CROWN LAND WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PLANNING GUIDE 2023-2024

Community Resiliency Investment program

Content

1. Introduction

British Columbia (B.C.) has invested significantly in mitigating the impact of wildfire on communities and critical infrastructure. There are two funding streams of the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program: FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) and Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR). Through both streams of the CRI program, the provincial government has allocated approximately $230 million through 2023 to reduce wildfire risk and impacts in B.C.

The CLWRR program is administered in collaboration between the BC Wildfire Service and provincial Crown land managers to fund planning and implementation of fuel treatment activities, including prescribed and cultural fire, on primarily high wildfire risk Crown land near communities or critical infrastructure. The CLWRR program supports activities related to tactical planning, fuel management planning and treatments, cultural and prescribed fire activities and wildfire risk reduction activities targeting critical infrastructure. The program is available for internal delivery of priority activities, primarily in higher risk areas. Each Business Area responsible for delivering the CLWRR program must develop an Annual Operating Plan (AOP).

To support staff in AOP development, this guide defines CLWRR activities into two categories:

1. Fuel Management Activities –Includes all prescription development, tactical planning and critical infrastructure activities.
2. **Cultural and Prescribed (C&Rx) Fire Activities** – support program development, planning and implementation of prescribed fire and cultural burning projects. C&Rx Fire activity prioritization is based on a projects potential to achieve Provincial objectives around Reconciliation and wildfire resiliency.

This document provides direction on investment principles for the 2023-24 Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) component of the CRI program.

More information on the FCFS program stream can be found on the UBCM website here: https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/community-resiliency-investment.html

1.1. Background

In 2019/20 an initial investment in the CLWRR program of up to $20 million per year was announced through three-year initiative funding, to 2022/23, with an additional $19.5 million through the Stronger BC Economic Recovery Initiative. Budget 2022 allocated an additional $20M annually to the program for an annual allocation of $40 million, supporting a shift towards fuel management and cultural and prescribed fire becoming core business for government.

The CLWRR program stream is administered through MOF in collaboration with BCWS, Natural Resource Regions and Districts, BC Parks and Mountain Resorts Branch. Highlights of the program include:
- Tactical fuel management planning and integrated planning tables, focusing on **provincial** Crown land located around communities.
- Implementation of fuel management treatment activities, focusing on **provincial** Crown land located around communities.
- Prescribed fire and cultural burning activities (including planning, operational treatments, and

monitoring on **provincial** Crown land focused around communities and high priority areas on the landscape) contributing towards the development of a comprehensive provincial cultural and prescribed fire program.

- Risk reduction activities targeting critical infrastructure (as identified by the province), beginning with critical response infrastructure such as government-owned radio repeaters, weather stations and airtanker bases.

Successful wildfire risk reduction requires collaboration and coordination within joint operations since implementation of these funded projects occurs in partnership with BCWS, Regional Operations, BC Parks and Mountain Resorts Branch (MRB).

Government has committed to integrating and expanding wildfire risk reduction, prescribed fire and supporting cultural burning in Ministry operations, in the *Modernizing Forest Policy in British Columbia* (2021), the Action Plan to implement the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (2022), and *the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy* (2022). In Budget 2022, government committed additional funding to supporting these programs, with clear expectations for expanded delivery.

Wildfire resiliency continues to be included in the Ministry of Forests' (MOF) Service Plan.

MOF Service Plan 2022/23-2024/25
Goal 1: Economic Benefits and resilience for all British Columbians, through a modernized forest sector and effective natural hazard management.
Objective 1.2: Improve community resilience through proactive and collaborative natural hazard management.
Performance Measure 1.2: Number of cultural and prescribed fire projects developed by or co-developed with First Nations.

The CLWRR program supports several key strategies listed under Objective 1.2 of the MOF 2022/23-24/25 Service Plan including:

- o Delivering funding for activities that support implementation of 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 – this includes enabling the use of fire by Indigenous peoples and integrating and expanding the use of prescribed fire on the landscape and the creation of an integrated wildfire risk initiative that encourages fire prevention (risk reduction) activities targeting wildfire management activities in high wildfire risk landscapes.

2. Eligible Activities

There are two classifications of projects eligible for CLWRR funding:
- Fuel Management
- C&Rx Fire

2.1 Fuel Management Activities

CLWRR Fuel Management activities will fall within categories below:
- Tactical Planning
- Prescription Development
- Operational Treatments
- Planning Tables
- Maintenance – Survey
- Maintenance – Operational Treatments
- Other (assessments/surveys)

2.1.1 Eligible Fuel Management Activities
Additional information on specific Fuel Management activities can be found in Section 4.1.1: Project Prioritization Process for CLWRR Fuel Management Projects.

Note: all activities that are legally required and/or recognized through the forest appraisal system are not eligible (e.g. Hazard abatement)

2.2 C&Rx Fire Activities

CLWRR C&Rx Fire activities will fall within three broad categories:
- Program Development
- Landscape Unit Level Prescription and Burn Plan Development
- Implementation Activities

2.2.1 Eligible C&Rx Fire Activities

CLWRR eligible C&Rx fire projects are all on provincial Crown land and undertaken as Resource Management Open Fire, per Provincial legislation and policy. C&Rx fire projects may have primary management objectives including: including: agricultural, cultural/traditional, ecosystem restoration, forest health, range habitat management, wildlife habitat and wildfire risk reduction.

Table 1. Eligible C&Rx Fire Activities and Requirements

Eligible Activities	Requirements
Program Development	
Knowledge Development Activity	Requirements: • A 1-page summary describing idea, plan, timelines, outcomes. Template on web page. • Undertaken to address a C&Rx fire knowledge gap. May be a local need or serve broader C&Rx fire knowledge. Activities: • Flexible in the types of activities considered. • Examples may include: ○ Trial burns to gain operational knowledge

	Note: this does not include training or professional development.

C&Rx Fire Scoping Engagement	Requirements:
	  o Contract to engage with local communities, stakeholders and potential proponents to identify areas where there is interest in planning and implementing C&Rx fire projects on provincial Crown land.
	  o Does not include project planning, prescription development.
	  o Stakeholders and proponents may include First Nations communities, municipal and regional governments, Forestry licensees, interest groups, etc.
	  o Must utilize C&Rx Fire Scoping Engagement Report template, available ~March 2023.
	Includes:
	  o Activities related to engagement, facilitation, venue rental including honorariums.
	  o Preparation of all final report requirements, including maps, spatial data and metadata

Landscape Unit Level Prescription Feasibility Assessment	Requirements:
	  o Contract to complete a scoping and feasibility assessment to identify viable areas where landscape unit level prescription development will enable prescribed fire burn planning.
	  o Feasibility assessment to support the inclusion of landscape unit level prescription(s) in AOP in following 1-3 years.
	  o Must utilize Landscape Unit Level Prescription Scoping & Feasibility Assessment Template, anticipated ~March 2023. Includes:
	      o Required professional assessments (e.g., geotechnical, archaeological, fire ecologist, range agrologist, etc.).
	      o Preparation of all final report requirements, including maps, spatial data and metadata.

Establishment of Regional Planning Tables	Requirements:
	  o Existing tables may be suitable for prescribed fire coordination/discussion.
	  o Where planning tables do not exist, funding is available for a facilitation consultant to coordinate[6] and facilitate C&Rx fire planning meetings.
	Includes:

	o Facilitation and hosting expenses for planning tables
	o See link to example TOR
Indigenous Knowledge or Traditional Use Information	Requirements:
	o Funding for First Nations to gather Indigenous Knowledge or traditional use information to support cultural burning on traditional territory.
	o Privacy, community protocol.

Landscape Unit Level Prescription and Burn Plan Development

Landscape Unit level prescription development.
  o Based on an average size of greater than 500 hectares.
	Requirements:
	  o Develop landscape unit level fuel management prescription consistent with prescription guidance.
	Includes:
	  o Activities related to prescription development (e.g., stakeholder engagement),
	  o Activities related to burn plan development including identification of values in containment areas, additional data collection requirements and engaging with burn specialists,
	  o Required professional assessments (e.g., geotechnical, archaeological, fire ecologist, range agrologist, etc.),
	  o Information sharing with First Nations, as required by the Land Manager,
	  o Site evaluation, including field reconnaissance, data collection as outlined in 2020 prescription guidance document and the evaluation of site access,
	  o Lay out and traversing of proposed areas for treatments
	  o Preparation of all final report requirements, including maps, spatial data and metadata
	  o Expenses related to incorporating cultural practices, traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and engagement with local First Nations

Burn Plan Development	Requirements:
	  o Must utilize the BCWS Prescribed Fire Burn Plan Template.
	  o Must be linked to an eligible fuel management prescription.
	  o Must follow the BCWS Standard Operating Procedure for Prescribed Fire.
	Includes:

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	o Burn plan development (identification of values in containment areas, other data requirements, engaging with burn specialists) o Expenses related to incorporating cultural practices, TEK and engagement with local First Nations o Preparation of report (maps, spatial data, metadata)
Prescription Development 　o Based on an average size of greater than 20 hectares.	Note: o All prescription development projects are considered "Fuel Management activities". o Where a prescription development project is not prioritized within fuel management prioritization criteria and is required to support an eligible, prioritized C&Rx fire project - prescription development may be an eligible C&Rx fire activity.
Implementation Activities	
Prescribed Fire Implementation	Implementation is broken out into these 4 activities, details in rows below: • Burn Preparation Activities • Burn Day Activities • Post-Burn Activities • Prescribed Fire Effects Monitoring Requirements: o Must follow the BCWS Standard Operating Procedure for Prescribed Fire.
Prescribed Fire Implementation – Burn Preparation Activities	o Fire weather index monitoring, public notification, pruning, danger tree removal, preparing black lines and fireguards. Note: pre-burn costs are eligible costs even if an operational burn window does not occur during the intended season of implementation.
Prescribed Fire Implementation – Burn Day Activities	o Suppression equipment set up and transport, traffic control, heavy equipment needs (i.e. water tender), first aid, contract crews, and helicopter use (for aerial ignition) as per the approved burn plan. o Expenses related to local cultural protocols
Prescribed Fire Implementation – Post-Burn Activities	o Contracted mop-up & patrol, assessments and final reporting.

	o Preparation of report (maps, spatial data, metadata, RESULTS reporting)
Prescribed Fire Effects Monitoring	Requirements: o Must be linked to objectives included in eligible fuel management prescription and burn plan. o Must follow FEMO guidance, as available. Includes: o Pre- and post- burn fire effects monitoring o Preparation of report (maps, spatial data, metadata) o Submission of monitoring data

2.2.2 Ineligible C&Rx Fire Activities

1. All activities that are legally required and/or recognized through the forest appraisal system are not eligible (e.g. hazard abatement)
2. Purchase of tools, including capital expenditures (e.g., ignition equipment, pumps, hoses).
3. Expenses associated with BCWS staff involvement with burn plan development and/or implementation, including travel and overtime where required. These costs will be covered under a separate process within BCWS for eligible projects upon approval by the Fire Centre Manager.
4. Category 2 and/or 3 pile burning.

3. Fuel Management & C&Rx Fire Annual Operating Plan (AOP)

The CLWRR Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is a three-year plan containing a one-year project plan with a two-year project forecast. The plan presents a prioritized list of Fuel Management and C&Rx Fire projects and guides how a Business Area (BA) will use CLWRR funds. AOPs are developed locally with BCWS and BA staff (Resource District, BC Parks, Mountain Resorts Branch (MRB) staff). Each year, a provincial blank AOP form is provided by BCWS in alignment with key planning dates (Section 7). The AOP is divided into two sections, one for fuel management projects and the other for C&Rx projects.

Figure 1. CLWRR AOP

BAs are encouraged to engage with Indigenous Nations in the development of their AOP. The AOP should outline all CLWRR funded projects that will be delivered during the fiscal year and are forecasted for the following two years. Projects within the AOP and forecast should be realistic, based on capacity and feasibility.

AOP development is led by the BA and sent to the BC Wildfire Service Head Quarters for provincial roll up and funding allocations. The AOP, including mandatory two-year project forecast, will be updated annually to reflect the status of progress towards goals and to reflect any changes in provincial program direction. The AOP includes details on project activities, deliverables, anticipated costs, and timelines. Activities are prioritized according to hierarchy and planning criteria outlined in Section 4.0

3.1 Fuel Management & C&Rx Fire AOP Development Process

Step 1 – Business Area's Project Design and Development

    a. Business areas should work collaboratively with the Fire Centre staff and include the Integrated Investment Specialist (IIS) as needed, as projects are being determined. In regions with large programs, Integrated Investment Specialist participation is recommended. Early collaboration will provide:

        i. overview of planning guide, principles, processes, and assessments;

        i. fire behaviour and fire science advice/input;

        ii. opportunities to discuss and plan BCWS' expected role in planning and/or implementation of cultural & prescribed fire projects;

        iii. linkage to existing and historical CRI FCFS and WRR funding programs; and

        iv. consistent coordination and communication across business areas.

    b. This will enable the Fire Centre to have a better understanding of the needs and priorities of each BA.

Step 2 – Business Area/Fire Centre AOP Process

    a. Each Business Area will complete an AOP for Fuel Management and C&Rx fire that includes projects planned and identified for the next 3 years (1 year plan for 2023/24, 2 year for cast for 2024/25, 2025/26).

    b. Each Business Area will rank their projects in accordance with:

        i. **For Fuel Management projects -** the three filters outlined in Section 4.1 to determine proposed projects.

        ii. **For C&Rx Fire projects –** the prioritization criteria outline in Section 4.2.

    c. The Integrated Investment Specialist and the relevant Fire Centre within each Region will work with the project leads to compile and prioritize projects. The relevant Fire Centre will work with BC Parks and MRB to compile and prioritize projects.

Step 3 –Joint collaborative review of Business Area CLWRR AOP's

    a. The Integrated Investment Specialist will organize and facilitate a joint meeting with Fire Centre and Business Area's staff (Fire Centre level CLWRR Team). BC Parks and MRB should be included in these meetings to discuss and finalize all projects in the Fire Centre. This occurs prior to the regional AOP being submitted to the Fire Centre Manager (FCM) and Business Area (BA) Executive.

Step 4 – Fire Centre Manager/Regional Management Team (RMT)/Business Area Review and Approval

    a. The Business Area's final AOP will be reviewed/approved by the Fire Centre Manager with Business Area Management (e.g. MT/RMC).

        i. RMTs and Business Area Leads will have opportunity to review the AOP and endorse, provide comment or recommend changes prior to final submission of AOP.

    b. The Fire Centre Manager will forward the final Fire Centre Regional AOP's to BCWS Headquarters to be included in provincial review. The HQ Prevention team will review the Fuel Management AOP, the HQ C&Rx fire team will review the C&Rx fire AOP. A copy of the final AOPs can be saved on the SharePoint but final signoff must be submitted to CRIProgram@gov.bc.ca

Once all the reviews and approvals are complete, save a copy of the AOP to the folder on the SharePoint (LINK).

4. CLWRR Fuel Management & C&Rx Fire Planning Hierarchy and Project Prioritization Criteria

Prioritization criteria for all CLWRR projects have been developed based upon the following principles. There are two separate project prioritization criteria: one for Fuel Management projects and another for C&Rx Fire projects.

> **Prioritization Principles CLWRR investments:**
>
> 1) The ability to address goals and objectives of the MOF Service Plan (e.g. reducing wildfire risk, increasing community's resiliency to wildfires)
>
> 2) Projects that support the Province's reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples consistent with UNDRIP, and the B.C Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) and the provincial DRIPA Action Plan.
>
> **3)** The ability to leverage other funding sources including CRI's FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FSCFS), Forest Enhancement Society BC (FES), Forest Employment Program (FEP), Ecosystem Restoration (ER), forest sector (e.g. licensee harvesting) or other partnerships. **Note: cannot have multiple funding sources on the same operating area.**
>
> 4) Additional benefits to British Columbians, through a modernized forest sector and effective natural hazard management

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

CLWRR C&Rx fire projects are prioritized based on their potential to achieve Provincial objectives around Reconciliation and wildfire resiliency.

4.1. Fuel Management Planning Hierarchy

Project Status: Fuel Management projects on Crown land that have been previously funded, but completion was not possible due to unforeseeable situations (e.g. operational treatment has not been completed and high levels of surface fuels/hazards due to heavy snowfall) will be identified in the AOP under project status.

- o "In Progress"
  - o Projects that have been started in previous Fiscal Years and will continue into the next AOP.
- o "Carry Over"
  - o Projects that have an existing project code or previously funded, but no work completed. Project was previously approved and on prior AOPs.
  - o Projects that are identified that are carrying forward into a new phase or planning and prescription development projects that are required for operational treatments the following years (e.g. prescription is complete and moving into operational treatment)
- o "New"
  - o Projects that have not previously been included in an AOP.
  - o Tactical Planning projects are a high priority for all Risk Class 1 and 2 WUI areas that are currently not covered by a plan.
  - o Integrated Fuel Management planning tables for all BA that are higher risk and threat.

Projects identified under the "In Progress" status will be given first priority. Projects in the "Carry Over" status can be given priority over "New" projects that have not previously been included in an AOP.

Projects that demonstrate a high level of engagement and stakeholder investment (e.g., this could be amount of time a business area has spent building a relationship that has wildfire risk reduction principles). These projects are a high priority and may be identified through various means (e.g., public commitments made by government to a specific area, or involvement/expression of interest in WRR activities and funding).

4.1.1.Project Prioritization Process for CLWRR Fuel Management Projects

There are three primary filters for fuel management projects which will be used to identify and prioritize projects that will be submitted as part the AOP. Filters will be applied using the following hierarchy to evaluate each project:

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

Coarse Fuel Management Filter (Provincial Scope)

Projects will be evaluated using 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 and are present in every Fire Centre.

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 Districts, BC Parks and Mtn. Resorts and the percentage of threat in each area is used to set the baseline budget targets for the year.

In addition to WUI Risk Class and PSTA, additional new local information that supports wildfire risk accompanied by appropriate documentation may be considered when supported by the Fire Centre. For example, recent wildfires (previous 7 years) that significantly impacted communities that are not identified as WUI risk class 1 or 2 are eligible if summarized in the sheets with a rationale.

Note: If a Business Area feels an area that is a RC1 or RC2 but doesn't provincially screen out to this - they can provide appropriate documentation, based on provincial criteria, to support changing the provincially determined WUI Risk Class determination, the project may move into the RC 1 or RC 2.

Table 2: Summary of 2021 PSTA and WUI Risk Class by Business Area

Hectares of PSTA H / E in WUI RC 1 and 2				
District Name	District Hectares	District %	Mtn. Resorts	BC Parks PA
100 Mile House Natural Resource District	56,423	6.3%		1,202
Cariboo-Chilcotin Natural Resource District	79,957	8.9%		1,186
Quesnel Natural Resource District	25,132	2.8%		970
CARIBOO REGION TOTAL	*161,512*	*18.1%*	*NA*	*NA*
Cascades Natural Resource District	82,909	9.3%		5,479
Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District	134,365	15.0%	2,775	13,649
Thompson Rivers Natural Resource District	89,246	10.0%	2,802	7,120
THOMPSON OKANAGAN REGION TOTAL	*306,520*	*34.3%*		
Selkirk Natural Resource District	144,854	16.2%	4,249	6,842
Rocky Mountain Natural Resource District	66,462	7.4%	1,447	992
KOOTENAY-BOUNDARY REGION TOTAL	*211,316*	*23.6%*	*NA*	*NA*
Fort Nelson Natural Resource District	14,154	1.6%		
Peace Natural Resource District	24,548	2.7%		82
NORTHEAST REGION TOTAL	*38,703*	*4.3%*	*NA*	*NA*
Mackenzie Natural Resource District	9,113	1.0%		464
Prince George Natural Resource District	45,442	5.1%		2,270
Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District	19,565	2.2%		914
OMINECA REGION TOTAL	*74,120*	*8.3%*	*NA*	*NA*
Nadina Natural Resource District	25,255	2.8%		137
Skeena Stikine Natural Resource District	23,187	2.6%	1,231	1,808
Coast Mountains Natural Resource District	419	0.0%		
SKEENA REGION TOTAL	*48,861*	*5.5%*	*NA*	*NA*
		5.5%		
North Island - Central Coast Natural Resource D	1,256	0.1%		
South Island Natural Resource District	3,425	0.4%		1,423
WEST COAST REGION TOTAL	*4,680*	*0.5%*	*NA*	*NA*
Chilliwack Natural Resource District	24,934	2.8%	1,367	549
Sea to Sky Natural Resource District	23,397	2.6%	1,633	1,207
SOUTHCOAST REGION TOTAL	*48,331*	*5.4%*	*NA*	*NA*
Regional Operations Total and Percentage		*100%*		
Provincial Total Hectares 955,843	*894,045*		*15,504*	*46,294*
Provincial Total Percent	*93.5%*		*1.6%*	*4.8%*

Medium Filter (Project Alignment with Government Objectives)

Projects will be evaluated using medium filters after they have been screened through coarse filter. Medium filters show the relative priority of individual projects within each Business Area (BA).

Business Areas will evaluate all projects using the below evaluation criteria, identified in the CLWRR Project Evaluation Medium Filters section in numerical order. As projects meet the evaluation criteria (e.g., evaluation filter 1), they "bin" out and then fine filter criteria are applied to determine the numerical priority of those projects in the bin. **It is important to recognize that all phases of planning and prescription development are required prior to operational treatment implementation** BA's have the ability to plan out three years of activities to ensure that tactical planning and prescription projects are funded in the appropriate year.

Situational Awareness for other landbase projects (e.g., Municipal, First Nation Reserve, CFA) should be leveraged. These projects may include CRI's FSCFS and have identified fuel management and/or prescribed fire linkages towards 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 should be consulted with for information. This knowledge will be incorporated into the prioritization process.

CLWRR Project Evaluation Medium Filters

1. Projects that are carrying into a new phase, the below stage of project priority is recommended:
    a. Phased project implementation – e.g. 5 areas identified, first area completed and moving into second treatment area.
    b. Prescription is completed and moving to treatment stage of project
    c. Planning is completed and moving to prescription stage of project
    d. Planning projects

2. Additional new fuel management projects.
    a) Projects that link together adjacent fuel management treatments and provide a contiguous area on the landscape (e.g. values out principles).
    b) Projects around or adjacent to critical infrastructure (CI) within the Province. The below numerical order will be used when considering projects that include mitigating risk to critical infrastructure values:
        i. Fuel Treatments located in the WUI specifically, including evacuation corridors
        ii. Projects that support critical infrastructure. The below numerical order will be used when considering projects that include mitigation risk to critical

infrastructure values:

   (1) Projects focusing on reducing risk to provincially owned critical infrastructure (e.g. MOF radio repeaters and weather stations, provincially owned emergency response buildings)
   (2) Projects on provincial crown land that reduce threat to provincially identified key facilities (e.g. communication towers used to support emergency response, energy infrastructure etc.)
   (3) Projects that reduce risk to critical and community drinking watersheds and reservoirs that are located close to a community.
   (4) Projects that provide benefit to local governments and the province including social and economic benefits such as forest employment, tourism and recreation.
   (5) 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.

   iii. Identify at risk high value community and drinking watersheds within the WUI area

c) Projects that improve egress/evacuation from remote communities that also provide safer access to and from for first responders.

3. Projects that maximize funding linkages (e.g. FESBC, FCI, LBI, CFS, FFT etc).
4. Projects that support Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

Fine Filter (Feasibility and project scope and size at the project Level)

The fine filter is to be used after the medium filter process has been applied. This filter is to be used when developing priorities between individual projects which filter out as being relatively equal in project efficacy using the medium filtering process. The fine filter is applied to each grouping (or bin) of medium filtered projects (e.g. 4 projects meet medium filter 1 criteria) to rank/prioritize the projects in this grouping in numerical order (e.g. Project A, B, C, D get processed through fine filter and are prioritized – Priority 1. Project D; 2. Project A; 3. Project C). **Any project that filters out at medium priority 1 will always prioritize/rank higher than projects that filter at medium filter 2 and below.** The fine filter will allow for finer ranking in order to create the Business Area final projects.

CLWRR Project Evaluation Fine Filters

The fine filter criteria will be used in the numerical order below:

1. Project rationale demonstrates the amount (or percentage) of the following in the proposed area: high and extreme WUI Risk Class. Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) class greater than 7; or a combination of one of the two and ground truthed data showing equivalency. The intent here is that projects that have a higher percentage of area that contains more risk class₁₆ polygon in a high to extreme rating than another project will rank higher due to their overall localized threat.

2. Project rationale showing how this project fits within a larger risk reduction strategy or plan as outlined in the NEW 2021 Standard for Developing Tactical Overview and Operational Plans Fuel Management.

3. Cost effectiveness of the project:
    a. Pile and burn or fibre utilization opportunities are maximized
    b. Projects that leverage additional funds from other sources.

4. Tactical overview planning with an AOI that expands outside of the WUI Risk Class polygon to identify fuel break opportunities will be considered with the appropriate rationale. Examples include:
    a. Areas of high and extreme PSTA threat class polygons not encompassed in the WUI Risk class that meet the <6 structure density class, or
    b. Existing linear features that present potential fuel break opportunities exist just outside of the WUI Risk Class polygon area

4.2. C&Rx Fire Planning Hierarchy

C&Rx Fire projects are prioritized based on their potential to achieve Provincial objectives around Reconciliation and wildfire resiliency. The prioritization criteria were developed recognizing that the application of fire as a cultural practice or land management tool to achieve a variety of objectives will also, largely, achieve wildfire risk reduction outcomes. The focus of CLWRR funding on relationship and capacity development is part of a broader Provincial strategy to increase the knowledge, experience and networks required to contribute to wildfire resiliency through the planned use of fire.

It is important to recognize that all phases of prescription and burn plan development are required prior to implementation activities. The prioritization criteria do not weight one type of eligible activity over another, however there are longer term benefits to pursuing program development activities. Scoping, feasibility assessments and knowledge development are tools to put together multi-year longer term C&Rx fire plans.

Like the Fuel Management prioritization criteria, C&Rx fire prioritization criteria are broken down into Coarse and Medium filters. BA's (BCWS, Resource Districts, BC Parks and MRB) should apply the two filters to identify and prioritize projects that will be submitted as part of the AOP.

4.2.1. Coarse C&Rx Fire Filter

C&Rx Fire projects will be evaluated using a coarse filter first. This filter assists in determining which C&Rx Fire projects best align with provincial commitments on Reconciliation and wildfire resiliency.

- Projects that are being developed by a First Nation or are being co-developed with a First Nation.

- Projects that demonstrate partnerships with First Nations. Partnership projects may support the incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, include cultural burning practices, have a focus on First Nations capacity development or training, aim to develop governments relationship with a First Nation, support Indigenous land management, among other activities.

- Project status of "In Progress" or "Carry Over" will be prioritized over "New" projects that have not previously been included in an AOP. See project status definitions in AOP template instructions page or Fuel Management Section above.

4.2.2. Medium C&Rx Fire Filter

Next C&Rx Fire projects will be evaluated using a medium filter. This filter assists in determining which C&Rx Fire projects align best with program objectives.

- Projects that maximize non-CLWRR funding sources (ex: LBI, HCTF) or have value integration linkages with activities, projects or programs undertaken to achieve broader government objectives (ex: ecosystem restoration, other WRR work, habitat restoration, silviculture, etc).
- Projects that provide opportunities to train or increase capacity within or external to government.

5. CLWRR Program Standards and Guidance

Standards and guidance are provided on the Tools for Fuel Management page and include:
- 2022 Fuel Management Prescription Guidance (anticipated to include prescribed fire prescription guidance by April 2023)
- Tactical Planning Standards
- Critical Surface Fire Intensity tools, and other documents. All standards must be followed.

> **All approved CLWRR projects are expected to be consistent with standards located at the Tools for Fuel Management webpage.**

6. Budget Targets and Project Costs for Planning

6.1. Fuel Management Budget Targets and Project Costs

For 2023-2024 Mountain Resorts Branch and BC Parks are separate from the Regional Operations Fuel Management budget targets. Allocation approval letters will be issued to each Business Area ADM in accordance with responsibility areas per ADM (i.e. South Area, ENV, etc.). Fuel Management budget targets have been sent to the REDs and BA Executive. Once finalized by Dec 10th they will be provided here.

Cost benchmarks for Fuel Management activities are here.

6.2. C&Rx Fire Budget Targets and Project Costs

For 2023-24, no CLWRR C&Rx budget targets will be provided. Allocations will be made following provincial AOP review and approval, allocations will be issued.

Cost benchmarks for C&Rx Fire activities will be available ~March 2023.

7. Key Planning due dates for 2023-24 CLWRR & C&Rx Fire Program

Below are target timelines for project development and approval.

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

Table 3: WRR Key Planning Dates 2023_2024

April 1st	Release of next fiscal budget. Implement or modify AOP.
April to October	Priority is program implementation for current years. Ongoing until end of fiscal. Review of last yr. planning process for opportunity for improvement. Confirm direction for 2023/24
October	Revise planning templates, HQ program prioritization and direction, documents as required. Begin planning process for next development of next fiscal WRR.
November to February	Hold annual meeting with BCWS, IIS and Resource Region, NR Districts, BC Parks, and Mtn. Resorts. Business area leads being development of AOP for next fiscal.
February 17th	Fire Centre Annual Operating Plan due to BCWS HQ
March 10th	Provincial roll up and requests for changes to AOPs' if required. AOP finalized.
March 25th	AOP approved

8. CLWRR Planning Spatial Data Requirements

In 2023/24 all CLWRR projects must have both planning spatial data submitted and post-treatment data submitted, as outlined in section 8.1 and 8.2 below. No reporting within Forest Management System (FMS) is required for 2023/24 CLWRR, aside from where regional pilots are occurring.

Spatial data requirements and guidance can be found on the internal CLWRR Geomatics page.