Community Resiliency Investment Program

Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction

Planning Guide: 2027-2028



PLANNING GUIDE: 2027-2028

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1 Key Changes for 2027/28

Topic	Notes, Planning Guide Section
Performance Tracker Language	All references to Performance Tracker language have been systematically removed and fully transitioned to Resiliency and Mitigation (ReMi) Planner terminology for all performance tracking.
Change to 2-year planning cycle	CLWRR will be moving to a two-year planning cycle. Only projects in years 2027/2028 will be reviewed and endorsed by HQ, and year 2 projects will be approved in principle by the Fire Center.
Inclusion of CWRP's as Acceptable Plan	CWRPs are now also including as an acceptable plan for new fuel management projects.
Quarterly Reporting	1st quarter performance reporting is now optional. Q1 JVs are still required.
WUI WRR Plans as distinct projects in ReMi	WUI WRR Planning projects will be set up separately from regular FM projects, due to their large geographical scale. They will still be listed as FM within ReMi Planner, but please note the focus on this separation. See section 1.2.
BCTS	Engage with BCTS early in CLWRR project development to identify collaboration opportunities and improve fuel management outcomes.
Cost Rationale Criteria	Cost Rationale Criteria has been added in appendix A and throughout the guide.
CRx Updates	CRx Fire projects are eligible for funding without being tied to WUI WRR Plans, a requirement which applies only to FM WRR projects. See section 4. CLWRR projects are expected to integrate CRx Fire implementation principles to ensure fire can be used either in the initial treatment or for future maintenance. If these principles such as layout, design, ignition or holding strategies are not applied, projects should provide rationale; see section 6, CRx Fire Planning & Implementation.

1.1 ReMi

The ReMi (Resilience and Mitigation) Planner is a module within the Wildfire One system dedicated to housing the CLWRR program, from planning AOPs to reporting on outcomes and spending. ReMi will ensure standardized reporting, reduce duplication, track program targets, and get reliable data into the hands of wildfire response decision makers in a more timely and efficient manner.

In the 2026–2027 fiscal year, ReMi Planner will focus on deepening integration, streamlining workflows, and enhancing user experience to strengthen its role as a critical tool for wildfire risk reduction planning and response. Users can expect stronger system connectivity through publishing fuel-treatment data to BCWS systems, improved project lifecycle management with year end close-out capabilities, and more efficient reporting via enhanced data export features. Additionally, targeted usability improvements based on user feedback will reduce manual effort, improve data quality, and make the platform faster, smarter, and more connected for day-to-day planning and operations.

ReMi training and user guides/resources have been shared with Business Areas and will be updated for each version release.

Business Areas are required to develop their AOPs within ReMi. All CLWRR projects must have both planning and post-treatment spatial data uploaded to ReMi. FC endorsements and Business Area approvals are captured in ReMi.

1.2 Defining Projects and Activities within ReMi

A “project” is currently defined as the geographical site where WRR work is taking place, If the location is “Nicole Mountain SE Face”, FM and CRx work on the same site will be considered separate projects: “FM” or “CRx” should be added to the project title to specify the project stream. WRR “activities” occurring on that site will share CFS (Corporate Finance System) project codes according to funding stream. For example:

- All Fuel Management activities under the project “Nicole Mountain SE Face **FM**” will use CFS project code 719C000 and will draw on the Business Area’s FM project funding allocation.
- All Cultural and Prescribed Fire activities under the separate project “Nicole Mountain SE Face **CRx**” will use CFS project code 719P999 and will draw on the Business Area’s CRx project funding allocation.

This reduces the number of CFS project codes used (instead of having a code for each activity) and maintains a separation of funding streams despite work being done in the same space.

Note: WUI WRR Plans are to be treated as standalone FM projects due to their large geographical scale. For example, a DSQ WUI WRR Plan would be established as its own project, with WUI WRR Planning as the primary activity within that project. WRR work that results from the WUI WRR Plan will then be implemented as separate projects that are smaller in scale and site-specific.

This direction applies to AOPs only. A separate WUI WRR project will be created for completed

planning projects, and completed spatial data/products will be uploaded accordingly. Further confirmation of this approach may be incorporated into the guide or added as an addendum if required.

For RESULTS-reportable activities occurring at the same site, the WRR RESULTS Project ID is to be shared across funding streams.

Although multiple activities within a given project share a single project name and CFS project code, each activity must be tracked independently.

All activities are created and tracked within their associated projects in ReMi Planner. Activities should be entered in a way that supports clear tracking of progress, costs, and reporting requirements.

1.2.1 Initial Activity Status

Activities created in the AOP must be assigned one of the following initial statuses for planning and tracking purposes:

- **New** – A new activity that has not previously been reviewed or approved. No CFS project code has been assigned.

- **Carry Over** – An activity that was approved in a previous AOP and has an existing CFS project code, but implementation has not yet begun. No work has been completed.

- **In Progress** – An activity that was approved in a previous AOP, has an existing CFS project code, and implementation has already begun. The activity typically requires additional funding to continue or complete work in the upcoming fiscal year.

If the activity…	**Status**
Has never been approved before	New
Was approved last year, but no work has started	Carry Over
Work has started and will continue into the next fiscal	In Progress

2 Service Plan Performance Measures and CLWRR

Wildfire resiliency continues to be included in the Ministry of Forests' MOF Service Plan 2025/26-2027/28, including aspects which reflect the Government's Action Plan: Responding to Wildfire and Flood Risks in response to Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia.

3 How to Use this Guide

This guide provides the standards, processes, and steps required to plan, prioritize, and implement **Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR)** projects. Use this guide as a reference at each stage of

your planning cycle.

3.1 Where to Start

1. Understand the planning framework.
    - Wildfire risk reduction planning starts broadly and narrows:
        - Land use Plans →
        - Forest Landscape Plans/ Forest Stewardship Plans →
        - **Local plans** (WUI WRR Plans, CWRPs) →
        - **Prioritization tools** (PSTA, WUI Risk Class, Project status) →
        - **Actionable projects** (Fuel Management and CRx Fire) →
        - Activities
2. Know the key plans you will work with.
    - **WUI Wildfire Risk Reduction Plans (WUI WRR):** Crown land near communities; identifies fuel treatment units. **Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans (CWRPs):** Community-level objectives.
    - **Annual Operating Plans (AOPs):** Your three-year rolling plan for CLWRR fuel management and CRx Fire projects.
3. Engage early.
    - Collaborate with Fire Centre staff, First Nations, Integrated Investment Specialists, and stakeholders early in the process.
    - Engagement is critical for funding eligibility and prioritization.

NOTE: Agencies with a provincial mandate such as the BC Parks and Mountain Resorts Branch may require some flexibility and support to connect with all Districts and Regions.

Fuel Management (FM) Treatment Eligibility Requirement

To be eligible for funding, **new** Fuel Management (FM) treatment areas must be identified within an appropriate Wildfire Tactical Plan. Existing or carry-over projects will not have this requirement. New fuel management projects that are not identified within a Wildfire Tactical Plan will require additional rationale.

Recognized higher-level plans include:

- Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Risk Reduction Plans (WUI WRR Plans)

- Community Wildfire Resilience Plans (CWRPs)

3.2 Steps at a Glance

1. Confirm inputs and planning requirements.
    - Check existing/planned WUI WRR/CWRP plan coverage.
    - Ensure your project aligns with CLWRR standards.
2. Develop your Annual Operating Plan (AOP).
    - Outline projects and activities (1-year confirmed, 2-year forecast).
    - Prioritize using the guide's filters (coarse, medium, fine).
    - Create umbrella projects, and subsequence activities within them, within the **Resiliency and Mitigation (ReMi) Planner** application.
        - RMT/Business Area approval, and Fire Centre endorsement will also be completed within ReMi.
        - HQ will review for any missing requirements and provide feedback before full approval for funding and implementation is granted.
3. Design and collaborate on projects.
    - Work with Fire Centre and Integrated Investment Specialists for technical input.
    - Coordinate with partners (BCWS, BCTS, First Nations, Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC), local governments).
4. Implement and track projects.
    - Follow program standards for Fuel Management and CRx Fire as outlined in the CLWRR program administration guide.
    - Submit required spatial data (planning and post-treatment).
    - Report progress quarterly (starting in Q2) and annually in **ReMi Planner**.
        - NEW IN 2027/28: 1st quarter reporting is now optional.
5. Stay on schedule - see section 8 for key deadlines.

All approved CLWRR projects will be consistent with standards provided on the CLWRR Program Management Standards and Guidance - BC Wildfire Service or the Tools for Fuel Management page. This includes ALL spatial requirements.

All completed fuel management operational projects must be reported to RESULTS by their respective business area. RESULTS reporting is a critical link between fuel management activities and wildfire suppression operations. Projects that are not reported in RESULTS will not appear in Tactical Analyst, making them unavailable to operational personnel during suppression efforts.

Spatial data requirements and guidance can be found on the internal CLWRR Geomatics page. ReMi spatial data requirements and guidance will be released in Spring 2027. Refer to ReMi support pages (ReMi Planner Training and Support - BC Wildfire Service) or email CRIprogram@gov.bc.ca for more information.

4 Annual Operating Plan (AOP)

The CLWRR Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is a mandatory two-year plan consisting of a one-year project plan with a one-year project forecast. It presents a prioritized list of Fuel Management and CRx Fire projects, and guides how Business Areas (BA) use CLWRR funds. The AOP is developed within the Resiliency and Mitigation (ReMi) Planner application of Wildfire One.

Prioritization criteria for all CLWRR projects have been developed based upon the following sets of principles: one for Fuel Management projects and another for CRx Fire projects.



CLWRR Fuel Management projects are prioritized based on their potential to reduce the risk of negative impacts of wildfire in identified values.



CLWRR CRx fire projects are prioritized based on their potential to meaningfully contribute to wildfire risk reduction initiatives, while also advancing broader land-based objectives.

AOPs are developed locally by BA staff (Resource District, BC Parks, Mountain Resorts Branch staff) with engagement and support from BCWS. Within the AOPs, fuel management and CRx Fire projects maintain separate priority rankings.

BAs are encouraged to engage with Indigenous Nations early in the development of their AOPs, building on engagement from their WUI WRR planning efforts.

The AOP outlines all CLWRR funded projects to be delivered during the upcoming fiscal year, and forecasts for the following year. Projects within the AOP, including those forecasted for the following year, must be based on capacity and feasibility. AOP development is led by the BA and requires Fire Centre (FC) engagement and endorsement. AOPs which are BA approved and FC endorsed are then sent to the BC Wildfire Service Headquarters (HQ) for provincial review, roll-up, and funding allocations. The AOP is updated annually to reflect progress toward goals and any changes in provincial

program direction. It includes details on project activities, deliverables, anticipated costs, and timelines. Activities are assigned a priority level according to planning criteria outlined in sections 6.3 (FM) and 7.7 (CRx).

New for 2027/28: Rolling AOP Intake

Beginning with the 2027/28 intake, Annual Operating Plans (AOPs) will be accepted on a rolling basis, with a final submission deadline of **January 15**.

While all AOPs must be submitted no later than January 15, Business Areas (BAs) are strongly encouraged to submit projects as early as possible. Early submissions will allow for more timely reviews, feedback, and funding decisions.

Important: The rolling intake cannot be used to add new projects to the current fiscal year's project plan. Projects must be submitted in advance of the fiscal year in which the work will occur. For example, a project proposed for completion in **winter 2027** cannot be submitted during **summer 2027** through the rolling intake.

4.1 Business Area Project Design and Development: Collaboration with BCWS

As projects are being determined, Business Areas communicate and work collaboratively with their Fire Centre staff, including Integrated Investment Specialists (IIS). This will enable the Fire Centre to better understand the needs and priorities of each BA.

Early collaboration with BCWS provides:

- an overview of planning guide, principles, processes, and assessments,
- fire behavior and fire science advice/input,
- opportunities to discuss and plan BCWS' expected role in planning and/or implementation of CRx projects, and
- linkage to existing and historical CRI, FCFS, BCWS partnerships, and WRR funding programs, for consistent coordination and communication across Business Areas.

New for 2027/28: Collaboration with BCTS

Business Areas should consider opportunities to collaborate with BC Timber Sales (BCTS) during the development of all new CLWRR projects. Early engagement with BCTS can help identify opportunities to align wildfire risk reduction objectives with planned forestry activities, leverage operational efficiencies, and maximize the delivery of fuel management activities. Where appropriate, Business Areas are encouraged to discuss potential projects with local BCTS staff during AOP development.

4.2 Business Area/Fire Centre AOP Process

Each BA is responsible for completing a two-year AOP for Fuel Management and CRx Fire. BAs can expect to "overload" their AOPs so that if they must pivot away from an activity in the upcoming fiscal year, they have already-approved activities ready to take its place.

The IIS and the relevant Fire Centre(s) within each Region work with the project leads to compile and prioritize projects. Similarly, the relevant Fire Centre works with BC Parks, WLRS-KBR, and MRB to compile and prioritize projects. For **Fuel Management projects** - the filters outlined in section 6.3 determine priority of proposed projects. For **CRx Fire projects** – the prioritization criteria are outlined in section 7.7.

All approved CLWRR projects will be consistent with standards provided on the CLWRR Program Management Standards and Guidance - BC Wildfire Service or the Tools for Fuel Management page. This includes ALL spatial requirements.

4.3 Collaborative Review of Business Area CLWRR AOPs

The IISs organize and facilitate a joint meeting with their Fire Centre(s) and BA staff from the regional CLWRR team. BC Parks and MRB should be included in these meetings to discuss and finalize all projects in the Fire Centre. This must occur prior to the regional AOP being submitted to the Fire Centre Manager and BA Executive.

4.4 AOP Review and Approval by Business Area Executive, FC Manager, and BCWS HQ

Regional Management Teams (or other executive teams for non-FOR BAs) review the AOP and endorse, provide comments, or recommend changes prior to final AOP submission from the FC Manager to BCWS HQ.

The Fire Centre Manager forwards the final regional AOPs to BCWS HQ to be included in provincial review. A copy of the final AOPs complete with FC/RMT approval is submitted to CRIprogram@gov.bc.ca. AOPs can be downloaded as a batch from the ReMi Planner platform for email submission.

The HQ Prevention team reviews the Fuel Management AOP, and the HQ CRx Fire team reviews the CRx Fire AOP. HQ reviews AOPs to confirm: program eligibility criteria have been met; AOPs are complete with two years' worth of activities planned and required fields completed; required spatial files are included; rationale is provided where benchmark costs are exceeded, evaluation criteria fields are completed, etc. The AOP is returned, updated, and resubmitted if significant revisions are required.

Business Areas should refer to **Appendix A: CLWRR Cost Rationale Criteria** when preparing cost rationales. The guide outlines HQ expectations and the information required to support project costs

that exceed provincial benchmarks.

New for 2027/28: Scheduled HQ Reviews

Beginning with the 2027/28 intake, Headquarters (HQ) will review Annual Operating Plan (AOP) submissions, specifically, the activities that reflect FC endorsement and Business Area approval (in ReMi) according to the following schedule:

- **September 15–16, 2026**
- **October 14-15, 2026**
- **November 16–17, 2026**
- **December 9-10, 2026**

To be included in a scheduled review, CLWRR activities in your AOP must have FC endorsement and Business Area approval completed before the applicable review dates. Submissions received after a review period will be considered during the next scheduled HQ review.

A copy of the final approved AOP is saved on the BCWS HQ LAN, and a copy is saved to the CLWRR MS Teams channel.

5 Fuel Management Planning and Implementation

Fuel management (FM) involves the modification of a forest structure to reduce forest fuel accumulations available in a wildfire. The goal for managing hazardous vegetation fuels on the landscape is to create fire resilient ecosystems.

Fuel is the only side of the fire behavior triangle which we have the power to manipulate. Management of it begins with planning, and results in a physical change that mitigates potential fire behaviour and improves the probability of suppression success.

5.1 FM Eligible Activities

CLWRR Fuel Management activities fall within the categories below:

- WUI WRR Plan
- Prescription Development
- Operational Treatment
- Maintenance - Survey
- Maintenance - Operational Treatment
- Other (Assessments/Surveys)
- Other (Administration)
- Integrated Fuel Management Planning

NOTE: Not all activities which are legally required and/or recognized through the forest appraisal system are eligible for CLWRR funding (e.g., hazard abatement).

5.2 FM Planning Hierarchy and Project Prioritization Criteria

New fuel management projects are only eligible if they are developed under a WUI WRR plan, CWRP, or rationale supported by FC and BA is included. See section 4 for details.

As long as CLWRR criteria continues to be met, activities which demonstrate an **elevated level of engagement** and **stakeholder investment are considered higher priority** than a similar activity without. Engagement and investment may appear in a variety of ways. E.g., public commitments made

by government to a specific area, or expression of interest in WRR activities and funding.+

Additionally, **In Progress** activities should generally be prioritized over **New** activities to ensure the completion of previously initiated work. Exceptions may be appropriate where the feasibility of completing the **In Progress** activity is limited, or where a **New** or **Carry Over** activity demonstrates a higher level of urgency or strategic importance. In these cases, a clear rationale must be provided to justify prioritizing a non-**In Progress** activity over an **In Progress** activity. See section 1.2.1 for details on these categories.

5.3 FM Project Prioritization Process for Fuel Management Projects

There are three primary filters for fuel management projects used to identify and prioritize projects submitted in the AOP. Filters are applied using the following hierarchy to evaluate each project:

1. Fuel Management Coarse Filter (provincial scope).
2. Fuel Management Medium Filter (project alignment with government objectives).
3. Fuel Management Fine Filter (project level).

5.3.1 FM Coarse Filter (Provincial Scope)

Projects are evaluated using a coarse filter first. This filter assists in determining which communities and critical infrastructure are at highest risk. WUI Risk Class 1 and 2 projects are a priority for CLWRR funding.

Determining the wildfire risk reduction priority is based on 2021 Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Class. This information is broken out by Natural Resource Districts, BC Parks and Mountain Resorts Branch.

In addition to WUI Risk Class and PSTA, new, local information which supports wildfire risk, accompanied by appropriate documentation, and the support of the Fire Centre, may be considered. For example, provided FC support and rationale are included, if recent wildfires (within the previous 7 years) significantly impacted communities which are not identified as WUI Risk Class 1 or 2, they may be eligible to have their Risk Class increased under the “Local WUI Risk” category.

5.3.2 FM Medium Filter (Alignment with Government Objectives)

Projects are evaluated using medium filters after they have been screened through the coarse filter. Medium filters show the relative priority of individual projects within each BA. All projects must be evaluated using the evaluation criteria below, in numerical order.

Linkages to other land-based projects (e.g., Municipal, First Nation Reserve, CFA) should also be leveraged. These projects may include CRI’s FCFS, which has identified fuel management and/or prescribed fire linkages to larger logical areas (e.g., an area of Crown Land within a municipal boundary where it links to a larger project extending onto adjacent Provincial Crown Land).

Collaboration/consultation with Local Government/First Nations is required. Fire Centre staff are directly involved with current and historical WRR funding programs and, therefore, must be consulted as well. This knowledge is incorporated into the prioritization process.

These filters have been streamlined for 2027/28 and are listed below. Choose any that apply.

1) Linkages to adjacent fuel management treatments.

2) Projects around or adjacent to critical infrastructure (CI) within the province including domestic or community watersheds are high or extreme risk. When considering projects which include mitigating risk to critical infrastructure values, the following should be applied, <u>in descending order</u>, to consider them:

    a. Fuel Treatments located in the WUI specifically, including evacuation corridors that are linked to the WUI.

    b. Projects focusing on reducing risk to provincially owned critical infrastructure (e.g., MOF radio repeaters and weather stations, provincially owned emergency response buildings) or provincially identified key facilities (e.g., communication towers used to support emergency response, energy infrastructure, etc.)

        i. Projects which reduce risk to critical and community drinking watersheds and reservoirs which are located close to a community.

        ii. Isolated publicly owned critical infrastructure may be considered with an appropriate rationale. Consider working with the local authority for the CRI community funding and support option for private or locally owned critical infrastructure if located within the WUI areas.

3) Projects which improve egress/evacuation from remote communities, and provide safer access for first responders.

4) Projects which maximize funding linkages (e.g., FESBC, FCI, LBI, CFS, FFT...etc.)

5) Projects which support reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

5.3.3 <u>FM Fine Filter (feasibility, project scope, and size at the project level)</u>

When developing priorities between individual projects which filter out as being relatively equal in project efficacy, the fine filter is used after the medium filter process has been applied. It is applied to each grouping (or bin) of medium filtered projects (e.g., four activities meet medium filter 1 criteria) to rank/prioritize the projects in numerical order (e.g., Project A, B, C, D are processed through fine filter and are prioritized – Priority 1. Project D; 2. Project A; 3. Project C). The fine filter allows for a more precise ranking of Business Area final projects.

Fine Filter Options include:

1. Cost effectiveness of the project.
    a. Pile and burn or fibre utilization opportunities are maximized
    b. Projects which leverage additional funds from other sources.
2. Project rationale showing how this project fits within a larger risk reduction strategy or plan.
3. PSTA Class Greater than 7. Project rationale demonstrates the amount (or percentage) of the following in the proposed area:
    a. Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) class greater than 7.
    b. or ground-truthed data showing equivalency.
4. WUI WRR Plans with an Area of Interest that expands outside the WUI.

6 Cultural and Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation

CLWRR eligible CRx Fire projects take place on provincial Crown land and are undertaken as Resource Management Open Fire (Category 4), according to Provincial legislation. Category 4 resource management open fire means an open fire used for resource management that:

a. burns un-piled slash over an area of any size, or

b. is not a category 1 campfire or category 2 or 3 open fire and is lit, fueled, or used for:

- Silviculture treatment,
- Forest health management,
- Wildlife habitat enhancement,
- Fire hazard abatement,
- Ecological restoration,
- Range improvement, or
- Purposes identified by Indigenous peoples.

CLWRR projects are expected to integrate CRx implementation principles to ensure fire can be used either in the initial treatment or for future maintenance projects. Key principles include layout and design for logical burn units, holding and ignition considerations and future maintenance needs. Projects developed without these principles must provide a clear rationale for why this is the case. Prescribed fire practices align with strategies employed in wildfire response that may interact with these treatments and without appropriate principles being applied, treatments may have lower value in wildfire response.

6.1 CRx Fire Eligible Activities

There are four eligible CRx Fire activities:

1) Planning and Development,
2) Coordination,
3) Implementation and Delivery,
4) Monitoring and Maintenance.

Each activity category is described in the sections that follow. For more information and resources to complete CRx Fire projects, such as the BCWS Prescribed Fire Burn Plan Template and Standard Operating Procedure for Prescribed Fire refer to Section 10: Resources.

6.2 CRx Planning and Development

Planning and Development is the foundation for effective fire management that focuses on the strategic and operational groundwork necessary to successfully implement CRx Fire projects. Key components include the following five areas.

6.2.1 Prescription Development

Promoting CRx objectives at the initial planning stage, revising outdated plans to accommodate burning and reflect current conditions, incorporating burning into projects where it was not previously considered, and developing prescriptions where required.

The need for a prescription is dependent on the requirements of the land manager for authorization and the applicable legal requirements for implementing the activity. Approval from a wildfire official to conduct Category 4 burning is based on the Burn Plan and compliance with the Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation, rather than the existence of a prescription. Land managers may authorize burning using a values checklist or other appropriate authorization process. The level of detail and complexity of the prescription should be commensurate with the complexity of the burn unit and activity. Not all burns will require a forestry prescription, particularly when burning occurs outside of forest land. Qualified professionals should exercise their professional judgment based on the fuels, complexity, applicable legislation, and authorization requirements.

Note: Where a prescription is developed, it must include sufficient detail to support the development of a Burn Plan. This should include site-specific objectives, fuel characteristics, pre-burn preparation. Prescriptions should be reviewed for technical feasibility by a designated CRx fire practitioner.

6.2.2 Burn Plan Development

Identifying values, containment areas, additional data collection requirements, site evaluation, and engaging with burn specialists. Burn plans must meet land management requirements for authorization. Burn plans must be reviewed and endorsed by a CRx Wildfire Prevention Officer or BCWS certified Technical Specialist.

6.2.3 Feasibility Scoping and Engagement

Scoping and feasibility assessments to identify viable, burnable land. Engaging local communities, stakeholders and potential proponents and partners to support identifying areas of interest. All burns should plan for field reconnaissance from a fire practitioner to ensure operational feasibility.

6.2.4 Landscape Fire Stewardship

A collaborative approach to managing fires across ecosystems, involving the development of landscape level plans or prescriptions for any of the seven purposes of Resource Management Open Fire, aligned with guidance to achieve diverse objectives.

6.2.5 Other Activities

Other activities critical for project delivery such as surveys and assessments delivered by a professional or specialized expert (e.g., geotechnical engineer, archaeologist, fire ecologist, range agrologist) that are required under legislation, authorization or agreement (e.g., Treaty). Engagement with and involvement of First Nations to support the collection of Indigenous or traditional knowledge, incorporate cultural practices, and traditional ecological knowledge into projects.

6.3 CRx Coordination

Coordination focuses on enhancing collaboration and knowledge for CRx including fostering professional development, strategic planning and community engagement to support CRx Fire programs. Key components include the following four areas:

6.3.1 Professional Development Workshops

Planning and logistics specifically for Provincial CRx Program Professional Development Workshops.

6.3.2 Establish Regional Planning Tables

Establish regional planning tables, where an existing planning table does not already exist or insufficiently incorporates CRx objectives.

6.3.3 Knowledge Development

Flexible in the type of actions considered, addressing a CRx Fire knowledge gap which may serve local or regional CRx knowledge (for example, trial burns to gain operational knowledge and build capacity).

6.3.4 Public Engagement

Opportunities to engage with local communities where CRx Fire projects are being planned and implemented. Funding includes open houses, community meetings, coordinating communications, First Nation engagement, and communication with private landowners.

6.4 CRx Implementation and Delivery

Implementation and Delivery encompass all aspects required for the preparation and implementation of fire operations, alignment with approved plans. Key components include:

6.4.1 Pre-Burn Preparation

Fire weather index monitoring, public notification, pruning, danger tree removal, and preparing blackline and/or control line development. Pre-burn preparation should only include the work required to support direct implementation of the burn. The removal of material, or site preparation tied to initial treatments, is not included. Pile burning may be considered if it is tied directly to requirements for holding critical flanks during burn implementation.

NOTE: Pre-burn preparation costs are still eligible if an operational burn window does not occur during the intended season of implementation.

6.4.2 Burn Delivery - Ignition and Control

Burn delivery, suppression equipment setup and transport, traffic control, heavy equipment needs (i.e., water tender), first aid, contract crews, aerial ignition resources (i.e., helicopter, drone (Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems [RPAS])) as per the approved burn plan and expenses related to local cultural protocols.

6.4.3 Mop-Up, Patrol and Extinguishment

Contracted mop-up and patrol activities, assessments, and thermal hotspot mapping.

6.5 CRx Monitoring and Maintenance

Monitoring and Maintenance supports environmental recovery, determines project effectiveness, evaluates if objective(s) of the prescription are met/achieved and contributes to adaptive management for maintenance activities.

6.5.1 Invasive Management and Species Control

Invasive species management in accordance with the prescription or other ancillary professional advice.

6.5.2 Rehabilitation and Recovery

Restoration work of areas disturbed by fire control lines, or mop-up activities, to minimize environmental impacts of the area.

6.5.3 Prescribed Fire Effects Monitoring (FEMO)

Monitoring activities linked to objectives in the eligible prescription or burn plan including long-term monitoring plots. Need to follow FEMO guidance, as available.

6.5.4 Reporting and Administration

Any final reporting and administrative requirements, public signage and communications.

6.6 CRx Fire Ineligible Activities

a. Activities which are legally required and/or recognized through the forest appraisal system (e.g., hazard abatement).

b. Purchase of tools and resources, including capital expenditures (e.g., ignition equipment, pumps, and hoses).

c. Expenses associated with BCWS staff involvement with burn plan development and/or implementation, including travel and overtime. These costs are covered under a separate process within BCWS for eligible projects upon approval by the Fire Centre Manager.

d. Open burning that falls under Category 2 and/or Category 3 unless required for holding along unit boundaries.

e. Removal of material from site or thinning and pruning where the material is not being left to support continuity of fuels supporting burning operations.

NOTE: Participation in TREX must be pre-approved by the Business Area. Staff time is not covered by CLWRR project allocations. Review the CLWRR admin guide for more details.

6.7 CRx Fire Planning Prioritization

CRx Fire project prioritization takes into consideration strategic and operational aspects. The prioritization criteria, also referred to as the evaluation criteria, were developed with the understanding that the application of fire, both as a cultural practice and a land management tool, can achieve multiple objectives while contributing to wildfire risk reduction.

On the strategic side, projects are prioritized based on their potential to meaningfully contribute to wildfire risk reduction initiatives, while also advancing broader land-based objectives such as ecological restoration, cultural revitalization, habitat enhancement, and community resilience. Prioritization considers alignment with local and regional goals, partnership capacity, community benefits, and opportunities to strengthen interagency collaboration and knowledge exchange.

On the operational side, projects that are planned, sequenced and implemented in a way that increase implementation opportunity, decrease costs and reduce risk of escape, are prioritized.

The score accumulated through the evaluation criteria process provides a high-level indication of which projects represent the highest priority. Each filter section also includes space for additional notes and

comments, ensuring that local context, cultural values, and partnership considerations can further inform prioritization.

Within the CLWRR program, there are three distinct filter categories for CRx Fire projects which are used to identify and prioritize projects submitted as part of the AOP. Filters are applied using the following hierarchy to evaluate each project:

1. Risk Class & Location
2. Burn Development & Feasibility
3. Collective Impact

An additional layer of prioritization to consider is that “In Progress” activities take priority over new activities to ensure completion of previous works. There are exceptions to this which will depend on the feasibility of the activity in question, and the urgency of “New” or "Carry Over” activities. Rationale will be required if a non-In Progress activity is given higher priority than an In Progress activity.

6.8 Risk Class & Location

The first filter category, Risk Class & Location within the evaluation criteria assists in determining which communities and critical infrastructure are at highest risk. This is done by indicating the WUI Risk Class and/or Local WUI Risk Class. For example, WUI Risk Class 1 is the highest priority for CLWRR funding where WUI Risk Class 5 would be considered the lowest priority for CLWRR funding.

In the ReMi Planner, project planners will select a WUI Risk Class. If a WUI Risk Class is applicable, but the project planner feels it does not accurately reflect the true risk of the project, then this can be indicated under the Local WUI Risk Class. A higher Risk Class may be selected, accompanied by a rationale within the *Additional Comments/Notes on risk class or outside of WUI rationale* box.

If the project falls outside the WUI, two boxes will become available for additional selection:

- Part of a critical corridor that supports or connects areas to enhance landscape resiliency and reduce risk.
- Strategic location to support future fire suppression such as anchor points or to slow fire spread.

6.9 Burn Development & Feasibility

The second filter category, Burn Development & Feasibility within the evaluation criteria, assists in determining which CRx Fire projects best align with development and feasibility goals.

In the ReMi Planner, there are five selections available to support the determination of priorities including an option to provide rationale within the *Additional Comments/Notes on Burn Development and Feasibility* box.

- Clear defensible boundaries that support safe and effective burn operations
- Holding considerations reduces the need for extensive resources and lowers operational costs
- Protection of values is straightforward and has low or acceptable fire risk
- Burn design supports lower-cost follow-up burns for long-term maintenance
- Reliable access to the unit for personnel, equipment, and emergency response

6.10 Collective Impact

The third filter category within the evaluation criteria, Collective Impact, assists in determining which CRx Fire projects align best with other program objectives.

In the ReMi Planner, there are five selections available to support the determination of priorities including an option to provide rationale within the *Additional Comments/Notes on Collective Impact* box.

- Coordination with local Indigenous or non-Indigenous Fire Service
- First Nations development of co-development
- Active or ongoing community support
- Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) is high or extreme so greater than 7
- Connected to higher level planning (FLP, SLP, First Nations stewardship plans)

7 Budget Targets and Project Costs for Planning

Mountain Resorts Branch, BC Parks, and WLRS-KBR are separated from the Regional Operations Fuel Management budget targets. Allocation approval letters are issued to each Business Area's ADM in accordance with responsibility areas, per ADM (i.e., South Area, ENV, etc.). Fuel Management budget targets are sent to the Regional Executive Directors and BA Executive.

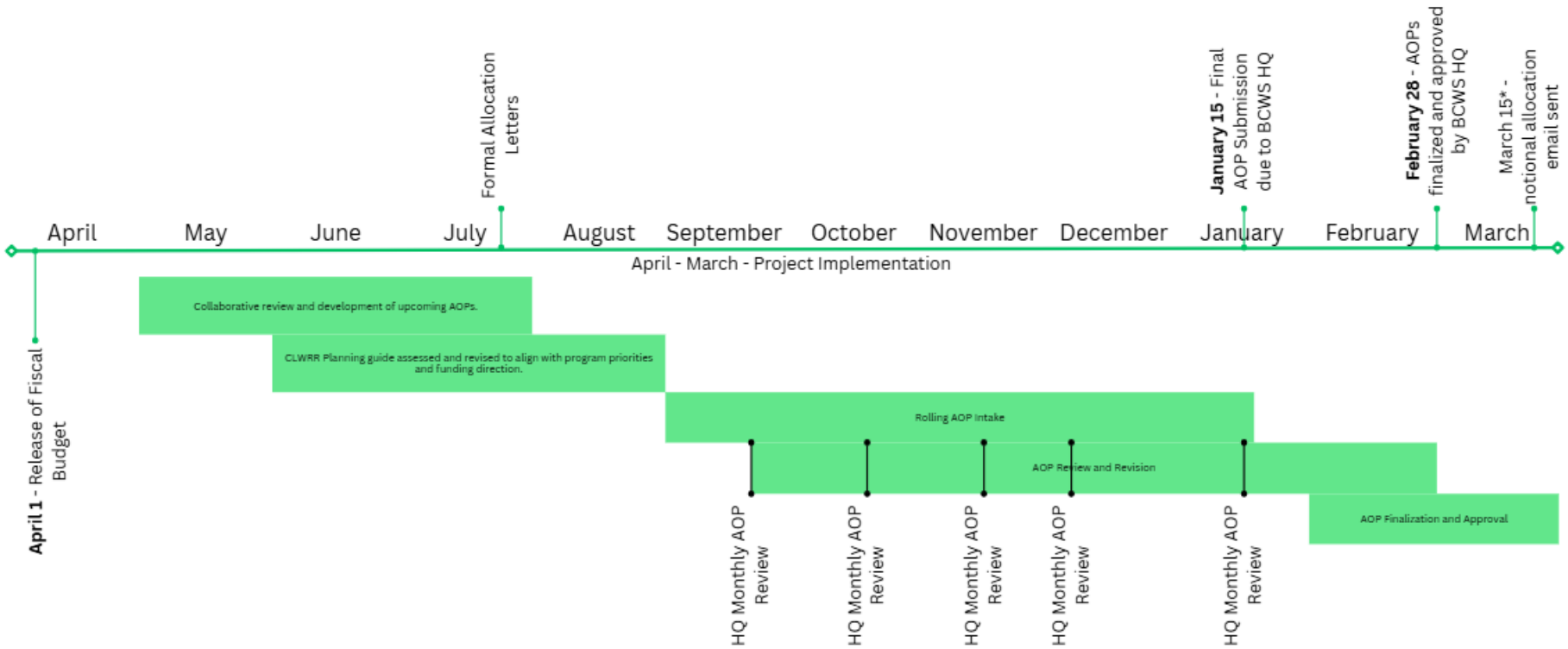
Cost benchmarks for Fuel Management activities are available on the CLWRR Intranet page (see section 10).

8 Key Planning Dates for CLWRR Program

Below are annual timelines for project development, approval, and implementation.

- **April 1:** Release of fiscal budget. Commence implementation of the current year's Annual Operating Plan (AOP).
- **April to June:** Collaborative review of the current planning cycle and development of upcoming AOPs.
- **May to August:** CLWRR planning guidance assessed and revised to align with program priorities, strategic direction, and funding allocations.
- **September to January:** Rolling AOP intake period. Business Areas develop and submit AOPs for consideration.
- **September to January:** Monthly AOP reviews conducted by BCWS HQ to provide feedback, ensure alignment with priorities, and identify revisions as required.
- **October to January:** AOP review and revision period. Business Areas incorporate feedback and refine submissions.
- **January 15:** Final AOP submission due to BCWS HQ.
- **February 28:** AOPs finalized and approved by BCWS HQ.
- **March 15:** Approximate date that notional allocation emails are distributed.
- **July 31:** Approximate date that formal allocation letters are distributed.

CLWRR AOP Timeline



9 Resources

There are numerous resources and support materials that have been developed to aid in the implementation of the CLWRR program.

CLWRR Program Email: CRIprogram@gov.bc.ca

Send all program inquiries here, and the program team will direct your request to the appropriate group.

BCWS CLWRR Program Intranet Site

Access the latest resources to support every phase of CLWRR planning, prescription development, operational treatment. Includes guidance documents, standards, costing benchmarks, geomatics resources, and position resourcing. Also provides a link to the CLWRR Geomatics page, where spatial data requirements and guidance can be found.

BCWS CRx Fire Intranet Site

Access the latest resources to support every phase of burning, from planning to delivery and maintenance, to achieve a wide range of land stewardship goals.

Tools for Fuel Management Site

To develop a treatment plan for mitigating wildfire threat near values at risk, find the latest resources to support developing treatment options and prescribing a treatment plan.

Resiliency and Mitigation (ReMi) Planner Resources

- ReMi Planner Training and Support - BC Wildfire Service
- ReMi Test site, for training and learning purposes
- ReMi live site

ReMi technical support: BCWS.ReMiPlanner@gov.bc.ca

10 Glossary of Terms

Business Area (BA) – The region or branch receiving funding. At the time of publishing, the current Business Areas are: BC Parks, WLRS Kootenay-Boundary Region, Mountain Resorts Branch, and the FOR Natural Resource regions: Cariboo, Kootenay-Boundary, Thompson-Okanagan Region, Northeast, Omineca, Skeena, South Coast, and West Coast.

Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) – Program was announced by the provincial government in 2018 and is intended to reduce the risk of wildfires and mitigate their impacts on BC communities. This program is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities and has three streams: 1) FireSmart Community Funding and Supports, 2) Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction, and 3) FireSmart Pilot Program for Regional District Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Organizations.

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) – Next generation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans which were first introduced in 2004 as part of the Strategic Wildfire Prevention initiative and served as a primary wildfire risk reduction planning mechanism for communities in BC.

FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) – Program provides funding to local governments and First Nations in BC to increase resiliency within their communities by undertaking community-based FireSmart planning and activities that reduce the community's risk from wildfire.

Fire Effects Monitoring (FEMO) – Monitoring activities linked to objectives in the eligible fuel management prescription and burn plan including short and long-term monitoring plots.

Forest Landscape Plan (FLP) – Establish clear outcomes for the management of forest resource values within defined areas. BC's new forest landscape plans replace forest stewardship plans as part of changes to BC's Forest management regime including the Forest and Range Practices Act.

Forest Appraisal System – Determines stumpage rates for timber harvested and provides rates for billing purposes. In addition, the application also provides information for reappraisals, quarterly stumpage adjustments, cost table maintenance, policy updates, reporting and non-appraised rate administration.

Knowledge Development Activity – Continuous learning opportunities that are designed to create, acquire, enhance, or apply knowledge within an organization, community, or individual. These opportunities can occur in various forms, including research, training, collaboration, and practical application of skills and ideas.

Integrated Fuel Management Planning Tables – Forums in which provincial government, local government, First Nations, industry, and professionals can discuss fuel management goals and objectives.

Prescription Development – The stage of fuel management at which the prescription for the treatment unit is written. The prescription is the document that describes the recommended fuel treatment activities in a treatment unit that reduces fire behaviour.

Operational Treatments – Fuel treatment activities that involve mechanically manipulating the vegetation to reach the prescription objectives. This includes activities such as brushing, pruning, and

debris management.

Maintenance – Survey – A technique used, following the BCWS Fuel Management Survey Data Collection Standards, to understand how a fuel treatment is retaining its prescribed conditions and effectiveness through time. As a treatment naturally experiences regeneration, surveys can indicate what type of operational maintenance may need to occur to return to the originally prescribed conditions.

Maintenance – Operational Treatments – As a treatment naturally experiences regeneration, operational maintenance may need to occur to return to the originally prescribed conditions. These maintenance activities may include brushing, thinning, or prescribed fire.

Other (assessments/surveys) – During the Planning and Development stage of a fuel management or cultural and prescribed fire project, it may be necessary to consult a broader community of technical experts, such as an archaeologist, hydrologist, fire ecologist, range agrologist, geotechnical specialist, etc.).

Regional Management Team (RMT) – Each RMT provides leadership to their region overall. They support the delivery of sustainable forest and range management for the benefit of all British Columbians and have team members from a variety of spaces and places. E.g. Regional executive directors, district managers, BC timber sales managers, regional director of Indigenous Relations, and other fire centre staff.

11 Appendix A: CLWRR Cost Rationale Criteria

Cost Rationale for Projects Exceeding Benchmark Costs

Where estimated project costs exceed provincial benchmark costs, Business Areas must provide a clear, evidence-based rationale to support the estimate. A strong rationale should demonstrate why the higher costs are reasonable and necessary for the specific project. Wherever possible, supporting information should include:

- An explanation of the project's priority and criticality, including how the treatment addresses wildfire risk, protects identified values, or supports strategic wildfire risk reduction objectives.
- Quantitative evidence from comparable completed projects ($/ha), particularly those within similar BEC zones, fuel types, treatment prescriptions, terrain, slope classes, accessibility, and treatment methods.
- A description of the site-specific factors that contribute to increased costs, such as complex terrain, high fuel loading, difficult access, specialized equipment requirements, environmental or cultural constraints, operational limitations, or increased transportation and mobilization costs.
- Any market or regional factors that influence costs, such as limited contractor availability, remote location, or documented local pricing trends.
- Any other information that demonstrates the proposed costs are reasonable based on previous experience, professional judgement, or available supporting data.

Providing detailed, project-specific justification will support more efficient HQ review and reduce the likelihood of requests for additional information.

Details of the cost benchmark submission methodology will be provided following HQ's review of the AOP