

Fire Hazard Assessment & Abatement Roadmap

2024 – 2027

Last updated: August 2026

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Document History

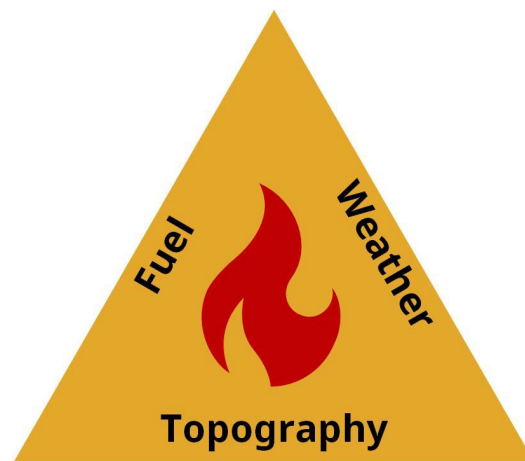
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1	Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement Roadmap (2024-2027)	May 2024
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Introduction

From a wildfire management perspective, fuel is the part of the wildfire behaviour triangle that can be the most directly managed.

Effective fuel management can modify potential fire behaviour and its effects, which have significant implications for fire suppression and management success.

In British Columbia, the [Wildfire Act](#) requires anyone conducting industrial or prescribed activities to assess and abate generated fire hazards. This legislation, in its intent, ensures that fire hazards are identified, and fuel hazards are abated promptly to prevent them from increasing the potential fire behavior and suppression effort associated with a fire start.



The wildfire behaviour triangle

Protecting the wildland-urban interface (WUI) is essential to prevent undue fire damage to communities, buildings, critical infrastructure, and other significant values. Although it is widely recognized that implementing fire hazard assessment and abatement (FHAA) principles in the WUI and around critical infrastructure is vital to protect human life and property, it is increasingly important to apply FHAA principles beyond the WUI and over the wider land base to increase the wildfire resistance of these values and enhance the resilience of forests and other areas susceptible to wildfires.

As B.C.'s landscapes undergo physical and socio-economic changes, there is a growing need to modernize forest practices. Legislative reforms including [recent changes](#) to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and associated regulations are underway to address these shifting realities and build a more resilient, adaptive forest management framework. At the same time, it is essential that government ensures due diligence in completing root cause analysis to ensure these changes are necessary and not pursuing foundational changes when addressing shortcomings through improvements in implementation, education, compliance support and stakeholder engagement is more appropriate.

This Roadmap was developed from the perspective of BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) staff by the Fire and Fuels Management section. Intended as a transparent, "glass-door" document for all operators, it draws on internal interviews, operational experience, and references including legislation, Forest Practices Board (FPB) reports, Forest Appeals Commission (FAC) decisions, and other supporting materials.

Brief History of Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement Governance in British Columbia

Since the enactment of the *Forest Act*, legislation to mitigate fire risks associated with industrial and prescribed activities has been implemented to varying degrees.

Prior to the [1990s](#), broadcast burning was a widely adopted tool for reducing fire risks associated with forest operations and was often viewed as the operational counterpart to clearcuts. Over time, due to factors including growing concerns over smoke and WUI fire impacts, government regulations have progressively sought to control and address the use of open fire and alternatives to abate fuel hazards on the land base.

Legislative changes have caused mixed impacts on FHAA practice. The summary below briefly describes the legislative history of fire hazard assessment and abatement in BC.

The *Forest Act* of 1912 authorized the Minister to declare debris a public nuisance and required abatement. Slash and snag disposal obligations were linked to public safety and Crown authority.

1938 Amendments to the *Forest Act* institutionalized prescribed fire for hazard abatement in BC. This law made annual slash and snag abatement mandatory in the Vancouver Forest District, introduced fines and refund mechanisms and allowed exemptions.

1946 Amendments to the *Forest Act* significantly expanded enforcement tools and operational safeguard requirements, added deposit and fire liability rules, and transitioned from blanket requirements to directive-triggered slash disposal.

1967 Amendments to the *Forest Act* extended slash disposal obligations to the entire province, focusing on security-based enforcement rather than per-acre fines and refunds. The intention shifted toward a more administratively streamlined and flexible framework.

The *Forest Act* of 1979 replaced the 'much-amended' *Forest Act* of 1912 and fully institutionalized the 1967 security-based enforcement model, embedding it in a clear statutory framework, empowering local officials to administer it, and replacing rigid penalties with more flexible, performance-based compliance tools.

The *Forest Practices Code Act* of 1994 and associated *Forest Fire Prevention and Suppression Regulation* evolved BC's approach to slash and snag management from a regionally enforced fire prevention measure to a standardized, proactive, legal obligation governed by prescriptive fire hazard definitions and timelines.

The *Wildfire Act* of 2004 and associated *Regulation* represented a move from standardized, one-size-fits-all rules to a risk-based, operator-specific framework. This approach broadened responsibility while providing greater flexibility to competent professionals but also demanding stronger due diligence. However, while it offered essential flexibility, it also created ambiguities that made enforcement more difficult and resource intensive.

Current State: Fire Hazard Assessments

To be effective, the current results-based framework requires well-trained staff and a cultural shift toward proactive self-regulation, which isn't always fully realized in practice.

Fire hazard assessments are a legislative requirement in BC, however there are widespread inconsistencies in how they are conducted. [Section 11 \(4\)](#) of the Wildfire regulation specifies that anyone required to conduct a fire hazard assessment under section 7 (1) of the *Wildfire Act* must:

- a) Ensure that the fire hazard assessment includes an assessment of the fuel hazard **and** its associated risk of a fire starting or spreading, **and**
- b) Provide a copy of the fire hazard assessment when requested to do so by an official.

While overall compliance has improved since the [2008](#) Forest Practices Board (FPB) Special Investigation Report (SIR) into FHAA, similar patterns persist. Common areas of non-compliance with the *Wildfire Act* include:

- Assessments not being completed.
- Assessments failing to adequately evaluate risk.
- Assessments not being completed on time.



Incomplete or poorly executed fire hazard assessments undermine effective abatement efforts. By contrast, the FPBs recent [Help or Hinder](#) SIR emphasized that early integration of fire hazard assessment and abatement into activity planning helps meet legislative requirements, supports wildfire management objectives, and prevents hazards from escalating into seasonal threats.

Further, while it is not emphasized in SIRs, the main finding is a systemic lack of awareness of the current rules. The *Wildfire Act* and Regulation set the baseline for FHAA, but professional



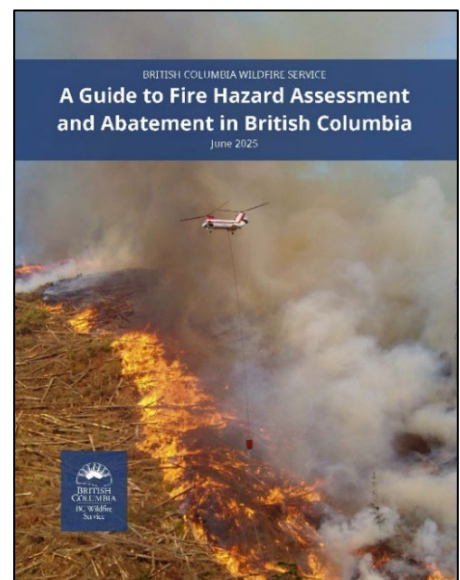
standards may dictate additional measures to fulfill professional practice requirements. Assessment processes must meet the letter of the *Wildfire Act* **and** uphold public interest. Specifically, requirements under Forest Professionals BC (FPBC) [Bylaws](#) and direction from FPBC [guidelines](#) and [competence standards](#). When operators overlook the full results-based framework, it can lead to excess fuel loading and increase wildfire risks: creating wildfire control difficulties and increasing fire behaviour, when wildfire-abatement area interactions occur.

Better education and engagement are required to build fire hazard assessment expertise. In the past, BC Wildfire has developed guidance and tools to assist licensees, consultants, and other professionals conducting assessments. One such tool is [*A Guide to Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement in B.C.*](#) ('The Guide') which was updated in June 2025.

This Guide includes a Defined Hazard Assessment and Abatement Strategy (DHAAS) that helps users meet the requirements of Section 7 of the *Wildfire Act*. The key objectives of the 2025 update were to strengthen professional capacity to:

- Understand legislated requirements.
- Complete accurate fire hazard assessments.
- Prescribe effective abatement treatments.

While no single solution will resolve the current challenges, these efforts are part of a broader set of initiatives aimed at reintegrating fire management into forest management practices. In alignment with the need for proactive self-regulation under the current framework, the path to addressing these issues begins with forest professionals.



Current State: Fire Hazard Abatement

Fire hazard abatement is a legislative requirement in British Columbia.

In recent years, wildfires have occurred in areas where varying levels of fuel hazard abatement have been completed following industrial and prescribed activities. The resulting site conditions influenced fire behaviour and suppression efforts in variable ways and to differing degrees.

While the severity of recent wildfire seasons has drawn attention to the issue, the underlying challenges have been known for years (see page 6).

Currently, [category 3 open fire](#) remains one of the common methods used for abating fuel hazards. Utilization efficiencies are helping to reduce overall burning volumes, but substantial amounts of fuel hazards are still being created and piled for open burning.

When proactive self-regulation is not realized, limited staffing and resources, particularly in remote areas, can prevent government agencies like Compliance and Enforcement and the BC Wildfire Service from verifying whether fuel hazards have been satisfactorily abated. As a result, debris piles created through industrial or prescribed activities are sometimes left unburned or unmanaged, increasing the risk of wildfire ignition and making suppression more difficult when fires occur.

Reports Related to Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement in B.C.

[Wildfire hazard assessment and abatement - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

Firestorm 2003 Provincial Review : [bcws_firestormreport_2003.pdf](#)

BC Forest Practices Board:

[Wildfire & Forestry in BC: Help or Hinder? | FPB Report 2025](#)

[Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement - FPB/SIR/24](#)

[Wildfire Act Determinations – FPB/SIR/54](#)

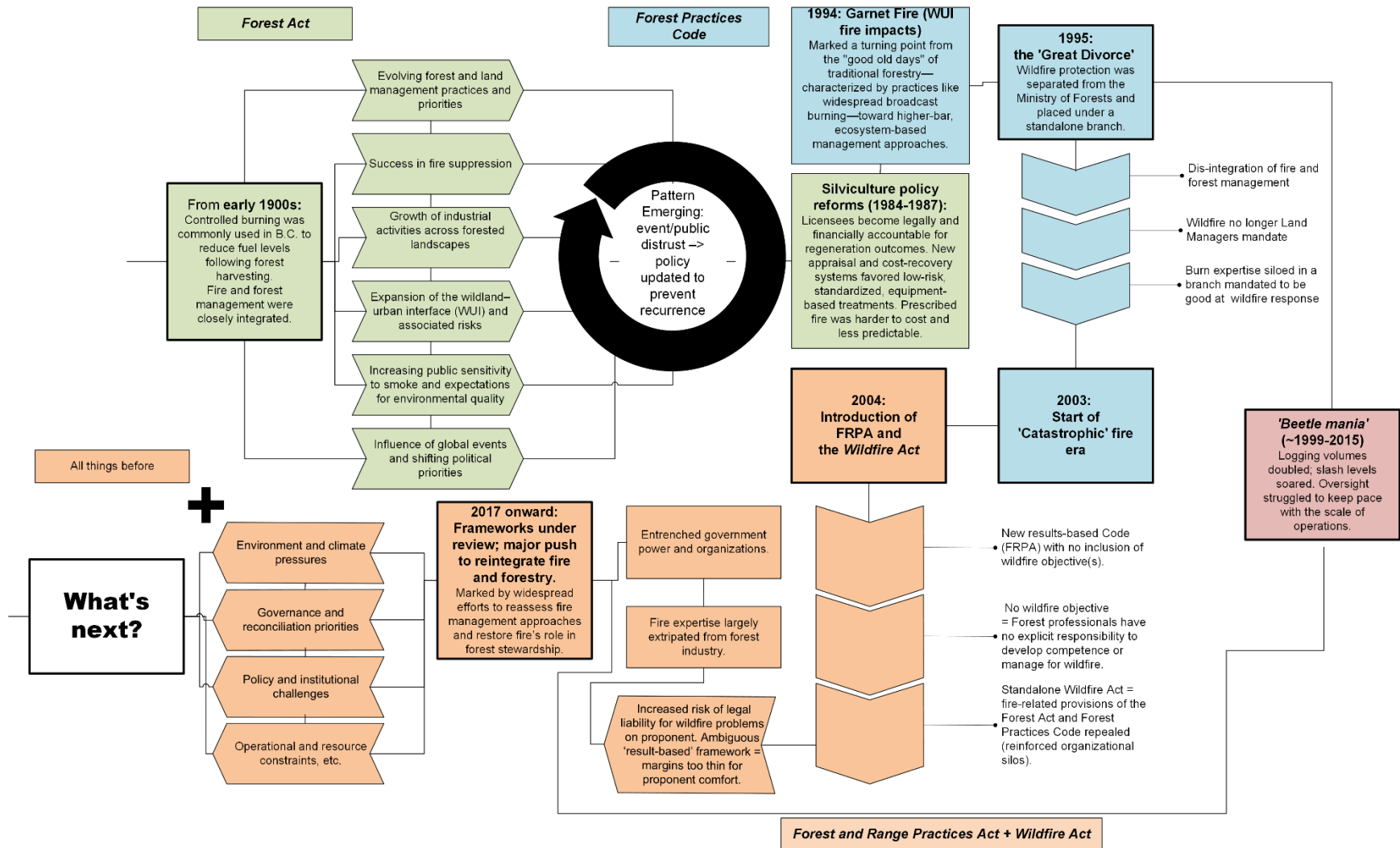
[Fire Hazard Abatement and the Shovel Lake Wildfire – Complaint Investigation – FBC/ICR/221](#)

BC Forest Appeals Commission:

[Decision NO. 2017-WFA-003\(a\)](#)

[Decision NO. 2012-WFA-001\(a\)](#)

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Future State

Looking forward, effective fire hazard assessment and abatement (FHAA) will play a critical role in advancing government mandates to protect public safety, communities, and infrastructure from wildfires. It will also improve wildfire response effectiveness by applying principles that enhance landscape resilience and reduce generated fuel-related risks.

However, modernizing land and forestry management in British Columbia requires navigating a complex set of emerging realities, including:

- Environmental and climate pressures, such as climate change and carbon emission reduction targets.
- Governance and reconciliation priorities including First Nations reconciliation.
- Operational and resource constraints, including a limited workforce, high costs associated with open burning alternatives, and liability concerns tied to prescribed fire



- Policy and institutional challenges, such as siloed agency mandates, social and land-use pressures including wildland urban interface expansion, and public concerns about smoke and fire safety.
- Economic influences, including timber pricing and current harvesting practices.

As landscape conditions, policy priorities, and social expectations continue to evolve, competing objectives are emerging that will significantly shape how wildfire risk is managed across B.C. These challenges are underpinned by complex science and nuanced trade-offs, particularly in balancing ecological resilience, economic activity, and public safety.

Achieving the government's wildfire management objectives will require clear prioritization, cross-ministry coordination, and the development of complementary policies and legislation. In some cases, major investments may be needed to demonstrate new approaches and navigate necessary trade-offs.

Leadership at the Minister and Deputy Minister level will be essential to set strategic direction, resolve tensions between competing mandates, and guide coordinated action.

A well-designed provincial FHAA program grounded in legislation, policy, guidance, research, engagement and education will be foundational to advancing these efforts and strengthening landscape resilience across British Columbia.

Reports Related to Dynamic Dispositions:

[Clean BC Roadmap 2030](#)

[Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy: Actions for 2022-2025](#)

[BC Flood and Wildfire Review](#)

[Residual Fibre Utilization Policy - Province of British Columbia](#)

[Forest Carbon Information Notes - Module 5: Utilization and Residue Burning](#)

[Modernizing Forest Policy in British Columbia](#)

[Forest Landscape Planning Bulletin - FLNORD](#)

[Silvicultural Systems Handbook for BC](#)

[FACTSHEET: Reforestation in B.C. | BC Gov News](#)



Roadmap Priorities

The priorities identified in this Roadmap outline opportunities to address FHAA-related issues by establishing strategies, timelines, and outcomes to achieve themed objectives.

Some items in this document cannot be resolved solely by BC Wildfire Service (BCWS). Therefore, collaboration and teamwork will play a crucial role in the success of this Roadmap. Although BCWS staff will serve as subject matter experts in technical fire hazard assessment and abatement, relying on other provincial ministries, organizations, and departments of the Ministry of Forests (FOR) will be necessary for broader and more balanced successes.

This is a living document, and while not all objectives will be immediately solvable, they may serve as problem statements for government leadership.

Vision

- To be a leader in fire hazard assessment and abatement management creating a healthier and more wildfire resilient province

Mission

- To lead and support initiatives that meet identified objectives within the BC Wildfire Service.
- To provide subject matter expertise and leadership when working with other departments and agencies within government to collaboratively meet identified objectives that are supported by executives.
- To provide the support and guidance to First Nations, government, industry, and consultants that effectively reduces wildfire risk, while increasing wildfire resiliency, through standardized and practical FHAA practice(s) and program(s).

Priority Objectives

Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement priorities are divided into five core objectives.

1. **Legislation and Policy:** Contribute, collaborate, and support legislative amendments and policy changes that create an environment that encourages actions leading to effective assessment and abatement practice.
2. **Compliance and Enforcement:** Identify and support business opportunities and technology that increase compliance and enforcement.
3. **Guidance:** Update existing guidance documents and develop new, best management practices that facilitate an advancement in practice.
4. **Equipment and Technology:** Promote tools, technology and research that enhance effective practice.
5. **Education and Engagement:** Develop curriculum that improves professional practice and engagement strategies that inform government and the forest industry on their obligations and safety requirements.

Timelines

Items identified in the Roadmap are assigned a stage, fire and fuels management lead, and estimated completion date. Stages are defined as follows:

- **Early scoping:** Initiation - Item is defined on a broad level.
- **Advanced scoping:** Initiation - Item is being researched and assessed for risk and feasibility.
- **Building:** Planning - Item is being developed and prepared for deployment.
- **Implementing:** Execution - Item is being deployed, tracked, and monitored for progress and improvement.
- **Closing:** Completion - Item is evaluated for successes and failures.

Legislation and Policy

Objective 1.1

Strategy: Support and contribute to issues analyses regarding the *Wildfire Act's* Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement framework and incorporate approved elements into new, updated guidance and policy to promote a consistent, coordinated approach across all relevant practices and initiatives.

Priority: **High**

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
Support BCWS policy analysts on an issues analysis regarding the current fire hazard assessment and abatement requirements in the <i>Wildfire Act</i> s.7 and Wildfire Regulation ss.11-12.	Implementing	Wildfire Prevention Officer (WPO) FHAA	Ongoing
Develop interpretive policy for the Wildfire Regulation ss.11-12.	Advanced scoping	WPO FHAA	2027
Support BCWS policy analysts on an issues analysis regarding the application of the <i>Wildfire Act</i> , including the area of accelerated FHAA timelines defined in the Wildfire Regulation s.11 (2).	Building	WPO FHAA	Ongoing
Support BCWS policy analysts on an issues analysis regarding the definition of industrial, prescribed and high-risk activities.	Building	WPO FHAA	Ongoing
Support and contribute to the Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) Task Teams regarding wildfire management.	Building	Superintendent (Supt.) Fuel Management (FM)	Ongoing

Linkages: FHAA Guide and actions associated with objectives 2-5, specifically compliance (objective 2) and guidance (objective 3).

Sequencing: Actions and products associated with this recommendation are already underway. Although they are not contingent upon work associated with other objectives, they may be influenced in the future by the results of other work undertaken.

Outcomes:

- Policies to help operators and internal staff navigate challenging language in the existing legislative framework and proactively comply with FHAA requirements.
- Updated 'interface' definition in 11 (2) to ensure accelerated FHAA timelines are effectively mapped onto interface areas to adequately reflect the higher threat to human life, dwellings and infrastructure.
- Updated definitions to ensure fire hazard producing activities appropriately trigger fire hazard assessment and abatement requirements under the *Wildfire Act*.
- Increased consistency and effectiveness in FHAA practice.
- Strong baseline for FLPs task teams to augment and build upon.

Objective 1.2

Strategy: Work with partnering agencies to explore other regulatory and policy options to incentivize effective FHAA on the land base.

Priority: High

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
Support the cultural and prescribed fire (C&Rx) framework modernization, including potential litigation, policy and appraisal updates.	Building	Supt. FM	Ongoing
Partner with MOECC to clarify access and appropriate circumstances for Section 29 of the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR).	Building	WPO FHAA	Ongoing
Enhance reporting requirements for FHAA.	Advanced scoping	WPO FHAA	2027
Participate in the provincial Commercial Thinning working group to ensure any WRR related guidance aligns with fire behaviour realities, the <i>Wildfire Act</i> and Regulation and existing BCWS guidance and best management practices.	Closing	WPO FHAA	Complete '26

Support FPBC on a FHAA specific competency. Refer to FPBC competence standards .	Advanced scoping	Supt. FM (WPO FHAA)	2026
Review the broader impacts of the current timber pricing and waste and residue policies on FHAA practices.	Early scoping	WPO FHAA	2026/2027+
Support BC Timber Sales' integration into wildfire risk reduction (WRR) initiatives.	Early scoping	Supt. FM (WPO FHAA)	Ongoing

Linkages: Identified items broadly link to all other objectives in this Roadmap.

Sequencing: Actions and products associated with this recommendation are already underway. Although they are not contingent upon work associated with other objectives, they may be influenced in the future by the results of other work undertaken.

Outcomes:

- Tools/levers to incentivize and assist compliance with legislation and policy updates.
- Increased professional accountability regarding FHAA activities.
- Traceable record for all agreement holders (which may provide data for future projects, projections, or policies)
- Increased opportunity for industry implementation of Rx fire; incentivizing:
 - Industrial activity related landscape level fuel hazard reduction.
 - Potential progress toward BCWS mandate: encourage sustainable, healthy, and resilient ecosystems.
- Increased cross-ministry alignment in support of mutual mandate achievement between BCWS, BCTS and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.
- Strengthened case for investment in, or piloting of, alternatives to open burning.
- Increased direction for forestry professionals on scope of practice considerations regarding FHAA.

Compliance and Enforcement

Objective 2.1

Strategy: Review all internal FHAA Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) and Procedure (SOP) documents for relevant and required updates. Assess requirements for additional process and protocol tools.

Priority: **High**

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
Update the BCWS – Natural Resource Officer Service Joint SOG for FHAA.	Closing	WPO FHAA	Complete '25 Updated '26

Linkages: Any future changes to the FHAA Guide, the *Wildfire Act* and Regulation. There are also identified linkages to training currency and curriculum development (objective 5).

Sequencing: Actions and products associated with this objective are already underway. Although they are not contingent upon work associated with other recommendations, they may be influenced in the future by the results of other work undertaken.

Outcomes:

- Updated guidelines to ensure consistency in approach to investigating identified FHAA compliance concerns in BC.
- Standardized procedures to ensure clear roles and responsibilities for NROS and BCWS on compliance and enforcement proceedings.

Objective 2.2

Strategy: Research and assess existing platforms for new FHAA framework opportunities to increase and improve data accessibility for Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

Priority: **High**

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
Research OFTS for opportunity for registrants to report back on category 3 and 4 burn completion.	Advanced scoping	WPO FHAA	2027
Support development of an FHAA reporting framework within RESULTS.	Advanced scoping	WPO FHAA	2027+

Linkages: *Wildfire Act* updates, training & enforcement currency as changes occur because of actions associated with other objectives.

Sequencing: Actions are dependent upon and/or will be influenced by the timing of other objectives within this Roadmap, specifically objective 1.1.

Outcomes:

- Increased capacity within RESULTS for FHAA activity reporting.
- Improved coordination of enforcement programs.
- A centralized and accessible tool for tracking and monitoring FHAA activities across the landscape, specifically for completion and compliance.
- A platform to monitor, inform and improve the FHAA program into the future.
- Potential integration of FHAA into eligibility criteria for relief funding (e.g. FRPA s.108).
- FLPs?

Objective 2.3

Strategy: Re-assess the Waste in Block Arc GIS prototype as an online tool to monitor industrial activities and abatement in BC (linked to objective 2.2). Explore opportunities to integrate this functionality into the internal Wildfire One (WF1) portal or Tactical Analyst (TA).

Priority: **High**

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
To be informed by 2.2	Early scoping	WPO FHAA	Dependent on potential RESULTS, OFTS updates

Linkages: Changes could be incorporated or appended into existing SOGs/SOPs (objective 2.1), and the FHAA Guide (objective 3.1). Consider incorporation into the interaction program (objective 3.4) and training initiatives (objective 5) following product development.

Sequencing: Portions of work associated with this recommendation may not be contingent on other actions and could begin anytime. Specific details within an electronic assessment application or tool will need to be informed by any changes to the FHAA Guide or *Wildfire Act*.

Outcomes:

- A robust data library that communicates with various platforms (RESULTS, Wildfire One, OFTS, Waste System, Forest Tenure Administration System, etc.) to provide comprehensive province wide FHAA analysis.
- Tool to enable risk-based oversight (BCWS can target late/missing declarations for compliance inspections).
- Increased data accessibility to inform BCWS modelling and operational decisions.

Guidance

Objective 3.1

Strategy: Rewrite the fire hazard assessment and abatement guidance document to align with current policy, up-to-date science and fuel management best practices. Expand upon the current methodology to include language that speaks directly to managing fine fuels and more specific instruction on how to complete fire hazard assessments.

Priority: High

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
Rewrite the Guide to Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement .	Closing	WPO FHAA	Complete '25
Develop an internal Survey123 form and dashboard. Research opportunities to integrate these tools into WF1 and TA.	Building	WPO FHAA	2027+
Support the release of the new Guide with a webinar hosted by FPBC and a high-level summary published in the BC Forest Professional magazine.	Closing	WPO FHAA	Complete '25
Continue updating the Guide based on feedback, updated policy and advancements in science.	Implementing	WPO FHAA	Ongoing

Linkages: There are identified linkages to the potential *Wildfire Act* & Regulation updates, compliance (objective 2), research and technology (objective 4), and education and engagement (objective 5).

Sequencing: Actions and products associated with this objective are already underway.

Outcomes:

- Up to date and specific FHAA guidance to help increase professionals' ability to interpret legislated requirements, complete accurate fire hazard assessments and prescribe effective abatement treatments; Including:

- Clear information on the linkages between fuels and fire behavior, suppression, and management to help professionals interpret and implement legislated objectives to individual sites.
- Content targeted at risk identification to reinforce accurate and site-appropriate prescriptions.
- Increased internal coordination and tracking of WRR related FHAA activities.

Objective 3.2

Strategy: Support BCWS programs in the modernization and advancement of the cultural and prescribed (C&Rx) fire training, guidance, and best management practices.

Priority: High

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
Support BCWS programs to develop burn unit layout guidance and best management practices.	Building	WPO FM	2026
Participate in the C&Rx working group.	Early scoping	WPO FM	Ongoing

Linkages: Potential *Wildfire Act* & Regulation updates, compliance (objective 2), objectives 3.1 and 3.3, research and technology (objective 4), and education and engagement (objective 5).

Sequencing: Actions and products associated with this objective are already underway. Work in this regard is not necessarily dependent upon timing of other recommendation initiatives; however, it will have an impact/influence on the identified linkages.

Outcomes:

- Greater alignment and continuity between BCWS programs.
- Increased direction in guidance and policy documents.
- Increased opportunity for industry implementation of Rx fire; Incentivizing:
 - Industrial activity related landscape level fuel hazard reduction.
 - Potential progress toward BCWS mandate: encourage sustainable, healthy, and resilient ecosystems.

Objective 3.3

Strategy: Review all FHAA best management practices documents for relevant and required updates and assess requirements for additional guidance.

Priority: High

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
Update the FHAA Q&A document	Closing	WPO FHAA	Complete '24
Update the Industrial Woody Debris Management Best Practices document	Closing	WPO FHAA, WT FM	Complete '25
Analyze the various existing recent, and older, photo fuel plot guides for amalgamation, required updates and supplementation.	Advanced scoping	WPO FHAA	2027
Develop comparative fire hazard assessment guidance utilizing the next generation Canadian Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) System.	Early scoping	WPO FHAA	Dependent on release of Next generation FBP system

Linkages: Updates to the FHAA Guide. There are also identified linkages to the potential *Wildfire Act* & Regulation updates, compliance (objective 2), research and technology (objective 4), and education and engagement (objective 5).

Sequencing: Actions and products associated with this objective are already underway.

Outcomes:

- Increased practitioner accessibility to the most accurate and up to date FHAA information, tools, and guidance.
- Increased consistency in FHAA practices.

Objective 3.4

Strategy: Coordinate production of new media to communicate importance of FHAA (i.e. human life and safety, landscape resiliency, etc.) and its effect on wildfire behaviour.

Priority: Medium

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
Engage with BCWS videographers to inventory relevant footage and brainstorm project ideas. Develop FHAA video.	Advanced scoping	WPO FHAA	2027+
Explore FHAA instructional video opportunities with Site Partners	Early scoping	WPO FHAA	2026/2027+

Linkages: Education and engagement (objective 5).

Sequencing: Actions and products associated with this objective are already underway.

Outcomes:

- External facing media linking fuel management to fire behavior, suppression success, and potential impact to surrounding values with broader considerations regarding the role of effectively meeting legislative requirements in landscape resilience.
- FHAA instructional videos for training and professional development purposes.

Equipment and Technology

Objective 4.1

Strategy: Complete a chipping, dispersal, mastication, and mulching literature review and develop accompanying best management practices and guidance.

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
Oversee and publish the: 2024 Mastication Guidance 2024 Mastication Best Practices Chipping, Mastication, and Mulching as Fuel Management Methods in British Columbia: A Literature Review	Closing	Supt. FM, WPO FM (WPO FHAA)	Complete '24

Outcomes:

- Recognized and accepted cost-effective, smoke-free alternatives to open burning
- Additional hazard abatement tools that allow flexibility in treatment, improving practitioners' capacity to:
 - Attract contractors
 - Stay in compliance
 - Meet treatment objectives
 - Reduce smoke liability and treatment emissions
 - Innovate
 - Maintain social license

Objective 4.2

Strategy: Develop stronger relationships with academy and non-government organizations and work closely with them to inform and stay connected on research initiatives.

Priority: Medium

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
Research current FHAA criteria within third-party forest certification standards and investigate opportunities to incentivize more effective FHAA practices on the landscape.	Early scoping	WPO FHAA	2027+
Engage with research partners to further study the interaction between wildfire and post-harvest conditions. Great Beaver Lake case study completed '25/26	Implementing	WPO FHAA	Ongoing
Research additional mechanical abatement methods to inform guidance and continue to build catalogue of accepted, cost effective, smoke free alternatives to pile burning. Partner with Forest Enhancement Society of BC on mastication study (2026/27)	Advanced scoping	WPO FHAA	Ongoing

Linkages: Research results may influence future changes to the FHAA Guide and the *Wildfire Act* & Regulation.

Sequencing: Specific projects associated with this objective may not be contingent on other actions and can begin once identified in further detail.

Outcomes:

- Opportunities to investigate data gaps and assumptions about interactions between wildfire and fuels.

- Opportunities for further research to inform fuel hazard assessment and abatement practices.
- Reduced redundancy in research leading to effective resource allocation.
- New FHAA tools and educational materials.
- Opportunities to incentivize more effective FHAA practices through third-party certification processes.

Objective 4.3

Strategy: Develop comprehensive wildfire/fuel treatment/FHAA interaction program and protocols for assessing these interactions (case studies).

Priority: High

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
Oversee the interaction program development.	Building	WPO FM	2025/2026
Explore opportunities to translate the program into an FHAA specific tool to inform practices (i.e. post-harvest slash management) on the broader landscape.	Early scoping	WPO FHAA	Dependent on completion of wildfire/fuel treatment interaction program

Linkages: Compliance (objective 2 – specifically 2.3 development of an online database/ monitoring dashboard) updates to the FHAA Guide, training and enforcement currency as changes occur because of actions associated with other objectives.

Sequencing: Actions and products associated with this objective are already underway. Although they are not contingent upon work associated with other objectives, these items may be influenced in the future by the results of other work undertaken.

Outcomes:

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- An accessible and broadly implemented tool to evaluate treatment effectiveness and inform changes in practice.
- Opportunities to build internal capacity as staff gain experience by completing case studies/field assessments.
- Opportunities to fill data gaps on interactions between wildfire and fuels.

Education and Engagement

Objective 5.1

Strategy: Develop comprehensive fire hazard assessment and abatement training targeted at forest professionals (including consultants and industry) and government staff.

Priority: **High**

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
Deliver internal FHAA 'train the trainer' sessions to BCWS and FOR staff: • Prince George, Cariboo Fire Centres - complete '24 • Kamloops and Southeast Fire Centres - complete '24 • Northwest and Coastal Fire Centres - complete '26	Closing	WPO FHAA	Complete
Continue delivering internal FHAA 'train the trainer' sessions to BCWS and FOR staff: • BC Parks • Southeast Fire Centre (2nd session)	Implementing	WPO FHAA	2026
Support the development and implementation of C&Rx fire related training.	Building/implementing	WPO FM	Ongoing
Partner with FPBC, MOECC, and BCWS programs to develop comprehensive online (self-guided) FHAA training. • Create internal and external graduated training schemes based on position/role	Advanced scoping	WPO FHAA	2027
Explore opportunities to extend training to external industry partners.	Advanced scoping	WPO FHAA	Ongoing

Support BCWS programs to expand the availability of intermediate fire behaviour training for forestry professionals.	Early scoping	WPO FHAA	2027+
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Linkages: Identified items broadly link to all other objectives in this Roadmap. BCWS and the FPBC are engaged in planning discussions for training curriculum related to ‘all things wildfire’ and hazard assessment & abatement should be considered for inclusion.

Sequencing: Actions can proceed in accordance with curriculum development prioritization.

Outcomes:

- Institutionalized FHAA training standards within the BC wildfire service.
- Knowledgeable professionals trained to a common standard resulting in:
 - Increased treatment consistency.
 - Increased ability for professionals to interpret legislated requirements and implement site-appropriate fire hazard assessment and abatement practices.
 - Increased compliance and reduction of wildfire risk in post-harvest (or industrial activity) sites.
 - Increased FHAA training capacity through “train the trainer” approach.
- A tool to assist the re-integration of fire management into forest management planning.
- Professional networks and working relationships between First Nations, BCWS, C&E, BCTS, local government, industry, and consultants.

Objective 5.2

Strategy: Evaluate internal and external websites for content and intuitive use. Ensure guides, policy, BMPs, etc. and other supporting documents are relevant and easy to find.

Priority: Medium

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
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Engage with communications to establish information and accessibility objectives and develop project modernization/maintenance plan	Advanced scoping	WPO FHAA, WT FM	2026/2027
Implement modernization/maintenance program	Early scoping	WPO FHAA, WT FM	Dependent on completion of the modernization/maintenance plan

Linkages: Updates to any products identified in other objectives within this Roadmap.

Sequencing: Actions and products associated with this objective are already underway. Although it is not contingent upon work associated with other objectives, this objective may be influenced in the future by the results of other work undertaken.

Outcomes:

- Maintained accessibility of pertinent FHAA information and resources to practicing professionals.
- An intuitive and easy to follow online FHAA interface.

Objective 5.3

Strategy: Develop and distribute an engagement and outreach program for operators to inform work to reduce fire hazards on the landscape.

Priority: **High**

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fire and fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
Create a distribution list.	Implementing	Supt. FM, WPO FHAA	Ongoing
Identify opportunities for stakeholder involvement in Roadmap projects.	Implementing	WPO FHAA	Ongoing
Engage with communications on outreach strategy.	Advanced scoping	WPO FHAA	Ongoing

Linkages: Identified items broadly link to all other objectives in this Roadmap.

Sequencing: Alignment of government agencies and programs is the priority. Specific projects associated with this recommendation may not be contingent on other actions and could begin once identified in further detail.

Outcomes:

- Increased accessibility to the operational and technical knowledge and understanding of professionals practicing FHAA.
- An outreach model to help improve the effectiveness of updates to the FHAA framework.

Objective 5.4

Strategy: Hire a Wildfire Prevention Officer to implement the FHAA Strategic Roadmap and explore other strategic options related to the Roadmap.

Timelines:

Item	Stage	Fuels management lead	Estimated completion date
Position created and filled.	Closing	Supt. FM	Complete



Summary

This Roadmap is a living document that will continue to evolve. Its purpose is to communicate BCWS' stance on the FHAA environment, highlight current and future plans to action FHAA-related issues, and highlight BCWS' dedication to working with all FHAA stakeholders, both internal and external, to find solutions.

The safety of human life and values is the top priority. The Roadmap items are not meant to increase workload but to advance FHAA practices and encourage resilient landscapes. If the items do result in any significant workload increase, support measures will be put in place.

Achieving success requires adaptation at all levels. To collectively meet provincial mandates, the Minister and Deputy Minister may need to provide direction to balance and prioritize the transition from a competing objectives environment to one of collaboration. Subsequently, government agencies must collaborate to develop complementary policies and legislation. A consistent approach and clear communication on the value of the changes and actions will help implement these updates effectively. Building a strong provincial FHAA program that encompasses legislation, policy, process, engagement, education, and guidance will significantly contribute to a more resilient landscape.