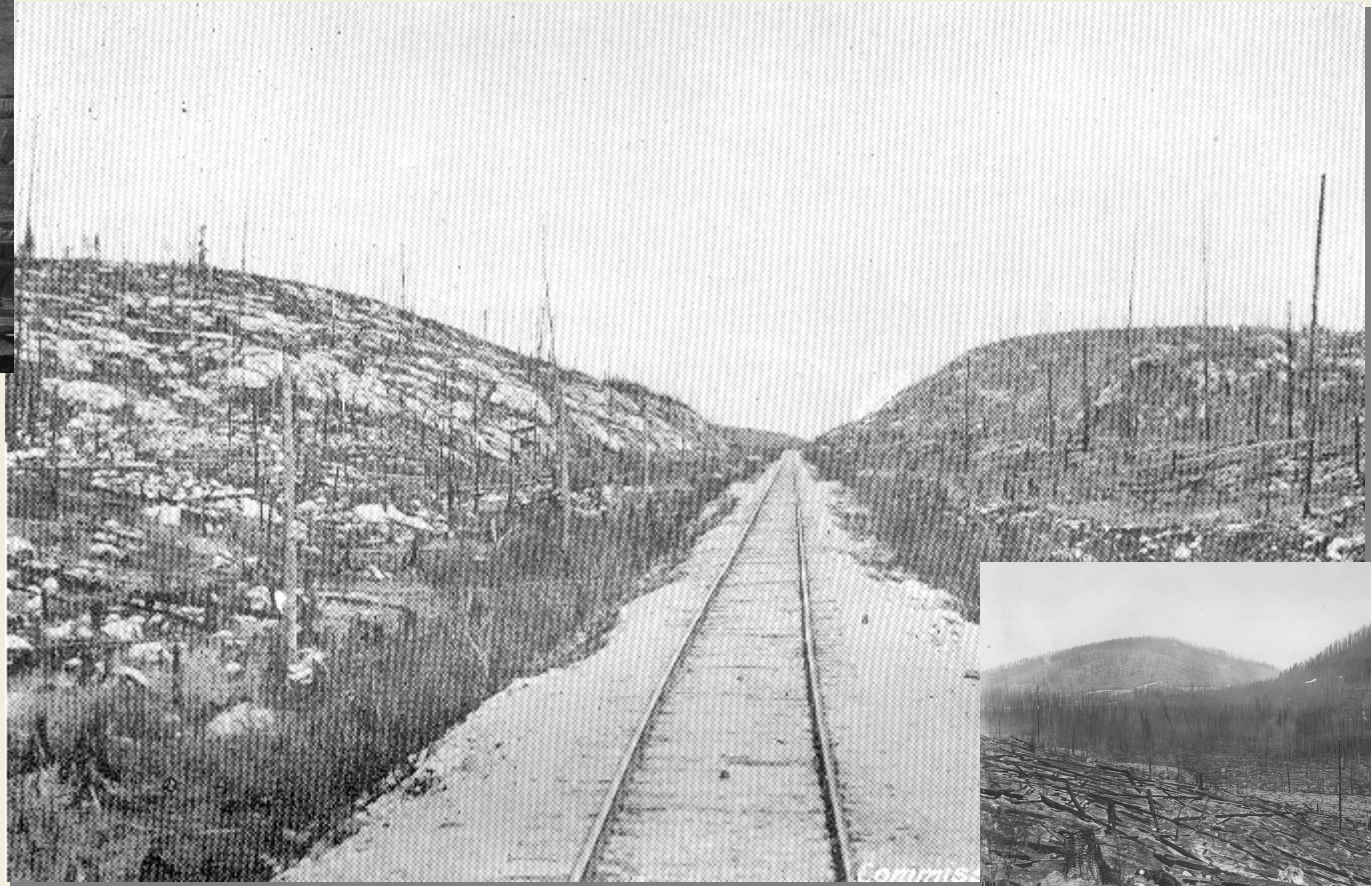
# Federal role: Past

## Late 1800's - Economic Exploitation



“fire in the woods [is] destroying millions of money”

*Sir John A. Macdonald*  
(1871)



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# Federal role: Past

## Early 1900s – “Conservation” and Propagation



Elihu Stewart  
*First Chief of the  
Dominion Forestry  
Branch*



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# Federal role: Past

## Mid-1900s – Research, National leadership, Management on Federal Lands





# Federal Role in Canadian Forests: Present

- **Economic**

- **Social**

- **Environmental**

- Natural Resources, Regional Development Agencies, Indian and Northern Affairs, Industry Canada, DFAIT,

- Natural Resources, Parks Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs, Industry Canada, HRSDC,

- Parks Canada, Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, CFIA





# Federal Role in Canadian Forest Fire: Present

- **Economic**
- **Social ( Public Safety and security)**
- **Environment**
- **NRCan**
- **NRCan, RCMP, Health Canada, Public Safety and Security Canada, Transport, INAC, DND, Environment**
- **Environment, NRCan, Fisheries and Oceans**

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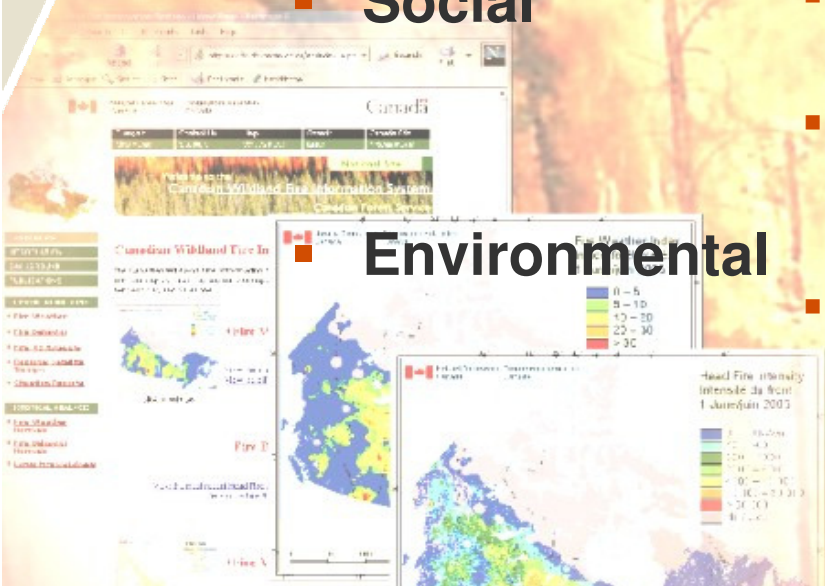
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# Federal Role in Canadian Forest Fire: Present

## NRCCan/CFS role in Forest Fire: Present

- **Economic**
- **Social**
- **Environmental**
- Canadian Wildland Fire Information System,
- Effects of Climate Change on Wildland Fire,
- Options for Wildland Fire Hazard Mitigation,
- Community Fire Strategies, Wildland Fire Impacts on the Canadian Forest and Wildland Urban Interface,
- Modernized Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System



KEEP OUR PARK GREEN  
GARDONS NOTRE PARC VERT

FORESTRY BRANCH - CANADA  
FOREST FIRE  
SEARCH STATION  
NOT TOUCH







# Intended Outcome Statements

- **1. Ecosystems:** Knowledge of Canada's forest ecosystems; informs and influences decisions.
- **2. Disturbances:** Knowledge of natural and human-caused forest disturbances is used to develop adaptation options.
- **3. Innovation:** Grows along the entire forest value chain from forest to market.
- **4. Energy Sustainability:** Investments in innovation and technology contribute to a sustainable pulp and paper industry.
- **5. Markets:** Economic opportunities increase for the Canadian forest sector.
- **6. Communities:** Forest-based communities address transitional challenges and capitalize on emerging economic opportunities.





# •Federal Role: Future

- **Manage federal lands**
  - **Public safety – emergency response**
  - **International relations**
  - **Federal regulations**
- ?
- **Research and development**
  - **Economic development**
  - **Facilitate intergovernmental collaboration**

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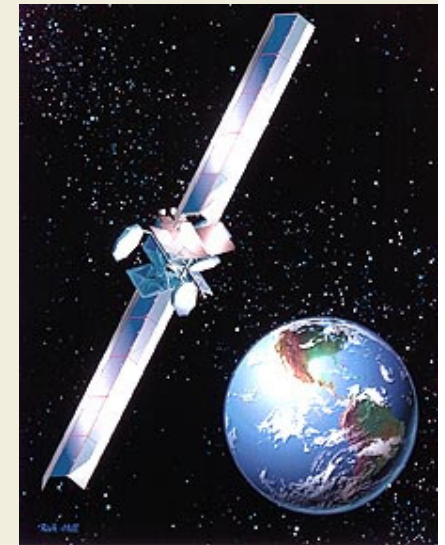
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# Key Drivers and Trends

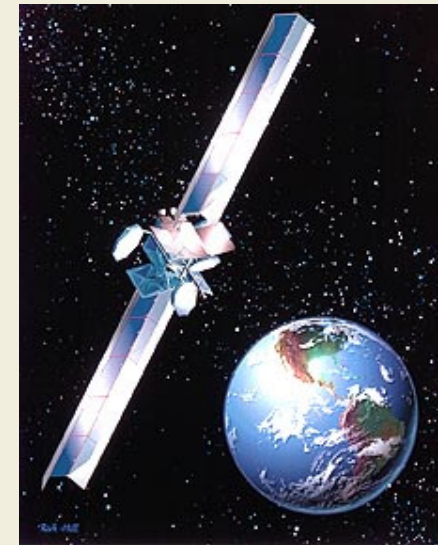
- **Increasing complexity and uncertainty**
  - **Economy**
  - **Environment (eg CC, biodiversity)**
  - **Politics (national/international relations)**
- **Population growth, distribution, and demographics**
- **Globalization**
- **Technological advances**





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# Keys to Success

## WHAT

- **Collaboration and partnerships (for both strategic and tactical needs)**
- **Systems thinking approach**
- **Creativity, innovation and adaptation**
- **Integrated and interdisciplinary research and analysis**

## WHERE

- **At the Fire Line**
- **In the Response Centre**
- **On the Landscape**
- **In the boardroom**

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# CONCLUSION

## Immediate issues we face:

- Budgets and human resources
- Resource sharing
- Aging infrastructure and work force
- Response to a changing climate
- Changing needs of public policy makers around wildland fire





- Challenge – To become more inclusive in our planning, science and practice to ensure that the wildland fire community is not perceived as being too insular or operationally focused to develop innovative and strategic solutions to these issues.



If Peter is enjoying retirement as much as he enjoyed work then I think he's got a great future ahead of him....





