



Post Wildfire Assessment Overview

This document outlines the post wildfire assessment process for Forests for Tomorrow (FFT) funded reforestation activities. The purpose of this process is to ensure:

- The effective tracking of accomplishments and progress on past wildfires,
- Standard processes for assessing and managing new fires in an efficient manner, and
- Opportunities for coordination of activities with licensees on major project fires.

The post wildfire assessment includes:

- The development of planning maps,
- Reconnaissance of suitable areas,
- Silviculture activity tracking in RESULTS, and
- Opportunities for efficiencies in FFT treatment delivery.

At the planning and reconnaissance stage, all FFT eligible areas inside the fire perimeter will be identified. Areas being treated by others (e.g. Industry under FRPA 108), and areas to be surveyed and potentially treated by the ministry under the FFT program will be tracked in RESULTS and delivered in the most efficient manner. This will enable the reporting of: total area burned; planned and completed silviculture activities; and who reforested the areas.

Wildfire Maps for FFT

Resource Practices Branch (RPB) will post an updated provincial [FFT Program Wildfire map](#) in November each year and will include all wildfire impacted areas greater or equal to 5 hectares since 2003. This map will be based on a download of wildfire perimeter shapes from the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (LRDW), information in RESULTS, and will provide options to overlay various spatial layers for consideration in planning. Table 1 outlines the map table of contents, the criteria related to areas not applicable to the FFT program, and the remaining net area suitable for FFT treatment. The net area for FFT treatment will provide a starting point for district staff in overview planning.

Table 1. FFT Program Wildfire Map

<u>Table of Contents</u>	<u>Not Applicable Areas</u>	<u>FFT – Net Area Suitable for treatment</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resource District Boundary ○ Fire Boundaries (fire year and fire number) ○ Tree Farm, Woodlot Licenses and Community Forest Agreements ○ Protected Areas (i.e. GAR) ○ Harvested cut blocks ○ Timber Harvest Land Base ○ Fire areas Not in THLB ○ Sufficiently Restocked (SR) ○ Not Sufficiently Restocked (NSR) ○ Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) ○ Backlog Licensee/Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OGMA ○ Parks ○ Protected Areas ○ Private Land ○ Non-productive area ○ Areas being treated by others (s.108 industry openings) ○ Non-THLB ○ Silviculture Obligation Industry/Government - Not Free Growing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Timber Harvest Land Base ○ Current Government Responsibility- Natural Disturbance ○ Industry/Government – Free Growing



<p><u>Table of Contents cont'</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current Government Responsibility- Natural Disturbance ○ Industry/Government – Free Growing ○ Silviculture Obligation – Industry - s108 or obligation ○ Silviculture Obligation – Industry – Not Free Growing ○ Silviculture Obligation – Industry- s108 funding requested (approved) ○ Silviculture Obligation – Government – Not free growing 		
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Pre-2003 fire information and information on fires less than 5 hectares can be obtained directly from the LRDW. In addition, WMB posts ([on an internal site](#)) current information as well as previous fires (zarchive folder) by Fire Centre listing fire number, incident commander, ignition date and size.

Reconnaissance Survey

Once the spatial area for the netted area suitable for treatment is finalized, aerial or field reconnaissance can be planned. The [WMB zone protection officer](#) or incident commander, [by fire zone](#), may be able to provide Air/ortho photo(s) with fire perimeter overlain as well as a burned area reflectance classification (BARC) map¹. This map is not always obtained for every fire but frequently is produced for large incidents. In addition, WMB posts ([on an internal site](#)) current wildfire information by fire centre.

In addition to recce flights, low level aerial digital photograph on larger fires can be used. This should be co-ordinated with Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch (FAIB) to help reduce costs and make information available to multiple users. A catalogue of existing imagery is posted on the [FFT Planning](#) page. Existing imagery can be obtained by contacting [Chris Butson](#) at FAIB.

From the aerial reconnaissance, the area not suitable for treatment as well as suitable areas will be identified. Some examples where surveys will be delayed or not required:

- **Inaccessible:**
 - In some cases it is possible that future roads and bridges will allow access to parts of the fire that are currently not accessible. These areas will be spatially defined in the fire shell opening as a future (i.e. 5 years) scheduled activity for an office review.

¹ Because the effects of wildfire upon values is frequently dependent upon burn severity BARC mapping can be a valuable “tool” to assist in evaluating fire effects. It is important to realize that BARC maps require field verification/interpretation on each individual fire to be valuable, so those conducting assessments need to be familiar with and skilled in their use and interpretation



- In some cases there are areas identified within the THLB that are permanently isolated from the accessible THLB. These will be spatially documented within the fire shell and not revisited.
- **Not burned:** In almost all fires there are polygons that are not burned.
- **Not productive:** Area not productive enough (based on the Silviculture Investment Criteria) to move forward with surveys.

Survey activities can be planned for the remainder of the fire area in RESULTS in Fire-year + 5 (or as directed by the Ministry Designated Representative based on consideration of natural regeneration potential, likelihood of brushing/grassing in, Forest Health issues (e.g. Black Army cutworms). These survey activities must cover the entire net area suitable for FFT treatment, but the timing in whole or in part is up to the Ministry District Representative.

Ground surveys will follow the [FFT Post Wildfire Assessment Survey](#) standard.

RESULTS

Ensuring RESULTS information is kept current will show progress on the impacted areas as survey work and silviculture treatments are completed. It will also allow for the entire fire to be accounted for spatially and ensure that there is no repeat review of the same area. RESULTS submission requirements are outlined in the [RESULTS Information Submission Standard](#)

On large wildfires, where multiple recipient/contractors are working on the same wildfire within the same organization unit there is a risk of spatial overlaps in review, field reconnaissance, treatment and reporting. It is imperative that recipients/contractors communicate with the district [Ministry Designated Representative](#) at the beginning of the project to have project areas well-defined to avoid any risk of overlap.

Delivery

Delivery options will vary across the province. Some wildfires will also impact areas where a licensee has a legal reforestation obligation. While licensees retain legal obligation over their burned plantations the funding available for reforesting these sites under FRPA s 108 currently comes from FFT. Coordination of government funded FFT reforestation activities with licensee work may result in efficiencies of scale with more overall area treated.

The use of a third party administrator (e.g. PricewaterhouseCoopers) provides flexibility to assign government funded FFT work in a Management Unit (MU) to a licensee who is also reforesting adjacent FRPA s108 area. Coordination opportunities could exist at several levels throughout the process.

- Wildfire perimeter maps developed by RPB for fires greater than 5 ha;
- Sharing of aerial overview flight information; and
- Discussion with licensees on adjacent areas (s108/FFT) of treatment and timing of activities such as assessment, planting, and surveying.

Funding sources would still need to be tracked separately (i.e. FRPA s108 and FFT), however, delivery of work through contractors could be coordinated creating efficiencies across the entire burn area.