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DESCRIPTION: Using video camera systems for wildfire management

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ISSUE: Because the Alberta forest protection area is large with complex geography, there may be opportunities for video camera systems to aid wildfire management.

BACKGROUND: FPInnovations has been researching video camera systems and their application in wildfire management for several years: we investigated the application of automated smoke detection systems; and we investigated the use of portable towers with video cameras to monitor blind areas from fire lookouts. Some areas are currently moving ahead with camera system to augment their detection with little knowledge of best practices.

OBJECTIVE: Build on the capacity and knowledge acquired from our previous work on automated detection and portable cameras to assess the potential for video camera systems in wildfire management in Alberta.

APPROACH: Work with ESRD field staff to identify situations where camera systems could address operational needs.

- Share results from our past projects to determine the project baseline (i.e. starting point)
- Discuss what operational issues might be solved with video imagery
- Produce a report that outlines the opportunities and options as they relate to stated needs
- Develop a framework for selecting locations and technologies for identified wildfire uses