

Nadina Forest District

Burn Management Plan¹



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¹ Last revised 2002-11-27

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1. INTRODUCTION

This plan has been created in order to facilitate the burning of debris within the Nadina Forest District. The objectives are to be able to burn debris in an efficient and effective manner without negatively impacting air quality, forest fire risks or social concerns.

The immediate effect is smoke that can obscure visibility and effect those with respiratory ailments that live in the immediate area.

The Ministry of Forests has a mandate to manage the burning activities of individual citizens, agriculture and the forest industry.

The primary responsibility for managing smoke within the Nadina Forest District lies with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (WLAP). The Regional Pollution Prevention Manager has the authority to restrict open burning.

Fire plays an intricate role within the forest ecosystem. In its natural uncontrolled state, fire can be very destructive to personal property and many resources utilized by man.

Man uses controlled fire to:

- reduce the risk of wildfire
- prepare sites for forestry and agriculture
- clear land for new subdivisions
- improve range and wildlife habitat
- dispose of other debris.

We are committed to reduce the impact of burning on air quality and meet the needs for public safety.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Nadina Forest District Burn Management plan is to:

1. Meet the requirements of section 8(4) of the Open Smoke Control Regulation
2. Identify those activities under the Forest Service mandate that generate smoke.
3. Identify smoke sensitive areas.
4. Develop strategies to lessen the effects of smoke and reduce the amount of smoke generated from Ministry and Licence burning.
5. Ensure that all ministry burning complies with the M.O.E. Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation.

3. SMOKE SENSITIVE AREAS (See Map)

The Nadina Forest District has been broken into three levels of smoke sensitivity. A smoke sensitive area is defined as, an area in which smoke accumulations may cause a health hazard, safety, or aesthetic concern to the public

- Zone A – High Sensitivity. Includes the Highway 16 and 35 corridors, the District of Houston, the Village of Burns Lake, and the communities of Topley, Decker Lake, Francois Lake, Southbank, Danskin, Grassy Plains, and Takysie Lake
- Zone B – Moderate Sensitivity. Includes those areas which lie within the WLAP smoke sensitive area and those areas where smoke could adversely effect Zone A
- Zone C – Low Sensitivity. The remainder of the Nadina Forest District.

4. SENSITIVE TIME PERIODS

It is the Ministry's intent to manage smoke. The following list identifies time periods that require special considerations:

- May, July, August and September long weekends,
- Bluegrass Festival,
- Tweedsmuir Days,
- Air inversions in the Nadina Forest District,
- Negotiations with active Guiding Operations.

5. SMOKE SOURCES UNDER MINISTRY MANDATE

Smoke sources under the Forest Service mandate include wildfire and those prescribed activities as listed.

Forest Fires	- Natural
Prescribed Burns	- Windrows (MSP) - Spot Burns - Landing Disposal - Broadcast Burns - Range Burns - Habitat Burns - Pest Management Burns
Pest management	- Fall and Burn

Additional smoke sources outside of the Ministry's mandate exist, and include; all burning by the public. These are recognized in the plan through the implementation of visibility classes.

6. GENERAL STRATEGIES FOR SMOKE MANAGEMENT

- Avoid burning during sensitive time periods (See Section 4).
- Comply with the M.O.E. Open Burning Smoke Control Regulations except where exempted by the District Manager and this plan.
- Extend the burning season to reduce the amount of smoke generated at one time.
- Restrict the number and type of burns conducted by ministry staff at any one time or location.
- Notification will be given to the Department of Transportation and Highways and the R.C.M.P. whenever smoke has an impact on highway safety.
- Encourage alternate post logging site treatments identified within S.P.'s in line with the Ministry's prescribed burn policy and ecological guidelines.
- Use guidelines for burning that incorporate venting indices and visibility classes (Table 1).
- Suppress wildfire aggressively to keep natural fires small, except in those areas identified in the District Fire Management plan where fire is beneficial.
- Liaise with the Department of Agriculture to develop land clearing guidelines.
- Aggressively mop-up prescribed burns and windrows to reduce smoke.
- Encourage local municipal governments to buy into the smoke management plan and implement some of the criteria for their own burning permit system.

7. STRATEGIES FOR BROADCAST BURNING

General

- No prescribed burns will be conducted within 2 days of a long weekend or a significant event as defined in Section 4 without the prior approval of the District Manager.
- It is recognized that prescribed burning may have a significant impact on adjacent districts and in order to try and minimize any adverse effects all prescribed burns within 25 kms of an adjacent district will be reported to that district office. Where possible when multiple burns are planned by two different districts attempts will be made to ensure only one burn is conducted each day.
- No prescribed burns will be approved where venting is less than 55 (good) on the day of ignition and 34 (fair) on the first day following ignition.
- All prescribed burns must comply with the visibility/venting guidelines as listed in Table 1.

AREA A

- All broadcast burns will be restricted to 40 has. unless authorized by the District Manager. This should be the exception and only be used to ensure a favourable layout for burning.
- There must be all weather access to all landings.
- Aggressive mop-up will start as soon as possible after ignition and landings will be spread within 48 hours and extinguished within 96 hours.
- Broadcast ignition patterns will be conducted in a manner that produces a convection or head fire.

AREA B

- All cutblocks will be restricted to 60 has. unless authorized by the District Manager. This should be the exception and only be used to ensure a favourable layout for burning.
- No more than one broadcast burn in a 48-hr period will be conducted where the smoke will impact on Highway 16.

8. STRATEGIES FOR PILES AND WINDROWS

General

- No burning will take place when a known inversion layer exists within the zone.
- All burning must meet the visibility/venting guidelines as listed in Table 1.
- Burning will only be conducted using clean, cured, material.
- All burning must comply with the M.O.E. Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation.

AREA A

- All burning is restricted to 7 days.
- Piles or windrows shall be spread or re-piled within 96 hours of ignition.
- All burning must have an approved burn plan completed prior to ignition.
- No burning will be approved where venting is less than 55 (good) on the day of ignition and 34 (fair) on the first day following ignition.

AREA B

- During the period of April 1st and October 31st each year all burning must conform with the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation and the Code of Practice.
- During the period of November 1st and March 31st each year, burning for disposal of MPB infested piles may be conducted when venting is fair on the day of ignition and fair or good on the day following ignition. Burning for all activities other than MPB reduction, during this time frame, must conform with the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation.

AREA C

- During the period of April 1st and October 31st each year all burning must conform with the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation and the Code of Practice.
- During the period of November 1st and March 31st each year burning may be conducted when the venting is fair on the day of ignition and fair or good on the day following ignition.

9. STRATEGIES FOR FALL AND BURN ACTIVITIES

General

- Burning will be conducted in accordance with district operating procedures and the permit issued by the Waste Management Branch of the MOE.
- Where possible dead trees will be included in burn piles to increase the heat levels of burn piles.

Area A

- No burning will take place during an open burning ban issued by the MOE.

Area B & C

- No burning will take place during an open burning ban if the smoke will affect air quality in the Hiway 16 and 35 corridors.

10. BURNING APPROVAL PROCEDURES

General

- All prescribed burns must be documented as a treatment option within the S.P.
- Site conditions for prescribed burns must be suitable to achieve the desired impact specified in the burn plan.

AREA A

- All piles, windrows or slash shall be cured² and free of dirt before burning is conducted.
- All burning operations must have enough resources on site to reduce the area still smoking to 5% of the total area within 96 hours of ignition.
- All fires must be out by the burning reference number expiry date.
- All burning must comply with the visibility/venting guidelines as listed in table 1.

AREA B & C

- All piles, windrows or slash shall be cured and free of dirt before burning is conducted.
- All fires must be out by the reference number expiry date, except for burning conducted during “winter Burning”³ conditions.
- All burning must comply with the visibility/venting guidelines as listed in table 1.

² All material must have a summer season of drying

³ Winter burning as defined by the FFPSR Sec 24.1

VENTING

VISABILITY

ZONE A	34-54	55-100
CLASS 1 <45KM	NO BURNING	NO BURNING
CLASS 2 45-55 KM	NO BURNING	Burning allowed only under an approved burn plan
CLASS 3 >55KM	NO BURNING	No Restrictions

ZONE B	34-54	55-100
CLASS 1 <45KM	NO BURNING	NO BURNING
CLASS 2 45-55KM	November 1 st – March 31 st Burning of MPB piles only.	No Restrictions
CLASS 3 > 55KM	November 1 st – March 31 st Burning of MPB piles only.	No Restrictions

ZONE C	34-54	55-100
CLASS 1 <45 KM	NO BURNING	No Restrictions
CLASS 2 45-55 KM	November 1 st – March 31 st All debris piles	No Restrictions
CLASS 3 >55 KM	November 1 st – March 31 st All debris piles	No Restrictions

*FOR DEFINITION OF VISIBILITY CLASSES SEE NEXT PAGE

VISIBILITY CLASS DEFINITIONS

CLASS 1 (< 45 km.)

- Visibility is noticeably impaired by smoke particulate. Bluish haze is visible at very short distances. Smell of smoke may be noticeable particularly in the valley bottoms.

CLASS 2 (45-55 km.)

- Visibility is slightly impaired by smoke particulate. Bluish haze is visible only when looking across long distances.

CLASS 3 (> 55 km.)

- No impairment to visibility from smoke particulate. Extremely clear skies.

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