



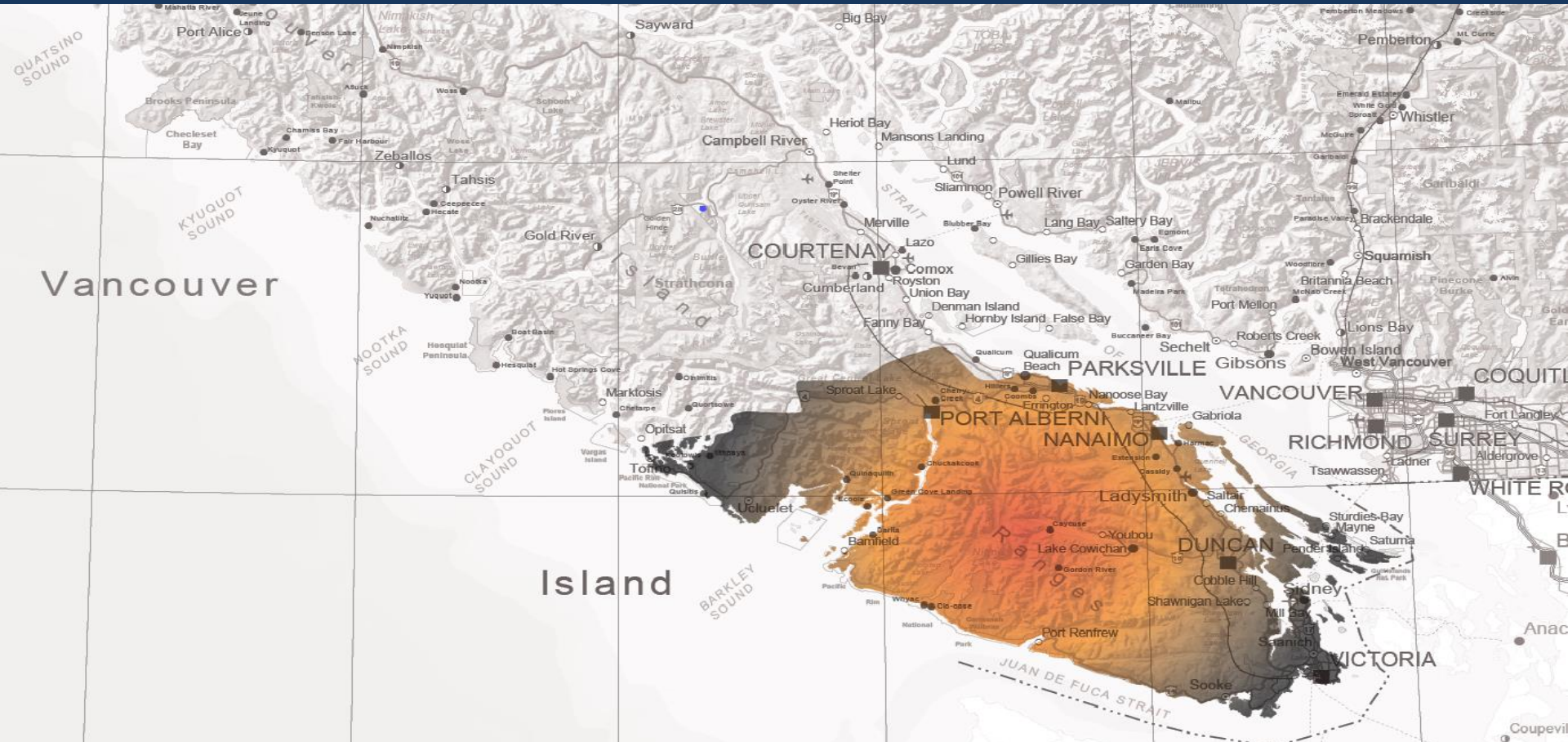
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# 2017 Wildfire Season

# A Comparison of Hectares Burned



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**Approximately 1,200,000 hectares**  
of land burned by this year's 1,347 wildfires

# Largest wildfires on record



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No.	Year	Name of Fire	Size (ha)	Cause
1	2017	Plateau Fire	521,012	Lightning
2	1958	Kechika River	285,935	Human
3	2017	Hanceville/Riske Creek	239,298	Lightning
4	2017	Elephant Hill	191,865	Human
5	1982	Egnell Lake/Liard River	182,725	Lightning
6	2014	Chelaslie	133,100	Lightning
7	1948	Beatton River (East of Pink Mtn.)	132,261	Human
8	1971	Teeter Creek/Liard River	110,334	Lightning
9	1950	Gundy - Townsend Creek/Cameron River	99,767	Human
10	1950	Chinchaga Fire - Blueberry and Beatton River	76,923	Human

# Financial Impact



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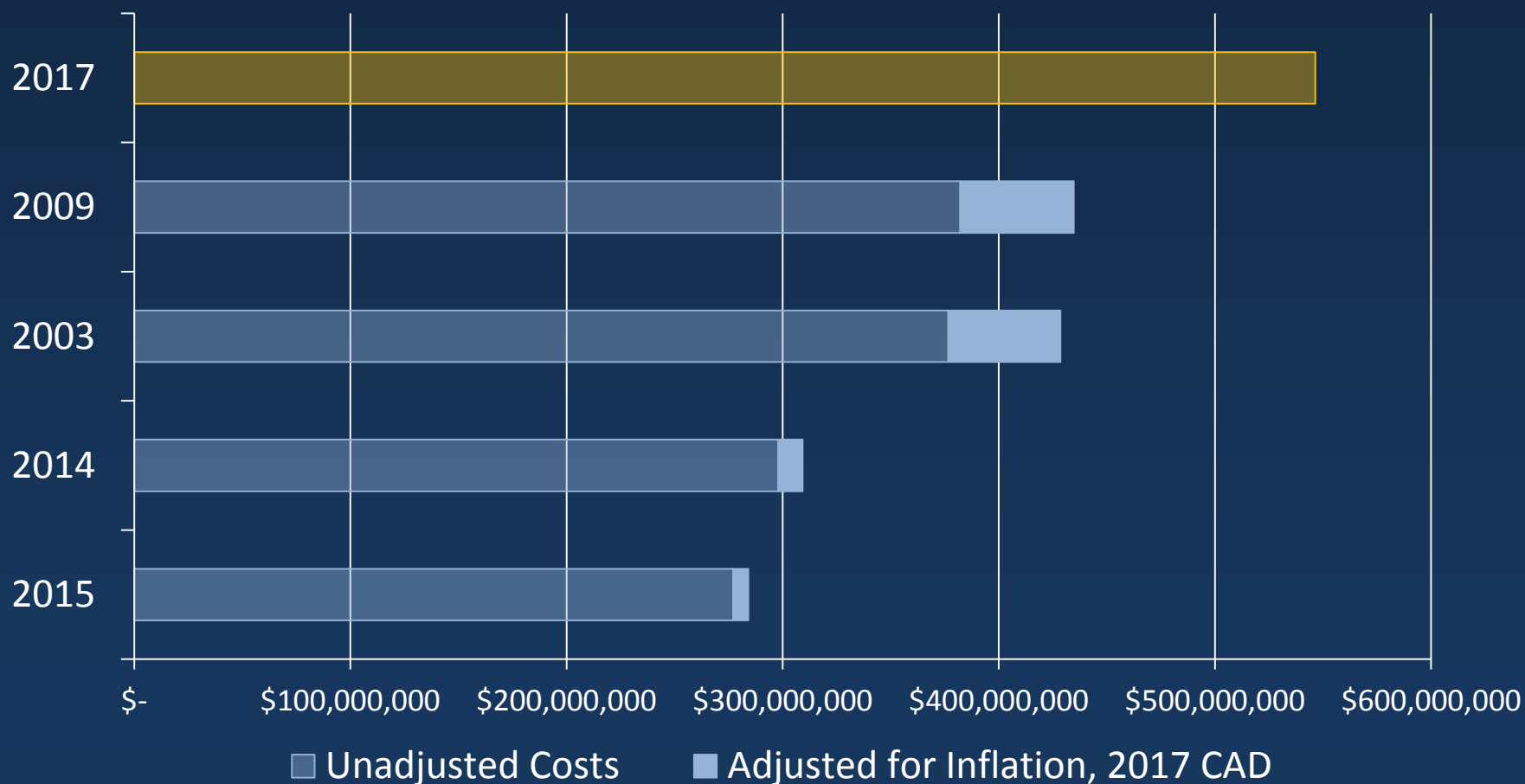


**Total approximate cost \$560,000,000**  
for wildfire suppression

# Fire Suppression Costs



*Historical Records (1991–2017): Season Costs*



# 2017 Resourcing

At peak capacity, BCWS was utilizing:

- 4,700+ personnel total
- 1,200+ out-of-province personnel
- 2,000+ contract personnel
- 236 aircraft
- 300+ personnel from the Canadian Armed Forces

Out-of-province personnel came from every province and territory (except Nunavut), as well as from the following countries:

- Mexico
- Australia
- New Zealand



# State of Emergency



A Provincial Declaration of Emergency was put in place for the first time since 2003

- It started on July 7 and was rescinded on Sept 15, lasting 70 days
- 2003's Provincial Declaration of Emergency lasted 43 days

Backcountry Closures were implemented in the Cariboo Fire Centre and Rocky Mountain Natural Resource District

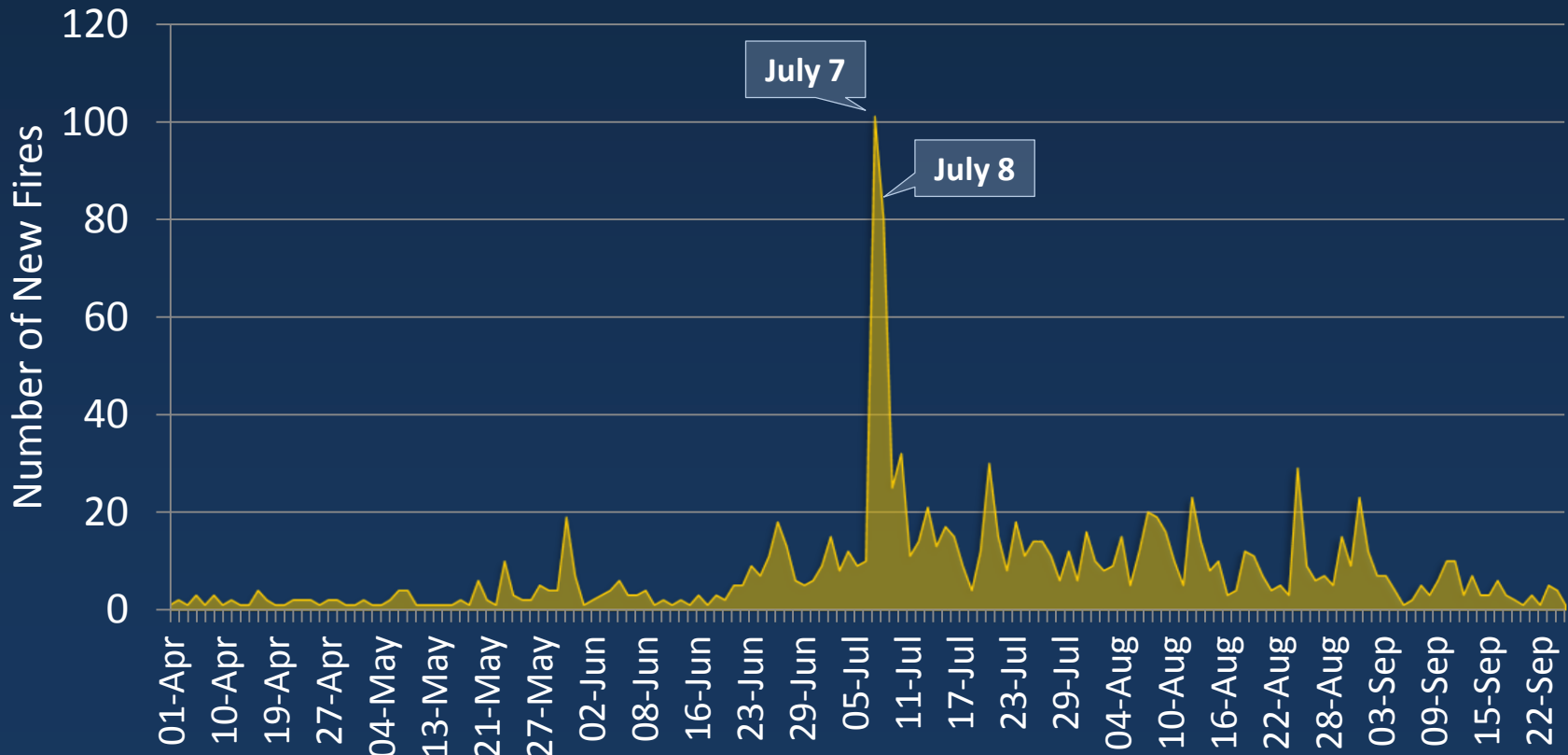
Off-road vehicle bans were implemented in the Cariboo, Kamloops and Southeast fire centres

The Canadian Armed Forces were brought in for the first time since 2003

# July 6-8: the turning point

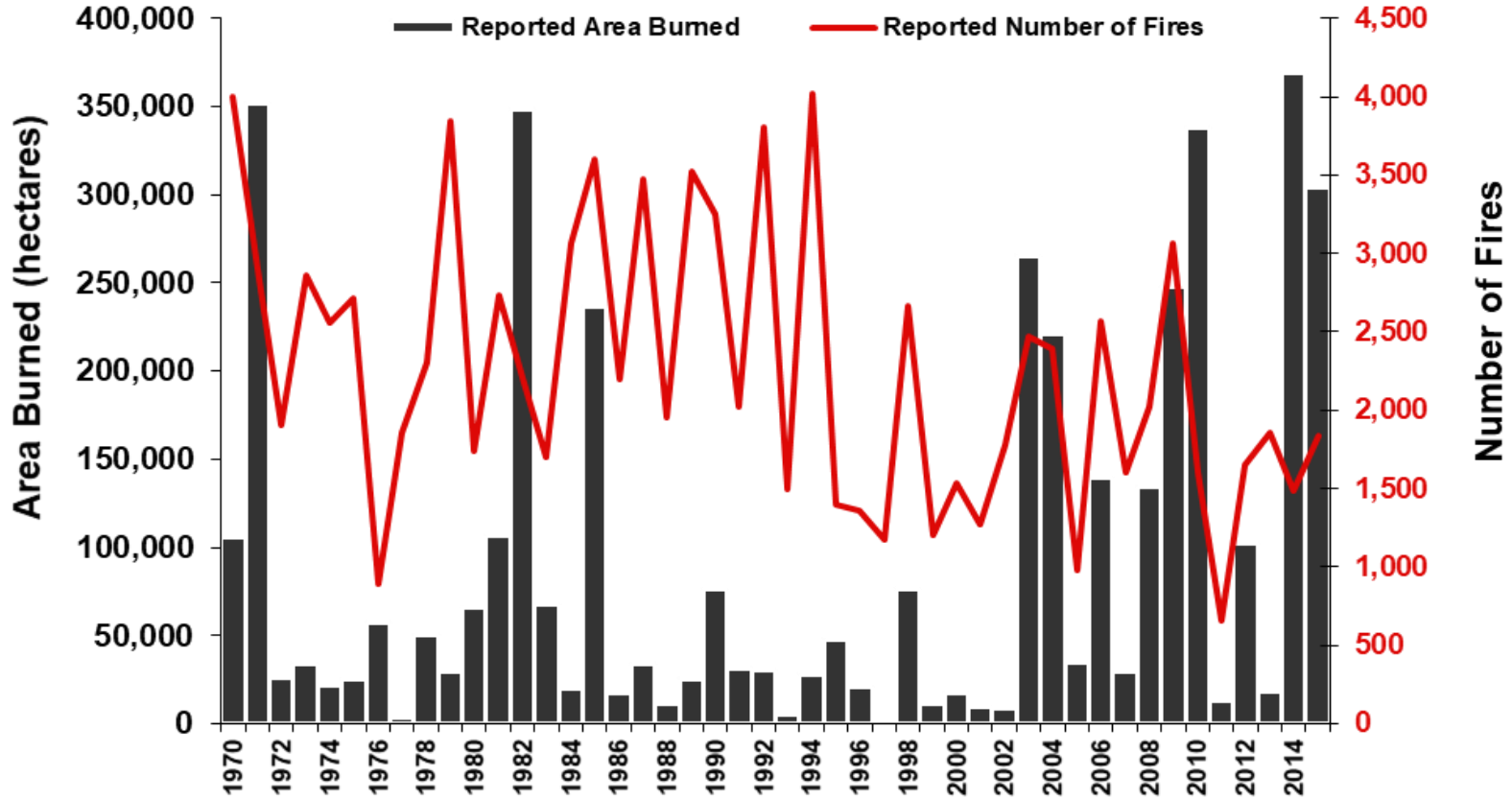


The 2017 season was relatively calm until July 6. Over 220 fires started between July 6 and July 8.





# 2017 in Context



# Strategic Context



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**Climate change** and **changing forest conditions** resulting in more extreme fire behaviour

An **expanding wildland-urban** interface leading to increased socio-economic impacts

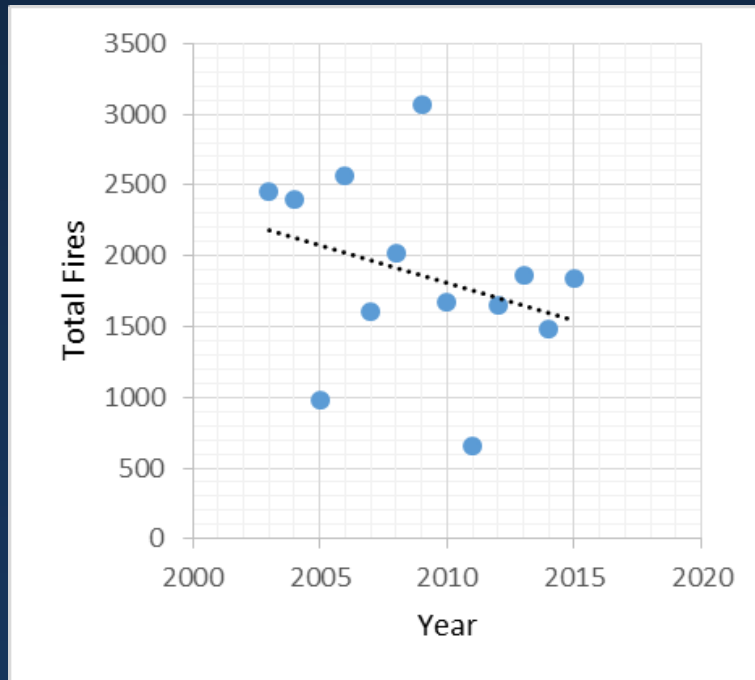
**Eroded response capacity** due to increasing costs and lack of significant investment

# Climate Change Future Projections

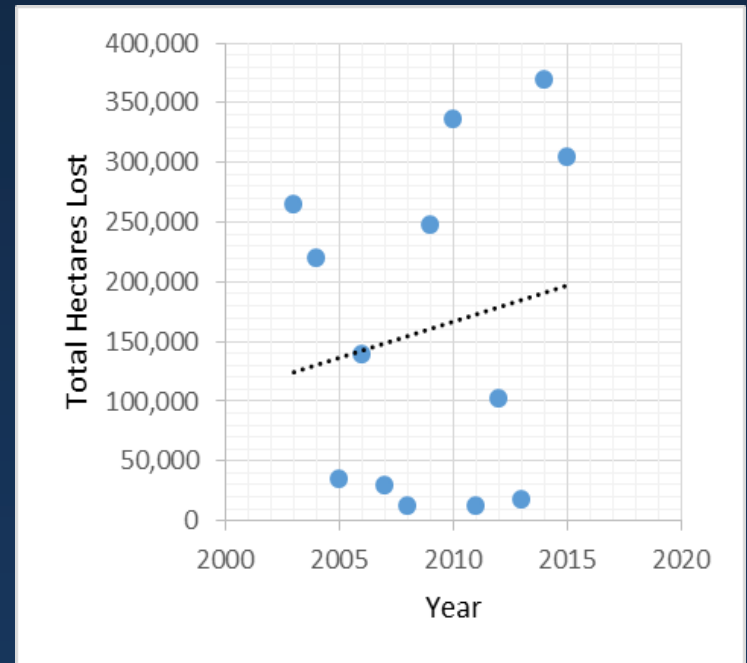


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## Total # Fires



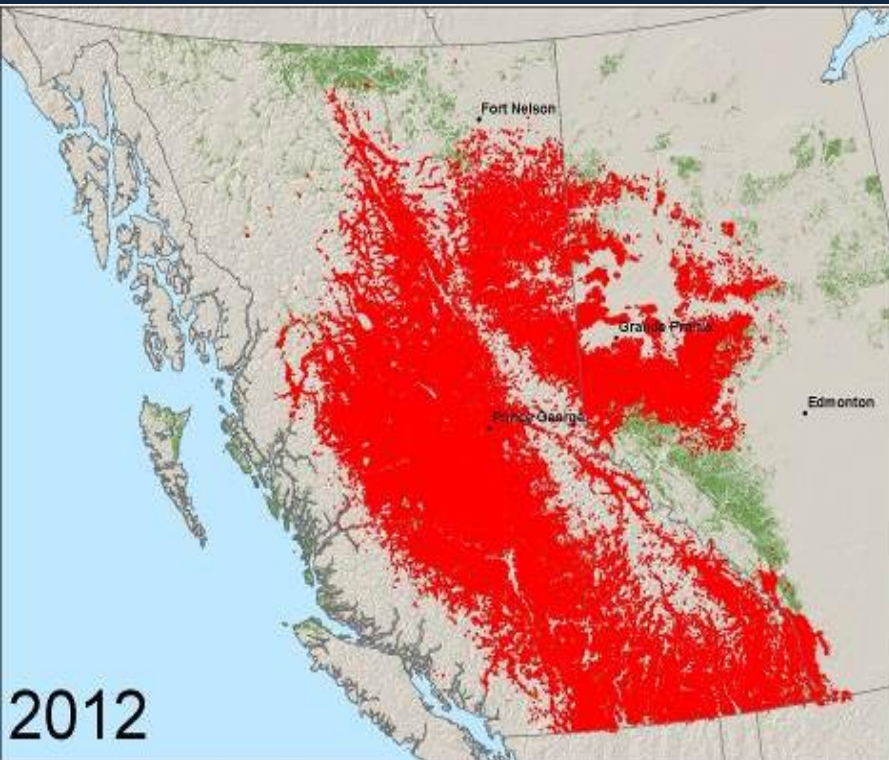
## Total Hectares Lost



# Changing Forest Condition



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InfoTel News

# Expanding Wildland Urban Interface



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# The 2017 Wildfire Season

## Lessons Learned



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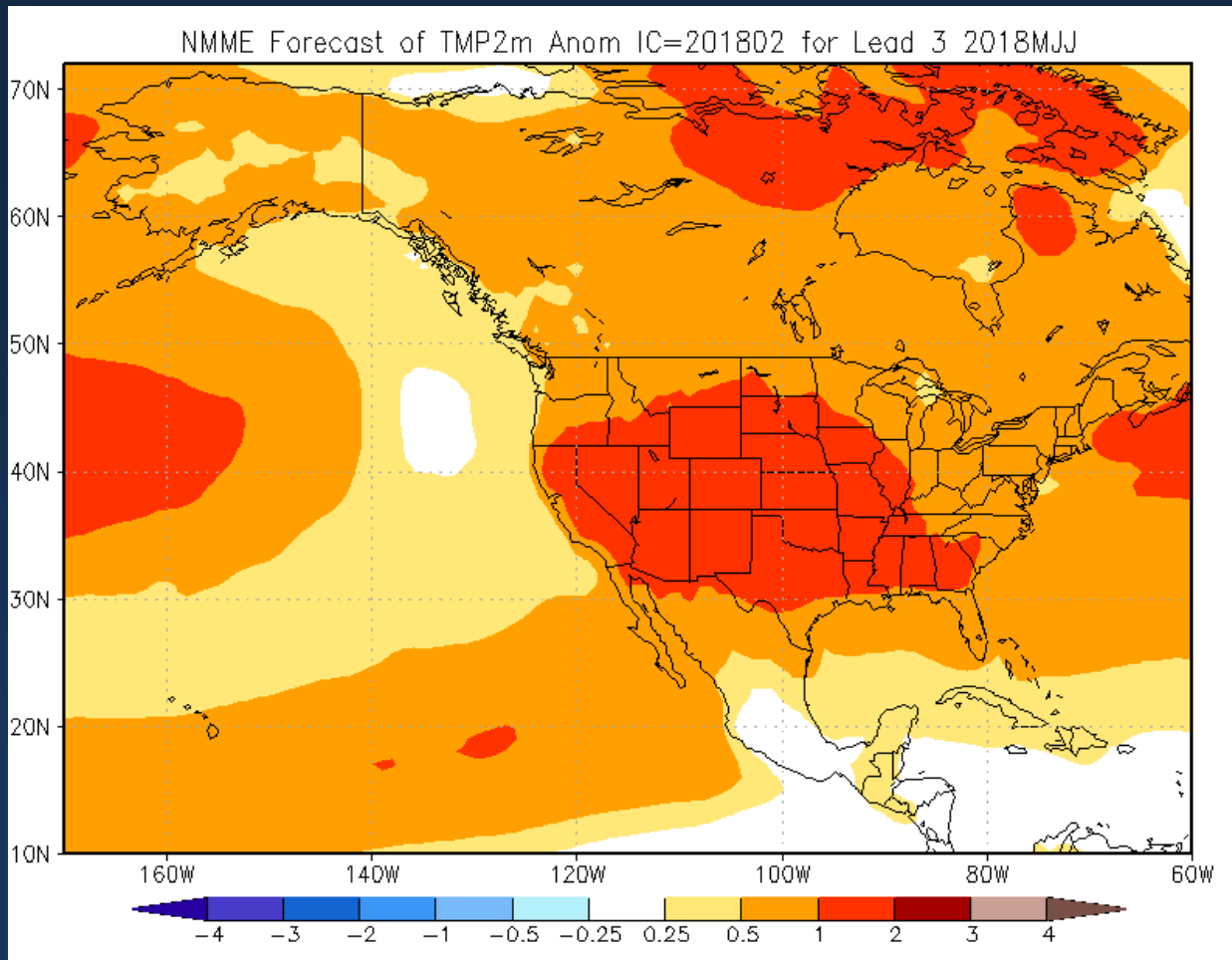




The seven FireSmart disciplines help address the threat of wildfire:

- Education
- Vegetation management
- Legislation and planning
- Development considerations
- Interagency cooperation
- Emergency planning
- Cross training

# 2018 Seasonal Forecast



## Indicators:

- Fall 2017 drought codes
- Large scale Weather patterns
- Overwinter precipitation
- Spring temperature and precipitation forecast
- Summer temperature forecast

Spring Temperature Forecast





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