



File: 19545-02/Fire Salvage

Reference: 279836

February 27, 2025

VIA EMAIL

To: Wildfire Salvage Leadership Committee

Re: Wildfire Timber Salvage Planning and Administration Guidance, Version 2 & Post Wildfire Fibre Recovery Guidance

Thank you for your contribution and participation on the Wildfire Salvage Leadership Committee, which resulted in the attached provincial wildfire timber salvage guidance (aka the 'salvage playbook'). Please distribute this to the groups you represent.

Wildfires have been a natural part of forest ecosystems throughout history. The changing climate characterized by hotter and dryer conditions, is contributing to increased wildfire frequency, size and intensity that is posing greater impacts to forest ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. Wildfire timber salvage, combined with retention strategies and reforestation efforts, can be a valuable tool for promoting the regeneration of healthy forests more quickly, and for promoting community economic recovery. Managing the diverse values of forested landscapes affected by wildfires is complex. A landscape-level approach is essential to determine when, where, and how timber salvage, retention and reforestation can occur. This guidance is intended to support that work.

Attached are two documents, firstly, the second edition of The Wildfire Timber Salvage Planning and Administration Guidance (WTSPA) for the purpose to:

1. Outline a wildfire timber salvage planning and permit administration process that supports a more consistent and collaborative post wildfire salvage and recovery. This guidance consists of five key planning phases:

Phase 1: Preparation: Annual Readiness

Phase 2: During the Wildfire: Consider Initiating Action

Phase 3: Post Wildfire: Early Timber Salvage (0-6 months)

Phase 4: Post Wildfire: Coordinated Timber Salvage (6-24 months)

Phase 5: Post Wildfire: Fibre Recovery (24-36+ months)

2. Establish a framework to support timely, collaborative planning and continue to build strong relationships, leveraging existing processes and committees where possible.

Wildfire Salvage Leadership Committee

3. Clarify the roles and contributions of those involved in wildfire timber salvage, retention and reforestation work for efficient operations.
4. Support efficient and effective issuance of salvage cutting permits, while managing for a suite of environmental, cultural, and social values, and minimizing short- and mid-term timber supply reductions, where possible.
5. Consolidate provincial wildfire timber salvage permitting resources (e.g., tools, policies) in one guidance.

The second attached document, Post Wildfire Fibre Recovery Guidance outlines the specific parameters associated with Phase 5 within the WTSPA.

These guidance documents were developed collaboratively by the Wildfire Salvage Leadership Committee, which includes representatives from the forest industry, First Nations Forestry Council staff, First Nations subject matter experts and the Ministry of Forests.

The WTSPA second edition reflects feedback received during the review and comment period of the September 2024 draft in addition to a list of reference and supporting information. Both are living documents, found on the [Forest Tenures website](#), and any comments, feedback or questions may be submitted to Forest Tenures Branch staff at ForestTenuresBranch@gov.bc.ca for consideration and incorporation into future revisions as required. In addition to this guidance, Forest Tenures Branch is planning training in 2025.

Yours truly,



Patrick Russell
Acting Director
Forest Tenures Branch



Rachael Pollard
Executive Director, Forest Sector Transformation Branch
Timber, Range and Economics Division

Attachments: Wildfire Timber Salvage Planning and Administration Guidance, Version 2 (2025)
Post Wildfire Fibre Recovery Guidance 2025

pc: Michael Armstrong, Vice President & Chief Forester, Council of Forest Industries
armstrong@cofi.org
Shane Berg, Assistant Deputy Minister & Chief Forester
Jessica Coster, A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Coast Area
Mike Hykaway, Assistant Deputy Minister, North Area
Jamie Jeffreys, Assistant Deputy Minister, South Area
Melissa Sanderson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Timber, Range and Economics Division