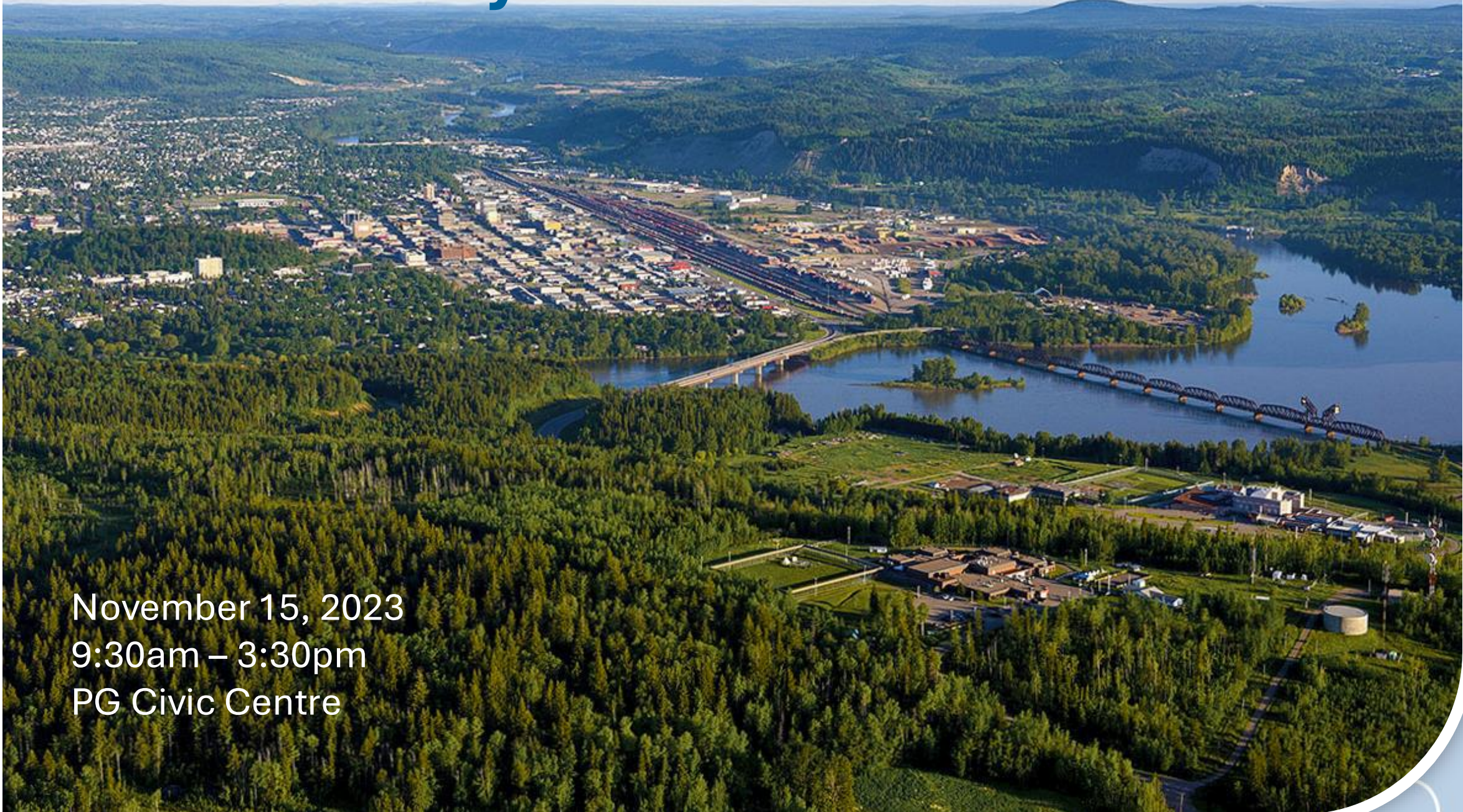




Prince George and Area Community Wildfire Roundtable



November 15, 2023
9:30am – 3:30pm
PG Civic Centre



Before We Begin

- ✓ Facilities
- ✓ Muster Station
- ✓ Refreshments
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Parking

Etiquette:

- General
- We want to hear your thoughts, ideas, concerns
- There are no wrong answers or silly questions
- You do not need to be an expert
- Focus on wildfire preparedness and prevention
- Respectful conversation
- Recognize there are multiple perspectives



Hadih

Good
Morning

Welcome



Bundada Hoonzoo



Outline for the Day

- 2023 Wildfire Season
- Provincial Emergency Task Force
- Introductions
- Wildfire roundtable background & purpose
- FBCs Role
- Known resources
- **Work Underway**
- Questions
- Lunch 12:00 – 12:50
- Breakout Session
- Discussion
- Prince George & Area
- Key needs - 2024
- What's next?

- **Questions and Discussion - Throughout**



A record-breaking season, Canada-wide

18,496,051 ha burned nationally.
National PL 5 from May 5-Sept 7.



2.28
million

Hectares burned in the
PGFC – Almost 4x the
provincial 10-year
average

669

Fires and counting in
the PGFC

>4,000

Number of Personnel
suppressing fire at peak
of response in BC

International Help

Personnel came from all over Canada, USA, Mexico, Australia, Brazil, South Africa, and Costa Rica to provide assistance.



A firefighter in full gear, including a red jacket, orange helmet, and a large green backpack, is walking away on a dirt trail in a forest. The scene is captured from a low angle, showing the firefighter's back and the path ahead. The background is filled with tall, thin trees and a hazy atmosphere. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue gradient on the left side, where the text is placed.

All season, BCWS relied on relationships with our community partners.



Provincial Emergency Task Force





Roundtable Introductions



Name?

Something interesting about yourself that you would like to share?



Who do you represent?



Why are you here?

(What do you hope to get out of today?)





Fraser Basin Council



Vision: Social well-being supported by a vibrant economy, sustained by a healthy environment

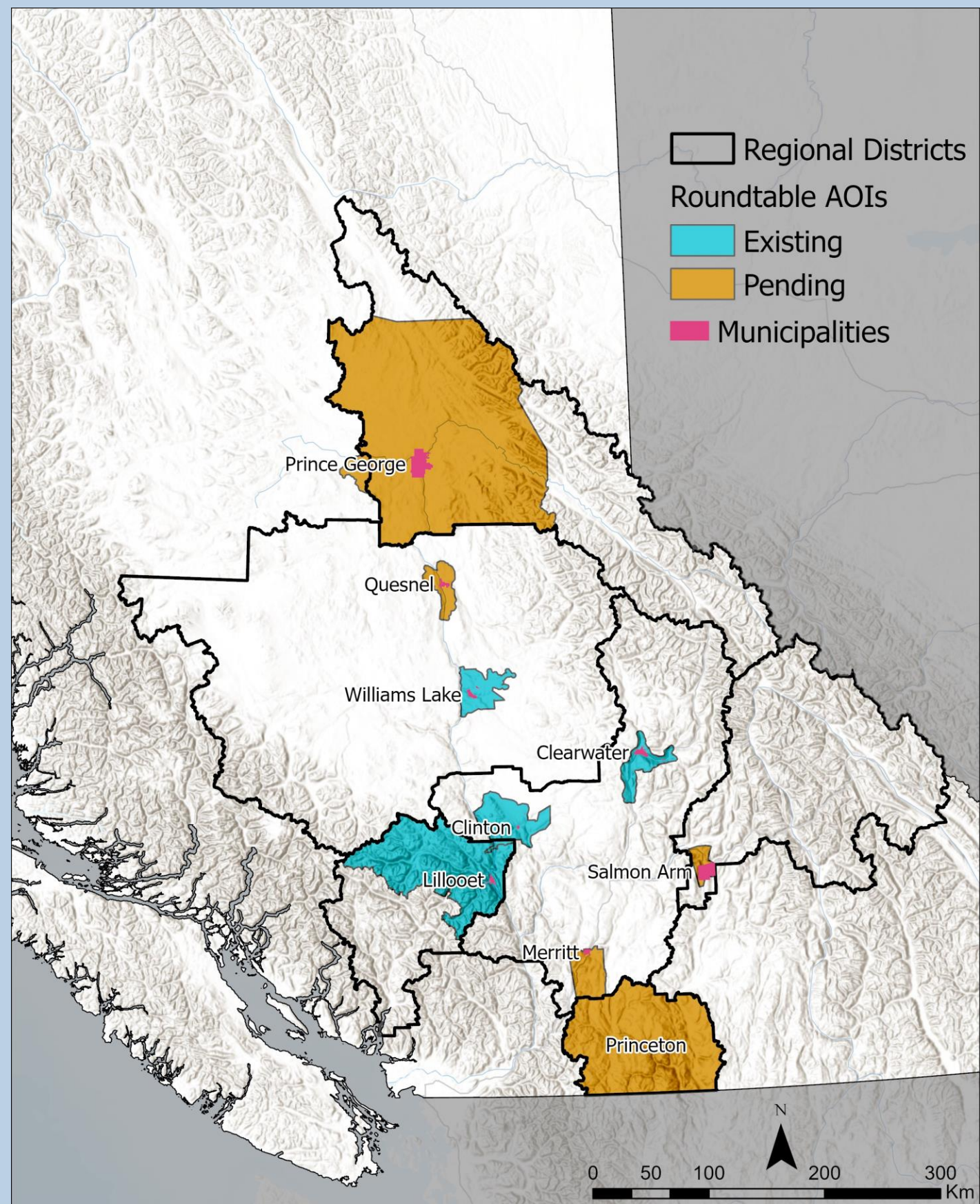
Mandate: Advance sustainability solutions and practices in BC





Background

*Concept built on what worked well in Williams Lake from 2007-2018





Context

- Flurry of funding and activity
- Not coordinated
- Treatments done in illogical, ineffective places
- Duplication exists
- Gaps exist
- Different organizations aren't aware of who's doing what
- Resources aren't maximized or leveraged



Collaboration for the Win





Purpose

- Advance wildfire preparedness.
- Help implement the plans in place & being developed in our area
 - ✓ FireSmart education & initiatives
 - ✓ Fuel management - location & scale (commercial, non-commercial)
 - ✓ Resources and capacity – VFDs, ranchers, agriculture sector, forest industry
 - ✓ First Nations traditional burning



- Collective Response & Proactive Action
 - ✓ At the Home
 - ✓ At the Community

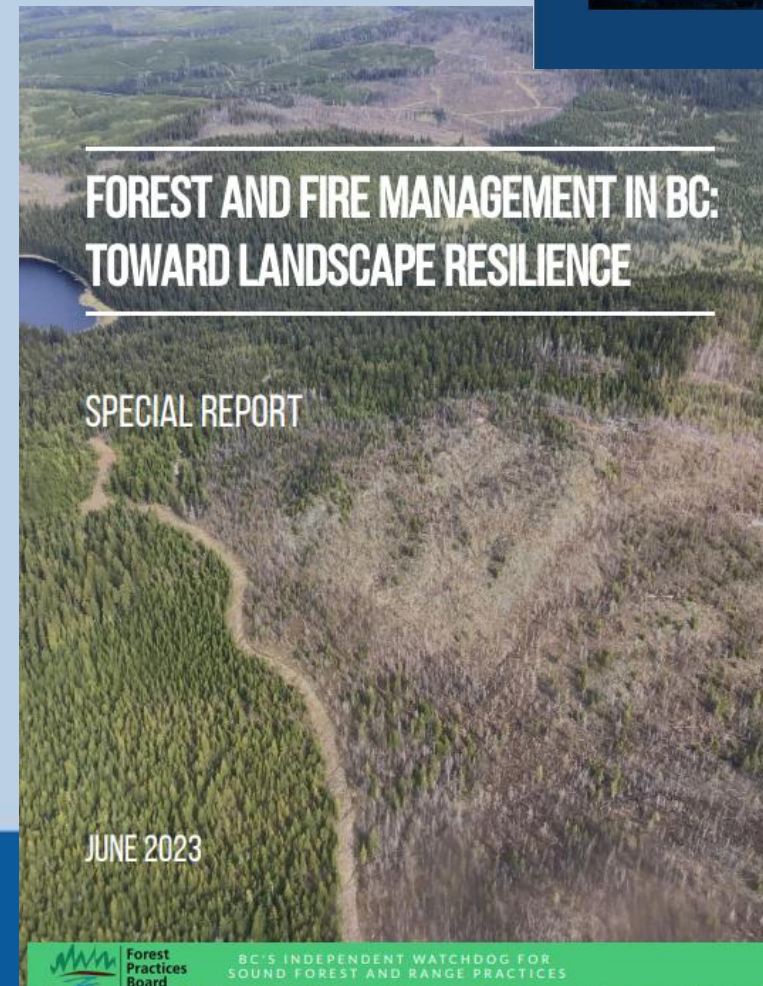
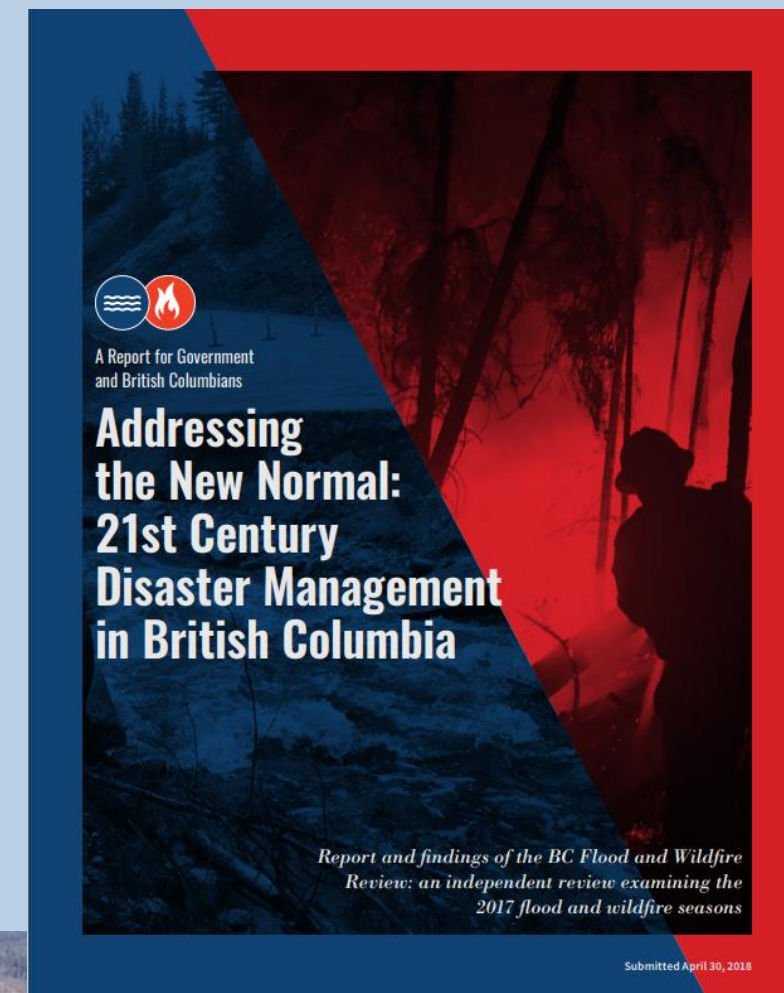




Purpose

...but also to address some Abbott and Chapman (2017) and Forest Practices Board (2023) recommendations:

- Cultural Burning, Indigenous Fire Stewardship
- Capacity and resources:
 - Volunteer fire departments
 - Ranchers, agriculture
 - Other
- Landscape Fire Management





Members

Different organizations play different roles:

- Local government
- Volunteer fire departments
- First Nations governments
- BC MOF
 - BC Timber Sales
 - BC Wildfire Service
- Forest industry
 - Forest licensees
 - Woodlot licensees
 - Community Forests
- Agriculture sector
 - Farmers
 - Ranchers



Community FireSmart
Resiliency Committees &
Subcommittees





Activity

There's a role
for everyone

Who's doing what?

- CWPP/CWRP Implementation
- FireSmart Education – Tools & Resources
- Fuel Management Treatments – Commercial vs Non-Commercial Fuel
 - Primary Fuel Breaks
 - Interface Treatments
- Egress





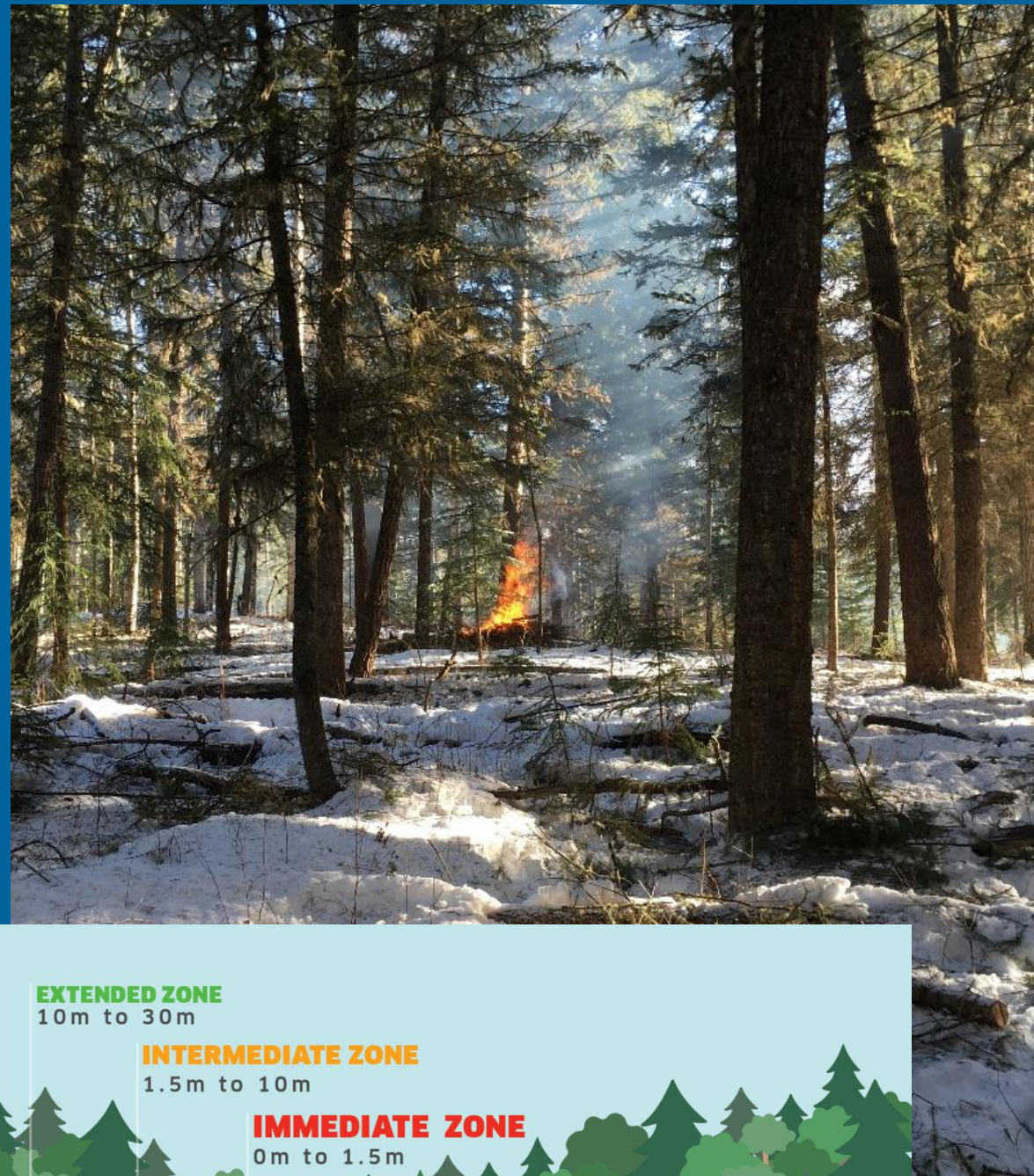
Fraser Basin Council's Role

- Organize, Facilitate & Support
 - ✓ Coordinate & Convene multiple organizations
 - ✓ Identify leveraging opportunities
 - ✓ Spot potential synergies
 - ✓ Connect people, opportunities and ideas
 - ✓ Prepare funding applications
 - ✓ Communicate information & emerging science



Funding & Resources

- UBCM CRI Program
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Forest Enhancement Society of BC
- BC Government
- Canadian Red Cross
- First Nation's Emergency Services Society
- Emergency Management FireSmart program
- Wawanesa Insurance
- National Indigenous Fire Safety Council



Wildfire Work Underway

City of Prince George

Regional District of Fraser Fort George

History Of Wildfire Mitigation

- **2005 Community Wildfire Protection Plan**
 - Developed largely in response to the 2003 wildfire season, when more than 265,000 hectares burned across BC
 - Identified level of wildfire risk around Prince George and provided treatment recommendations
 - Treatments were carried out until completion in 2013
- **2009 Landscape Scale Fire Behaviour Modelling**
 - The existing CWPP didn't address landscape level fire events, so an additional report was completed to fill this gap
- **2018 Community Wildfire Protection Plan**
 - Changing environmental conditions and increased development in the wildland urban interface triggered an update of the CWPP
 - Work on the recommendations from the 2018 CWPP has been ongoing since 2019

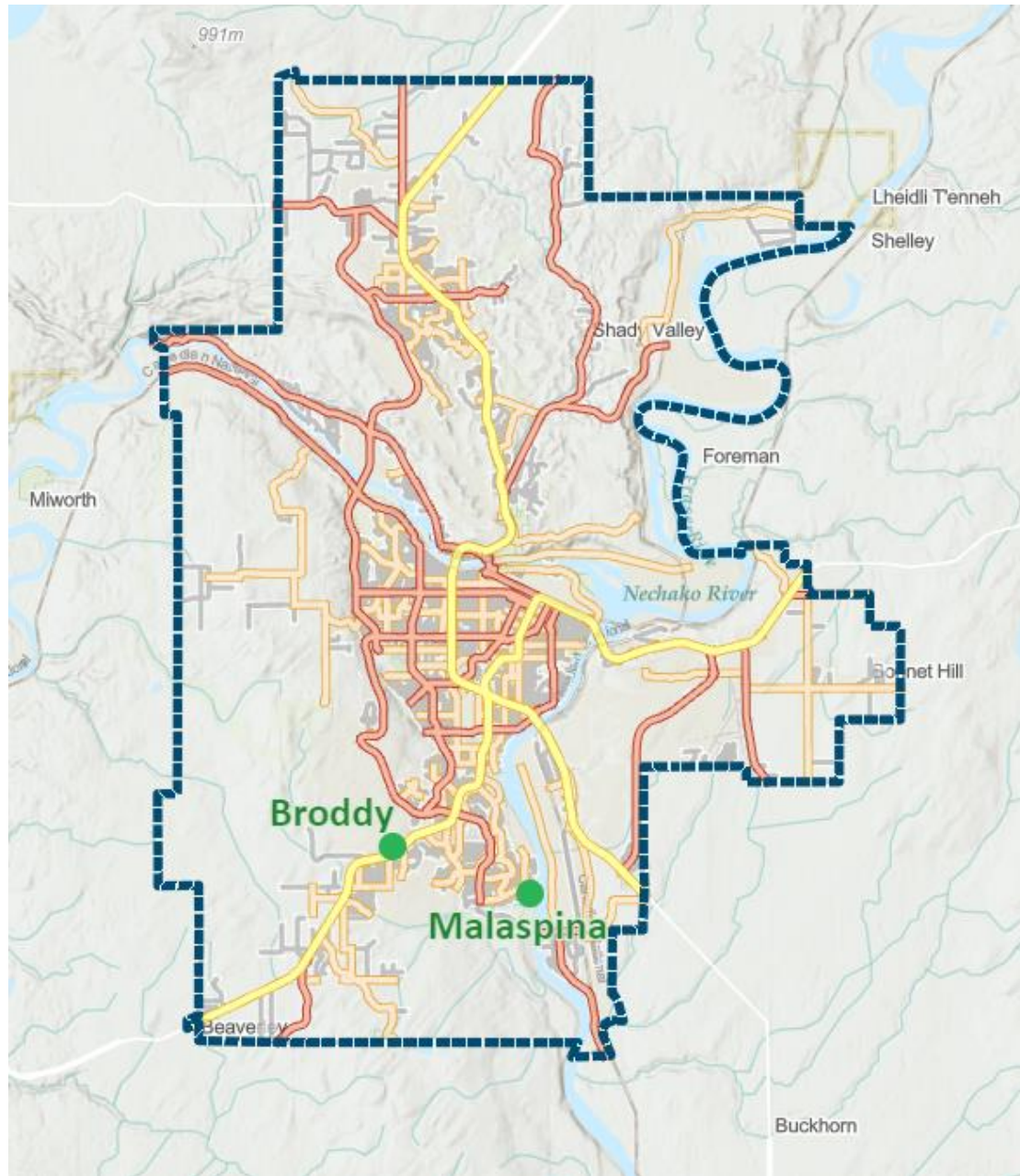


Post Treatment Surface and Ladder Fuels



Post Treatment Crown Fuels

Current Projects

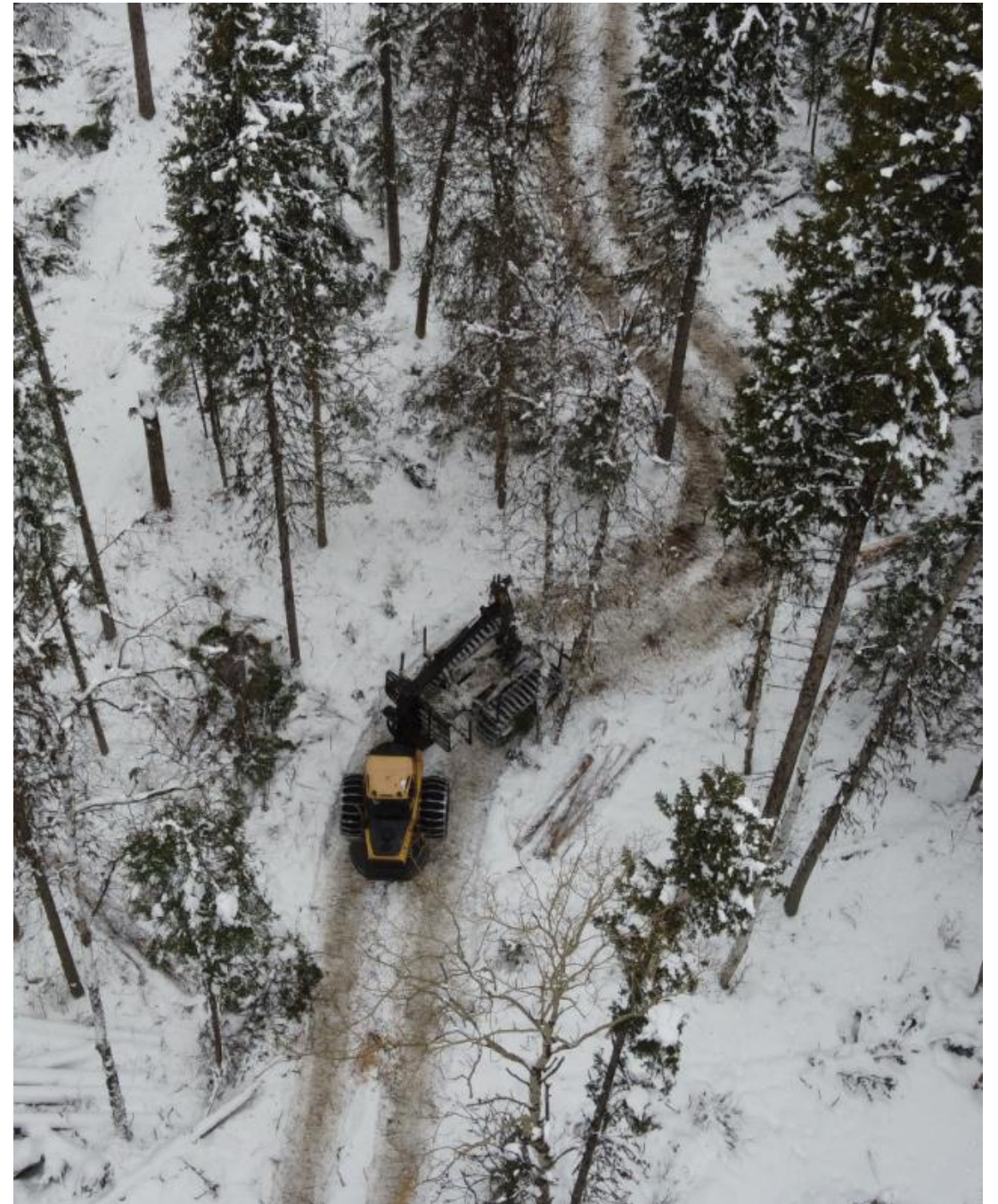


Location of Malaspina and Broddy

- **Malaspina Wildfire Fuel Mitigation Project**
 - 9.71 hectare area in Parkridge Creek Park identified as high-risk in the 2018 CWPP
 - Field activities started in January and the final assessment was completed in August
 - Final reporting has been submitted and is currently under review with UBCM
- **Broddy Wildfire Fuel Mitigation Project**
 - 17.10 hectare area adjacent to critical infrastructure, also identified as high-risk in the 2018 CWPP
 - Application for grant funding has been submitted to UBCM under the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program
 - If the application is approved, field work will commence shortly after

Future Projects

- **2024 CRI Application Window**
 - First Phase of a Structural Protection Unit (SPU)
 - Completion of a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP)
 - FireSmart education and awareness program
- **2025 CRI Application Window**
 - Second Phase of SPU application
 - Fuel Management Prescriptions (FMPs) for high-risk areas identified in the new CWRP
- **Future Intake Windows**
 - Final two phases of SPU application
 - Fuel mitigation projects based on recommendations of FMPs
 - Additional FireSmart education and awareness
 - FireSmart projects for critical infrastructure, community assets and residential areas



Forwarder working at Malaspina

Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

WHO WE ARE

- Type of Local Government
- Approximately 16,000 residents
- Made up of 7 electoral areas, 4 municipalities
- 50,000km² stretching from north of Mackenzie to south of Valemount

WHAT WE DO

Provide services such as land use planning, bylaw enforcement, waste management, fire rescue, and emergency event management



Previous FireSmart / Wildfire Prevention Work

2019

- RD partnered with CPG on a regional application to the CRI
- Our role was mainly focused on promoting wildfire resiliency and public awareness
- Funding from the grant supported a temporary, seasonal FireSmart Educator

2022

- Solo CRI application submitted for Phase II of the RD FireSmart Program, focused on education and engagement in the electoral areas
- Funding supported a temporary, part-time FireSmart Educator
- Community events, home reviews, and school events in collaboration with BCWS were all a part of the educator's role



2023 FireSmart Activities

Events Attended

- Art Knapps Plant Tagging Event
- PG Homeshow
- BC Northern Exhibition
- Farmers Markets in Valemount and McBride
- Canfor Employee Appreciation Event
- 2 Rotary Club Presentations
- Multiple Community Group presentations
- Handful of Home Reviews throughout RD

Known Initiatives

- Community groups within the RD have spearheaded their own initiatives to provide incentives to residents willing to complete FireSmart reviews of their property

2023 CRI Application Submitted



Future FireSmart Activities

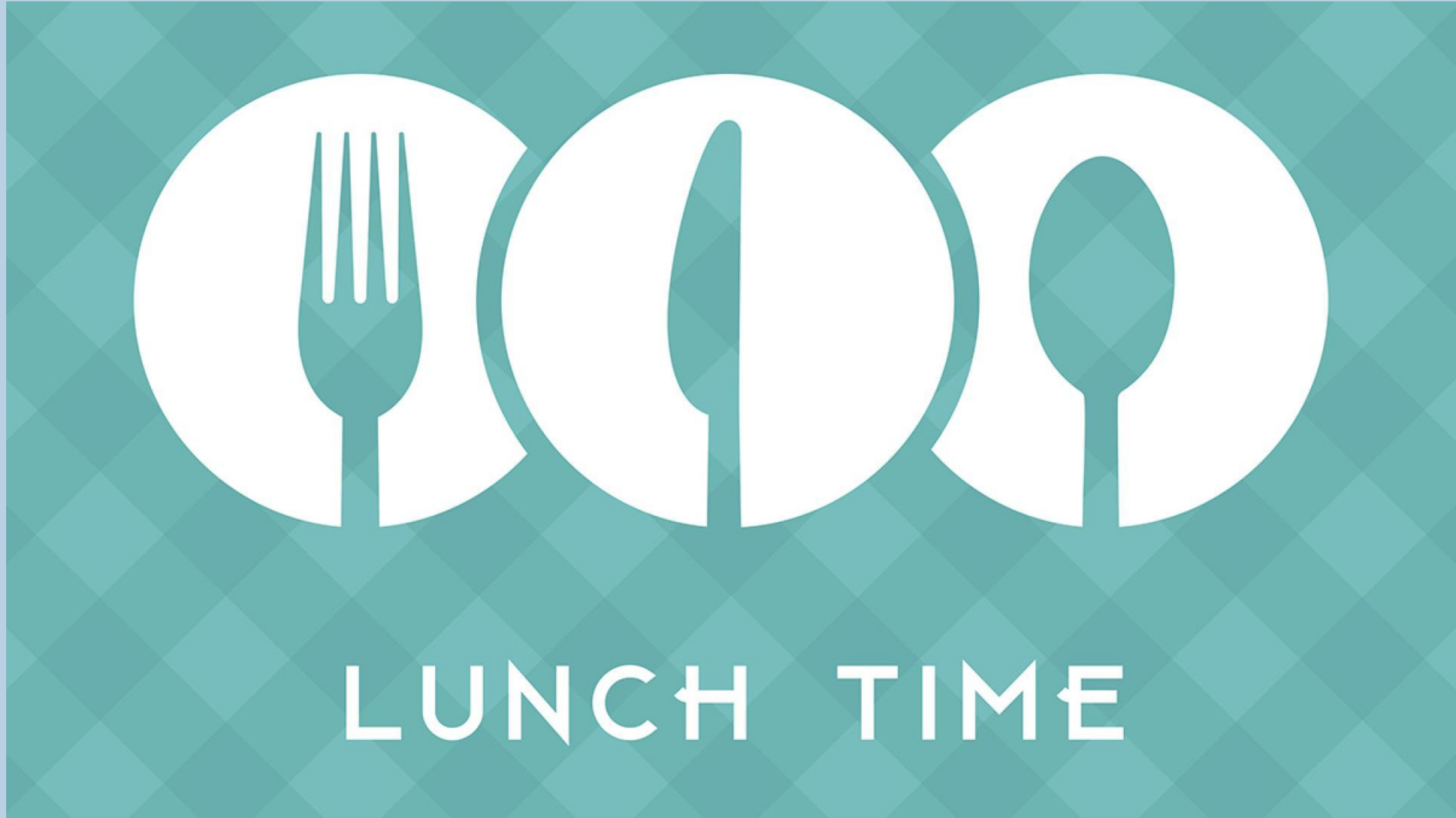
2023 CRI Application Approved

- Current funding set to support a FireSmart Educator position for 2024
- Plans for funding provided also include establishing a CWRP for each electoral area beginning 2024
- Public education campaign, attendance at regional events, and FireSmart home reviews are planned to continue throughout 2024 with the new role





Questions?





Breakout Session

Q1 – What wildfire preparedness ‘work’ is underway in your jurisdiction?

(Include plans, grant writing, fuel reduction activities, resource acquisition, training etc).

Q2a - What are your needs based on your jurisdiction/organization to advance wildfire preparedness?

Q2b – What resources do you have available for use across the region, including knowledge?





Breakout Session

Q3 - How do you currently partner with other Local authorities, Indigenous governing bodies or outside agencies to develop or implement a regional wildfire preparedness plan?

Q4 - How do you currently access predictive technologies? If there were greater access to these technologies how would this impact your preparedness plans?

Q5a – Where do you see the biggest challenges?

Q5b - Where do you see the opportunities?





Q1 - Work Underway?





Q2a &2b

- **Resource & Capacity Needs**
- **Have Available to Outsource**





Q3 - Partnerships





Q4 - Technology





Q5a & 5b

- **Challenges**
- **Opportunities**



QUICK

BREAK

Summary: Key Needs for 2024 Wildfire Season

- Resources
- Information
- Funding
- Assistance
 - Programs/Plans
 - Prescriptions
 - Treatments
 - Other





Prince George & Area Community Wildfire Roundtable

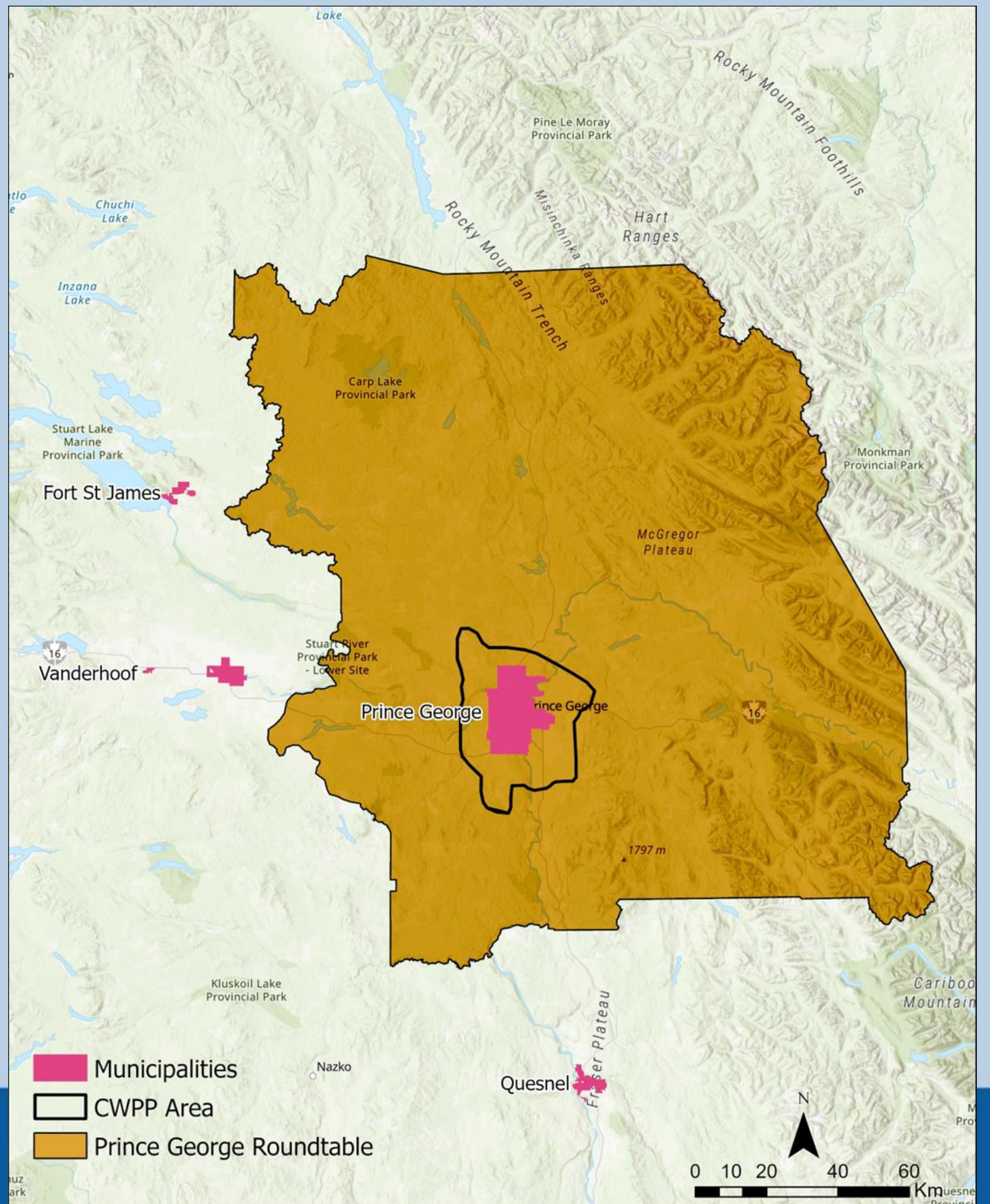
Discussion:

- Need & desire to convene a roundtable
 - If not PG then where?
- Geographic extent
- Membership
 - Who else needs to be at the table?
- Timing
- Coordination – Communication



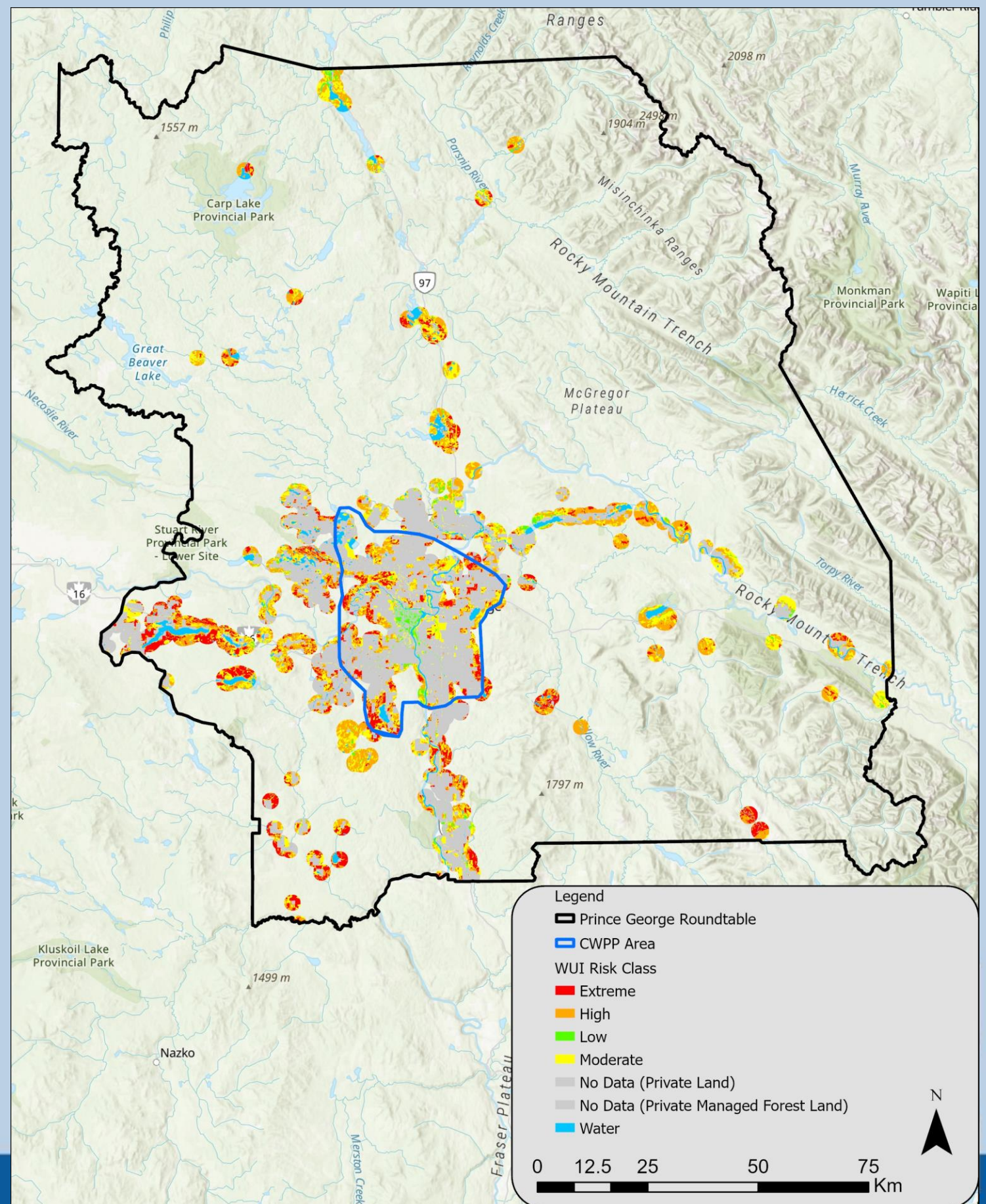


Geographic Extent?





Geographic Extent?



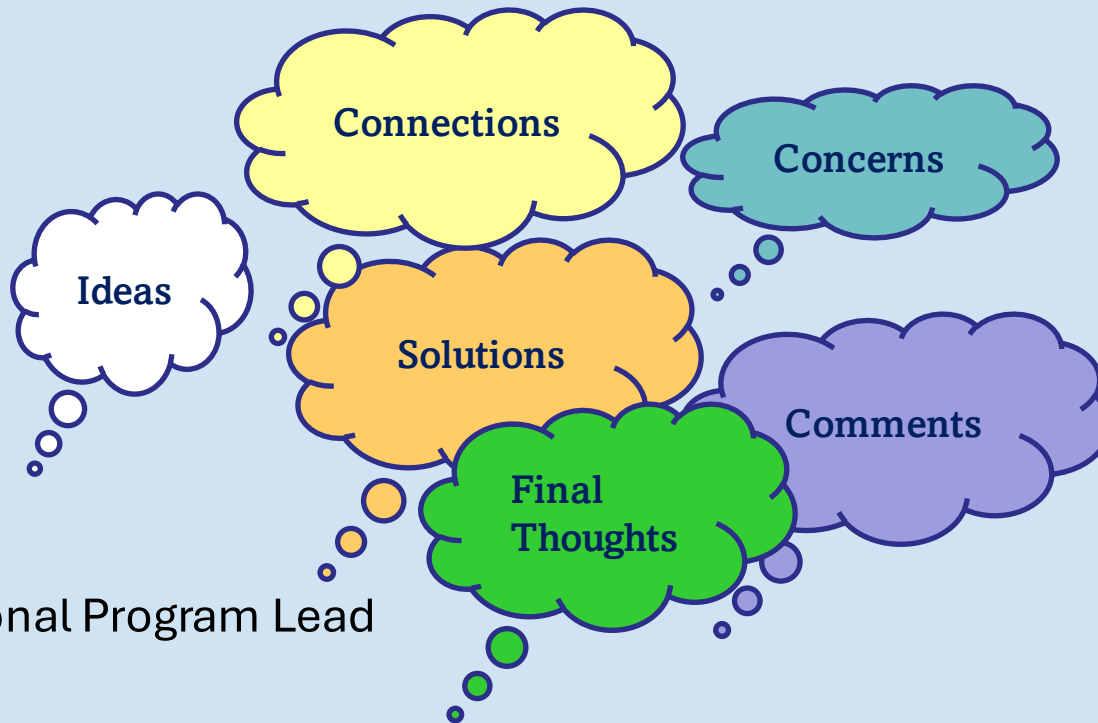
Next Steps

Ensure **good coordination and communication** - who's doing what around wildfire preparedness.

- Continue – form a roundtable?
- Terms of reference?
- Subcommittees?
 - By topic or geographic area?



Musi Thank you



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