

Summary of Off-Reserve Fuel Management Funding and Implementation Process

Funding Agency

Provincial/Federal Funding administered by Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM)
FNESS to facilitate First Nations funding applications

Total Timeline
9 Months to 1 Year

Item	Funding Process	Anticipated Timeline
Funding Application and B.C.R. to FNESS to complete Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Apply through FNESS for UBCM funding to complete the CWPP process. Receiving a proposal and bid quote from an experienced individual to complete the CWPP speeds up the process and determines how much operational funding to apply for. Note as well, planning dollars sent may not accommodate on-the-ground prescriptions being completed. Additional funds can be requested, on a needs basis, to accommodate prescriptions being completed.	One Month
Complete CWPP	Identify all fuel management issues within two kilometers of developed I.R.s. Concentrate on vacant Crown land (Crown land without an area based tenure) where operational funding can be applied. The planning requires a forest professional for any specific fuel management treatment recommendations. Submit completed CWPP to FNESS for input and approval. Note, the First Nations Liaison for the local MFR District need be engaged as well.	Two to Three Months
Funding Application and B.C.R. to support Fuel Management Operational Planning and implementation	This can be one or two steps. Smaller projects with known costs can be planned and implemented in one funding application. Larger projects with many variables might be better planned first, then a further funding application for operational activities. A Registered Professional Forester working within his scope of practice must sign Operational Plans (prescriptions). Only vacant Crown land can qualify for funding. Areas covered by Tree Farm Licenses, Woodlots or other forms of area based tenure do not qualify for funding. Private lands do not qualify for funding under this program.	One Month
Consultations to support fuel management treatments	Numerous other groups and individuals may have rights and use permits on an area planned for fuel management. They all need to be informed about, and have a chance to comment on, planned fuel management activities. They could include; Forest Licensees, Range Licensees, B.C. Timber Sales, local communities, other First Nations, Recreational Use Permit Holders, trappers, guide outfitters and others. A complete list can usually be developed in consultation with the local Ministry of Forests and Range District Office. This step can take up to sixty days and involve public meetings and detailed consultations with concerned groups.	Up to Two Months
Apply for permission to cut Crown timber	Permission to cut Crown timber is required before any treatments can occur. It requires the submission of Fuel Management Operational Plans (identified within the CWPP), signed by a Registered Professional Forester, submitted to the local Ministry of Forest and Range District Office along with a request for permission to cut timber in the designated area. This permission can be provided in a number of different ways. The most common are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest and Range Practices Act Section 52 Permission to Cut – The Ministry of Forests and Range District Manager can authorize the cutting and destruction of crown timber. A copy of the letter must be on site at all times operations are being carried out and must be produced to an Forest officer who requests it. • Forest and Range Practices Act License to Cut without a Timber Mark – A License to Cut allows for the removal of Crown timber. Issued without a Timber Mark so the wood cannot be utilized commercially or removed from the site in log lengths. Any plans that include commercial harvesting cannot apply for the above permissions to cut and cannot be funded under this program. Any areas identified for commercial harvesting must be dealt with separately.	Up to One Month
Conduct fuel management activities	Fuel management can now proceed. The crew will require training and a clear understanding of the goals, objectives and strategies being employed. Certified fallers and other training may be required before individuals are qualified to work on these crews. Training costs are not covered under this program. There is no limitation on how this work can be completed. It can be low bid to local contractors or First Nations Development Corps, logging crews or other legal entities with proper insurance and WorkSafeBC coverage. Hourly crews paid by the band, or other methods can complete the work. Provincial non-FN local Governments show an approx. average of \$5000 to \$6000 per haectare for treatments, based upon local factors.	One to Four Months
Submit claim for payment to FNESS/UBCM	As individual sites are completed, and signed off as complete and meeting the intent of the Operational Plan by a Registered Professional Forester, submissions for payment can be made to the UBCM through FNESS. It is important to keep treatment units small to allow for regular completion and submissions for payment to obtain regular cash flow to cover operating expenses.	One Month for Payment

NOTE: For fuel management projects to be approved under the Job Opportunities Program (JOP), they must meet the above standards. i.e. be identified within a CWPP, have Operational Plans (perscriptions) completed and permission to cut received.