

# A Statistical Critique of Wildfire Reporting in Canadian Media

## Reproducible Analysis Code

Hanniel Kouame

2025-10-20

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Setup and Dependencies</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Load Required Packages . . . . .	2
2.2	Session Information . . . . .	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Data Preparation</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1	Instructions for Data Acquisition . . . . .	4
3.2	1. Canadian National Fire Database (CNFDB) . . . . .	4
3.2.1	Data Cleaning Function . . . . .	4
3.2.2	Process CNFDB Files . . . . .	6
3.2.3	Load Cleaned CNFDB Data . . . . .	6
3.2.4	Missing Data Analysis . . . . .	9
3.2.5	Reclassify Fire Causes (6 -> 3 Categories) . . . . .	11
3.2.6	Aggregate to National Level . . . . .	12
3.3	2. Berkeley Earth Temperature Data . . . . .	14
3.4	3. Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS) . . . . .	15
<b>4</b>	<b>Analysis: Denley's Article</b>	<b>19</b>
4.1	Research Question 1: Has wildfire frequency trended down since 1990? . . . . .	19
4.2	Research Question 2: Has total area burned trended down since 1990? . . . . .	21
4.3	Research Question 3: Do temperature and wildfire trends move in opposite directions? . . . . .	25
<b>5</b>	<b>Analysis: Sankey's Article</b>	<b>28</b>
5.1	Research Question 1: What proportion of Canadian wildfires are human-caused vs. natural? . . . . .	28
5.2	Research Question 2: Area Burned by Fire Cause . . . . .	34

<b>6</b>	<b>Analysis: Lomborg’s Article</b>	<b>41</b>
6.1	Research Question 1: 2023 vs 10-Year Baseline . . . . .	41
6.2	Research Question 4: Global Long-Term Trend . . . . .	48
<b>7</b>	<b>Final Summary</b>	<b>58</b>
7.1	Comprehensive Summary of All Tests . . . . .	58
<b>8</b>	<b>Session Information</b>	<b>63</b>

# 1 Introduction

This document contains all code necessary to reproduce the statistical analysis presented in “A Statistical Critique of Wildfire Reporting in Canadian Media.”

## Research Questions Addressed:

1. **Denley (Ottawa Citizen, 2023):** Have Canadian fire frequency and area burned declined since 1989-1995? Do temperature and fire activity move in opposite directions?
2. **Sankey (National Post, 2023):** Has the proportion of human-caused fires been increasing, potentially explaining recent fire trends independent of climate factors?
3. **Lomborg (National Post, 2024):** Are global fire trends declining when viewed in appropriate temporal context, and are North American increases offset by decreases elsewhere?

# 2 Setup and Dependencies

## 2.1 Load Required Packages

```
# Data manipulation
library(tidyverse)
library(readr)
library(lubridate)
library(zoo)

# Statistical analysis
library(Kendall)      # Mann-Kendall tests
library(trend)       # Sen's slope
library(FSA)         # Dunn's test
library(lmtest)      # Durbin-Watson test
library(car)         # Levene's test
library(broom)       # Tidy model outputs

# Visualization
library(ggplot2)
library(ggpubr)      # Publication plots with stats
library(scales)
library(patchwork)
```

```

# Create directories for outputs if they don't exist
# These will be created in your current working directory
dir.create("results", showWarnings = FALSE, recursive = TRUE)
dir.create("figures", showWarnings = FALSE, recursive = TRUE)
dir.create("figures/hypothesis_tests", showWarnings = FALSE, recursive = TRUE)
dir.create("data_processed", showWarnings = FALSE, recursive = TRUE)

```

## 2.2 Session Information

```
sessionInfo()
```

```

## R version 4.5.1 (2025-06-13 ucrt)
## Platform: x86_64-w64-mingw32/x64
## Running under: Windows 11 x64 (build 26100)
##
## Matrix products: default
##   LAPACK version 3.12.1
##
## locale:
## [1] LC_COLLATE=French_Canada.utf8  LC_CTYPE=French_Canada.utf8
## [3] LC_MONETARY=French_Canada.utf8 LC_NUMERIC=C
## [5] LC_TIME=French_Canada.utf8
##
## time zone: America/Toronto
## tzcode source: internal
##
## attached base packages:
## [1] stats      graphics  grDevices  utils      datasets  methods    base
##
## other attached packages:
## [1] patchwork_1.3.2 scales_1.4.0      ggpubr_0.6.1    broom_1.0.9
## [5] car_3.1-3      carData_3.0-5  lmtest_0.9-40   FSA_0.10.0
## [9] trend_1.1.6    Kendall_2.2.1  zoo_1.8-14      lubridate_1.9.4
## [13] forcats_1.0.0  stringr_1.5.1  dplyr_1.1.4     purrr_1.1.0
## [17] readr_2.1.5    tidyr_1.3.1    tibble_3.3.0    ggplot2_4.0.0
## [21] tidyverse_2.0.0
##
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
## [1] generics_0.1.4  rstatix_0.7.2  stringi_1.8.7   lattice_0.22-7
## [5] hms_1.1.3       digest_0.6.37  magrittr_2.0.3  evaluate_1.0.5
## [9] grid_4.5.1      timechange_0.3.0 RColorBrewer_1.1-3 fastmap_1.2.0
## [13] backports_1.5.0 Formula_1.2-5  tinytex_0.57     extraDistr_1.10.0
## [17] abind_1.4-8     cli_3.6.5      rlang_1.1.6     withr_3.0.2
## [21] yaml_2.3.10     tools_4.5.1    tzdb_0.5.0      ggsignif_0.6.4
## [25] boot_1.3-31     vctrs_0.6.5    R6_2.6.1         lifecycle_1.0.4
## [29] pkgconfig_2.0.3 pillar_1.11.0  gtable_0.3.6     glue_1.8.0
## [33] Rcpp_1.1.0      xfun_0.52      tidyselect_1.2.1 rstudioapi_0.17.1
## [37] knitr_1.50      farver_2.1.2   htmltools_0.5.8.1 rmarkdown_2.29
## [41] compiler_4.5.1  S7_0.2.0

```

## 3 Data Preparation

### 3.1 Instructions for Data Acquisition

Before running this code, you need to download the following datasets:

#### 1. Canadian National Fire Database (CNFDB)

- Source: <http://nfdp.ccfm.org/en/data/fires.php>
- Files needed:
  - CNFDB\_area\_by\_cause.csv
  - CNFDB\_fires\_by\_cause.csv
  - CNFDB\_fires\_by\_size.csv

#### 2. Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature

- Source: <http://berkeleyearth.org/data/>
- File needed: Canada temperature data

#### 3. Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS)

- Source: <https://gwis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/apps/gwis.statistics/seasonaltrend>
- File needed: Global burned area data (2002-2023)

Place all raw data files in a folder named `data/` in your working directory.

### 3.2 1. Canadian National Fire Database (CNFDB)

#### 3.2.1 Data Cleaning Function

```
clean_cnfdb_data <- function(input_file, output_file, value_column_name) {  
  #' Clean and reshape CNFDB wide-format data to long format  
  #'  
  #' @param input_file Path to input CSV file (UTF-16LE encoded)  
  #' @param output_file Path to output CSV file  
  #' @param value_column_name Name for the value column (e.g., 'Area_ha', 'Fire_Count')  
  #' @return A cleaned and reshaped tibble  
  
  # Read the CSV with UTF-16LE encoding  
  df <- read_delim(input_file,  
                   delim = "\t",  
                   locale = locale(encoding = "UTF-16LE"),  
                   show_col_types = FALSE)  
  
  # Remove BOM and clean column names  
  colnames(df) <- str_replace_all(colnames(df), "^\\uFEFF", "")  
  colnames(df) <- str_trim(colnames(df))  
  
  # The first row contains the actual column names  
  new_columns <- as.character(df[1, ])  
  df <- df[-1, ]  
  
  # Set proper column names
```

```

colnames(df) <- new_columns

# Identify ID columns (first 3) and year columns (rest)
id_columns <- colnames(df)[1:3]
year_columns <- colnames(df)[4:ncol(df)]

# Clean ID columns - trim whitespace
df <- df %>%
  mutate(across(all_of(id_columns), str_trim))

# Reshape from wide to long format
df_long <- df %>%
  pivot_longer(
    cols = all_of(year_columns),
    names_to = "Year",
    values_to = value_column_name
  )

# Clean the Year column - convert to integer
df_long <- df_long %>%
  mutate(Year = as.integer(Year))

# Clean the value column - remove commas and convert to numeric
df_long <- df_long %>%
  mutate(!sym(value_column_name) := as.numeric(str_replace_all(.data[[value_column_name]], ",", "")))

# Remove rows where Year is NA
df_long <- df_long %>%
  filter(!is.na(Year))

# Sort by Jurisdiction, Year, and the second ID column
df_long <- df_long %>%
  arrange(!sym(id_columns[1]), Year, !sym(id_columns[2]))

# Save to CSV
write_csv(df_long, output_file)

# Print summary
cat(sprintf(" Processed %s\n", input_file))
cat(sprintf(" - Original shape: %d rows × %d columns\n", nrow(df), ncol(df)))
cat(sprintf(" - Reshaped to: %d rows × %d columns\n", nrow(df_long), ncol(df_long)))
cat(sprintf(" - Saved to: %s\n", output_file))
cat(sprintf(" - Years range: %d to %d\n", min(df_long$Year, na.rm = TRUE), max(df_long$Year, na.rm = TRUE)))

return(df_long)
}

cat(paste0(rep("=", 60), collapse = ""), "\n")

```

```
## =====
```

```
cat("CNFDB Data Cleaning and Reshaping\n")
```

```
## CNFDB Data Cleaning and Reshaping
```

```
cat(paste0(rep("=", 60), collapse = ""), "\n\n")
```

```
## =====
```

### 3.2.2 Process CNFDB Files

```
# NOTE: Set eval=TRUE after you've placed the data files in a data/ folder
```

```
# Process the three CNFDB datasets
```

```
# 1. Area by Cause
```

```
df_area <- clean_cnfdb_data(  
  input_file = 'data/CNFDB_area_by_cause.csv',  
  output_file = 'data_processed/CNFDB_area_by_cause_clean.csv',  
  value_column_name = 'Area_ha'  
)
```

```
# 2. Fires by Cause
```

```
df_fires_cause <- clean_cnfdb_data(  
  input_file = 'data/CNFDB_fires_by_cause.csv',  
  output_file = 'data_processed/CNFDB_fires_by_cause_clean.csv',  
  value_column_name = 'Fire_Count'  
)
```

```
# 3. Fires by Size
```

```
df_fires_size <- clean_cnfdb_data(  
  input_file = 'data/CNFDB_fires_by_size.csv',  
  output_file = 'data_processed/CNFDB_fires_by_size_clean.csv',  
  value_column_name = 'Fire_Count'  
)
```

### 3.2.3 Load Cleaned CNFDB Data

```
# Load the cleaned datasets
```

```
# If you haven't run the cleaning step, you'll need to do so first
```

```
df_area <- read_csv('data_processed/CNFDB_area_by_cause_clean.csv', show_col_types = FALSE)  
df_fires_cause <- read_csv('data_processed/CNFDB_fires_by_cause_clean.csv', show_col_types = FALSE)  
df_fires_size <- read_csv('data_processed/CNFDB_fires_by_size_clean.csv', show_col_types = FALSE)
```

```
# Display structure
```

```
cat("Area by Cause Data:\n")
```

```
## Area by Cause Data:
```

```
str(df_area)
```

```
## spc_tbl_ [2,380 x 5] (S3: spec_tbl_df/tbl_df/tbl/data.frame)
## $ Jurisdiction : chr [1:2380] "Alberta" "Alberta" "Alberta" "Alberta" ...
## $ Cause        : chr [1:2380] "Human activity" "Lightning" "Natural cause" "Prescribed burn" ...
## $ Data Qualifier: chr [1:2380] "a" "a" "a" "a" ...
## $ Year         : num [1:2380] 1990 1990 1990 1990 1990 ...
## $ Area_ha      : num [1:2380] 2394 55483 NA NA NA ...
## - attr(*, "spec")=
## .. cols(
## ..   Jurisdiction = col_character(),
## ..   Cause = col_character(),
## ..   'Data Qualifier' = col_character(),
## ..   Year = col_double(),
## ..   Area_ha = col_double()
## .. )
## - attr(*, "problems")=<externalptr>
```

```
cat("\nFires by Cause Data:\n")
```

```
##
## Fires by Cause Data:
```

```
str(df_fires_cause)
```

```
## spc_tbl_ [2,380 x 5] (S3: spec_tbl_df/tbl_df/tbl/data.frame)
## $ Jurisdiction : chr [1:2380] "Alberta" "Alberta" "Alberta" "Alberta" ...
## $ Cause        : chr [1:2380] "Human activity" "Lightning" "Natural cause" "Prescribed burn" ...
## $ Data Qualifier: chr [1:2380] "a" "a" "a" "a" ...
## $ Year         : num [1:2380] 1990 1990 1990 1990 1990 ...
## $ Fire_Count    : num [1:2380] 379 971 NA NA NA 16 NA 433 484 NA ...
## - attr(*, "spec")=
## .. cols(
## ..   Jurisdiction = col_character(),
## ..   Cause = col_character(),
## ..   'Data Qualifier' = col_character(),
## ..   Year = col_double(),
## ..   Fire_Count = col_double()
## .. )
## - attr(*, "problems")=<externalptr>
```

```
cat("\nFires by Size Data:\n")
```

```
##
## Fires by Size Data:
```

```
str(df_fires_size)
```

```
## spc_tbl_ [3,570 x 5] (S3: spec_tbl_df/tbl_df/tbl/data.frame)
## $ Jurisdiction : chr [1:3570] "Alberta" "Alberta" "Alberta" "Alberta" ...
```

```
## $ Fire size class: chr [1:3570] "0.11 - 1.0 ha" "1.1 - 10 ha" "10 000.1 - 100 000 ha" "10.1 - 100 h
## $ Data Qualifier : chr [1:3570] "a" "a" "a" "a" ...
## $ Year           : num [1:3570] 1990 1990 1990 1990 1990 ...
## $ Fire_Count     : num [1:3570] 380 160 3 54 23 3 NA NA 743 273 ...
## - attr(*, "spec")=
## .. cols(
## ..   Jurisdiction = col_character(),
## ..   'Fire size class' = col_character(),
## ..   'Data Qualifier' = col_character(),
## ..   Year = col_double(),
## ..   Fire_Count = col_double()
## .. )
## - attr(*, "problems")=<externalptr>
```

```
cat("=====\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```
cat("DATA QUALIFIER FILTERING\n")
```

```
## DATA QUALIFIER FILTERING
```

```
cat("=====\n\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```
cat("Before filtering:\n")
```

```
## Before filtering:
```

```
cat("  Area records:", nrow(df_area), "\n")
```

```
##   Area records: 2380
```

```
cat("  Fire records:", nrow(df_fires_cause), "\n\n")
```

```
##   Fire records: 2380
```

```
# Check if Data Qualifier column exists
if ("Data_Qualifier" %in% colnames(df_area) | "Data Qualifier" %in% colnames(df_area)) {

  # Standardize column name
  if ("Data Qualifier" %in% colnames(df_area)) {
    df_area <- df_area %>% rename(Data_Qualifier = `Data Qualifier`)
    df_fires_cause <- df_fires_cause %>% rename(Data_Qualifier = `Data Qualifier`)
    df_fires_size <- df_fires_size %>% rename(Data_Qualifier = `Data Qualifier`)
  }

  # Filter: qualifier "a" for 1990-2022, allow "e" for 2023-2024
```



```

df_area <- df_area %>%
  filter(Data_Qualifier == "a" | (Data_Qualifier == "e" & Year >= 2023))

df_fires_cause <- df_fires_cause %>%
  filter(Data_Qualifier == "a" | (Data_Qualifier == "e" & Year >= 2023))

df_fires_size <- df_fires_size %>%
  filter(Data_Qualifier == "a" | (Data_Qualifier == "e" & Year >= 2023))

cat("After filtering:\n")
cat("  Area records:", nrow(df_area), "\n")
cat("  Fire records:", nrow(df_fires_cause), "\n\n")

cat("Filter applied:\n")
cat("  Years 1990-2022: Only qualifier 'a' (actual reported data)\n")
cat("  Years 2023-2024: Qualifier 'a' OR 'e' (agency estimates included)\n\n")

} else {
  cat("WARNING: Data_Qualifier column not found!\n")
  cat("Proceeding without filtering - this may affect results.\n\n")
  cat("If your raw data has a 'Data Qualifier' column, make sure\n")
  cat("the clean_cnfdb_data() function preserves it.\n\n")
}

```

```

## After filtering:
##   Area records: 1951
##   Fire records: 1951
##
## Filter applied:
##   Years 1990-2022: Only qualifier 'a' (actual reported data)
##   Years 2023-2024: Qualifier 'a' OR 'e' (agency estimates included)

```

### 3.2.4 Missing Data Analysis

```
cat("=====\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```
cat("STEP 3: MISSING DATA ANALYSIS\n")
```

```
## STEP 3: MISSING DATA ANALYSIS
```

```
cat("=====\n\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```
cat("METHODOLOGY VERIFICATION #3: Missing Area Values\n")
```

```
## METHODOLOGY VERIFICATION #3: Missing Area Values
```

```

# Calculate missing percentages
missing_area_count <- sum(is.na(df_area$Area_ha))
missing_area_pct <- (missing_area_count / nrow(df_area)) * 100

# Also check for zeros (which may represent missing values treated as 0)
zero_area_count <- sum(df_area$Area_ha == 0, na.rm = TRUE)
zero_area_pct <- (zero_area_count / nrow(df_area)) * 100

cat("Missing data statistics:\n")

## Missing data statistics:

cat(sprintf("  Records with NA area: %s (%.1f%%)\n",
            format(missing_area_count, big.mark = ","),
            missing_area_pct))

##   Records with NA area: 906 (46.4%)

cat(sprintf("  Records with 0 area: %s (%.1f%%)\n",
            format(zero_area_count, big.mark = ","),
            zero_area_pct))

##   Records with 0 area: 0 (0.0%)

cat(sprintf("  Total missing or zero: %.1f%%\n\n",
            missing_area_pct + zero_area_pct))

##   Total missing or zero: 46.4%

cat("METHODOLOGY VERIFICATION #4: Treatment of Missing Values\n")

## METHODOLOGY VERIFICATION #4: Treatment of Missing Values

cat("  Implementation: Using na.rm = TRUE in sum() operations\n")

##   Implementation: Using na.rm = TRUE in sum() operations

cat("          Effect: NA values are ignored, equivalent to treating as 0\n\n")

##          Effect: NA values are ignored, equivalent to treating as 0

# Show example
cat("Example: Total area with NA values\n")

## Example: Total area with NA values

```

```
example_with_na <- df_area %>%
  filter(Year == 2020) %>%
  summarise(
    Total_with_naRM = sum(Area_ha, na.rm = TRUE),
    Total_without_naRM = sum(Area_ha, na.rm = FALSE)
  )
cat("  sum(Area_ha, na.rm = TRUE):", format(example_with_na$Total_with_naRM, big.mark = ","), "ha\n")
```

```
##  sum(Area_ha, na.rm = TRUE): 218,235 ha
```

```
cat("  sum(Area_ha, na.rm = FALSE):",
    ifelse(is.na(example_with_na$Total_without_naRM), "NA (fails if any NA present)",
           format(example_with_na$Total_without_naRM, big.mark = ",")), "\n\n")
```

```
##  sum(Area_ha, na.rm = FALSE): NA (fails if any NA present)
```

```
cat("Missing values will be treated as zeros in all aggregations\n\n")
```

```
## Missing values will be treated as zeros in all aggregations
```

### 3.2.5 Reclassify Fire Causes (6 -> 3 Categories)

```
cat("=====\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```
cat("FIRE CAUSE RECLASSIFICATION\n")
```

```
## FIRE CAUSE RECLASSIFICATION
```

```
cat("=====\n\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```
cat("Original categories in data:\n")
```

```
## Original categories in data:
```

```
print(sort(unique(df_area$Cause)))
```

```
## [1] "Human activity" "Lightning"      "Natural cause"  "Prescribed burn"
## [5] "Reburn"        "Unspecified"
```

```
cat("\n")
```

```

# Reclassify area data
df_area <- df_area %>%
  mutate(Cause_Simplified = case_when(
    Cause %in% c("Human activity", "Prescribed burn") ~ "Human",
    Cause %in% c("Lightning", "Natural cause") ~ "Lightning",
    Cause %in% c("Unspecified", "Reburn") ~ "Unknown",
    TRUE ~ "Other"
  ))

# Reclassify fire count data
df_fires_cause <- df_fires_cause %>%
  mutate(Cause_Simplified = case_when(
    Cause %in% c("Human activity", "Prescribed burn") ~ "Human",
    Cause %in% c("Lightning", "Natural cause") ~ "Lightning",
    Cause %in% c("Unspecified", "Reburn") ~ "Unknown",
    TRUE ~ "Other"
  ))

cat("Reclassification complete:\n")

```

```
## Reclassification complete:
```

```
cat("  Human activity + Prescribed burn → Human\n")
```

```
##   Human activity + Prescribed burn → Human
```

```
cat("  Lightning + Natural cause → Lightning\n")
```

```
##   Lightning + Natural cause → Lightning
```

```
cat("  Unspecified + Reburn → Unknown\n\n")
```

```
##   Unspecified + Reburn → Unknown
```

```
cat("New categories:\n")
```

```
## New categories:
```

```
print(sort(unique(df_area$Cause_Simplified)))
```

```
## [1] "Human"      "Lightning"  "Unknown"
```

```
cat("\n")
```

### 3.2.6 Aggregate to National Level

```

# Aggregate by simplified cause
canada_area <- df_area %>%
  group_by(Year, Cause_Simplified) %>%
  summarise(Area_ha = sum(Area_ha, na.rm = TRUE), .groups = 'drop') %>%
  rename(Cause = Cause_Simplified)

canada_fires_cause <- df_fires_cause %>%
  group_by(Year, Cause_Simplified) %>%
  summarise(Fire_Count = sum(Fire_Count, na.rm = TRUE), .groups = 'drop') %>%
  rename(Cause = Cause_Simplified)

canada_fires_size <- df_fires_size %>%
  rename(Fire_size_class = `Fire size class`) %>%
  group_by(Year, Fire_size_class) %>%
  summarise(Fire_Count = sum(Fire_Count, na.rm = TRUE), .groups = 'drop')

# Total annual fires and area
canada_annual <- df_area %>%
  group_by(Year) %>%
  summarise(Total_Area_ha = sum(Area_ha, na.rm = TRUE), .groups = 'drop') %>%
  left_join(
    df_fires_cause %>%
      group_by(Year) %>%
      summarise(Total_Fires = sum(Fire_Count, na.rm = TRUE), .groups = 'drop'),
    by = "Year"
  )

cat("National aggregates created\n")

```

```
## National aggregates created
```

```
cat("  Years:", min(canada_annual$Year), "-", max(canada_annual$Year), "\n")
```

```
##   Years: 1990 - 2023
```

```
cat("  Causes:", paste(sort(unique(canada_area$Cause)), collapse = ", "), "\n\n")
```

```
##   Causes: Human, Lightning, Unknown
```

```
# Check 2023 data
```

```
cat("2023 Data Distribution by Cause:\n")
```

```
## 2023 Data Distribution by Cause:
```

```

canada_area %>%
  filter(Year == 2023) %>%
  arrange(Cause) %>%
  mutate(Percent = Area_ha / sum(Area_ha) * 100) %>%
  print()

```

```
## # A tibble: 3 x 4
##   Year Cause      Area_ha Percent
##   <dbl> <chr>      <dbl>   <dbl>
## 1  2023 Human         0         0
## 2  2023 Lightning     0         0
## 3  2023 Unknown 17197201    100
```

```
cat("\n")
```

```
# Save processed data
write_csv(canada_area, "data_processed/canada_area_by_cause.csv")
write_csv(canada_fires_cause, "data_processed/canada_fires_by_cause.csv")
write_csv(canada_fires_size, "data_processed/canada_fires_by_size.csv")
write_csv(canada_annual, "data_processed/canada_annual_totals.csv")

cat("National aggregates created and saved.\n")
```

```
## National aggregates created and saved.
```

```
head(canada_annual, 10)
```

```
## # A tibble: 10 x 3
##   Year Total_Area_ha Total_Fires
##   <dbl>      <dbl>      <dbl>
## 1  1990      953323      10010
## 2  1991     1545787      10231
## 3  1992      851826       8994
## 4  1993     1950352       5977
## 5  1994     6161347       9679
## 6  1995     7375359       8445
## 7  1996     1861749       6379
## 8  1997      632748       6090
## 9  1998     4741032      10768
## 10 1999     1717142       7608
```

### 3.3 2. Berkeley Earth Temperature Data

```
# NOTE: Update the file path to match your temperature data file location
# Set eval=TRUE after placing the file in data/

temp_data <- read_csv('data/canada.csv', show_col_types = FALSE, comment = "#")

baseline_temp <- canada_temp %>%
  filter(year >= 1961 & year <= 1990) %>%
  summarize(baseline_mean = mean(temperature_C, na.rm = TRUE)) %>%
  pull(baseline_mean)

# Process temperature data
canada_temp_annual <- canada_temp %>%
  group_by(year) %>%
```

```

summarize(
  Temp_Annual_Mean = mean(temperature_C, na.rm = TRUE),
  Temp_Annual_Min = min(temperature_C, na.rm = TRUE),
  Temp_Annual_Max = max(temperature_C, na.rm = TRUE),
  Temp_Annual_Uncertainty = mean(uncertainty_C, na.rm = TRUE),
  n_months = n(),
  .groups = "drop"
) %>%
mutate(
  Temp_Annual_Anomaly = Temp_Annual_Mean - baseline_temp
) %>%
rename(Year = year)

# 5. Filter to analysis period and simplify columns
temp_canada <- canada_temp_annual %>%
  filter(Year >= 1990, Year <= 2020) %>%
  select(Year, Temp_C = Temp_Annual_Mean, Temp_Anomaly = Temp_Annual_Anomaly)

write_csv(temp_canada, "data_processed/canada_temperature_annual.csv")

# Load processed temperature data
temp_canada <- read_csv("data_processed/canada_temperature_annual.csv", show_col_types = FALSE)

cat("Temperature data loaded:\n")

```

```
## Temperature data loaded:
```

```
head(temp_canada)
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 3
##   Year Temp_C Temp_Anomaly
##   <dbl> <dbl>      <dbl>
## 1  1990  -4.99      -0.154
## 2  1991  -4.38       0.449
## 3  1992  -4.89     -0.0609
## 4  1993  -4.32       0.508
## 5  1994  -4.36       0.471
## 6  1995  -4.30       0.536

```

### 3.4 3. Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS)

```

# NOTE: Update file path as needed
# Set eval=TRUE after placing the file in data/

gwis_data <- read_csv('data/GWIS_global_monthly_burned_area.csv', show_col_types = FALSE)

# Define comprehensive country-to-region mapping
country_regions <- tribble(
  ~pattern, ~region,

```

#### *# North America*

"Canada|United States|USA|Mexico|Greenland|Bermuda|Saint Pierre", "North America",

#### *# Central America & Caribbean*

"Guatemala|Belize|Honduras|El Salvador|Nicaragua|Costa Rica|Panama", "Central America",

"Cuba|Haiti|Dominican Republic|Jamaica|Trinidad|Bahamas|Barbados", "Caribbean",

"Puerto Rico|Guadeloupe|Martinique|Aruba|Cayman|Virgin Islands", "Caribbean",

#### *# South America*

"Brazil|Argentina|Colombia|Peru|Venezuela|Chile|Ecuador|Bolivia", "South America",

"Paraguay|Uruguay|Guyana|Suriname|French Guiana", "South America",

#### *# Europe*

"United Kingdom|UK|France|Germany|Italy|Spain|Portugal|Netherlands", "Europe",

"Belgium|Austria|Switzerland|Sweden|Norway|Denmark|Finland|Iceland", "Europe",

"Poland|Czech|Slovakia|Hungary|Romania|Bulgaria|Greece|Croatia", "Europe",

"Serbia|Bosnia|Albania|North Macedonia|Slovenia|Estonia|Latvia", "Europe",

"Lithuania|Ireland|Luxembourg|Malta|Cyprus|Monaco|Liechtenstein", "Europe",

#### *# Russia & Central Asia*

"Russia|Russian Federation|Kazakhstan|Uzbekistan|Turkmenistan", "Russia & Central Asia",

"Kyrgyzstan|Tajikistan|Mongolia|Armenia|Azerbaijan|Georgia", "Russia & Central Asia",

#### *# Middle East & North Africa*

"Turkey|Iran|Iraq|Saudi Arabia|Yemen|Syria|Jordan|Lebanon|Israel", "Middle East & North Africa",

"Egypt|Libya|Tunisia|Algeria|Morocco|Sudan|United Arab Emirates", "Middle East & North Africa",

"Kuwait|Qatar|Bahrain|Oman|Palestine|Western Sahara", "Middle East & North Africa",

#### *# Sub-Saharan Africa*

"Nigeria|Ethiopia|Kenya|Tanzania|Uganda|Ghana|Mozambique|Madagascar", "Sub-Saharan Africa",

"Cameroon|Niger|Mali|Burkina Faso|Malawi|Zambia|Somalia|Senegal", "Sub-Saharan Africa",

"Chad|Zimbabwe|Guinea|Rwanda|Benin|Burundi|Tunisia|Sierra Leone", "Sub-Saharan Africa",

"Togo|Libya|Liberia|Mauritania|Eritrea|Gambia|Botswana|Namibia", "Sub-Saharan Africa",

"Gabon|Lesotho|Guinea-Bissau|Equatorial Guinea|Mauritius|Eswatini", "Sub-Saharan Africa",

"Djibouti|Comoros|Cape Verde|São Tomé|Seychelles|Angola|Congo", "Sub-Saharan Africa",

"South Africa|Ivory Coast|Côte d'Ivoire", "Sub-Saharan Africa",

#### *# South Asia*

"India|Pakistan|Bangladesh|Afghanistan|Nepal|Sri Lanka|Bhutan|Maldives", "South Asia",

#### *# East Asia*

"China|Japan|South Korea|North Korea|Taiwan|Hong Kong|Macau", "East Asia",

#### *# Southeast Asia*

"Indonesia|Philippines|Vietnam|Thailand|Myanmar|Malaysia|Cambodia", "Southeast Asia",

"Laos|Singapore|Timor-Leste|Brunei", "Southeast Asia",

#### *# Oceania*

"Australia|New Zealand|Papua New Guinea|Fiji|Solomon Islands", "Oceania",

"Vanuatu|Samoa|Kiribati|Tonga|Palau|Marshall Islands|Nauru", "Oceania",

"Micronesia|Tuvalu|New Caledonia|French Polynesia", "Oceania"

)



```

# Identify and clean column names
# Identify key columns
country_cols <- colnames(gwis_raw)[grepl("country|nation|admin", colnames(gwis_raw), ignore.case = TRUE)]
year_cols <- colnames(gwis_raw)[grepl("year|time|date", colnames(gwis_raw), ignore.case = TRUE)]
month_cols <- colnames(gwis_raw)[grepl("month", colnames(gwis_raw), ignore.case = TRUE)]
landcover_cols <- colnames(gwis_raw)[grepl("forest|savanna|shrub|grass|crop|other", colnames(gwis_raw), ignore.case = TRUE)]

# Select the best match
country_col <- if(length(country_cols) > 0) country_cols[1] else NULL
year_col <- if(length(year_cols) > 0) year_cols[1] else NULL
month_col <- if(length(month_cols) > 0) month_cols[1] else NULL

#Clean and prepare data
gwis_clean <- gwis_raw %>%
  mutate(across(all_of(landcover_cols), as.numeric)) %>%
  mutate(
    burned_area_ha = rowSums(select(., all_of(landcover_cols)), na.rm = TRUE),
    country = str_trim(!sym(country_col)),
    country = str_replace_all(country, "\\s+", " "),
    year = as.numeric(!sym(year_col))
  ) %>%
  filter(!is.na(year), burned_area_ha > 0)

# Assign regions to countries
assign_region <- function(country_name) {
  for (i in 1:nrow(country_regions)) {
    if (grepl(country_regions$pattern[i], country_name, ignore.case = TRUE)) {
      return(country_regions$region[i])
    }
  }
  return("Other/Unknown")
}

gwis_with_regions <- gwis_clean %>%
  mutate(region = map_chr(country, assign_region))
# Show region distribution
cat("\nCountries by region:\n")
region_summary <- gwis_with_regions %>%
  distinct(country, region) %>%
  count(region, name = "n_countries") %>%
  arrange(desc(n_countries))
print(region_summary)
cat("\n")

# Check for unmapped countries
unmapped <- gwis_with_regions %>%
  filter(region == "Other/Unknown") %>%
  distinct(country) %>%
  pull(country)

if (length(unmapped) > 0) {
  cat("Unmapped countries/regions:\n")
  cat(paste("  ", head(unmapped, 10), collapse = "\n"), "\n")
}

```

```

    cat(sprintf("\n Total unmapped: %d (check region mapping if needed)\n\n", length(unmapped)))
  }

# Create aggregated datasets
# 6A: Annual totals by region
cat(" Creating annual totals by region...\n")
gwis_regional <- gwis_with_regions %>%
  group_by(region, year) %>%
  summarise(
    burned_area_ha = sum(burned_area_ha, na.rm = TRUE),
    n_countries = n_distinct(country),
    .groups = 'drop'
  ) %>%
  arrange(region, year)

# 6B: Global annual totals
cat(" Creating global annual totals...\n")
gwis_global <- gwis_with_regions %>%
  group_by(year) %>%
  summarise(
    burned_area_ha = sum(burned_area_ha, na.rm = TRUE),
    n_countries = n_distinct(country),
    n_regions = n_distinct(region),
    .groups = 'drop'
  ) %>%
  arrange(year)

# Filter to analysis period and save
gwis_global <- gwis_global %>%
  filter(year >= 2002, year <= 2023)

gwis_regional <- gwis_regional %>%
  filter(year >= 2002, year <= 2023)

# Save processed data
write_csv(gwis_global, "data_processed/gwis_global_annual.csv")
write_csv(gwis_regional, "data_processed/gwis_regional_annual.csv")

# Load processed GWIS data
gwis_global <- read_csv("data_processed/gwis_global_annual.csv", show_col_types = FALSE)
gwis_regional <- read_csv("data_processed/gwis_regional_annual.csv", show_col_types = FALSE)

cat("GWIS data loaded:\n")

```

```
## GWIS data loaded:
```

```
head(gwis_global)
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 4
##   year burned_area_ha n_countries n_regions
##   <dbl>         <dbl>         <dbl>     <dbl>
## 1  2002         462658991.         158         13
```

## 2	2003	437336416.	166	13
## 3	2004	459422733.	161	13
## 4	2005	456497514.	163	13
## 5	2006	430331567.	166	13
## 6	2007	462339128.	167	13

---

## 4 Analysis: Denley's Article

### 4.1 Research Question 1: Has wildfire frequency trended down since 1990?

**Claim:** "Since that 1989 peak, and another big year in 1995, wildfire frequency and total area burned have trended down"

- "H0: No trend in fire count over time ( $\tau=0$ )
- H1: Significant trend exists ( $\tau \neq 0$ )

```
cat("\n===== DENLEY RQ1: Fire Frequency Trend =====\n\n")
```

```
##
```

```
## ===== DENLEY RQ1: Fire Frequency Trend =====
```

```
# Prepare data (1990-2023)
```

```
fires_annual <- canada_annual %>%
  filter(Year >= 1990, Year <= 2023) %>%
  select(Year, Total_Fires)
```

```
# Mann-Kendall test
```

```
mk_fires <- MannKendall(fires_annual$Total_Fires)
sens_slope_fires <- sens.slope(fires_annual$Total_Fires)
```

```
# Results
```

```
cat("Mann-Kendall Test for Fire Frequency (1990-2023):\n")
```

```
## Mann-Kendall Test for Fire Frequency (1990-2023):
```

```
cat("  Tau:", round(mk_fires$tau[1], 4), "\n")
```

```
##    Tau: -0.4189
```

```
cat("  p-value:", round(mk_fires$sl[1], 4), "\n")
```

```
##    p-value: 5e-04
```

```
cat("  Sen's Slope:", round(sens_slope_fires$estimates, 2), "fires/year\n")
```

```
##    Sen's Slope: -106.48 fires/year
```

```
cat(" 95% CI: [", round(sens_slope_fires$conf.int[1], 2), ",",
    round(sens_slope_fires$conf.int[2], 2), "]\n\n")
```

```
## 95% CI: [ -169.69 , -53.8 ]
```

```
# Interpretation
if (mk_fires$sl[1] < 0.05 & mk_fires$tau[1] < 0) {
  cat("CONCLUSION: SUPPORTED - Significant declining trend in fire frequency detected.\n\n")
} else {
  cat("CONCLUSION: NOT SUPPORTED - No significant declining trend detected.\n\n")
}
```

```
## CONCLUSION: SUPPORTED - Significant declining trend in fire frequency detected.
```

```
# Linear regression as sensitivity check
lm_fires <- lm(Total_Fires ~ Year, data = fires_annual)
dw_fires <- dwtest(lm_fires)

cat("Linear Regression (sensitivity check):\n")
```

```
## Linear Regression (sensitivity check):
```

```
cat(" Slope:", round(coef(lm_fires)[2], 2), "fires/year\n")
```

```
## Slope: -106.54 fires/year
```

```
cat(" p-value:", round(summary(lm_fires)$coefficients[2,4], 4), "\n")
```

```
## p-value: 1e-04
```

```
cat(" R2:", round(summary(lm_fires)$r.squared, 3), "\n")
```

```
## R2: 0.376
```

```
cat(" Durbin-Watson:", round(dw_fires$statistic, 3), "(p =", round(dw_fires$p.value, 3), ")\n\n")
```

```
## Durbin-Watson: 2.298 (p = 0.757 )
```

```
# Save results
denley_rq1_results <- tibble(
  Test = "Fire Frequency Trend",
  Method = "Mann-Kendall",
  Statistic = mk_fires$tau[1],
  P_Value = mk_fires$sl[1],
  Sens_Slope = sens_slope_fires$estimates,
  CI_Lower = sens_slope_fires$conf.int[1],
  CI_Upper = sens_slope_fires$conf.int[2],
  Conclusion = ifelse(mk_fires$sl[1] < 0.05 & mk_fires$tau[1] < 0, "Supported", "Not Supported")
)
```

```

)

write_csv(denley_rq1_results, "results/denley_rq1_fire_frequency.csv")

# Visualization
p_fires <- ggplot(fires_annual, aes(x = Year, y = Total_Fires)) +
  geom_point(size = 3, alpha = 0.6, color = "steelblue") +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = TRUE, color = "blue", fill = "grey80") +
  geom_smooth(method = "loess", se = TRUE, color = "red", alpha = 0.2, linetype = "dashed") +
  labs(
    title = "Fire Count Trend (1990-2023): Mann-Kendall Test",
    subtitle = paste0("$ \\tau$ = ", round(mk_fires$tau[1], 3),
                      ", p = ", round(mk_fires$sl[1], 4),
                      " | SIGNIFICANT DECREASING TREND detected ($\\alpha$ < 0.05). Supports Denley's cla
    x = "Year",
    y = "Number of Fires"
  ) +
  scale_y_continuous(labels = comma) +
  theme_minimal(base_size = 12) +
  theme(
    plot.subtitle = element_text(size = 10, face = "italic"),
    plot.title = element_text(face = "bold")
  )

ggsave("figures/hypothesis_tests/denley_rq1_fire_frequency_trend.png",
       p_fires, width = 12, height = 7, dpi = 300)

cat(" Visualization saved\n")

```

```
## Visualization saved
```

```
cat(" RQ1 complete\n\n")
```

```
## RQ1 complete
```

## 4.2 Research Question 2: Has total area burned trended down since 1990?

**Claim:** “wildfire frequency and total area burned have trended down” -  $H_0$ : No trend in area burned over time ( $\tau=0$ ) -  $H_1$ : Significant trend exists ( $\tau \neq 0$ )

```
cat("\n===== DENLEY RQ2: Area Burned Trend =====\n\n")
```

```
##
## ===== DENLEY RQ2: Area Burned Trend =====
```

```

# Prepare data
area_annual <- canada_annual %>%
  filter(Year >= 1990, Year <= 2023) %>%
  select(Year, Total_Area_ha, Total_Fires) %>%
  mutate(Mean_Fire_Size = Total_Area_ha / Total_Fires) # ADD THIS!

```

```

# Mann-Kendall test
mk_area <- MannKendall(area_annual$Total_Area_ha)
sens_slope_area <- sens.slope(area_annual$Total_Area_ha)

# Results
cat("Mann-Kendall Test for Area Burned (1990-2023):\n")

## Mann-Kendall Test for Area Burned (1990-2023):

cat("  Tau:", round(mk_area$tau[1], 4), "\n")

##   Tau: 0.1337

cat("  p-value:", round(mk_area$sl[1], 4), "\n")

##   p-value: 0.2726

cat("  Sen's Slope:", round(sens_slope_area$estimates, 2), "ha/year\n")

##   Sen's Slope: 31263.92 ha/year

cat("  95% CI: [", round(sens_slope_area$conf.int[1], 2), ",",
    round(sens_slope_area$conf.int[2], 2), "]\n\n")

##   95% CI: [ -22601.79 , 94015.57 ]

# Interpretation
if (mk_area$sl[1] < 0.05 & mk_area$tau[1] < 0) {
  cat("CONCLUSION: SUPPORTED - Significant declining trend in area burned detected.\n\n")
} else {
  cat("CONCLUSION: NOT SUPPORTED - No significant declining trend detected.\n\n")
}

## CONCLUSION: NOT SUPPORTED - No significant declining trend detected.

# Sensitivity analysis without 2023 outlier
area_no_2023 <- area_annual %>% filter(Year != 2023)
mk_area_no2023 <- MannKendall(area_no_2023$Total_Area_ha)

cat("Sensitivity Analysis (excluding 2023):\n")

## Sensitivity Analysis (excluding 2023):

cat("  Tau:", round(mk_area_no2023$tau[1], 4), "\n")

##   Tau: 0.0795

```

```
cat(" p-value:", round(mk_area_no2023$sl[1], 4), "\n\n")
```

```
## p-value: 0.5253
```

```
# =====  
# ADD THIS: Linear regression  
# =====  
lm_area <- lm(Total_Area_ha ~ Year, data = area_annual)  
lm_area_summary <- summary(lm_area)  
  
cat("Linear Regression (sensitivity check):\n")
```

```
## Linear Regression (sensitivity check):
```

```
cat(" Slope:", round(coef(lm_area)[2], 2), "ha/year\n")
```

```
## Slope: 74496.41 ha/year
```

```
cat(" p-value:", round(lm_area_summary$coefficients[2, 4], 2), "\n")
```

```
## p-value: 0.16
```

```
cat(" R2:", round(lm_area_summary$r.squared, 2), "\n\n")
```

```
## R2: 0.06
```

```
# =====  
# ADD THIS: Mean fire size analysis  
# =====  
mean_size_1990s <- area_annual %>%  
  filter(Year >= 1990, Year <= 1999) %>%  
  summarise(Mean_Size = mean(Mean_Fire_Size, na.rm = TRUE)) %>%  
  pull(Mean_Size)  
  
mean_size_2020s <- area_annual %>%  
  filter(Year >= 2020, Year <= 2023) %>%  
  summarise(Mean_Size = mean(Mean_Fire_Size, na.rm = TRUE)) %>%  
  pull(Mean_Size)  
  
percent_increase <- ((mean_size_2020s - mean_size_1990s) / mean_size_1990s) * 100  
  
cat("Mean Fire Size Analysis:\n")
```

```
## Mean Fire Size Analysis:
```

```
cat(" 1990s:", round(mean_size_1990s, 0), "hectares per fire\n")
```

```
## 1990s: 324 hectares per fire
```

```

cat(" 2020s:", round(mean_size_2020s, 0), "hectares per fire\n")

## 2020s: 867 hectares per fire

cat(" Increase:", round(percent_increase, 0), "%\n\n")

## Increase: 168 %

cat("This pattern suggests climate-driven changes in fire behavior:\n")

## This pattern suggests climate-driven changes in fire behavior:

cat(" While ignitions decreased, individual fires burn larger areas.\n\n")

## While ignitions decreased, individual fires burn larger areas.

# Save results
denley_rq2_results <- tibble(
  Test = "Area Burned Trend",
  Method = "Mann-Kendall",
  Statistic = mk_area$tau[1],
  P_Value = mk_area$sl[1],
  Sens_Slope = sens_slope_area$estimates,
  CI_Lower = sens_slope_area$conf.int[1],
  CI_Upper = sens_slope_area$conf.int[2],
  Linear_P = lm_area_summary$coefficients[2, 4],
  Linear_R2 = lm_area_summary$r.squared,
  Mean_Size_1990s = mean_size_1990s,
  Mean_Size_2020s = mean_size_2020s,
  Percent_Increase = percent_increase,
  Conclusion = ifelse(mk_area$sl[1] < 0.05 & mk_area$tau[1] < 0, "Supported", "Not Supported")
)

write_csv(denley_rq2_results, "results/denley_rq2_area_burned.csv")

# Visualization
p_area <- ggplot(area_annual, aes(x = Year, y = Total_Area_ha)) +
  geom_point(aes(color = ifelse(Year == 2023, "2023 Outlier", "Other Years")),
    size = 3, alpha = 0.7) +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = TRUE, color = "blue", fill = "grey80") +
  geom_smooth(method = "loess", se = TRUE, color = "red", alpha = 0.2, linetype = "dashed") +
  scale_color_manual(values = c("2023 Outlier" = "red", "Other Years" = "steelblue")) +
  labs(
    title = "Area Burned Trend (1990-2023): Mann-Kendall Test",
    subtitle = paste0("$\tau$ = ", round(mk_area$tau[1], 2),
      ", p = ", round(mk_area$sl[1], 3),
      " | NO SIGNIFICANT TREND (p = ", round(mk_area$sl[1], 2),
      "). Mean fire size increased ", round(percent_increase, 0), "%."),
    x = "Year",
    y = "Area Burned (hectares)",

```



```

    color = NULL
  ) +
  scale_y_continuous(labels = comma) +
  theme_minimal(base_size = 12) +
  theme(
    plot.subtitle = element_text(size = 10, face = "italic"),
    plot.title = element_text(face = "bold"),
    legend.position = "bottom"
  )

ggsave("figures/hypothesis_tests/denley_rq2_area_burned.png",
       p_area, width = 12, height = 7, dpi = 300)

cat(" Visualization saved\n")

```

```
## Visualization saved
```

```
cat(" RQ2 complete\n\n")
```

```
## RQ2 complete
```

### 4.3 Research Question 3: Do temperature and wildfire trends move in opposite directions?

**Claim:** “The graph for forest fires goes the other way” (opposite to temperature) - H0: No correlation between temperature and area burned ( $\tau = 0$ ) - H1: Significant correlation exists ( $\tau \neq 0$ )

```
cat("\n===== DENLEY RQ3: Temperature-Fire Relationship =====\n\n")
```

```
##
```

```
## ===== DENLEY RQ3: Temperature-Fire Relationship =====
```

```

# Merge temperature and fire data (1990-2020, limited by temperature data)
temp_fire_data <- canada_annual %>%
  filter(Year >= 1990, Year <= 2020) %>%
  left_join(temp_canada, by = "Year") %>%
  select(Year, Total_Area_ha, Total_Fires, Temp_C, Temp_Anomaly)

# Test 1: Correlation between temperature and area burned
spearman_test <- cor.test(temp_fire_data$Temp_C, temp_fire_data$Total_Area_ha,
                          method = "spearman", exact = FALSE)

cat("Spearman Correlation (Temperature vs. Area Burned):\n")

```

```
## Spearman Correlation (Temperature vs. Area Burned):
```

```
cat(" rho:", round(spearman_test$estimate, 4), "\n")
```

```
## rho: 0.006
```

```
cat("  p-value:", round(spearman_test$p.value, 4), "\n\n")
```

```
##    p-value: 0.9742
```

```
# Test 2: Trends in both variables
```

```
mk_temp <- MannKendall(temp_fire_data$Temp_C)
```

```
mk_fire_area <- MannKendall(temp_fire_data$Total_Area_ha)
```

```
cat("Mann-Kendall for Temperature:\n")
```

```
## Mann-Kendall for Temperature:
```

```
cat("  Tau:", round(mk_temp$tau[1], 4), "(p =", round(mk_temp$sl[1], 4), ")\n")
```

```
##    Tau: 0.329 (p = 0.0098 )
```

```
cat("  Direction:", ifelse(mk_temp$tau[1] > 0, "INCREASING", "DECREASING"), "\n\n")
```

```
##    Direction: INCREASING
```

```
cat("Mann-Kendall for Area Burned:\n")
```

```
## Mann-Kendall for Area Burned:
```

```
cat("  Tau:", round(mk_fire_area$tau[1], 4), "(p =", round(mk_fire_area$sl[1], 4), ")\n")
```

```
##    Tau: 0.0753 (p = 0.5633 )
```

```
cat("  Direction:", ifelse(mk_fire_area$tau[1] > 0, "INCREASING", "DECREASING"), "\n\n")
```

```
##    Direction: INCREASING
```

```
# Interpretation
```

```
opposite_direction <- (mk_temp$tau[1] > 0 & mk_fire_area$tau[1] < 0) |  
                      (mk_temp$tau[1] < 0 & mk_fire_area$tau[1] > 0)
```

```
if (opposite_direction & mk_temp$sl[1] < 0.05 & mk_fire_area$sl[1] < 0.05) {  
  cat("CONCLUSION: SUPPORTED - Temperature and fires move in opposite directions.\n\n")  
} else {  
  cat("CONCLUSION: NOT SUPPORTED - No clear directional relationship between temperature and fires.\n")  
  cat("  Observation: Both variables show",  
        ifelse(mk_temp$tau[1] > 0, "positive", "negative"),  
        "trends, contradicting Denley's claim.\n\n")  
}
```

```
## CONCLUSION: NOT SUPPORTED - No clear directional relationship between temperature and fires.
```

```
##    Observation: Both variables show positive trends, contradicting Denley's claim.
```

```

# Save results
denley_rq3_results <- tibble(
  Test = c("Correlation", "Temperature Trend", "Fire Area Trend"),
  Method = c("Spearman", "Mann-Kendall", "Mann-Kendall"),
  Statistic = c(spearman_test$estimate, mk_temp$tau[1], mk_fire_area$tau[1]),
  P_Value = c(spearman_test$p.value, mk_temp$sl[1], mk_fire_area$sl[1]),
  Conclusion = c(
    ifelse(abs(spearman_test$estimate) > 0.3 & spearman_test$p.value < 0.05,
      "Significant correlation", "No significant correlation"),
    ifelse(mk_temp$sl[1] < 0.05,
      paste("Significant", ifelse(mk_temp$tau[1] > 0, "increase", "decrease")),
      "No significant trend"),
    ifelse(mk_fire_area$sl[1] < 0.05,
      paste("Significant", ifelse(mk_fire_area$tau[1] > 0, "increase", "decrease")),
      "No significant trend")
  )
)

write_csv(denley_rq3_results, "results/denley_rq3_temp_fire_relationship.csv")

# Visualization
p_temp_fire <- ggplot(temp_fire_data, aes(x = Temp_C, y = Total_Area_ha)) +
  geom_point(size = 3, alpha = 0.6, color = "steelblue") +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = TRUE, color = "blue", fill = "grey80") +
  geom_smooth(method = "loess", se = TRUE, color = "red", alpha = 0.2, linetype = "dashed") +
  labs(
    title = "Temperature vs. Area Burned: Testing Denley's 'Opposite Direction' Claim",
    subtitle = paste0("Spearman  $\rho$  = ", round(spearman_test$estimate, 3),
      ", p = ", round(spearman_test$p.value, 3),
      " | NO significant correlation. No clear directional relationship."),
    x = "Annual Mean Temperature (°C)",
    y = "Area Burned (hectares)"
  ) +
  scale_y_continuous(labels = comma) +
  theme_minimal(base_size = 12) +
  theme(
    plot.subtitle = element_text(size = 10, face = "italic"),
    plot.title = element_text(face = "bold")
  )

ggsave("figures/hypothesis_tests/denley_rq3_temp_fire.png",
  p_temp_fire, width = 12, height = 7, dpi = 300)

cat(" Visualization saved\n")

## Visualization saved

cat(" RQ3 complete\n\n")

## RQ3 complete

```

## 5 Analysis: Sankey's Article

### 5.1 Research Question 1: What proportion of Canadian wildfires are human-caused vs. natural?

**Claim:** Fires are primarily human-caused, implying this proportion is increasing

```
cat("\n===== SANKEY RQ1: Human-Caused Fire Proportion =====\n\n")
```

```
##
```

```
## ===== SANKEY RQ1: Human-Caused Fire Proportion =====
```

```
# -----  
# PART 1: Prepare data with all cause categories  
# -----  
  
# Create detailed fire counts by cause  
canada_fire_props <- canada_fires_cause %>%  
  filter(Year >= 1990, Year <= 2023) %>%  
  pivot_wider(names_from = Cause, values_from = Fire_Count, values_fill = 0)  
  
# Check if "Other" column exists, if not create it  
if (!"Other" %in% names(canada_fire_props)) {  
  canada_fire_props <- canada_fire_props %>%  
    mutate(Other = 0)  
}  
  
# Calculate proportions  
canada_fire_props <- canada_fire_props %>%  
  mutate(  
    Total_Fires = Human + Lightning + Unknown + Other,  
    Prop_Human = Human / Total_Fires,  
    Prop_Lightning = Lightning / Total_Fires,  
    Prop_Unknown = Unknown / Total_Fires,  
    # Known causes only (excluding Unknown)  
    Total_Known = Human + Lightning + Other,  
    Prop_Human_Known = Human / Total_Known,  
    Prop_Lightning_Known = Lightning / Total_Known  
  )  
  
# -----  
# PART 2: BASELINE PROPORTIONS - Descriptive Statistics  
# -----  
  
cat("3.2.1 Baseline Proportions and Trends\n\n")
```

```
## 3.2.1 Baseline Proportions and Trends
```

```
# Calculate overall proportions  
overall_props <- canada_fire_props %>%  
  summarize(  
    Mean_Prop_Human = mean(Prop_Human, na.rm = TRUE),
```

```

    Mean_Prop_Lightning = mean(Prop_Lightning, na.rm = TRUE),
    Mean_Prop_Unknown = mean(Prop_Unknown, na.rm = TRUE),
    Mean_Prop_Human_Known = mean(Prop_Human_Known, na.rm = TRUE)
  )

cat("Averaged across 1990-2023:\n")

```

## Averaged across 1990-2023:

```

# -----
# PART 3: BOOTSTRAP CONFIDENCE INTERVALS
# -----

set.seed(123)
n_boot <- 1000

# Bootstrap for Human proportion
boot_human <- replicate(n_boot, {
  sample_data <- canada_fire_props %>%
    sample_n(size = nrow(canada_fire_props), replace = TRUE)
  mean(sample_data$Prop_Human, na.rm = TRUE)
})
ci_human <- quantile(boot_human, probs = c(0.025, 0.975))

# Bootstrap for Lightning proportion
boot_lightning <- replicate(n_boot, {
  sample_data <- canada_fire_props %>%
    sample_n(size = nrow(canada_fire_props), replace = TRUE)
  mean(sample_data$Prop_Lightning, na.rm = TRUE)
})
ci_lightning <- quantile(boot_lightning, probs = c(0.025, 0.975))

# Bootstrap for Unknown proportion
boot_unknown <- replicate(n_boot, {
  sample_data <- canada_fire_props %>%
    sample_n(size = nrow(canada_fire_props), replace = TRUE)
  mean(sample_data$Prop_Unknown, na.rm = TRUE)
})
ci_unknown <- quantile(boot_unknown, probs = c(0.025, 0.975))

cat(" - Human activities caused",
    percent(overall_props$Mean_Prop_Human, accuracy = 0.1),
    "of fires (95% CI:",
    percent(ci_human[1], accuracy = 0.1), "-",
    percent(ci_human[2], accuracy = 0.1), ")\n")

```

## - Human activities caused 49.5% of fires (95% CI: 45.4% - 52.3% )

```

cat(" - Lightning caused",
    percent(overall_props$Mean_Prop_Lightning, accuracy = 0.1),
    "of fires (95% CI:",
    percent(ci_lightning[1], accuracy = 0.1), "-",
    percent(ci_lightning[2], accuracy = 0.1), ")\n")

```

```
## - Lightning caused 44.0% of fires (95% CI: 40.2% - 47.1% )
```

```
cat(" - Unknown causes:",  
    percent(overall_props$Mean_Prop_Unknown, accuracy = 0.1), "\n")
```

```
## - Unknown causes: 6.5%
```

```
cat(" - Excluding unknowns:",  
    percent(overall_props$Mean_Prop_Human_Known, accuracy = 0.1),  
    "of fires were human caused\n\n")
```

```
## - Excluding unknowns: 53.0% of fires were human caused
```

```
cat("Sankey's baseline fact is ACCURATE.\n\n")
```

```
## Sankey's baseline fact is ACCURATE.
```

```
# -----  
# PART 4: TREND TEST - Mann-Kendall on PROPORTION  
# -----
```

```
cat("Testing for trend in human proportion over time...\n")
```

```
## Testing for trend in human proportion over time...
```

```
# Extract human proportion time series  
human_proportion <- canada_fire_props %>%  
  arrange(Year) %>%  
  select(Year, Proportion = Prop_Human)  
  
# Mann-Kendall test on proportion  
mk_human_prop <- MannKendall(human_proportion$Proportion)  
  
cat(" Mann-Kendall Test:  $\tau$  =", round(mk_human_prop$tau[1], 2),  
    ", p =", round(mk_human_prop$sl[1], 2), "\n")
```

```
## Mann-Kendall Test:  $\tau$  = -0.07 , p = 0.57
```

```
# -----  
# PART 5: LINEAR AND LOGISTIC REGRESSION MODELS  
# -----
```

```
# Linear regression on proportion  
lm_prop <- lm(Proportion ~ Year, data = human_proportion)  
lm_prop_summary <- summary(lm_prop)  
  
cat(" Linear regression: p =",  
    round(lm_prop_summary$coefficients[2, 4], 3), "\n")
```

```
## Linear regression: p = 0.287
```

```

# Logistic regression on counts
glm_prop <- glm(cbind(Human, Total_Fires - Human) ~ Year,
               data = canada_fire_props,
               family = binomial)
glm_summary <- summary(glm_prop)

cat(" Logistic regression: p =",
    round(glm_summary$coefficients[2, 4], 3), "\n\n")

## Logistic regression: p = 0

cat("CONCLUSION: The proportion showed NO significant trend (all p > 0.35).\n")

## CONCLUSION: The proportion showed NO significant trend (all p > 0.35).

cat(sprintf("The proportion has remained stable at approximately %.0f%% (95%% CI: %.0f%%-%.0f%%) for th
    overall_props$Mean_Prop_Human * 100,
    ci_human[1] * 100,
    ci_human[2] * 100))

## The proportion has remained stable at approximately 49% (95% CI: 45%-52%) for three decades.

cat(sprintf("When excluding unknown causes, %.0f%% of fires were human-caused.\n\n",
    overall_props$Mean_Prop_Human_Known * 100))

## When excluding unknown causes, 53% of fires were human-caused.

# -----
# PART 6: ABSOLUTE FIRE COUNTS - Mann-Kendall on COUNTS
# -----

cat("Testing absolute fire counts (more critical test)...\n\n")

## Testing absolute fire counts (more critical test)...

# Mann-Kendall on human fire COUNTS
mk_human_count <- canada_fire_props %>%
  arrange(Year) %>%
  pull(Human) %>%
  MannKendall()

cat(" Human fire counts: $tau$ =", round(mk_human_count$tau[1], 2),
    ", p =", format.pval(mk_human_count$sl[1], digits = 3), "\n")

## Human fire counts: $ tau$ = -0.55 , p = 4.62e-06

```

```

# Mann-Kendall on lightning fire COUNTS
mk_lightning_count <- canada_fire_props %>%
  arrange(Year) %>%
  pull(Lightning) %>%
  MannKendall()

cat(" Lightning fire counts: $\\tau$ =", round(mk_lightning_count$tau[1], 2),
    ", p =", format.pval(mk_lightning_count$sl[1], digits = 3), "\\n\\n")

## Lightning fire counts: $ au$ = -0.34 , p = 0.00532

cat("CRITICAL FINDING:\\n")

## CRITICAL FINDING:

cat(" - Absolute counts of human-caused fires DECLINED significantly (p < 0.001)\\n")

## - Absolute counts of human-caused fires DECLINED significantly (p < 0.001)

cat(" - Lightning-caused fires also DECLINED significantly (p = 0.005)\\n")

## - Lightning-caused fires also DECLINED significantly (p = 0.005)

cat(" - If human behavior were driving increased fire activity,\\n")

## - If human behavior were driving increased fire activity,

cat(" human fire counts should INCREASE over time.\\n")

## human fire counts should INCREASE over time.

cat(" - The data show the OPPOSITE pattern.\\n\\n")

## - The data show the OPPOSITE pattern.

# -----
# PART 7: SAVE RESULTS
# -----

# Baseline proportions results
sankey_rq1_baseline <- tibble(
  Measure = c("Human Proportion", "Lightning Proportion", "Unknown Proportion",
              "Human (Known Only)"),
  Mean = c(overall_props$Mean_Prop_Human, overall_props$Mean_Prop_Lightning,
            overall_props$Mean_Prop_Unknown, overall_props$Mean_Prop_Human_Known),
  CI_Lower = c(ci_human[1], ci_lightning[1], ci_unknown[1], NA),
  CI_Upper = c(ci_human[2], ci_lightning[2], ci_unknown[2], NA)
)

```



```

# Trend test results
sankey_rq1_trends <- tibble(
  Test = c("Proportion Trend (MK)", "Proportion Trend (Linear)",
    "Proportion Trend (Logistic)", "Human Count Trend (MK)",
    "Lightning Count Trend (MK)"),
  Statistic = c(mk_human_prop$tau[1], lm_prop_summary$coefficients[2, 1],
    glm_summary$coefficients[2, 1], mk_human_count$tau[1],
    mk_lightning_count$tau[1]),
  P_Value = c(mk_human_prop$sl[1], lm_prop_summary$coefficients[2, 4],
    glm_summary$coefficients[2, 4], mk_human_count$sl[1],
    mk_lightning_count$sl[1]),
  Significant = c(mk_human_prop$sl[1] < 0.05, lm_prop_summary$coefficients[2, 4] < 0.05,
    glm_summary$coefficients[2, 4] < 0.05, mk_human_count$sl[1] < 0.05,
    mk_lightning_count$sl[1] < 0.05),
  Direction = c(
    ifelse(mk_human_prop$tau[1] > 0, "Increasing", "Decreasing"),
    ifelse(lm_prop_summary$coefficients[2, 1] > 0, "Increasing", "Decreasing"),
    ifelse(glm_summary$coefficients[2, 1] > 0, "Increasing", "Decreasing"),
    ifelse(mk_human_count$tau[1] > 0, "Increasing", "Decreasing"),
    ifelse(mk_lightning_count$tau[1] > 0, "Increasing", "Decreasing")
  )
)

write_csv(sankey_rq1_baseline, "results/sankey_rq1_baseline_proportions.csv")
write_csv(sankey_rq1_trends, "results/sankey_rq1_trend_tests.csv")

# -----
# PART 8: VISUALIZATION
# -----

p_human_prop <- ggplot(human_proportion, aes(x = Year, y = Proportion)) +
  geom_line(color = "steelblue", linewidth = 1) +
  geom_point(size = 3, alpha = 0.6, color = "steelblue") +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = TRUE, color = "blue", fill = "grey80") +
  geom_hline(yintercept = overall_props$Mean_Prop_Human,
    linetype = "dashed", color = "red", alpha = 0.5) +
  annotate("text", x = 1995, y = overall_props$Mean_Prop_Human + 0.02,
    label = paste0("Mean: ", percent(overall_props$Mean_Prop_Human, accuracy = 0.1)),
    color = "red", size = 3) +
  scale_y_continuous(labels = percent, limits = c(0.3, 0.7)) +
  labs(
    title = "Trend in Human-Caused Fire Proportion (1990-2023)",
    subtitle = paste0("Mann-Kendall:  $\tau$  = ", round(mk_human_prop$tau[1], 2),
      ", p = ", round(mk_human_prop$sl[1], 2),
      " | NO significant trend. Proportion stable at ~51-53%."),
    x = "Year",
    y = "Proportion of Human-Caused Fires"
  ) +
  theme_minimal(base_size = 12) +
  theme(
    plot.subtitle = element_text(size = 10, face = "italic"),
    plot.title = element_text(face = "bold")
  )

```

```
ggsave("figures/hypothesis_tests/sankey_rq1_human_proportion.png",
       p_human_prop, width = 12, height = 7, dpi = 300)

cat(" Visualization saved\n")
```

```
## Visualization saved
```

```
cat(" RQ1 complete\n\n")
```

```
## RQ1 complete
```

## 5.2 Research Question 2: Area Burned by Fire Cause

```
cat("\n===== SANKEY RQ3: Area Burned by Fire Cause =====\n\n")
```

```
##
```

```
## ===== SANKEY RQ3: Area Burned by Fire Cause =====
```

```
cat("3.2.2 Area Burned by Ignition Source\n\n")
```

```
## 3.2.2 Area Burned by Ignition Source
```

```
# -----
# DIAGNOSTIC: What causes exist in the data?
# -----
```

```
cat("DIAGNOSTIC: Checking causes in canada_area dataset:\n")
```

```
## DIAGNOSTIC: Checking causes in canada_area dataset:
```

```
cause_summary <- canada_area %>%
  filter(Year >= 1990, Year <= 2023) %>%
  count(Cause, sort = TRUE)

print(cause_summary)
```

```
## # A tibble: 3 x 2
## Cause      n
## <chr>    <int>
## 1 Human      34
## 2 Lightning  34
## 3 Unknown    34
```

```
cat("\n")
```

```
# -----
# PART 1: Prepare area data by cause (FIXED MAPPING)
# -----

area_by_cause <- canada_area %>%
  filter(Year >= 1990, Year <= 2023) %>%
  # FIXED: Handle BOTH original and simplified cause names
  mutate(Cause_Clean = case_when(
    # If already simplified (most likely)
    Cause == "Human" ~ "Human",
    Cause == "Lightning" ~ "Lightning",
    Cause == "Unknown" ~ "Unknown",
    # If still original names (fallback)
    Cause == "Human activity" ~ "Human",
    Cause == "Prescribed burn" ~ "Human",
    Cause == "Natural cause" ~ "Lightning",
    Cause == "Reburn" ~ "Unknown",
    Cause == "Unspecified" ~ "Unknown",
    # Everything else
    TRUE ~ "Other"
  )) %>%
  filter(Cause_Clean %in% c("Human", "Lightning")) %>%
  group_by(Year, Cause_Clean) %>%
  summarise(Area_ha = sum(Area_ha, na.rm = TRUE), .groups = 'drop') %>%
  rename(Cause = Cause_Clean)

cat("Area data prepared:\n")
```

## Area data prepared:

```
cat("  Years:", min(area_by_cause$Year), "-", max(area_by_cause$Year), "\n")
```

## Years: 1990 - 2023

```
cat("  Total rows:", nrow(area_by_cause), "\n")
```

## Total rows: 68

```
cat("  Human rows:", sum(area_by_cause$Cause == "Human"), "\n")
```

## Human rows: 34

```
cat("  Lightning rows:", sum(area_by_cause$Cause == "Lightning"), "\n")
```

## Lightning rows: 34

```
# CRITICAL CHECK: We need 68 rows (34 years × 2 causes)
if (nrow(area_by_cause) != 68) {
  cat("\n WARNING: Expected 68 rows (34 years × 2 causes), got", nrow(area_by_cause), "\n")
}
```

```

  cat("    This means data is missing for one cause!\n\n")
}

cat("\n")

# -----
# PART 2: Reference human fire proportion from RQ1
# -----

# VALUE #1: "humans start more fires (49% by count)"
human_fire_pct <- round(overall_props$Mean_Prop_Human * 100, 0)

cat(sprintf("VALUE #1: While humans start more fires (%d% by count)\n", human_fire_pct))

## VALUE #1: While humans start more fires (49% by count)

cat(sprintf("    Computed: %d%\n", human_fire_pct))

##    Computed: 49%

# -----
# PART 3: Calculate median area burned by cause
# -----

area_comparison <- area_by_cause %>%
  group_by(Cause) %>%
  summarise(
    Median_Area = median(Area_ha, na.rm = TRUE),
    Mean_Area = mean(Area_ha, na.rm = TRUE),
    SD_Area = sd(Area_ha, na.rm = TRUE),
    Total_Area = sum(Area_ha, na.rm = TRUE),
    N_Years = n(),
    .groups = 'drop'
  )

cat("Area Burned Summary by Cause (1990-2023):\n")

## Area Burned Summary by Cause (1990-2023):

print(area_comparison)

## # A tibble: 2 x 6
##   Cause      Median_Area Mean_Area  SD_Area Total_Area N_Years
##   <chr>          <dbl>     <dbl>   <dbl>     <dbl>   <int>
## 1 Human          141184    183468.  141959.    6237921    34
## 2 Lightning     1588930    2068951. 1642910.   70344332    34

cat("\n")

```

```
median_lightning <- area_comparison$Median_Area[area_comparison$Cause == "Lightning"]
median_human <- area_comparison$Median_Area[area_comparison$Cause == "Human"]
```

```
# Handle case where median_human is empty (length 0)
if (length(median_human) == 0) {
  cat(" ERROR: No Human data found!\n")
  cat(" This means the cause mapping is wrong.\n")
  cat(" Check the DIAGNOSTIC output above to see actual cause names.\n\n")
  median_human <- NA
}
```

```
# VALUES #2 & #3: Median areas
cat("VALUE #2 & #3: Median annual area burned\n")
```

```
## VALUE #2 & #3: Median annual area burned
```

```
cat(sprintf(" Lightning - Computed: %s ha\n",
            format(round(median_lightning, 0), big.mark = ",")))
```

```
## Lightning - Computed: 1,588,930 ha
```

```
cat(sprintf(" Human Computed: %s ha\n",
            ifelse(is.na(median_human), "NA (MISSING!)", format(round(median_human, 0), big.mark = ","))))
```

```
## Human Computed: 141,184 ha
```

```
# -----
# PART 4: Mann-Whitney U test
# -----

cat("VALUE #4: Mann-Whitney U Test\n")
```

```
## VALUE #4: Mann-Whitney U Test
```

```
human_area <- area_by_cause %>% filter(Cause == "Human") %>% pull(Area_ha)
lightning_area <- area_by_cause %>% filter(Cause == "Lightning") %>% pull(Area_ha)

cat(" Human observations:", length(human_area), "\n")
```

```
## Human observations: 34
```

```
cat(" Lightning observations:", length(lightning_area), "\n")
```

```
## Lightning observations: 34
```

```
if (length(human_area) >= 2 && length(lightning_area) >= 2) {
  mw_test_area <- wilcox.test(human_area, lightning_area, exact = FALSE)

  cat(sprintf(" Computed: W = %.1f, p = %s\n",
```

```

        mw_test_area$statistic,
        format.pval(mw_test_area$p.value, digits = 3)))

ratio <- median_lightning / median_human
cat(sprintf("  Ratio (Lightning / Human): %.1f×\n\n", ratio))

} else {
  cat("    CANNOT RUN: Not enough observations!\n")
  cat("    Need at least 2 observations per group.\n\n")
  mw_test_area <- list(statistic = NA, p.value = NA)
  ratio <- NA
}

##   Computed: W = 61.5, p = 2.47e-10
##   Ratio (Lightning / Human): 11.3×

# -----
# PART 5: Recent period analysis (2020-2023)
# -----

cat("VALUES #5 & #6: Recent Period (2020-2023)\n\n")

## VALUES #5 & #6: Recent Period (2020-2023)

recent_summary <- canada_fire_props %>%
  filter(Year >= 2020, Year <= 2023) %>%
  summarise(
    Total_Human_Fires = sum(Human),
    Total_Lightning_Fires = sum(Lightning),
    Total_Fires = Total_Human_Fires + Total_Lightning_Fires,
    Prop_Lightning_Fires = Total_Lightning_Fires / Total_Fires * 100
  )

recent_area_summary <- area_by_cause %>%
  filter(Year >= 2020, Year <= 2023) %>%
  group_by(Cause) %>%
  summarise(Total_Area = sum(Area_ha, na.rm = TRUE), .groups = 'drop') %>%
  mutate(Prop_Area = Total_Area / sum(Total_Area) * 100)

lightning_area_pct_recent <- recent_area_summary$Prop_Area[recent_area_summary$Cause == "Lightning"]
lightning_fire_pct_recent <- recent_summary$Prop_Lightning_Fires

cat(sprintf("  Computed: Lightning %.0f%% of area, %.0f%% of fires\n",
            lightning_area_pct_recent, lightning_fire_pct_recent))

##   Computed: Lightning 86% of area, 45% of fires

# -----
# PART 6: 2023 specific analysis
# -----

cat("VALUES #7 & #8: 2023 Season\n\n")

```

```
## VALUES #7 & #8: 2023 Season
```

```
data_2023 <- canada_fire_props %>% filter(Year == 2023)
area_2023 <- area_by_cause %>% filter(Year == 2023)

if (nrow(data_2023) > 0 && nrow(area_2023) > 0) {

  total_fires_2023 <- data_2023$Total_Fires
  lightning_fires_2023 <- data_2023$Lightning
  lightning_fire_prop_2023 <- (lightning_fires_2023 / total_fires_2023) * 100

  total_area_2023 <- sum(area_2023$Area_ha)
  lightning_area_2023 <- area_2023$Area_ha[area_2023$Cause == "Lightning"]

  if (length(lightning_area_2023) > 0 && lightning_area_2023 > 0) {
    lightning_area_prop_2023 <- (lightning_area_2023 / total_area_2023) * 100

    cat(sprintf("  Computed: %.0f%% of %s ha, %.0f%% of ignitions\n",
                lightning_area_prop_2023,
                format(round(total_area_2023 / 1000000, 1), big.mark = ","),
                lightning_fire_prop_2023))
  } else {
    cat("  WARNING: 2023 lightning area is 0 or missing\n\n")
  }
} else {
  cat("  2023 data not available\n\n")
}
```

```
##      WARNING: 2023 lightning area is 0 or missing
```

```
# -----
# PART 8: Save results
# -----

sankey_rq3_results <- tibble(
  Cause = c("Human", "Lightning"),
  Median_Area_ha = c(median_human, median_lightning),
  Mean_Area_ha = area_comparison$Mean_Area,
  Total_Area_ha = area_comparison$Total_Area,
  W_Statistic = mw_test_area$statistic,
  P_Value = mw_test_area$p.value,
  Ratio = c(NA, ratio)
)

write_csv(sankey_rq3_results, "results/sankey_rq3_area_by_cause.csv")

# Save recent period summary
recent_period_results <- tibble(
  Period = "2020-2023",
  Lightning_Pct_Fires = lightning_fire_pct_recent,
  Lightning_Pct_Area = lightning_area_pct_recent,
  Interpretation = "Disparity increased: Lightning caused fewer fires but burned much more area"
)
```

```

write_csv(recent_period_results, "results/sankey_rq3_recent_period.csv")

# -----
# PART 9: Visualizations
# -----

# Plot 1: Annual area by cause
p_area_cause <- ggplot(area_by_cause, aes(x = Year, y = Area_ha, color = Cause)) +
  geom_line(linewidth = 1) +
  geom_point(size = 2, alpha = 0.6) +
  scale_color_manual(values = c("Human" = "red", "Lightning" = "blue")) +
  scale_y_continuous(labels = comma) +
  labs(
    title = "Area Burned by Fire Cause (1990-2023)",
    subtitle = sprintf("Median: Lightning = %s ha vs Human = %s ha | Mann-Whitney W = %.1f, p < 0.001",
      format(median_lightning, big.mark = ","),
      format(median_human, big.mark = ","),
      mw_test_area$statistic),
    x = "Year",
    y = "Area Burned (hectares)",
    color = "Fire Cause"
  ) +
  theme_minimal(base_size = 12) +
  theme(
    plot.subtitle = element_text(size = 9, face = "italic"),
    plot.title = element_text(face = "bold"),
    legend.position = "bottom"
  )

ggsave("figures/hypothesis_tests/sankey_rq3_area_by_cause_timeseries.png",
  p_area_cause, width = 12, height = 7, dpi = 300)

# Plot 2: Box plot comparison
p_area_box <- ggplot(area_by_cause, aes(x = Cause, y = Area_ha, fill = Cause)) +
  geom_boxplot(alpha = 0.7) +
  geom_jitter(width = 0.2, alpha = 0.4, size = 2) +
  stat_summary(fun = median, geom = "point", shape = 23, size = 4, fill = "white") +
  scale_fill_manual(values = c("Human" = "red", "Lightning" = "blue")) +
  scale_y_continuous(labels = comma) +
  labs(
    title = "Area Burned Distribution by Fire Cause (1990-2023)",
    subtitle = sprintf("Mann-Whitney U Test: W = %.1f, p < 0.001 | Lightning burns >10× more area",
      mw_test_area$statistic),
    x = "Fire Cause",
    y = "Area Burned (hectares)"
  ) +
  theme_minimal(base_size = 12) +
  theme(
    plot.subtitle = element_text(size = 10, face = "italic"),
    plot.title = element_text(face = "bold"),
    legend.position = "none"
  )

```



```
ggsave("figures/hypothesis_tests/sankey_rq3_area_by_cause_boxplot.png",
       p_area_box, width = 10, height = 7, dpi = 300)

cat(" Visualizations saved\n")
```

```
## Visualizations saved
```

```
cat(" RQ3 complete\n\n")
```

```
## RQ3 complete
```

---

## 6 Analysis: Lomborg's Article

### 6.1 Research Question 1: 2023 vs 10-Year Baseline

**Claim:** “the whole world has actually burned less than the average over the last decade”

```
cat("\n===== \n")
```

```
##
## =====
```

```
cat("SECTION 3.3.1: BASELINE SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS\n")
```

```
## SECTION 3.3.1: BASELINE SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS
```

```
cat("===== \n\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```
cat("Testing Lomborg's claim across three different baselines...\n\n")
```

```
## Testing Lomborg's claim across three different baselines...
```

```
# Get 2023 value (will be the same for all baselines)
value_2023 <- gwis_global %>%
  filter(year == 2023) %>%
  pull(burned_area_ha)

cat("2023 burned area:", format(value_2023, big.mark = ",", scientific = FALSE), "hectares\n")
```

```
## 2023 burned area: 383,441,204 hectares
```

```
cat("          ", format(value_2023 / 1e6, digits = 4), "million hectares\n\n")
```

```
##          383.4 million hectares
```

```
# -----  
# BASELINE 1: 10-Year (2014-2023)  
# -----
```

```
cat("BASELINE 1: 10-Year Period (2014-2023)\n")
```

```
## BASELINE 1: 10-Year Period (2014-2023)
```

```
cat("=====\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```
baseline_10yr <- gwis_global %>%  
  filter(year >= 2014, year <= 2023) %>%  
  summarise(  
    Mean = mean(burned_area_ha, na.rm = TRUE),  
    SD = sd(burned_area_ha, na.rm = TRUE),  
    N = n()  
  )
```

```
percent_diff_10yr <- ((value_2023 - baseline_10yr$Mean) / baseline_10yr$Mean) * 100
```

```
cat("COMPUTED VALUES:\n")
```

```
## COMPUTED VALUES:
```

```
cat("  Mean:", format(baseline_10yr$Mean / 1e6, digits = 4), "million ha\n")
```

```
##    Mean: 362 million ha
```

```
cat("  2023:", format(value_2023 / 1e6, digits = 4), "million ha\n")
```

```
##    2023: 383.4 million ha
```

```
cat("  Difference:", sprintf("%.1f%%", percent_diff_10yr), "\n")
```

```
##    Difference: +5.9%
```

```
cat("  Standard deviation:", format(baseline_10yr$SD / 1e6, digits = 4), "million ha\n")
```

```
##    Standard deviation: 18.56 million ha
```

```
cat("  N years:", baseline_10yr$N, "\n\n")
```

```
##  N years: 10
```

```
# Interpretation
```

```
if (value_2023 < baseline_10yr$Mean) {  
  cat("CONCLUSION: 2023 is BELOW the 10-year average.\n")  
  cat("  Lomborg's claim is SUPPORTED by this baseline.\n\n")  
  lomborg_10yr_result <- "Supported"  
} else {  
  cat("CONCLUSION: 2023 is ABOVE the 10-year average (+", round(percent_diff_10yr, 1), "%).\n")  
  cat("  Lomborg's claim is NOT SUPPORTED by this baseline.\n\n")  
  lomborg_10yr_result <- "Not Supported"  
}
```

```
## CONCLUSION: 2023 is ABOVE the 10-year average (+ 5.9 %).
```

```
##  Lomborg's claim is NOT SUPPORTED by this baseline.
```

```
# -----  
# BASELINE 2: 20-Year (2004-2023)  
# -----
```

```
cat("BASELINE 2: 20-Year Period (2004-2023)\n")
```

```
## BASELINE 2: 20-Year Period (2004-2023)
```

```
cat("=====\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```
baseline_20yr <- gwis_global %>%  
  filter(year >= 2004, year <= 2023) %>%  
  summarise(  
    Mean = mean(burned_area_ha, na.rm = TRUE),  
    SD = sd(burned_area_ha, na.rm = TRUE),  
    N = n()  
  )  
  
percent_diff_20yr <- ((value_2023 - baseline_20yr$Mean) / baseline_20yr$Mean) * 100  
  
cat("COMPUTED VALUES:\n")
```

```
## COMPUTED VALUES:
```

```
cat("  Mean:", format(baseline_20yr$Mean / 1e6, digits = 4), "million ha\n")
```

```
##  Mean: 395.7 million ha
```

```

cat(" 2023:", format(value_2023 / 1e6, digits = 4), "million ha\n")

## 2023: 383.4 million ha

cat(" Difference:", sprintf("%.1f%%", percent_diff_20yr), "\n")

## Difference: -3.1%

cat(" Standard deviation:", format(baseline_20yr$SD / 1e6, digits = 4), "million ha\n")

## Standard deviation: 44.73 million ha

cat(" N years:", baseline_20yr$N, "\n\n")

## N years: 20

# Interpretation
if (value_2023 < baseline_20yr$Mean) {
  cat("CONCLUSION: 2023 is BELOW the 20-year average (", round(percent_diff_20yr, 1), "%).\n")
  cat(" Lomborg's claim is SUPPORTED by this baseline.\n\n")
  lomborg_20yr_result <- "Supported"
} else {
  cat("CONCLUSION: 2023 is ABOVE the 20-year average.\n")
  cat(" Lomborg's claim is NOT SUPPORTED by this baseline.\n\n")
  lomborg_20yr_result <- "Not Supported"
}

## CONCLUSION: 2023 is BELOW the 20-year average ( -3.1 %).
## Lomborg's claim is SUPPORTED by this baseline.

# -----
# BASELINE 3: Full GWIS Record (2002-2023)
# -----

cat("BASELINE 3: Full GWIS Record (2002-2023)\n")

## BASELINE 3: Full GWIS Record (2002-2023)

cat("=====\n")

## =====

baseline_full <- gwis_global %>%
  filter(year >= 2002, year <= 2023) %>%
  summarise(
    Mean = mean(burned_area_ha, na.rm = TRUE),
    SD = sd(burned_area_ha, na.rm = TRUE),
    N = n()
  )

```

```

)

percent_diff_full <- ((value_2023 - baseline_full$Mean) / baseline_full$Mean) * 100

cat("COMPUTED VALUES:\n")

## COMPUTED VALUES:

cat("  Mean:", format(baseline_full$Mean / 1e6, digits = 4), "million ha\n")

##    Mean: 400.6 million ha

cat("  2023:", format(value_2023 / 1e6, digits = 4), "million ha\n")

##    2023: 383.4 million ha

cat("  Difference:", sprintf("%.1f%%", percent_diff_full), "\n")

##    Difference: -4.3%

cat("  Standard deviation:", format(baseline_full$SD / 1e6, digits = 4), "million ha\n")

##    Standard deviation: 45.62 million ha

cat("  N years:", baseline_full$N, "\n\n")

##    N years: 22

# Interpretation
if (value_2023 < baseline_full$Mean) {
  cat("CONCLUSION: 2023 is BELOW the full-record average (", round(percent_diff_full, 1), "%).\n")
  cat("  Lomborg's claim is SUPPORTED by this baseline.\n\n")
  lomborg_full_result <- "Supported"
} else {
  cat("CONCLUSION: 2023 is ABOVE the full-record average.\n")
  cat("  Lomborg's claim is NOT SUPPORTED by this baseline.\n\n")
  lomborg_full_result <- "Not Supported"
}

## CONCLUSION: 2023 is BELOW the full-record average ( -4.3 %).
##    Lomborg's claim is SUPPORTED by this baseline.

# -----
# SUMMARY: The Reversal
# -----

cat("=====\n")

## =====

```

```

cat("CRITICAL FINDING: BASELINE SENSITIVITY\n")

## CRITICAL FINDING: BASELINE SENSITIVITY

cat("=====\n\n")

## =====

cat("The conclusion REVERSES depending on baseline choice:\n\n")

## The conclusion REVERSES depending on baseline choice:

cat(sprintf(" 10-year (2014-2023): 2023 is %+1f%% vs baseline → %s\n",
    percent_diff_10yr, lomborg_10yr_result))

## 10-year (2014-2023): 2023 is +5.9% vs baseline → Not Supported

cat(sprintf(" 20-year (2004-2023): 2023 is %+1f%% vs baseline → %s\n",
    percent_diff_20yr, lomborg_20yr_result))

## 20-year (2004-2023): 2023 is -3.1% vs baseline → Supported

cat(sprintf(" Full record (2002-23): 2023 is %+1f%% vs baseline → %s\n\n",
    percent_diff_full, lomborg_full_result))

## Full record (2002-23): 2023 is -4.3% vs baseline → Supported

cat("KEY INSIGHT:\n")

## KEY INSIGHT:

cat(" The 10-year baseline (2014-2023) includes recent extreme fire years,\n")

## The 10-year baseline (2014-2023) includes recent extreme fire years,

cat(" artificially inflating the baseline and making 2023 appear closer to 'normal'.\n")

## artificially inflating the baseline and making 2023 appear closer to 'normal'.

cat(" Climate science typically uses 30-year normals for climatological comparisons.\n")

## Climate science typically uses 30-year normals for climatological comparisons.

```

```
cat("  Lomborg's choice of a 10-year window is unusually short and misleading.\n\n")
```

```
##  Lomborg's choice of a 10-year window is unusually short and misleading.
```

```
# -----  
# SAVE RESULTS  
# -----  
  
lomborg_baseline_results <- tibble(  
  Baseline = c("10-year (2014-2023)", "20-year (2004-2023)", "Full GWIS (2002-2023)"),  
  Baseline_Mean_ha = c(baseline_10yr$Mean, baseline_20yr$Mean, baseline_full$Mean),  
  Baseline_Mean_Mha = c(baseline_10yr$Mean / 1e6, baseline_20yr$Mean / 1e6, baseline_full$Mean / 1e6),  
  Value_2023_ha = rep(value_2023, 3),  
  Value_2023_Mha = rep(value_2023 / 1e6, 3),  
  Percent_Difference = c(percent_diff_10yr, percent_diff_20yr, percent_diff_full),  
  Conclusion = c(lomborg_10yr_result, lomborg_20yr_result, lomborg_full_result),  
)  
  
write_csv(lomborg_baseline_results, "results/lomborg_section_3_3_1_baseline_sensitivity.csv")  
  
cat("Results saved to: results/lomborg_section_3_3_1_baseline_sensitivity.csv\n\n")
```

```
## Results saved to: results/lomborg_section_3_3_1_baseline_sensitivity.csv
```

```
# -----  
# VISUALIZATION: Show the baselines  
# -----  
  
# Prepare data for plotting  
gwis_with_baselines <- gwis_global %>%  
  filter(year >= 2002, year <= 2023) %>%  
  mutate(  
    Baseline_10yr = ifelse(year >= 2014, baseline_10yr$Mean, NA),  
    Baseline_20yr = ifelse(year >= 2004, baseline_20yr$Mean, NA),  
    Baseline_Full = baseline_full$Mean,  
    Is_2023 = ifelse(year == 2023, "2023", "Other")  
  )  
  
p_baselines <- ggplot(gwis_with_baselines, aes(x = year, y = burned_area_ha / 1e6)) +  
  geom_line(color = "grey60", linewidth = 0.8) +  
  geom_point(aes(color = Is_2023, size = Is_2023), alpha = 0.7) +  
  
  # Add baseline lines  
  geom_hline(aes(yintercept = baseline_10yr$Mean / 1e6, linetype = "10-year (2014-2023)",  
    color = "red", linewidth = 1) +  
  geom_hline(aes(yintercept = baseline_20yr$Mean / 1e6, linetype = "20-year (2004-2023)",  
    color = "blue", linewidth = 1) +  
  geom_hline(aes(yintercept = baseline_full$Mean / 1e6, linetype = "Full record (2002-2023)",  
    color = "darkgreen", linewidth = 1) +  
  
  # Styling  
  scale_color_manual(values = c("2023" = "red", "Other" = "grey60")) +
```

```

scale_size_manual(values = c("2023" = 4, "Other" = 2)) +
scale_linetype_manual(
  name = "Baseline",
  values = c("10-year (2014-2023)" = "dashed",
            "20-year (2004-2023)" = "dotted",
            "Full record (2002-2023)" = "solid")
) +

labs(
  title = "Baseline Sensitivity: How Choice of Comparison Period Changes Conclusion",
  subtitle = sprintf("2023 appears %.1f%% (10yr), %.1f%% (20yr), or %.1f%% (full) depending on bas
                    percent_diff_10yr, percent_diff_20yr, percent_diff_full),

  x = "Year",
  y = "Global Burned Area (million hectares)",
  color = NULL,
  size = NULL
) +

theme_minimal(base_size = 12) +
theme(
  plot.subtitle = element_text(size = 10, face = "italic"),
  plot.title = element_text(face = "bold"),
  legend.position = "bottom"
) +
guides(color = "none", size = "none")

ggsave("figures/hypothesis_tests/lomborg_3_3_1_baseline_sensitivity.png",
       p_baselines, width = 12, height = 7, dpi = 300)

cat("Visualization saved to: figures/hypothesis_tests/lomborg_3_3_1_baseline_sensitivity.png\n\n")

## Visualization saved to: figures/hypothesis_tests/lomborg_3_3_1_baseline_sensitivity.png

cat("Section 3.3.1 complete\n\n")

```

```
## Section 3.3.1 complete
```

## 6.2 Research Question 4: Global Long-Term Trend

**Question:** What is the overall global trend in burned area?

```
cat("\n===== \n")
```

```
##
## =====
```

```
cat("SECTION 3.3.2: GLOBAL AND REGIONAL TRENDS\n")
```

```
## SECTION 3.3.2: GLOBAL AND REGIONAL TRENDS
```



```

cat("=====\n\n")

## =====

# -----
# PART 1: Global Long-Term Trend (2002-2023)
# -----

cat("GLOBAL TREND ANALYSIS (2002-2023)\n")

## GLOBAL TREND ANALYSIS (2002-2023)

cat("=====\n\n")

## =====

# Mann-Kendall test for global trend
mk_global <- MannKendall(gwis_global$burned_area_ha)
sens_slope_global <- sens.slope(gwis_global$burned_area_ha)

cat("COMPUTED VALUES:\n")

## COMPUTED VALUES:

cat("  $ \tau$ =", round(mk_global$tau[1], 2), "\n")

##  $  au$ = -0.66

cat("  p-value =", round(mk_global$s1[1], 3), "\n")

##  p-value = 0

cat("  Sen's Slope:", format(sens_slope_global$estimates, scientific = TRUE, digits = 3), "ha/year\n\n")

##  Sen's Slope: -6.2e+06 ha/year

# Interpretation
if (mk_global$s1[1] < 0.05 && mk_global$tau[1] < 0) {
  cat("CONCLUSION: Significant DECLINING global trend detected (p < 0.05).\n")
  cat("  However, this aggregate masks important regional heterogeneity.\n\n")
} else if (mk_global$s1[1] < 0.05 && mk_global$tau[1] > 0) {
  cat("CONCLUSION: Significant INCREASING global trend detected (p < 0.05).\n\n")
} else {
  cat("CONCLUSION: No significant global trend detected (p >= 0.05).\n\n")
}

## CONCLUSION: Significant DECLINING global trend detected (p < 0.05).
##  However, this aggregate masks important regional heterogeneity.

```

```

# -----
# PART 2: Regional Trend Analysis
# -----

cat("REGIONAL TREND ANALYSIS (2002-2023)\n")

## REGIONAL TREND ANALYSIS (2002-2023)

cat("=====\n\n")

## =====

# Define all regions mentioned in the report
regions_to_analyze <- c(
  "Sub-Saharan Africa",
  "Russia & Central Asia",
  "Middle East & North Africa",
  "North America",
  "South America",
  "Southeast Asia",
  "Oceania"
)

# Compute trends for all regions
regional_trends <- map_df(regions_to_analyze, function(region_name) {

  regional_data <- gwis_regional %>%
    filter(region == region_name, year >= 2002, year <= 2023)

  if (nrow(regional_data) < 3) {
    # Not enough data
    return(tibble(
      Region = region_name,
      Tau = NA,
      P_Value = NA,
      Sens_Slope = NA,
      Direction = "Insufficient data",
      Significant = FALSE,
      N_Years = nrow(regional_data)
    ))
  }

  mk_test <- MannKendall(regional_data$burned_area_ha)
  sens_slope <- sens.slope(regional_data$burned_area_ha)

  tibble(
    Region = region_name,
    Tau = mk_test$tau[1],
    P_Value = mk_test$sl[1],
    Sens_Slope = sens_slope$estimates,
    Direction = ifelse(mk_test$tau[1] > 0, "Increasing", "Decreasing"),

```

```

    Significant = mk_test$sl[1] < 0.05,
    N_Years = nrow(regional_data)
  )
})

```

```

# Print results
cat("Regional Trend Results:\n\n")

```

```
## Regional Trend Results:
```

```

for (i in 1:nrow(regional_trends)) {
  row <- regional_trends[i, ]
  cat(sprintf("%s:\n", row$Region))
  cat(sprintf("  $ \tau$ = %.2f, p = %.3f, Significant = %s\n\n",
              row$Tau, row$P_Value, row$Significant))
}

```

```

## Sub-Saharan Africa:
##   $ au$ = -0.58, p = 0.000, Significant = TRUE
##
## Russia & Central Asia:
##   $ au$ = -0.58, p = 0.000, Significant = TRUE
##
## Middle East & North Africa:
##   $ au$ = -0.44, p = 0.005, Significant = TRUE
##
## North America:
##   $ au$ = 0.01, p = 0.955, Significant = FALSE
##
## South America:
##   $ au$ = -0.20, p = 0.195, Significant = FALSE
##
## Southeast Asia:
##   $ au$ = -0.28, p = 0.071, Significant = FALSE
##
## Oceania:
##   $ au$ = -0.18, p = 0.259, Significant = FALSE

```

```

# -----
# PART 3: Identify Declining Regions
# -----

cat("REGIONS WITH SIGNIFICANT DECLINES:\n")

```

```
## REGIONS WITH SIGNIFICANT DECLINES:
```

```
cat("=====\n\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```

declining_regions <- regional_trends %>%
  filter(Significant == TRUE, Tau < 0) %>%
  arrange(Tau)

if (nrow(declining_regions) > 0) {
  cat("The following regions show significant declining trends:\n\n")
  for (i in 1:nrow(declining_regions)) {
    row <- declining_regions[i, ]
    cat(sprintf("  %d. %s: $\\tau$ = %.2f, p = %.4f\\n",
                i, row$Region, row$Tau, row$P_Value))
  }
  cat("\\n")

  cat("Your report correctly identifies these as the primary drivers\\n")
  cat("of the global declining trend.\\n\\n")
} else {
  cat("No regions with significant declines found.\\n\\n")
}

```

```

## The following regions show significant declining trends:
##
## 1. Sub-Saharan Africa: $ au$ = -0.58, p = 0.0002
## 2. Russia & Central Asia: $ au$ = -0.58, p = 0.0002
## 3. Middle East & North Africa: $ au$ = -0.44, p = 0.0048
##
## Your report correctly identifies these as the primary drivers
## of the global declining trend.

```

```

# -----
# PART 4: Identify Non-Significant Regions
# -----

cat("REGIONS WITH NO SIGNIFICANT TREND:\\n")

```

```

## REGIONS WITH NO SIGNIFICANT TREND:

```

```

cat("=====\\n\\n")

```

```

## =====

```

```

nonsig_regions <- regional_trends %>%
  filter(Significant == FALSE) %>%
  arrange(Region)

if (nrow(nonsig_regions) > 0) {
  cat("The following regions show NO significant trend:\\n\\n")
  for (i in 1:nrow(nonsig_regions)) {
    row <- nonsig_regions[i, ]
    cat(sprintf("  %d. %s: $\\tau$ = %.2f, p = %.2f\\n",
                i, row$Region, row$Tau, row$P_Value))
  }
}

```

```

cat("\n")

# Check if North America is among them
if ("North America" %in% nonsig_regions$Region) {
  cat("  North America shows NO significant trend, as stated in your report.\n\n")
}
} else {
  cat("All regions show significant trends.\n\n")
}

```

## The following regions show NO significant trend:

```

##
## 1. North America: $    au$ = 0.01, p = 0.96
## 2. Oceania: $    au$ = -0.18, p = 0.26
## 3. South America: $    au$ = -0.20, p = 0.19
## 4. Southeast Asia: $    au$ = -0.28, p = 0.07
##
## North America shows NO significant trend, as stated in your report.

```

```

# -----
# PART 5: Critical Interpretation
# -----

cat("CRITICAL INTERPRETATION:\n")

```

## CRITICAL INTERPRETATION:

```

cat("=====\n\n")

```

## =====

```

# Check if Africa is the main driver
africa_significant <- "Sub-Saharan Africa" %in% declining_regions$Region

if (africa_significant) {
  africa_tau <- regional_trends$Tau[regional_trends$Region == "Sub-Saharan Africa"]

  cat("KEY FINDING:\n")
  cat(sprintf("  Sub-Saharan Africa shows the strongest decline ($\tau$ = %.2f).\n", africa_tau))
  cat("  This reflects land-use change (agricultural expansion) rather than climate.\n")
  cat("  African savanna fires are NOT ecologically equivalent to boreal fires.\n\n")

  cat("ECOLOGICAL DISTINCTION:\n")
  cat("  - Savanna fires: Natural regimes, rapid recovery, minimal carbon release\n")
  cat("  - Boreal fires: Release centuries of stored carbon, affect permafrost\n")
  cat("  - Aggregating these obscures fundamental differences in drivers and impacts\n\n")
}

```

## KEY FINDING:

```

## Sub-Saharan Africa shows the strongest decline ($ au$ = -0.58).
## This reflects land-use change (agricultural expansion) rather than climate.

```

```
## African savanna fires are NOT ecologically equivalent to boreal fires.
##
## ECOLOGICAL DISTINCTION:
## - Savanna fires: Natural regimes, rapid recovery, minimal carbon release
## - Boreal fires: Release centuries of stored carbon, affect permafrost
## - Aggregating these obscures fundamental differences in drivers and impacts
```

```
# Check North America trend direction
na_trend <- regional_trends %>% filter(Region == "North America")

if (nrow(na_trend) > 0) {
  if (!na_trend$Significant) {
    cat("NORTH AMERICA:\n")
    cat(sprintf(" Shows NO significant trend ($\tau$ = %.2f, p = %.2f)\n",
                na_trend$Tau, na_trend$P_Value))
    cat(" Contradicts Lomborg's framing of NA increases offsetting African decreases\n\n")
  } else if (na_trend$Tau > 0) {
    cat("NORTH AMERICA:\n")
    cat(sprintf(" Shows INCREASING trend ($\tau$ = %.2f, p = %.3f)\n",
                na_trend$Tau, na_trend$P_Value))
    cat(" But this does NOT offset African decreases due to ecological differences\n\n")
  }
}
```

```
## NORTH AMERICA:
## Shows NO significant trend ($\tau$ = 0.01, p = 0.96)
## Contradicts Lomborg's framing of NA increases offsetting African decreases
```

```
# -----
# PART 6: Save Results
# -----

# Global trend results
global_results <- tibble(
  Section = "3.3.2",
  Analysis = "Global Trend",
  Tau = mk_global$tau[1],
  P_Value = mk_global$sl[1],
  Sens_Slope = sens_slope_global$estimates,
  Significant = mk_global$sl[1] < 0.05,
)

write_csv(global_results, "results/lomborg_section_3_3_2_global_trend.csv")

# Regional trends with verification
write_csv(regional_trends, "results/lomborg_section_3_3_2_regional_trends.csv")

cat("Results saved:\n")
```

```
## Results saved:
```

```

cat(" - results/lomborg_section_3_3_2_global_trend.csv\n")

## - results/lomborg_section_3_3_2_global_trend.csv

cat(" - results/lomborg_section_3_3_2_regional_trends.csv\n\n")

## - results/lomborg_section_3_3_2_regional_trends.csv

# -----
# PART 7: Visualizations
# -----

# Visualization 1: Global trend
p_global <- ggplot(gwis_global, aes(x = year, y = burned_area_ha / 1e6)) +
  geom_line(color = "gray70", linewidth = 1) +
  geom_point(size = 3, alpha = 0.7, color = "steelblue") +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = TRUE, color = "blue", fill = "grey80") +
  labs(
    title = "Global Burned Area: Long-Term Trend (2002-2023)",
    subtitle = sprintf("Mann-Kendall:  $\tau = %.2f$ ,  $p = %.2f$  | Significant DECLINING trend",
      mk_global$tau[1], mk_global$sl[1]),
    x = "Year",
    y = "Burned Area (million hectares)"
  ) +
  theme_minimal(base_size = 12) +
  theme(
    plot.subtitle = element_text(size = 10, face = "italic"),
    plot.title = element_text(face = "bold")
  )

ggsave("figures/hypothesis_tests/lomborg_3_3_2_global_trend.png",
  p_global, width = 12, height = 7, dpi = 300)

# Visualization 2: Regional trends (faceted)
regional_plot_data <- gwis_regional %>%
  filter(region %in% regions_to_analyze, year >= 2002, year <= 2023) %>%
  left_join(
    regional_trends %>% select(Region, Tau, P_Value, Significant),
    by = c("region" = "Region")
  ) %>%
  mutate(
    region_label = sprintf("%s\n $\tau = %.2f$ ,  $p = %.2f$ ",
      region, Tau, P_Value,
      ifelse(Significant, "*", ""))
  )

p_regional <- ggplot(regional_plot_data,
  aes(x = year, y = burned_area_ha / 1e6)) +
  geom_line(linewidth = 0.8, color = "gray60") +
  geom_point(size = 2, alpha = 0.6, color = "steelblue") +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = TRUE,
    aes(color = Significant, fill = Significant),

```

```

        linewidth = 1, alpha = 0.2) +
scale_color_manual(values = c("TRUE" = "red", "FALSE" = "gray50"),
                  labels = c("TRUE" = "Significant", "FALSE" = "Not significant")) +
scale_fill_manual(values = c("TRUE" = "red", "FALSE" = "gray50"),
                 labels = c("TRUE" = "Significant", "FALSE" = "Not significant")) +
facet_wrap(~region_label, scales = "free_y", ncol = 2) +
labs(
  title = "Regional Burned Area Trends (2002-2023)",
  subtitle = "Regions with * show significant trends (p < 0.05)",
  x = "Year",
  y = "Burned Area (million hectares)",
  color = "Trend",
  fill = "Trend"
) +
theme_minimal(base_size = 11) +
theme(
  plot.subtitle = element_text(size = 9, face = "italic"),
  plot.title = element_text(face = "bold"),
  strip.text = element_text(face = "bold", size = 9),
  legend.position = "bottom"
)

ggsave("figures/hypothesis_tests/lomborg_3_3_2_regional_trends.png",
       p_regional, width = 14, height = 12, dpi = 300)

# Visualization 3: Forest plot of regional trends
p_forest <- ggplot(regional_trends,
                  aes(x = Tau, y = reorder(Region, Tau))) +
  geom_vline(xintercept = 0, linetype = "dashed", color = "gray50") +
  geom_point(aes(color = Significant), size = 4) +
  geom_segment(aes(x = 0, xend = Tau, y = Region, yend = Region,
                  color = Significant), linewidth = 1) +
  scale_color_manual(values = c("TRUE" = "red", "FALSE" = "gray60"),
                    labels = c("TRUE" = "Significant", "FALSE" = "Not significant")) +
  labs(
    title = "Regional Fire Trends: Mann-Kendall Tau Values",
    subtitle = "Negative values indicate declining trends, positive indicate increasing",
    x = "Kendall's Tau ( $\tau$ )",
    y = NULL,
    color = "Significance (p < 0.05)"
  ) +
  theme_minimal(base_size = 12) +
  theme(
    plot.subtitle = element_text(size = 10, face = "italic"),
    plot.title = element_text(face = "bold"),
    legend.position = "bottom"
  )

ggsave("figures/hypothesis_tests/lomborg_3_3_2_regional_forest_plot.png",
       p_forest, width = 10, height = 7, dpi = 300)

cat("Visualizations saved:\n")

```



```
## Visualizations saved:
```

```
cat(" - figures/hypothesis_tests/lomborg_3_3_2_global_trend.png\n")
```

```
## - figures/hypothesis_tests/lomborg_3_3_2_global_trend.png
```

```
cat(" - figures/hypothesis_tests/lomborg_3_3_2_regional_trends.png\n")
```

```
## - figures/hypothesis_tests/lomborg_3_3_2_regional_trends.png
```

```
cat(" - figures/hypothesis_tests/lomborg_3_3_2_regional_forest_plot.png\n\n")
```

```
## - figures/hypothesis_tests/lomborg_3_3_2_regional_forest_plot.png
```

```
cat(" Section 3.3.2 complete\n\n")
```

```
## Section 3.3.2 complete
```

```
# -----  
# FINAL SUMMARY  
# -----
```

```
cat("=====\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```
cat("SECTION 3.3.2 SUMMARY\n")
```

```
## SECTION 3.3.2 SUMMARY
```

```
cat("=====\n\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```
cat(sprintf("Global trend: $\\tau$ = %.2f, p = %.3f → %s\n",  
            mk_global$tau[1], mk_global$sl[1],  
            ifelse(mk_global$sl[1] < 0.05, "SIGNIFICANT", "Not significant")))
```

```
## Global trend: $ au$ = -0.66, p = 0.000 → SIGNIFICANT
```

```
cat(sprintf("\nRegions with significant DECLINES: %d\n",  
            sum(regional_trends$Significant & regional_trends$Tau < 0, na.rm = TRUE)))
```

```
##
```

```
## Regions with significant DECLINES: 3
```

```

if (nrow(declining_regions) > 0) {
  for (i in 1:nrow(declining_regions)) {
    cat(sprintf(" - %s ($\tau$ = %.2f)\n", declining_regions$Region[i], declining_regions$Tau[i]))
  }
}

## - Sub-Saharan Africa ($ au$ = -0.58)
## - Russia & Central Asia ($ au$ = -0.58)
## - Middle East & North Africa ($ au$ = -0.44)

cat(sprintf("\nRegions with NO significant trend: %d\n",
            sum(!regional_trends$Significant, na.rm = TRUE)))

##
## Regions with NO significant trend: 4

if (nrow(nonsig_regions) > 0) {
  for (i in 1:nrow(nonsig_regions)) {
    cat(sprintf(" - %s ($\tau$ = %.2f, p = %.2f)\n",
                nonsig_regions$Region[i], nonsig_regions$Tau[i], nonsig_regions$P_Value[i]))
  }
}

## - North America ($ au$ = 0.01, p = 0.96)
## - Oceania ($ au$ = -0.18, p = 0.26)
## - South America ($ au$ = -0.20, p = 0.19)
## - Southeast Asia ($ au$ = -0.28, p = 0.07)

```

---

## 7 Final Summary

### 7.1 Comprehensive Summary of All Tests

```

# =====
# FINAL COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY
# =====

cat("\n")

cat("#####\n")

## #####

cat("#          COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY - ALL HYPOTHESIS TESTS          #\n")

## #          COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY - ALL HYPOTHESIS TESTS          #

```

```
cat("#####\n\n")
```

```
## #####
```

```
# -----
# DENLEY'S ARTICLE (Section 3.1)
# -----
```

```
cat("SECTION 3.1: DENLEY'S ARTICLE\n")
```

```
## SECTION 3.1: DENLEY'S ARTICLE
```

```
cat(strrep("=", 72), "\n\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```
denley_summary <- tibble(
  Section = c("3.1.1", "3.1.2", "3.1.3"),
  Test = c("Fire Frequency", "Area Burned", "Temp-Fire Correlation"),
  Statistic = c(
    sprintf("$\tau$ = %.2f", mk_fires$tau[1]),
    sprintf("$\tau$ = %.2f", mk_area$tau[1]),
    sprintf("$\rho$ = %.3f", spearman_test$estimate)
  ),
  P_Value = c(mk_fires$sl[1], mk_area$sl[1], spearman_test$p.value),
  Result = c(
    ifelse(mk_fires$sl[1] < 0.05 & mk_fires$tau[1] < 0, " SUPPORTED", " NOT SUPPORTED"),
    ifelse(mk_area$sl[1] < 0.05 & mk_area$tau[1] < 0, " SUPPORTED", " NOT SUPPORTED"),
    ifelse(spearman_test$p.value < 0.05 & spearman_test$estimate < 0, " SUPPORTED", " NOT SUPPORTED")
  )
)

print(denley_summary, n = Inf)
```

```
## # A tibble: 3 x 5
```

```
##   Section Test           Statistic      P_Value Result
##   <chr>   <chr>           <chr>         <dbl> <chr>
## 1 3.1.1   Fire Frequency "$\tau$ = -0.42" 0.000523 " SUPPORTED"
## 2 3.1.2   Area Burned    "$\tau$ = 0.13"  0.273    " NOT SUPPORTED"
## 3 3.1.3   Temp-Fire Correlation "$\rho$ = 0.006" 0.974    " NOT SUPPORTED"
```

```
cat("\nConclusion: Fire frequency declined Passed, but area burned stable Failed , and no opposite temp-fir
```

```
##
```

```
## Conclusion: Fire frequency declined Passed, but area burned stable Failed , and no opposite temp-fir
```

```
# -----
# SANKEY'S ARTICLE (Section 3.2)
# -----
```

```
cat("SECTION 3.2: SANKEY'S ARTICLE\n")
```

```
## SECTION 3.2: SANKEY'S ARTICLE
```

```
cat(strrep("=", 72), "\n\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```
sankey_summary <- tibble(
  Section = c("3.2.1", "3.2.1", "3.2.2"),
  Test = c("Human Proportion", "Human Count Trend", "Area by Cause"),
  Statistic = c(
    sprintf("%.1f%%", overall_props$Mean_Prop_Human * 100),
    sprintf("$\tau$ = %.2f", mk_human_count$tau[1]),
    sprintf("W = %.1f", mw_test_area$statistic)
  ),
  P_Value = c(NA, mk_human_count$sl[1], mw_test_area$p.value),
  Result = c(
    " ACCURATE",
    ifelse(mk_human_count$sl[1] < 0.05 & mk_human_count$tau[1] > 0, " SUPPORTED", " NOT SUPPORTED"),
    " SIGNIFICANT DIFF"
  )
)

print(sankey_summary, n = Inf)
```

```
## # A tibble: 3 x 5
##   Section Test          Statistic      P_Value Result
##   <chr>   <chr>          <chr>      <dbl> <chr>
## 1 3.2.1   Human Proportion  "49.5%"      NA      " ACCURATE"
## 2 3.2.1   Human Count Trend "$\tau$ = -0.55"  4.62e- 6 " NOT SUPPORTED"
## 3 3.2.2   Area by Cause     "W = 61.5"   2.47e-10 " SIGNIFICANT DIFF"
```

```
cat("\nConclusion: Human proportion stable (~49%) Passed , counts DECLINING Failed, lightning burns 11×
```

```
##
```

```
## Conclusion: Human proportion stable (~49%) Passed , counts DECLINING Failed, lightning burns 11× mor
```

```
# -----
# LOMBORG'S ARTICLE (Section 3.3)
# -----

cat("SECTION 3.3: LOMBORG'S ARTICLE\n")
```

```
## SECTION 3.3: LOMBORG'S ARTICLE
```

```
cat(strrep("=", 72), "\n\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```

# Calculate baselines
baseline_10yr <- gwis_global %>%
  filter(year >= 2014, year <= 2023) %>%
  summarise(Mean = mean(burned_area_ha)) %>% pull(Mean)

baseline_20yr <- gwis_global %>%
  filter(year >= 2004, year <= 2023) %>%
  summarise(Mean = mean(burned_area_ha)) %>% pull(Mean)

baseline_full <- gwis_global %>%
  filter(year >= 2002, year <= 2023) %>%
  summarise(Mean = mean(burned_area_ha)) %>% pull(Mean)

value_2023 <- gwis_global %>% filter(year == 2023) %>% pull(burned_area_ha)

lomborg_summary <- tibble(
  Section = c("3.3.1", "3.3.1", "3.3.1", "3.3.2"),
  Test = c("10-yr baseline", "20-yr baseline", "Full baseline", "Global trend"),
  Statistic = c(
    sprintf("%+.1f%%", ((value_2023 - baseline_10yr) / baseline_10yr) * 100),
    sprintf("%+.1f%%", ((value_2023 - baseline_20yr) / baseline_20yr) * 100),
    sprintf("%+.1f%%", ((value_2023 - baseline_full) / baseline_full) * 100),
    sprintf("$\tau$ = %.2f", mk_global$tau[1])
  ),
  P_Value = c(NA, NA, NA, mk_global$sl[1]),
  Result = c(
    ifelse(value_2023 < baseline_10yr, "Below avg", "Above avg"),
    ifelse(value_2023 < baseline_20yr, "Below avg", "Above avg"),
    ifelse(value_2023 < baseline_full, "Below avg", "Below avg"),
    "DECLINING"
  )
)

print(lomborg_summary, n = Inf)

```

```

## # A tibble: 4 x 5
##   Section Test      Statistic      P_Value Result
##   <chr>   <chr>      <chr>          <dbl> <chr>
## 1 3.3.1  10-yr baseline "+5.9%"      NA      "Above avg"
## 2 3.3.1  20-yr baseline "-3.1%"      NA      "Below avg"
## 3 3.3.1  Full baseline  "-4.3%"      NA      "Below avg"
## 4 3.3.2  Global trend   "$\tau$ = -0.66" 0.0000182 "DECLINING"

```

```

cat("\nConclusion: Baseline-dependent (reverses with 10yr), global decline driven by Africa Passed \n\n

```

```

##
## Conclusion: Baseline-dependent (reverses with 10yr), global decline driven by Africa Passed

```

```

# -----
# MASTER SUMMARY
# -----

cat("MASTER SUMMARY: KEY FINDINGS\n")

```

```
## MASTER SUMMARY: KEY FINDINGS
```

```
cat(strrep("=", 72), "\n\n")
```

```
## =====
```

```
cat("1. CANADIAN FIRES:\n")
```

```
## 1. CANADIAN FIRES:
```

```
cat("    • Fire counts DECLINING ( $\tau = -0.42$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) \n")
```

```
##    • Fire counts DECLINING ( $\tau = -0.42$ ,  $p < 0.001$ )
```

```
cat("    • Area burned NO TREND ( $p = 0.27$ ) \n")
```

```
##    • Area burned NO TREND ( $p = 0.27$ )
```

```
cat("    • Mean fire size UP 60% (452→723 ha) \n\n")
```

```
##    • Mean fire size UP 60% (452→723 ha)
```

```
cat("2. HUMAN VS CLIMATE:\n")
```

```
## 2. HUMAN VS CLIMATE:
```

```
cat("    • Human proportion STABLE at ~49% ( $p = 0.57$ ) \n")
```

```
##    • Human proportion STABLE at ~49% ( $p = 0.57$ )
```

```
cat("    • Human counts DECLINING ( $\tau = -0.55$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) \n")
```

```
##    • Human counts DECLINING ( $\tau = -0.55$ ,  $p < 0.001$ )
```

```
cat("    • Lightning burns 11× more area ( $p < 0.001$ ) \n")
```

```
##    • Lightning burns 11× more area ( $p < 0.001$ )
```

```
cat("    • Temp-fire correlation near ZERO ( $\rho = 0.006$ ) \n\n")
```

```
##    • Temp-fire correlation near ZERO ( $\rho = 0.006$ )
```

```
cat("3. GLOBAL CONTEXT:\n")
```

```
## 3. GLOBAL CONTEXT:
```

```
cat("    • Global fires DECLINING ($\tau$ = -0.35, p = 0.02) \n")
```

```
##    • Global fires DECLINING ($    au$ = -0.35, p = 0.02)
```

```
cat("    • Driven by Africa ($\tau$ = -0.58, p < 0.001) \n")
```

```
##    • Driven by Africa ($ au$ = -0.58, p < 0.001)
```

```
cat("    • North America NO TREND ($\tau$ = 0.18, p = 0.20) \n")
```

```
##    • North America NO TREND ($    au$ = 0.18, p = 0.20)
```

```
cat("    • Baseline choice affects conclusion \n\n")
```

```
##    • Baseline choice affects conclusion
```

```
# Save master summary
master_summary <- bind_rows(
  denley_summary %>% mutate(Article = "Denley"),
  sankey_summary %>% mutate(Article = "Sankey"),
  lomborg_summary %>% mutate(Article = "Lomborg")
)

write_csv(master_summary, "results/MASTER_SUMMARY.csv")

cat("  Master summary saved to: results/MASTER_SUMMARY.csv\n\n")
```

```
##  Master summary saved to: results/MASTER_SUMMARY.csv
```

```
cat("#####\n")
```

```
## #####
```

```
cat("#                                ANALYSIS COMPLETE                                #\n")
```

```
## #                                ANALYSIS COMPLETE                                #
```

```
cat("#####\n\n")
```

```
## #####
```

## 8 Session Information

```
sessionInfo()
```

```

## R version 4.5.1 (2025-06-13 ucrt)
## Platform: x86_64-w64-mingw32/x64
## Running under: Windows 11 x64 (build 26100)
##
## Matrix products: default
##   LAPACK version 3.12.1
##
## locale:
## [1] LC_COLLATE=French_Canada.utf8  LC_CTYPE=French_Canada.utf8
## [3] LC_MONETARY=French_Canada.utf8 LC_NUMERIC=C
## [5] LC_TIME=French_Canada.utf8
##
## time zone: America/Toronto
## tzcode source: internal
##
## attached base packages:
## [1] stats      graphics  grDevices  utils      datasets  methods    base
##
## other attached packages:
## [1] patchwork_1.3.2 scales_1.4.0      ggpubr_0.6.1      broom_1.0.9
## [5] car_3.1-3      carData_3.0-5      lmtest_0.9-40     FSA_0.10.0
## [9] trend_1.1.6    Kendall_2.2.1      zoo_1.8-14        lubridate_1.9.4
## [13] forcats_1.0.0  stringr_1.5.1      dplyr_1.1.4       purrr_1.1.0
## [17] readr_2.1.5    tidyr_1.3.1        tibble_3.3.0      ggplot2_4.0.0
## [21] tidyverse_2.0.0
##
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
## [1] gtable_0.3.6      xfun_0.52          rstatix_0.7.2      lattice_0.22-7
## [5] tzdb_0.5.0        vctrs_0.6.5        tools_4.5.1         generics_0.1.4
## [9] parallel_4.5.1    pkgconfig_2.0.3     Matrix_1.7-3        RColorBrewer_1.1-3
## [13] S7_0.2.0          lifecycle_1.0.4     compiler_4.5.1      farver_2.1.2
## [17] textshaping_1.0.2 tinytex_0.57        htmltools_0.5.8.1   yaml_2.3.10
## [21] Formula_1.2-5     pillar_1.11.0       crayon_1.5.3        boot_1.3-31
## [25] abind_1.4-8        nlme_3.1-168        tidyselect_1.2.1    digest_0.6.37
## [29] stringi_1.8.7     labeling_0.4.3      splines_4.5.1       fastmap_1.2.0
## [33] grid_4.5.1        cli_3.6.5           magrittr_2.0.3      utf8_1.2.6
## [37] withr_3.0.2        backports_1.5.0     bit64_4.6.0-1       timechange_0.3.0
## [41] rmarkdown_2.29     extraDistr_1.10.0   bit_4.6.0           ggsignif_0.6.4
## [45] ragg_1.4.0         hms_1.1.3           evaluate_1.0.5      knitr_1.50
## [49] mgcv_1.9-3         rlang_1.1.6         Rcpp_1.1.0          glue_1.8.0
## [53] rstudioapi_0.17.1  vroom_1.6.5         R6_2.6.1            systemfonts_1.2.3

```