

(Subject to change - fire still burning)

Donnie Creek Fire, Northeastern BC, Started May 12th, 2023

compiled by Jalena Bennett, 21 Aug 2023

Fire Info

Details: (provided by <https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/map>)

- Fire Number: G80280
- Location: approx 136 km SE of Fort Nelson and 158 km N of Fort St. John.
- Start time: May 12, 2023 @ 4:58 pm PT
- Traditional territory: Blueberry River First Nation, Doig River First Nation, Prophet River First Nation
- Suspected cause: Lightning strike
- Continues to be out of control as of August 9th, 2023. Was labeled as a fire of note (highly visible or poses a potential threat to public safety) until August 9th, 2023.

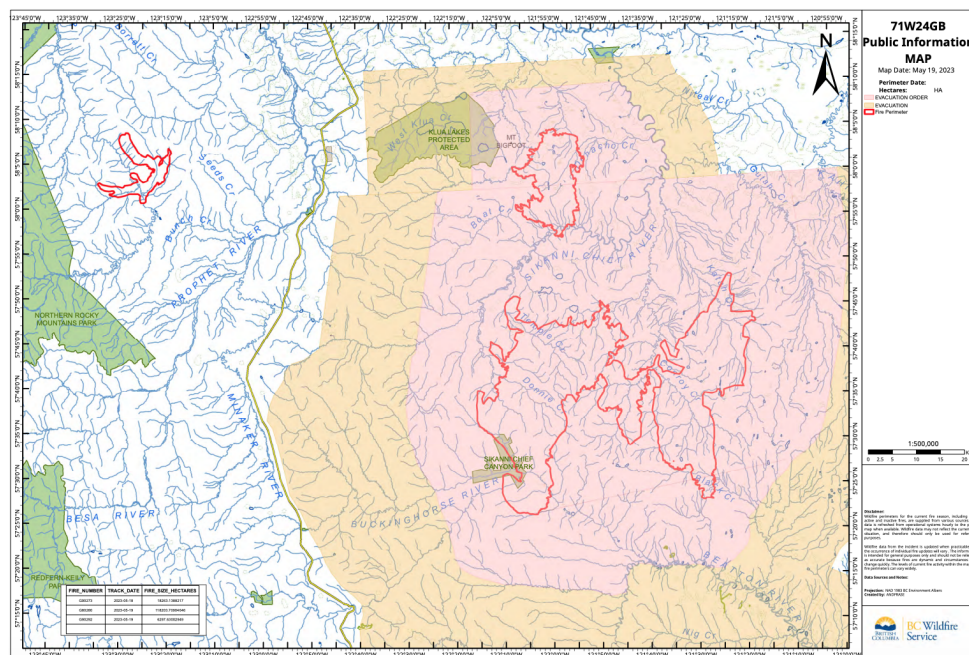
Contributing Conditions

Started in a period of extreme fire danger due to:

- a long dry period
- spring dip
- anomalously hot temperatures for May 2023.

Media photos and video

Image/Video

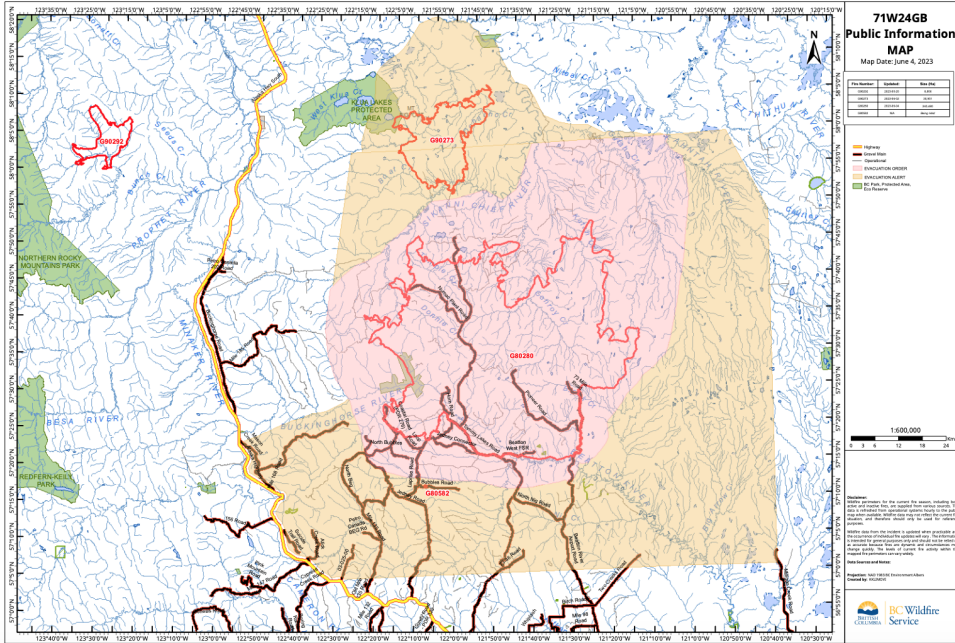


Caption and Source

Donnie creek fire burned area (biggest fire on map) as of may 19th.

Source:

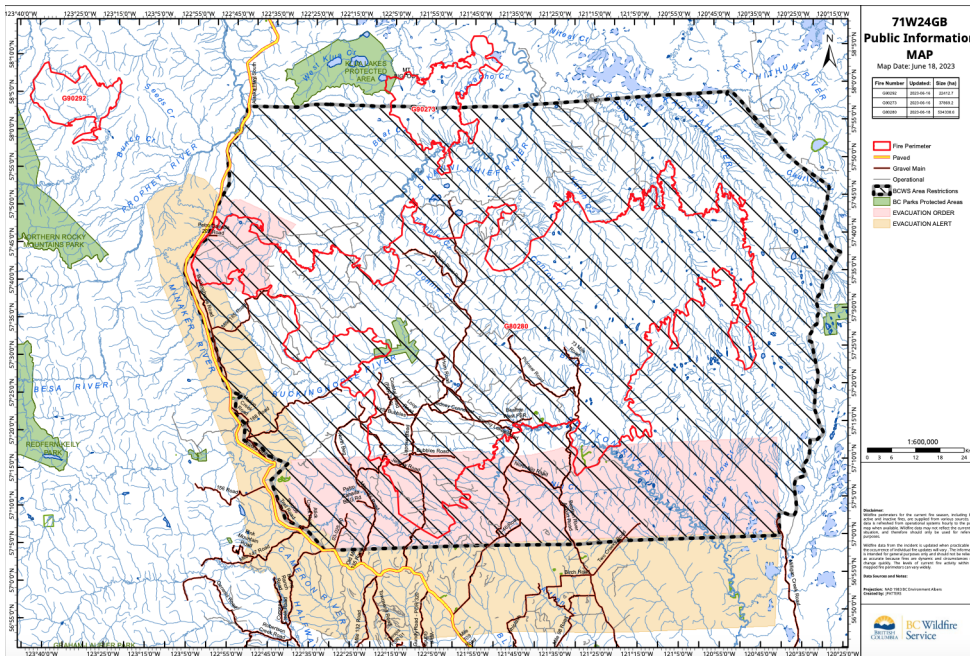
<https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/incidents?fireYear=2023&incidentNumber=G80280>



Donnie Creek wildfire burned area (biggest fire on map) as of June 4th

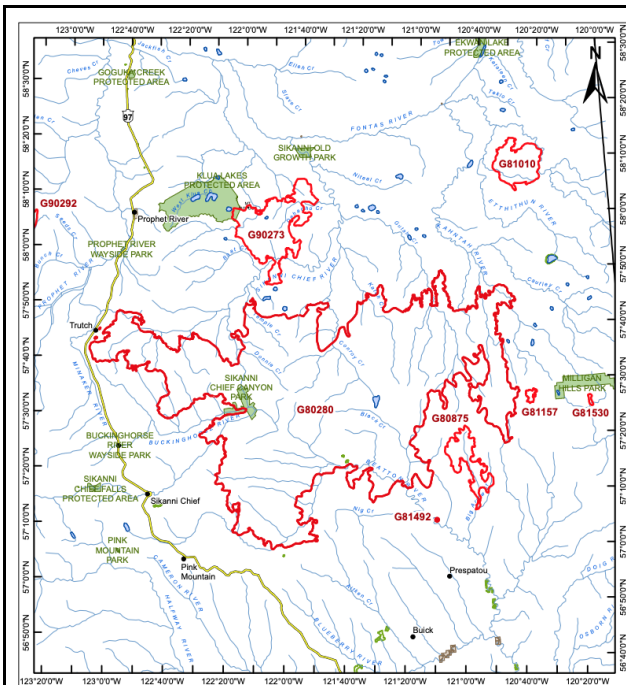
source:

<https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/incidents?fireYear=2023&incidentNumber=G80280>



Donnie Creek wildfire burned area (biggest fire on map) as of June 18th

Note that the area surrounding the fire is now totally restricted.



Donnie Creek burned area as of July 13, 2023.



No original captions; all description generated by Jalena Bennett. Images provided by BC Wildfire service

Source for next 13 photos:

<https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/incidents?fireYear=2023&incidentNumber=G80280>

(Helicopter dousing still smoldering forest with water)



(fire suppression personnel looking at blaze from the sky)



(fire raging through a forested region)



(Massive burn scar left behind by the blaze. Active fire continues to burn under smoke plume)



(fire burns in a near-straight line, emitting massive amounts of smoke)



(Fire suppression personnel in a helicopter capture an image of air rising off of a burning area and generating smoke filled cumulus clouds. If convection continues, pyrocumulonimbus clouds may result.)



(more smoke along fire lines)



(smoke rising from a square area - result of planned ignitions to contain spread)



(Fire at twilight - dim lighting conditions show how bright the fire burns underneath all the smoke)



Massive smoke plumes rising into a 'blue sky' photographed from fire suppression personnel on an airplane.



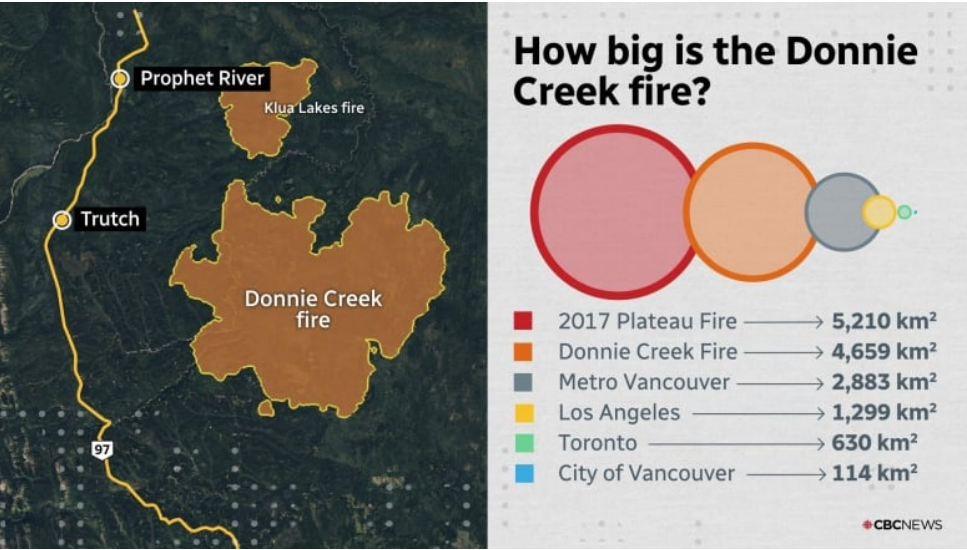
Smoke rising from active burning darkens the sky, building large orange smoke clouds above the fire.



Firefighter observing fire suppression efforts from the ground.

Biggest individual fires on record in British Columbia

Name of Fire	Year	Location	Size (in sq km)
Plateau Fire	2017	60 km northwest of Williams Lake	5,210
Donnie Creek*	2023	158 km north of Fort St. John	4,875
Kechika Fire	1958	Kechika Valley in northern B.C.	2,259
Elephant Hill	2017	2.5 km southwest of Ashcroft	1,919



Size of Donnie Creek fire accurate as of June 13.
Source: B.C. Wildfire Service (Akshay Kulkarni/CBC)

“Donnie Creek wildfire now nearly double the size of Metro Vancouver as hundreds more properties under threat”

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/donnie-creek-wildfire-double-metro-vancouver-1.6874033>

<https://globalnews.ca/video/rd/a7a7c0c4-04af-11ee-891e-0242ac110006/?jwsourc=cl>

Wildfire in B.C.’s northeast the second largest in provincial history

News report of Donnie Creek wildfire from Global News. Video shows aerial footage of fire burning through forested regions, and massive columns of smoke rising into the air.

https://ca.style.yahoo.com/further-evacuations-issued-donnie-creek-002051540.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xILmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAFaI3RqWBbON7Y1bIRRLdtaJw c4X-7xoTu9ffcX6rgNnWH5EqbGuLkaDAAG3 dchXEExy8q-vxVox7xrFU47OnkyeMtnffmHIU5 ni407ykT2dghwABxw s7QsJ5Cf9HdYw oYAA6K0AryAjNUgvahihVmrRc Tt8elivNUJ9Pq4f

Further Evacuations Issued as Donnie Creek Wildfire Surpasses 1

“This footage was filmed by Dan Hardt, who says he recorded it along the Alaska Highway, near the community of Wonowon, shows smoke from the Donnie Creek wildfire on Monday afternoon.”

Video shows smoke plumes off in the distance on a day (june 12th) where the fire was burning just 3 km away from the major highway connecting BC to Alaska.

Million Acres in British Columbia

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQvzakrqs6o&ab_channel=CTVNews

Donnie Creek fire getting closer to highway

Only 0:00 - 0:59 is relevant; shows the same footage as above, but also includes experts talking about fire.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTKSmdrfzqU&ab_channel=BCWildfireService

Donnie Creek Wildfire, Planned Ignitions Update June 2, 2023

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAaV6d2OD6U&t=198s&ab_channel=BCWildfireService

Donnie Creek Wildfire, Planned Ignitions Update June 4, 2023

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zc2l6Yv8eNc&t=134s&ab_channel=BCWildfireService

Donnie Creek Wildfire, fuel types and fire behavior, June 5, 2023

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RdXzb0ltcw&t=10s&ab_channel=BCWildfireService

Donnie Creek Complex Update, June 7, 2023

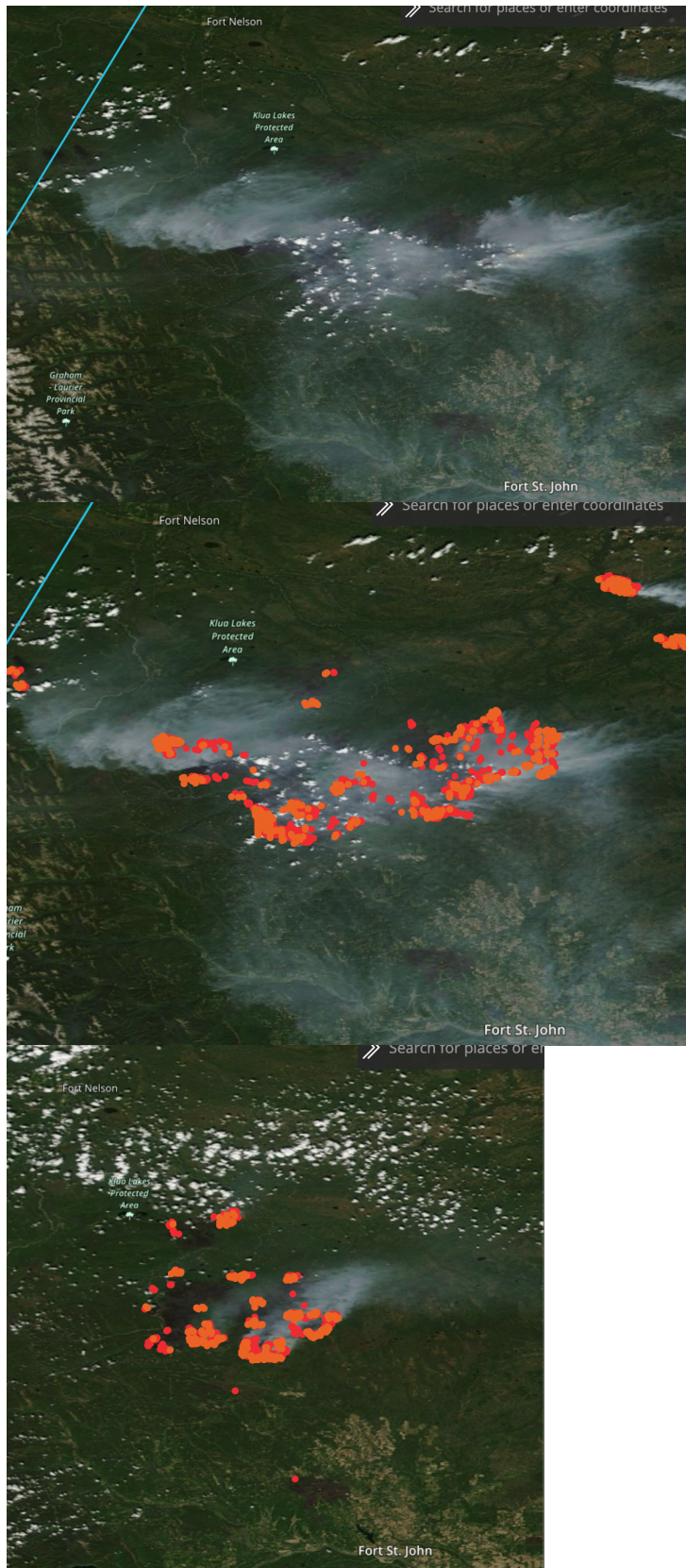
Videos produced by BC Wildfire Service. Include updates to fire as it is burning, explanation planned ignitions, location fuel types, and many many clips of massive smoke plumes while fire torches the forested region.

<https://globalnews.ca/video/9763954/b-c-wildfires-donnie-creek-evacuation-order-issued-for-14-more-properties>

B.C. wildfires: Donnie Creek evacuation order issued for 14 more properties

News report on fire, including a June 12th, 2023 update on size and evacuations.

Video mentions that as of June 12th, Donnie creek fire is approximately the size of Switzerland!



Satellite Image on June 11th, 2023 from Polar Orbiting Satellites show massive burn scars underneath a layer of smoke.

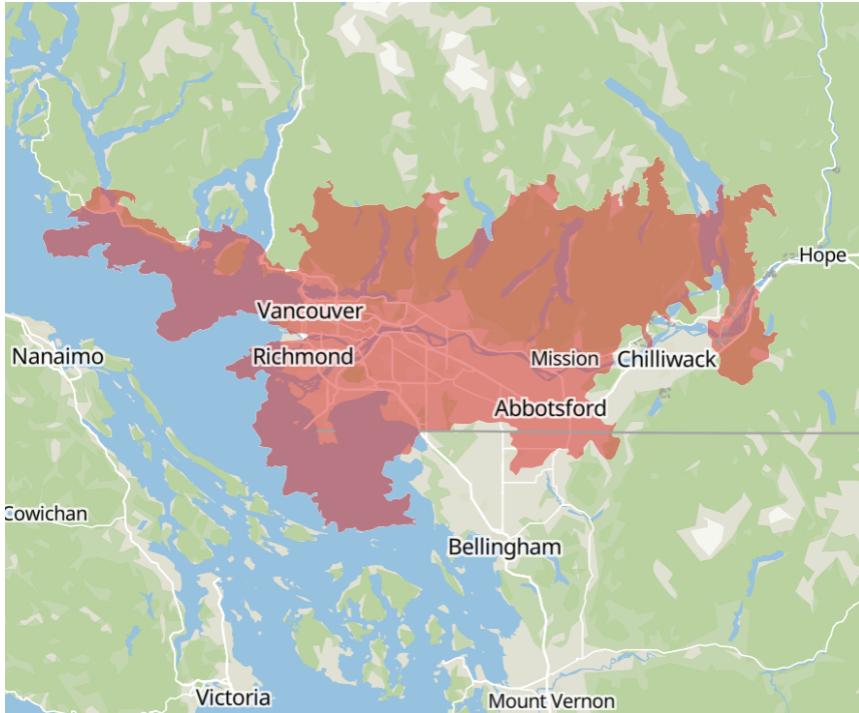
Red/orange dots on the second image are satellite detected fires/thermal anomalies.

Source:

<https://worldview.earthdata.nasa.gov/?v=-126.92863662386645,56.05465764966337>

[https://worldview.earthdata.nasa.gov/?v=-118.00294017467914,60.252524260921774&l=Reference_Labels_15m,Reference_Features_15m,Coastlines_15m,OrbitTracks_Aqua_Descending,MODIS_Aqua_Thermal_Anomalies_All,MODIS_Terra_Thermal_Anomalies_All,MODIS_Combined_Thermal_Anomalies_All,VIIRS_SNPP_Thermal_Anomalies_375m_All,VIIRS_NOAA20_Thermal_Anomalies_375m_All,VIIRS_NOAA20_CorrectedReflectance_TrueColor\(hidden\),VIIRS_SNPP_CorrectedReflectance_TrueColor\(hidden\),MODIS_Aqua_CorrectedReflectance_TrueColor\(hidden\),MODIS_Terra_CorrectedReflectance_TrueColor&lg=true&t=2023-06-11-T11%3A10%3A59Z](https://worldview.earthdata.nasa.gov/?v=-118.00294017467914,60.252524260921774&l=Reference_Labels_15m,Reference_Features_15m,Coastlines_15m,OrbitTracks_Aqua_Descending,MODIS_Aqua_Thermal_Anomalies_All,MODIS_Terra_Thermal_Anomalies_All,MODIS_Combined_Thermal_Anomalies_All,VIIRS_SNPP_Thermal_Anomalies_375m_All,VIIRS_NOAA20_Thermal_Anomalies_375m_All,VIIRS_NOAA20_CorrectedReflectance_TrueColor(hidden),VIIRS_SNPP_CorrectedReflectance_TrueColor(hidden),MODIS_Aqua_CorrectedReflectance_TrueColor(hidden),MODIS_Terra_CorrectedReflectance_TrueColor&lg=true&t=2023-06-11-T11%3A10%3A59Z)

- June 1st, same area captured by satellite imagery. Burn scars are more visible, and burning area is not as large as June 11th. Demonstrates how large the fire grew in just 10 days.



July 5, 2023: Donnie creek compared to Lower Mainland

Caption:

Source: B.C. Wildfire Service NOTE: Donnie Creek perimeter as of July 2.

Source for this photo and next:

<https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/how-big-bc-largest-wildfire-donnie-creek>



Caption:

Flames from the Donnie Creek wildfire burn along a ridge top north of Fort St. John, British Columbia, Sunday, July 2, 2023. PHOTO BY NOAH BERGER /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS