

‘Climate Change’ must be considered in a global context. Cherry picking fires (or hurricanes, drought, floods, etc.) in a few locations around the world does not provide any proof of ‘climate change’ (whether your definition is ‘global warming’, CO₂

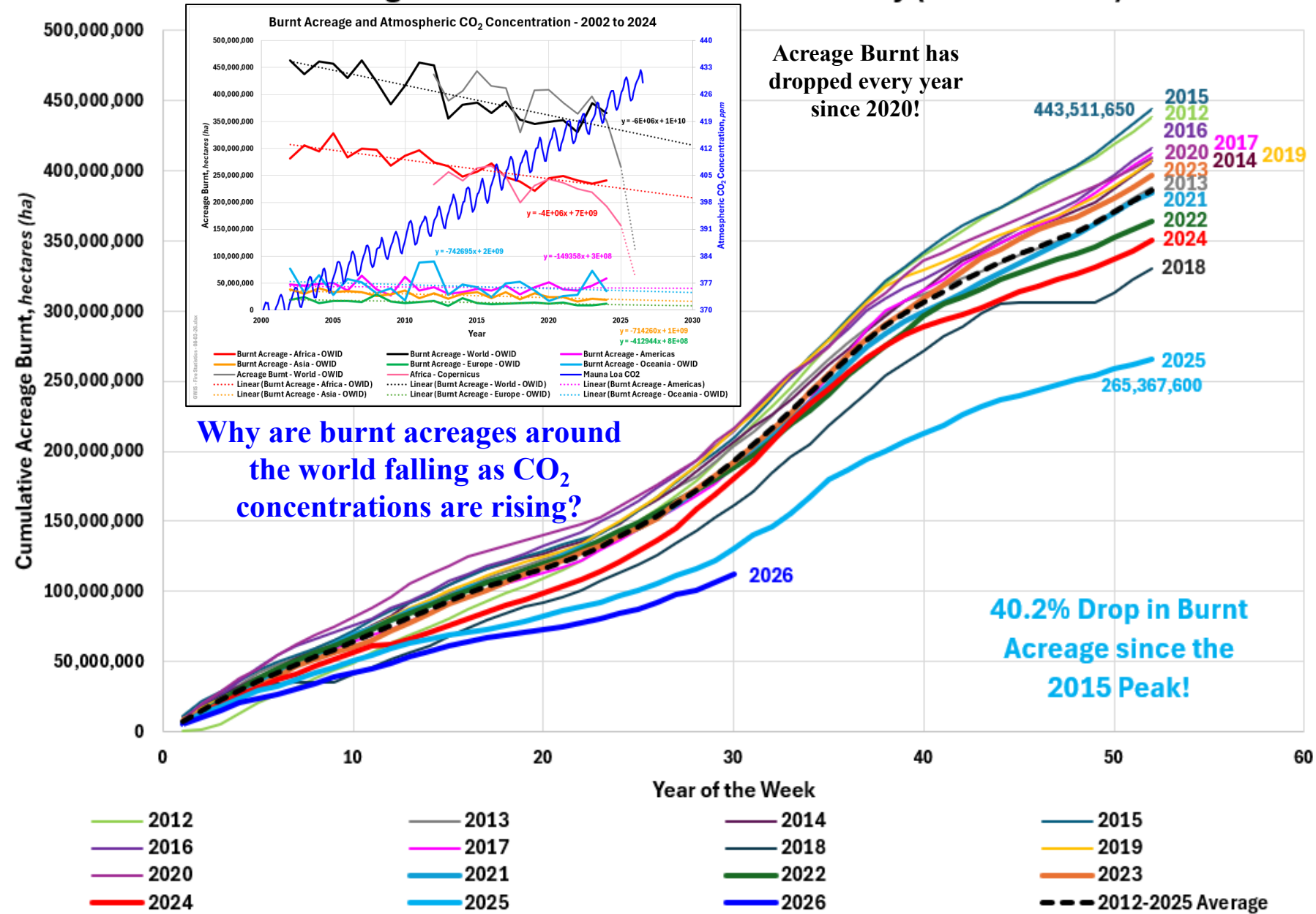
emissions (anthropogenic or otherwise)), or you believe in the World Weather Attribution (WWA) studies. The WWA uses the same models and flawed programming assumptions that the IPCC uses in their models. Those models that are self-acknowledged to run too hot and use unrealistically high emission scenarios. Fires are a poor indicator for ‘climate change’. They are subject to many anthropogenic factors (forest management, land practices, human ignition (accidental and intentional), etc.). As humanity moves further into fire territory, the risks, damage, and tragedy increase

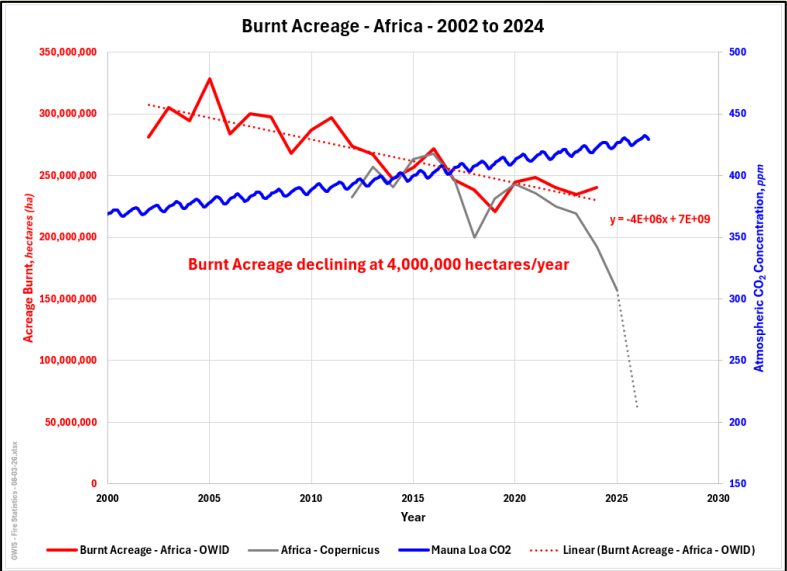
regardless of ‘climate change’. The relentless news reports of our planet burning up are

standard fare this time of year (summer).

As usual, the propaganda ignores the actual empirical data. Yes, there are many serious fires around the world, many of which have been tragic. But 2026 acreage burnt is tracking well below any year since 2012. Burn acreage peaked in 2016 and had dropped 41.4% by 2025. The 2026 burn acreage is lower than 2025.

Global Acreage Burnt - Cumulative Totals - Yearly (2012 to 2026)



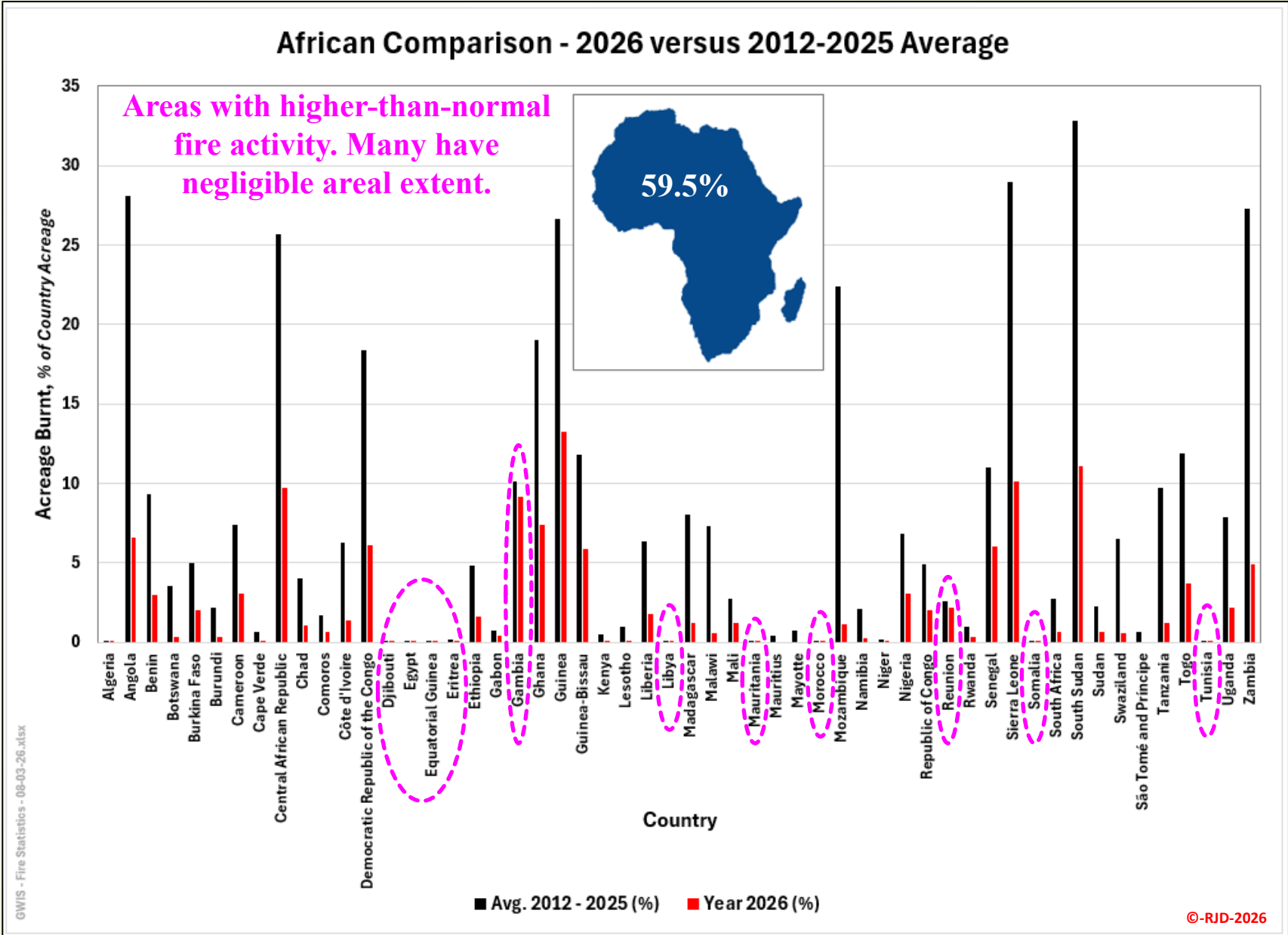


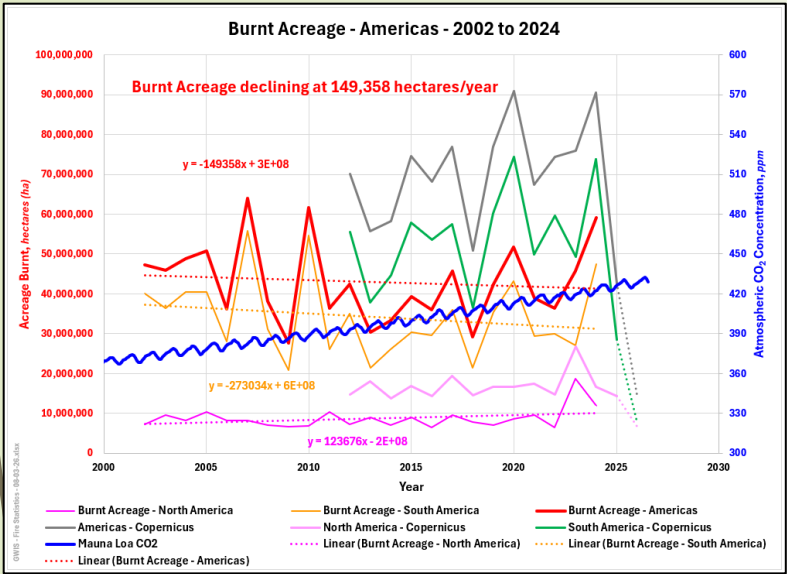
activity this year. The other districts/countries are generally less than 50% of the 2012 to 2025 average, which is expected given that we are halfway through the Northern Hemisphere and most of the Southern Hemisphere fire seasons. The chart above shows the 2002 to 2024 burn acreage from Our World in Data (OWID). The grey data is European Copernicus burn acreage for 2012 to 2026. The 2026 data is based on just 30 weeks and is differentiated using a dotted line. The data is very

Global Fire Update Aug-26 Africa

definitive. Based on the OWID data, burnt acreage has been trending down in Africa! That trend will increase once 2025 data (which is significantly lower than 2024) is included in the regression analysis. Burnt Acreage is trending down in Africa despite the well established/recognized upward trend in atmospheric CO₂ concentration? That does not fit very well with the All CO₂, All the Time alarmist narrative or the computer models of the IPCC and WWA!

Africa is by far the largest contributor (±60%) to global burnt acreage despite being just 22.2% of the global land area. Yet, the media is not hyperventilating over the fire situation on that major continent. But with good reason. There are only two very small districts (Gambia (a country) and Reunion (an island)) that are experiencing any unusually high fire



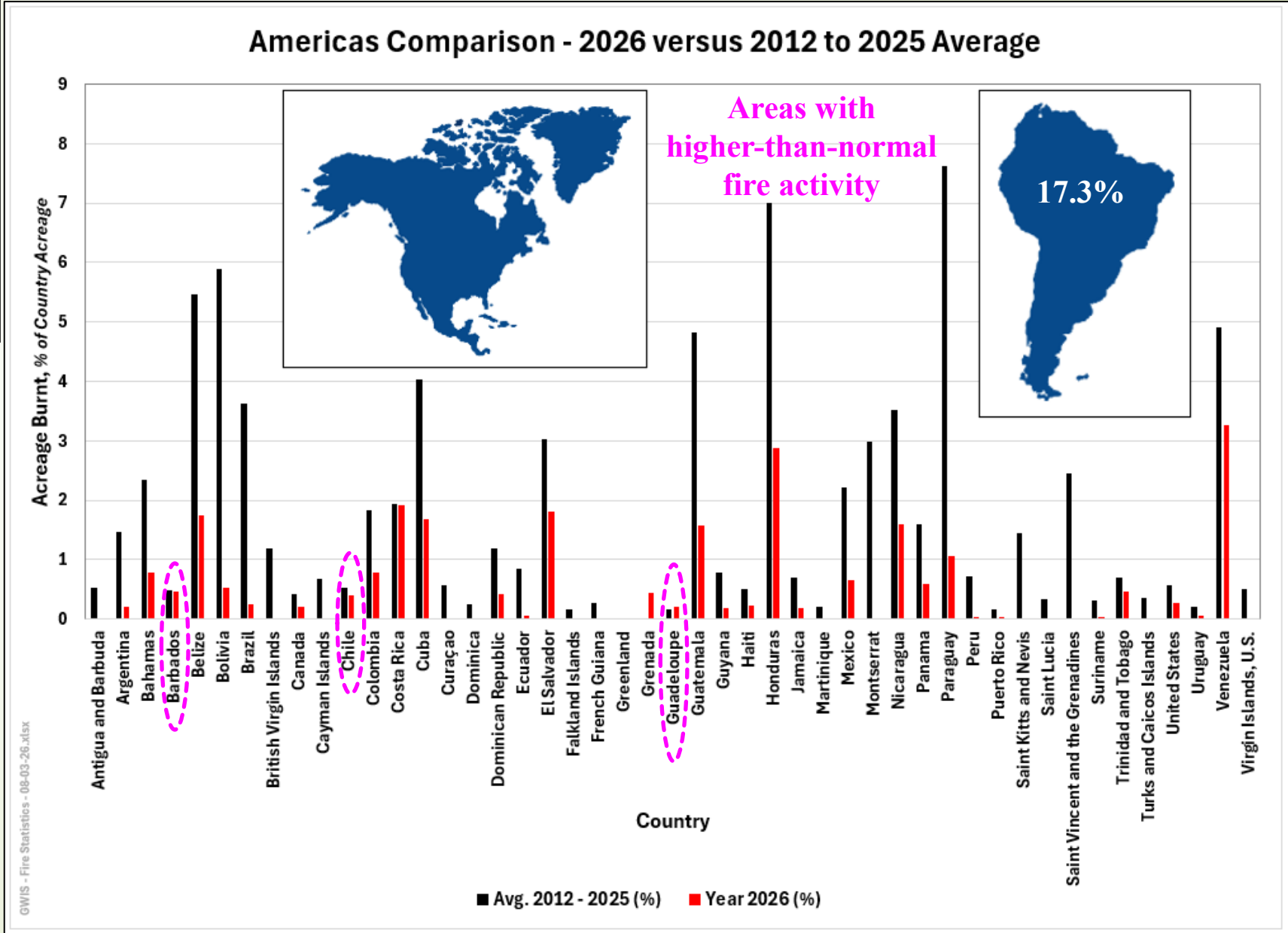


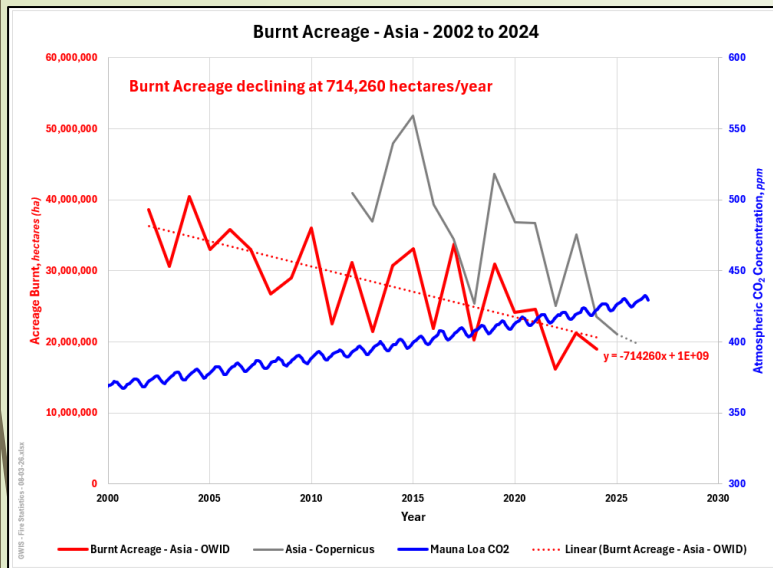
Grenada, Guadeloupe, Trinidad & Tobago, and Venezuela). The bulk of the Americas (including Canada and the USA) are not experiencing unusually high fire activity. Note, the OWID and Copernicus data sets are substantially different, but all trends are still down, and the trends will decline faster once 2025 data is included. South America has a much bigger fire problem than North America. The spike in North America is due to the anomalously high 2023 Canadian fire season, not CO₂.

Global Fire Update Aug-26 Americas

Based on the OWID data, burnt acreage has been trending down in the Americas! That trend will increase once 2025 data (which is significantly lower than 2024) is included in the regression analysis. Burnt Acreage is trending down in the Americas despite the well established/recognized upward trend in atmospheric CO₂ concentration? That does not fit very well with the All CO₂, All the Time alarmist narrative or the computer models of the IPCC and WWA!

The same general scenario plays out in the Americas, despite the relentless propaganda over the smoke from Canada’s forest fires inundating the United States (and to a lesser extent the smoke from forest fires in the western US sending their smoke into Canada). There are only a few districts/countries with unusually high fire activity (Barbados, Chili, Costa Rica,





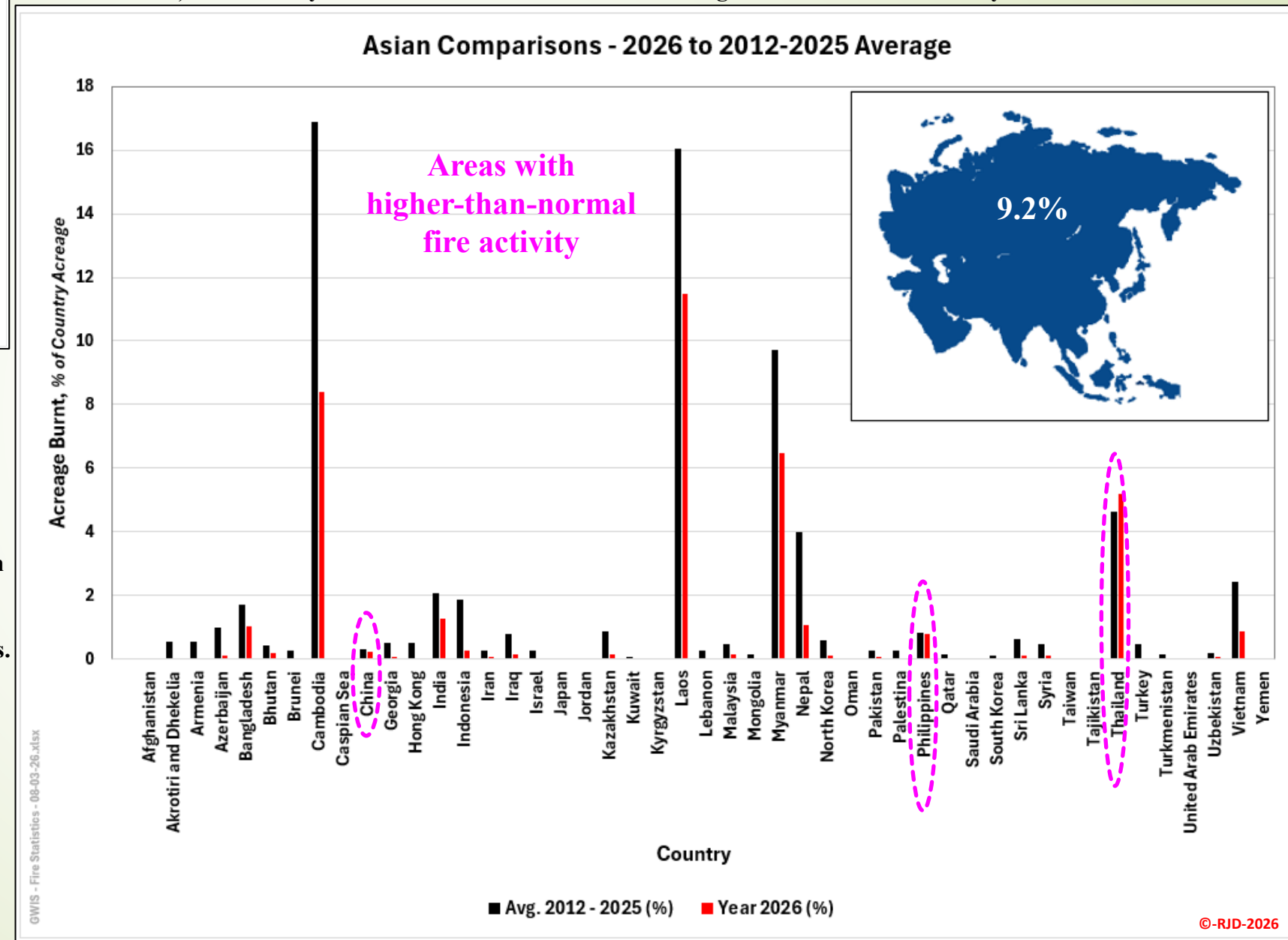
season, the Asian burnt acreage is currently still 29.9% below their 2012 to 2025 average (unusually low, not high). Despite the higher fire activity in Asia, there is no added fire risks. Like Africa and the Americas, the burnt acreage has been trending lower since 2002. Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, and

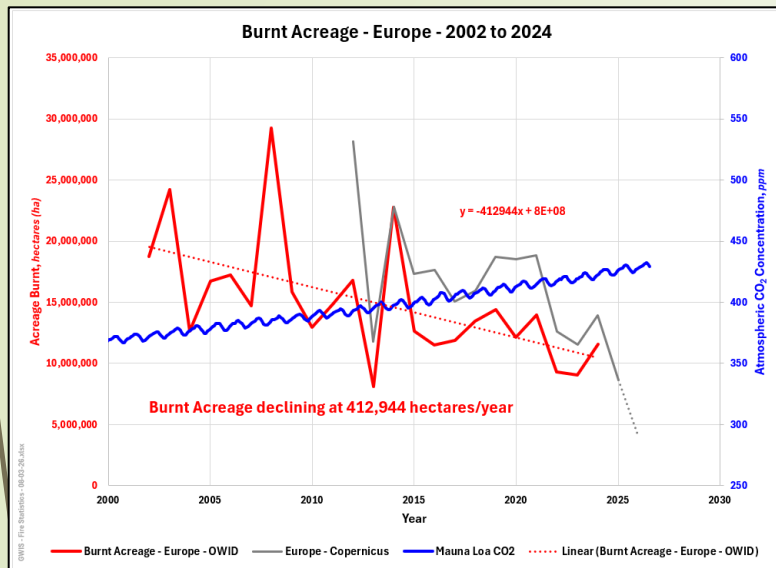
Thailand have all had higher than usual fire activity (without the headlines) and still the Asian fire activity is well below normal levels.

Where is the rising CO₂ effect?

Based on the OWID data, burnt acreage has been trending down in Asia! That trend will increase slightly once 2025 data (which is slightly lower than 2024) is included in the regression analysis. Burnt Acreage is trending down in Asia despite the well established/recognized upward trend in atmospheric CO₂ concentration? That does not fit very well with the All CO₂, All the Time alarmist narrative or the computer models of the IPCC and WWA!

This area of the world has had more relative fire activity (55.8% as will be shown on slide CSS-85g) than the other four areas. The 2026 burn acreage is tracking noticeably lower than every other year back to at least 2002 (as shown earlier on slide CSS-85a). In Asia only 2018 and 2025 have lower burnt acreage totals at 30 weeks. Thirty weeks into the 2026 burn



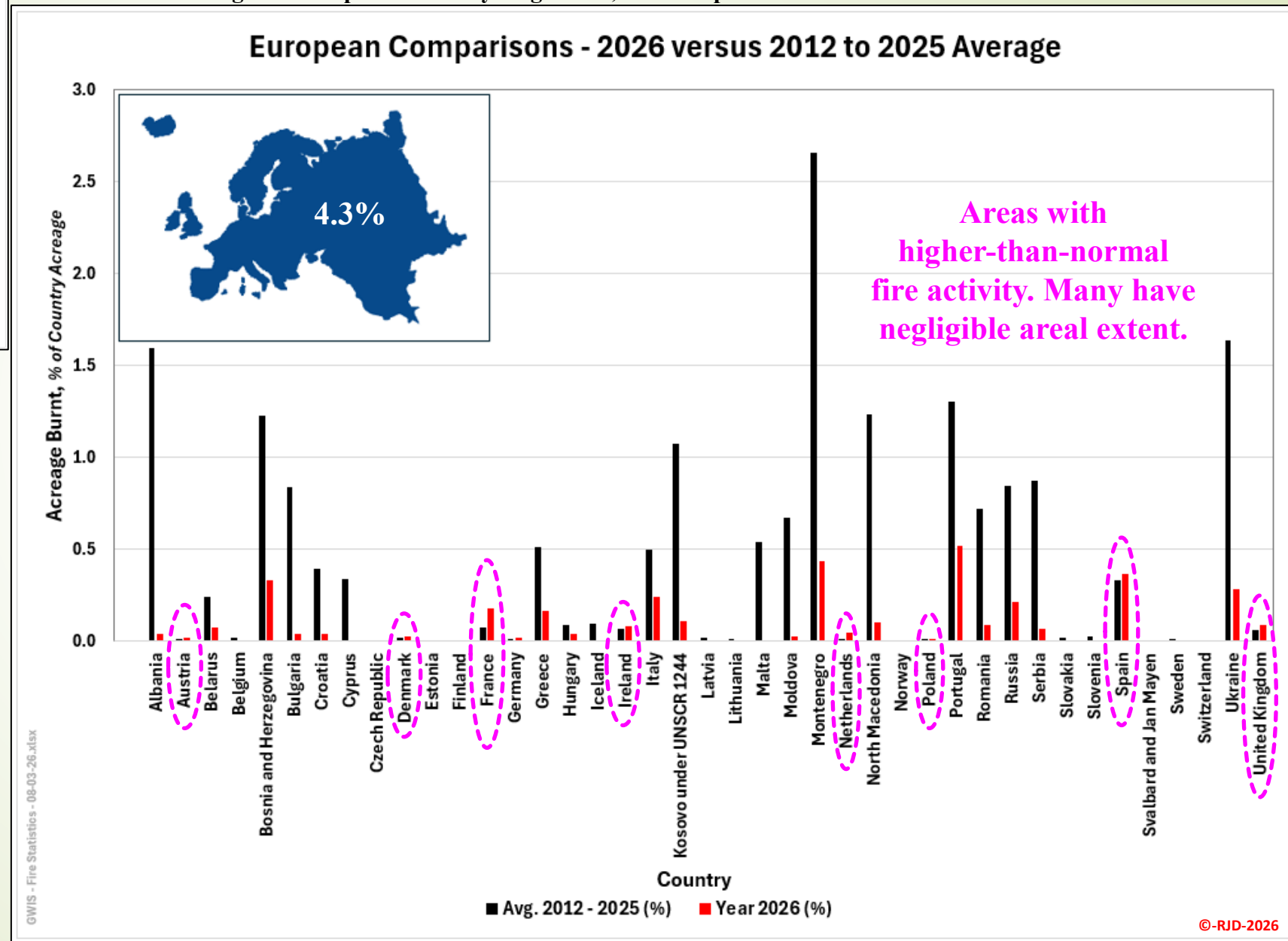


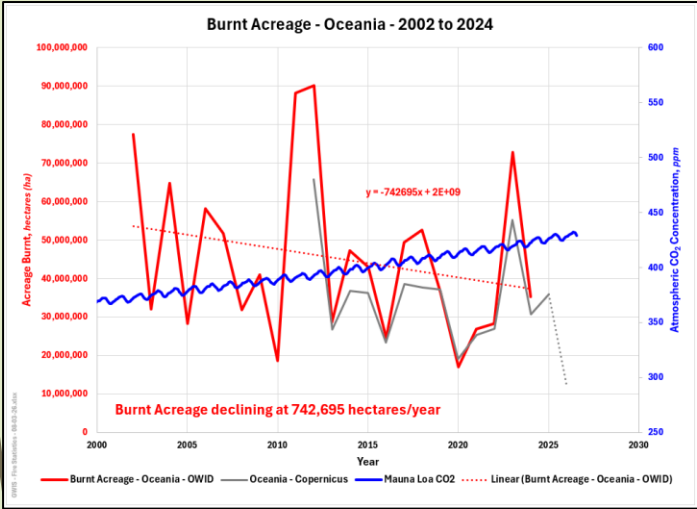
2026 burnt acreage is 83.1% lower than the 2012 Copernicus peak year and 64.6% lower than the 2012 to 2025 average. The headlines highlighting the fire damage and human consequences are real, the link to climate change is not. Unless you believe that rising CO₂ levels are leading to LOWER acreage burnt levels (which is what the empirical data shows). The media propaganda is in overdrive in a year that has the lowest fire statistics of this century 30 weeks into the year. They are desperate!

Global Fire Update Aug-26 Europe

Based on the OWID data, burnt acreage has been trending down in Europe! That trend will increase once 2025 data (which is significantly lower than 2024) is included in the regression analysis. Burnt Acreage is trending down in Europe despite the well established/recognized upward trend in atmospheric CO₂ concentration? That does not fit very well with the All CO₂, All the Time alarmist narrative or the computer models of the IPCC and WWA!

There has been no shortage of apocalyptic headlines and pictures of burning forests and infrastructure coming out of Europe given the devastating fires in France and Spain. Acreage burnt in both countries this year is already ahead of the 2012 to 2025 average. But despite those very tragic fires, the European fire statistics are well below historical levels. The





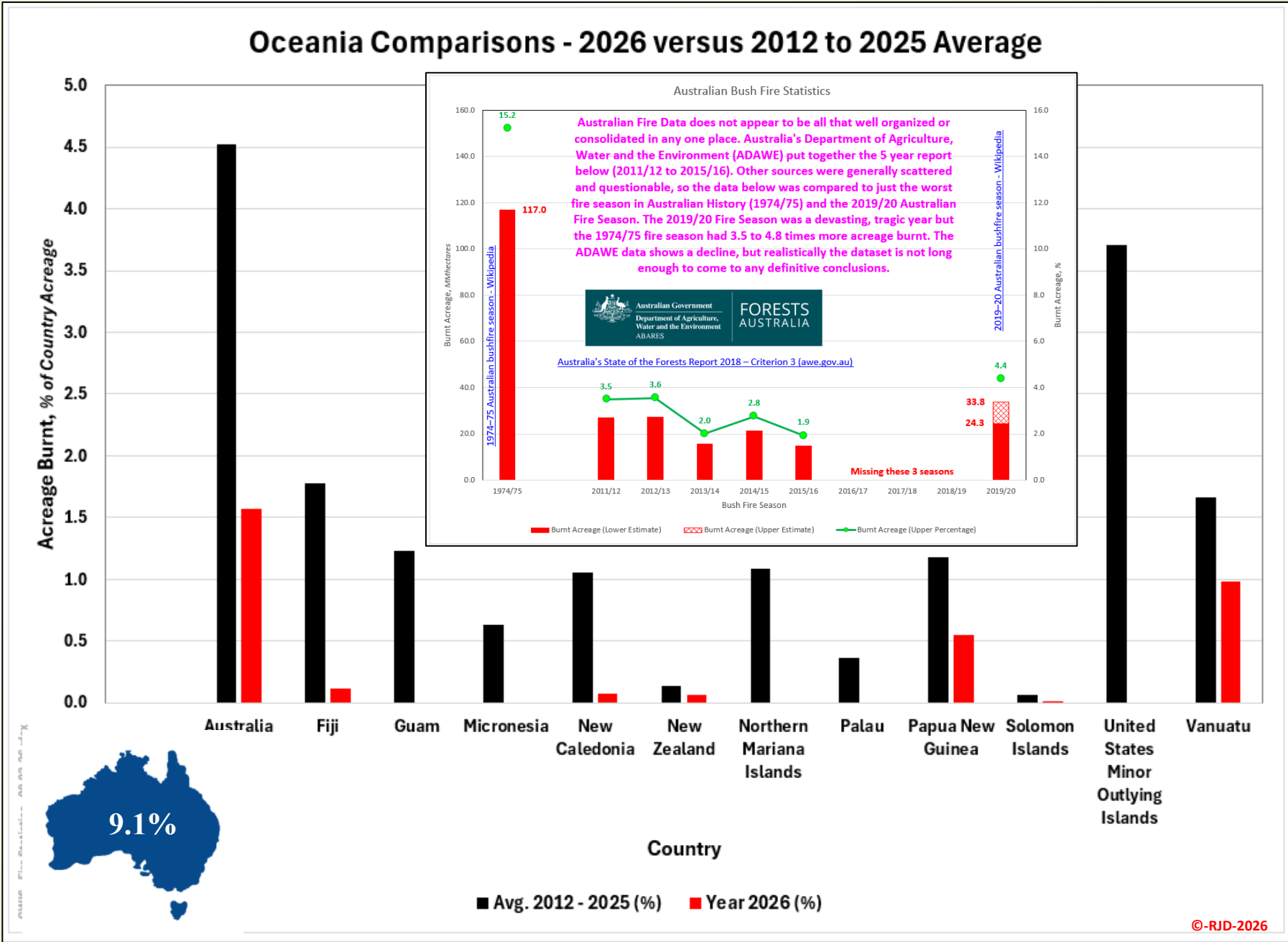
Australia tends to dominate and over contribute. But not this year. The inset to the right shows some typical Australian years and the rather exceptional year of 1974/75 (117 million hectares). Like 2023 in Canada, the 1974/75 fire season was an anomaly (i.e.: not a trend. An important distinction in a climate change discussion. Vanuatu is

currently greater than 50% of the 2012 to 2025 average but is statistically insignificant. Based on the OWID data, burnt acreage

has been trending down in Oceania! That trend will likely remain the same once 2025 data (which is slightly higher than 2024) is included in the regression analysis. Burnt Acreage is trending down in Oceania despite the well established and recognized upward trend in atmospheric CO₂ concentration? That does not fit very well with the All CO₂, All the Time alarmist narrative or the computer models of the IPCC and WWA!

Global Fire Update Aug-26 Oceania

Oceania, the smallest land mass (@ 6.3% of the 5 areas reviewed) is responsible (on average) for 9.1% of global acreage burnt.

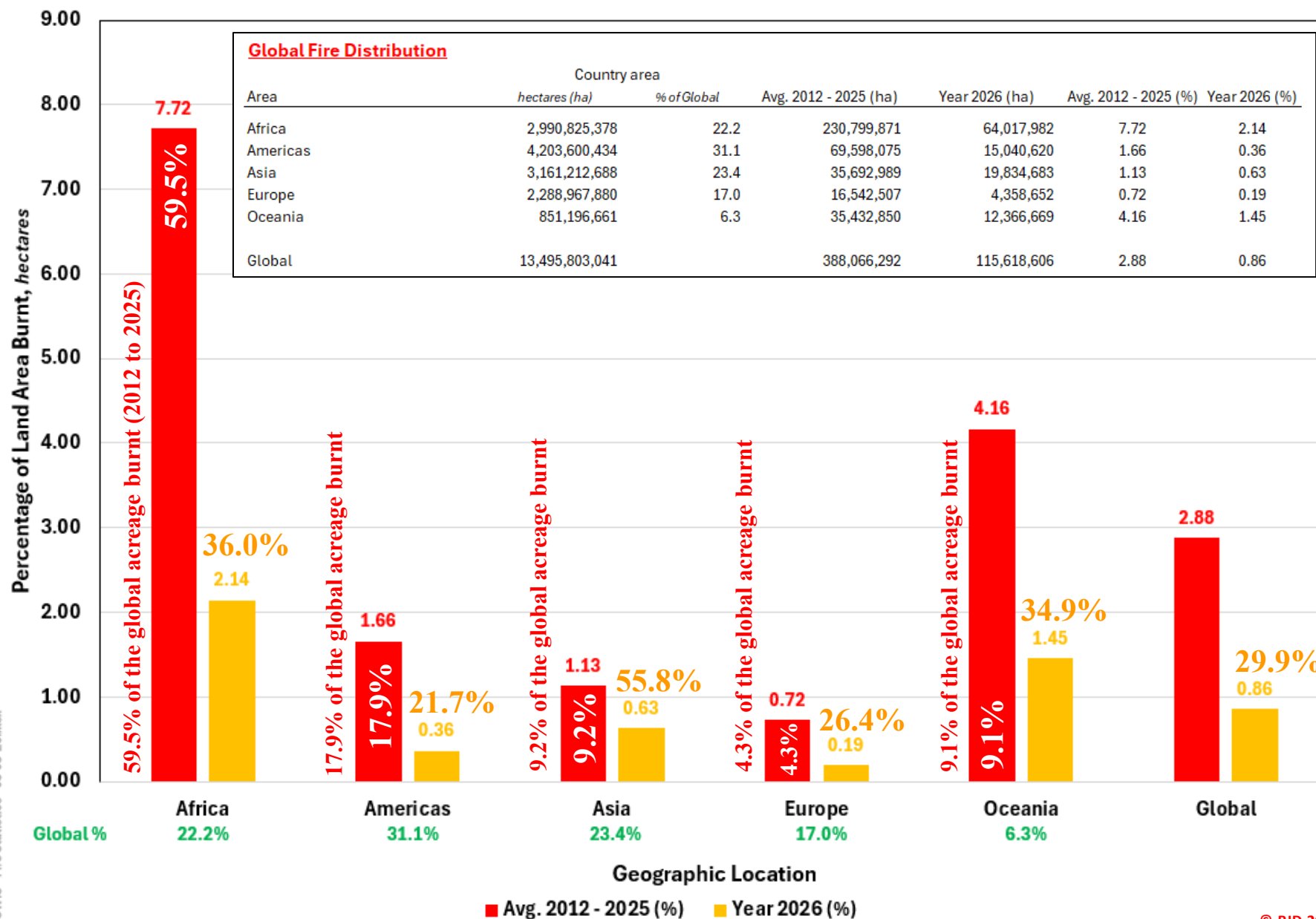


This slide summarizes the global fire situation. The acreage burnt this year (2026) is just 29.9% of the full year 2012 to 2025 average and is tracking 46.4% below the 2012 to 2025 average at 30 weeks. 2025 was the lowest acreage burnt year in the Copernicus data, 40.2% below the peak year (2015). 2026 is noticeably lower than 2025, the **LOWEST YEAR EVER** (in alarmist parlance), but somehow the whole earth is burning up? This pattern is generally repeated on every continental mass. 2026 is noticeably lower than the 2012 to 2025 average (at 30 weeks and yearly totals) on every continent. 2026 is tracking below every year burn acreage in Africa, the Americas, and Europe. In Asia, only two years have had lower burnt acreage less than 2026. In Oceania, five years had lower burnt

acreage than 2026 but only marginally. Africa dominates the fire activity on this planet but is generally

ignored, which is typical for any empirical data that does not support the All CO₂, All the Time alarmist narrative. I am not sure how anyone can ignore that burn acreages have been declining for the last 24 years and the current year burn acreage is tracking below the previous record low year (2025). Yet somehow, they do. They are outright lying, or ignorant!

GWIS - Global Burn Acreage - Area Comparisons - 2012-2025 Average versus 2026

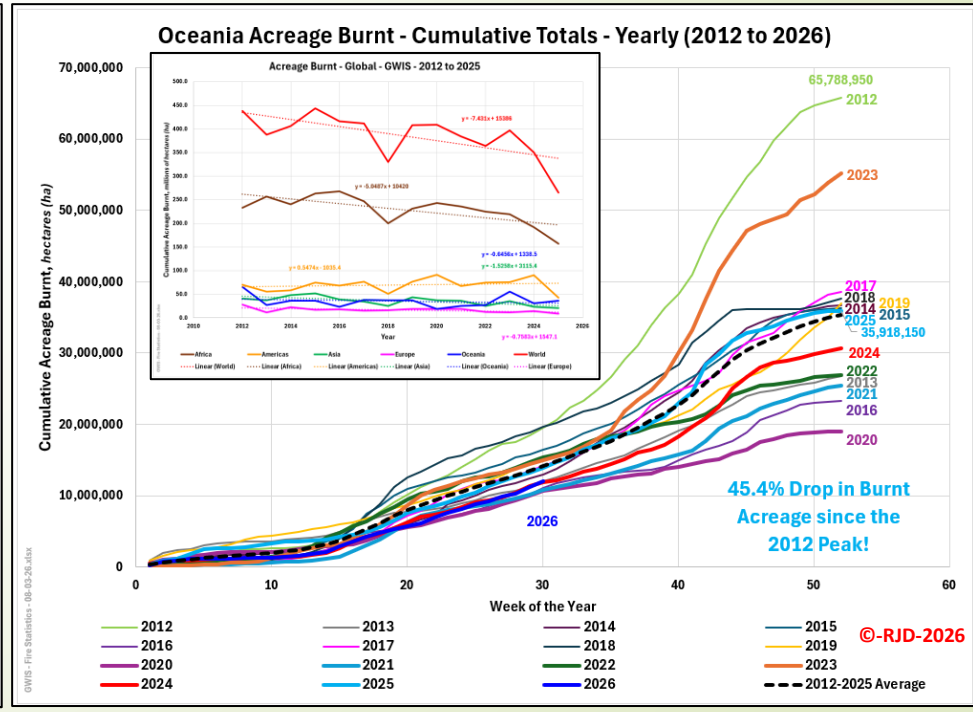
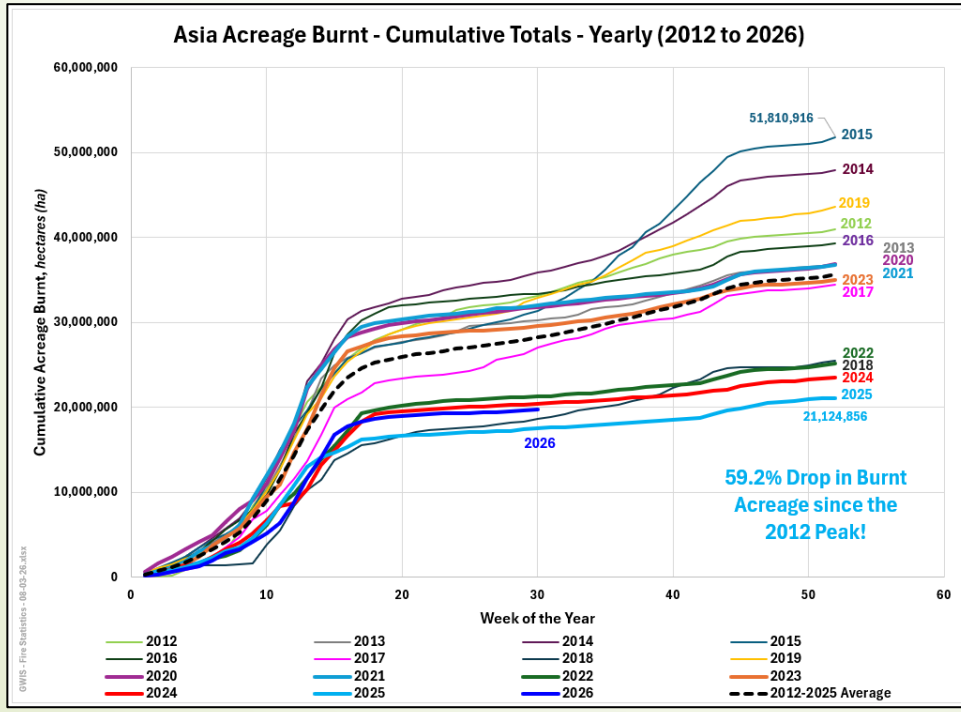
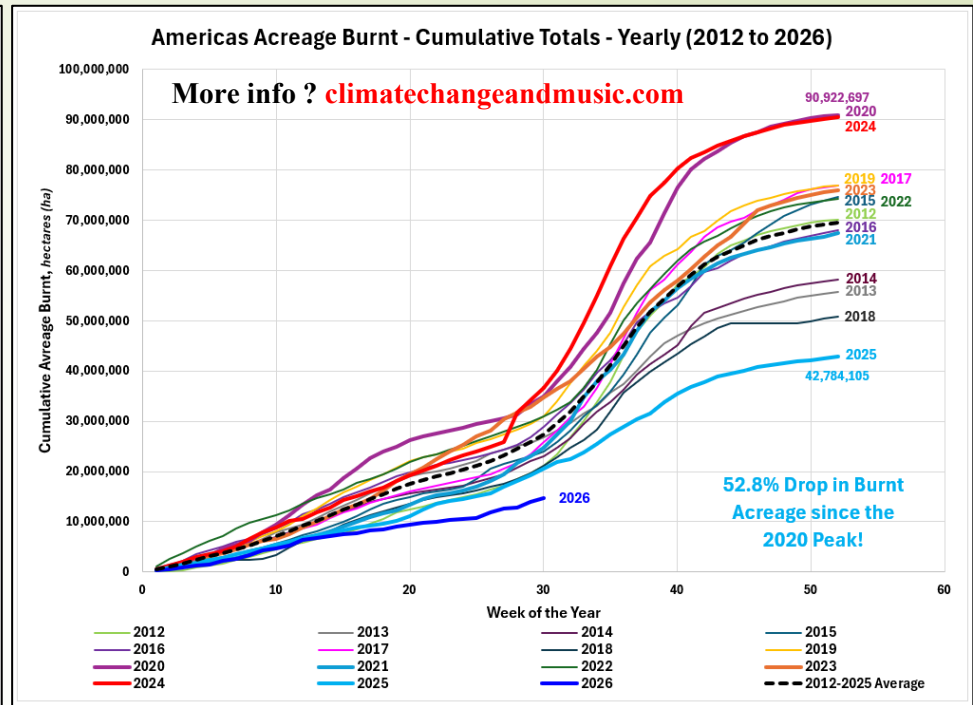
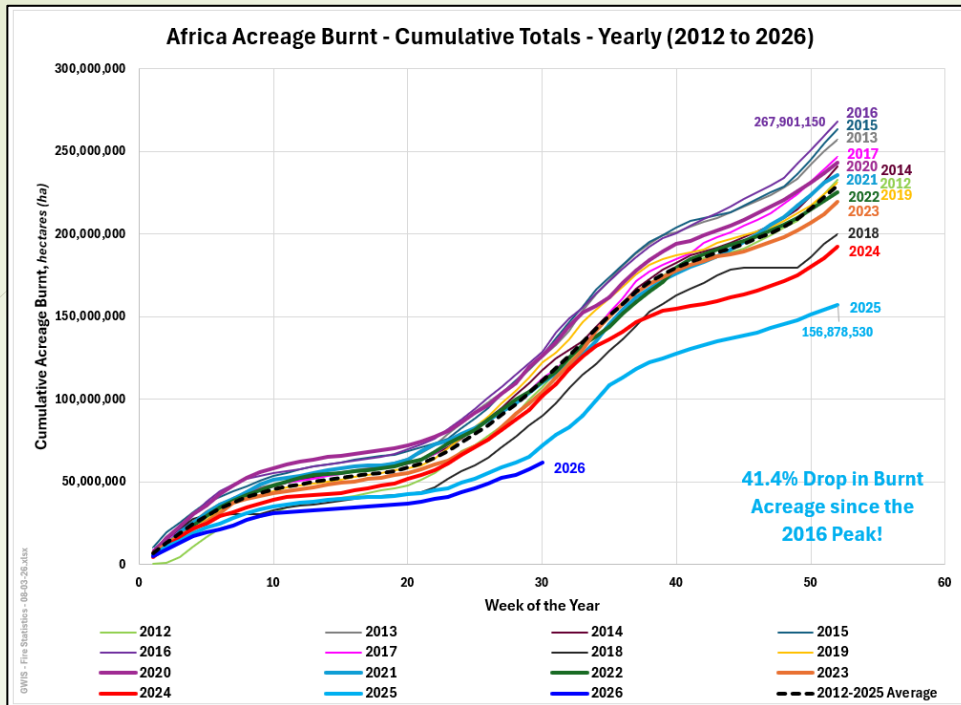


CSS-85h
Global Fire Update
Interim Update
August 2026
Yearly Comparisons

The yearly cumulative burn acreages for four of the five continental masses (Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Oceania) are shown here. The European continent is included in a later discussion. Africa and the Americas are noticeably below every year since 2012 and well below the 2012-to-2025-year average. The same goes for Europe. The 2026 acreage burnt in Asia and Oceania are close to the bottom of the range but well below the 2012 to 2025 average.

Global Fire Update Aug-26 Yearly Comps

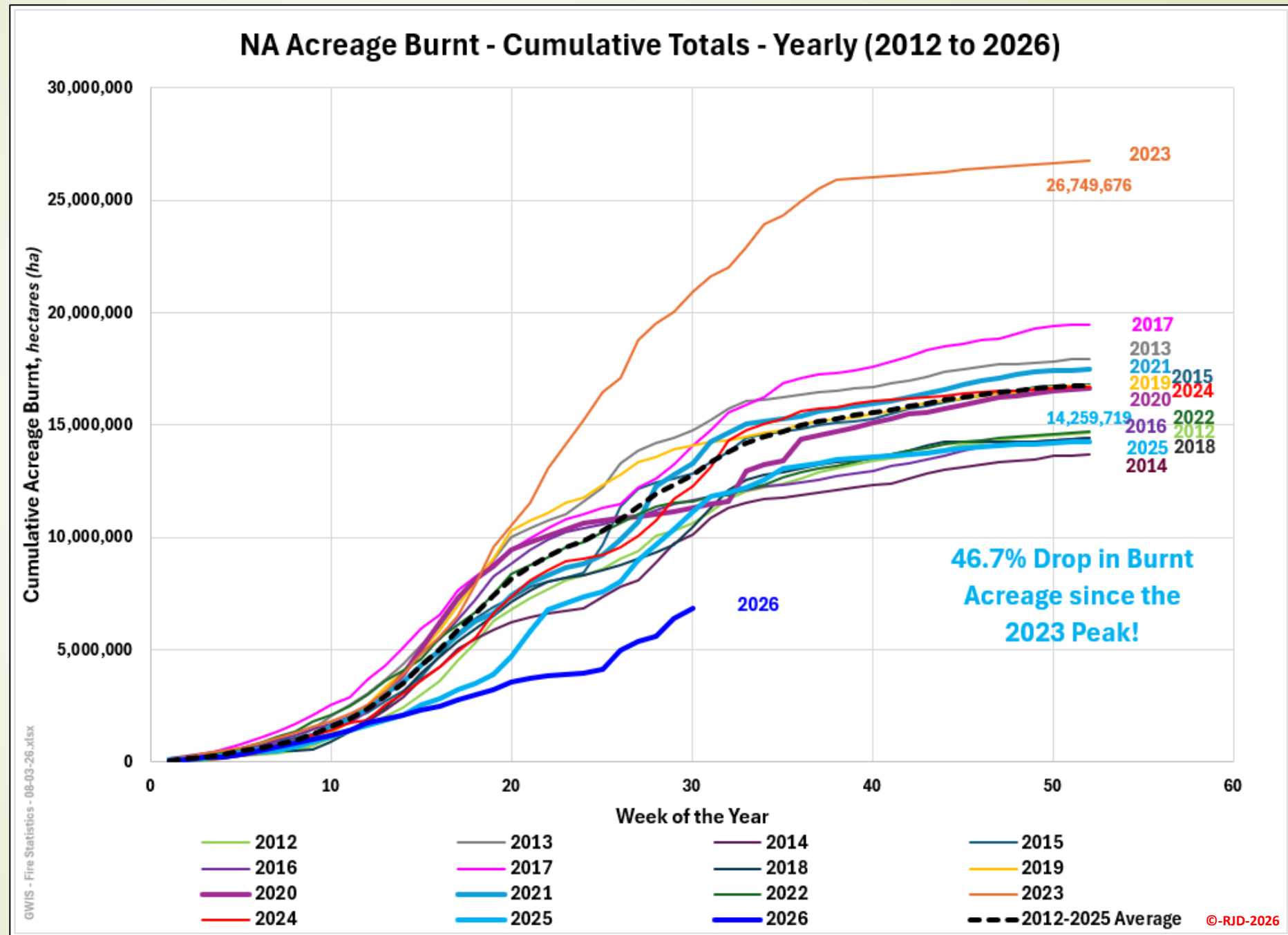
Despite the apocalyptic headlines and the obvious tragedy of the current fire situation, 2026 burn acreage has so far been well below average. And as shown in the small inset (bottom right), global acreage burnt (as per the GWIS data) has been declining since 2012, led by Africa. Only the Americas buck the trend a bit, due to just two anomalously high years (not CO₂).



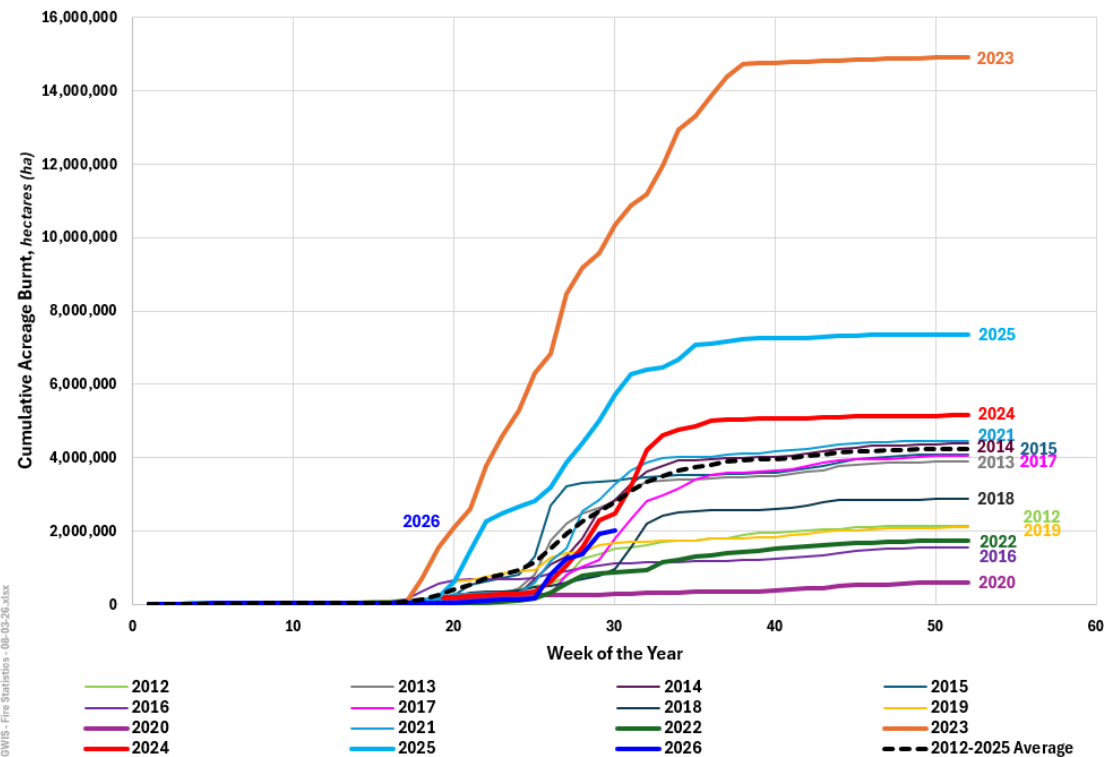
The datasets are available down to the country scale. The next few slides focus closer to home, looking at North America, Canada, and the United States of America. The 2023 and 2026 fire seasons stand out on the chart. 2023 was anomalously high, 2026 anomalously low. The 2023 fire season was dominated by Canada's acreage burnt (14.9 million hectares according to the GWIS data, 18.5 million hectares according to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC)). This is natural variability supplemented by human ignition (accidental or intentional), not 'climate change', not CO₂. Of course, the same general comments can be made of 2026. On its own, not indicative of statistically significant trend (or even with the reduced burn acreage through 2024 and 2025 included). Nothing in the empirical data justifies the apocalyptic headlines that suggest 'climate change' is burning down our planet. Especially in a year like 2026 that appears to be headed for the 'LOWEST YEAR EVER' (to use alarmistic parlance) in most jurisdictions. As shown earlier, only a few countries are near or above their 2012 to 2025 average (France, Spain, Costa Rica, China, Philippines, Thailand, Gambia, and a other minor entities).

Global Fire Update Aug-26 NA- Cum

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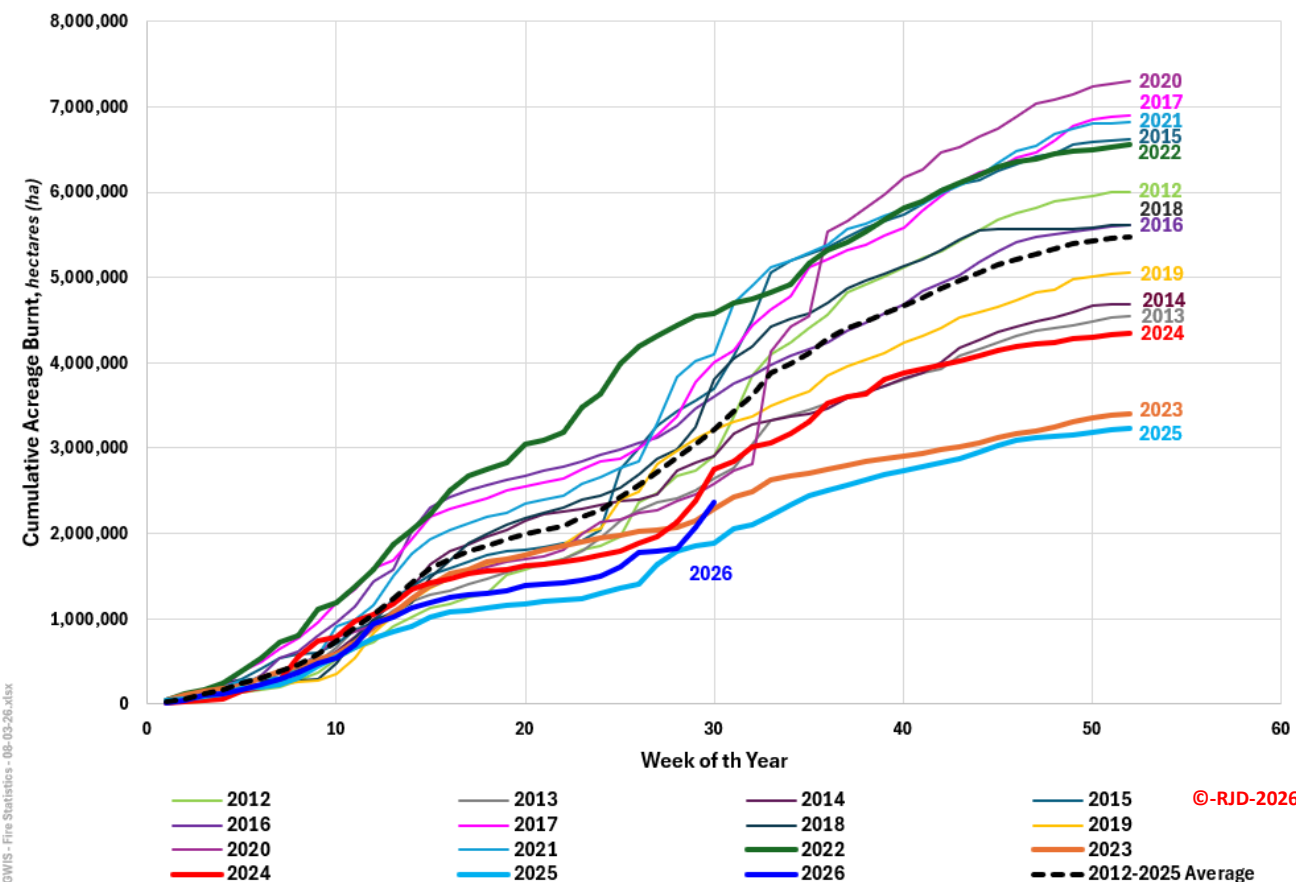


Canada Acreage Burnt - Cumulative Totals - Yearly (2012 to 2026)



These two charts show the 2012 to 2026 breakdown for Canada and the United States of America (USA). Despite occupying the same continent in the Northern Hemisphere, the acreage burnt profiles are significantly different. Canada, being much further north, has a much shorter burn season than the USA (primarily May through September). The USA burn season lasts all year long, with some accelerated growth during the northern hemisphere summers due to contributions from the northern states). Interestingly, the three highest years for burn acreage in Canada (2023, 2024, and 2025) are the lowest three years for burn acreage in the USA. And the lowest burn acreage year (2020) in Canada is the highest burn year in the USA. Does this imply that CO₂'s influence on climate differ between Canada and the USA? Of course not, but an explanation for those very significant differences is required before the you can apply any

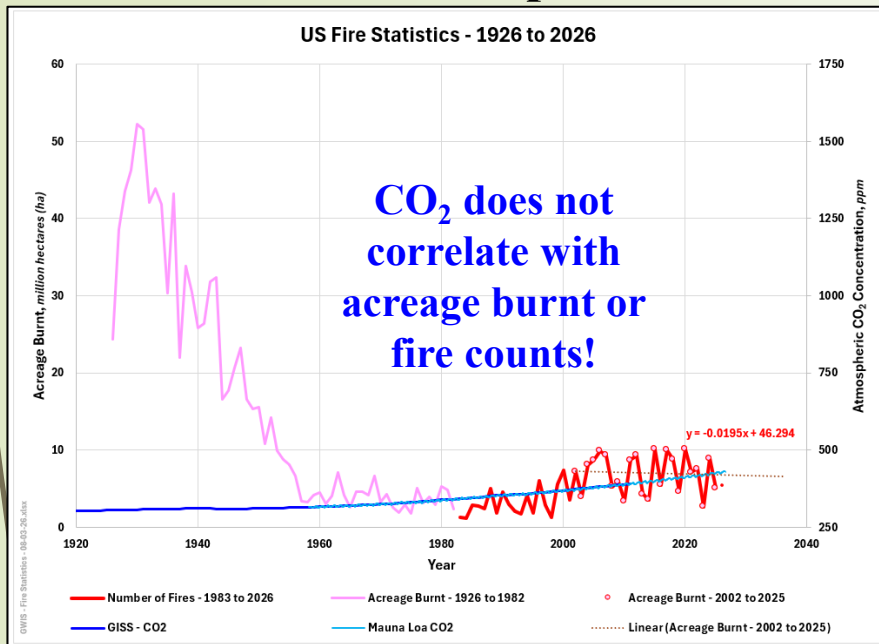
USA Acreage Burnt - Cumulative Totals - Yearly (2012 to 2026)



Global Fire Update Aug-26 Canada-US

influence from CO₂. Realistically, you must first ask the question does CO₂ even have any influence on acreage burnt, given that global acreage burnt has been declining since 2002 (shown on the first slide (CSS-85a))? Global burn acreage is falling as CO₂ concentrations have been rising.

I suspect that CO₂ has little to nothing to do with the fire statistics globally or locally. Humanity through forest management, land use, ignition (both accidental and intentional), water use, fire fighting practices, etc. is the primary driver of fire statistics. Whatever contribution that rising CO₂ warming may be providing is swamped by humanities non-climate contributions. Remember both the number of fires and acreage burnt have been declining since the turn of the century. That fact (empirical data) is not consistent with the All CO₂, All the Time alarmist narrative. In my opinion, linking 'climate change' to the current fire situation without proper context is unscientific and ultimately fraudulent.

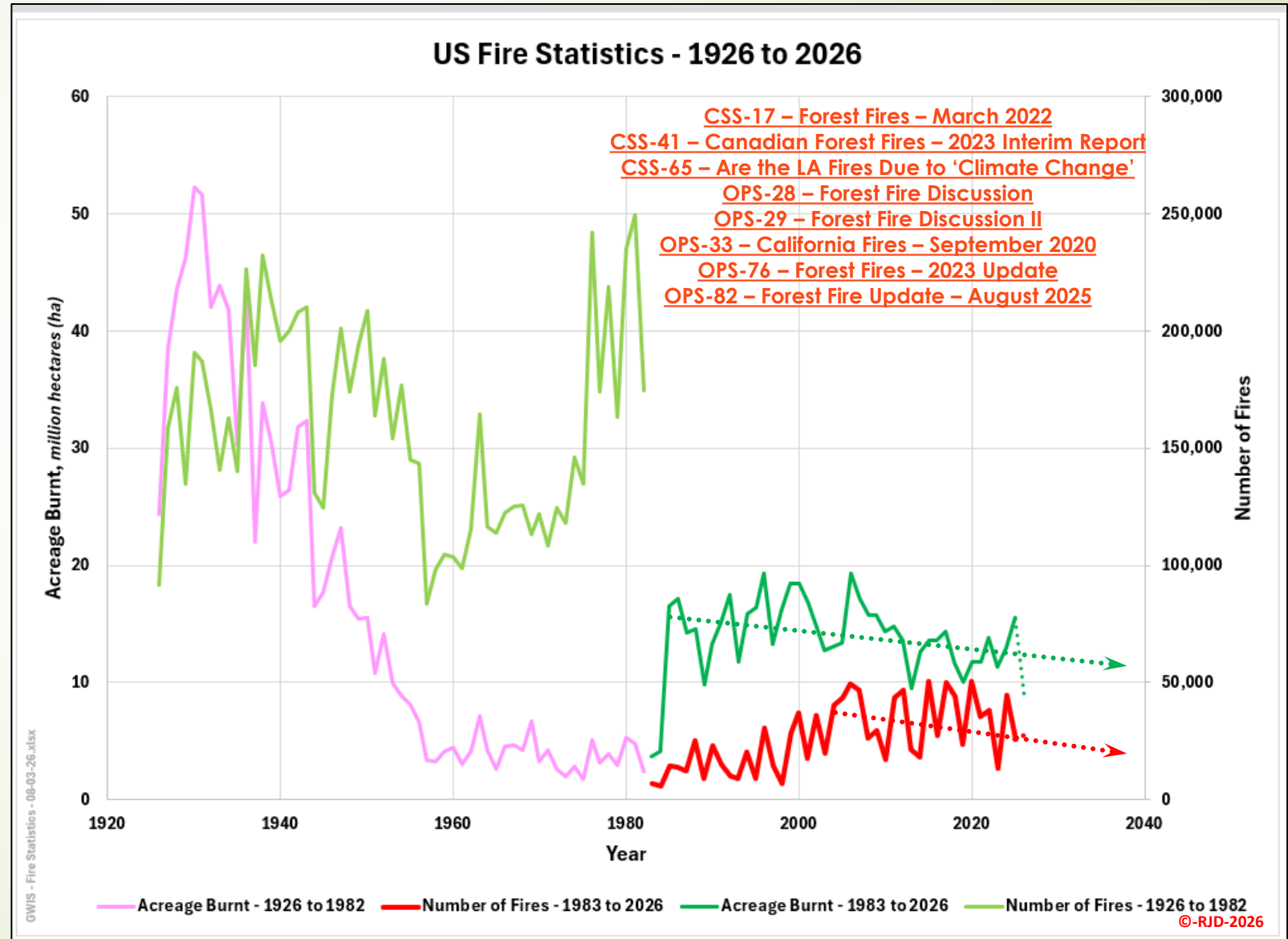


point. There were some significant problems with the fire counts but the acreages burnt have not been contested. The chart above plots just the acreage burnt with CO₂ correlated to the 1983 to 2025 acreage burnt. But you cannot just ignore the pre-1983 fire data. Nor the declining acreage burnt since the early 21st century. CO₂ just does not correlate with the fire statistics (neither the US nor globally). The chart to the right shows the number of fires and the total acreage burnt.

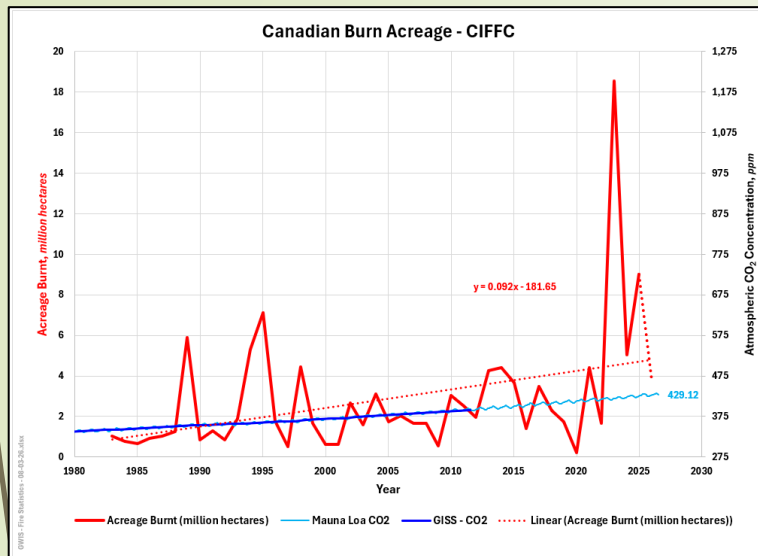
Global Fire Update Aug-26 USA – 100 years

The pre-1983 fire counts are grossly overstated and should be ignored. I have produced many forest fire updates over the years and gone into significantly more detail in many of them. Past posts are included on the chart to the right. An example of the major impacts that humanity can have is California. According to some research I conducted for the CSS-17 post, California fires were primarily human caused (±90%) and Oregon came in at 80 to 85%. Arson/negligence has been responsible for many of the significant fires lately.

Focusing in on the United States alone provides some additional insights. The data shown here has been downloaded from the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC). The data is split into two periods. The current NIFC data is restricted to the 1983 to the present (August 2026) period. The earlier data (1926 to 1982) was buried by the Biden administration. Convenient that they choose 1983, a low point in the US fire statistics data as the cut off year. Manufacturing an increase in fire statistics is not hard when you cherry-pick one of the lowest years as the starting



- [CSS-17 – Forest Fires – March 2022](#)
- [CSS-41 – Canadian Forest Fires – 2023 Interim Report](#)
- [CSS-65 – Are the LA Fires Due to 'Climate Change'](#)
- [OPS-28 – Forest Fire Discussion](#)
- [OPS-29 – Forest Fire Discussion II](#)
- [OPS-33 – California Fires – September 2020](#)
- [OPS-76 – Forest Fires – 2023 Update](#)
- [OPS-82 – Forest Fire Update – August 2025](#)



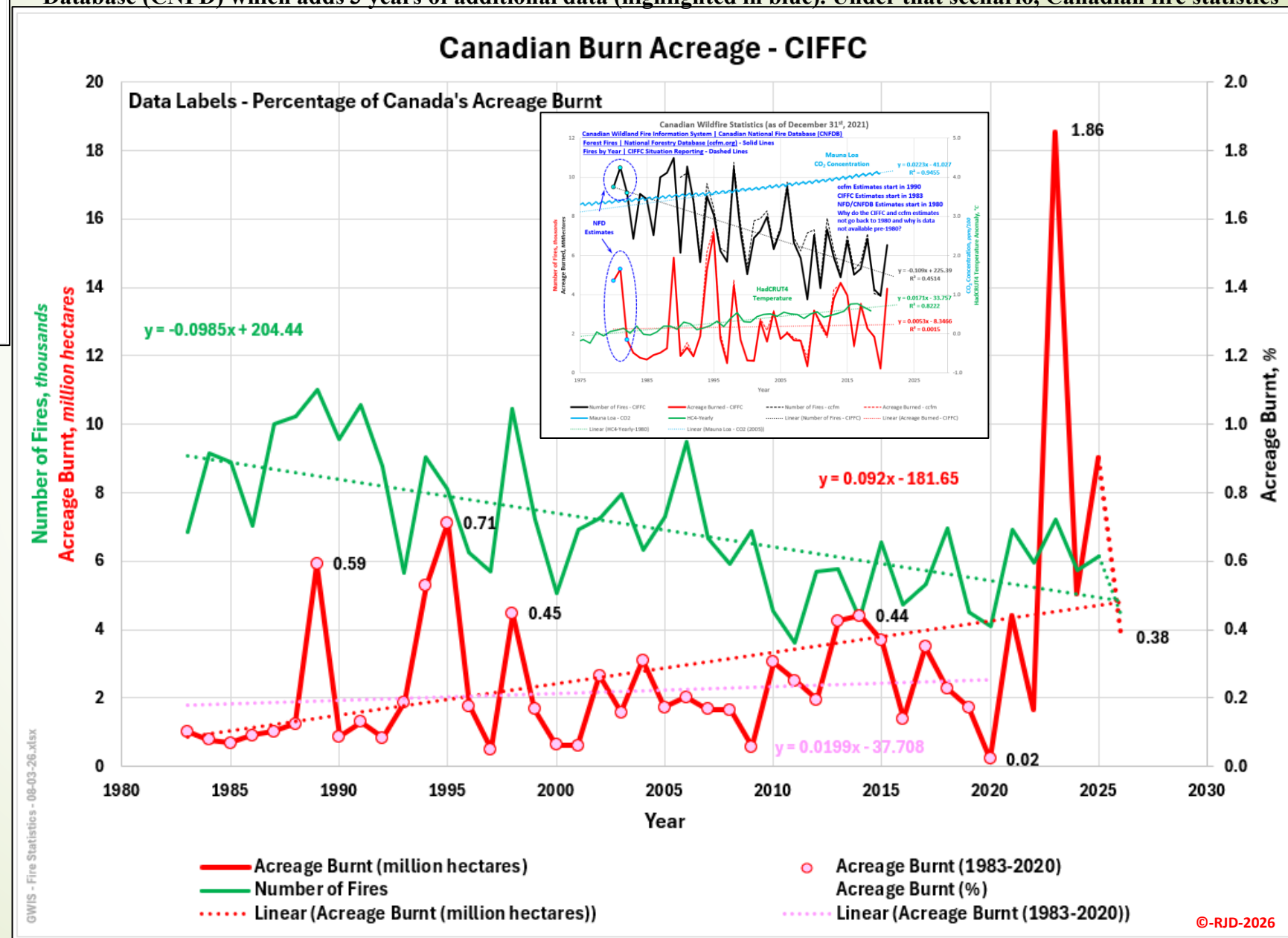
were statistically flat (very minor decline) from 1980 to 2022. That changed dramatically in 2023, when the acreage burnt jumped from the 42-year average of roughly 2 million hectares (2% of Canada's land mass) to 18.5 million hectares (1.86%). That is not a response to the slow steady increase in CO₂ shown in the image above and

correlated to the 1983 to 2022 burn acreage. But how much influence did CO₂ actually have over the 1980 to 2022 period, given that burnt

acreage was statistically flat but declining slightly?

CO₂ may loosely correlate with the 1980 to 2022 acreage burnt data, but how good is that correlation when CO₂ is definitely rising but acreage burnt is flat or declining? As I have mentioned before, I do not think that fire statistics are a reliable indicator of ‘climate change’. But I also know that if CO₂ is rising and burnt acreage is declining, then CO₂ has not been contributing to Canada’s fire situation.

Switching to Canada we have a much shorter data set to work with. The CIFFC also starts in 1983, but there is some additional data available pre-1983. The inset (a larger image is available in CSS-17) includes the Canadian National Fire Database (CNFD) which adds 3 years of additional data (highlighted in blue). Under that scenario, Canadian fire statistics



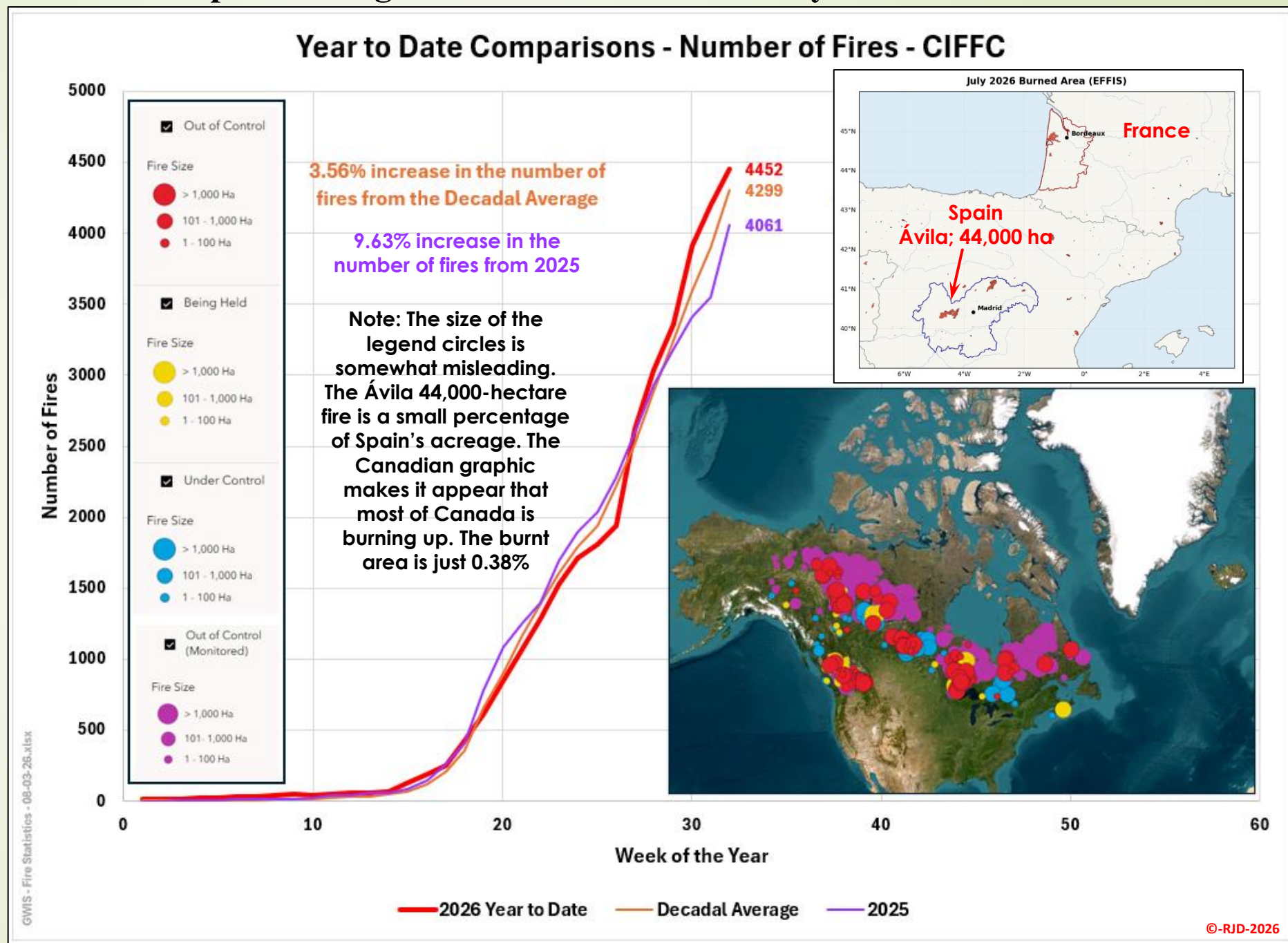
This is snapshot of Canada's fire situation 32 weeks into year. The bulk of the fires are in Northern Canada in our vast Boreal Forest. BC is also experiencing some big fires. The fires in BC have

Caused some major evacuations, There have also been some smaller evacuations in the less populated northern areas. Again, the fires are tragic, but as shown here the number of fires (at this point in the season) is similar to last year and the previous 10-year average. Those gaps have closed a bit in Week 33. Combined with the acreage burnt data covered earlier (tracking well below average), There is no reason to connect the 2026 fires to 'climate change'. But I have no doubt that the All CO2, All the Time alarmist community will continue to do so. The World Weather Attribution (WWA) group has already indirectly

linked fires to 'climate change' through their drought and heat wave attribution

studies. Interesting that they can find that 'climate change' makes extreme weather events more likely when those extreme weather events are generally trending down in both magnitude and intensity (according to the IPCC's own reports, Table 12.12, AR6 report). Not surprising though given they are still using the same model assumptions that produce models that they admit run too hot.

Global Fire Update Aug-26 Canada-Weekly

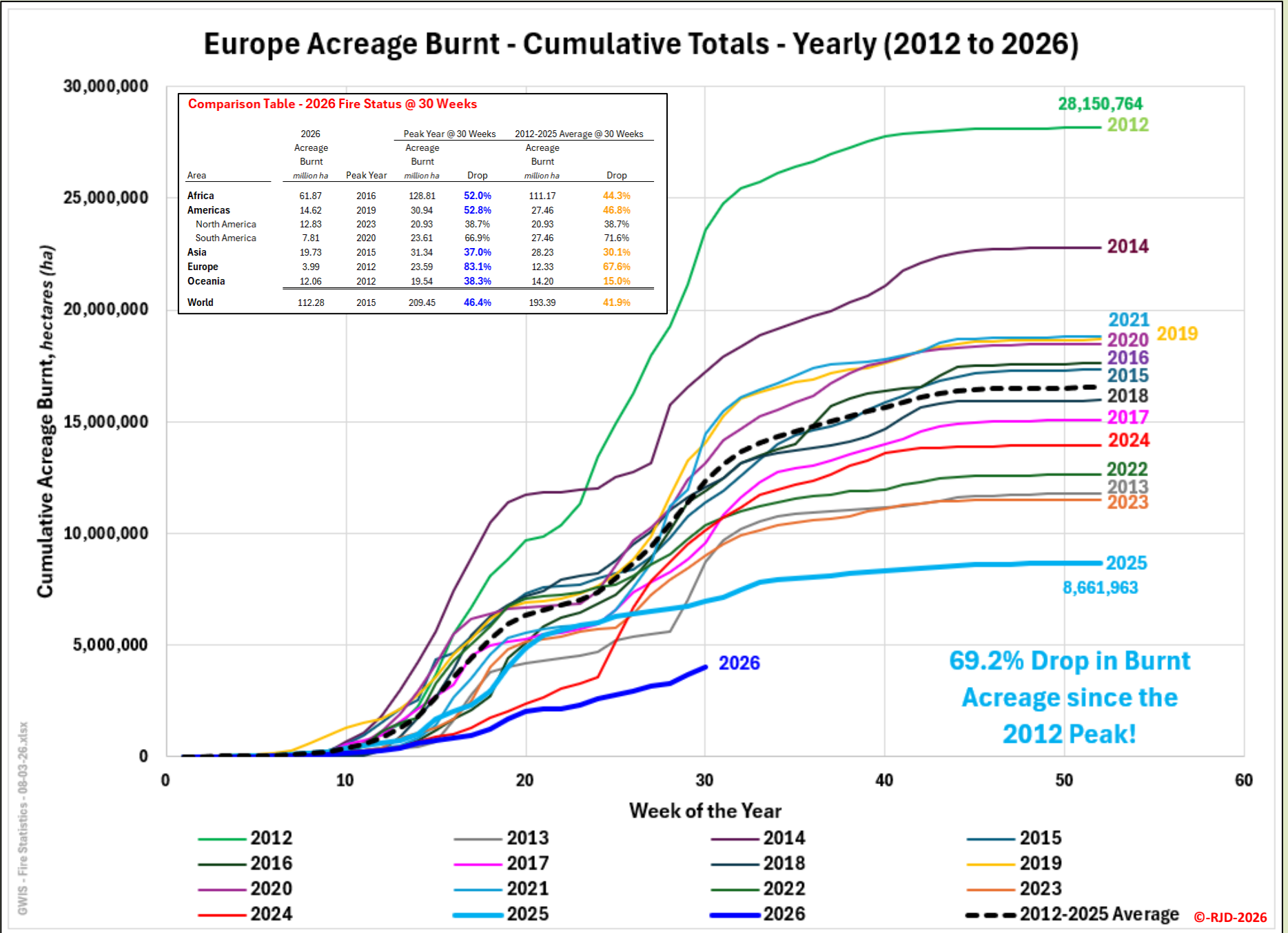


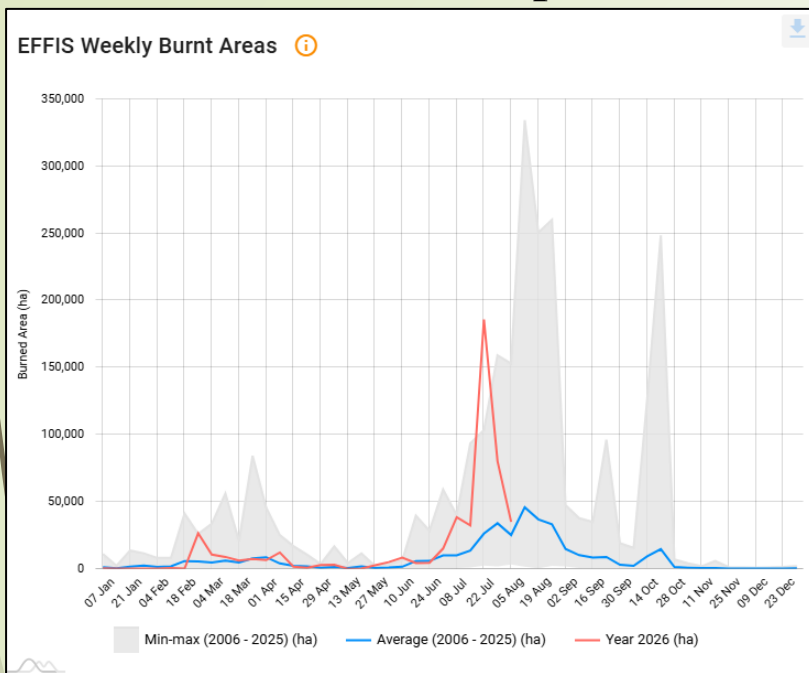
The last major land mass we will look at is the European continent. The ‘Save the World’ virtual signaling crowd is focused on the fires in France and Spain.

Individually and locally those fires are impactful and tragic, but ‘global warming’ (i.e.: ‘climate change’, real or not) is not a localized problem. The European continent is not burning up despite the media hype. The 2026 burn season is tracking well below every other year in the GWIS data set, back to 2012 (the peak year). Thirty weeks into the fire season, European Acreage burnt is down 83.1% and 67.9% from the peak year (2012) and the 2012 to 2025 average, respectively. There is an emergency fire situation locally in France and Spain. There is not an emergency situation on the European continent or globally. On a global basis, world acreage burnt is down 46.4% and 41.9% from the global peak year (2015) and the 2012 to 2025 average, respectively.

Global Fire Update Aug-26 European

Combined with the 50%+ decline in burnt acreage since 2002 (shown earlier on slide CSS-85e), just solidifies that there is NO Climate Emergency visible in the empirical fire data. Have the alarmists/WWA found a ‘climate change’ signal in low, declining fire statistics. Of course they have, as the great pseudo scientists that they are. And their “expertise” is not limited to fire statistics!



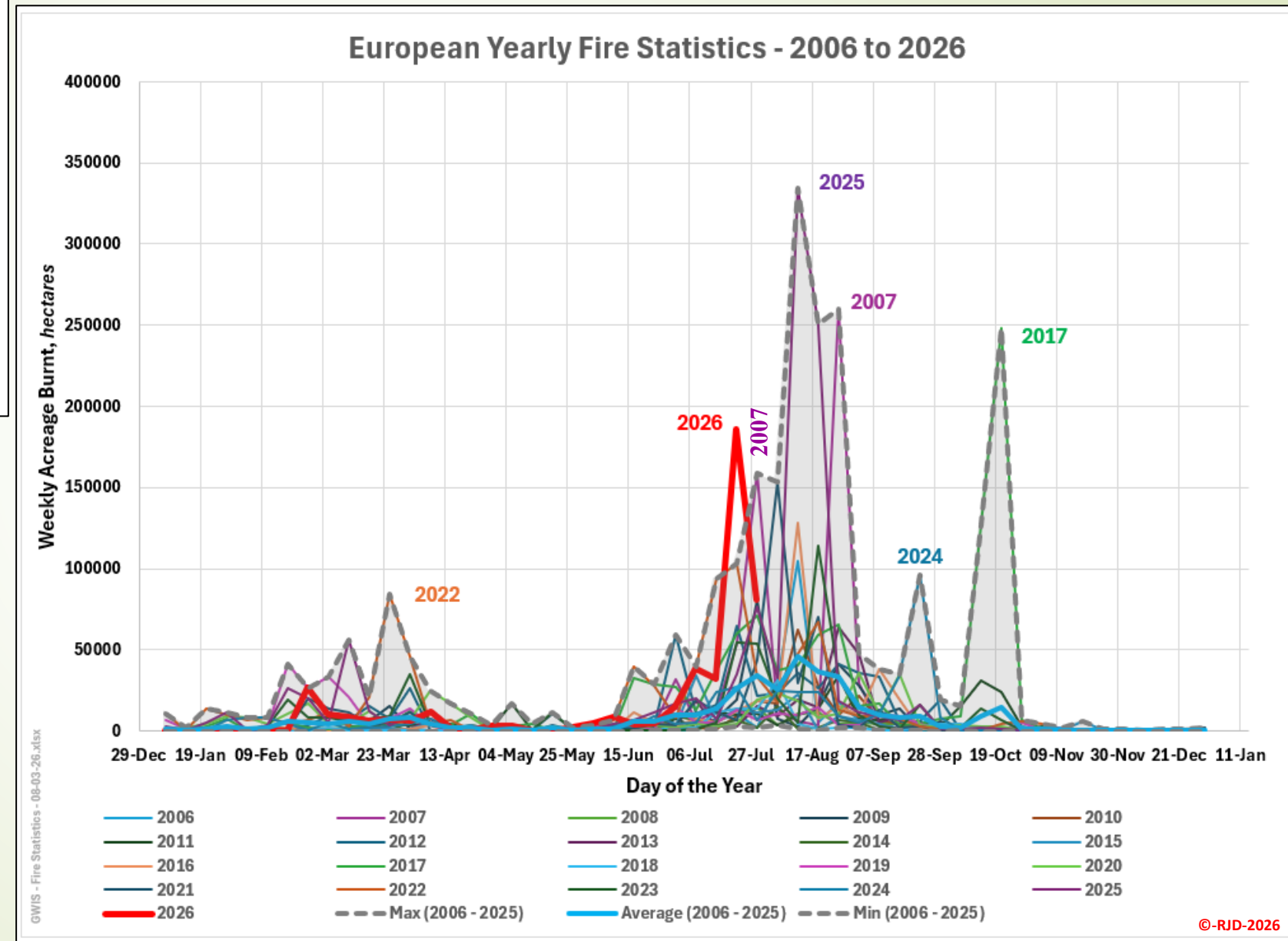


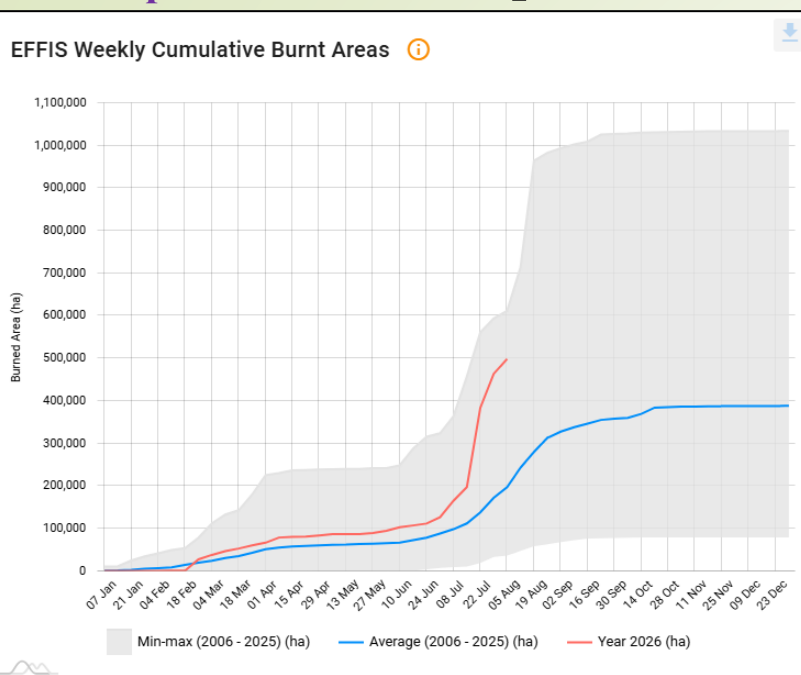
Global Fire Update Aug-26 Europe - Yearly

chart (to the right) was produced using the Copernicus database. Within the EU, the 2026 fire season has generally been more active than the 2006 to 2025 average.

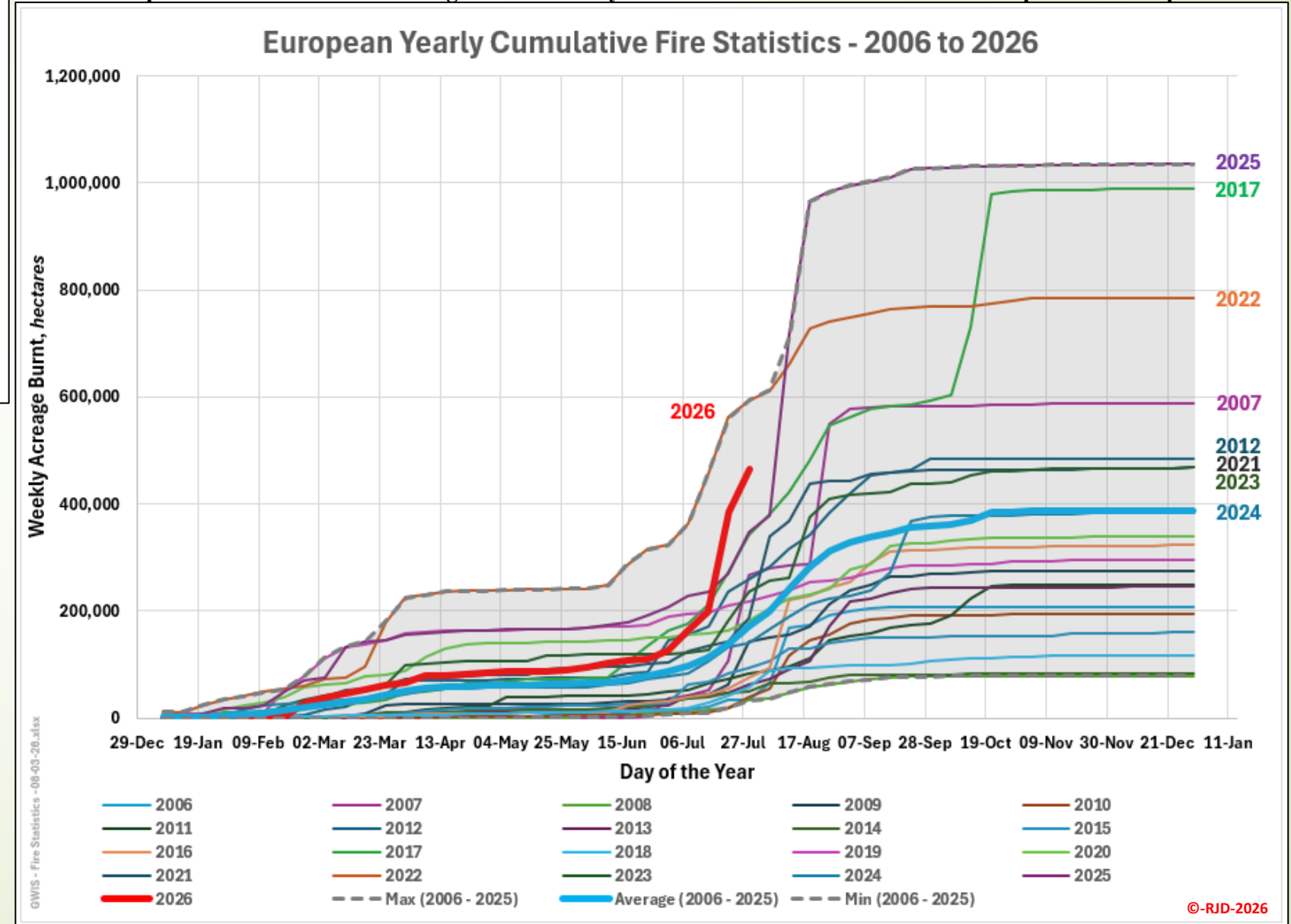
These spikes are not trends. Only 2007 had more than one major spike. The spikes do not reflect 'climate change'. The BBC (August 8th) has of course labeled the cause of the 2026 fires as 'climate change', but they also pointed out that 9 out of 10 fires in France are started by human activity and France has arrested 420 individuals in connection with starting those fires (intentionally (arson) or accidentally). Those spikes are not all due to 'climate change'. How many were set to promote 'climate change'?

The last two slides focus in on the European Union (EU) alone. As you drill down to smaller land areas, you can find more dramatic examples of enhanced fire influences. The 2026 EU fire season has established a new peak for late July fire burn (courtesy of the tragic Spanish and French fires). The image to the left is pulled from the Copernicus EFFIS website. The





The weekly EFFIS data (from the previous slide) is plotted as cumulatives in these two plots (the EFFIS image to the left and the more detailed version produced from the EFFIS database). The 2025 fire season has the highest burn acreage in the EFFIS data (2006 to 2025) based on a surge of fire activity through August of that year. The 2017 fire season came in at second place due to a late season surge in fire activity. The 2022 fire season finished in third place with help from its



Global Fire Update Aug-26 Europe - Cum

early season lead. The 2026 fire season is trailing only the 2022 fire season at the end of July. We will have to wait and see where 2026 finishes out the year. But does its finishing position matter to the overall discussion? NO! The Global picture is very clear. Burnt acreage has been trending lower both globally and continentally since at least 2002 (OWID) culminating with 2025 having the lowest burn acreage this century. Those trends did not stop in 2026. At the 30 week point in the year, 2026 is tracking well below every year (including 2025). The fire data is not showing any Global Emergency and any media outlet or social media pundit telling you that is so, is LYING!