

Alberta Industrial Wildfire Program Updates

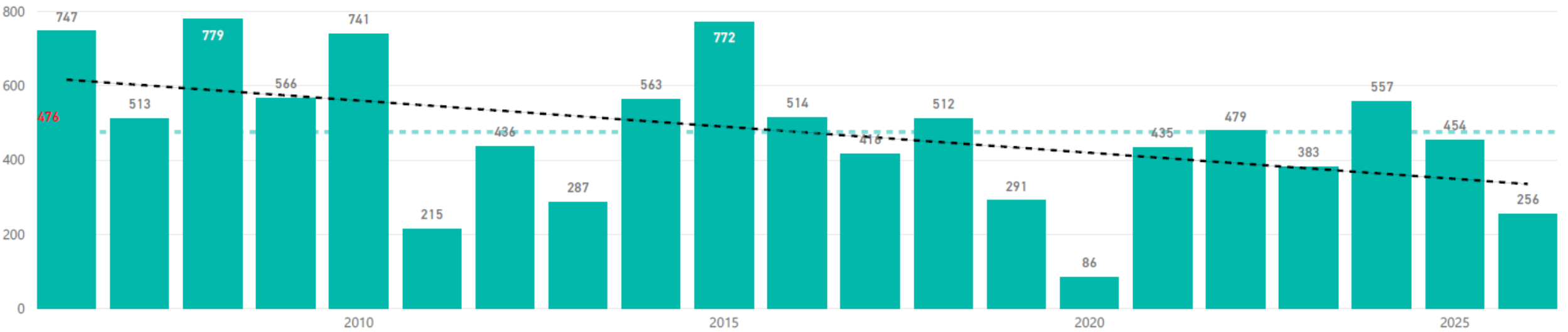
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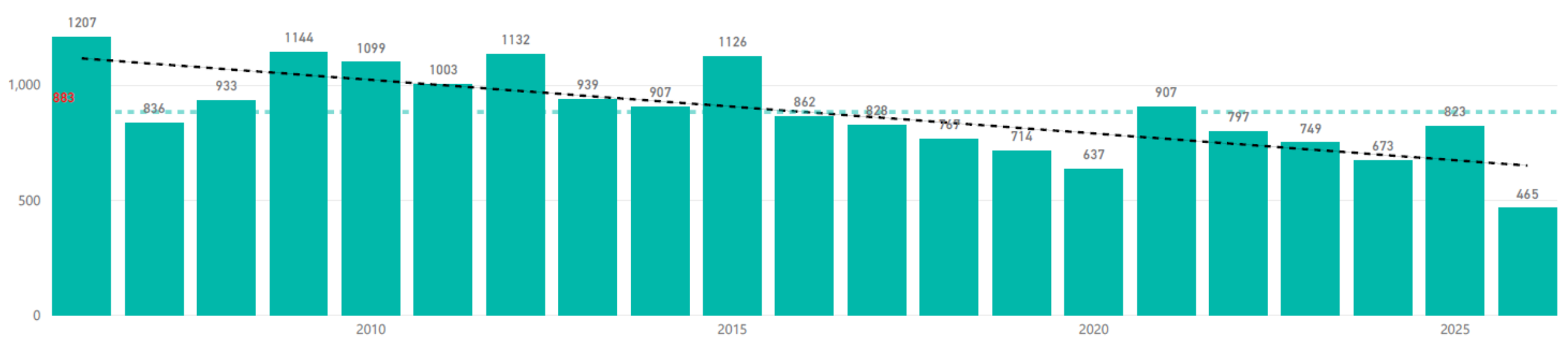
Outline

- Wildfire Statistics, year in review
- Wildfire Mitigation and Community Hazardous Fuel Reduction
- Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation updates
- Wildfire Program enhancements
- Alberta Wildfire Contacts
- Current Wildfire Conditions and Trends

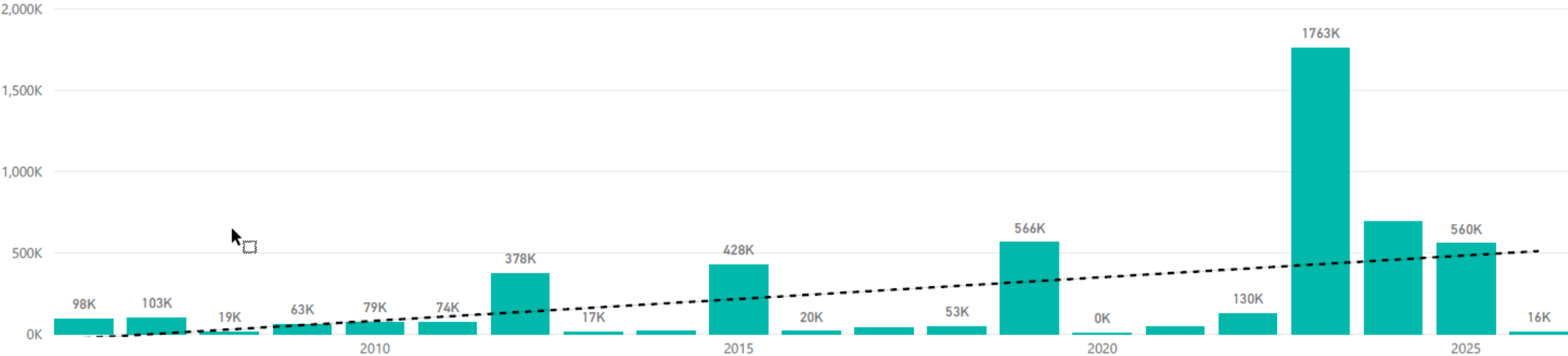
Lightning Caused Wildfires in Alberta - 2006-2026 *From FIRES Database, by calendar year



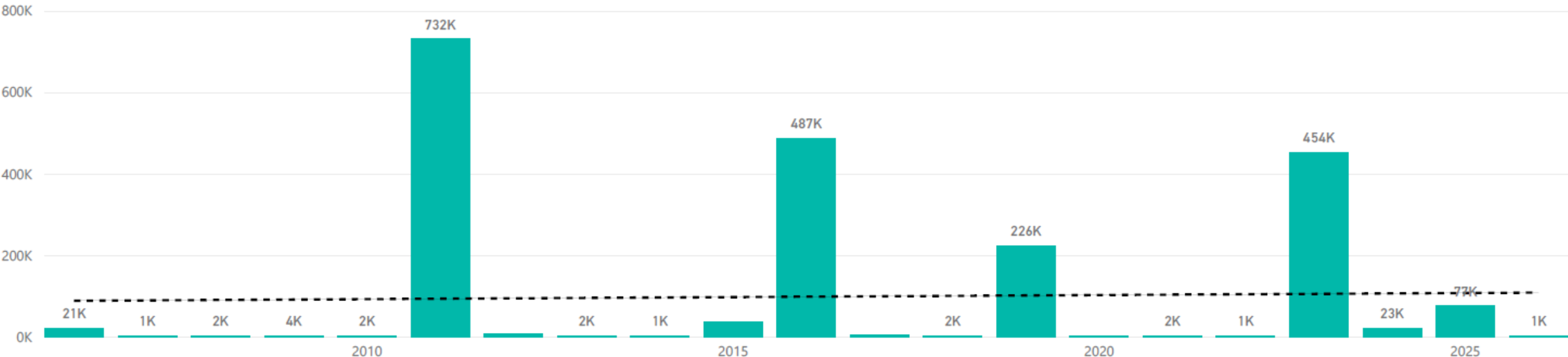
Human Caused Wildfires in Alberta - 2006-2026 *From FIRES Database, by calendar year



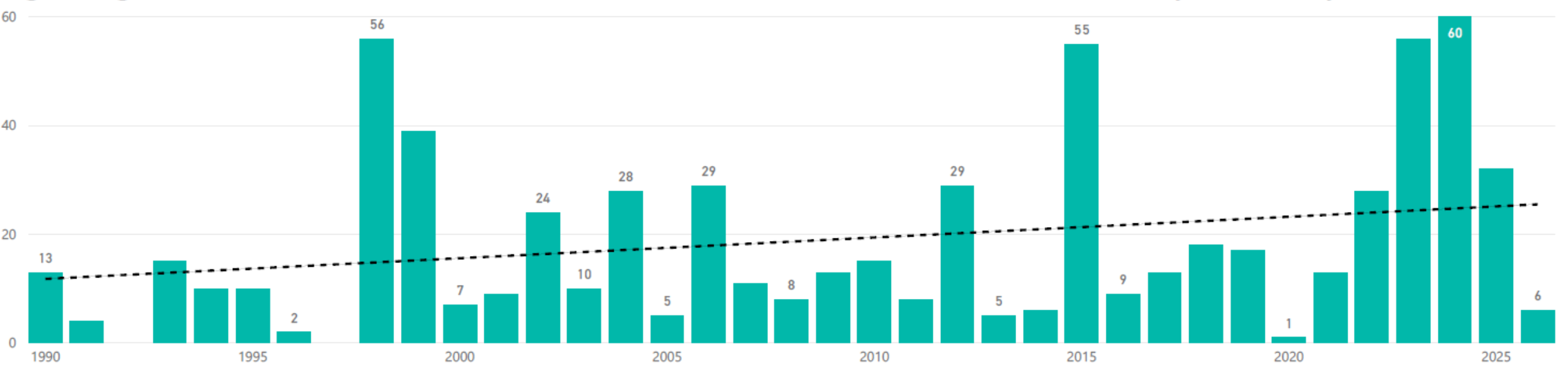
Hectares Burned by Lightning in Alberta - 2006-2026 *From FIRES Database, by calendar year



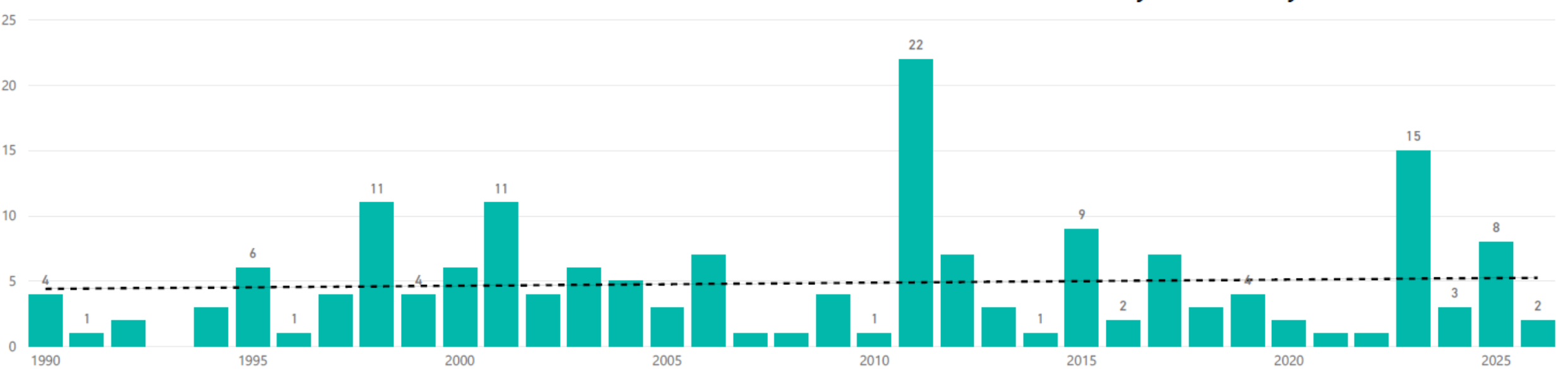
Hectares Burned by Human Caused Fires (Inc. Under Inv.) in Alberta - 2006-2026 *From FIRES Database, ...



Lightning Caused Wildfires >200ha in Alberta - 1990-2026 *From FIRES Database, by calendar year

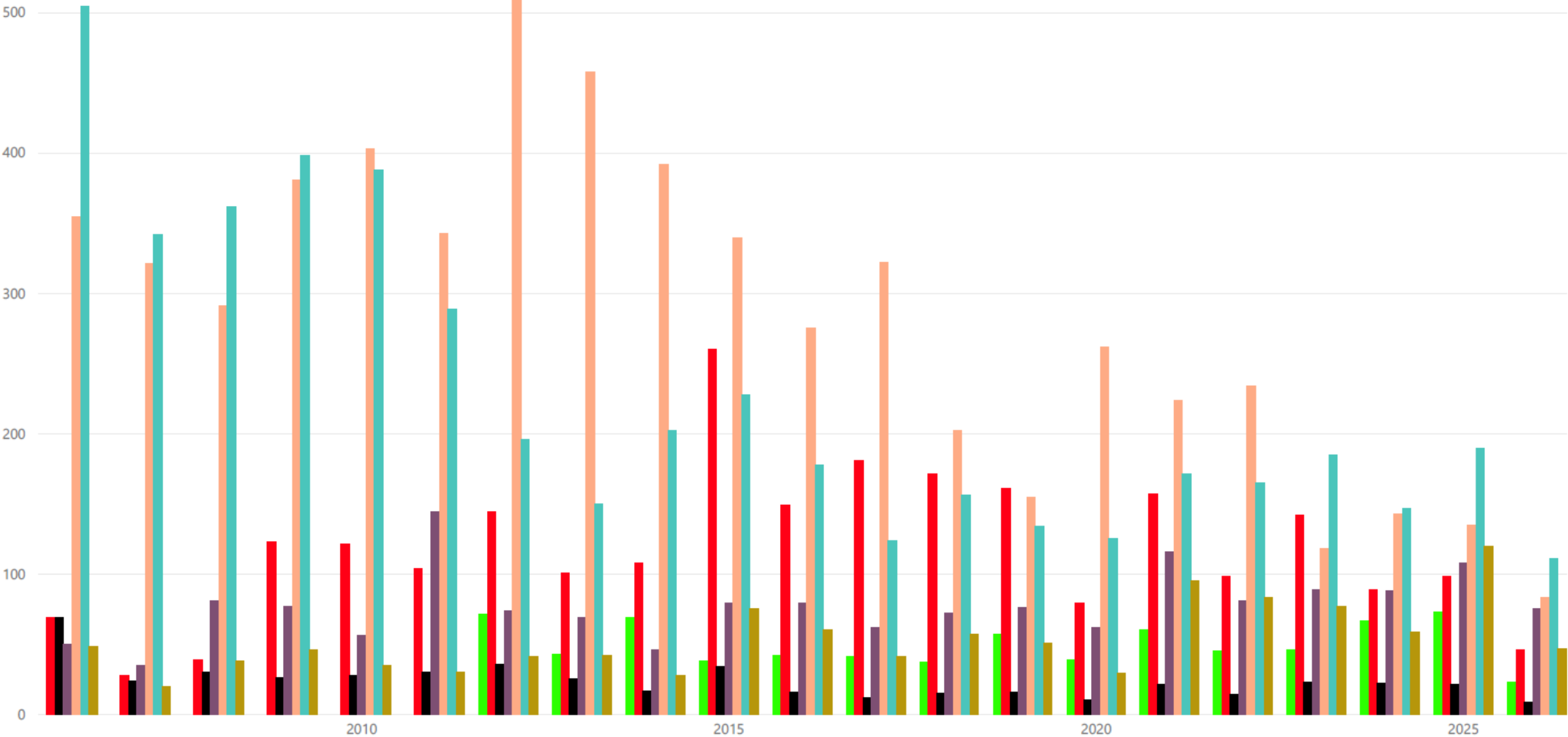


Human Caused Wildfires >200ha in Alberta - 1990-2026 *From FIRES Database, by calendar year



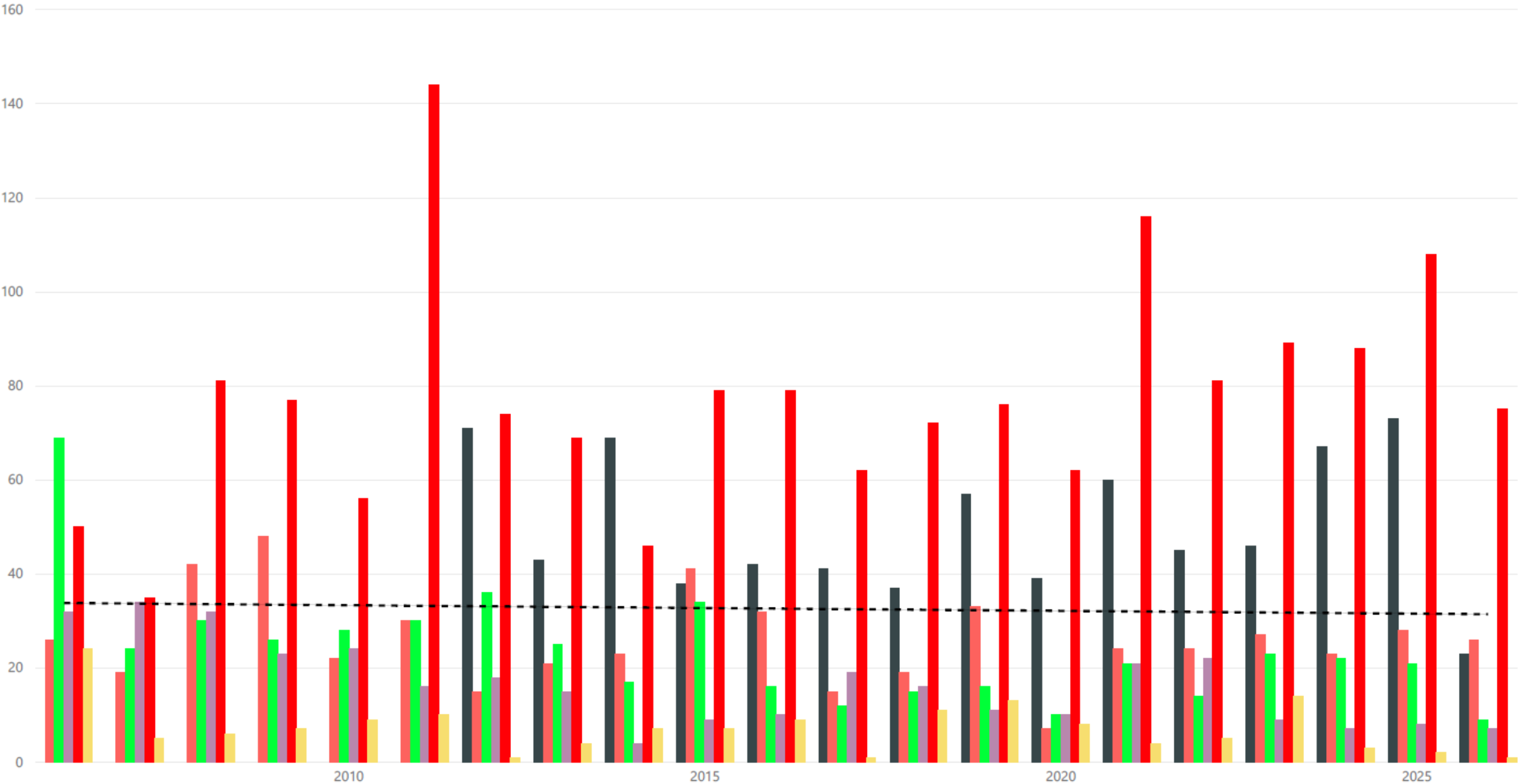
Wildfires in Alberta by Top Human Caused - 2006-2026 *From FIRES Database, by calendar year

general_cause_desc Agriculture Industry Incendiary Oil & Gas Industry Power Line Industry Recreation Resident Undetermined



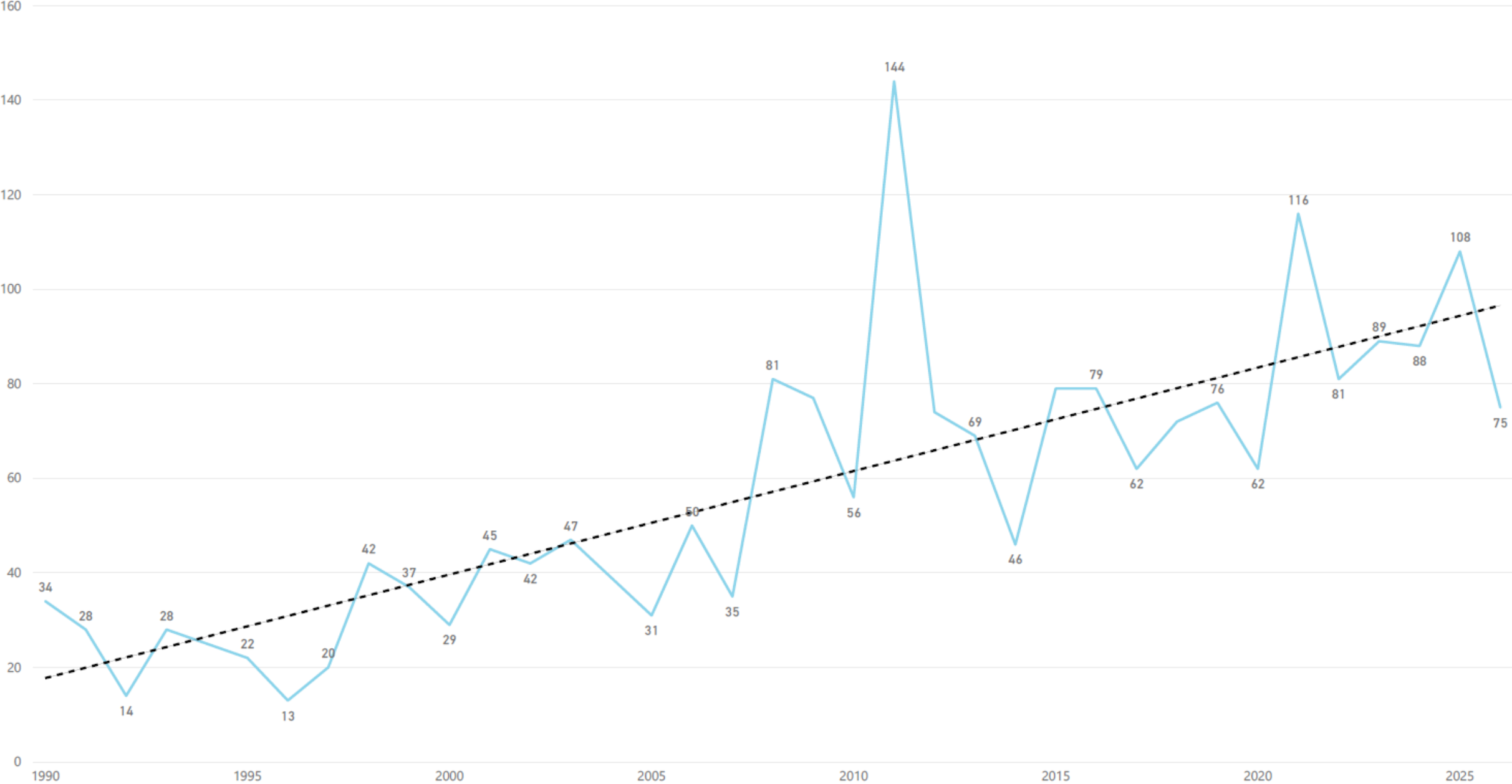
Industry Caused Wildfires in Alberta by General Cause - 2006-2026 *From FIRES Database, by calendar year

general_cause_desc ● Agriculture Industry ● Forest Industry ● Oil & Gas Industry ● Other Industry ● Power Line Industry ● Railroad

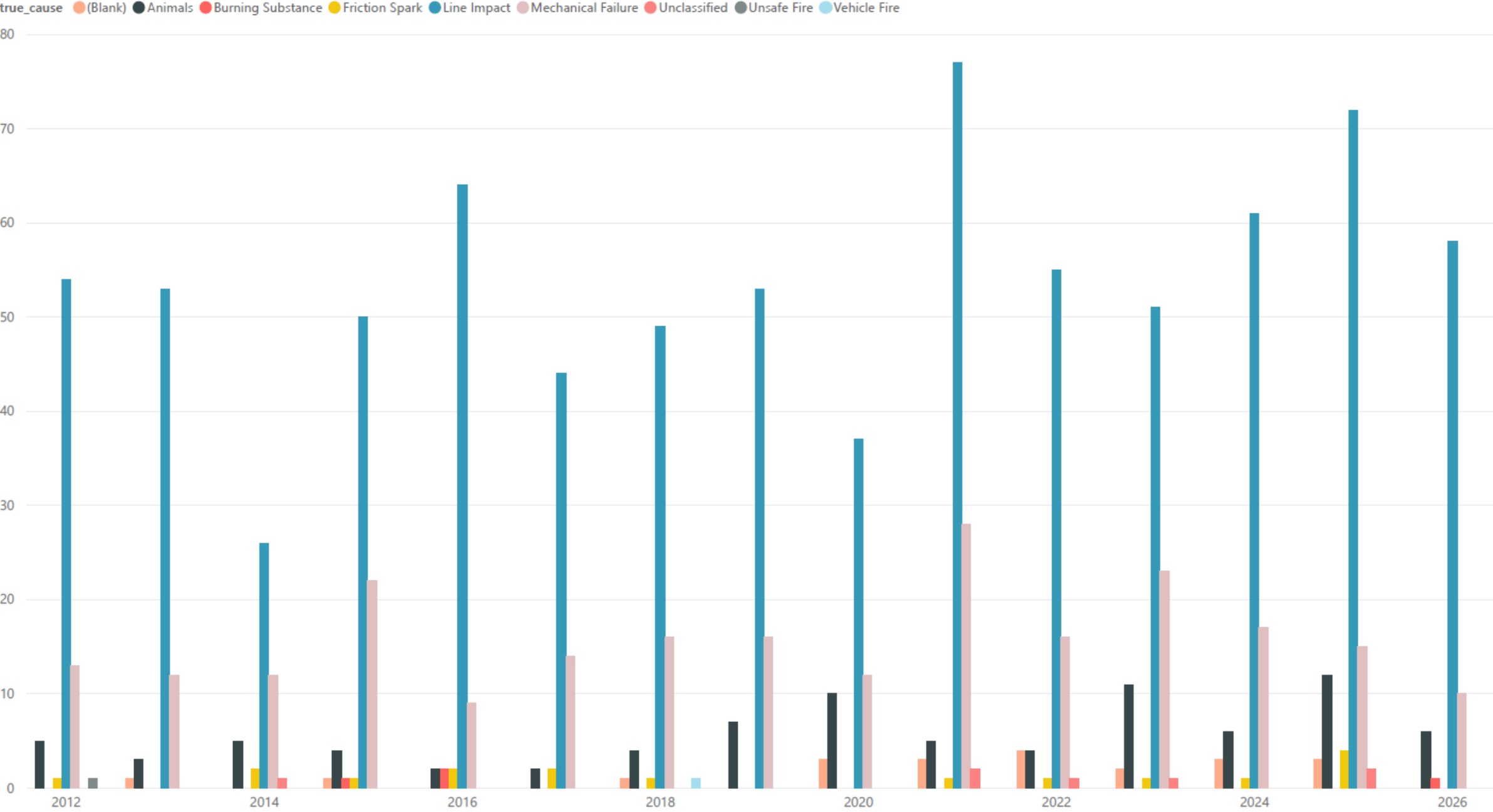


Power Line Industry Caused Wildfires in Alberta 1990-2026 *From FIRES Database, by calendar year

general_cause_desc ● Power Line Industry

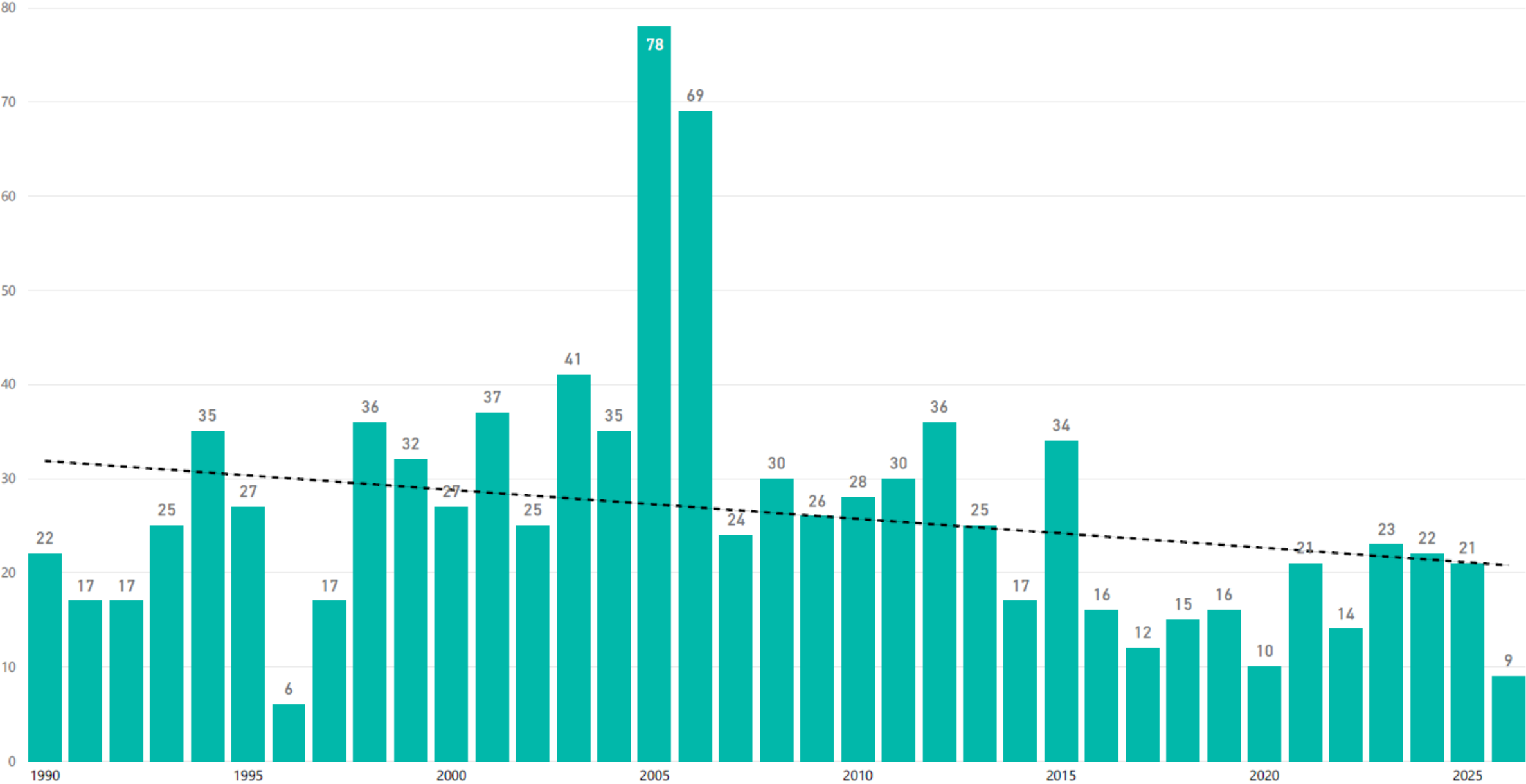


Power Line Industry Caused Fires in Alberta - 2012-2026 *From FIRES Database, by calendar year

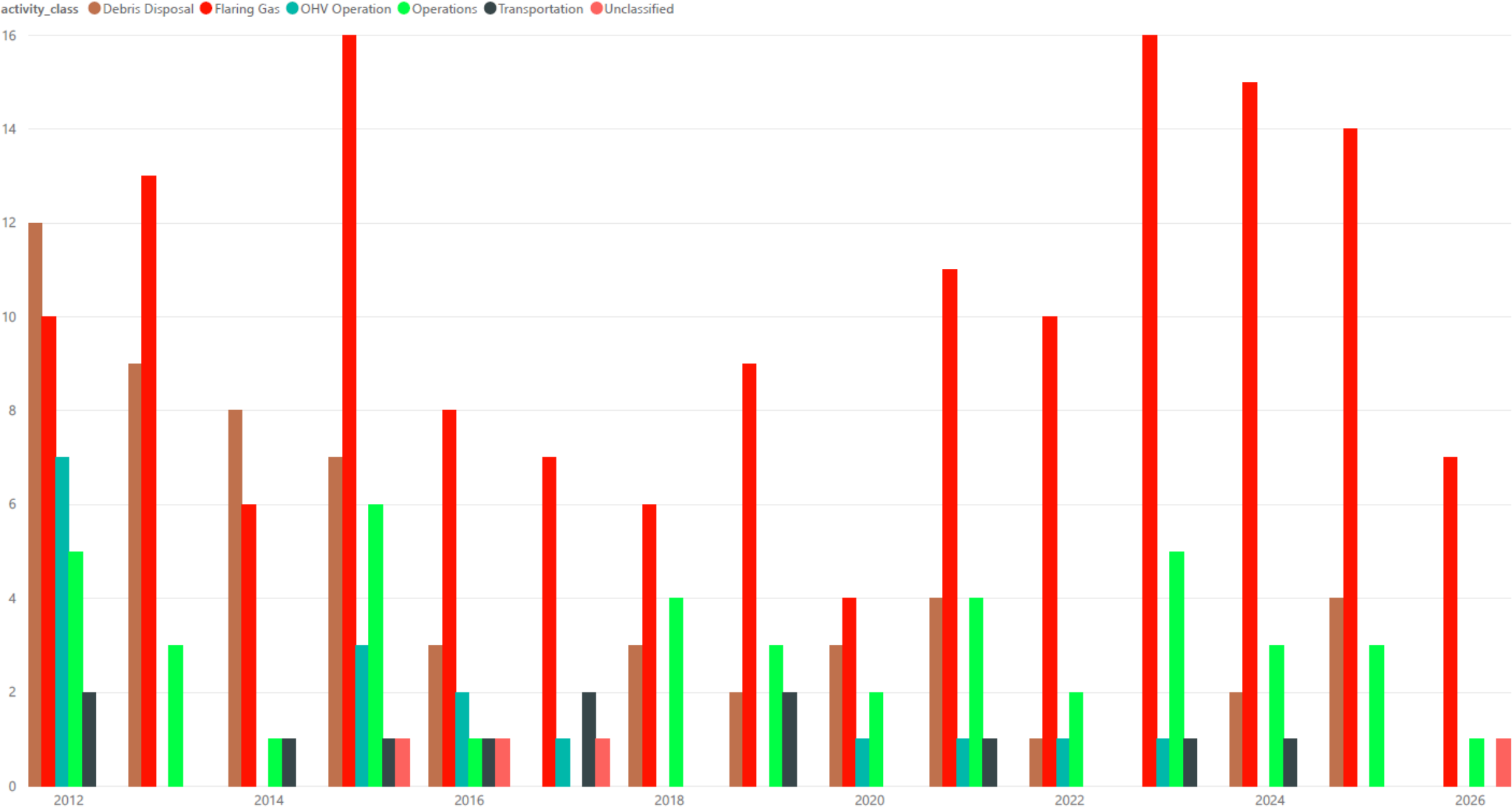


Oil and Gas Industry Caused Fires in Alberta - 1990-2026 *From FIRES Database, by calendar year

general_cause_desc ● Oil & Gas Industry

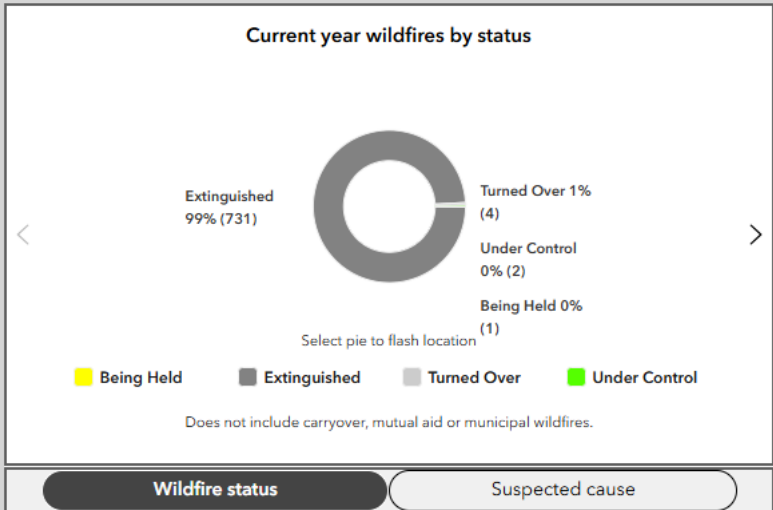
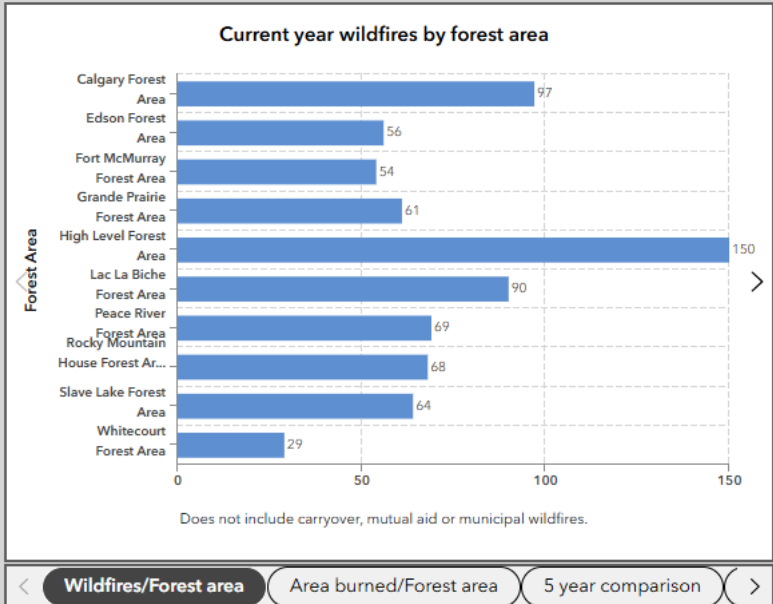
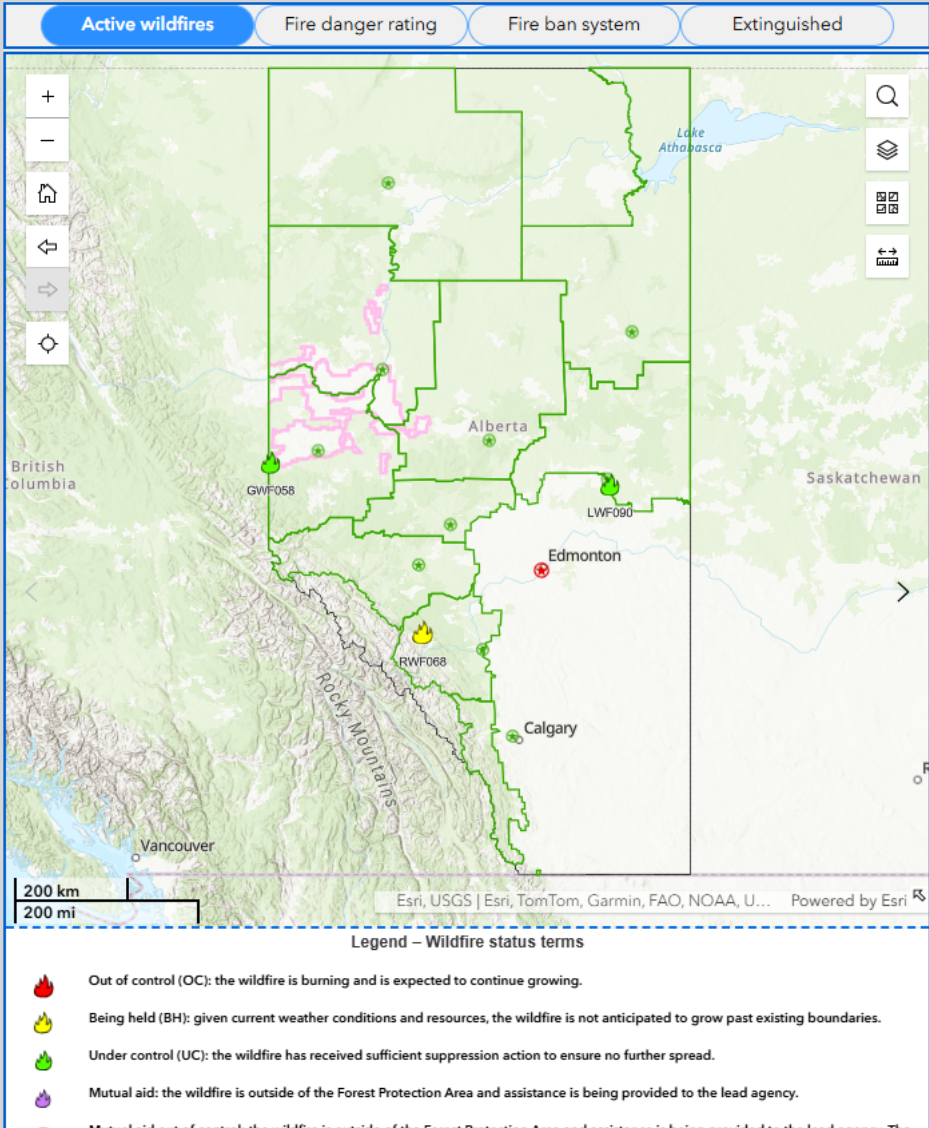
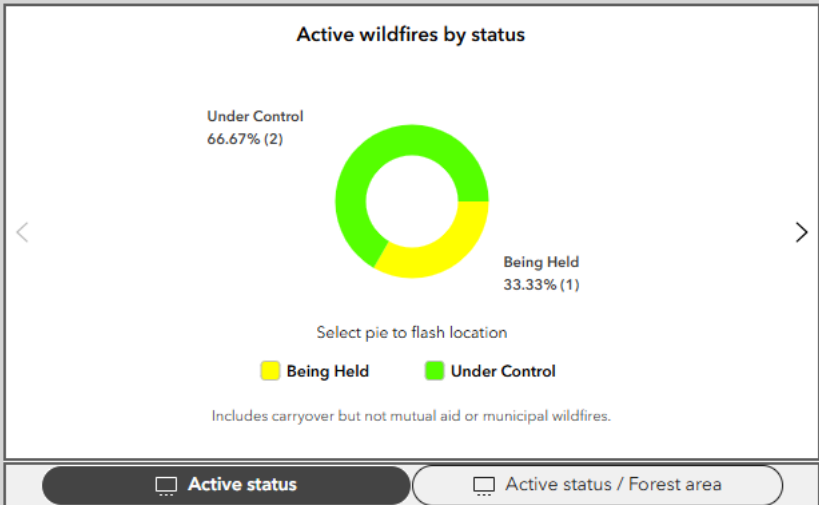


Oil and Gas Industry Caused Fires in Alberta by Major Activity Class 2012-2026 *From FIRES Database, by calendar year



Current year active wildfires	Current year total wildfires	Current year total area (hectares)
3	738	17,746.46
Does not include carryover, mutual aid or municipal wildfires.	Does not include carryover, mutual aid or municipal wildfires.	Does not include carryover, mutual aid or municipal wildfires.
Mutual aid wildfires	Carryover wildfires	Municipal wildfires
0	0	0
Alberta Wildfire is assisting but is not the lead agency.	Wildfires still active from previous years, does not include mutual aid or municipal wildfires.	Wildfires outside of Alberta Wildfire's jurisdiction, reported by the responsible municipal authority.

Wildfire list	Wildfire details
GWF-058-2026	Fire Number GWF-058-2026
LWF-090-2026	Fire Status Under Control
RWF-068-2026	Responsible Area Grande Prairie Forest Area
	Response Type Full response



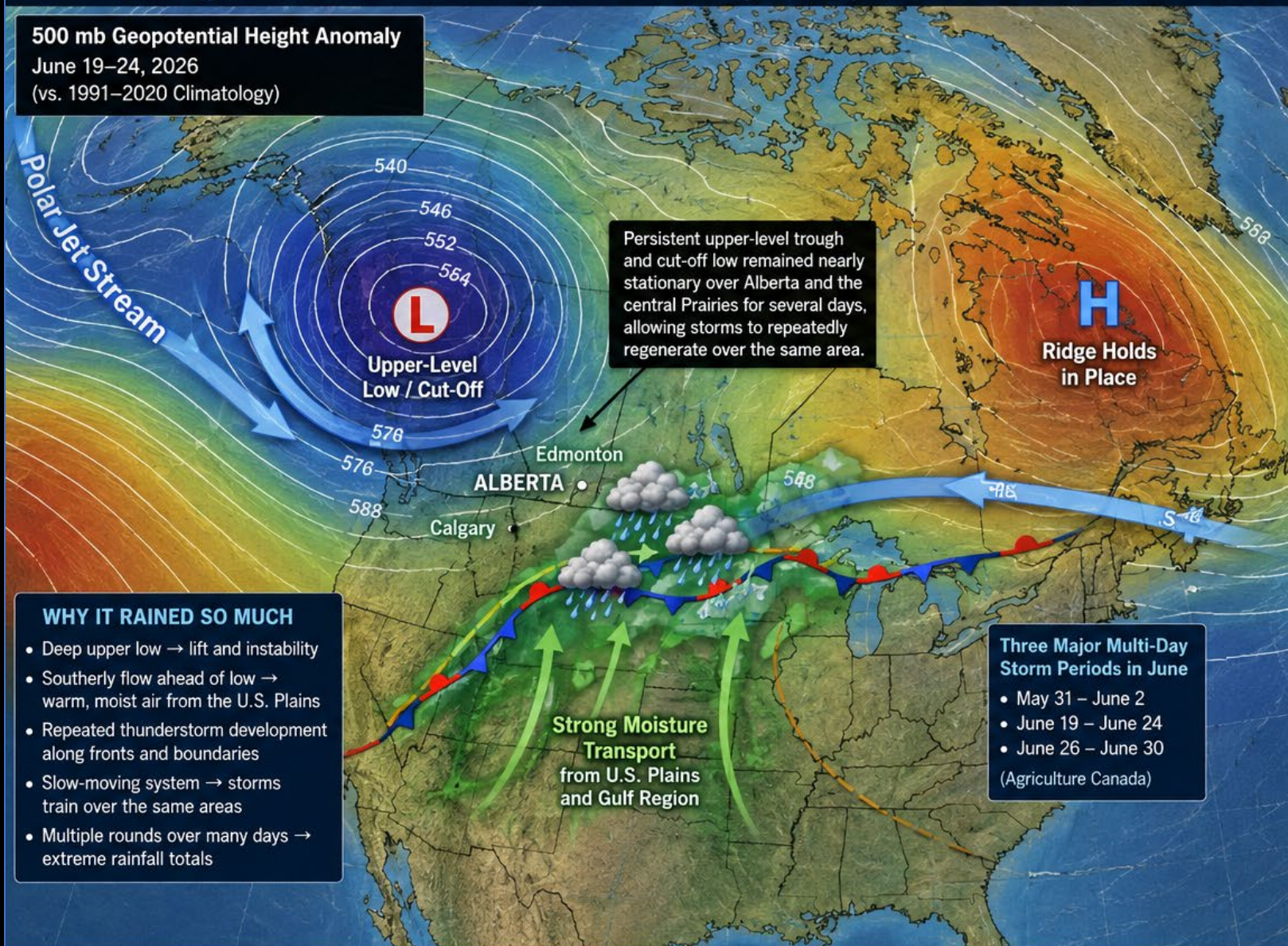
THE SETUP: SLOW-MOVING UPPER LOW OVER ALBERTA

How repeated cut-off lows and stalled storm systems produced extreme June 2026 rainfall

500 mb Geopotential Height Anomaly

June 19–24, 2026

(vs. 1991–2020 Climatology)



WHY IT RAINED SO MUCH

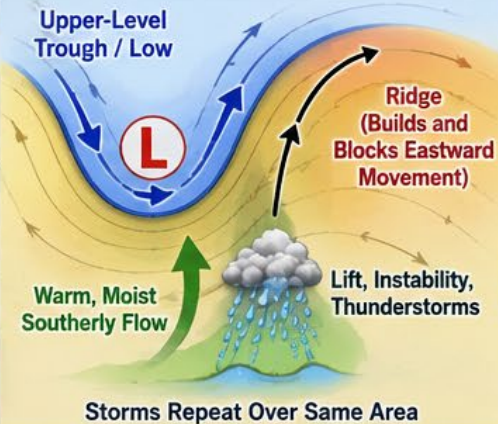
- Deep upper low → lift and instability
- Southerly flow ahead of low → warm, moist air from the U.S. Plains
- Repeated thunderstorm development along fronts and boundaries
- Slow-moving system → storms train over the same areas
- Multiple rounds over many days → extreme rainfall totals

Strong Moisture Transport
from U.S. Plains
and Gulf Region

Three Major Multi-Day Storm Periods in June

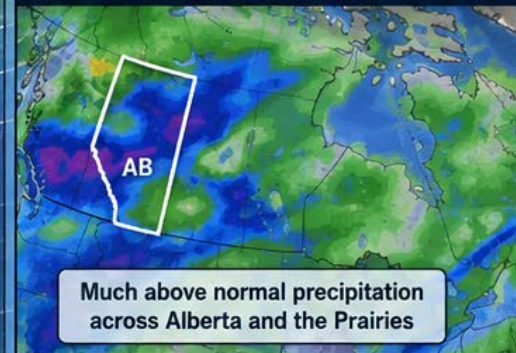
- May 31 – June 2
 - June 19 – June 24
 - June 26 – June 30
- (Agriculture Canada)

ANOMALY SETUP IN DETAIL



PRECIPITATION ANOMALY JUNE 1–30, 2026

(% of Normal)



THIS PATTERN IS CHARACTERIZED BY:

- ✓ Amplified, meridional jet stream
- ✓ Cut-off lows that move very slowly
- ✓ Moisture feed from the south
- ✓ Repeated storm development
- ✓ Training rainfall and extreme totals

RESULT: Widespread heavy rainfall • Edmonton: 385% of normal June precipitation
Many locations received 50–150+ mm, with some spots over 200 mm

Wildfire Mitigation Program

Key themes

Alberta Wildfire Mitigation Strategy – 2026 Launch



Increase knowledge and understanding

Empowering individuals and communities with knowledge allows them to actively engage in reducing wildfire risks while recognizing the vital role fire plays in maintaining the health of Alberta's ecosystems.



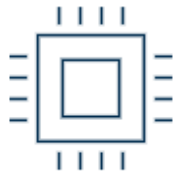
Strengthen Indigenous partnerships

Incorporating Indigenous leadership, cultural practices and traditional knowledge for wildfire mitigation in Alberta allows for appropriate actions to be taken.



Review legislation, policy and governance

Appropriate governance facilitates the effective coordination of efforts among various organizations. Where needed, gaps can be addressed to improve practices across the whole of society.



Pursue enhanced technology and innovation

Continue to assess and adopt advanced technologies and innovative practices that enhance wildfire mitigation. By leveraging enhanced data and tools, we can improve decision-making, strategic planning and the overall effectiveness of mitigation efforts.



Integrate wildfire mitigation in landscape planning

Incorporating wildfire risk and mitigation into land use planning—including forest management plans, regional and sub-regional plans and municipal development plans—will help stakeholders identify high fire-risk areas and plan actions to reduce this risk.



Prioritize hazardous fuels management

Fuel management at the homeowner, community and broader landscape levels can collectively reduce the negative effects of wildfires.

Community Hazardous Fuels Reduction (CHFR) Program

An aerial photograph showing a large wildfire. A massive, billowing plume of white and grey smoke rises from the fire, filling the upper half of the frame. Below the smoke, a dirt road winds through a landscape of green and brown fields. In the distance, a small fire is visible on the right side of the road, with smoke rising from it. The sky is a clear blue.

**Communities within Alberta
face an increasing threat from wildfires.**

The Community Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program is an ambitious and critical program to build wildfire resiliency by protecting homes, communities and critical infrastructure.

CHFR Program Overview



Assessment of
forest within a 5 km
radius of at-risk
communities



Identification of
additional removals
near high-risk
communities



Acceleration of
the current forest
harvest plans on
public lands

An aerial photograph showing a dense green forest on the left and a calm lake on the right. A narrow strip of land with some buildings and a road separates the forest from the lake. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the center.

200 communities in Alberta's Forest Protection Area were assessed to determine the amount of nearby hazardous trees for harvest.

An aerial photograph showing a vast, dense forest of green trees surrounding a large body of water. In the lower-left quadrant, a small settlement or camp is visible, featuring several buildings, a sandy clearing, and a small dock extending into the water. The water is a murky, brownish-green color. A semi-transparent grey rectangular box is overlaid on the upper-left portion of the image, containing the text.

**32 communities were selected for
immediate wildfire risk reduction.**

23 communities were identified as requiring urgent hazardous fuel reduction work, beginning in 2025.

23 communities

Forest Area	Communities
Calgary	Bragg Creek, Waiparous, Tecumseh
Edson	Cadomin, Cynthia, Edson, Grande Cache, Marlboro-Millers Lake, Robb
High Level	Tugate Settlement, Lawrence Lake
Lac La Biche	Calling Lake, Lawrence Lake
Peace River	Woodland Cree (226)-Cadotte Lake
Rocky Mountain House	Big Horn (144A), Burnstick Lake, Lodgepole, O'Chiese-Sunchild
Slave Lake	Fawcett-Lesser Slave River, Mitsue Lake, Trout Lake, Wabasca
Whitecourt	Blue Ridge

9 communities were noted as more complex,
requiring additional planning.

9 communities

Forest Area	Communities
Calgary	Crowsnest Pass**
Edson	Hinton
Fort McMurray	Fort McKay
High Level	Tall Cree (IR 173)
Lac La Biche	Conklin
Peace River	Little Buffalo (Lubicon Lake Band)
Rocky Mountain House	Nordegg
Slave Lake	Sandy Lake
Whitecourt	Swan Hills

*** Crowsnest Pass represents Blairmore and a collection of surrounding communities.*

- These nine communities are considered more complex because they have substantially more hazardous fuels surrounding them.
- These communities may currently have harvesting planned or underway in the five-kilometre zone, but it is insufficient to significantly reduce the hazard.
- An additional process is underway to identify other areas suitable for harvest and to explore other treatment options where traditional harvesting is not possible.

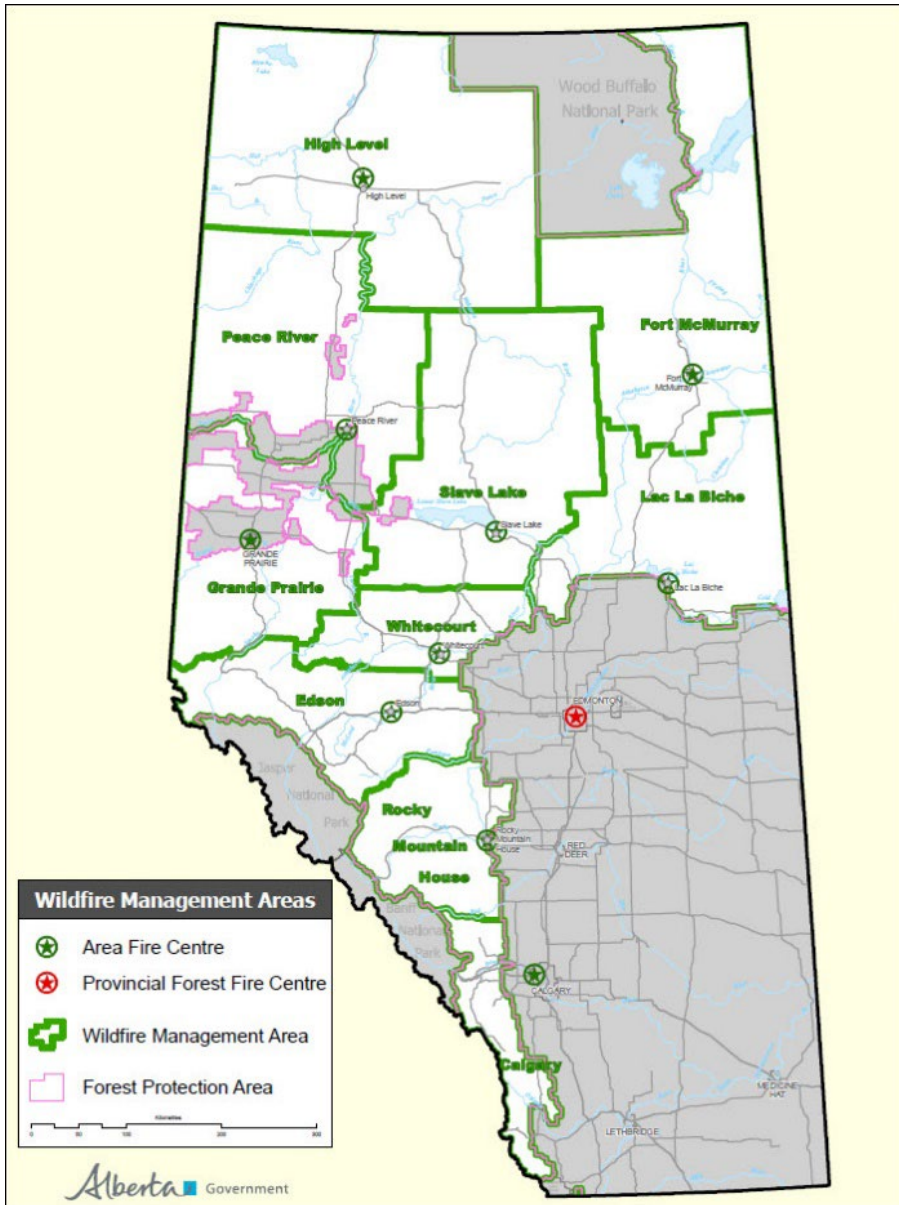
Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta

- FRIAA Fireguard Program: Government of Alberta committed 15 million in 2025/26 for community fireguards – or 34 million since program inception in 2023.
- FRIAA FireSmart Program: 10.8 million in 2025/26
- From 2013 to March 2026, FRIAA has supported 672 projects for 57 million paid out to communities.



Alberta Wildfire Program Enhancement

Alberta's Forest Protection Area



Province

- 662,581 square kilometers

Forest Protection Area

- 392,856 square kilometers

Fire Season

- March 1 to October 31

Alberta Wildfire Protection Priorities

1. Human Life

1. Public, emergency responders

2. Communities and associate infrastructure

1. Concentrated areas for permanently occupied residences

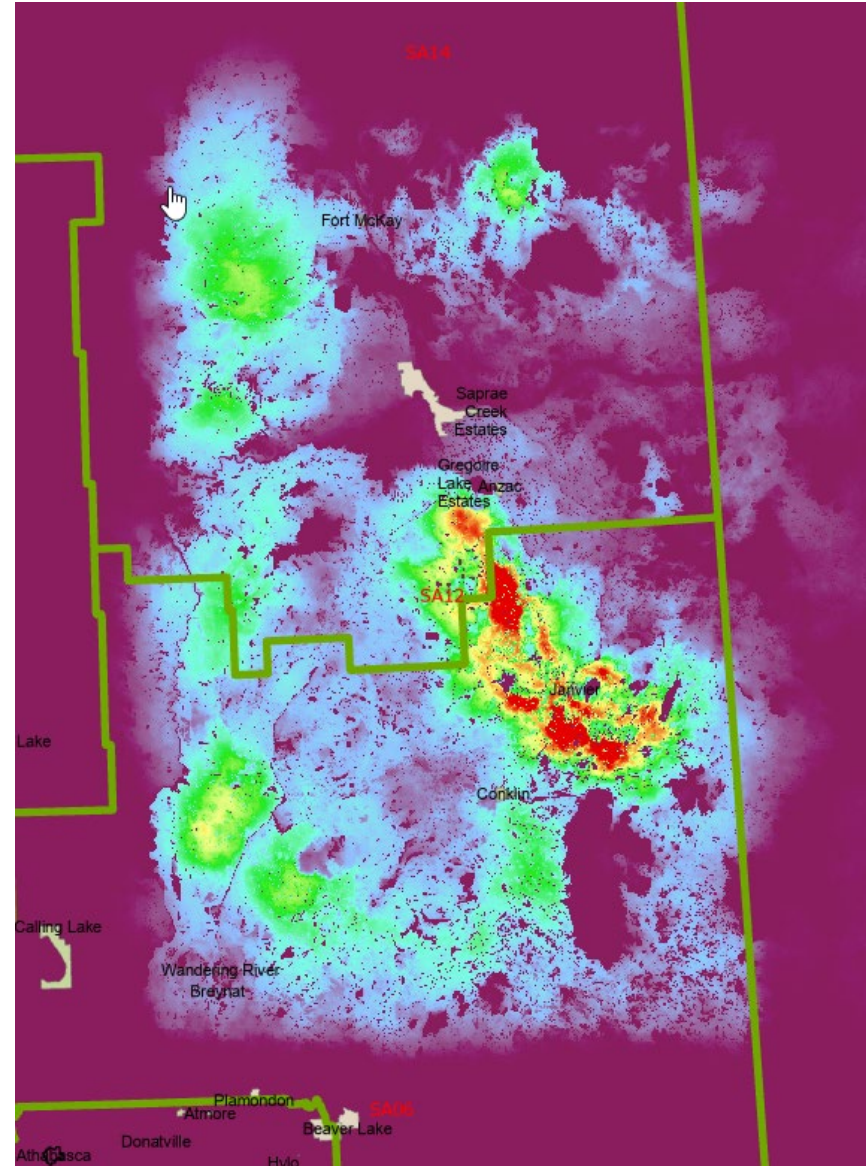
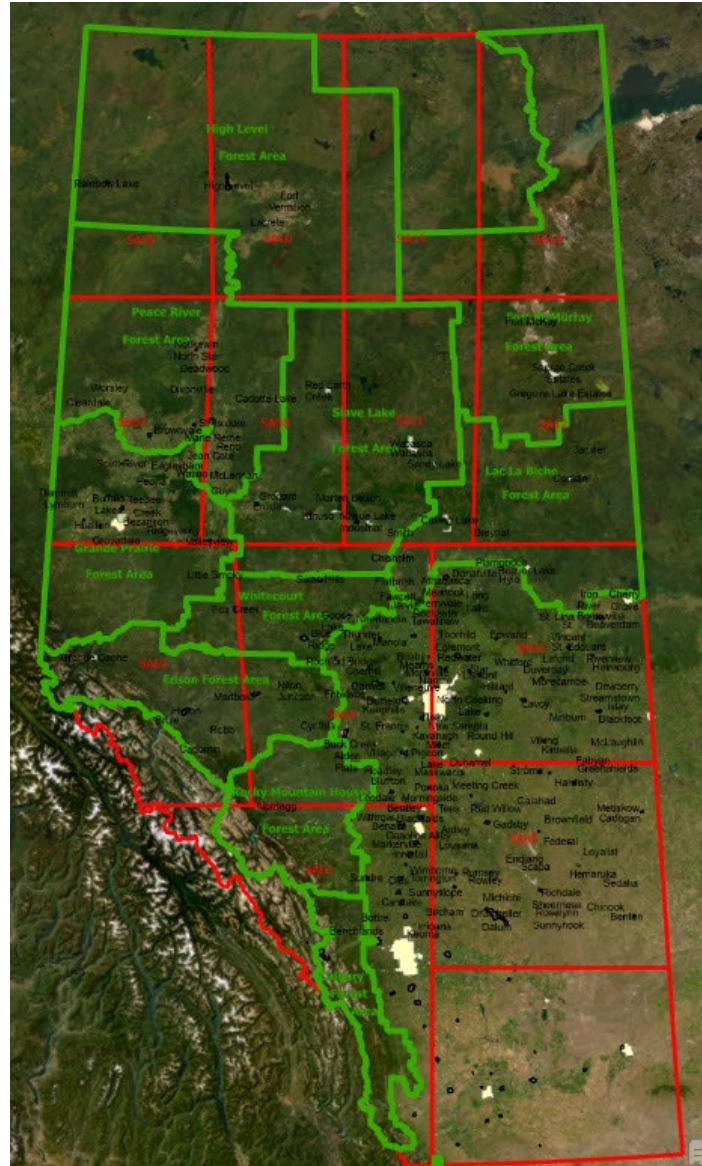
3. Major environmental and economic values

1. Watersheds for drinking water, species at risk

4. Other values

1. Cultural sites, recreation areas, timber, oil and gas infrastructure

Burn Probability Modelling



- Burn P3 Provincial Product expected to be ready for End of July
- Will inform a provincial wildfire risk plan.

Weather – Remote Automatic Weather Stations

RAWS program continues to advance:



- 150 stations with 28 additional RAWS from other agencies
- Provincially 500+ approved stations (between all partners)
- Installing all year precip gauges
- Installing two new lightning sensors in southern AB
- Industry partnerships to enhance network

RAWS - B4 in Kananaskis Country



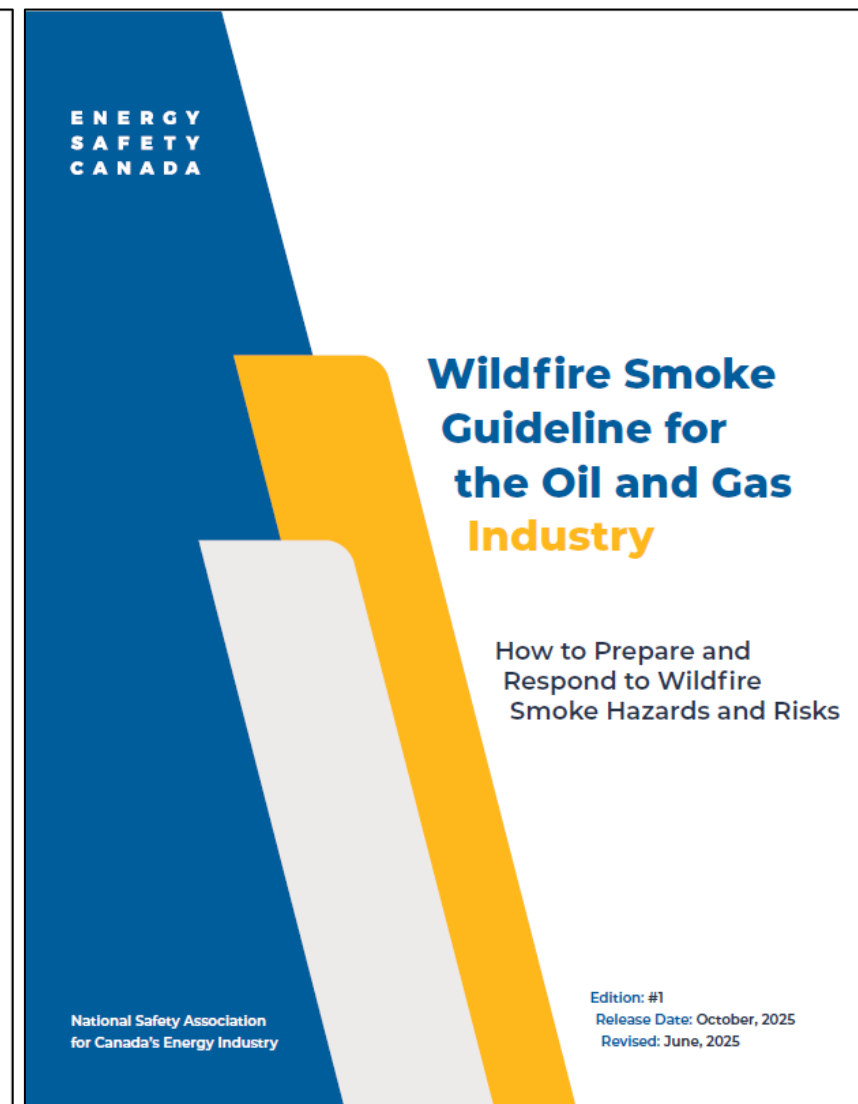
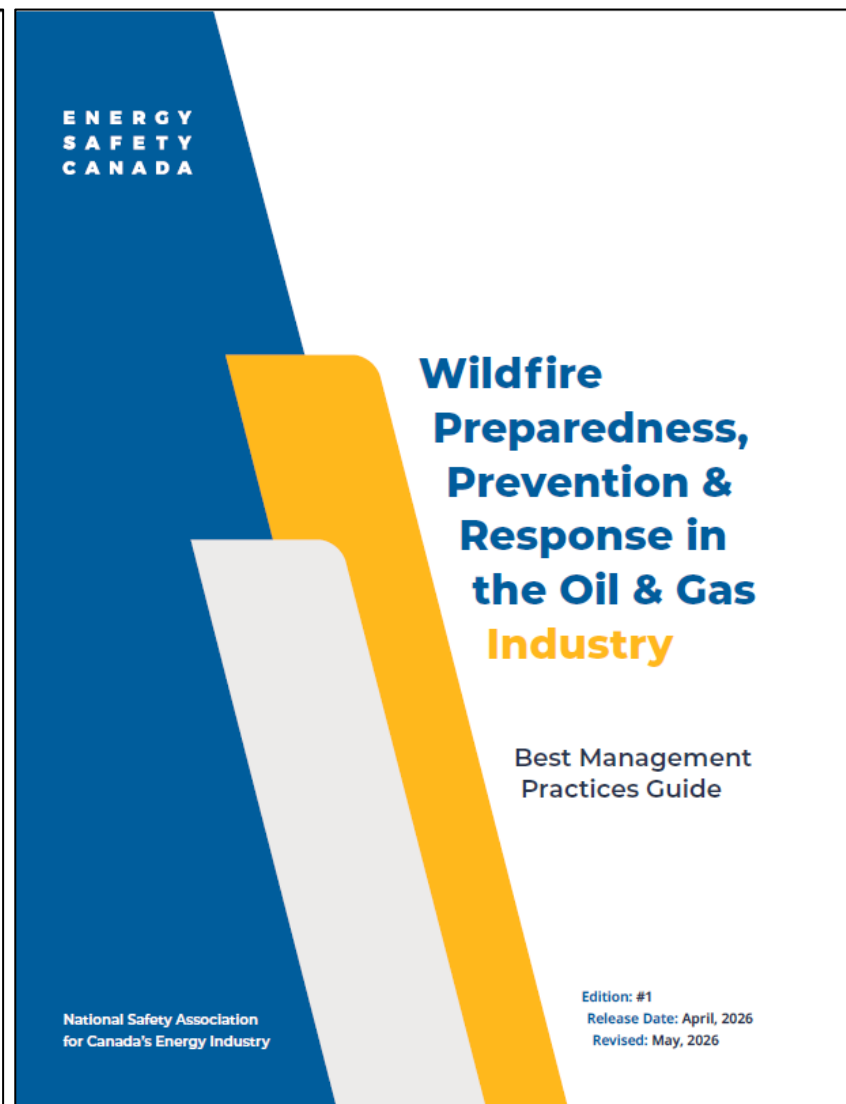
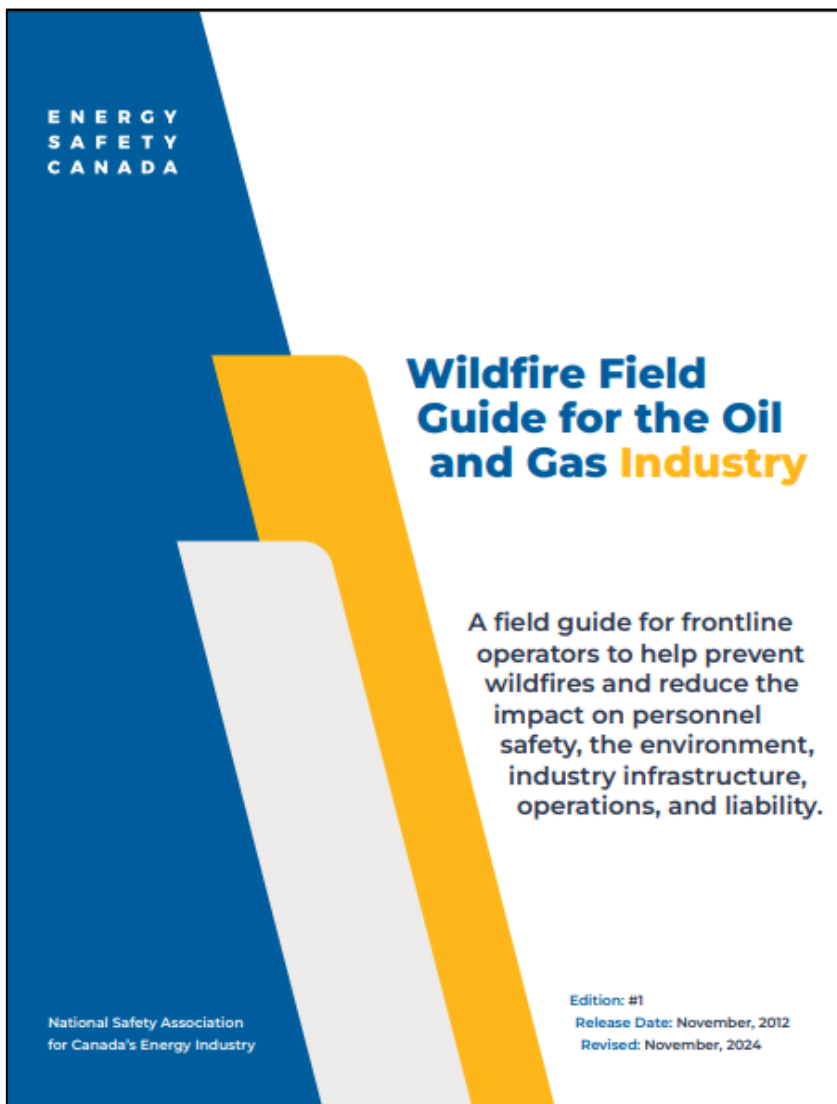
Industry Partnerships to Enhance
Detection Network

Canadian Wildland Fire Risk Assessment Framework



- First national framework for assessing wildfire risk in Canada.
- Common approach for governments, Indigenous organizations and land managers.

Energy Safety Canada Wildfire Risk Mitigation Resources



Communication with Alberta Wildfire

- Alberta Wildfire will reach out to industry in advance of a threatening wildfire in priority sequence.
- Each Forest Area or Incident Management team will have an Industry Liaison or Information Officer that will be the point of contact for Industry.
- Forest Areas maintain their own email distribution lists.
- Non-Emergency Firesmart Inquires – Wildfire Prevention Officer

Alberta Industry Liaison Contact Information

Forest Area	Industry Liaison
Calgary	Josh Hoddinott (403) 863 8184 wf.industry-clgy.i@gov.ab.ca
Rocky Mountain House -- needs to be confirmed	Wayne Heikkinen Allanah Mclean (403) 846 5077 (403) 418 5023 wf.industry-rky@gov.ab.ca
Peace River	Tannis McNabb (780) 617 4851 tannis.mcnabb@gov.ab.ca
Lac La Biche	David Lind Vic Toutant (780) 276 0410 (780) 404 3651 wf.industl-llb@gov.ab.ca
Grande Prairie	Kevin Timanson (587) 343-1035 wf.IL-grpr.i@gov.ab.ca
Fort McMurray	Mike Gadde Wayne Heikkinen (403) 880 9296 (403) 846 5077 wf.il-ftmc@gov.ab.ca
Edson	Marc Carbonneau Caroline Charbonneau (780) 233-1600 (780) 740 1341 wf.indliaison-edsn@gov.ab.ca
Whitecourt	Kent McDonald (780) 268 3716 wf.industryliaison-wct@gov.ab.ca kent.mcdonald@gov.ab.ca
Slave Lake	Trevor Pratt (780) 805-4607 wf.industryliason-slvk@gov.ab.ca
High Level	Melissa Bulldog (780) 841 9571 melissa.bulldog@gov.ab.ca

Alberta Wildfire Contact Information

Alberta Wildfire Forest Area Duty Officer or Industry Liaison	Forest Area Wildfire Prevention Officer
Calgary: (403) 297-8822	Calgary: (403) 297-8800
Edson: (780) 723-8361	Edson: (780) 723-8527
Fort McMurray: (780) 743-7218	Fort McMurray: (780) 743-7125
Grande Prairie: (780) 538-8093	Grande Prairie: (780) 538-5560
High Level: (780) 926-5405	High Level: (780) 926-3761
Lac La Biche: (780) 623-5245	Lac La Biche: (780) 623-5388
Peace River: (780) 624-6191	Peace River: (780) 624-6190
Rocky Mtn House: (403) 845-8243	Rocky Mtn House: (403) 845-8272
Slave Lake: (780) 849-7429	Slave Lake: (780) 849-7431
Whitecourt: (780) 778-7265	Whitecourt: (780) 778-7153
Wildfire Status Updates	https://www.alberta.ca/wildfire-status
Wildfire Data	https://www.alberta.ca/wildfire-maps-and-data
Industry FireSmart Information	https://www.alberta.ca/firesmart#jumplinks-1
Alberta Fire Weather Forecast	https://www.alberta.ca/fire-weather-forecasts-and-observations
Alberta Climate Information Service	www.agriculture.alberta.ca/acis

To Report a Wildfire in the Alberta call 310-FIRE or 911 - AlbertaFirebans.ca

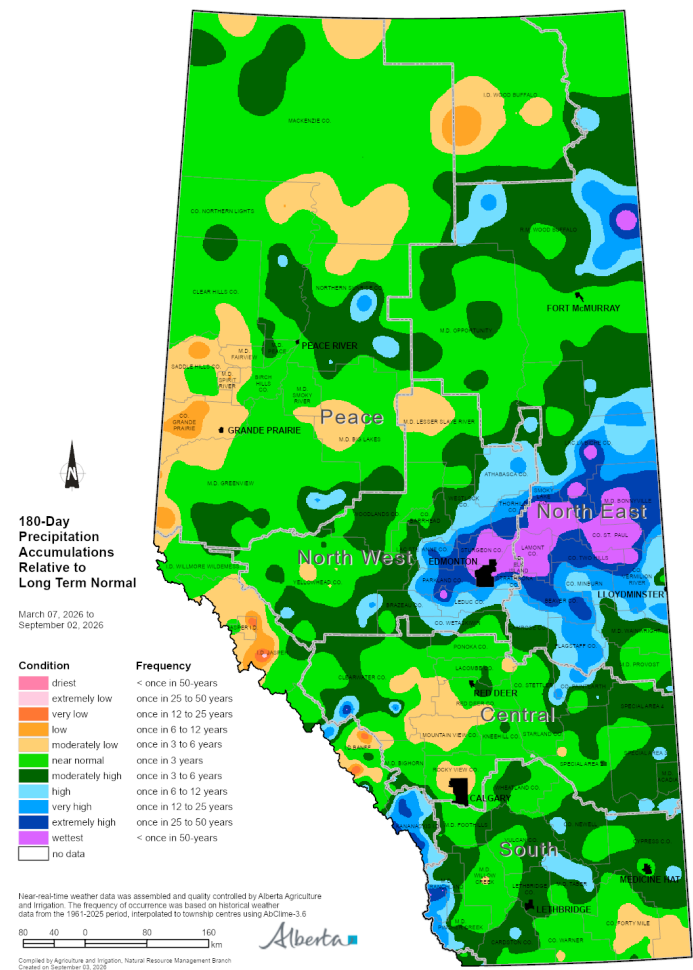


Current Wildfire Conditions and Trends

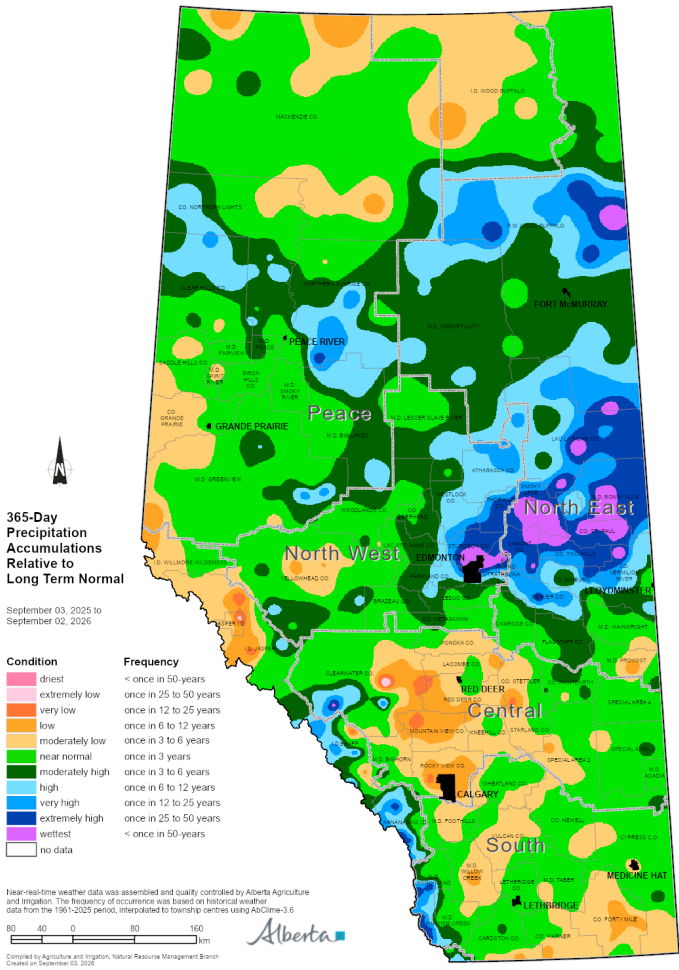
Precipitation Accumulation Relative to Long Term Normal – Sept 2, 2026)

180 Day

365 Day



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Condition

- driest
- extremely low
- very low
- low
- moderately low
- near normal
- moderately high
- high
- very high
- extremely high
- wettest
- no data

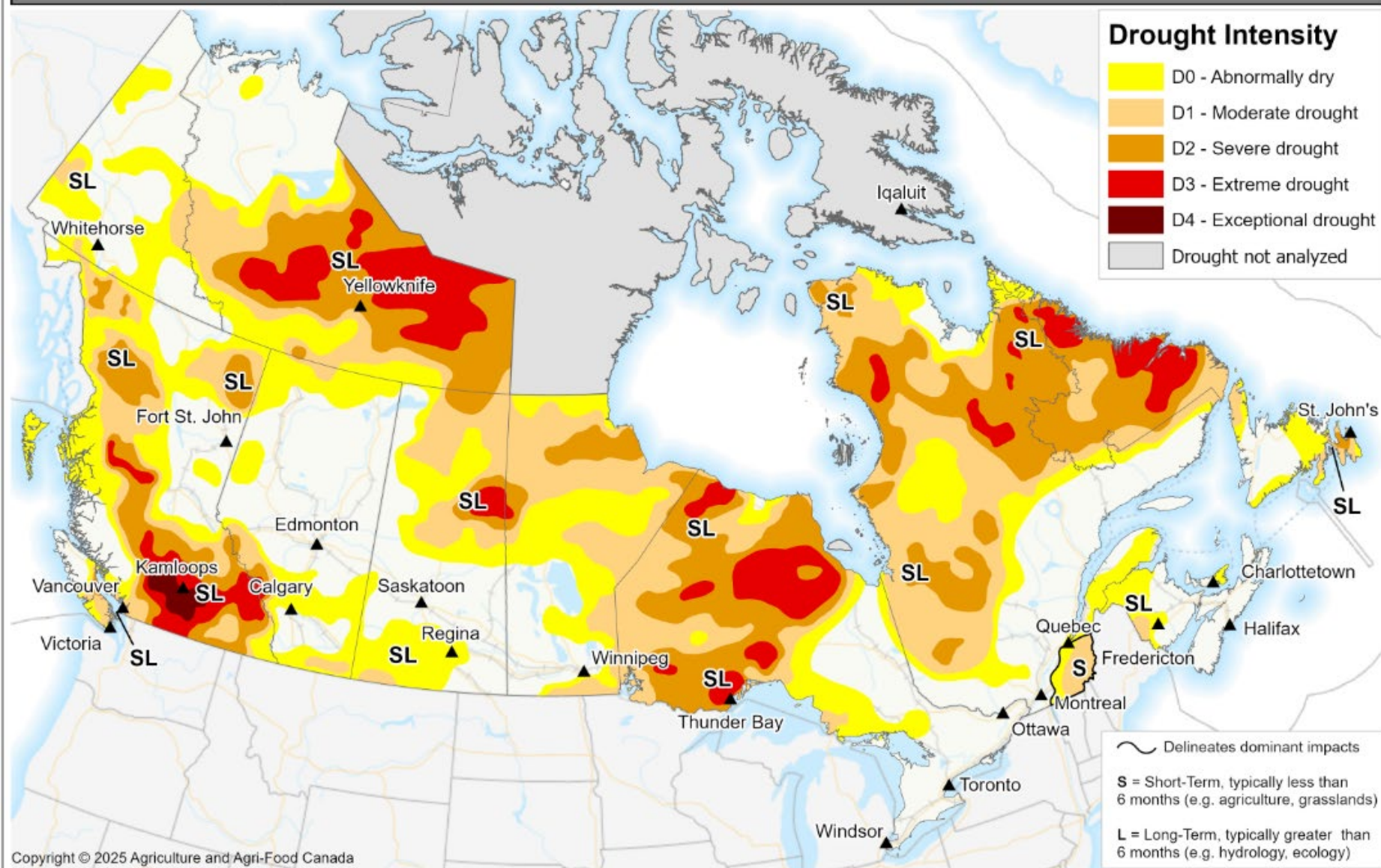
Frequency

- < once in 50-years
- once in 25 to 50 years
- once in 12 to 25 years
- once in 6 to 12 years
- once in 3 to 6 years
- once in 3 years
- once in 3 to 6 years
- once in 6 to 12 years
- once in 12 to 25 years
- once in 25 to 50 years
- < once in 50-years



Canadian Drought Monitor

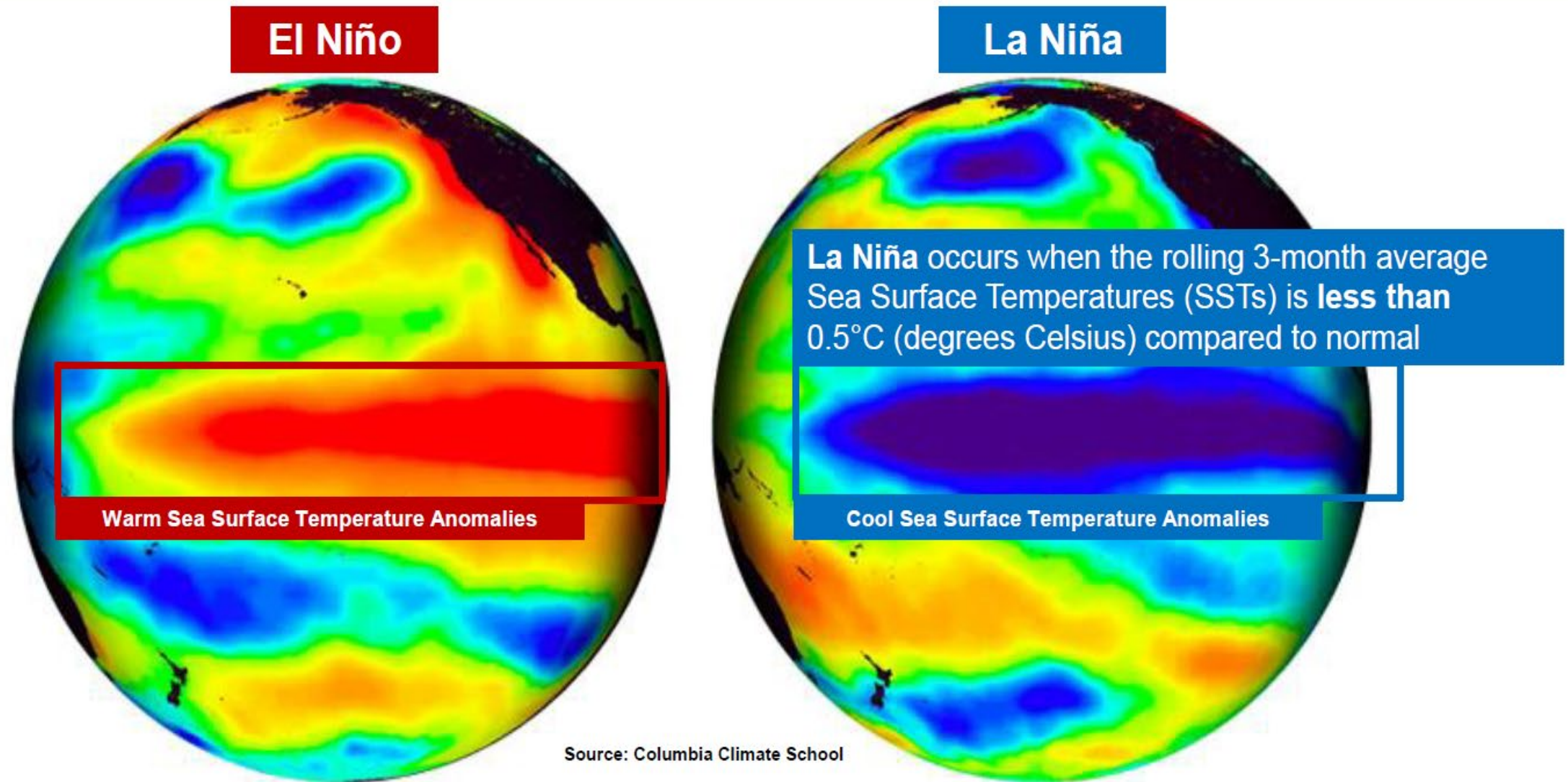
Conditions as of August 31, 2026



Prepared by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's National Agroclimate Information Service. We also acknowledge various provincial, territorial and non-government organizations whose reports and assessments are consulted. The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Regions in northern Canada may not be as accurate as other regions due to limited information.

Created: 9/4/2026
www.agr.gc.ca/drought

El Niño & La Niña: When and How?



Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (°C)

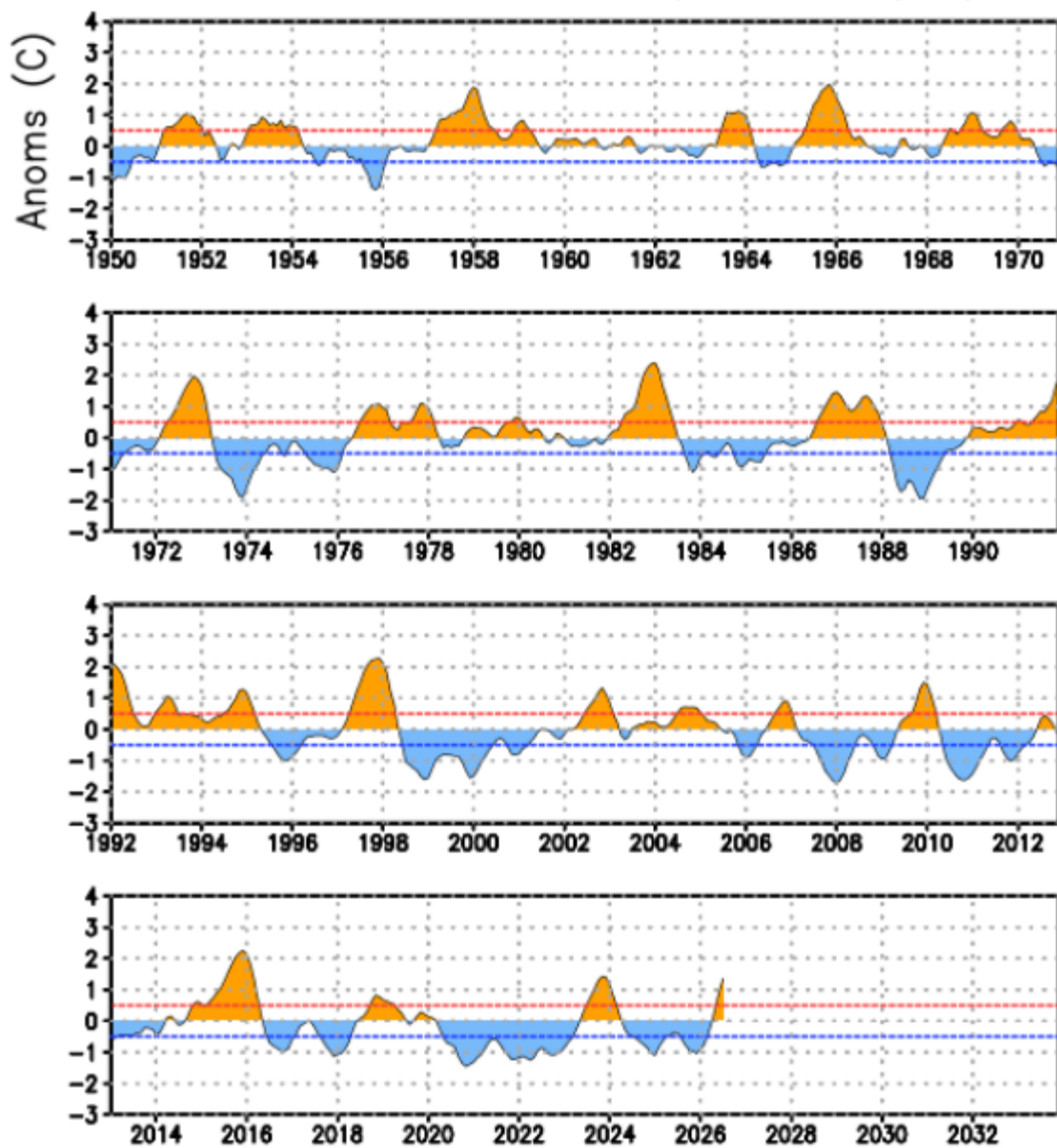


-4 -2 0 2 4
Periodic fluctuation between the two phases usually occurs every 2-7 years

Credit A. Pederson ECCC

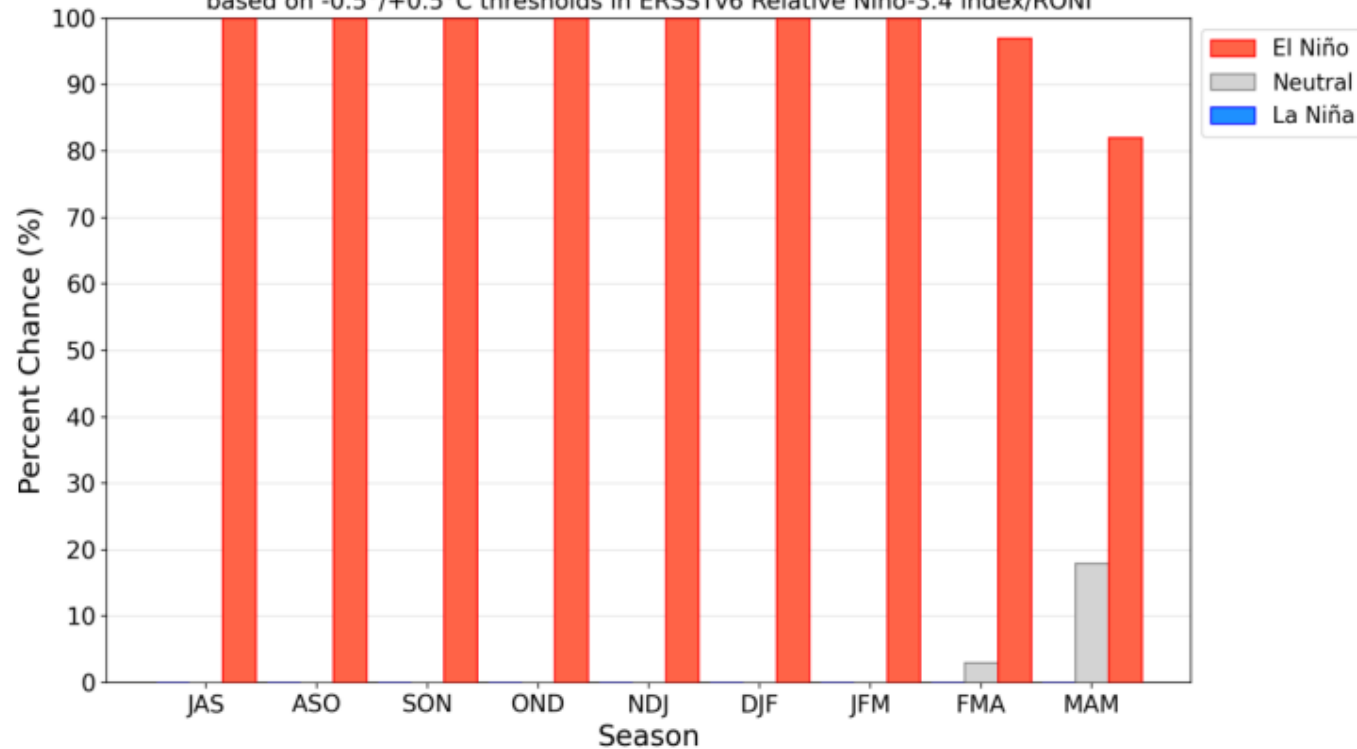
Relative Oceanic Nino Index (ERSST.v6 RONI)

3mrm Relative Nino 3.4 SST Anomalies (1991–2020 base period)



Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued August 2026)

based on $-0.5^{\circ}/+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ thresholds in ERSSTv6 Relative Niño-3.4 index/RONI

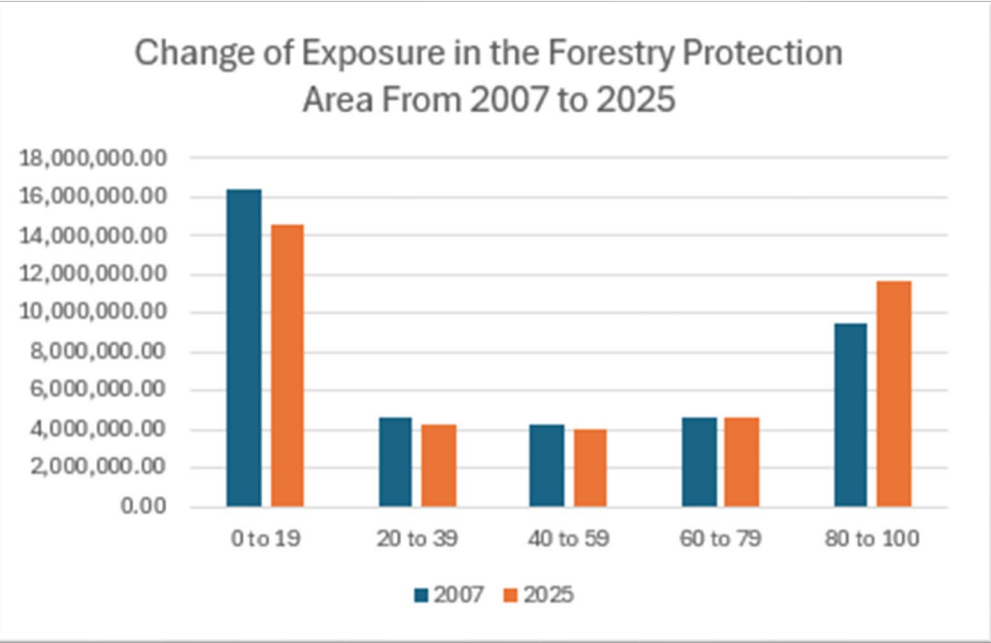


El Niño

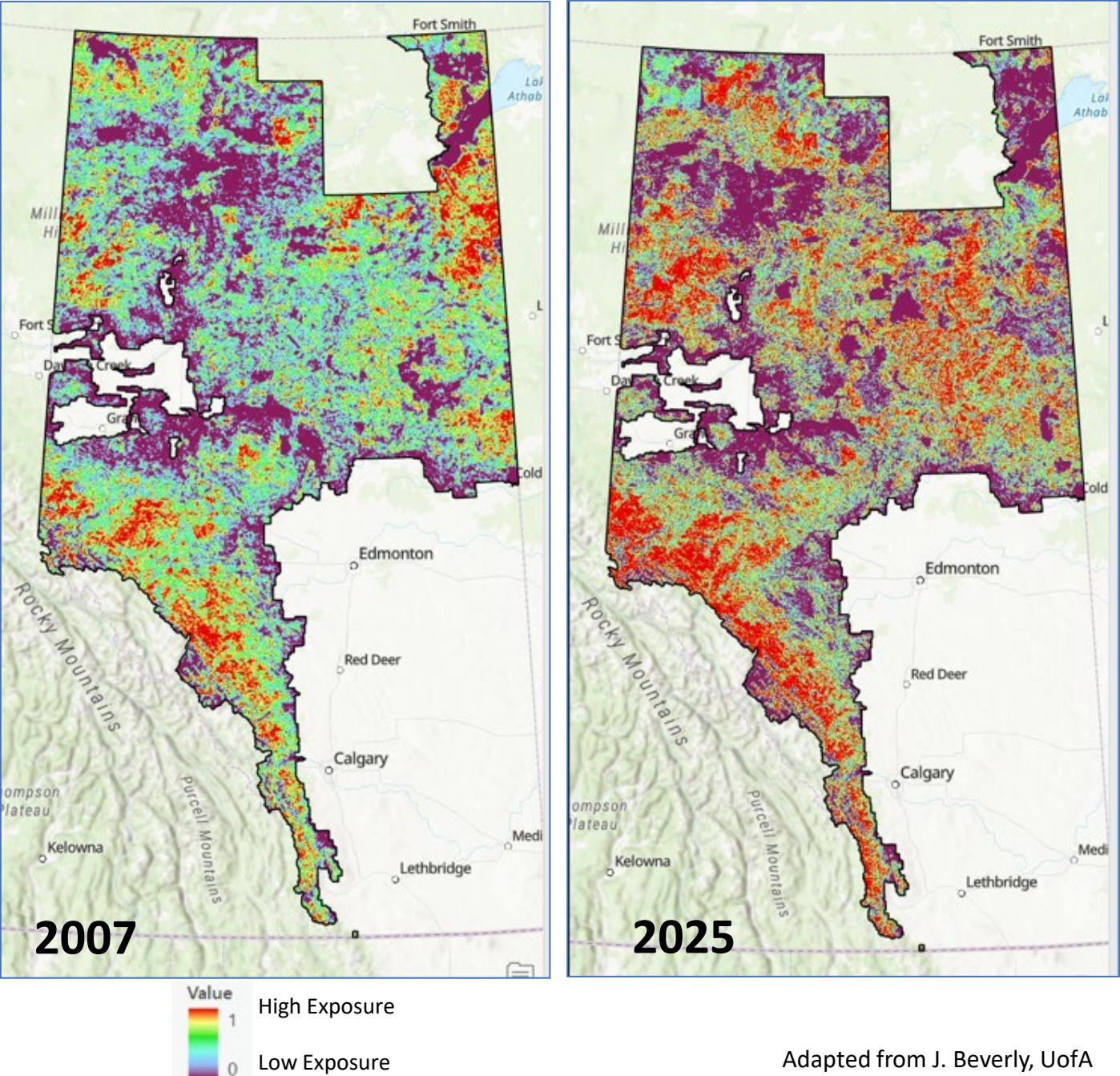
Neutral

La Niña

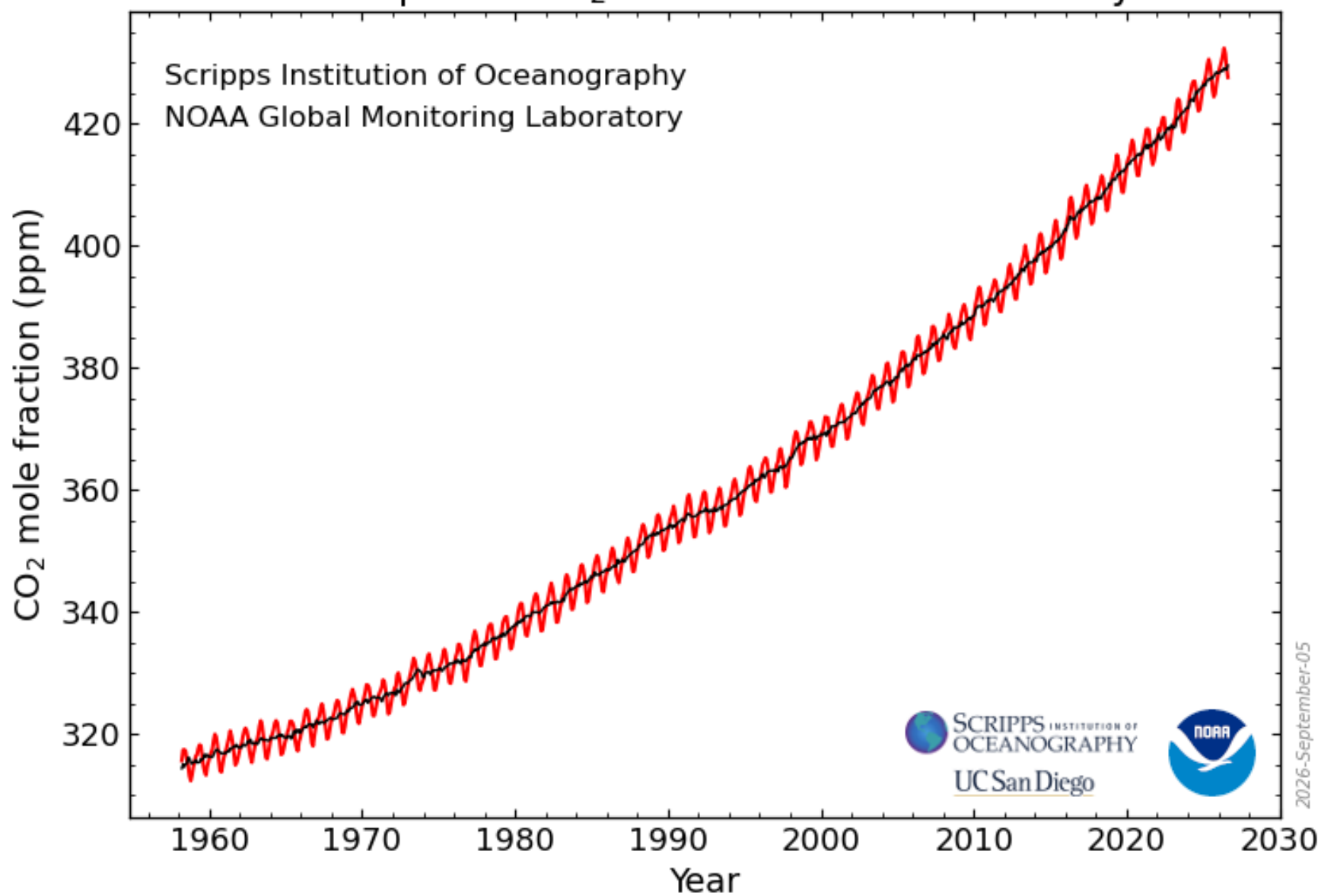
Landscape Exposure in Alberta is Increasing Over Time



Between 2007 and 2025
Landscape exposure increased
by 24%



Atmospheric CO₂ at Mauna Loa Observatory

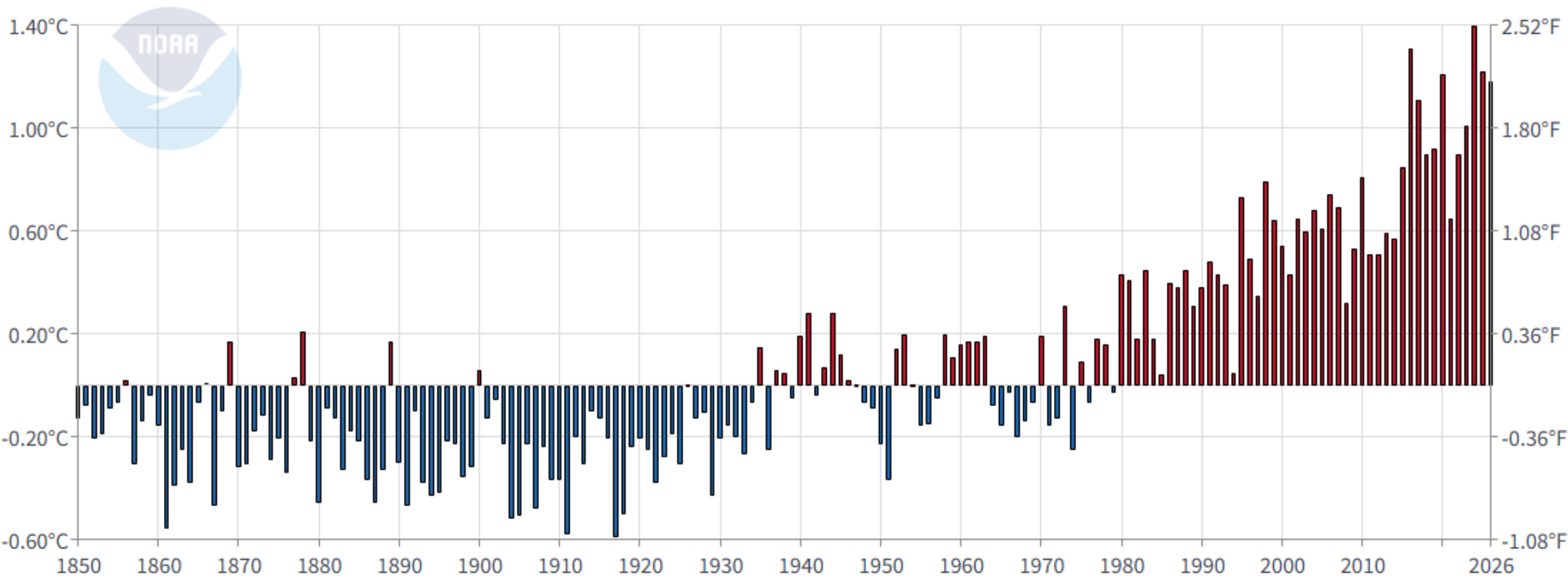


1850-2026

2026 was the 5th warmest February on record. 47th consecutive February with above-average temperatures.

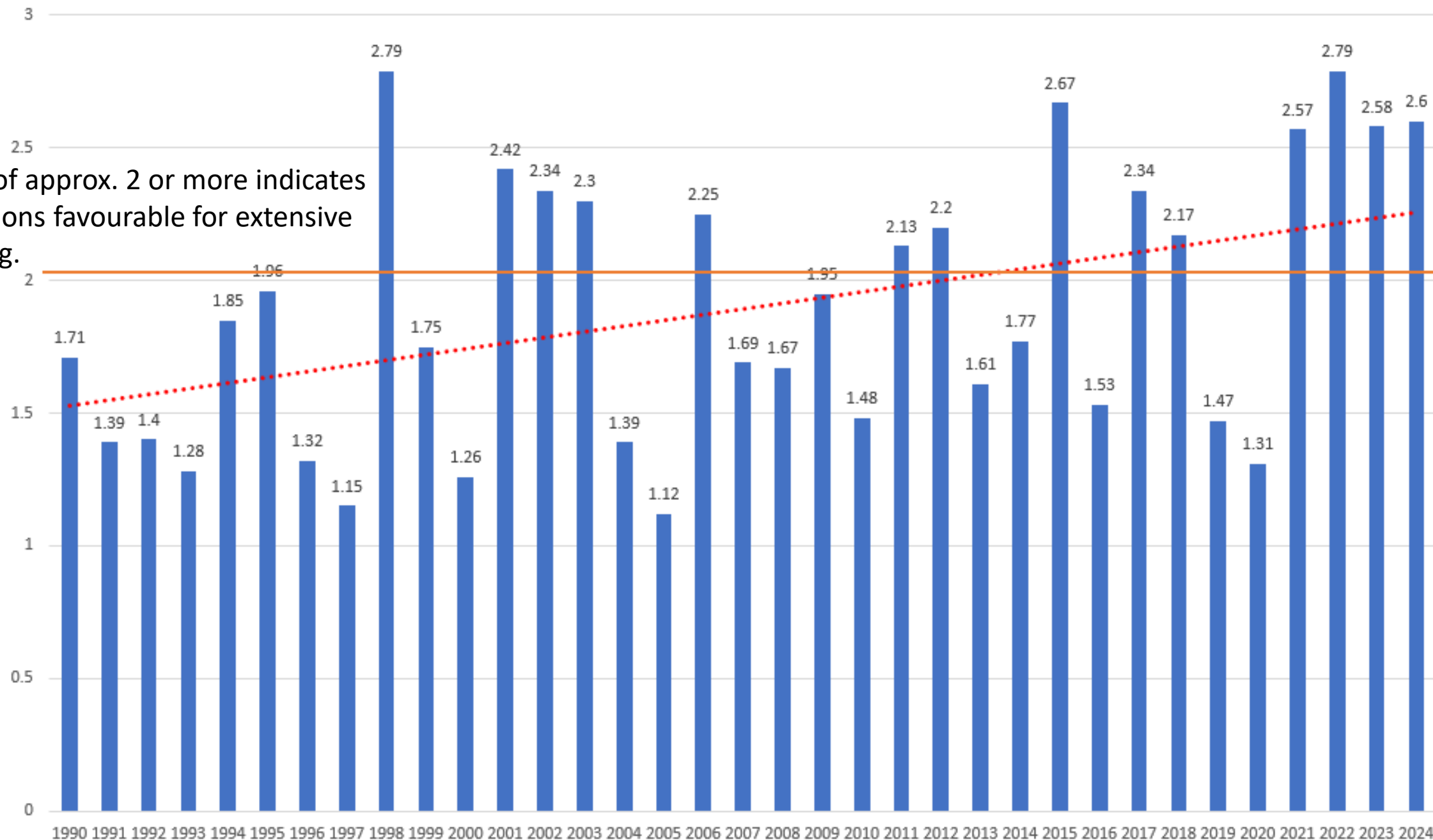
Global Land and Ocean Average Temperature Anomalies

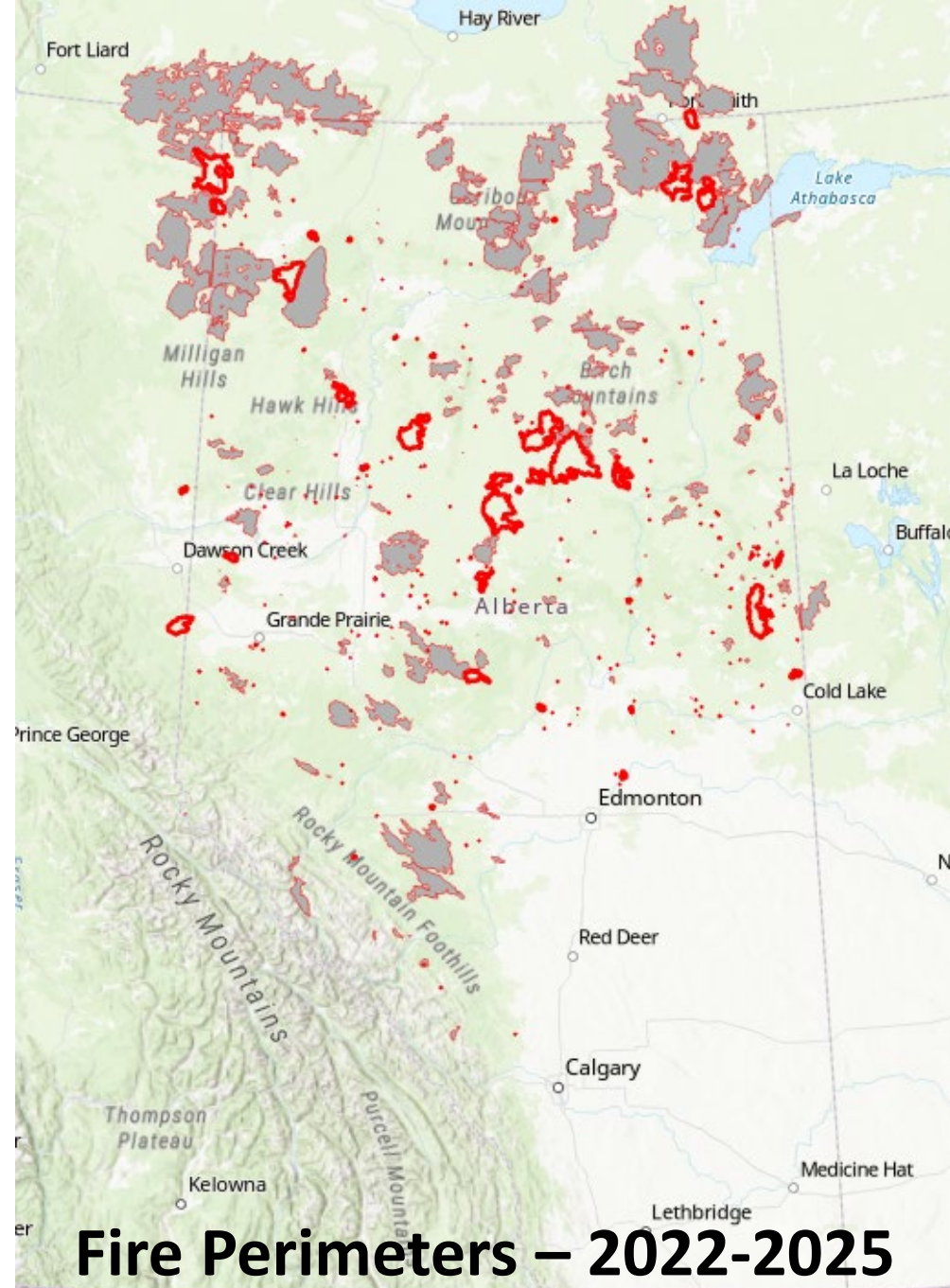
February



Seasonal Severity Rating for Alberta's Forest Protection Area (1990-2024)

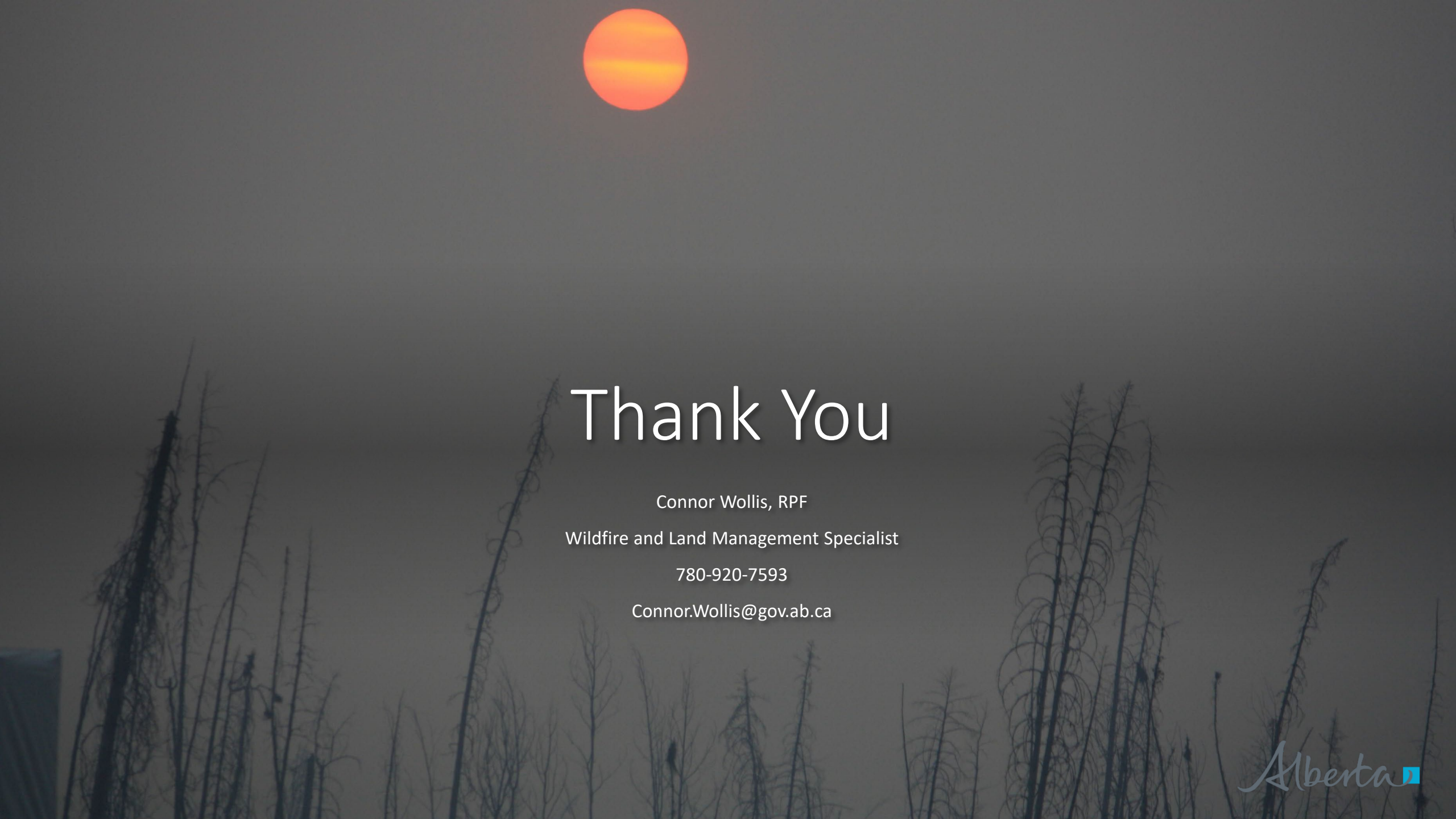
Value of approx. 2 or more indicates conditions favourable for extensive burning.





Fire Perimeters – 2022-2025

Approximately 4M Hectares Burned



Thank You

Connor Wollis, RPF

Wildfire and Land Management Specialist

780-920-7593

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