



British Columbia's
Climate Change Adaption Action Plan
Wildfire Management

Presented by: Brian Simpson
Executive Director
BC Wildfire Management Branch



Agenda

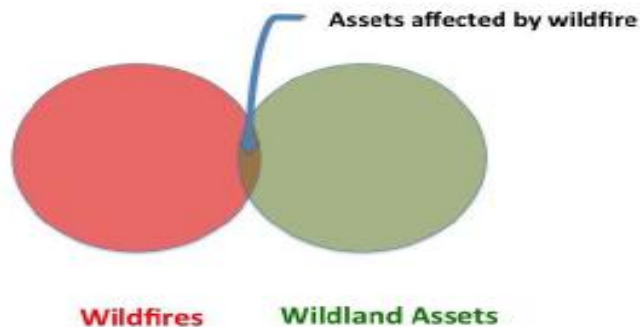
- 1. Converging Challenges**
- 2. Climate Change Impacts**
- 3. Trends & Challenges in Wildfires**
- 4. BC's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan for Wildfire Management**



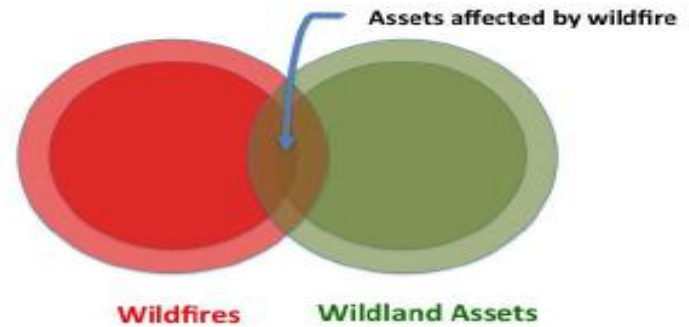
Converging Challenges

- Longer fire season & more extreme fire days
- Wildfire incidence & severity increasing
- Increasing development in the forest- more values to protect
- Increasing forest fuel risk
- New mountain pine beetle forest fuel types showing 3x greater spread rate
- Cost of controlling wildfire and impacts increasing

Historic Conditions



Emerging Conditions



18 million ha of Dead Pine Forest Conversion to Grasslands

**CLIMATE
CHANGE**

“Savanahfication”





Mountain Pine Beetle 3X spread rate of healthy stand

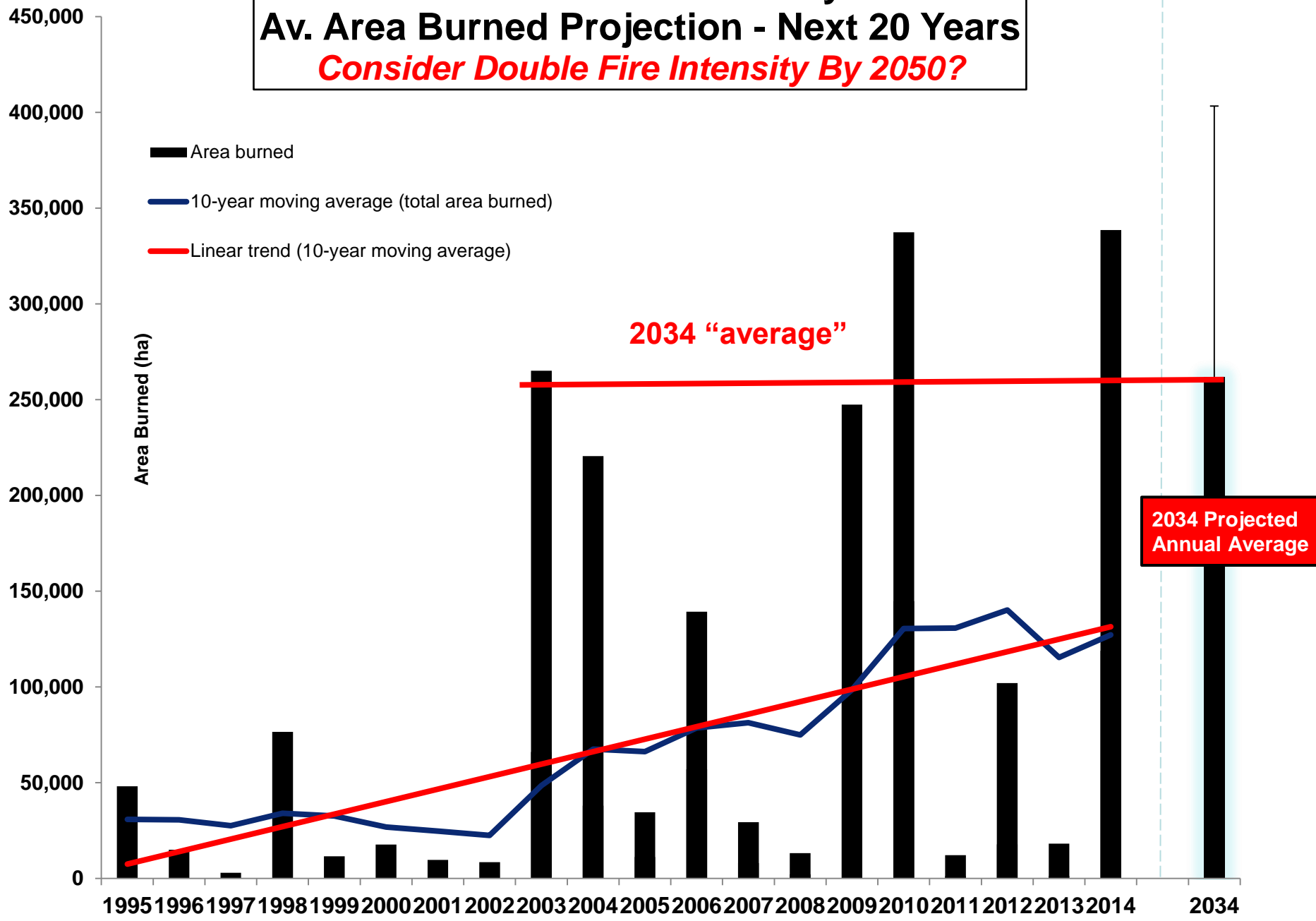




Increasing Assets With no Attention to Wildfire Risk



BC Area Burned - Last 20 years
Av. Area Burned Projection - Next 20 Years
Consider Double Fire Intensity By 2050?





2014 Fire Season In Review

- **Number of Fires - 1,333**
- **Number of Human Caused Fires - 531**
- **Number of Interface Fires - 33 fires of note**
- **Evacuation Alerts - 17**
- **Evacuation Orders - 9 (approx. 4,500 people evacuated)**
- **Area Burned - 338,513 hectares (record area burned since 1958)**
- **Timber & Infrastructure Values at Risk - over \$1 Billion (est.)**
- **Lost investment & economic value - > \$2 billion**
- **Suppression Costs - estimated \$300 million**

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

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Climate Change Adaption Action Plan for Wildfire Management

2014 - 2024



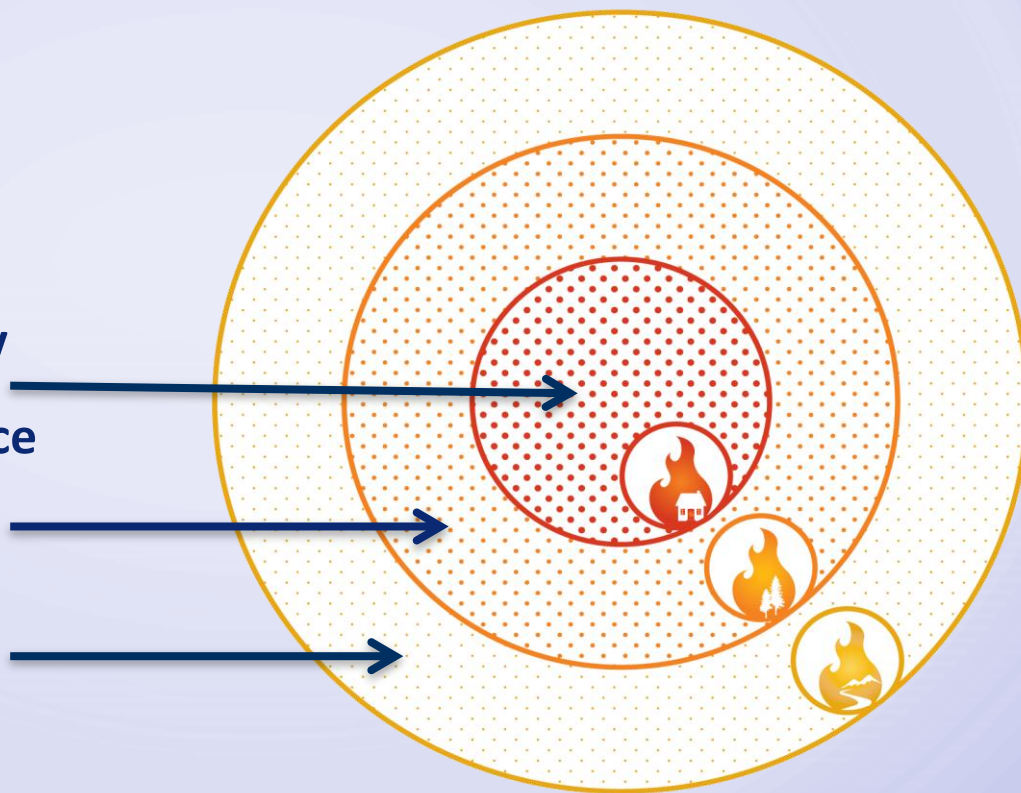
April, 2014



Key to Climate Change Adaptation Plan

Real Action Required at all Scales

- **Private Land & Property**
- **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)**
- **Landscape Beyond the Interface**





Plans Goals and Objectives

Goal # 1: Wildfire Adapted Communities

Objective 1: Fire Planning & Management – The Private Lands Scale

Objective 2: Fire Planning & Management – The Community Scale

Goal #2: Wildfire Resilient Ecosystems

Objective 3: Fire Planning & Management – The Landscape Scale

Objective 4: Fire Management is Incorporated into all Land Management Decisions

Goal #3: World-class Wildfire Prevention, Response, and Suppression.



Goal # 1: Wildfire Adapted Communities

Objective 1: Fire Planning and Management – The Private Lands Scale

FireSmart Communities

- Reducing wildfire risk around homes & in communities
- Applying FireSmart to protect private lands & homes, critical infrastructure & communities
- Promote FireSmart Home Assessments
- Convene FireSmart workshops






Goal # 1: Wildfire Adapted Communities


Objective 2: Fire Planning and Management – The Community Scale

- Local governments play lead role
- Identify wildfire risks & threats & proactively address issues before fires start
- Work at all levels to implement plan recommendations
- Local government planners/developers adopt FireSmart standards
- Building codes & bylaws ensure compliance
- Development approval permits reflect mandatory requirements
- Construction standards developed & enforced

Thompson-Nicola Regional District
Community Wildfire Protection Plan



Submitted to:
Terry Kress
Development Services – TNRD
FINAL - March 22, 2008




Submitted by:

John Davies, RPF
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Goal #2: Wildfire Resilient Ecosystems

Objective 3: Fire Planning and Management – The Landscape Scale

Objective 4: Fire Management is Incorporated into all Land Management Decisions

- **Wildfire integrated into all resource management decisions**
- **Move to active management creating fire resilient landscapes to mitigate running crown fire**
- **Wildfire key driver in all land management planning, activities & authorizations**
- **3 regional Landscape Plans complete with 3 more per year scheduled**
- **Biggest opportunity & largest shift in business practices**
- **Wildfire not currently in the conversation**





Goal #3: World-class Wildfire Prevention, Response, and Suppression

- **New Fireboss fleet contract**
- **Quality Assurance Program – Excellence Canada “Silver” Award**
- **Investment to upgrade to all fire IT systems**





Questions & Discussion

