



Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Recommended Content List

LIST OF TOPICS FOR INCLUSION IN A CWPP

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- 2 Area Description/Access/Location
- 3 Reserve(s) Descriptions
- 4 Biogeoclimatic Information
- 5 Local Wildfire History/Starts and Fire Weather
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Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Suggested Content List with Descriptions

Completion of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a major initial step towards reducing the wildfire threats to forested communities. The CWPP will direct all future wildfire threat reduction activities by ensuring that all known issues are brought forward and addressed in one document. The CWPP allows the community to determine the goals and objectives of the plan to ensure their values establish the plan's direction. The CWPP should identify and prioritize all wildfire threat areas and suggest treatment options to reduce the wildfire threat to acceptable limits. It should provide a clear direction so that communities can move forward to manage the local wildfire threat.

This document attempts to quantify all topics that should be included in a complete Community Wildfire Protection Plan. CWPP developers are not limited to the topics listed and expanded upon here, but should attempt to address the twenty-four topics discussed.

The provincial government, through the Union of B.C. Municipalities and FNESS, funds CWPPs. The focus of a CWPP should be potential fuel management treatments on the Crown land that surround reserves.

1 CWPP Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan will reflect the desires of the community for their local forestland and values. The goals and objectives will also include wildfire threat reduction statements discussed with a forest professional or wildfire specialist.

2 Area Description/Access/Location

A description is required of the local forest ecosystem, the access on a full-time and seasonal basis and the exact location of the reserve and the surrounding area.

3 Reserve(s) Description

A description of the reserve including the number of homes and developments, approximate population on the reserve (s), size in hectares of each reserve, water bodies in the proximity, etc. Include any past forest management or wildfire threat reduction work or programs. A further description of the forestland surrounding each reserve included in the CWPP is required. Location and forest cover of Crown land and the condition of the private land must also be addressed.

4 Biogeoclimatic Information

A list of the local biogeoclimatic zones and some background on typical wildfire impacts, seral and climax tree species, common tree species and plant communities. This information will be of assistance at the operational planning stage.

5 Local Wildfire History/Starts and Fire Weather

A summary of local fire starts causes and large fire history. This information assists the community in determining what size of fire they are requiring protection from, using past history as a guide. It also determines where the major fires have occurred in the past, what direction they have spread, how hot they have burned and whether fires on reserve or off reserve are most important.

An analysis of the local fire weather from available weather data can provide an overall indication of wildfire exposure and risk that wildfires pose to the community.

6 Wildfire Threat Map/Documentation

A GIS based digital and hard copy wildfire threat map completed to Ministry of Forests and Range standards with back up documentation including digital photos, plot forms and locations. This map should cover all reserves being assessed plus up to two kilometres around their perimeter. The Ministry of Forests and Range – Protection branch has an approved process for assessing and mapping wildfire threats called Rating Interface Wildfire Threats in British Columbia. It is available from the local Fire Zone office.

7 Land Ownership Mapping

All mapping must show private, Federal and provincial crown land, and their boundaries. This is very important as only provincial crown land is considered for fuel management funding under a CWPP.

8 Mapped Treatment Units

A GIS map layer showing individual treatment units or areas that are recommended for wildfire threat reduction work on crown land within approximately two kilometres of the reserve boundaries. All treatment units must be individually numbered. The report must discuss each unit in detail, describing the present and desired condition for each site, the method or methods that can be used to achieve that desired condition and other important local considerations. Anytime specific forest management activities are recommended, a Forest Professional with wildfire management experience must be involved. A Forest Professional must sign all plans that are developed to manage forestland in B.C.

9 List of Priority Treatment Areas

The treatment units must be listed in order of priority for treatment, with some justification for the selection order. This can be in the form of a list of criteria such as protection of life and property, protection of commercial property, etc. The numerical score from the Wildfire Threat Rating form should also be considered.

10 Treatment Operations Budget

The plan must include an approximate budget for the recommended fuel management treatments. The budget should include a cost per hectare and a total cost for each treatment unit. Costs should be direct costs for treatment, including layout, consultations and operational plan development. These costs will be used in the future as a guideline for any planned treatments in the area. The final area for treatment and costs will not be determined until the Fuel Management Operational Plan is complete.

Not all forest management treatments qualify for funding. Timber harvesting, where the timber is to be sold, or the logger takes the timber as payment, or any similar type agreements where revenue is created, do not qualify for funding. The initial planning work to determine the locations of merchantable timber for harvesting could be funded, especially if part of a bigger fuel management effort.

11 Wildfire Threat Reduction Options

A discussion of the options available for wildfire threat reduction including fire smart landscaping, timber harvesting, danger tree removal, fuel breaks, fall and burn, spacing, pruning, surface fuel removal, under burning and other locally appropriate treatments. The options should be specific to the ecosystems and forest structure found in the local area, not just a repeat of Fire Smart principles.

12 Resource Issues and Operational Constraints

A discussion of the local resource values of importance to the First Nation community and those identified in higher-level plans. A summary of operational constraints that will limit the ability to complete fuel management activities, such as access, soil conditions, topography, land ownership and other local issues.

13 Higher Level Plans

A review of higher level plans in place that may conflict with or enhance the wildfire protection needs of the community. These could include; Licensee Forest Stewardship Plans, Integrated Resource Management Plans, Official Community Plans and others.

14 Main Band Contact Names

A list of the key personnel in the community whom are most able and likely to assist with fuel management planning and implementation. This could include Band Councillors, Forest Professional Staff, Natural Resource Managers, forestry or equipment contractors or other involved individuals or companies.

15 Partnership Contact List

A list of partners who may be required to participate in fuel management work, both on and off reserve. This list would include company or organization names, personal contact names, emails and phone numbers.


Such a list would include

Local Ministry of Forests and Range District Manager
Local Ministry of Forests and Range Fuels Management Specialist
Local B.C. Timber Sales Staff
B.C. Transmission Corp or B.C. Hydro
Pipeline Operators
Road Maintenance Contractor
Timber Licensee(s)
Regional District Staff
Telephone/Internet Service Provider
Ministry of Highways
Ministry of Environment
Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Major Local Landowners/Ranchers
Oil and/or Gas Companies
Local Politicians
Natural Resources Canada Local Funding Staff
First Nations Emergency Services Contact

16 Important Forest Health Issues

A discussion of the local forest health, including historical wind throws or beetle events that have shaped the forest in the area. This would include impacts of defoliators, bark beetles, weevils, root rots, wildfires or other manmade or natural events that have shaped the forest in the past and are expected to play a role in the future. This information should focus on events that would affect forest management practices including dead standing component, surface fuel loadings, etc.

In areas of pine dominated forest stands, an analysis of total expected pine beetle impacts could be included as a GIS mapping layer. Ministry of Forests and Range



Beetle Management Units (BMUs) must be identified where pine beetle related treatments are recommended.

17 Economics of Timber Harvesting

A basic indication of the potential to harvest timber as a fuel management strategy. This should include discussions with the local B.C. Timber Sales staff and licensees to determine their local harvesting plans. It may also include local market conditions, tree species, area to be treated and other factors that affect the viability of timber harvesting as a realistic fuel management practice.

18 Band Council/Community Support

An indication of the level of support for fuel management work found within the community. This can be collected from a public meeting(s), band council resolutions, questionnaires or interviews with key individuals.

19 Archeological Overview Assessment

An indication of the archaeological values identified in the local area. This work can often be completed and the planning stage when specific treatment units are identified, but an indication of the overall issues that are likely to come up will ensure these issues are managed at the operational planning stage.

20 Discussion of Funding Opportunities

A discussion listing all potential funding opportunities to complete operational fuel management work within the community and along its boundaries. Funding from FNESS (UBCM), Natural Resources Canada (INAC) and the Job Opportunity Program (JOP 2008) should be brought up along with contact names. Options for partnering with other organizations in the area to access all available funding should be considered.

21 Fire Smart Landscaping

Fire Smart landscaping is the homeowners direct contribution to overall wildfire threat reduction. Numerous brochures and packages are available to educate local individuals about the need to 'fire proof' around their homes.

22 Landscape Level Fire Management

Identify projects or activities on a larger scale that could benefit the safety of the community from wildfire. This could include strategic timber harvesting, access management and other issues. Projects up to two kilometres from the reserve boundaries will be considered.



23 Band Capacity/Experience

ACWPP should include an indication of the availability of a suitable work force within the band to complete fuel management work. This could include certified fallers, fire-fighting crews, forestry equipment owner operators, local contractors and consultants, crew supervisors and administrators, forest technicians and other individuals.

24 Recommendations/Action Items

A CWPP must include a comprehensive list of recommendations, or actions items, which the band can act upon to continue with their fuel management efforts. Action items provide a clear direction forward for the Band or First Nation. These items should lead to funding requests, operational activities, other agency involvement, organization of forestry/fire crews within the band itself and other activities that will move the CWPP forward.
