



CROWN LAND WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION

PLANNING GUIDE: 2025-2026

Community Resiliency Investment Program



1	BACKGROUND	4
2	INTEGRATED PLANNING	7
3	ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN (AOP)	9
3.1	BA Project Design and Development: Collaboration with BCWS	9
3.2	BA/Fire Centre AOP Process	10
3.3	Joint collaborative review of Business Area CLWRR AOP's	10
3.4	FC Manager/RMT/Business Area Review and Approval	10
4	CLWR PROGRAM STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE	11
5	FUEL MANAGEMENT (FM) PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION	12
5.1	FM Eligible Activities	12
5.2	FM Planning Hierarchy and Project Prioritization Criteria	12
5.3	FM Project Prioritization Process for Fuel Management Projects	13
5.4	FM Coarse Fuel Management Filter (Provincial Scope)	13
5.5	FM Medium Filter (Alignment with Government Objectives)	14
5.6	FM Project Evaluation Medium Filters	14
5.7	FM Fine Filter (feasibility, project scope, and size at the project level)	15
5.8	FM Project Evaluation Fine Filters	16
6	CULTURAL AND PRESCRIBED (CRX) FIRE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION	17
6.1	CRx Fire Eligible Activities	17
6.2	CRx Planning and Development	18
6.3	CRx Coordination	19
6.4	CRx Implementation and Delivery	20
6.5	CRx Monitoring and Maintenance	21
6.6	CRx Ineligible CRx Fire Activities	21
6.7	CRx Fire Planning Hierarchy	22

6.8	CRx Coarse Fire Filter	22
6.9	CRx Medium Fire Filter	22
7	BUDGET TARGETS AND PROJECT COSTS FOR PLANNING	23
8	KEY PLANNING DUE DATES FOR 2025-26 CLWRR PROGRAM.....	24
9	ACRONYMS.....	25
10	GLOSSARY OF TERMS	26
11	RESOURCES.....	30
	APPENDIX A: PROVINCIAL STRATEGIC THREAT ANALYSIS AND WUI RISK CLASS	31
	APPENDIX B: CULTURAL AND PRESCRIBED FIRE TARGETS BY YEAR	33
	APPENDIX C: MINISTRY OF FORESTS' 2024/25 - 2026/27 SERVICE PLAN ANNUAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES (HA)	34

1 Background

Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) was launched in 2018 as part of the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program, evolving from the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) which BCWS administered until 2018. CLWRR is coordinated with BC Parks, MoF Regional Operations, and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sports' Mountain Resorts Branch. Administered through the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development with an initial 2019/20 investment of up to \$25M per year, through to 2021/22. The Crown Land WRR program is available for internal delivery of priority activities on higher risk areas. Successful WRR outcomes require collaboration and coordination within joint operations as implementation of these funds will occur in partnership between BCWS, MoF Resource Districts, BC Parks, and Mountain Resorts Branch.

The CLWRR program stream is administered through MOF in collaboration with BCWS, Natural Resource Regions and Districts, BC Parks, Mountain Resorts Branch, and WLRS. Highlights of the program include:

1. [Wildland Urban Interface](#) (WUI) WRR Plans and Fuel Management planning tables, focusing on **provincial** Crown land located around communities.
2. Implementation of fuel management activities, on **provincial** Crown land located **around** communities that would not otherwise be addressed through other funding programs or partnerships.
3. CRx fire activities, such as: planning and development, coordination, implementation and delivery, and monitoring and maintenance on **provincial** Crown land focused on communities and high priority areas on the landscape.
4. Wildfire Risk Reduction activities which target critical infrastructure (as identified by the province), beginning with critical response infrastructure such as government-owned radio repeaters, weather stations and air tanker 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, WLRS, 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, the 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' [2024/25 - 2026/27 Service Plan](#). See goals from 2022-2027 below:

Current: MOF Service Plan 2024/25-2026/27
<p>Goal 2: Partnership to Advance Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>Objective 2.1: Strengthen partnerships and meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples in the management of the land base and forest resources in B.C.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore greater opportunities to promote partnerships through program-level operations and government-to-government mandates 2. See Appendix B for Cultural and Prescribed Fire Targets by Year. <p>Goal 3: Proactive and Collaborative Natural Hazard Management</p> <p>Objective 3.1: Improve community resiliency and reduce wildfire risk.</p> <p>Strengthen capacity, reduce risk to communities, and improve preparedness for wildfires and other natural hazard events [through programs such as the CRI program].</p> <p>The Ministry is advancing key actions such as co-developing a scalable cultural and prescribed fire program with Indigenous Peoples, working to increase FireSmart activities in communities, and developing a wildfire risk reduction strategy. Through these actions, the Ministry aims to reduce wildfire risk and improve B.C.'s resilience to the impacts of natural hazard events.</p> <p>See Appendix C for Performance Measure targets by hectare.</p>
Previous: MOF Service Plan 2022/23-2024/25
<p>Goal 1: Economic Benefits and resilience for all British Columbians, through a modernized forest sector and effective natural hazard management.</p> <p>Objective 1.2: Improve community resilience through proactive and collaborative natural hazard management.</p> <p>Performance Measure 1.2: Number of cultural and prescribed fire projects developed by or co-developed with First Nations.</p>

The CLWRR program supports several key strategies listed under Objectives 2.1 and 2.2 of the MOF 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service plan, and Objective 1.2 of the MOF 2022/23- 24/25 Service Plan including:

2024-2027, Objective 2.1 Strengthen partnerships and meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples in the management of the land base and forest resources in B.C.

1. Increasing the number of cultural and prescribed fires developed or co-developed with First Nations from 40 in 2024/25 to 85 by 2026/27.
2. Exploring greater opportunities to promote partnerships through program-level operations and government-to-government mandates with First Nations.
3. Continuing to reform Wildfire Risk Reduction policies to reflect a shared strategic vision with First Nations.

2024-2027, Objective 3.1 Improve community resiliency and reduce wildfire risk

1. The Community Resiliency Investment Program funds wildfire risk reduction activities including cultural and prescribed fire, fuel management planning and treatments, and wildfire risk reduction activities targeting critical infrastructure such as government owned radio repeaters, weather stations, and airtanker bases.

2022-2025, Objective 1.2: Improve community resilience through proactive and collaborative natural hazard management.

1. Delivering funding for activities which 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](#).
2. 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 which encourages fire prevention (risk reduction) activities targeting wildfire management activities in high wildfire risk landscapes.

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



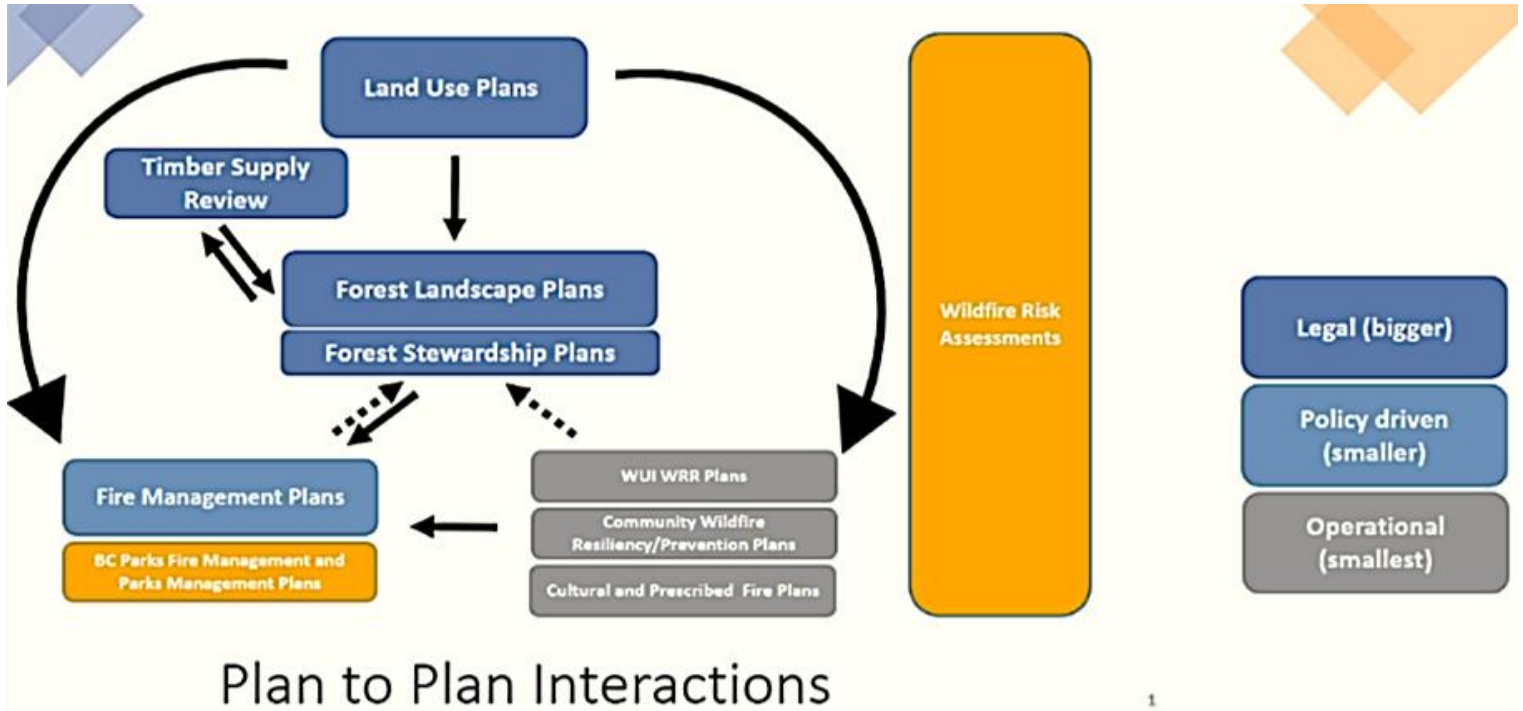
CLWRR Fuel Management projects are prioritized based on their potential to reduce the risk of negative impacts of wildfire in identified values.



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

2 Integrated Planning

There are numerous planning initiatives which are linked to wildfire risk and CRx fire activities. A summary of them is shown in the diagram below:



Specific to the CLWRR program, BC uses Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) and targeted planning to determine where to plan and implement fuel treatments where they are most critical. Geography, ecosystems, and settlement patterns vary widely across the province, and this diversity creates highly variable levels of wildfire threat. Planning at a more targeted, local level is more appropriate and plans such as Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans (CWRP), which were formerly known as Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and WUI WRR Plans will set actionable objectives and targets, especially near communities where the wildfire threat is of greatest concern. WUI WRR Plans are funded through the Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) funding stream under the CRI program. WUI WRR plans, in conjunction with CWRPs, identify logical fuel treatment units, from the [values out](#) to the wildfire threat. WUI WRR plan outcomes include planning and fuel management units in the WUI on provincial crown land. These outcomes are achieved through [a total chance plan approach](#), which ensures the entire area is considered to achieve short and long-term management objectives.

The WUI WRR plan outputs provide situational awareness of the entirety of the planning area. This facilitates the assessment of all completed and planned fuel treatments, natural disturbances, and anthropogenic disturbances. The CLWRR and Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) have invested in many WUI WRR plans of varying scales across BC and are targeting an increased focus on WUI WRR over the next three years. WUI WRR Plans have become a mandatory component of Annual Operating Plans (AOP) for all high priority Risk Class 1 and 2 WUI areas which are currently not covered by a plan.

Given the future trajectory of the CLWRR programs standards for new fuel management and CRx fire projects, they will not be eligible unless they are developed under a WUI WRR Plan in the 2026-2027 AOP planning process. In addition, forest landscape planning was introduced in 2021 and WUI WRR Plans may be used to inform the Forest Landscape Plans (FLP). FLPs will not be a substitute for WUI WRR Plans, which will continue to direct project level threat and fuel treatment planning. With an emphasis on wildfire risk, FLP's will address significant land management complexities related to balancing multiple values across the landscape.

3 Annual Operating Plan (AOP)



Figure 1. CLWRR AOP

The CLWRR Annual Operating Plan is a mandatory three-year plan consisting of a one-year project plan with a two-year project forecast. It presents a prioritized list of Fuel Management and CRx Fire projects, and guides how a [Business Area \(BA\)](#) will use CLWRR funds. AOPs are developed locally by BA staff (Resource District, BC Parks, Mountain Resorts Branch (MRB) staff) with engagement and support from BCWS. There are separate AOPs for fuel management and CRx fire projects.

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

The AOP should outline all CLWRR funded projects which will be delivered during the fiscal year and are forecasted for the following two years. Projects within the AOP, including those forecasted for 2-3 years, should be realistic, and based on capacity and feasibility.

AOP development is led by the BA and requires Fire Centre (FC) engagement and endorsement. Each BA identifies the lead(s) within the BA who are responsible for review and approval of the AOP. BA approved and FC endorsed AOPs 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 towards 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 5 and 6.

3.1 BA Project Design and Development: Collaboration with BCWS

As projects are being determined, Business areas communicate and work collaboratively with the Fire Centre staff and include the Integrated Investment Specialist (IIS).

In regions with large programs, IIS participation is strongly recommended. This will enable the Fire Centre to better understand the needs and priorities of each BA.

Early collaboration with BCWS will provide:

- 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, and WRR funding programs, for consistent coordination and communication across business areas.

3.2 BA/Fire Centre AOP Process

1. Each Business Area will complete an AOP for Fuel Management and CRx Fire which includes projects planned and identified for the next 3 years (1 year plan for the upcoming fiscal year, 2 years to following 2 fiscal years).
2. For **Fuel Management projects** - the three filters outlined in [4.3](#) determine priority of proposed projects.
3. For **CRx Fire projects** – the prioritization criteria are outlined in [5.7](#).
4. The ISS and the relevant Fire Centre within each Region work with the project leads to compile and prioritize projects. Similarly, the relevant Fire Centre works with BC Parks and MRB to compile and prioritize projects.

3.3 Joint collaborative review of Business Area CLWRR AOP's

The ISS will organize and facilitate a joint meeting with the Fire Centre and BA's 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 (FCM) and BA Executive.

3.4 FC Manager/RMT/Business Area Review and Approval

1. The BA's final AOP is to be reviewed/approved by the Fire Centre Manager with BA Management (e.g., MT/RMC).
2. [Regional Management Teams](#) (RMTs) and BA Leads will have the opportunity to review the AOP and endorse, provide comments, or recommend changes prior to final submission of AOP.
3. The Fire Centre Manager will forward the final Fire Centre Regional AOP's to BCWS HQ to be included in provincial review. The HQ Prevention team will review the Fuel Management AOP, and the HQ CRx fire team will review the CRx fire AOP.
4. A copy of the final AOPs complete with FC/RMT approval must be submitted to CRIProgram@gov.bc.ca. A copy of the final AOP can be saved on the CLWRR MS Teams page.

4 CLWR Program Standards and Guidance

All approved CLWRR projects are expected to be consistent with standards provided on the [Tools for Fuel Management](#) page.

The following list includes the standards that are expected to be followed for a CLWRR project. Refer to the Tools for Fuel Management page for these documents.

- WUI WRR Planning Standards
- Critical Surface Fire Intensity tools, and other documents. **All standards must be followed.**

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.

Spatial for all projects outlined in the AOP for the 2025/2026 fiscal will be required to be submitted to the Wildfire One- Prevention application, once launched in spring of 2025.

Spatial data requirements and guidance can be found on the internal CLWRR Geomatics page. Wildfire One- Prevention spatial data requirements and guidance will be released in spring 2025.

5 Fuel Management (FM) Planning and Implementation

Fuel management 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 behaviour triangle which we have the power to manipulate. Fuels management starts with planning, and results in a physical change on the land base to mitigate potential fire behaviour and ultimately increase the probability of suppression success.

5.1 FM Eligible Activities

CLWRR Fuel Management activities will fall within the categories below:

- WUI WRR Planning
- Integrated Fuel Management Planning Tables
- Prescription Development
- Operational Treatments
- Maintenance – Survey
- Maintenance – Operational Treatments
- Other (assessments/surveys – Specific to individual project).

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

5.2 FM Planning Hierarchy and Project Prioritization Criteria

Project Status: Identifies the state of the fuel management project on crown land within the AOP.

1. “In Progress”: have been started in the previous Fiscal Year and will continue into the next AOP.
2. “Carry Over”:
 - a. have an existing project code, or were previously funded, but no work was completed. These projects were previously approved and on a prior AOP.
 - b. are identified as carrying forward into a new phase or were planning and prescription development projects required for operational treatments in the following years (e.g.,

prescription is complete and moving into operational treatment).

3. “New” Projects:

- a. are projects which have not previously been included in an AOP.
- b. are WUI WRR Plans.
 - A mandatory component of AOPs for high priority Risk Classes 1 and 2 WUI areas.
- c. are fuel management projects (not CRx).

NOTE: For 2026/2027 AOP submission, new fuel management projects will only be eligible if they are developed under a WUI WRR plan or rationale supported by FC and BA is included.

- d. include Integrated Fuel Management planning tables for all BAs which are within WUI Risk class 1 and 2 areas.

Projects identified under the “In Progress” status are given priority. Projects in the “Carry Over” status are given priority over “New” projects.

Projects which demonstrate an **elevated level of engagement** and **stakeholder investment** are considered **high priority** (e.g., business areas have spent time building a relationship which has wildfire risk reduction principles). These projects may be identified through various means such as public commitments made by government to a specific area, or expression of interest in WRR activities and funding.

5.3 FM Project Prioritization Process for Fuel Management Projects

There are three primary filters for fuel management 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. 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).

5.4 FM Coarse Fuel Management 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, 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, new, local information which supports wildfire risk, accompanied by appropriate documentation, and supported by the Fire Centre, may be considered. For example, 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 with FC supported rationale included in the AOP.

5.5 FM Medium Filter (Alignment with Government Objectives)

Projects are 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.

Business Areas will evaluate all projects using the evaluation criteria below, 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.** BAs must plan out three years of activities to ensure that the WUI WRR plan and prescription projects are funded in the appropriate year and that additional projects are kept in queue to replace ones which may be delayed or cancelled.

Situational Awareness for other land-based projects (e.g., Municipal, First Nation Reserve, CFA) should be leveraged. These projects may include CRI’s FCFS, which 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, must be consulted as well. This knowledge is incorporated into the prioritization process.

5.6 FM Project Evaluation Medium Filters

1. For projects which are moving into a new phase, the below project priorities are recommended in descending order:
 - a. Phased project implementation – e.g., 5 areas identified, first area completed and moving into second treatment area.
 - b. The 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. New fuel management projects.
 - a. WUI WRR Planning projects are the highest priority in Risk Class 1 and 2 areas.
 - b. Projects which link adjacent fuel management treatments and provide a contiguous area in the landscape (e.g., values out principles).
 - c. Projects around or adjacent to critical infrastructure (CI) within the province. When considering projects which include mitigating risk to critical infrastructure values, the following must be used, in descending order, to consider them:
 - i. Fuel Treatments located in the WUI specifically, including evacuation corridors.
 - ii. Projects focusing on reducing risk to provincially owned critical infrastructure (e.g., MOF radio repeaters and weather stations, provincially owned emergency response buildings)
 - iii. Projects on provincial crown land which reduce threat to provincially identified key facilities (e.g., communication towers used to support emergency response, energy infrastructure etc.)
 - Projects which reduce risk to critical and community drinking watersheds and reservoirs which are located close to a community.
 - Projects which provide benefit to local governments and the province including social and economic benefits such as forest employment, tourism, and recreation.
 - 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.
 - d. Identify the risk to high value community and drinking watersheds within the WUI area.
 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.

5.7 FM Fine Filter (feasibility, project scope, and size at the project level)

The fine filter is used after the medium filter process has been applied, when developing priorities between individual projects which filter out as being relatively equal in project efficacy. 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 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). **Any project which filters out at medium priority 1 will always prioritize/rank higher than projects which filter out at medium priority 2 and below.** The fine filter allows for a more precise ranking of Business Area final projects.

5.8 FM Project Evaluation Fine Filters

The fine filter criteria are utilized in the numerical order below:

1. Project rationale demonstrates the amount (or percentage) of the following in the proposed area:
 - a. high and WUI Risk Class 1 and 2.
 - b. Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) class greater than 7.
 - c. or a combination of one of the two and [ground truthed](#) data showing equivalency.

The intent here is that projects which have a higher percentage of WUI Risk Class area and/or PSTA threat class greater than 7 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 [WUI WRR Plan 2023 Development Standard and Guidance Document](#).
3. Cost effectiveness of the project:
 - a. Pile and burn or fibre utilization opportunities are maximized
 - b. Projects which leverage additional funds from other sources.

6 Cultural and Prescribed (CRx) 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), per 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.

6.1 CRx Fire Eligible Activities

There are four new eligible CRx fire activities:

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

For clarity and simplification, previously recognized eligible activities have been consolidated and aligned within these four broader activities. Refer to Table 1.

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 the [Resources](#) section.

TABLE 1: NEW AND PREVIOUSLY RECOGNIZED CRX ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.

New Eligible Activity	Previously Recognized Eligible Activities
<p style="text-align: center;">Planning and Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Prescription Development” • “Burn Plan Development” • “CRx Fire Scoping Engagement” • “Landscape Level Prescription Scoping and Feasibility Assessment” • “Landscape Level Fuel Management Prescription (<500 Ha)” • “Other (Assessments/Surveys)”
<p style="text-align: center;">Coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Establish of Regional Planning Tables” • “Indigenous Knowledge or Traditional Use Information” • “Knowledge Development Activity”
<p style="text-align: center;">Implementation and Delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Pre-Burn Fuel Management” • “Prescribed Fire Implementation – Burn Preparation Activities” • “Prescribed Fire Implementation – Burn Plan Activities”
<p style="text-align: center;">Monitoring and Maintenance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Prescribed Fire Implementation – Post Burn Activities” • “Prescribed Fire Implementation – Prescribed Fire Effects Monitoring” • “Prescribed Fire Effects Monitoring”

6.2 CRx Planning and Development

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

Prescription Development

- Promoting CRx objectives at initial planning, revising outdated plans to accommodate burning and reflect current conditions, incorporating burning into projects where previously not considered, and developing prescriptions solely for burning.

NOTE: The prescription must include sufficient detail to support the development of a burn plan. This information should cover all aspects necessary to ensure safe and effective implementation, including site specific objectives, fuel characteristics and pre-burn preparation. The prescription must be reviewed for technical feasibility by a CRx fire practitioner.

Burn Plan Development

- Burn plan development actions include 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.

CRx Fire Feasibility Scoping and Engagement

- Scoping and feasibility assessments identify viable, burnable land. Engaging local communities, stakeholders and potential proponents support identifying areas of interest.

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 objectives of Resource Management Open Fire, aligned with guidance to achieve diverse objectives.

Other

- Other actions include additional site assessments, surveys, requiring professional assessments (e.g., geotechnical, archaeological, fire ecologist, range agrologist, etc.), engagement with First Nations to incorporate cultural practices, and traditional ecological knowledge.

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:

Professional Development Workshops

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

Establish Regional Planning Tables

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

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).

Collect Indigenous Knowledge or Traditional Use Information

- Funding for First Nations to gather Indigenous Knowledge or traditional use information to support cultural burning on traditional territory.

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 private landowners.

6.4 CRx Implementation and Delivery

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

Pre-Burn Preparation

- Fire weather index monitoring, public notification, pruning, danger tree removal, and preparing blackline and/or control line development.

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

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, helicopter use (for aerial ignition) as per the approved burn plan and expenses related to local cultural protocols.

Mop-Up, Patrol and Extinguishment

- Contracted mop-up and patrol activities, and assessments.

6.5 *CRx Monitoring and Maintenance*

Monitoring and Maintenance supports environmental recovery, determines project effectiveness, and if objective(s) of the prescription.

Invasive Management and Species Control

- Invasive species management in accordance with the fuel management prescription.

Rehabilitation and Recovery

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

Prescribed Fire Effects Monitoring (FEMO)

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

Reporting and Administration

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

6.6 *CRx Ineligible CRx Fire Activities*

- A. Activities which are legally required and/or recognized through the forest appraisal system are not eligible (e.g., hazard abatement).
- B. Purchase of tools, including capital expenditures (e.g., ignition equipment, pumps, hoses).
- C. Expenses associated with BCWS staff involvement with burn plan development and/or implementation, including travel and overtime where required. These costs are covered under a separate process within BCWS for eligible projects upon approval by the Fire Centre Manager.

NOTE: Regarding BC Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX), an internal payroll process approved by business administrators on how to manage overtime for regional operations may be required. This process might need to be different from standard operating procedures to balance ETO schedules.

- D. Open burning that falls under Category 2 and/or Category 3.

6.7 CRx Fire Planning Hierarchy

CRx 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.

The prioritization criteria do not weigh 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 CRx Fire plans.

6.8 CRx Coarse Fire Filter

CRx Fire projects will be evaluated using a coarse filter first. This filter assists in determining which CRx 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.

6.9 CRx Medium Fire Filter

Next CRx Fire projects will be evaluated using a medium filter. This filter assists in determining which CRx 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.

7 Budget Targets and Project Costs for Planning

For 2025-2026, Mountain Resorts Branch and BC Parks 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 [here](#).

See [Appendix A](#) for a Summary of the 2021 Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis and WUI Risk Class, by Business Area Hectares of PSTA H/E in WUI RC 1 and 2.

See [Appendix C](#) for the Ministry of Forests' 2024/25 - 2026/27 Service Plan Annual Performance Measures expectations in hectares.

8 Key Planning due dates for 2025-26 CLWRR 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 2: WRR KEY PLANNING DATES 2025 - 2026

April 1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release of 2025/26 fiscal budget. Implement AOP.
April to October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority is program implementation for current years. Ongoing until end of fiscal. Review of last year's planning process for opportunity for improvement.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise planning guidance and templates, HQ program prioritization and direction, documents as required. • Begin planning process for development of next fiscal's AOP.
November to January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold annual meetings with BCWS, IIS and Resource Region, NR Districts, BC Parks, and Mountain Resorts Branch. • Business area leads develop AOP for the next fiscal.
January 31 st , 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Centre Annual Operating Plan due to BCWS HQ.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of AOPs by BCWS HQ, revisions made if required.
Feb 27 th , 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOPs finalized and approved by BCWS HQ.
March 14 th , 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notional allocation emails sent out.
June 27 th , 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal signed allocation letters sent out.

9 Acronyms

For a full list of acronyms, see [Acronyms - BC Wildfire Service](#)

AOI	Area of Interest
AOP	Annual Operating Plan
BC TREX	BC Training Exchange (Prescribed Fire)
BCWS	BC Wildfire Service
CLWRR	Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction
CRI	Community Resiliency Investment
CRx	Cultural and Prescribed Fire
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plans
CWRP	Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans
FEMO	Fire Effects Monitoring
FESBC	Forest Enhancement Society of BC
FLP	Forest Landscape Plan
FNESS	First Nations' Emergency Services Society of BC
FCFS	FireSmart Community Funding and Supports
FRPA	Forest and Range Practices Act
UBCM	Union of BC Municipalities
WRR	Wildfire Risk Reduction
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface

10 Glossary of Terms

Annual Operating Plan (AOP) – Plans that outline specific project activities and strategies to be implemented within a given year to manage natural resources. To ensure all projects within the plan align with resource management objectives, environmental standards, and legal requirements.

BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) – Government agency that manages wildfires through a combination of wildfire prevention, mitigation and suppression strategies, on both Crown and private lands outside of organized areas such as municipalities or regional districts.

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.

Category 1, Campfire – Defined as any fire no larger than 0.5 meters high by 0.5 meters wide used by any person for recreational purposes or by a First Nation for a ceremonial purpose.

Category 2, Open Burn – Defined as any fire(s), other than a campfire that burn: i) material in one pile not exceeding 2 metres in height and 3 meters in width, ii) material concurrently in 2 piles each not exceeding 2 meters in height and 3 meters in width, iii) stubble or grass over an area that does not exceed 0.2 hectares.

Category 3, Open Burn – Defined as an open fire that burns: i) material concurrently in 3 or more piles each not exceeding 2 meters in height and 3 meters in width, ii) material in one or more piles each exceeding 2 meters in height or 3 meters in width, iii) one or more windrows, none of which exceed 200 meters in length or 15 meters in width, iv) stubble or grass over an area exceeding 0.2 hectares.

Category 4, Resource Management Open Fire – Defined as prescribed fire which is the deliberate use of fire to achieve a range of land stewardship objectives. It can help reduce the intensity of naturally occurring wildfires while returning an integral process to the land base. Some common objectives include public safety and wildfire risk reduction, improved wildlife habitat, revitalized vegetation and ecosystem health.

Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) – Program administered through the Ministry of Forests in collaboration with the BC Wildfire Service, Natural Resource Regions and Districts, BC Parks, and Mountain Resorts Branch. This program uses both fuel management and cultural and prescribed fire practices to strategically focus on mitigating wildfire risks on provincial Crown lands situated around communities.

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.

Cultural and Prescribed Fire (CRx) Program – Provincial program working to support the expanded use of controlled or managed fire on the land base. Our end goal is a modern, long-lasting program and policy framework, developed in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, whose use of fire in their land stewardship dates back to time immemorial.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) – Plan that defines the risk from wildfires in an identified area, identifies measures necessary to mitigate those risks and outlines a plan of action to implement the measures.

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.

Fire Centre (FC) – The Province of BC is divided into six regional fire centers being 1) Cariboo, 2) Coastal, 3) Kamloops, 4) Northwest, 5) Prince George, 6) Southeast where each center is responsible for wildfire management within its boundaries. These are further divided into local fire zones.

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 Centre Manager (FCM) – Individual responsible for BC Wildfire Service expense authority and approval of use of resources and operational funding.

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 Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) – Program provides funding under direction from the government of BC, to support innovative projects, delivered by Indigenous groups, communities, and contractors, which ensure value is generated from residual forest waste while reducing the risk from wildfires.

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

First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) – Charitable non-profit organization incorporated under the society act of BC. With the support of the First Nation Leadership Council, FNESS is the organization that communities reach out to support and delivery of essential emergency and forest fuel management programs and services.

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

Ground truth- Field confirmed through direct observation.

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 will reduce 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.).

Prescribed (Rx) Fire – The planned and controlled application of fire to a specific land area used to achieve a variety of land management objectives, including but not limited to public safety and wildfire risk reductions, preserving Indigenous cultural values, improved wildlife habitat, revitalized vegetation, and protecting local economies.

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.

Total chance plan – A decision making and risk management strategy that considers a wide range of potential outcomes and uncertainties associated with a given situation. It involves evaluating the probabilities and impacts of different scenarios, rather than focusing solely on the most likely or the most extreme cases.

Values-Out - The spatial prioritization of fuel treatment locations, whereby targeted treatments are primarily located directly adjacent to the values at risk being mitigated, and subsequent treatments are

located adjacent to these, further into the wildland.

Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) – The reduction of probability of fire occurrence, likely fire behaviour or expected impacts to values singly or in any combination of the three. Actions may range from reducing occurrence through closures to fuels treatments to reduce fire behaviour to FireSmart actions designed to reduce values flammability.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) – As defined in the FireSmart manual, the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is any area where combustible wildland fuels are found adjacent to homes, farm structures or other outbuildings. This may occur at the interface, where development and wildland fuels (vegetation) meet at a well-defined boundary, or in the intermix, where development and wildland fuels intermingle with no clearly defined boundary. For the purposes of the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative funding program(s) the WUI is the area within two kilometers of a community with a minimum density of 6 structures per square kilometer.

11 Resources

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

TABLE 3. CROWN LAND WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION RESOURCE LISTING

<p>CLWRR Program Email</p> <p>Send all inquiries to the Community Resiliency Investment Program general inbox.</p>	<p>criprogram@gov.bc.ca</p>
<p>Tools for Fuel Management</p> <p>In preparing to develop a treatment plan to mitigate wildfire threat near values at risk, find the latest resources to support developing treatment options and prescribing a treatment plan.</p>	<p>Tools for Fuel Management</p>
<p>BCWS CRx Fire Intranet</p> <p>Access the latest resources to support every phase of burning, from planning and delivery, to achieve a wide range of land stewardship goals.</p>	<p>BCWS CRx Fire Intranet</p>
<p>CLWRR Program Intranet</p> <p>Access the latest resources to support every phase of CLWRR planning, prescription development, operational treatment. Includes guidance documents, geomatics resources, and position resourcing.</p>	<p>BCWS CLWRR Program Intranet</p>

Appendix A: Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis and WUI Risk Class

SUMMARY OF 2021 PSTA AND WUI RISK CLASS BY BUSINESS AREA HECTARES WUI RC 1 AND 2

Natural Resource District	District Hectares	District %	Mtn. Resorts	BC Parks PA
100 Mile House	56,423	6.3%		1,202
Cariboo-Chilcotin	79,957	8.9%		1,186
Quesnel	25,132	2.8%		970
CARIBOO REGION TOTAL	161,512	18.1%	N/A	N/A
Cascades	82,909	9.3%		5,479
Okanagan Shuswap	134,365	15.0%	2,775	13,649
Thompson Rivers	89,246	10.0%	2,802	7,120
THOMPSON OKANAGAN REGION TOTAL	306,520	34.3%		
Selkirk	144,854	16.2%	4,249	6,842
Rocky Mountain	66,462	7.4%	1,447	992
KOOTENAY-BOUNDARY REGION TOTAL	211,316	23.6%	N/A	N/A
Fort Nelson	14,154	1.6%		
Peace	24,548	2.7%		82
NORTHEAST REGION TOTAL	38,703	4.3%	N/A	N/A
Mackenzie	9,113	1.0%		464
Prince George	45,442	5.1%		2,270
Stuart Nechako	19,565	2.2%		914
OMINECA REGION TOTAL	74,120	8.3%	N/A	N/A
Nadina	25,255	2.8%		137

Skeena Stikine	23,187	2.6%	1,231	1,808
Coast Mountains	419	0.0%		
SKEENA REGION TOTAL	48,861	5.5%	N/A	N/A
		5.5%		
North Island - Central Coast	1,256	0.1%		
South Island	3,425	0.4%		1,423
WEST COAST REGION TOTAL	4,680	0.5%	N/A	N/A
Chilliwack	24,934	2.8%	1,367	549
Sea to Sky	23,397	2.6%	1,633	1,207
SOUTHCOAST REGION TOTAL	48,331	5.4%	N/A	N/A
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%

Appendix B: Cultural and Prescribed Fire Targets by Year

The Ministry monitors progress towards its objective through performance measure 2.1, which demonstrates progress towards building and implementing a cultural and prescribed burning program with First Nations.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
2.1 Number of cultural and prescribed fire projects developed by or co-developed with First Nations ^{1,2,3}	3	26	40	60	85

Data source: BCWS prescribed fire provincial project data tracking spreadsheet

¹“Cultural and prescribed fire” is defined by the Wildfire Regulation as Resource Management Open Fire and includes the use of fire by government for purposes established in Section 18 of the [Wildfire Act](#); “Developed by First Nations” is a BCWS-approved independently developed First Nations’ burn plan. “Co-developed with First Nations” is: a First Nation actively engaged in project development, a First Nation is a burn plan co-proponent, or where cultural burning is the primary objective.

²The reporting period for this performance measure is January 1 to December 31.

³This performance measure was tracked under Goal 1 in the 2023/24 – 2025/26 service plan.

Appendix C: Ministry of Forests' 2024/25 - 2026/27 Service Plan Annual Performance Measures (Ha)

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Target ¹	2025/26 Target ¹	2026/27 Target ¹
3.1 Area treated with the priority objective of reducing wildfire risk in and around communities and critical infrastructure (ha)	3,000	4,500	5,000	9,000	9,000

Data source: BC Wildfire Service

¹Includes fuel management activities completed by the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC), as reported in the FESBC 2024/25-2026/27 Service Plan.

Through the BC Wildfire Service, the Community Resiliency Investment Program funds wildfire risk reduction activities including cultural and prescribed fire, fuel management planning and treatments, and wildfire risk reduction activities targeting critical infrastructure such as government owned radio repeaters, weather stations, and airtanker bases. The BC Wildfire Service uses its Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Class Framework to support and prioritize these wildfire risk reduction initiatives and improve public safety.

Performance measure 3.1 is new to the 2024/25 service plan, and reports the area of completed fuel management activities with a primary objective of reducing wildfire risk by modifying forest fuel attributes around communities. The targets are set using a trend-based analysis, and data is collected through various programs and initiatives such as BC Wildfire Service spatial databases.

In the short to medium-term, targets reflect the planning activities (Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans, WUI Wildfire Risk Reduction Plans and Fuel Management Prescriptions) needed before operational fuel management activities can take place. Over the longer term as the program evolves, a percentage of hectares treated will be maintenance (e.g. prescribed fire, brushing to manage surface fuel) of existing fuel breaks to ensure they maintain