

# IGNITE THE FUTURE: CHAMPIONING WOMEN IN THE FIRE SERVICE

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Fire and EMS



# A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ME...



# **CELEBRATING THE RESILIENCE, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND FUTURE OF WOMEN IN THE FIRE SERVICE.**



**This isn't just about challenges—it's about  
how we win, how we grow, and how we lead.**

# A LEGACY OF COURAGE

Women have been in the fire service since the 1800s—pioneering change:

Molly Williams (1815) – First known female firefighter in the U.S.

Ruth E. Capello (1973) – Among the first women in major city fire departments.

Brenda Berkman (1982) – Fought for women's inclusion in FDNY.

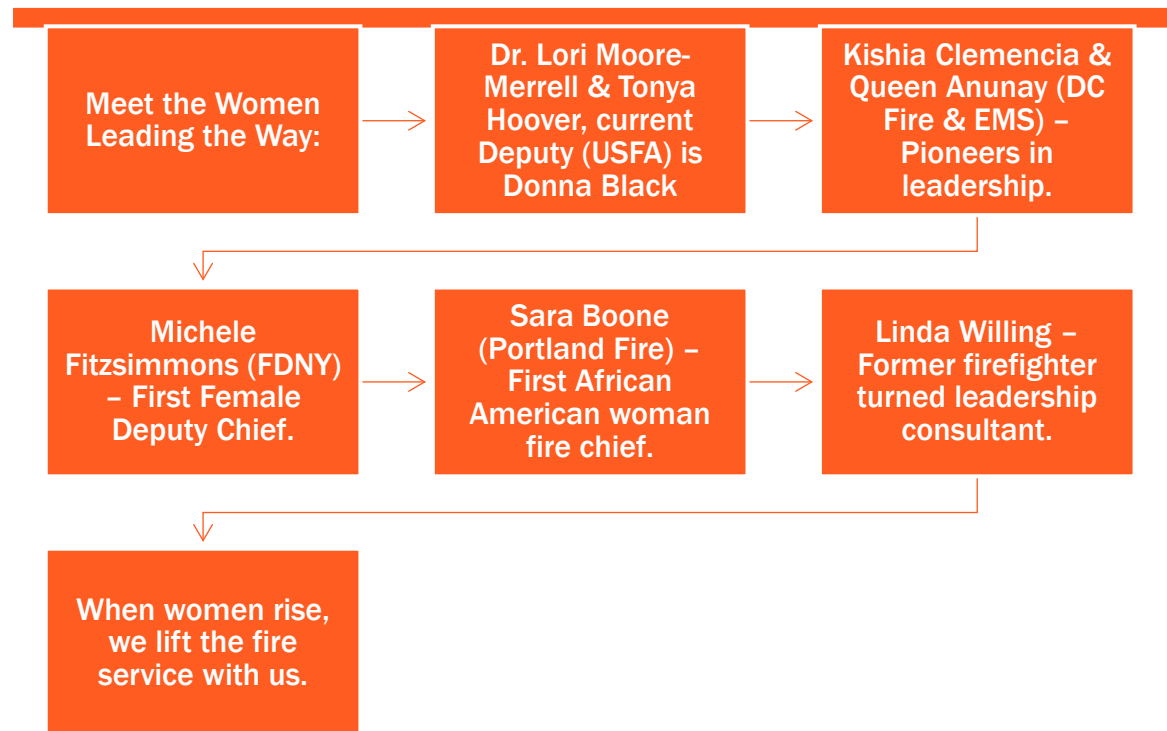
# **THE STRENGTH OF WOMEN IN FIRE TODAY**

**Women make up less than 10% of the fire service nationwide—but that number is rising.**

**DC Fire & EMS leads with 14% female firefighters, above the national average.**

**Women aren't just part of the fire service. We are shaping its future.**

# SUCCESS STORIES THAT INSPIRE



# THE FIREHOUSE FAMILY: SUPPORT & INCLUSION



The fire service is built on brotherhood and sisterhood.



The best teams support, respect, and elevate each other.



Mentorship is critical—who will you lift up?



Firehouses should feel like home to everyone who serves.

<https://www.firerescue1.com/female-firefighters/pa-fds-first-all-woman-initial-attack-crew-marks-a-turning-point-in-its-124-year-history>

# THE FUTURE OF WOMEN IN FIRE

What's fueling the next generation?

Recruitment is growing—cadet programs, outreach, and mentorship open doors.

Retention is key—support networks, leadership training, and inclusive policies make a difference.

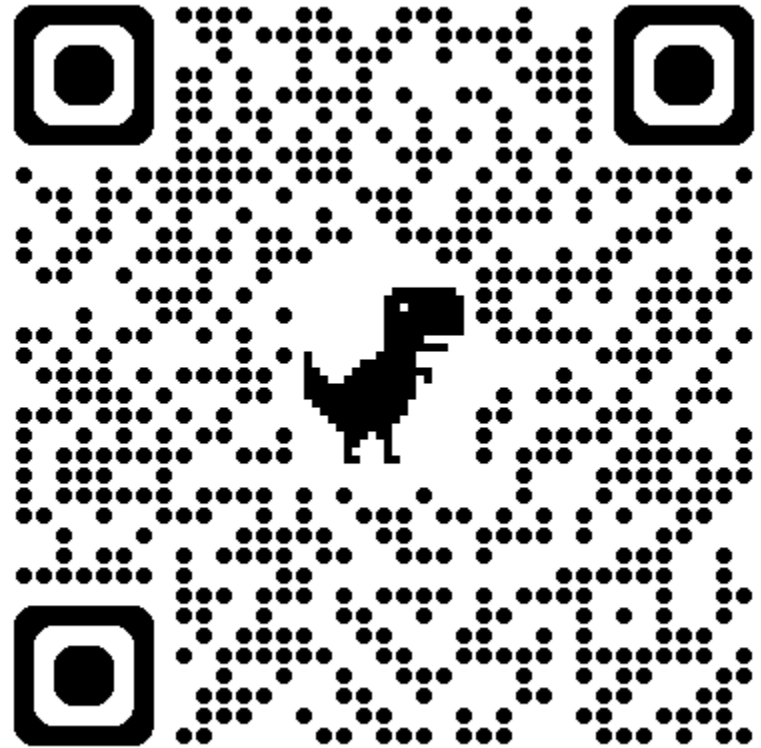
# **CLOSING: YOUR CALL TO ACTION**

Whether you're a firefighter, leader, or supporter, you have a role to play:

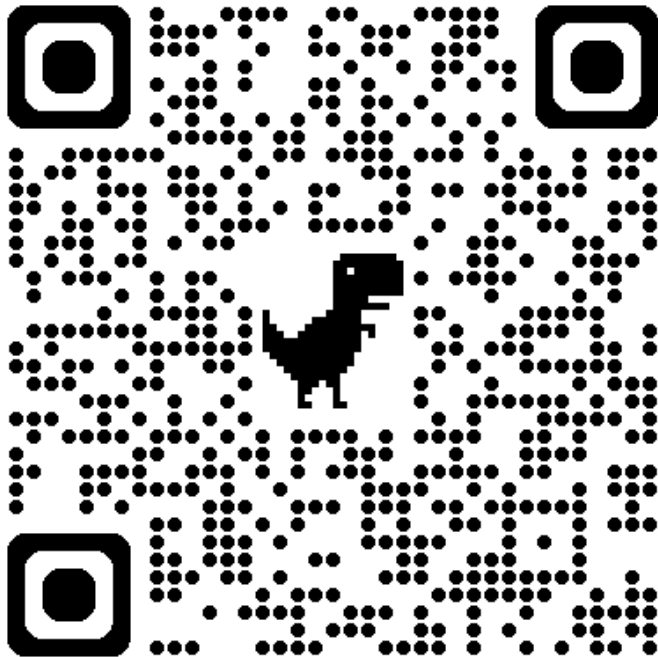
- 1. Mentor & sponsor women in the fire service.**
- 2. Advocate for leadership opportunities.**
- 3. Support & celebrate the women in your department.**
- 4. Challenge stereotypes—firefighting is about skill, not gender.**
- 5. Share the story—inspire the next generation.**

# RESOURCES

Women in Fire



# RESOURCES



DC FEMS Health and Safety

# CONTACT ME

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# Sharing stories in honor of International Women's Day in Bendersville, PA

**Sarah Principato**  
**Department of Environmental Studies**  
**Gettysburg College**



**Geoscientist**

# Geomorphology = surface processes



# Glaciers: sensitive recorders of climate change

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***jökull = glacier***

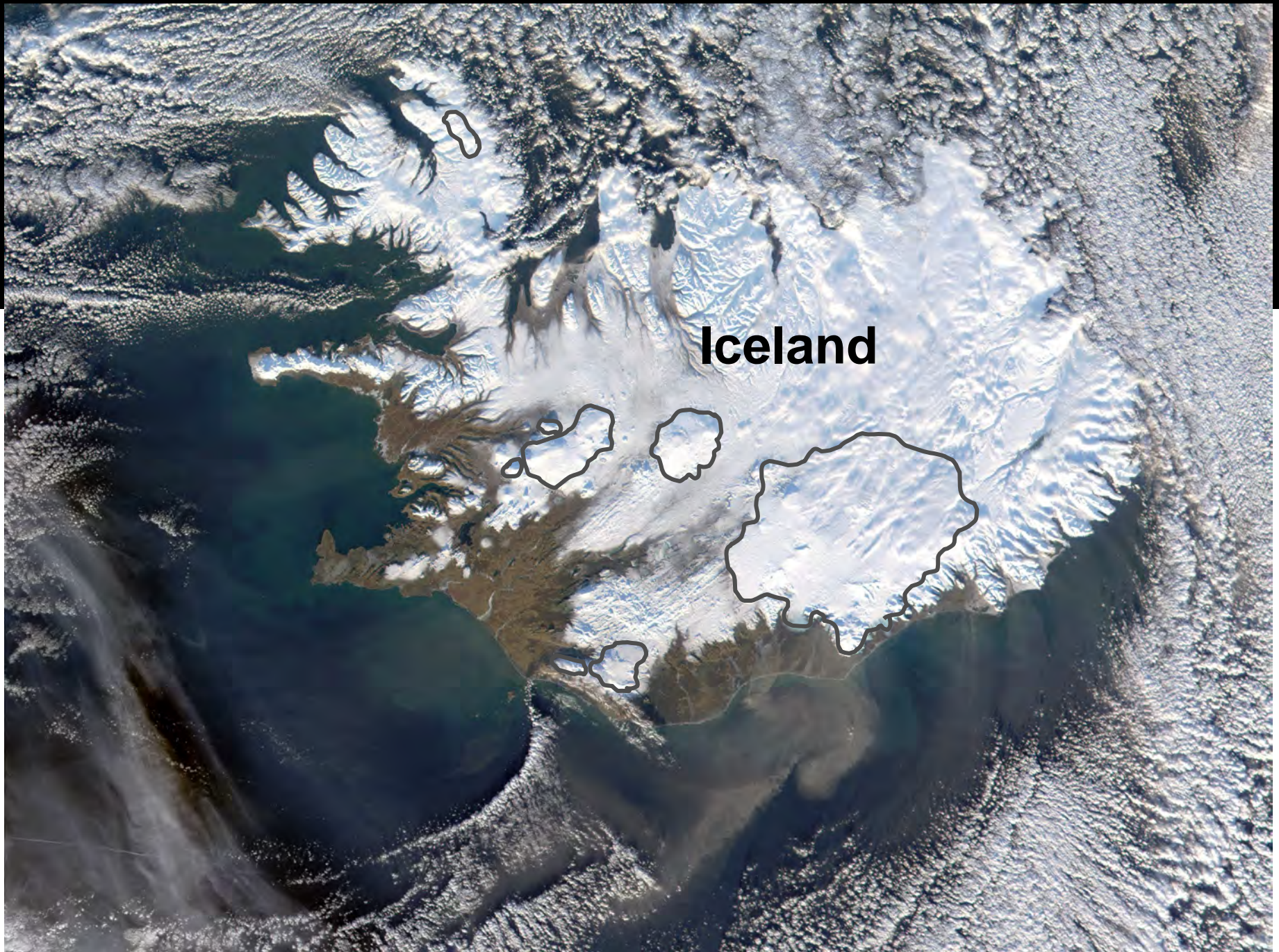




**Bendersville**

**Iceland**





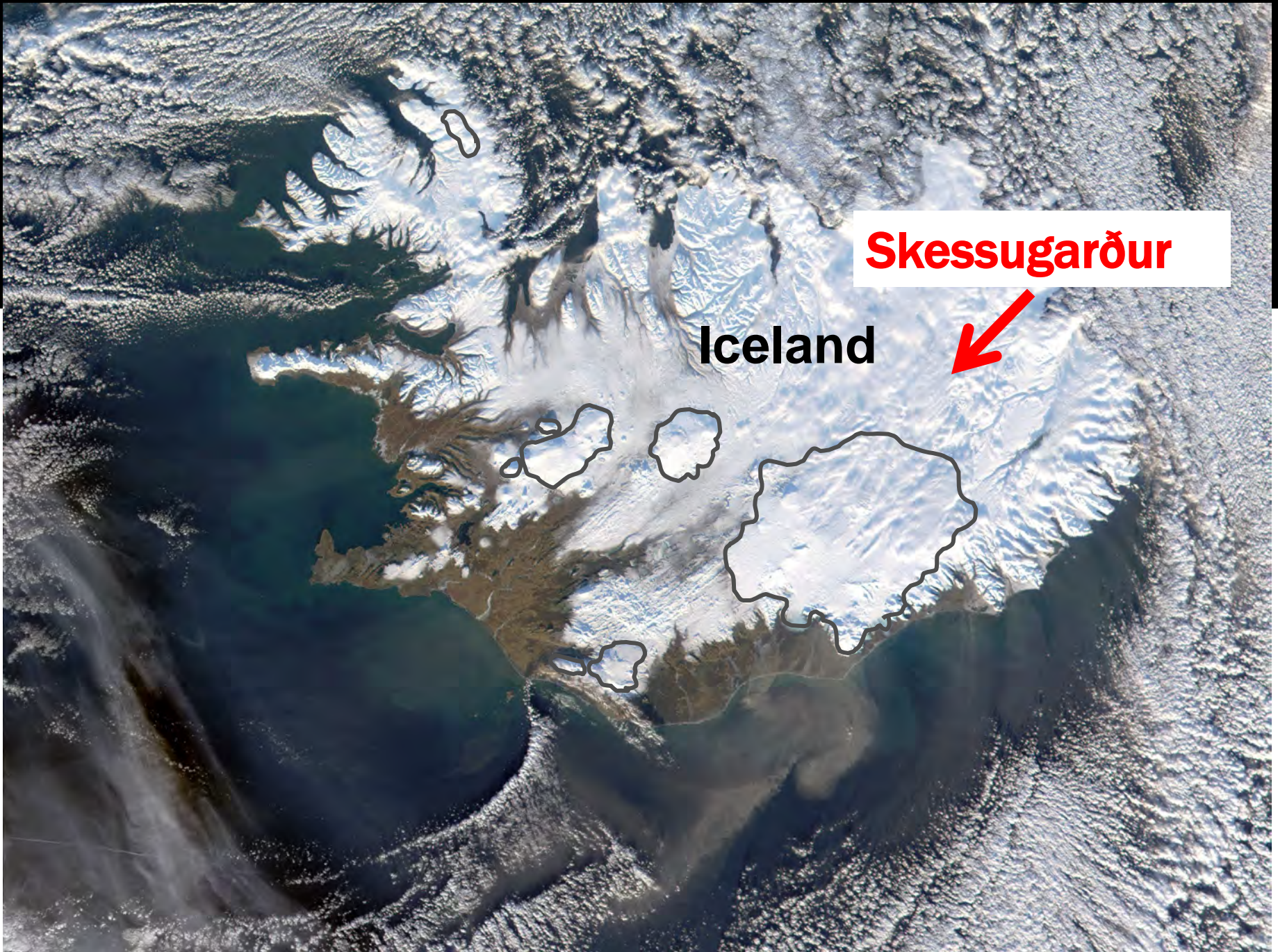
**Iceland**

# What is a moraine?



**What is a moraine?**



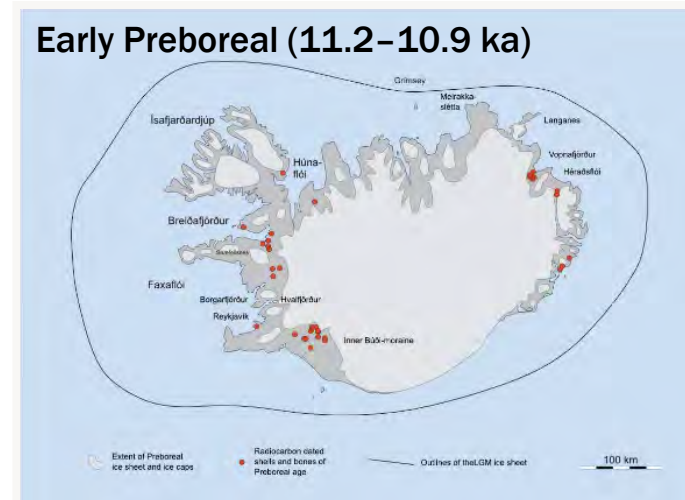
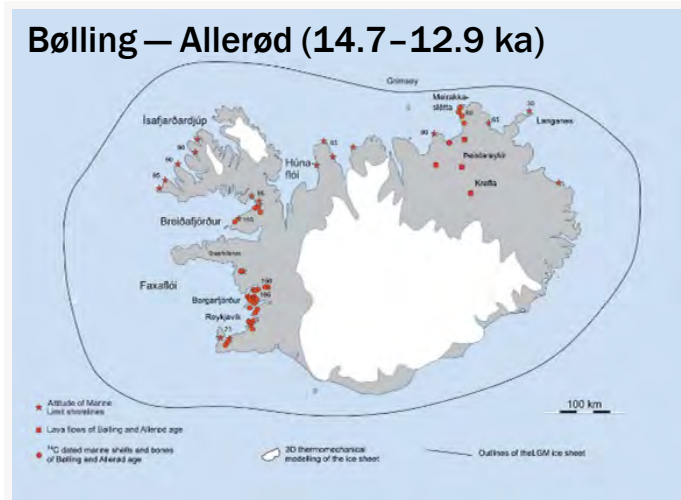
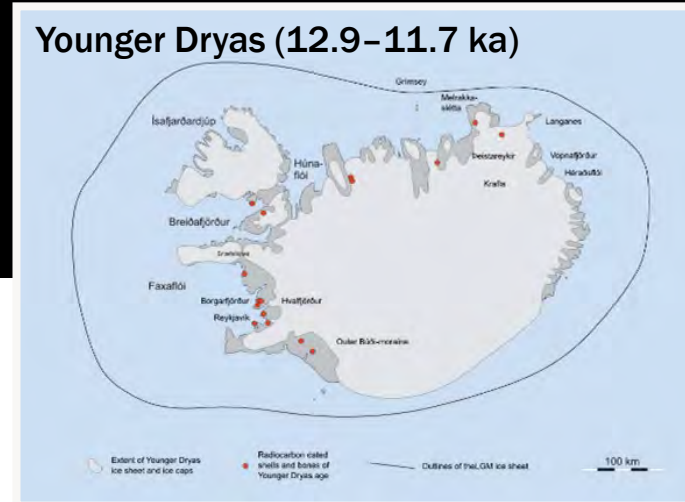
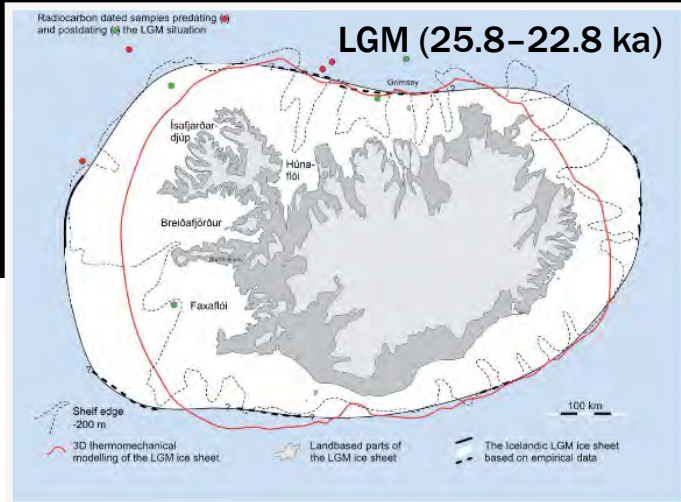


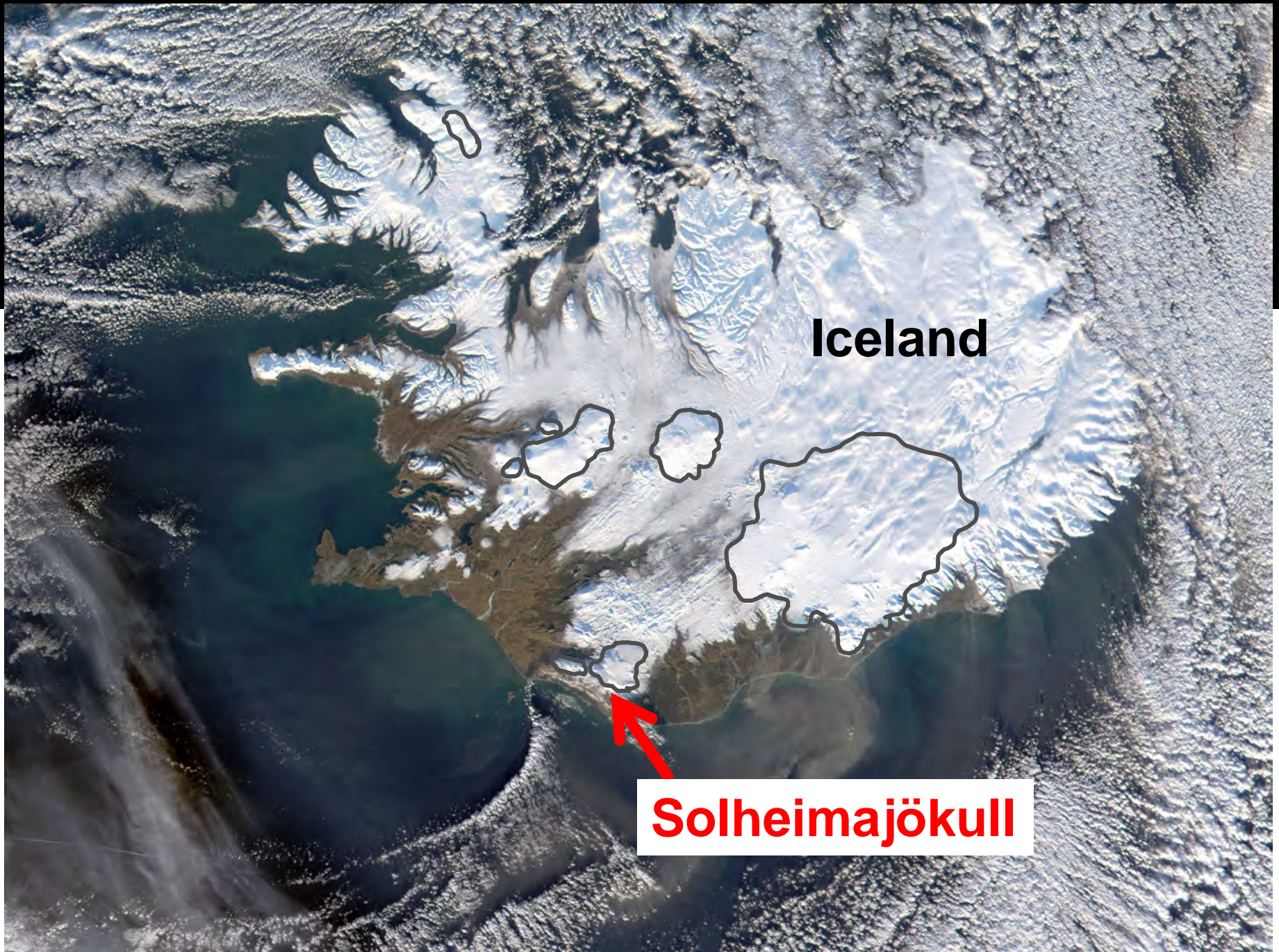
**Skessugarður**

**Iceland**

# Skessugarður







**Iceland**

**Solheimajökull**

2013



2013



2017



**2013**



**2017**

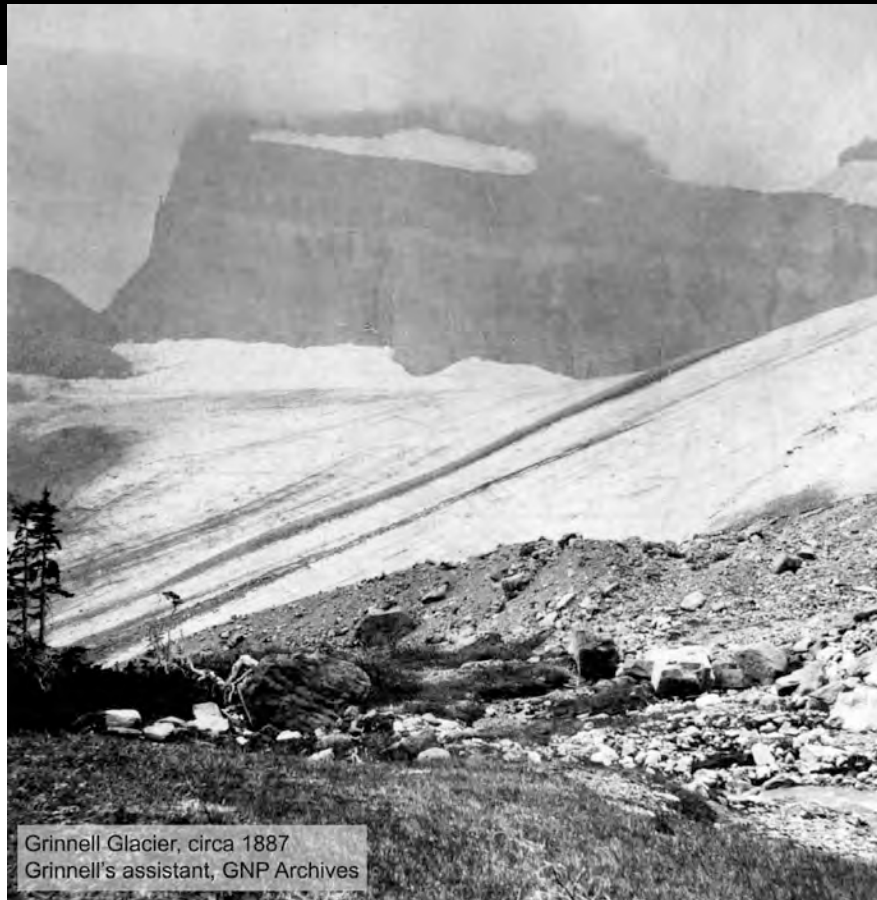


Today





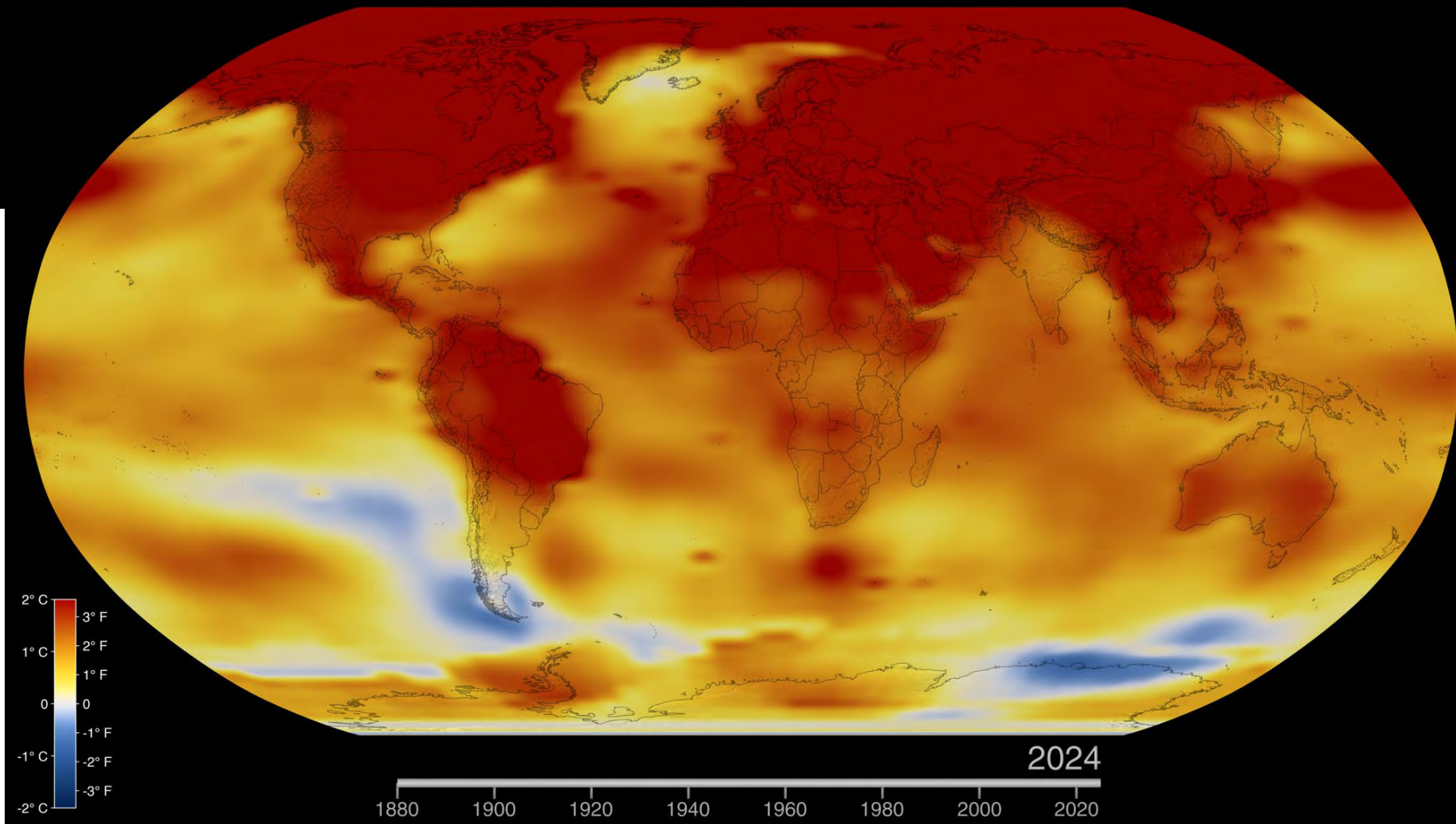
Credit: USGS



Credit: USGS

**Link with fire**

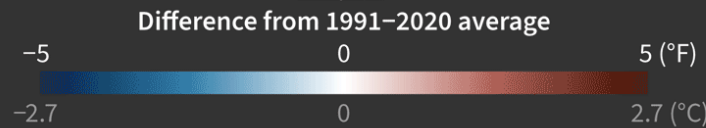
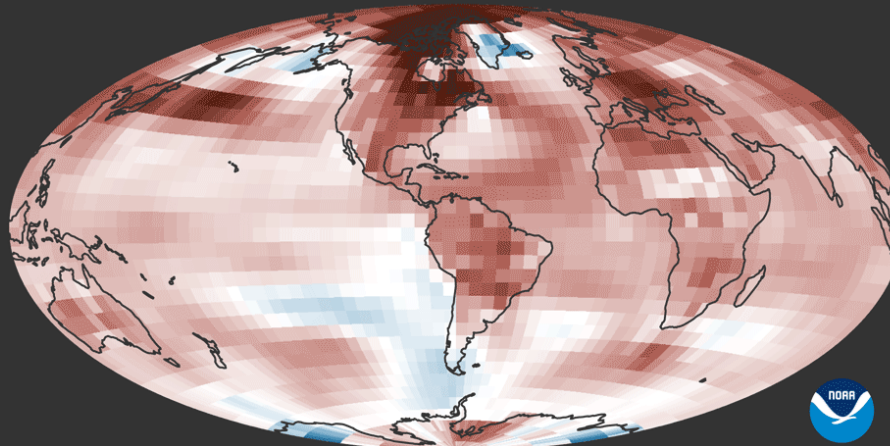
# NASA Confirms 2024 Warmest Year on Record



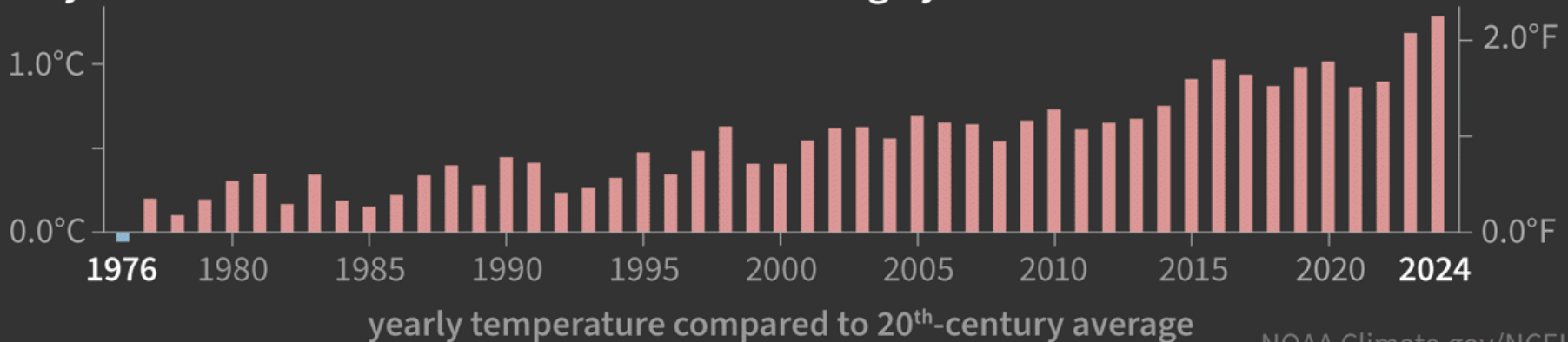
<https://www.nasa.gov/news-release/temperatures-rising-nasa-confirms-2024-warmest-year-on-record/>


# IT'S OFFICIAL:

<https://www.climate.gov/media/16728>



## 48 years since Earth's had a colder-than-average year





**Dr. Emily Fischer – “...the number of large fires in the west is getting larger and there is a direct connection to climate change.”**

**“...climate change is making our fires burn hotter, last longer, start earlier, and end later”**

# AUSTRALIA BUSHFIRES MAP

Bushfires have torn through Australia, devastating much of the country

JAN  
16

 CURRENT FIRE LOCATIONS





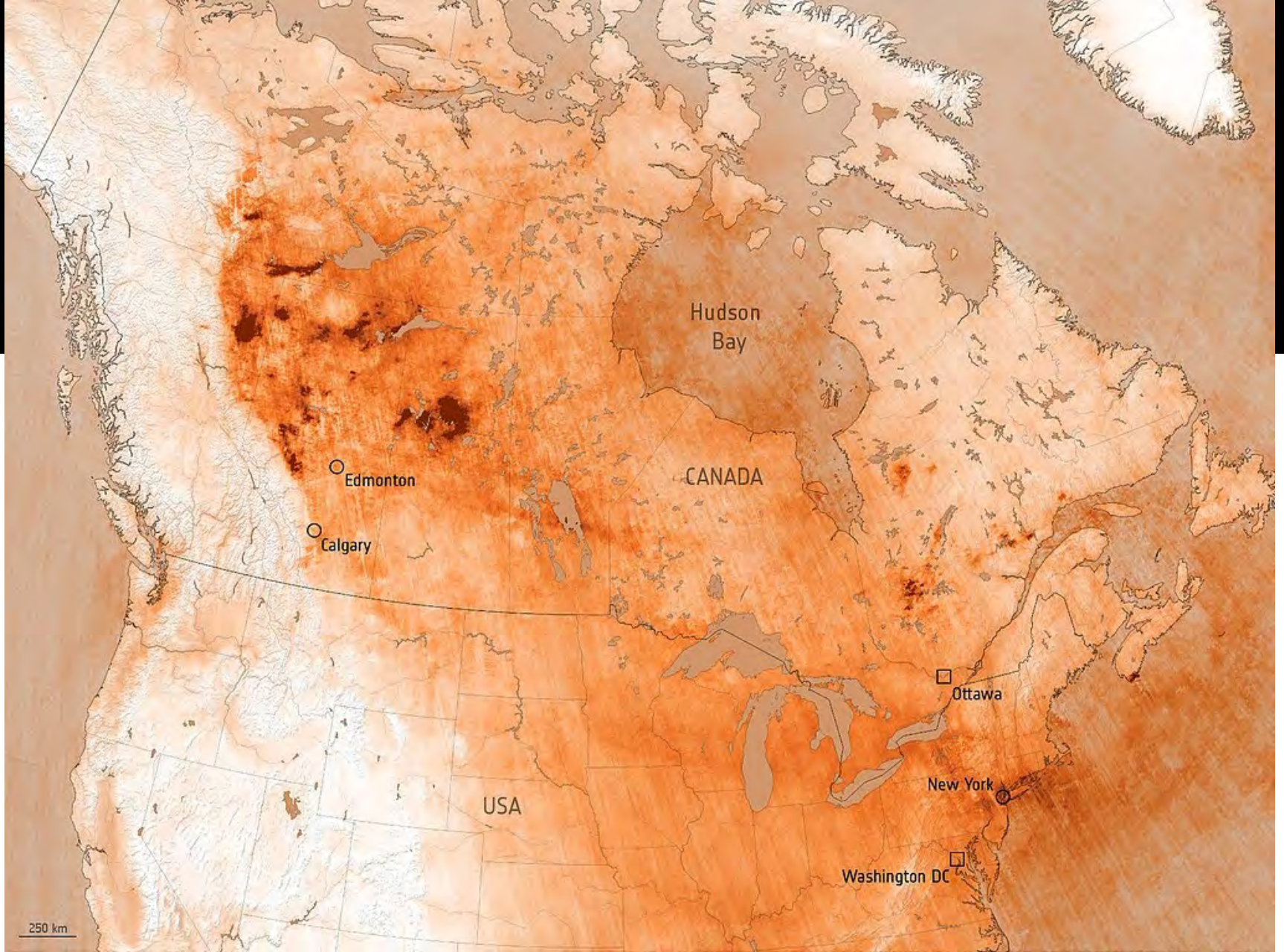
## Fire locations

● Out of control    ● Being held



Last updated on June 6, 2023 at 2:50 p.m. ET.

Source: Natural Resources Canada (Graeme Bruce, Wendy Martinez/CBC)



Carbon monoxide concentration  
[Average, 01 May - 13 June]



By Contains modified Copernicus  
Sentinel data 2023, Attribution,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=133155100>





[nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov)

In Common Air.		In Carbonic Acid Gas.	
In shade.	In sun.	In shade.	In sun.
80	90	80	90
81	94	84	100
80	99	84	110
81	100	85	120

Presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual American Association  
for the Advancement of Science Meeting

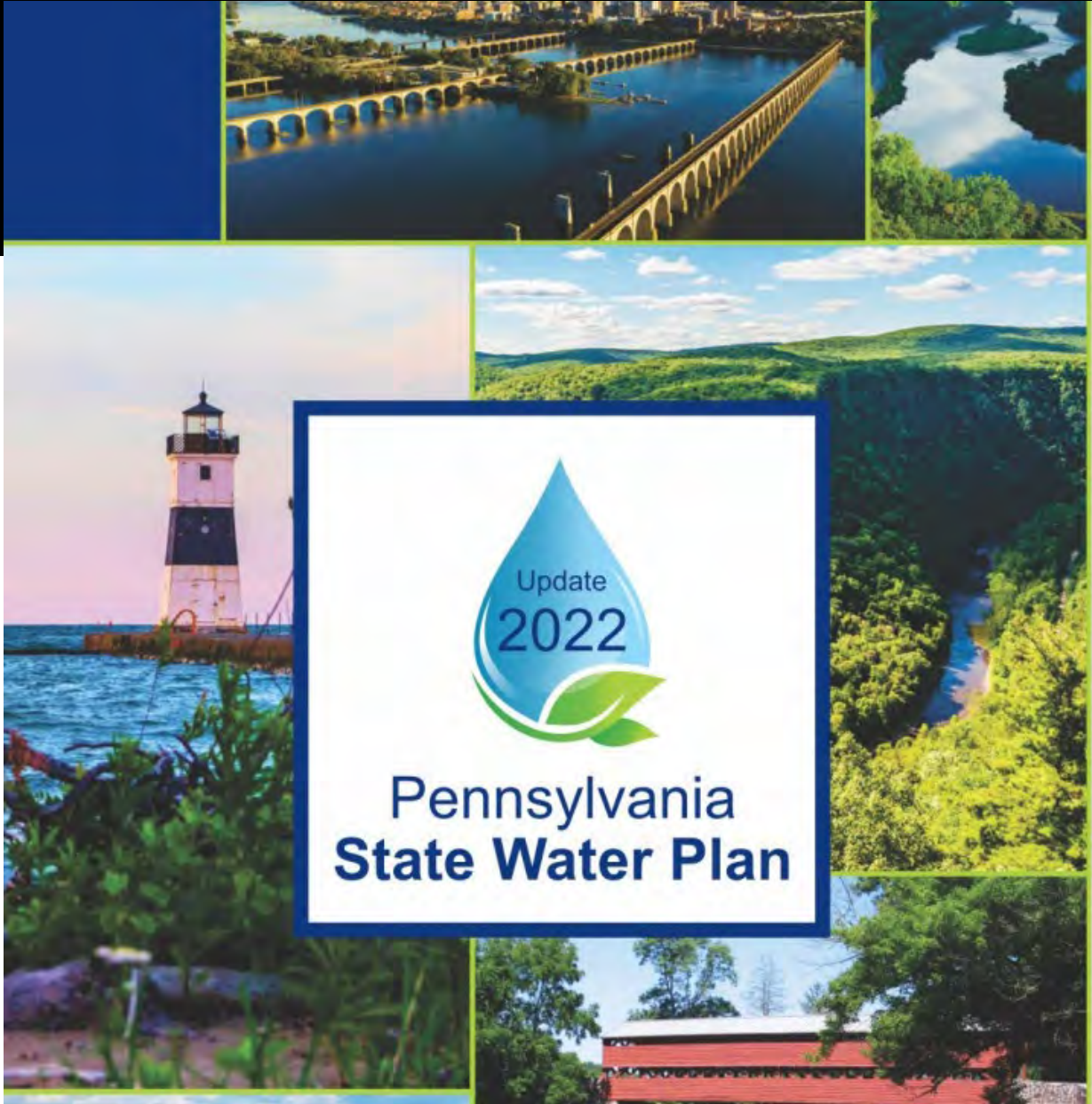


*Mrs. J. B. Henderson.*

**Volunteer**

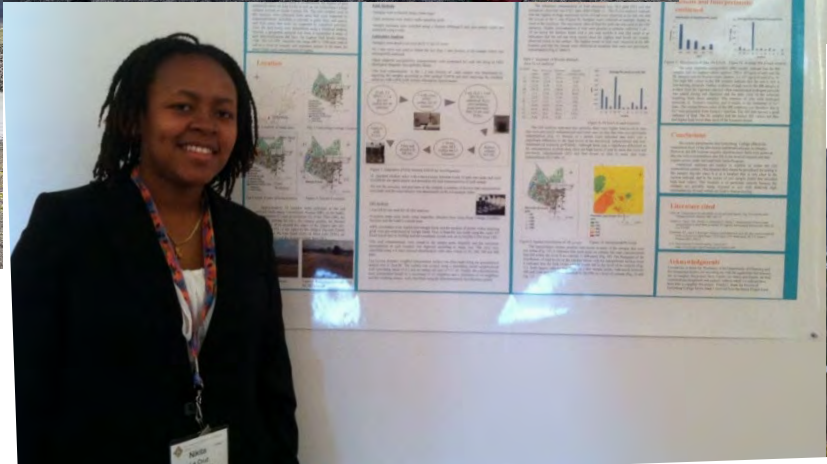
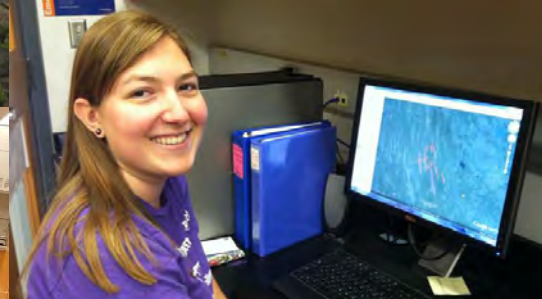
# Adams County Glass Recycling Dropoff Site





**Pennsylvania  
State Water Plan**

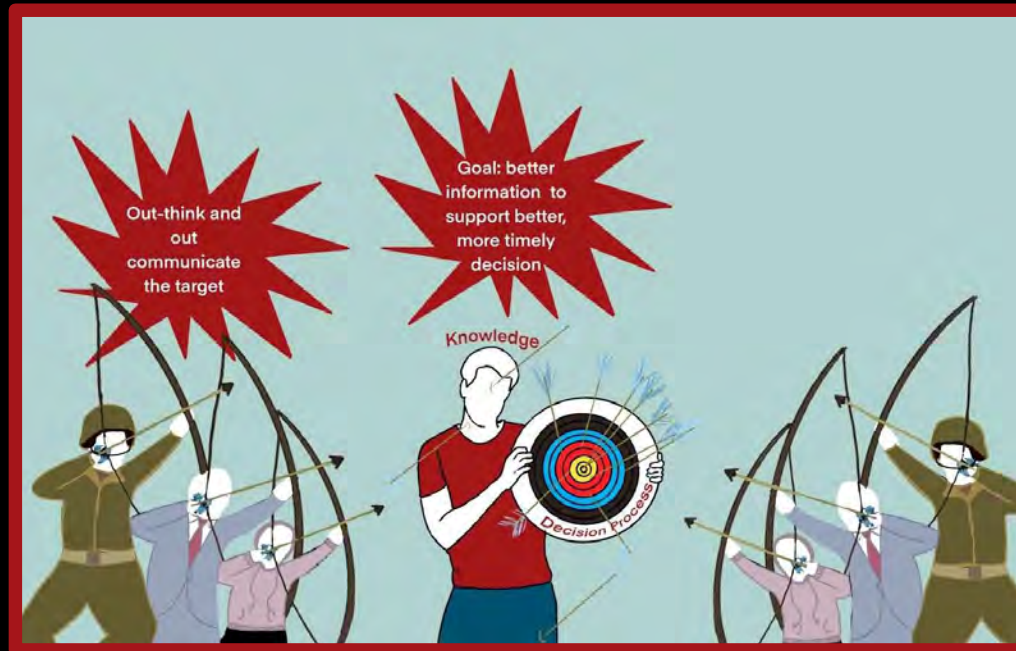
**Inspiration**



**Thank you!**



# i nfowars



Dr. Tamara Schwartz

# A Little About Me...



# College

...

(A very long  
time ago)



# USAF ...

(Not AS long ago  
but definitely in the  
rearview mirror)



# 2008 - Forever Mom



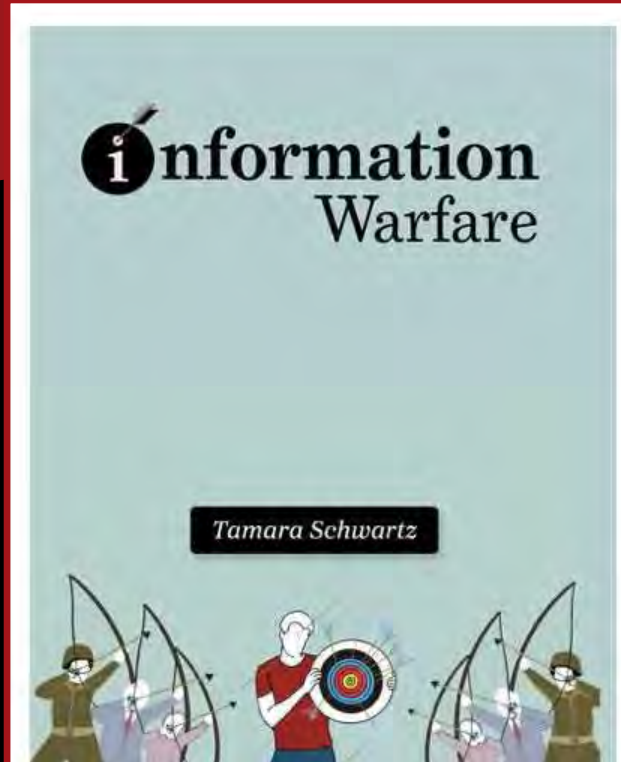
## Who Broke Our Brains??

- Reduced attention
- Damaged social trust
- Declining mental health
- Increased anxiety
- Difficulty determining fact from fiction



**We are here because IW impacts us every day!**

## Textbook Author



**A textbook designed with students and for students**

# YCP Cybertribe



# The Art of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership

- Positive energy, personal balance & inspiration
- Servant & selfless leadership
- Continuous learning & humble mindset
- Grit & resilience
- Levity
- Stewardship
- Engage with all key stakeholders
- Enroll the entire team in the vision
- Build your ops tempo for speed
- Emphasize a culture of trust

**Building a Leadership Factory**