

2012 Governor's Conference

Burnett County Wind Disaster
Northwest WI Storm Recovery

March 15, 2012



Severe Storms – July 1st

- **Straight Line Winds in Excess of 100 mph**
- **Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk and Washburn Counties**
- **130,000 Acres Affected**



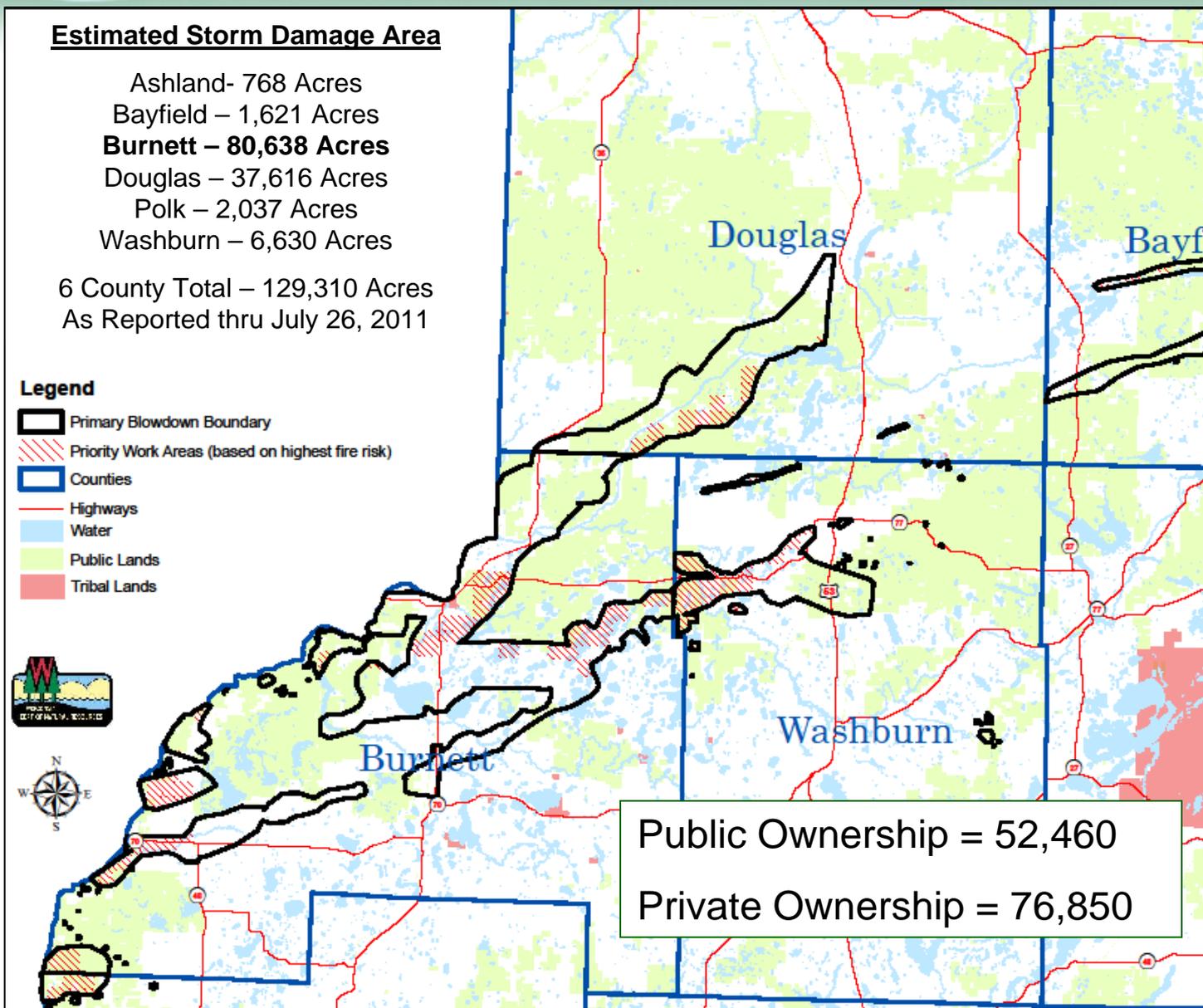
Estimated Storm Damage Area

Ashland- 768 Acres
Bayfield – 1,621 Acres
Burnett – 80,638 Acres
Douglas – 37,616 Acres
Polk – 2,037 Acres
Washburn – 6,630 Acres

6 County Total – 129,310 Acres
As Reported thru July 26, 2011

Legend

-  Primary Blowdown Boundary
-  Priority Work Areas (based on highest fire risk)
-  Counties
-  Highways
-  Water
-  Public Lands
-  Tribal Lands



Public Ownership = 52,460

Private Ownership = 76,850



Project Leadership & Organization

- On August 24th, Governor Walker issued an Executive Order that declared a State of Emergency and facilitated an inter-agency recovery effort.
- The Department of Natural Resources was designated as the lead agency for project discussions and task coordination.
- A DNR Incident Management Team was assembled to guide the recovery efforts.





Burnett County Emergency Management





Burnett County Information



Burnett County Information



Burnett County Information



Department of Natural Resources



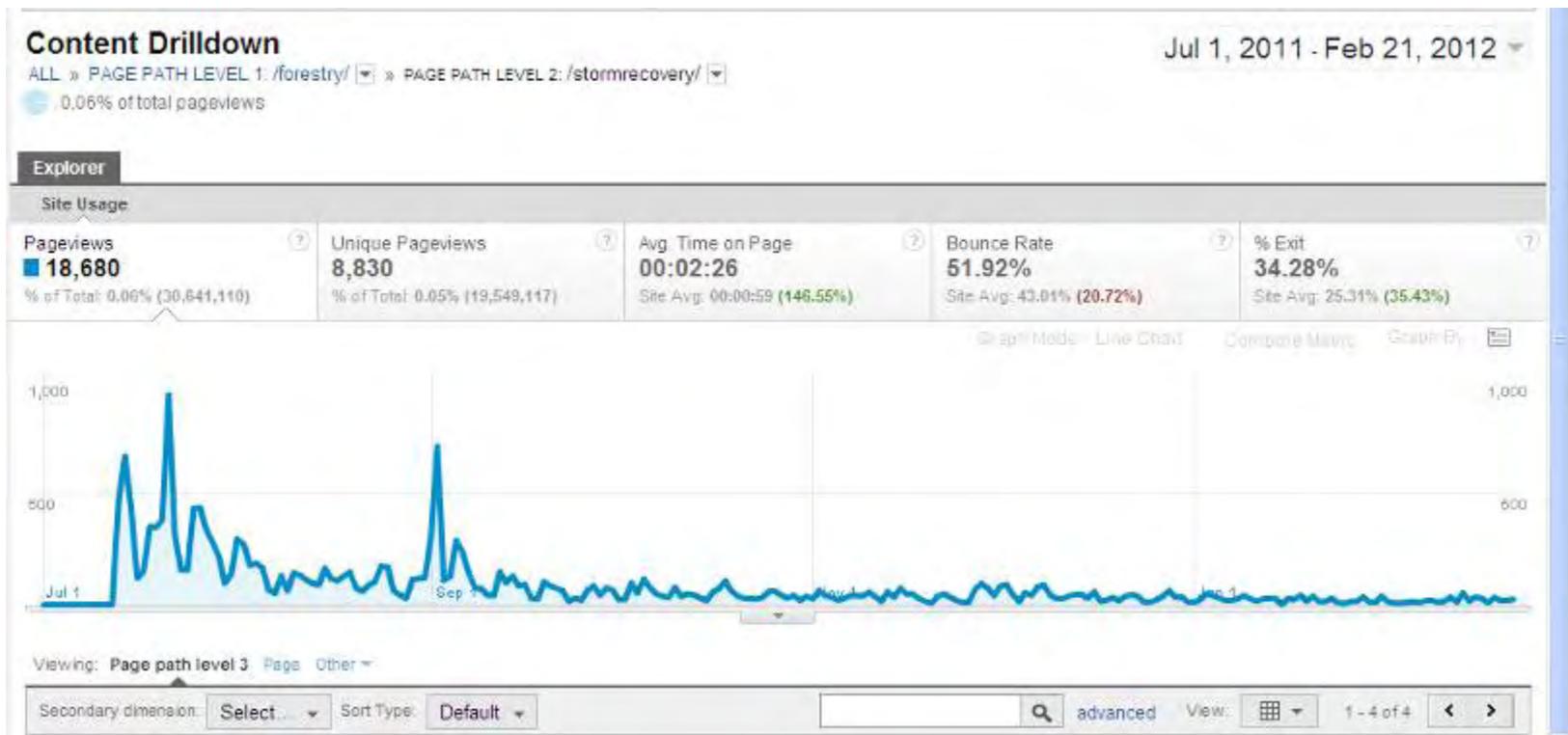


Storm Recovery Objectives

- **Salvage to Maximize Timber Value**
- **Disease Prevention**
- **Reduce Wild Fire Risks**

Communication

Website and 1-888 Customer Service Hotline



Outreach

- Landowners (MN & WI)
 - Work Shops
 - Information Packets Distributed via US Mail
- Local Government
- Federal & State Legislators
- Industry
- Tribal Government





Damage & Fire Risk Assessment

- **On August 6th a flyover of the damaged area took place including representatives of:**
 - National Guard
 - Wisconsin Emergency Management
 - Burnett and Douglas Counties
 - Department of Natural Resources
- **Contract aerial photos completed by September 9th allowed DNR staff to fine tune earlier acreage estimates.**
 - Before the end of September, digital ortho aerial photos were available.
- **Recreational trail damage was assessed to determine how much assistance was needed.**

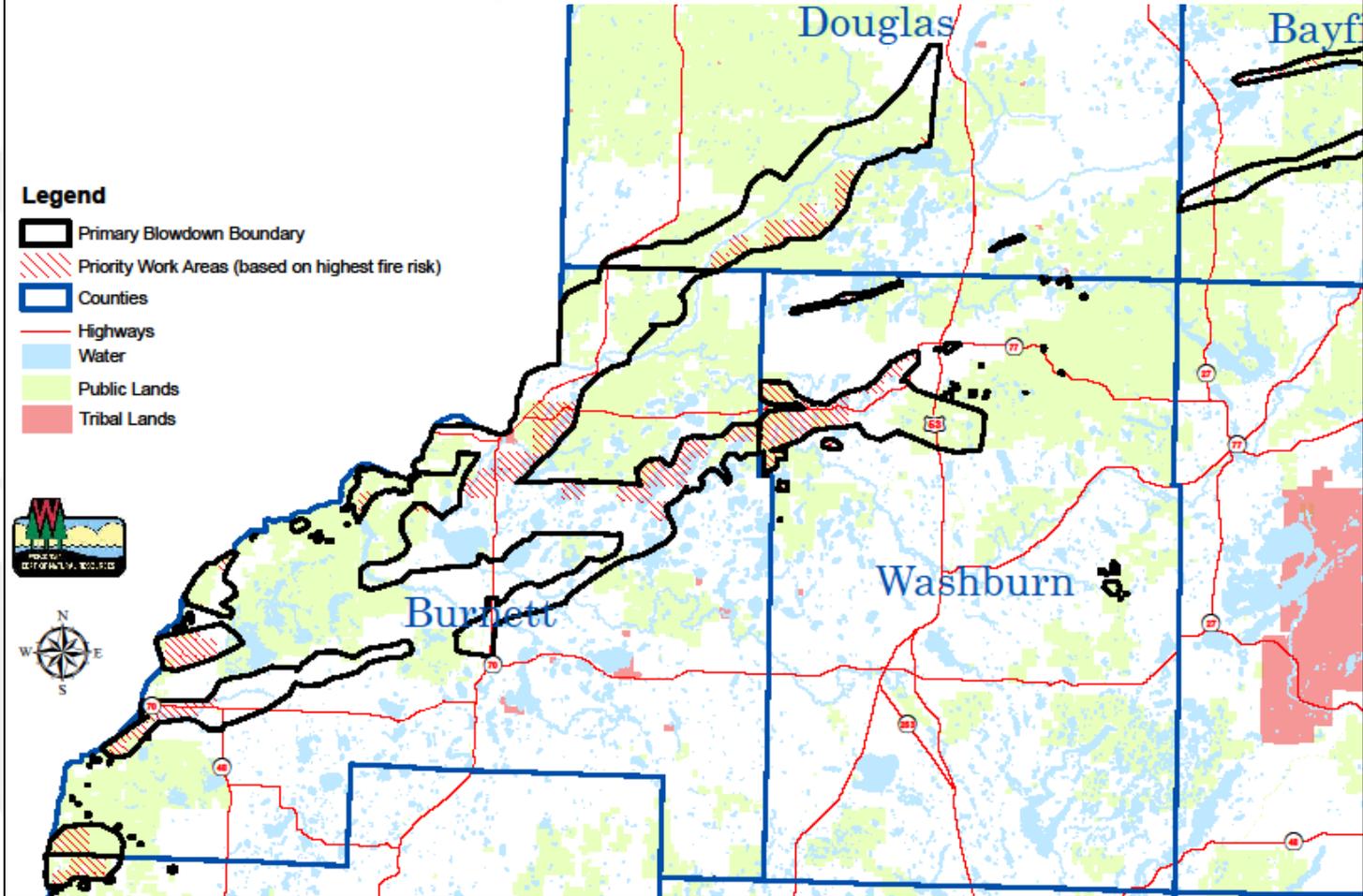
Wildland Fire Prevention

Identify High Priority Fire Risk Areas

- Targeted Outreach and Support

Hazard Fuel Mitigation Projects

- Power Line Right of Way Hazard Tree Removal





Financial Support

- **County Forest Sustainable Grant Program**
 - Burnett County (Additional Forester - \$44,300)
 - Douglas County (Aerial Photo Work - \$15,000)
- **Urban Forestry Catastrophic Storm Grants**
Village of Minong – Village of Grantsburg – Village of Webster
- **Hazard Fuel Mitigation Reduction Projects**
 - More that \$100,000 available for projects.
(Example: Power line right of way hazard tree removal)



Financial Support

- **Federal Assistance**

- \$250,000 – Awarded to DNR for education, planning and fuels mitigation projects related to the Reduction of Fuel Load.
- \$425,000 (approx.) – Wildland Urban Interface Grants available competitively statewide.

- **Recreational Trails**

- Snowmobile and ATV Grants for state funded trails using a reallocation of funds.

- **Community Development Block Grant –
Emergency Assistance Program**

- \$350,000 of funding assistance was available and administered by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.



Economic Incentives

Department of Revenue

- Tax Credits to Offset Transportation Costs

Economic Development Corporation / Board of Commissioners of Public Lands

- Low Interest Loans
 - Opportunity to Increase a Company's Credit





Department of Transportation





Timber Transport

- **Limits on State Trunk Highways**
 - Identified a method for permitting higher road limits.
- **Potential Funding Options**
 - Assist with costs related to road damage from hauling on local routes.
 - Local Road Improvement Program
 - State Infrastructure Bank



**Operation
Blue Ox**

Soldier Preparation – Safety First



- 29 Personnel
FISTA certified to operate chainsaws.
- 10 Personnel
Trained on back hoe loaders.
- 9 Personnel
Trained on front end loaders.
- 19 Personnel
Trained on 20 ton dumps.
- 8 additional Personnel
Trained on wood chippers.



0 - ZERO
Catastrophic Injuries

Mission Completion Report

Township	Distance (mi)
Oakland	24
Jackson	20.79
Scott	20
Web Lake	9.3
Swiss	9.5
Blaine	15.1
Union	9.2
Lincoln	27
Meenon	14.6
Dairyland	13.5
TOTAL	162.99

- Mobilized September 6.
- Mission completed October 12.
- 59 personnel deployed from the Wisconsin Army National Guard.
- A total of 180 miles of highway right of way were cleared.



Interagency Collaboration

- **Wisconsin Emergency Management**
 - Overall support of the operation
 - Salvation Army Lunch
 - Bottled Water
- **Department of Natural Resources**
 - Detailed Map Products
 - Expertise in clearing
- **Department of Corrections**
 - 20 Inmates and 2 OFF, Mon-Fri
 - 10 female inmates and 1 OFF, Wed
- **County Government**
 - Highway Road Safety Crew
- **Townships**
 - Developed the 27 Priorities
 - Offer equipment storage areas and fuel sites



Before and After





Department of Tourism





Trail Coordination – All 5 Counties

- **Tourism and DNR Working Together**
 - Working with county coordinators to see where the needs are.
 - Location of the trails that need clean up
 - Number of miles of trails
- **Department of Corrections**
 - Possibility of crews to help with trail clean up
 - St. Croix Correctional Center – New Richmond
 - Possible redeployment after working with the National Guard
 - Transition to working with County trail representative
 - Looking at the month of October



Media Relations

- **Extensive Resources put into Promoting Fall**
 - Fall Color Report
- **American Road Magazine**
- **TravelWisconsin.com**
- **Working on Additional Social Media and Public Relations Tactics**
 - Consumer Email Newsletters
 - Website Articles
 - Advertorials
 - Media Pitching
 - Social Media



Wild Land Fire Management



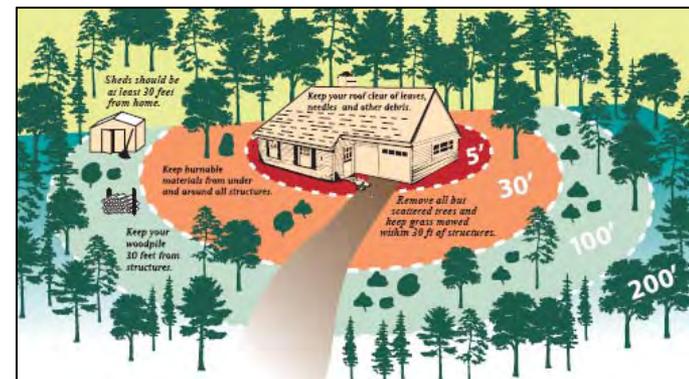
Fire Management Planning

- **Prevention**

- Complete requests for Home Ignition Zone Assessments from a mailing to landowners in October.
- Create prevention messaging to the public through collaboration with the national fire prevention team.
- Institute emergency burning restrictions.

- **Detection**

- Re-staff a fire tower in Douglas County to aid in detecting fires.



Fire Management Planning

- **Preparedness**

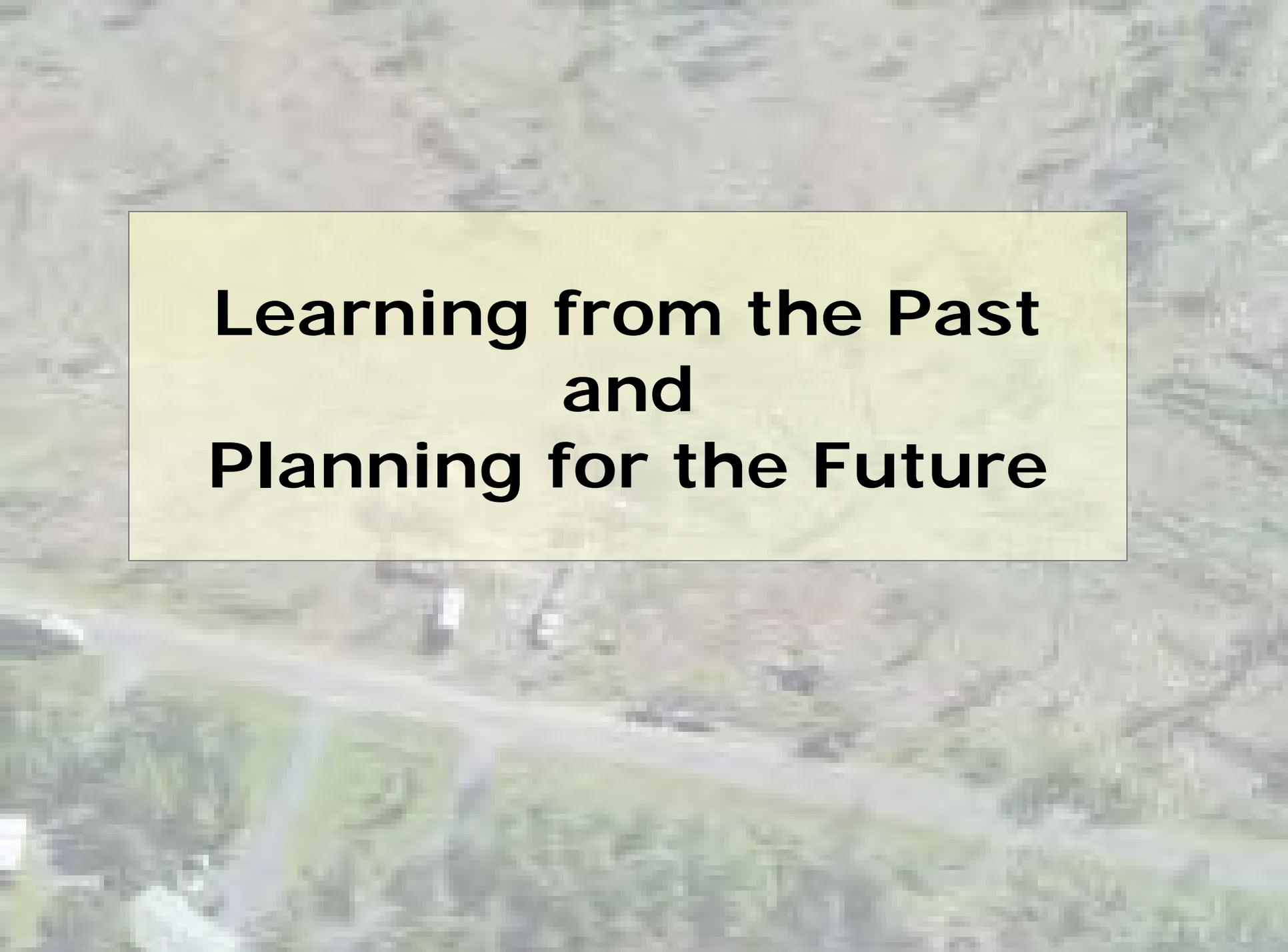
- Implement a rigorous training schedule for:
 - DNR Fire Fighters
 - Fire Department Members
- Equip DNR fire trucks with double the mandatory amount of fire hose.
- Comprehensive briefings that include a focus on safety.



- **Suppression**

- Expand the fire fighting agreement with Minnesota for sharing available suppression resources.
- Place additional large bulldozers on standby in key locations.
- Make additional aerial fire fighting resources available.
- Secure a national “hot shot” fire fighting crew (20 people) from out of state.



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Washington D.C., showing a central river (the Potomac) and surrounding urban and green areas. The image is slightly blurred and serves as a background for the text.

Learning from the Past and Planning for the Future



Positives

- **Integrated Approach – Teamwork**
- **Inter-Agency Collaboration and Communication**
- **Broad Communication and Outreach**



Lessons Learned

- **Mobilize IMT Earlier**

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