



**Presentation to the Institute
for Catastrophic Loss
Reduction
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The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc. (CIFFC)

- A Not For Profit Federally Registered Corporation
- Owned and operated by the Federal, Provincial and Two Territorial governments
- Board of Trustees
 - Assistant Deputy Ministers – 13 jurisdictions
 - Strategic planning, financial approvals
 - Approval of Resource Exchange Fund Projects
- Council of Directors
 - Wildland Fire Directors – 14 jurisdictions
 - Meet regularly to share ideas and enhance the national plan for cooperation



The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc. (CIFFC)

- Coordination Centre in Winnipeg
- Project/work delivery framework
 - Working Groups
 - Communities of Practice
 - Task Teams
- International Collaboration



CIFFC Legal Framework

- **CIFFC Operational Agreement**
- **CIFFC Bylaws**
- **Mutual Aid Resource Sharing Agreement (MARS) 1982**
- **MARS Implementation Guidelines**
 - **Protocols to request, receive and return**
 - **Established rates and cost recovery mechanisms**
 - **Standardize procedures and conditions**
 - **Annual agreement among all Agencies**
- **Various International Agreements**



The Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy (CWFS)

- Commissioned by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) following a series of severe fire seasons, culminating in the disastrous BC season, 2003 (Kelowna)



The CWFS, continued

- The CWFS, published in 2005, outlined a 10-year program to strengthen wildland fire management in Canada and deal with issues such as;
 - increasing risk in the wildland-urban interface,
 - competing demands on forest lands and resources,
 - increasing values at risk,
 - climate change, and
 - aging fire management infrastructure.



The CWFS, continued

- In 2005 the CCFM committed to a 10-year, ~\$2 billion investment plan to implement the CWFS, with 50/50 cost sharing between federal and provincial/territorial govt's
- Since then, Canada's wildland fire agencies have worked collectively and individually to implement key aspects of the Strategy, but the funding levels envisioned in the Strategy have never been achieved



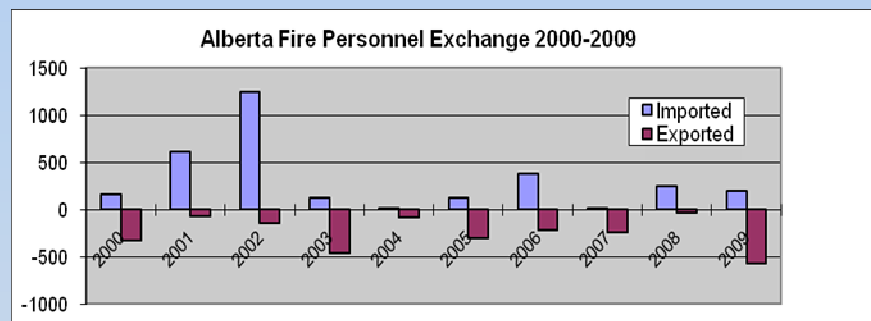
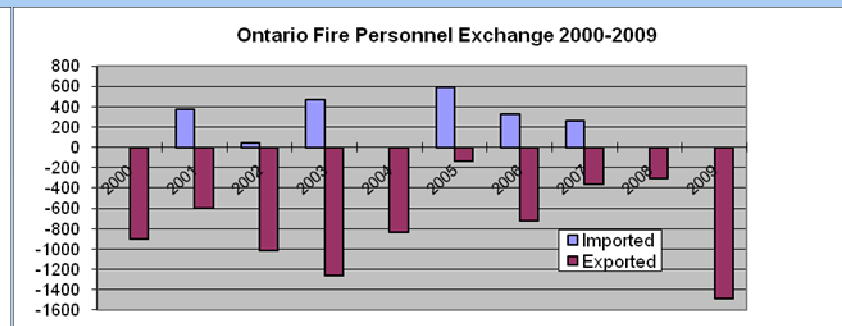
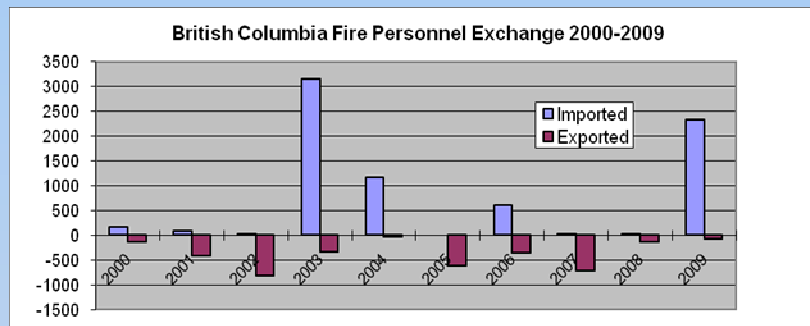
The CWFS, continued

- Meanwhile – severe fire seasons, property losses, climatic and fire season variability, and resource constraints continue to challenge us;
- BC
- HRM
- AB
- ON



The Resource Sharing Challenge

- By far the three most active agencies in resource exchange
- In past decade BC has been a strong importer of resources, ON a strong exporter, and AB more balanced
- With these agencies resource exchange has become an integral component of fire management – standard practice





The Resource Sharing Challenge

- No single agency has sufficient internal resources to address all of its resource needs in times of highly escalated fire activity
- Canada's wildland fire management agencies are dependent on a cooperative system of mutual aid resource sharing



The Resource Sharing Challenge, continued

- Increasing fire load and resource capacity issues are challenging our ability to meet the ongoing need for resource sharing
- In 2010 the CCFM commissioned a resource sharing study



The Resource Sharing Challenge, continued

- In the report, Brian Stocks recommended:
 - Address operational and institutional barriers to greater levels of resource sharing
 - Expand the use of international resource-sharing partnerships
 - Develop improved tools for forecasting fire load and assessing the demand for and availability of resources
 - Develop a more strategic approach to resource sharing, with better strategic planning tools and improved approaches to risk management
 - Communicate to politicians and the public the risk associated with increasing fire load and static or declining fire management capacity – “hitting the wall”



Wildland Fire Management Working Group (WFMWG)

- The WFMWG was created by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers to provide policy and strategic advice on improving wildland fire management in Canada, and to act as keeper of the CWFS
- The WFMWG has ADM-level representation from the federal government (Canadian Forest Service) and the 12 provinces and territories with wildland fire management programs



The WFMWG and CIFFC

- WFMWG and the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) – two sides of the fire management coin
 - CIFFC is focused on coordinating effective mutual aid resource sharing and information exchange among Canadian agencies and internationally; operational/tactical focus
 - WFMWG has the mandate for fire management strategy and policy on a national basis
 - Both groups have the shared objective of ensuring agencies have the most effective preparedness and response capabilities possible



The WFMWG and CIFFC, cont.

- Have developed a working partnership with mutual benefits
 - WFMWG works with CIFFC Working Groups and Communities of Practice to assist in implementing the WFMWG workplan
 - Mutual benefit from taking advantage of synergies between WFMWG workplan and the activities of appropriate CIFFC groups



The WFMWG and CIFFC, cont.

- WFMWG funding will both support its workplan and enhance CIFFC resources to address shared interests and meet shared objectives



WFMWG Workplan 2011/12

- In conjunction with 3 Task Teams drawn from CIFFC and its member agencies' staff, the WFMWG is working on 3 strategic elements:
 - Address the issue of increasing fire load and resource capacity challenges
 - Developing a multi-agency approach to community protection from wildfires
 - Developing a coordinated fuels management strategy
- Significant progress has been made in each of these areas



WFMWG Workplan, 2011/12

- A national survey of recent and expected future trends in fire load and resource capacity is underway
- Barriers and enhancements to increased resource sharing capability are being identified



WFMWG Workplan, 2011/12

- A strategy to expand “FireSmart” initiatives to all interested agencies is in development;
- in partnership with Partners In Protection, a series of “FireSmart Communities” workshops are being delivered; and
- a full-day workshop will be held at the Wildland Fire Canada conference in Kananaskis, fall 2012



WFMWG Workplan 2011/12

- A national survey on the state of hazardous fuels and the implementation of fuels management programs is underway
- A compilation of best fuels management practices, policies and strategies to communicate these to agencies and partners are being developed
- Partnerships with research and operational agencies to further develop cost-effective fuel treatment alternatives are being pursued



Looking ahead, 2012/13

- The WFMWG has submitted a draft 2012/13 workplan to the CCFM for approval
- Proposes to continue the partnership with CIFFC and its member agencies
- Building basis for a comprehensive National Wildfire Response Plan



Looking ahead, 2012/13

- Work will continue in the three areas initiated in 2011/12, and it proposes work in two new areas:
 - Further the development of information and decision-support systems for improved forecasting of resource demand and analysis of resource sharing options
 - Developing approaches to measuring resource sharing effectiveness and assessing and managing risk in Canada's resource sharing system

WYCIFFC

