

Fire Load and Resource Capacity Survey
Other Reports or Analysis Noted by Agencies
During Data Gathering Stage

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Methodology:

A three question interview process was established for conference calls with all agencies to discuss the data gathering process, solicit any recent reports about fire load and resource capacity that agencies may have developed and to gather any initial trend information of which agencies were aware for the recent past as well as potential impacts for the future.

All agencies were interviewed initially between January 30 and February 14, 2012.

This document summarizes the other report information provided by agencies during the initial interview and during any subsequent communications.

Agencies were specifically asked:

“Has your agency done any fire load and/or resource capacity studies that might be useful to the Resource Sharing Task Team (RSTT) (ie BC Price Waterhouse study)?”

Any supporting documentation provided has been placed in an “Other Reports Folder” on the RSTT Sharepoint site. Some of the information provided has been used in the analysis of the survey.

Agency

British Columbia

Leo Gillich had not seen the BC Price Waterhouse Study. He will track it down and forward.

BC mentioned Steve Taylor’s (CFS) Resource Demand Module work. He suggested Bruce Macnab might be able to track it down.

Dr. Judy Beck CFS has done a lot of Fire trend work and fire impacts and identified some extension in front and back end of the season. Leo suggested checking with Bruce Macnab for Dr. Beck’s reports.

Alberta

Alberta had nothing to suggest.

Saskatchewan

No recent reports were noted for SK.

Manitoba

A few inputs were provided by MB for the CIFFC 5-or 8 point plan work and for QC benchmarking studies for resource capacity 2000-2008. MB and other agencies did this for SOPFEU with Jean Gerard.

Jacque Nixdorf has provided the consultant with the input provided by number of agencies involved with that benchmarking study done first in 2000 with a follow up in 2008. These have been sorted on the CIFFC Sharepoint site for the RSTT.

Also noted the Stocks resource sharing report and the CIFFC 5 or 8 point plan has resource capacity information included in them.

Ontario

No reports were noted.

Quebec

QC is aware of a study related to fire load being prepared by a compact scientist that might be useful. Gaetan Lemaire will investigate if he can pass it on.

QC has completed fire load analysis for their most recent water bomber acquisition documentation. It will be in French but QC will look for and send.

New Brunswick

Nothing formal has been completed recently. NB reviewed a 1986 10 day flap and completed a resource capacity test. In the 1986 flap they managed a high number of fire starts without having to go out of the province for resources. If they had the same flap in 2012 they believe they would run out of resources by dinner time on day two. They no longer hire off the street as they did then because of the requirement for training.

Nova Scotia

NS is aware of a Compact study being done (Erling). They will confirm status and forward it. This is the same one that QC noted and the studies have not yet been released.

Prince Edward Island

The National Forestry Database (CFS) has a forest fire data base up to 2009. Dan McAskill suggested we review this for suitable data and trends. (http://nfdp.ccfm.org/index_e.php)

PE also suggested that data was gathered for the Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy. (Four or five year old data is in this database.)

Newfoundland and Labrador

The NE Compact hired a consultant (Erling Group) for a "Testing the Compact" project. A report has been drafted but not released yet.

NF has some fire load and capacity analysis in cabinet briefing notes for funding proposals but are not allowed to release this information.

Northwest Territories

NT has just completed the data collection for the BC Price- Waterhouse study input. Believes all agencies were asked to submit data last fall. Study was supposed to be done around year end 2011.

Yukon Territories

Some fire reviews were completed. YT will look for an impact on resource capacity analysis. They were successful in acquiring another helicopter based on one review.

YT have not completed any recent fire load studies.

Parks Canada

PC has put together some trends to support requests for resources to their senior management. These are mostly in a briefing note format that Dean MacDonald will forward.

Dean MacDonald did forward a copy of a draft HR plan. As it is not yet completed or approved it will be used for potential trends but not included in the Other Reports folder on the CIFFC Sharepoint site. Interested parties can contact Dean for a final copy.

Also noted was research ongoing by Daryl Zell at Parks Canada. Zell has researched fire severity modelling on the landscape for large fires. This was completed in Parks Canada for the last two years and now on going for the past 10 years. This document may be useful for severity trends.

Canadian Forest Service

Bruce Macnab has provided a recent document titled "Wildfire evacuations in Canada 1980-2007" (Beverly and Boswell, 2011) and the supporting data spreadsheet to supplement agency information on evacuations.

After discussion between the consultant and Jennifer Beverly an additional paper was acquired: "The association between Northern Hemisphere climate patterns and interannual variability in Canadian wildfire activity" (J.L. Beverly, M.D. Flannigan, B.J. Stocks and P. Bothwell, 2011). This document examines the relationship between large scale annual fire activity (very large fires(>10,000 ha), wildfire-related evacuations and fire suppression expenditures) and climate as represented by the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation(AMO).

Other Resource Sharing Task Team Documents

On the CIFFC RSTT Sharepoint site Paul Ward has provided a series of minutes and notes on various Resource Sharing discussions as well as the WFMWG Implementation Plan. B.J. Stocks 2010 report "Forest Fire Management Resource-Sharing in Canada: The Need for an Expanded and More Effective Capability" is also on the Sharepoint site.

References

Beverly, J.L., and Bothwell, P. 2011. Wildfire evacuations in Canada 1980-2007. *Natural Hazards*, 59(1): 571-596. Doi:10.1007/s11069-011-9777-9

Beverly, J.L., Flannigan, M.D., Stocks, B.J., and Bothwell, P. The association between Northern Hemisphere climate patterns and interannual variability in Canadian wildfire activity. 2011. *Can. J. For. Res.* 41: 2193-2201 (2011) doi:10.1139/XII-131

Stocks, B.J. 2010. Forest Fire Management Resource-Sharing in Canada: The Need for an Expanded and More Effective Capability. Unpublished report to the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers, Wildland Fire Management Working Group.