

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND ASSESSING WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT AGENCY READINESS FOR WILDFIRESAT

Colin B. McFayden¹, Matthew Coyle², Emily S. Hope¹; Den Boychuk³; Lynn M. Johnston¹;
Ashlin Richardson⁴; Meghan Sloane¹; Alan S. Cantin¹; Joshua M. Johnston¹ and Timothy J.
Lynham¹

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¹Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, Great Lakes Forestry Centre, Sault Ste.
Marie, ON, Canada

²Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Natural Resources,
Forest Management Division, Fort Smith, NT, Canada

³Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency
Services, Sault Ste Marie, ON, Canada

⁴British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Wildfire Service, Victoria, BC, Canada

ABSTRACT

Responding to the many challenges wildland fire managers face, the Government of Canada is designing and launching a new wildfire monitoring satellite system, WildFireSat. WildFireSat is the only public satellite monitoring system ever created to respond directly to the needs of, and in conjunction with, front line fire managers in Canada (Johnston et al., 2020). The data products from WildFireSat are anticipated to be transformational for operational situational awareness and decision-making. WildFireSat will provide unprecedented, daily, near real-time strategic intelligence on all active wildfires across the country. The resulting intelligence products will be timed to provide agencies with the information needed to make critical decisions at key points during the planning process. Experience tells us that solely having new information available does not mean there will be uptake (McFayden et al., 2022). Preparing ahead of launch will allow fire management agencies to better position themselves to benefit from WildFireSat. In this presentation we discuss (1) knowledge exchange in fire management (2) an assessment of the readiness of Canadian fire management agencies to integrate WildFireSat and (3) guidance for reducing readiness gaps. This will be a joint presentation with presenters from the WildFireSat mission team and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Keywords— satellite, wildfire, forest fire, fire management, smoke forecasting, air quality, situational awareness, suppression, fire intelligence.

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