



# **The practice of prescribed burning: whose risk are we measuring?**

Dr Adam Leavesley, ACT Parks and Conservation Service

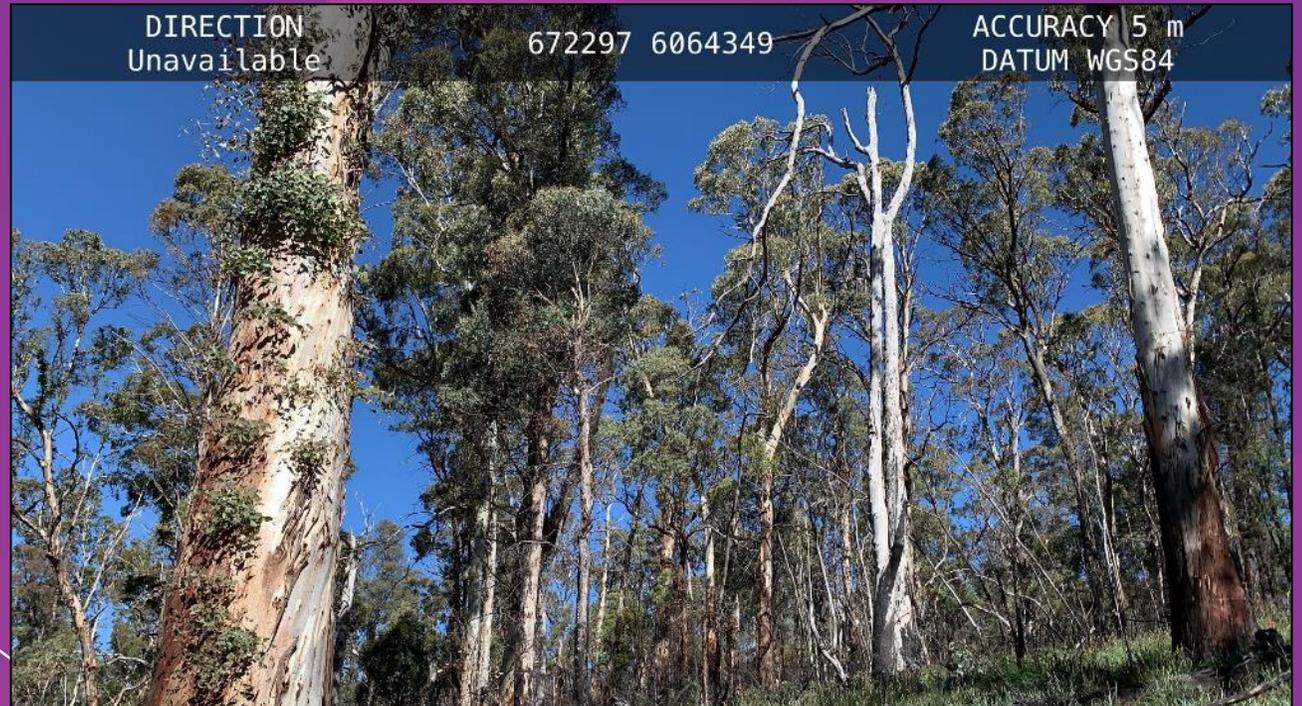
National Fire Fuels Science Webinar **20 May 2020**

The practice of hazard reduction: what are the potentials and limitations?

ACT GOVERNMENT

# The Practice of Prescribed Burning: Potentials and Limitations

Adam Leavesley  
ACT Parks and Conservation Service





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# I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT:

Orroral Fire, Jan-Feb 2020

- Prescribed burns and fire suppression
- Landscape fire effects

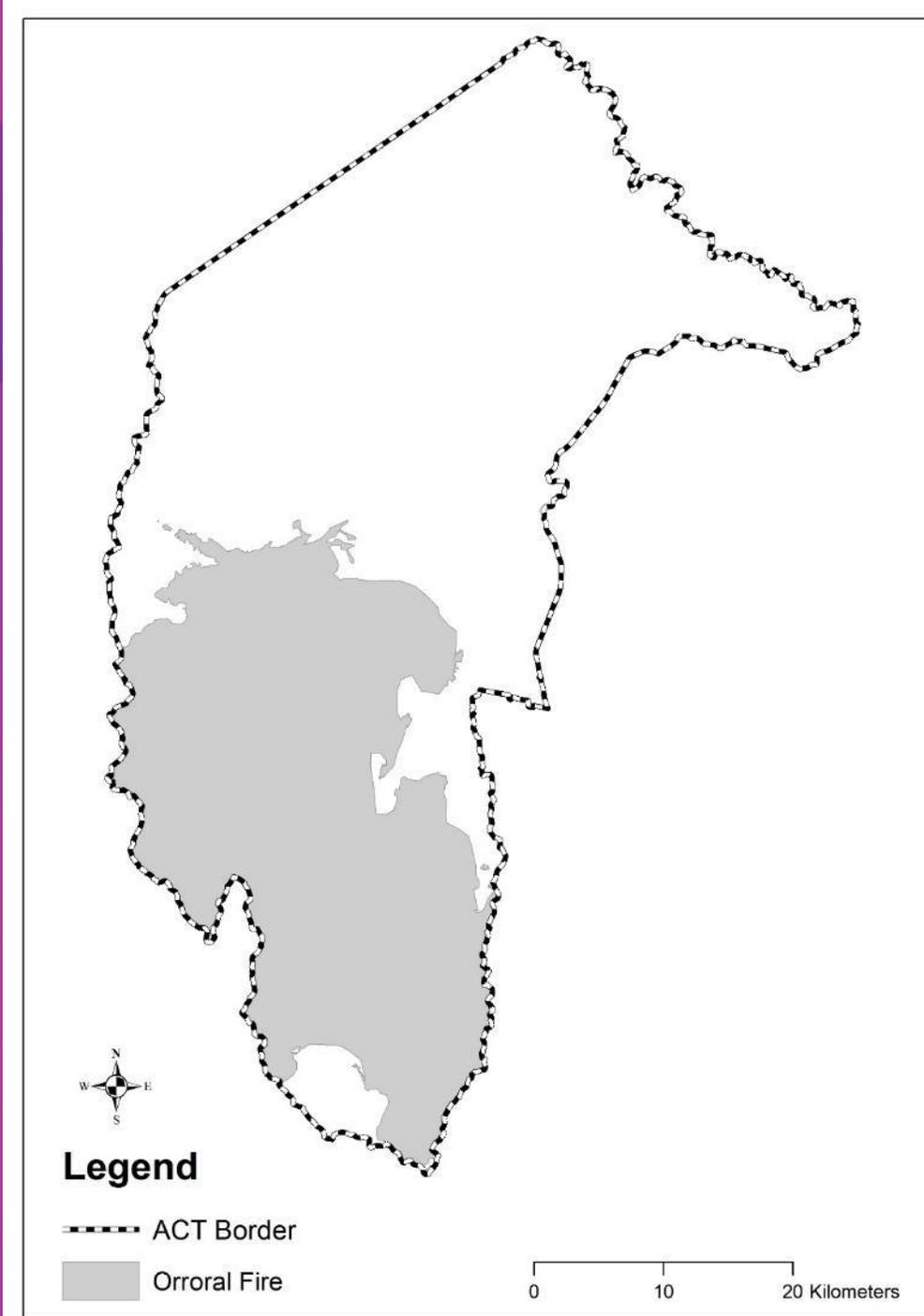




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## THE ORRORAL FIRE, 2020

- 27 January – 9 February 2020
- Extent ~90,000ha
- Burnt national park and water catchment
- Rain assisted control





## THE ORRORAL FIRE, 2020

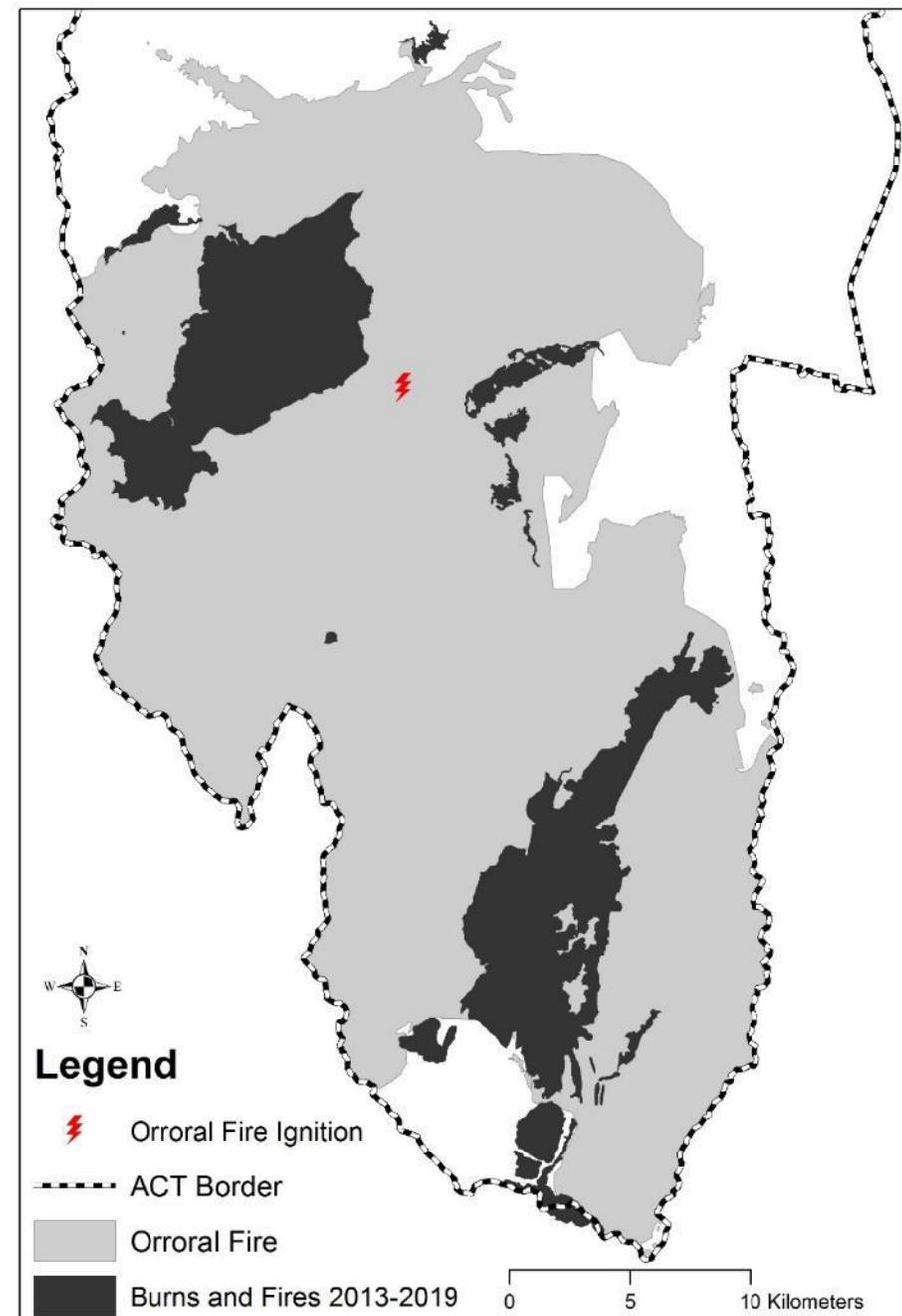
- 27 January – 9 February 2020
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In the period 2013-2019

- 13 prescribed burns (191-6033ha)
- 3 bushfires (3-42ha)

The prescribed burns reduced:

- extent and severity of the fire
- landscape environment impacts





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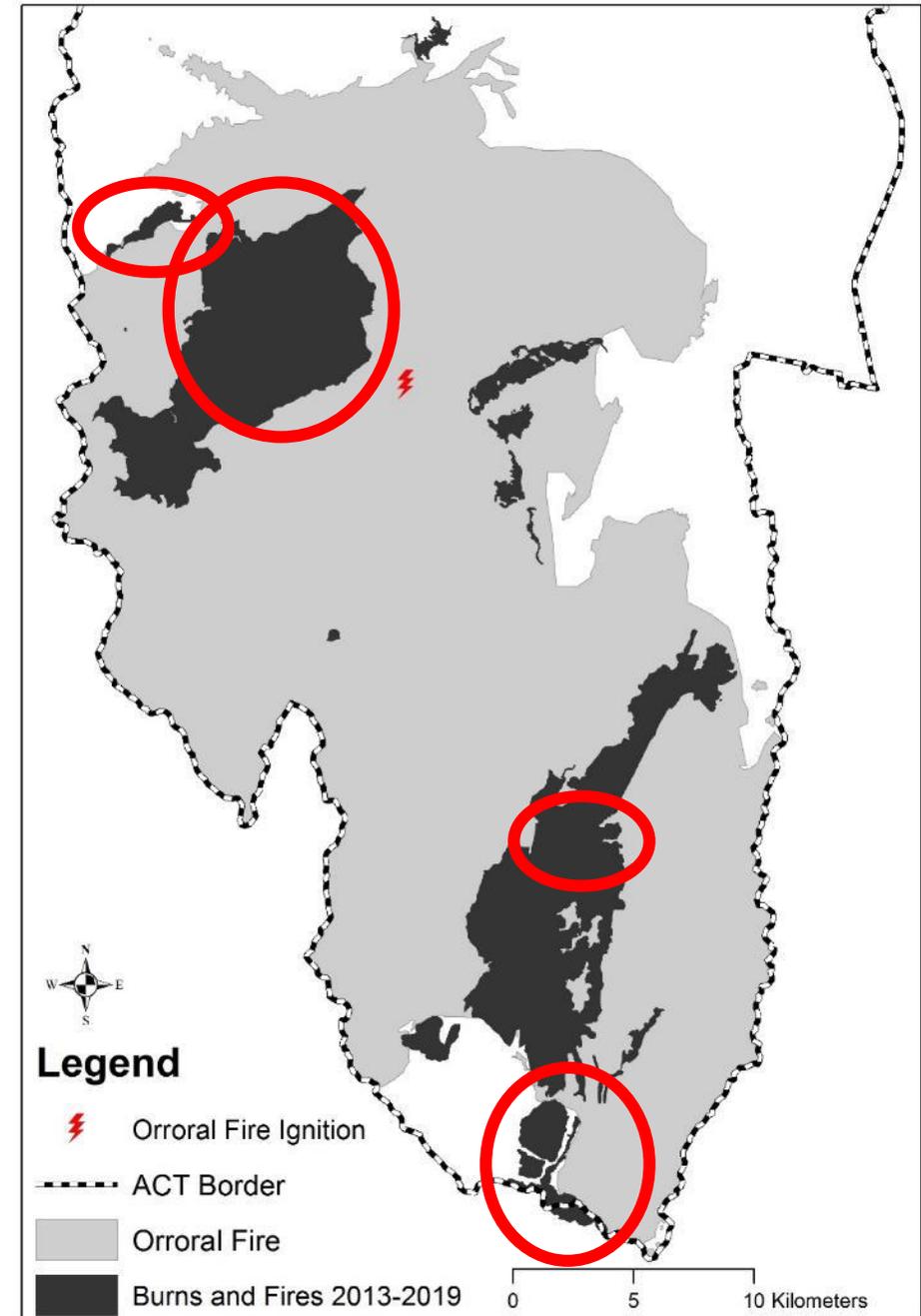
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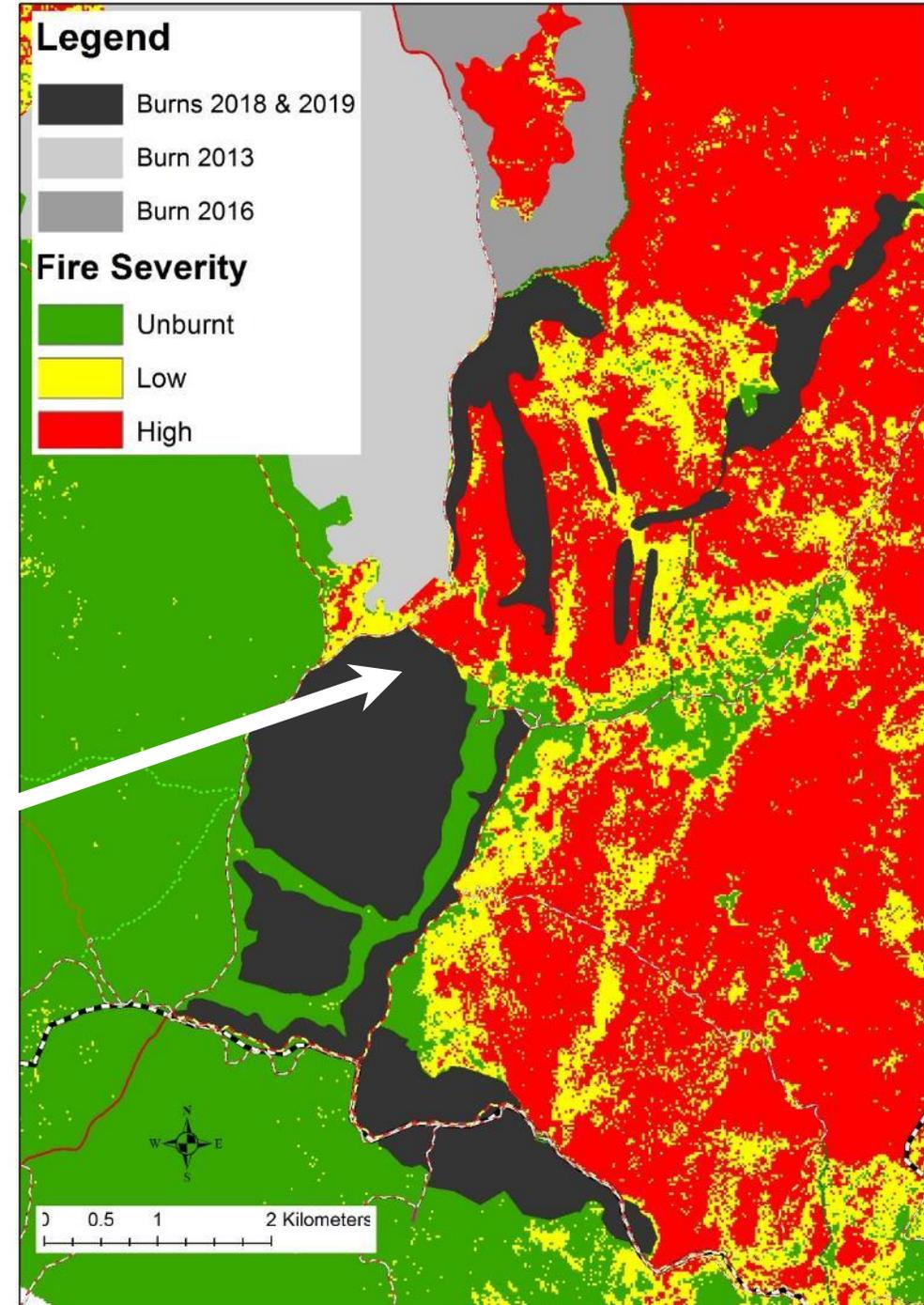
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# POTTERS HILL BURN, 2018





South side of fire trail, prescribed burnt in 2018, fire self-extinguished within a few metres.



North side of fire trail; burnt by bushfire in 2003; consumption of the canopy.



## THE ORRORAL FIRE, 2020

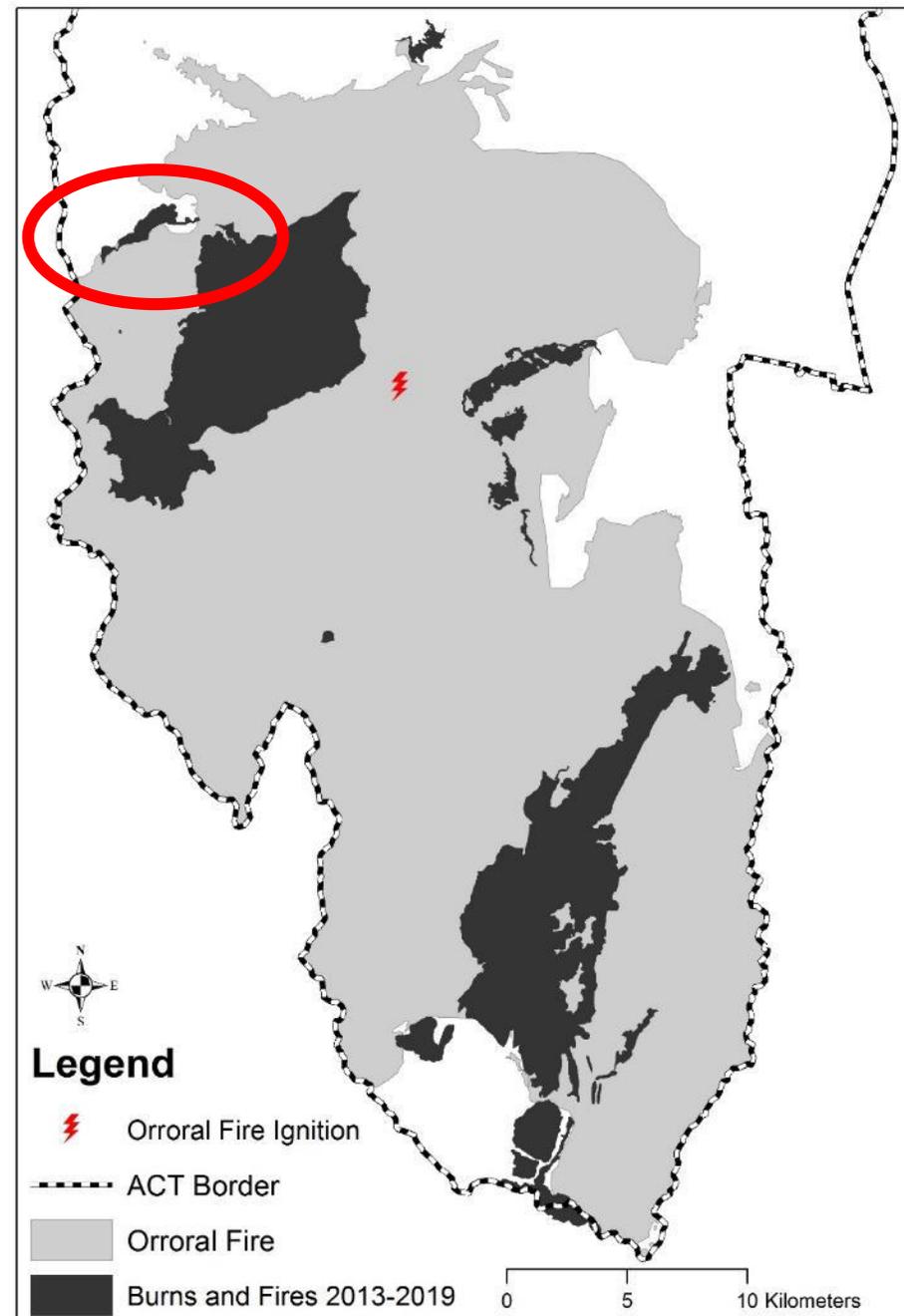
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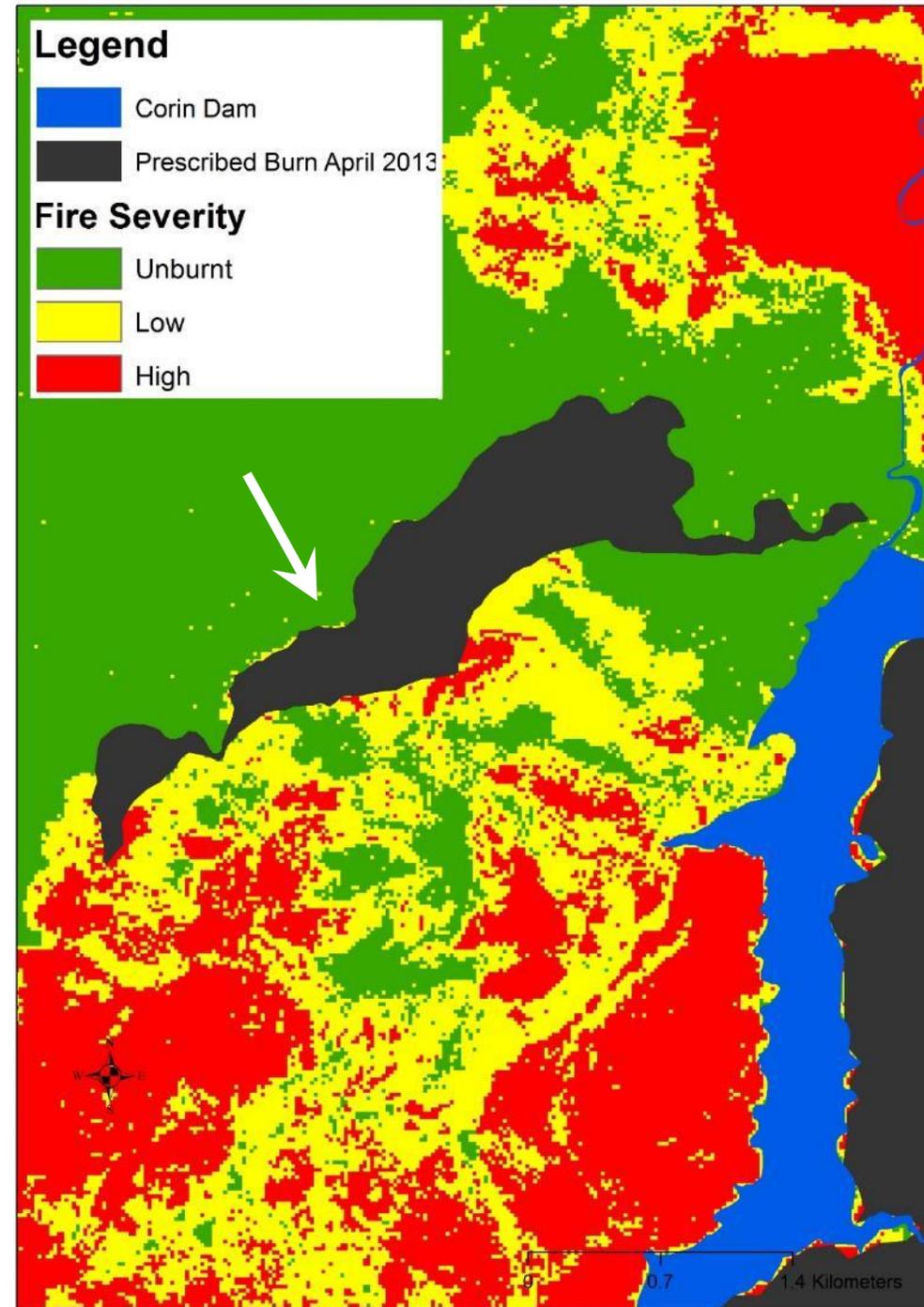
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# STOCKYARD SPUR BURN, 2013



**Legend**

- Corin Dam
- Prescribed Burn April 2013
- Fire Severity**
- Unburnt
- Low
- High

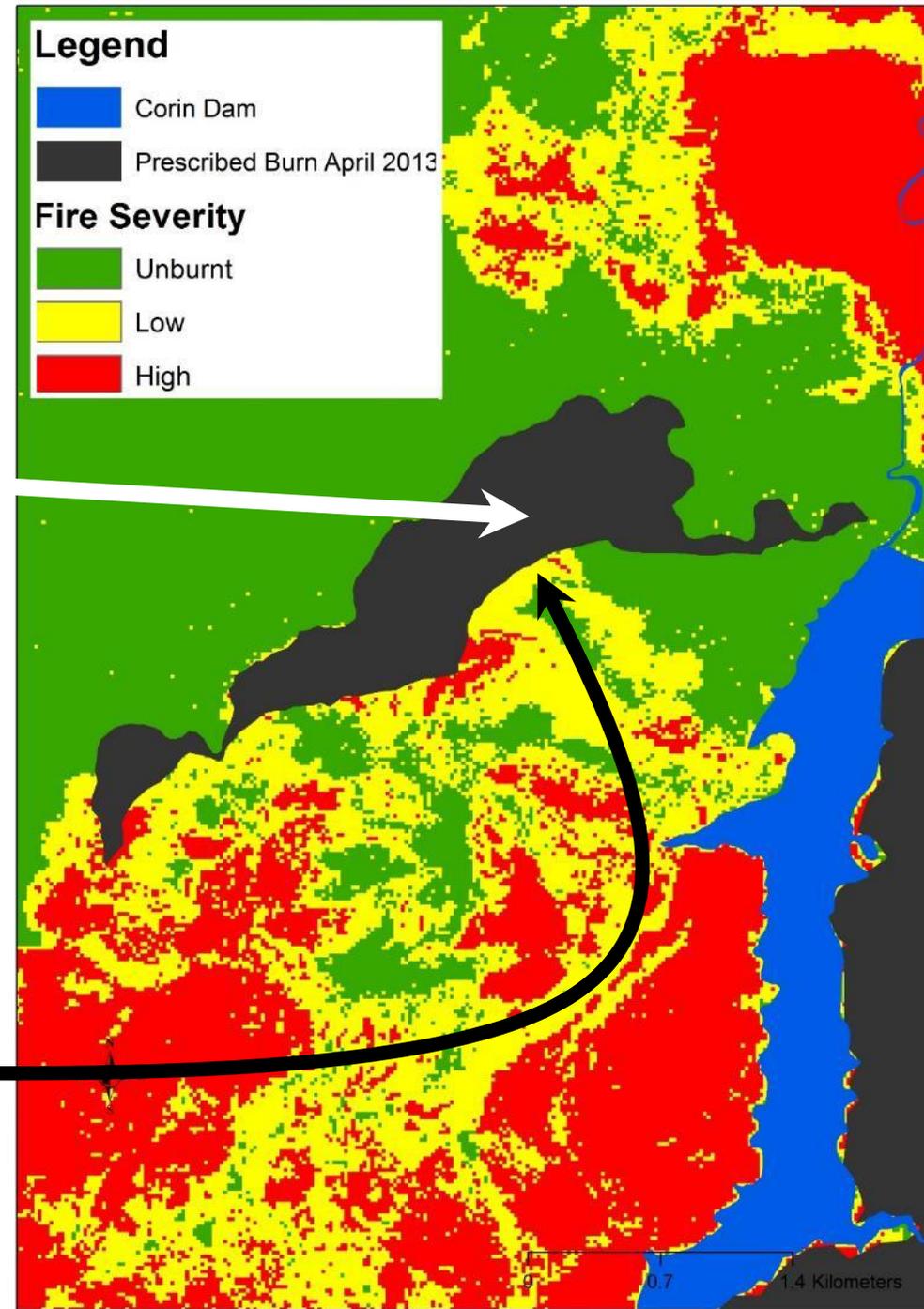




Burnt 2013

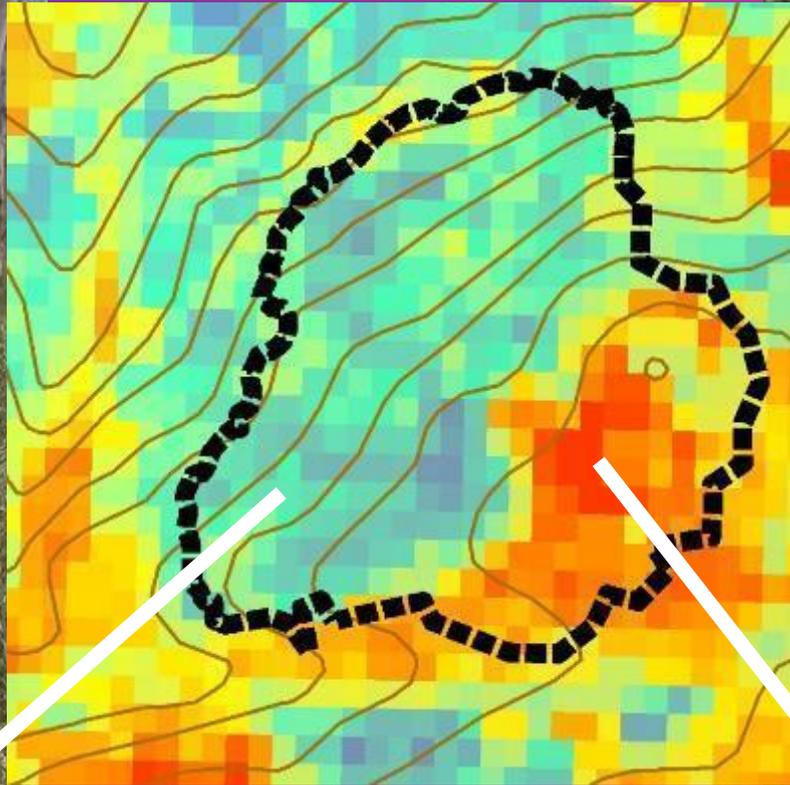


Burnt 2003





Burnt April 2013 in a prescribed burn



Contrasting fuel ages  
contributed to  
successful suppression  
of the Square Rock Fire  
in January 2019

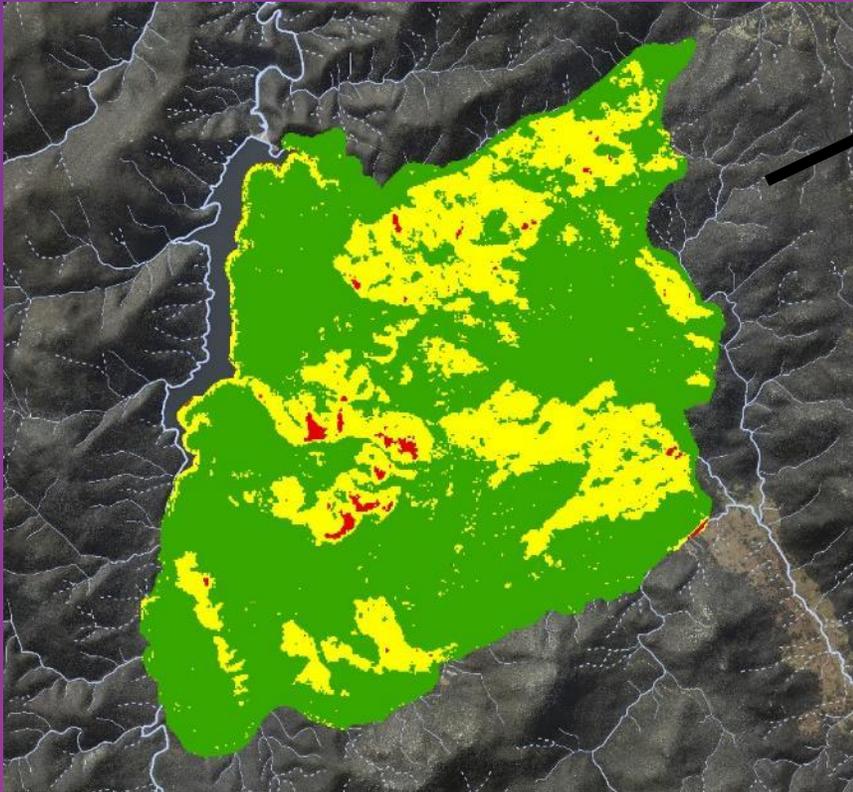


Burnt January 2003 in a bushfire

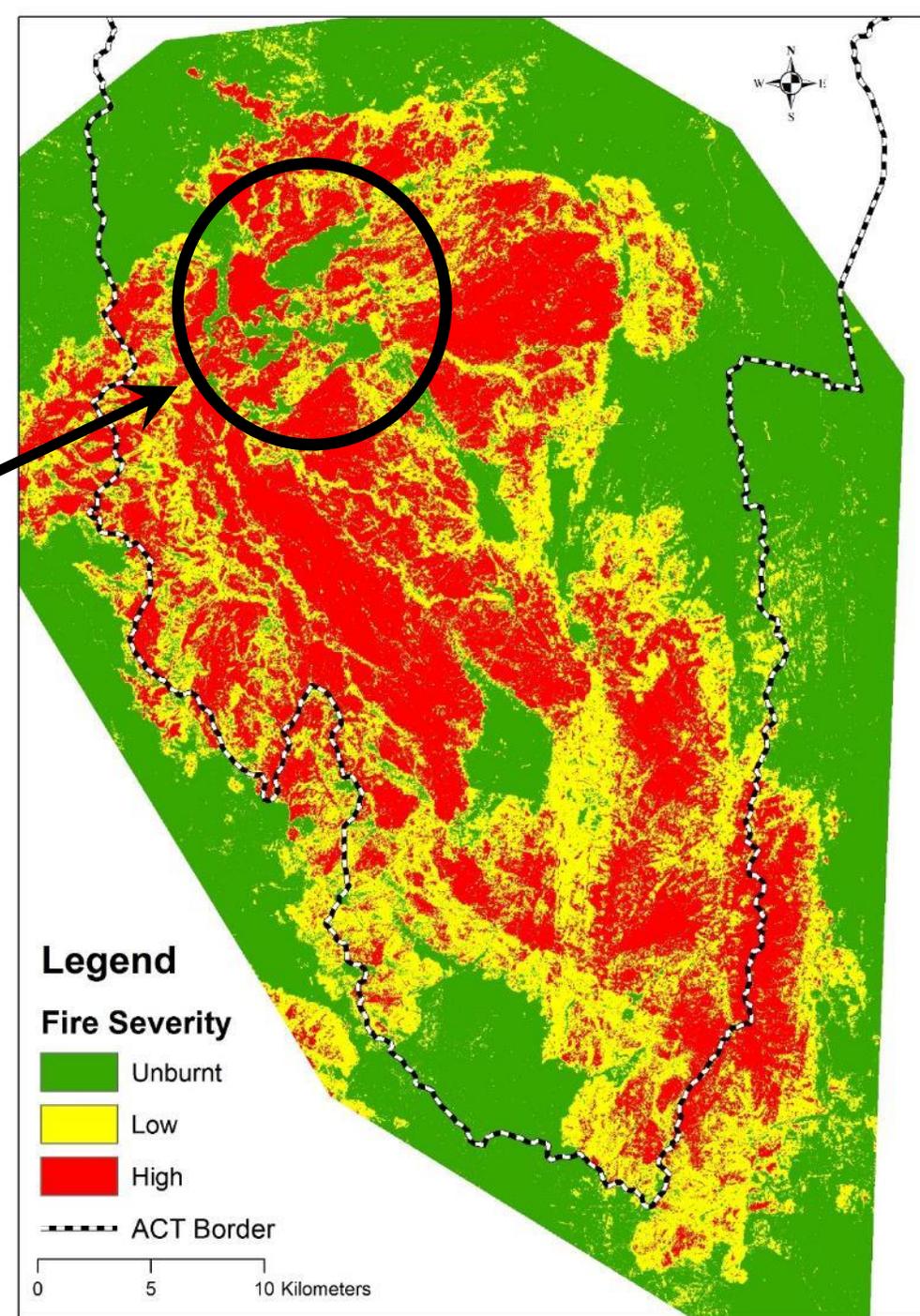


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# SMOKERS TRAIL BURN 2019



Fire severity map, Smokers Trail Burn, 2019





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DIRECTION  
Unavailable

672297 6064349

ACCURACY 5 m  
DATUM WGS84



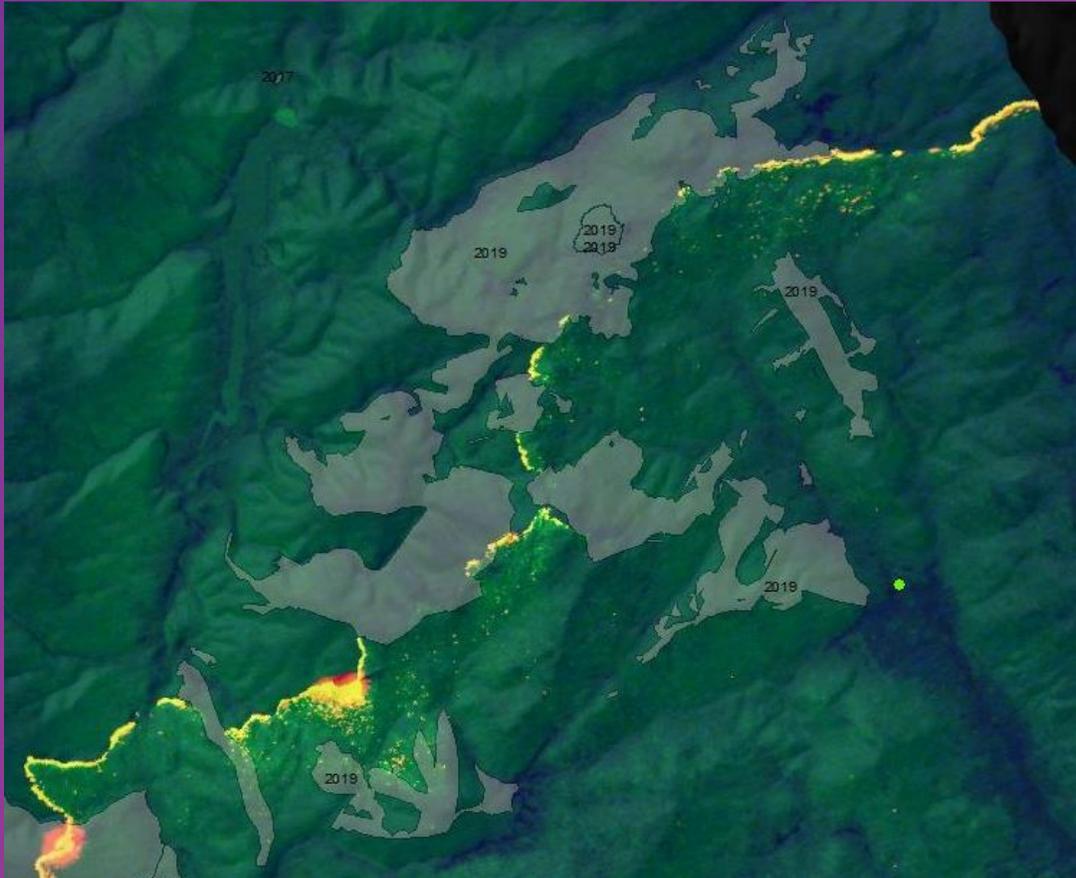
2020-04-15  
12:52:07+10:00

Smokers Trail prescribed burn, burnt 2019

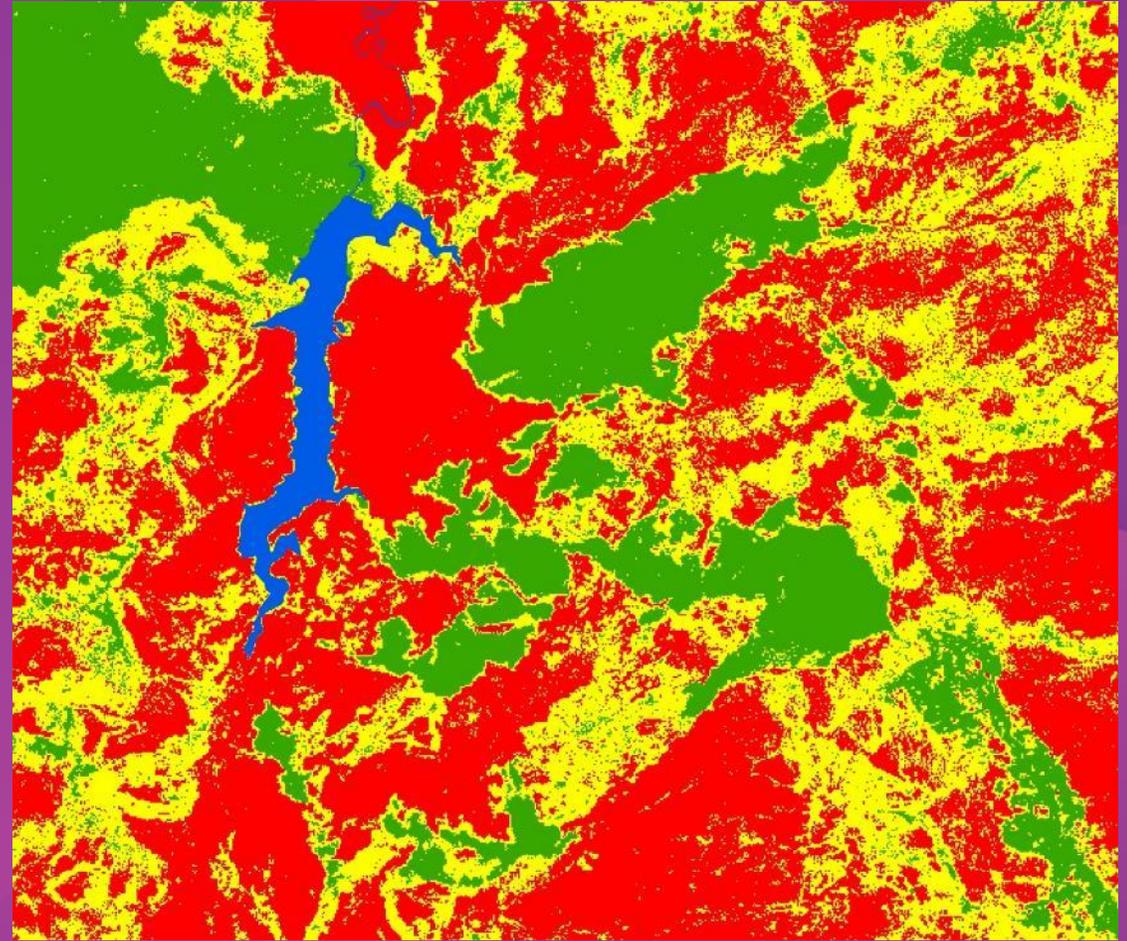


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# SMOKERS TRAIL BURN 2019



Linescan, 2 February 2020



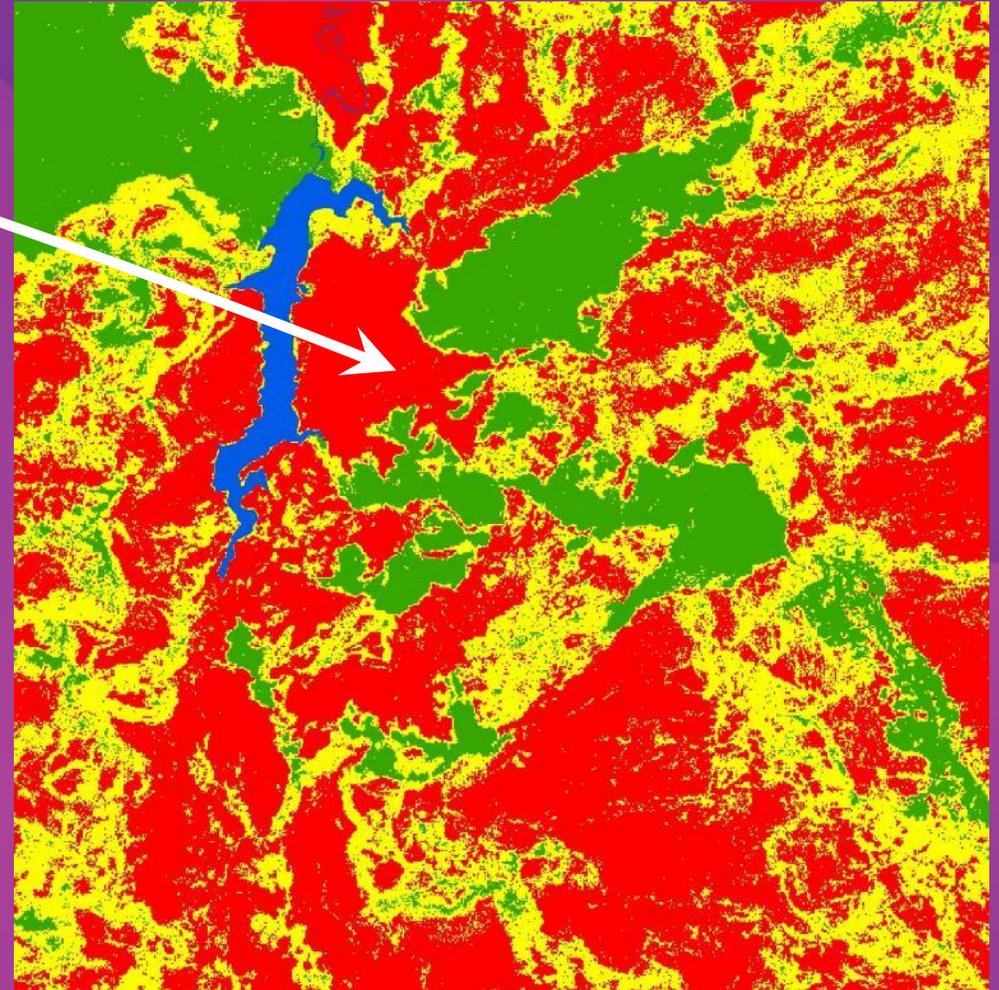
Fire severity map, 2020



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Photo of the Smokers Trail Burn

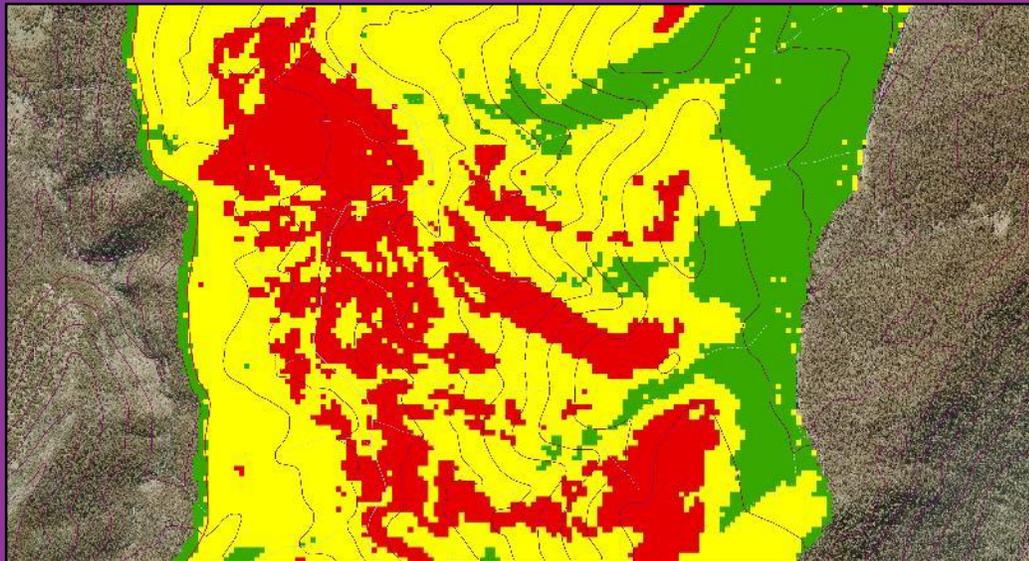


Fire severity map, 2020

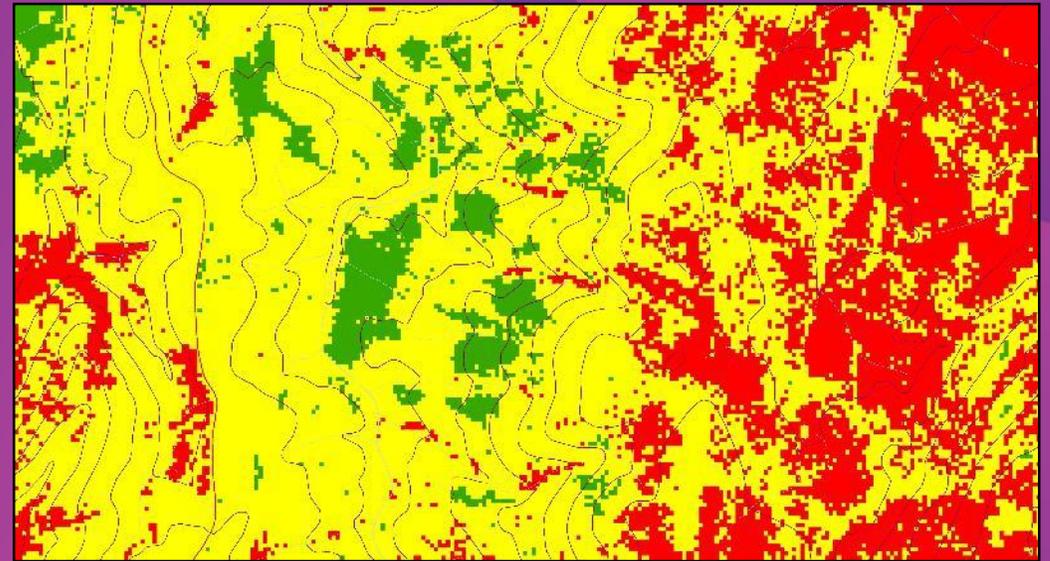


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# BRANDY FLAT BURN 2016



Fire severity map, 2016



Fire severity map, 2020



## PRESCRIBED BURNING

- Reduced the extent and severity of the Orroral fire.
- Reduced the landscape environmental impacts.

A big thanks to my ACT Parks colleagues who skilfully implement the prescribed burning program and turn out when there's a fire.

