Wildland Fire Management

- Drivers of change
- Where we have come from
- Healthy Landscape Approach
Drivers of change

Old forests, bugs & climate change?
Law of diminishing returns
Stakeholder expectations
Budget cuts
Wildland Fire Complexity and Capability

When will demand for Wildland fire Management exceed our organizational capacity?

What effect will $$$ cuts have on the program?

What if science & technology does not keep pace with complexity and demand?

What will impact public acceptance and stakeholder support?
Wildfire - “managed uncertainty”

SASKATCHEWAN

Full Response - 1.5 million ha.
Modified Response - 2.4 million ha.
Observation - 15.8 million ha.

ALBERTA

Forest Protection Area
35.265.441 Million ha.

Fires by Decade
1946 - 2007
- 1946 - 1955
- 1956 - 1965
- 1966 - 1975
- 1976 - 1985
- 1986 - 1995
- 1996 - 1999
- 2000 - 2007

Forest Protection Area
Ecological Wildfire Management Zone
Saskatchewan Response Zones

Full credit: Laura Wadsworth, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Saskatchewan.
Future Forests, Future Fires, Future Risk

- Age class correction in the forest of East slopes
- Area burned increase at the high elevation
- Fire severity increase
- Mega fire events more frequent
- Suppression resource levels will be insufficient during multiple mega fire events
Healthy Landscape Approach

1. Integration of wildland fire response with landscape objectives
2. Science and research needs
3. Risk management framework
4. Wildfire priority setting protocols
5. Appropriate response policy shift
6. Economic decision making approach
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