

WILDLAND FIRE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

How does climate change impact wildland fires?

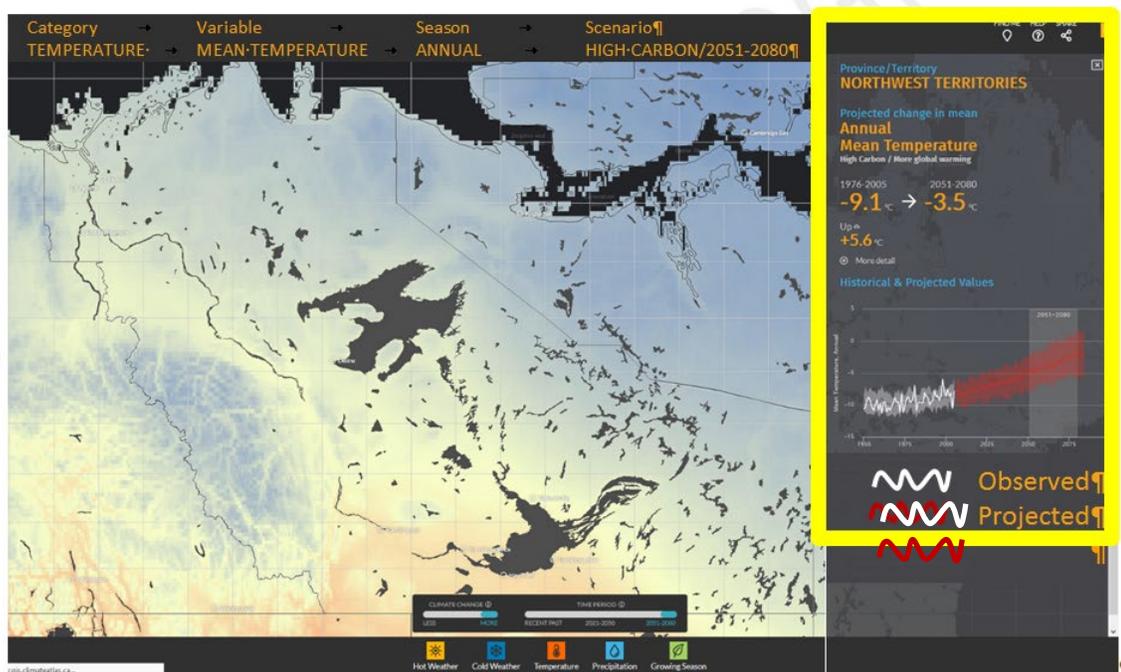
Direct Impacts: Increased frequency of hotter, drier and windier days.

Indirect Impacts: Change in vegetation, increased insect outbreaks, permafrost thaw.

What does this mean for wildland fires?

Longer fire seasons with more extremes in weather leading to increases in fire activity and severity.

Figure 1: A projection of the predicted change in mean annual temperature for the Northwest Territories. Adapted from the Climate Atlas of Canada, Environment Climate Change Canada and Prairie Climate Center (October 22, 2023). Visit climateatlas.ca for more information on climate.



For more climate change and wildland fires information visit:

- **Natural Resources Canada**
(nrcan.gc.ca/forests/climate-change/13083)
- **Canadian Centre for Climate Services** provides expertise across a broad range of climate-related disciplines
(canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/canadian-centre-climate-services)

For information related to wildland fires and climate change contact:

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Community Wildland Fire Protection

Community Wildland Fire Protection Guiding Principles

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) has fundamental principles that guide decision making and actions as they relate to community protection from wildland fire.

- Wildland fires are a natural part of the ecology of the Northwest Territories forests;
- The protection of life is of primary concern when considering appropriate response to wildfires;
- Reducing the risk from wildfires is a shared responsibility of individuals, communities, industry, non-government organizations and governments;
- ENR 's expertise in wildland fire can be used to support wildfire emergency response processes of communities;
- Decision-making will use the best available information including Indigenous traditional knowledge and values, local and community knowledge and scientific knowledge.

What is a Community Wildland Fire Protection Plan?

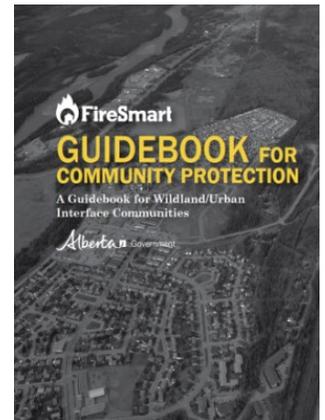
A Community Wildland Fire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies hazards and risks associated with the wildland/urban interface and recommendations to reduce the threat and impact from wildland fire.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) works with communities to develop and implement these plans. Every community potentially at risk from wildland fire has a CWPP in place. The GNWT and communities are currently updating all CWPPs.



What is FireSmart?

FireSmart is living with and managing for wildfire on our landscape. Preparing for the threat of wildfire is a shared responsibility - from home owners, to industry and government. ENR provides FireSmart information and workshops to help communities, industry and homeowners reduce the threat of wildland fire. For more information on FireSmarting visit: www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/be-firesmart



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