



Similkameen Community Wildfire Roundtable



January 23, 2024



Fraser Basin Council



Agenda

- What's underway for wildfire preparedness?
 - Since your 2022 workshop
 - Programs or opportunities
- Reflections
- Community Wildfire Roundtable
 - Proposed concept
 - Why - context
- Next steps
- Questions and discussion – throughout





Topics in Scope

Wildfire risk reduction (commercial and non-commercial)

Prescribed and cultural burning

FireSmart

Training and capacity development

Equipment

Emergency planning for wildfires

Inter-agency cooperation





Approach for the day

- We want to hear from you – **all of you**
- There are no wrong answers
- You don't need to be an expert
- Focus on wildfire **preparedness** not response or recovery

Ground rules

- Be respectful – be hard on the issue, not the person
- Recognize there are multiple perspectives
- More voices, fewer words





Fraser Basin Council

BC-wide non-profit organization, 38 directors from 4 orders of government and more

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

Mandate: Advance sustainability solutions and practices in British Columbia

Convening multiple parties such as wildfire roundtables is a key part of the work FBC does





Introductions

Name

Organization





What's underway for wildfire preparedness?

What's underway since the early 2022 workshop?

What programs or opportunities do you offer?





Reflections

What's underway

Opportunities to work together

Opportunities to share resources

Duplication?

Gaps?





Community Wildfire Roundtable

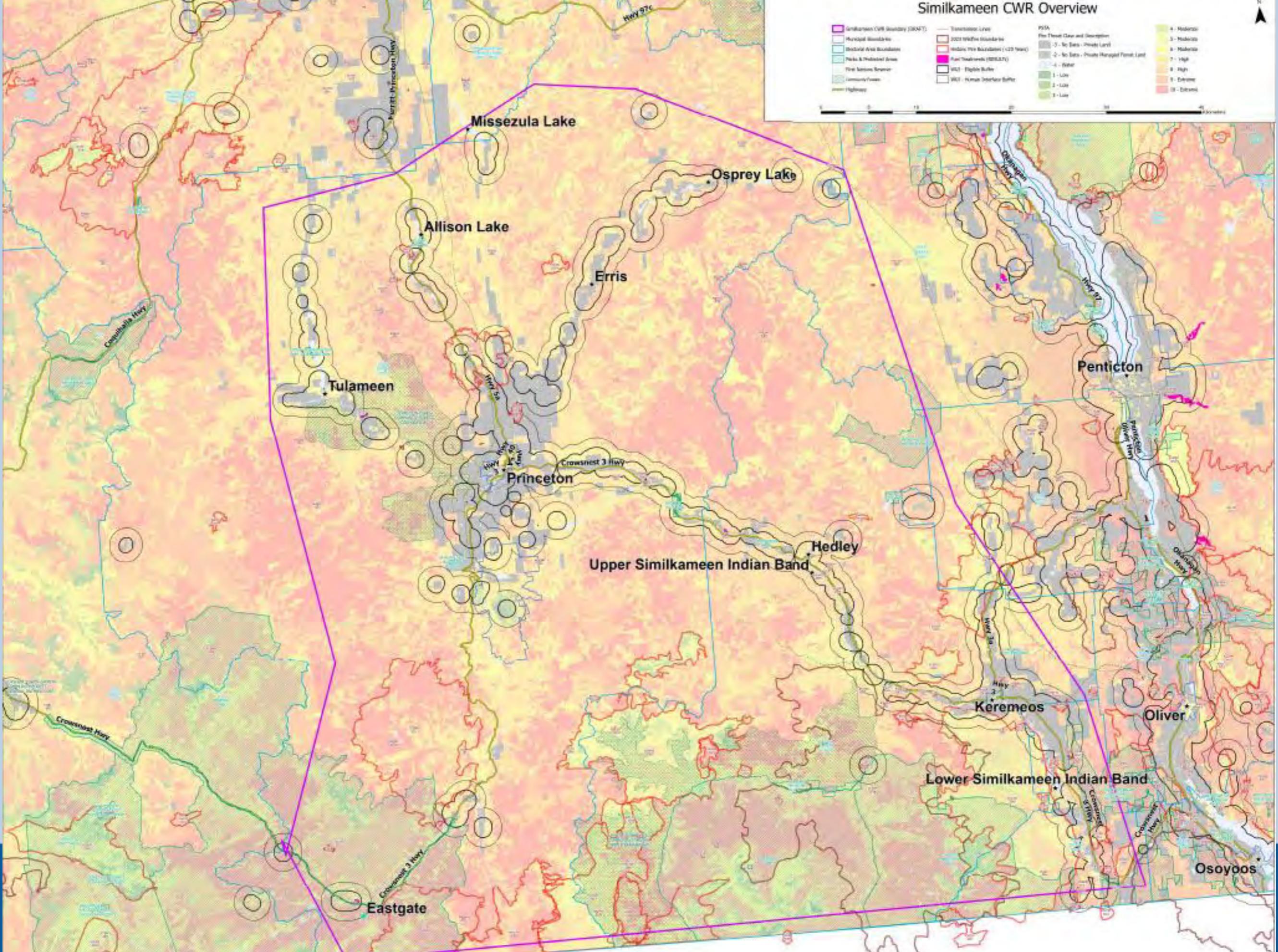
Overall purpose is to ensure **good coordination and communication** about who's doing what around wildfire preparedness:

- FireSmart education
- Timber harvesting opportunities
- Fuel management
- Resources and capacity – volunteer fire departments, ranchers, agriculture sector, forest industry
- First Nations traditional burning



Similkameen CWR Overview

Similkameen CWR Boundary (SRAT)	Transmission Lines	PSA	4 - Moderate
Municipal Boundaries	2023 Wildlife Boundaries	3 - No Data - Private Land	3 - Moderate
District Area Boundaries	Historic Fire Boundaries (<25 Years)	2 - No Data - Private Managed Forest Land	4 - Moderate
Parks & Protected Areas	Fuel Thresholds (SRAT)	1 - Water	7 - High
First Nations Reserves	WUI - Flight Buffer	1 - Low	8 - High
Community Forests	WUI - Human Interface Buffer	2 - Low	9 - Extreme
Major Highway		3 - Low	10 - Extreme





Community Wildfire Roundtable

Purpose is to advance wildfire preparedness:

- Help implement the plans being developed
- FireSmart education
- Fuel management treatments (commercial harvest, non-commercial fuel)
 - Primary fuel breaks
 - Interface treatments
- Egress

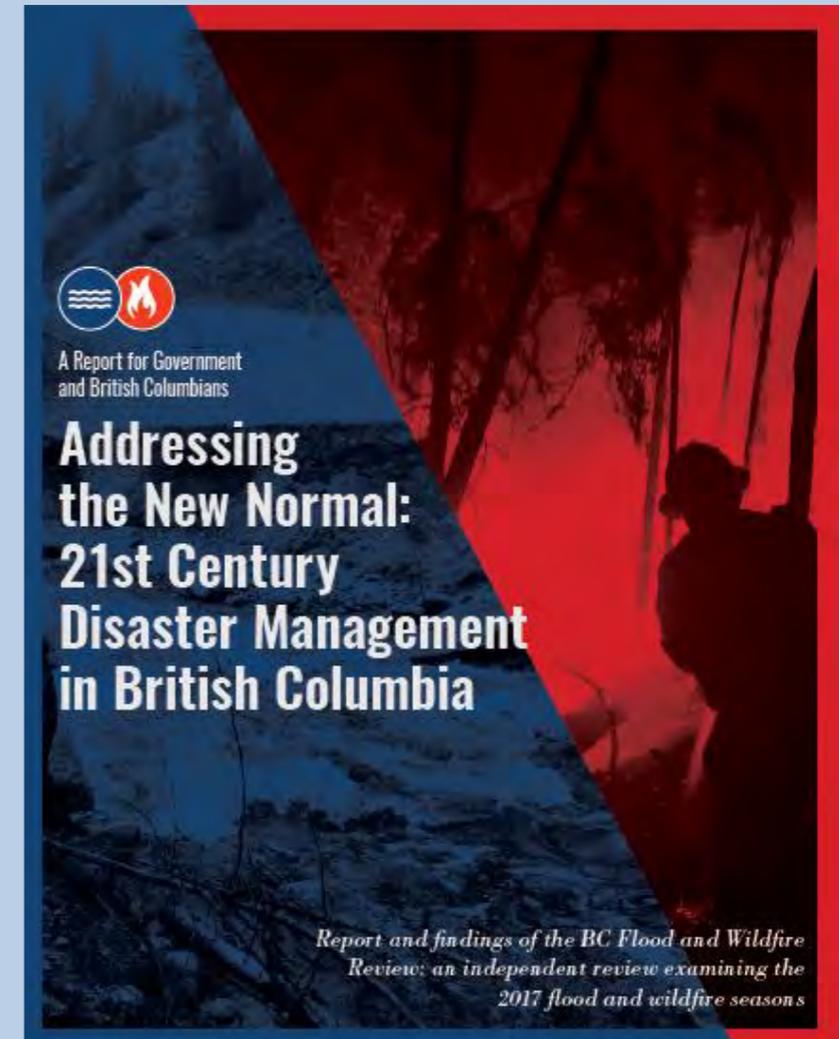




Community Wildfire Roundtable

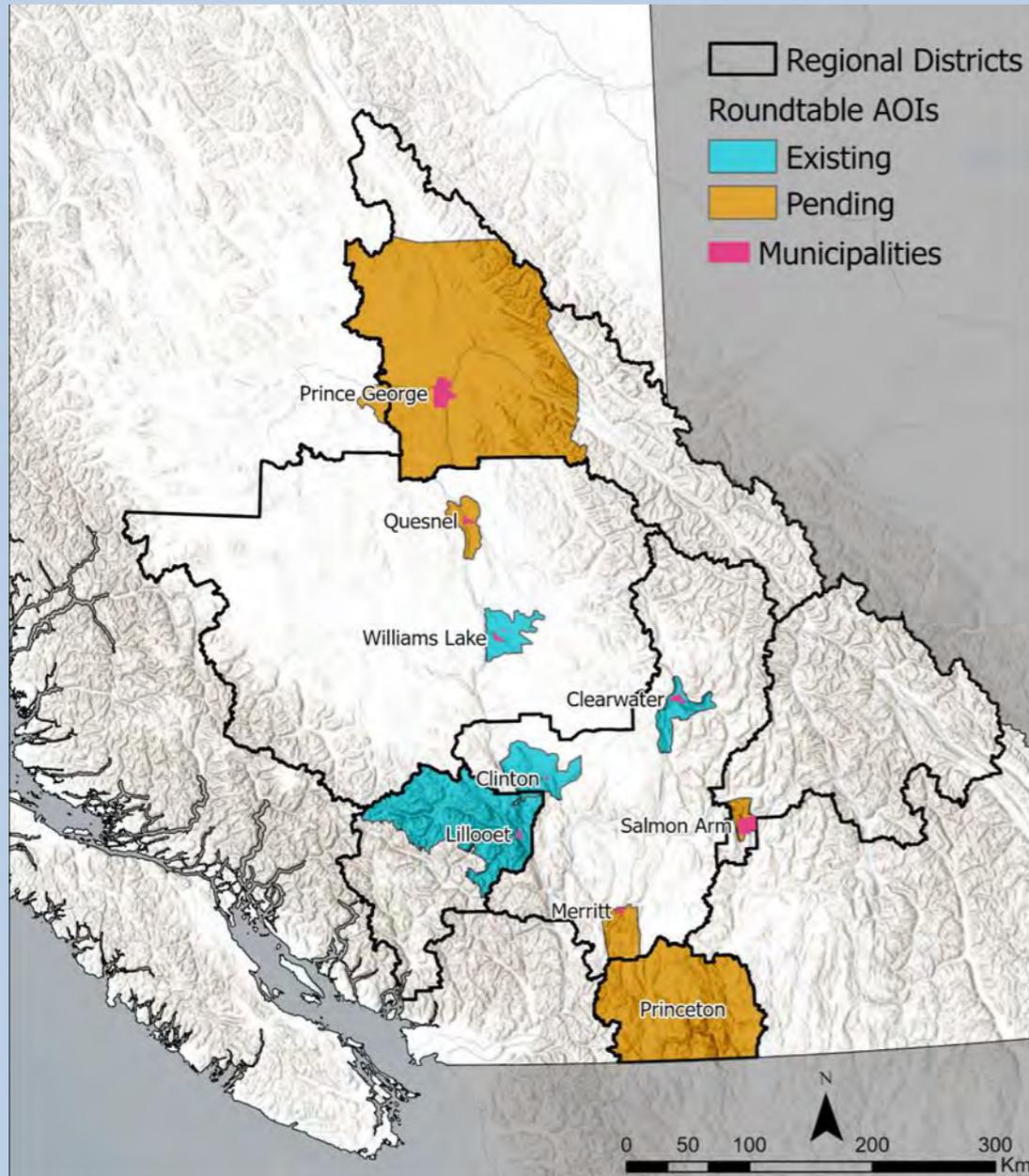
...but also to address some Abbott and Chapman recommendations:

- Traditional burning, TEK
- Capacity and resources:
 - Volunteer fire departments
 - Ranchers, agriculture
 - Other





Community Wildfire Roundtables



FBC has a contribution agreement with BC Wildfire Service to support community wildfire roundtables

Initiated in 2019

Concept built on what worked well in Williams Lake from 2007-2012





Community Wildfire Roundtable – context

A lot of money flowing around for:

- FireSmart education
- Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans
- Fuel management treatments
- Emergency evacuation route planning
- Training
- Equipment





Community Wildfire Preparedness Roundtable – context

Different organizations play different roles:

- Local government
 - Volunteer fire departments
- Fire brigades
- First Nations governments
- BC Ministry of Forests
 - BC Timber Sales
 - BC Wildfire Service





Community Wildfire Roundtable – context

Different organizations play different roles (continued):

- Forest industry
 - Forest licensees
 - Woodlot licensees
 - Community Forests
- Agriculture sector
- Community FireSmart Resiliency Committees and subcommittees

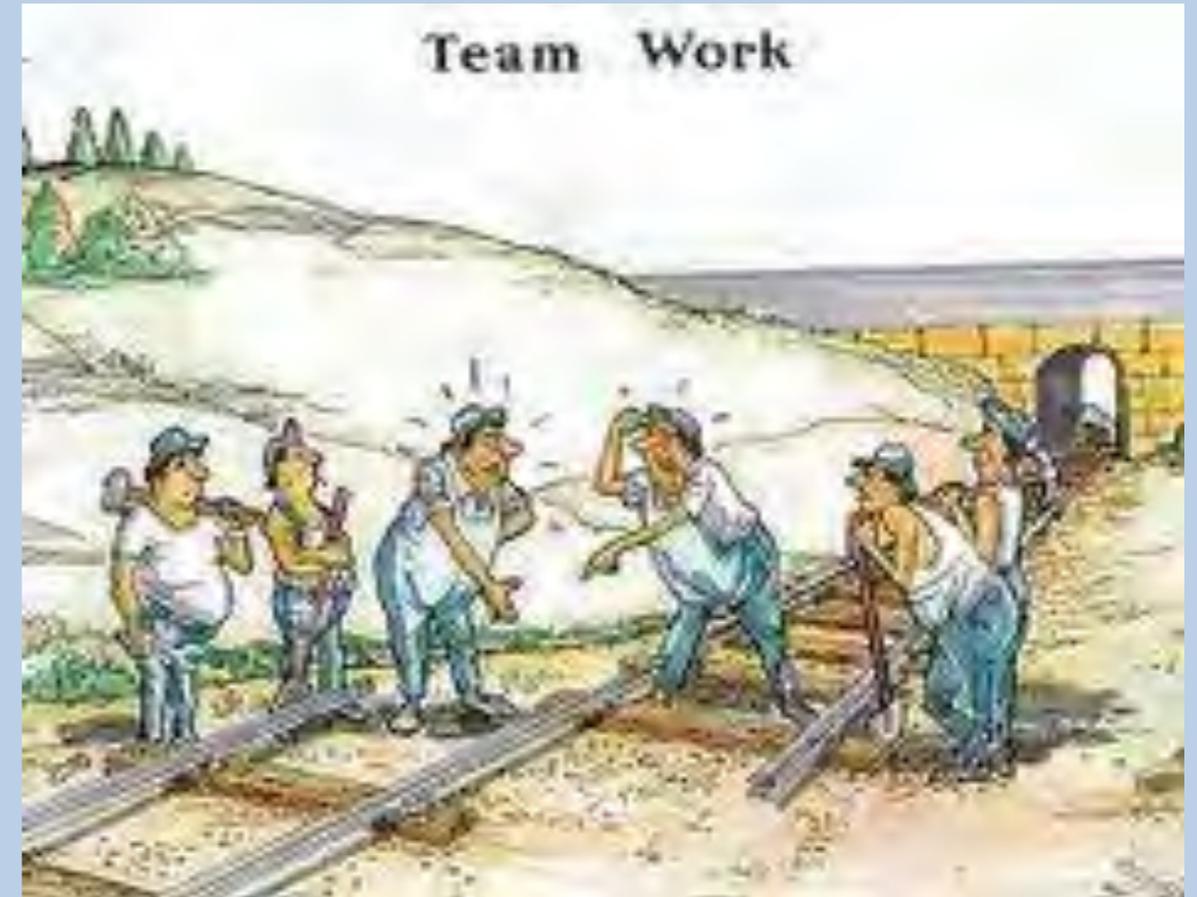




Community Wildfire Roundtable

It's happened before:

- Flurry of funding and activity
- Not coordinated
- Treatments done in illogical, ineffective places
- Duplication exists
- Gaps exist
- Challenging to know who's doing what
- Resources aren't maximized/leveraged





Community Wildfire Roundtable

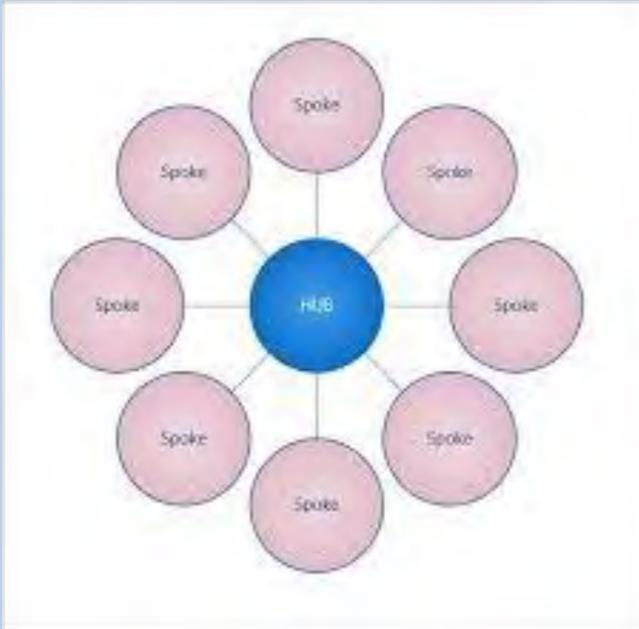
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Community Wildfire Preparedness



What will FBC do?:

- Secretariat support – convene multiple organizations
- Help prepare funding applications
- Identify leveraging opportunities
- Connect people, opportunities and ideas





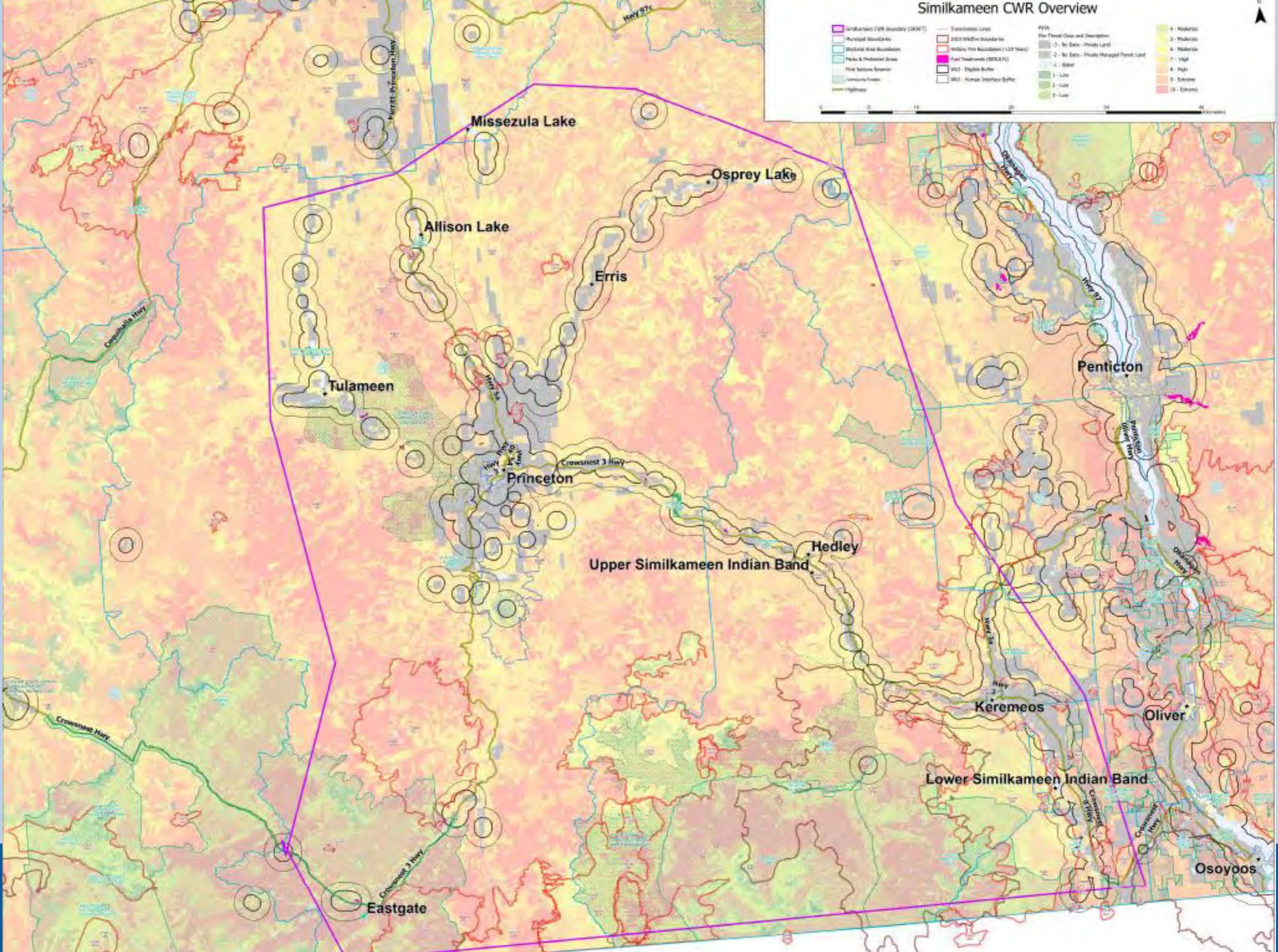
Next Steps

- Continue – form a roundtable?
- Terms of reference?
- Define geographic boundary



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Questions? Contact and more info:

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