



2022-2023 First Nations' Emergency Services
Society &
Indigenous Services Canada

On-Reserve Operational Fuel Treatment,

On-Reserve FireSmart™,

and

NEW-On-Reserve Cultural Burning

Revitalization and Prescribed Fire Programs

Program and Application Guide

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INTRODUCTION

The First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS)-Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) ON-RESERVE OPERATIONAL FUEL TREATMENT; ON-RESERVE FIRESMART™; **NEW** FNESS-ISC ON-RESERVE CULTURAL BURNING REVITALIZATION AND PRESCRIBED FIRE programs are separate program streams that are managed by FNESS. Grant administration is provided by FNESS with provision of funding by ISC. These related initiatives support First Nation communities to mitigate risk from wildfire in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and identify cultural burn areas, develop prescriptions, and burns plan, and/or work with the BC Wildfire Service to develop these plans to conduct the burns. Reserve lands are eligible for funding.

The primary objective of programs is to fund treatments which protect residential and critical infrastructure. Applications should address hazards closest to structures and progress outwards over time.

See the list of eligible activities for FNESS-ISC ON-RESERVE OPERATIONAL FUEL TREATMENT PROGRAM; FNESS-ISC On-Reserve FireSmart™ Program; AND FNESS-ISC ON-RESERVE CULTURAL BURNING REVITALIZATION AND PRESCRIBED FIRE PROGRAM herein.

These programs are different, and applicants must be aware to submit appropriate applications, reports, and other documentation specific to their program of interest.

You must consult with a FNESS Mitigation Specialist to co-develop your path to safeguarding your community.

The FNESS-ISC ON-RESERVE OPERATIONAL FUEL TREATMENT PROGRAM is principally designed for communities wishing to treat forest fuels posing a wildfire risk to a community.

NEW FOR 2022-2023. Post-fire Danger Tree Assessments and removal initiatives that address public safety concerns can now be applied for under this program. Such initiatives will be supported to two tree-lengths or other mutually agreed distance from homes and/or critical infrastructure.

The program is primarily designed to fund operational fuel management projects up to \$75,000.00 total in areas with moderate to extreme WUI wildfire threat risk and less than 1km from a reserve structure cluster with 6 or more structures/km².

Maintenance treatments on previously treated areas will be considered but must be discussed with Mitigation Specialist prior to application submission to ensure the proposal meets project objectives.

The program funds fuel management treatments and/or fuel management prescriptions on lands identified as hazardous in a current Community Wildfire Protection Plan or Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.

This program has an extended time frame of 2 years to facilitate operations over two complete snow-free treatment windows which will ensure complete treatment of surface fuels.

The [FNESS-ISC ON-RESERVE FIRESMART™ PROGRAM](#) is primarily designed to fund treatment of fuels and other combustible hazards adjacent to, and within 30 m of housing or community infrastructure. All structures to be treated under this program must be assessed using the current [FireSmart Canada Home Ignition Zone Score Card](#) or the https://firesmartbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/FireSmartBC_FireSmartCriticalInfrastructureGuideFINAL.pdf [FireSmart BC Critical Infrastructure Guide](#) and https://firesmartbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/FireSmart_FireSmartCriticalInfrastructureAssessment_Fillable_V1.pdf [FireSmart BC Critical Infrastructure Assessment](#). These assessments are pre-requisites for treatment funding and are fundable.

The FireSmart™ program supports FireSmart™ planning initiatives and will only fund activities on areas identified within those plans. Funding for these plans is available. Assistance with the planning aspect is available to all communities by request.

The program supports FireSmart™ activities to a maximum \$50,000.00 within [FireSmart™ Zones](#) (Immediate, Intermediate, and Extended Zones) to achieve outcomes consistent with the [FireSmart™ Homeowners Manual](#) [FireSmart Begins at Home Manual](#).

2022 FireSmart Treatment Priority:

FNESS wishes to emphasize that Home Ignition Zone/Critical Infrastructure assessments followed by the creation/maintenance of 1.5m wide Non-Fuel Zones is seen as a highly supportable program priority with lasting benefits.

Treatments should move further from homes over time.

Applications should generally adhere to this 'closest-first' principle.

NEW: The [FNESS-ISC ON-RESERVE CULTURAL BURNING REVITALIZATION AND PRESCRIBED FIRE PROGRAM](#) is a new emerging program that supports to a maximum of \$75,000 for First Nation communities to work with FNESS to identify cultural burn areas, develop prescriptions and burn plans, and/or work with the BC Wildfire Service to develop these plans and to conduct the burns.

Key Considerations

1. Applicants proposing commercial removal of trees must have an approved ISC Timber Permit prior to commencement of the activities.
2. The requirement to obtain a timber permit does not apply to Nations listed under schedule 2 of the First Nations Land Management Act unless the subject lands were excluded from the Land Code.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

All First Nation Bands and Treaty First Nations in BC are eligible to apply. All Reserve lands are eligible for funding.

No applications will be considered from communities with incomplete ISC-FNESS FireSmart or ISC-FNESS Operational Fuel Treatment projects outstanding.

Program Specific requirements

Operational Fuel Treatment Project(s) must be located On-Reserve and:

- Target forest fuels
- Be identified as an area of Moderate to Extreme Wildfire Behavior Threat Class as shown on website <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management> or verified by a field assessment of wildfire threat using an approved WUI Wildfire Threat Assessment Guide. A minimum of one plot per treatment unit must be provided a time of application.
- Areas of lower threat class will be considered where such treatments link or anchor previous treatments.
- Satisfies a structure density requirement of at least six (6) structures per square kilometer and is contained within a one (1) kilometer radius of those structures.
- Targets areas which have surface fuel loads which would produce in excess of 2,000kw/m fire intensity and areas with insufficient Crown Base Height for the fuel loads that exist.
- Proposed projects must be compliant with all applicable legislation and regulations: federal (e.g., Fisheries Act, Species at Risk Act); provincial (e.g., Forest and Range Practices Act, Open Burning Smoke Control Act, and Wildfire Act); and local authority (e.g., burning bylaws or other bylaws or plans).
- Where applicable, be eligible for or have required approvals, authorizations and/or permits from the Land Manager (e.g., BC Parks Area Manager, Natural Resource District Manager etc.).
- Addresses post-wildfire danger tree concerns of a community. Such projects can include

danger tree assessments and treatments. Such initiatives will be supported to two tree-lengths or other mutually agreed distance from homes and/or critical infrastructure. Such projects must be developed in close consultation with a FNESS Mitigation Specialist to ensure there is a collective understanding of the risks, mitigation strategy and costs.

Fuel Management Prescription Projects can be undertaken as separate, stand-alone projects which facilitate future funding applications, or they may be incorporated into a comprehensive operational fuel treatment application that combines prescription preparation and treatment.

All fuel management prescriptions prepared under this program must satisfy the requirements above and:

- Must be completed on the BC Wildfire Service Fuel Management Prescription template shown at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management>
- Every polygon considered for treatment as part of an operational fuel treatment project must contain at least one threat plot and a fuel loading assessment consistent with methodology at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management>
- Be consistent with BC Wildfire Service Wildfire Threat Assessment methodology available at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management>
- Be developed and signed/sealed by a Registered Forest Professional and other associated professionals where needed (e.g., Professional Engineer) operating within their particular scope of practice.
- May encompass entire populated reserves and incorporate Treatment Units for each of the FireSmart Zones and other lands which lie beyond the FireSmart Zones but less than 1km from acceptable structure density specified above.
- **Must** be reviewed and supported by a FNESS Mitigation Specialist prior to initiation of the fuel management treatment.

FNESS-ISC On-Reserve FireSmart™ Program

Project must be located On-Reserve and:

- Target combustible fuels.
- Target specific structures.
 - ▶ All structures to be targeted must have current FireSmart Home Ignition Zone HIZ

assessments prior to treatment. This activity is fundable under this program and is a mandatory pre-requisite for funding.

- Target areas identified in a FireSmart Canada™ Neighborhood Assessment and plan.
 - ▶ Assessments are to be completed by a Local FireSmart Representative or another qualified assessor.
 - ▶ A plan identifies treatment priorities derived from FireSmart™ Neighbourhood and Structural assessments and includes a map.
- Be wholly contained within the [FireSmart™ zones](#).
- Must provide a description of the structures to be treated, measures that will be taken, and be consistent with the standards and objectives established in the [FireSmart™ Homeowners Manual](#) [FireSmart Begins at Home Manual](#).

FNESS-ISC On-Reserve Cultural Burning Revitalization and Prescribed Fire

Project must be First Nations communities located On-Reserve and:

- Identify areas for cultural burns and associated objectives.
- Develop prescriptions and burn plans and/or work with BC Wildfire Services to develop these plans and to conduct the burns.
- Be developed and signed/sealed by a Registered Forest Professional and other associated professionals where needed (e.g., Professional Engineer) operating within their particular scope of practice.
- **Must** be reviewed and supported by a FNESS Cultural and Prescribed Fire Specialist prior to initiation of the treatment.

Must be completed on the BC Wildfire Service Fuel Management Prescription template shown at the Tools for Fuels Management website:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/fuel-management>

Operational Fuel Treatment, FireSmart™, and Cultural Burning Revitalization and Prescribed Fire projects **must be completed** within **two years from date of approval**.

PROJECT TIMELINES FOR COMPLETION

The two-year extended timeframe versus previous program intakes is designed to permit surface fuel treatment during snow-free periods, as well as support appropriate burn and multiple burn windows in spring or fall seasons.

ELIGIBLE COSTS AND ACTIVITIES

Eligible costs are direct costs that are identified in the approved application, properly and reasonably incurred, and paid by the applicant to carry out eligible activities. Eligible costs can only be incurred from the date of application approval until the final report is submitted.

FNESS-ISC On-Reserve Operational Fuel Treatment Program

Activities may include treatments such as thinning, pruning, and removal of woody debris and needles (i.e., surface fuel) from the forest floor. As outlined in the 2022 BCWS Fuel Management Prescription Guidance, treatments focus on reducing the potential for sustained ignition and crown fire initiation by reducing surface fuel loading to achieve potential surface fire intensity levels below 2,000 kilowatts per metre and/or below the critical surface fire intensity in relation to Crown Base Height (CBH).

Comprehensive list of eligible activities

- Staff and contractor costs directly related to projects.
- Access/Egress route right-of-way widening.
- Timber permit application and documentation required by ISC.
- Fuel management prescription development or amendment.
- Danger tree assessments.
- Tree felling, including hand and mechanical.
- Pre- and Post-treatment surface fuel load analysis consistent with <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/fuel-management>
- Pre- and Post-treatment wildfire threat assessments consistent with <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/fuel-management>
- Thinning, including hand and mechanical.
- Pile burning.
- Pruning.
- Piling, including hand and mechanical.

- Debris management, including chipping, mastication, and grinding.
- Debris removal, including chip removal, hog fuel removal and slash removal.
- Custom venting forecast.
- Traffic and pedestrian control during active operations.
- Preparation of pre- and post-treatment photos, maps, spatial data, and metadata (see Appendix 1 for Spatial Data Requirements and Appendix 2 for Map Requirements).
- Post-wildfire danger tree assessments and removal initiatives that address public safety concerns can be applied for under this program. Such initiatives will be supported to two tree-lengths or other mutually agreed distance from homes and/or critical infrastructure.
- Maximum project allowance per net hectare as follows:
 - To develop fuel management prescriptions consistent with the BC 2022 Fuel Management Prescription Guidance document, cost allowance is up to \$425 per hectare. This is based on an average prescribed area size of approximately 20 hectares and consideration that smaller units may be higher cost and larger units may be lower cost.
 - New fuel management treatment on Reserve land. Based on baseline fuel management (i.e., Manual thinning, pruning, hand piling and burning) costs:
 - ▶ Coastal Fire Centre: up to \$13,365 per hectare.
 - ▶ Prince George Fire Centre: up to \$11,225 per hectare.
 - ▶ Cariboo, Kamloops, Northwest, and Southeast Fire Centres: up to \$7,485 per hectare.
 - Undertake fuel management maintenance activities (previously treated areas) on Reserve land:
 - ▶ Up to \$3,740 per hectare.

FNESS-ISC On-Reserve FireSmart™ Program

All activities must be consistent with or contribute to the fire resiliency principles outlined in the [FireSmart™ Homeowners Manual](#) [FireSmart Begins at Home Manual](#).

Under the FNESS-ISC *On-Reserve FireSmart™ Program* all activities must be conducted to prioritize risk reduction to structures and focus efforts from the structure outward to a maximum of 30m from structures.

Comprehensive list of eligible activities

- FireSmart Neighborhood Assessment and Plan preparation with mapping.
- FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments and treatment-priority establishment. .

- Intensive FireSmart projects may require professional forestry involvement, depending upon scope, forest type, proposed impacts, and values present on-site. Consult with your Mitigation Specialist.
- Pile burning.
- Pruning.
- Tree planting for species conversion.
- Piling, including hand and mechanical.
- Debris management, including chipping, mastication, and grinding.
- Debris removal, including chip removal, hog fuel removal and slash removal.
- Custom venting forecast.
- Preparation of pre- and post-treatment photos, maps, spatial data (see Appendices for Map and spatial data requirements).
- Thinning/spacing of trees.
- Staff and contractor costs directly related to proposed activities.
- Timber Permit application and documentation required by ISC.
- Traffic and pedestrian control during active operations.
- Chipping and hauling of flammable material created by homeowners.
- Moving flammable fuels or ignition sources away from homes and critical infrastructure.
- Creation of non-combustible zones around homes and critical infrastructures.

FNESS-ISC On-Reserve Cultural Burning Revitalization and Prescribed Fire

Prescribed Fire Plan preparation and burn implementation, refer to Appendix 3 for more description and guidelines. Cultural Burning Revitalization and Prescribed Fire must be within 1 km WUI and be on Reserve lands.

Eligible Prescription/Burn Plan Development and implementation Costs & Activities:

- Activities related to prescription development (e.g., approved Canadian wildfire modelling, pre-burn fire effects monitoring or stakeholder engagement)
- Activities related to burn plan development including identification of values in containment areas, additional data collection requirements and engaging with burn specialists
- Implementation of the burn with respect to activities in Appendix 3
- Pre- and Post-burn fire effects monitoring
- Required professional assessments (e.g., geotechnical, archaeological, fire ecologist, range agrologist, etc.)

- Site evaluation, including field reconnaissance, wildfire threat assessment plots, data collection as outlined in prescription guidance document and the evaluation of site access
- Lay out and traversing of proposed areas for treatments
- Preparation of all final report requirements, including maps, spatial data, and metadata

Cultural Burn Revitalization and Prescribed Fire

Cultural and prescribed fire activities primarily for community wildfire risk reduction objectives are eligible for funding under the fuel management activity. Due to relatively narrow burn windows associated with weather and site conditions, as well as timelines associated with fire hazard abatement requirements, it is anticipated prescribed fire will be more appropriate and common as a maintenance treatment than as part of the initial suite of treatments.

Where operational implementation of a burn plan is a proposed activity, approved applicants may contact the appropriate fire centre and fire zone to determine how implementation will proceed. BCWS should be looked to first to carry out the prescribed burn project, either in a leading or assisting role. By accessing BCWS personnel, approved applicants will be utilizing the agency with certified practitioners and crew for implementation. Proponents may consider utilizing BCWS personnel in partnership with First Nations, local fire departments, contract crews, etc. No costs will be allocated for BCWS involvement or associated costs of crews and equipment, as those costs will be covered by the province.

In addition, when prescribed fire is undertaken as a fuel management activity for community wildfire risk reduction, the following activities are eligible and must be accompanied with a cost breakdown:

- Develop burn plans (must be based on eligible fuel management prescription) Must utilize the BCWS Prescribed Fire Burn Plan Template. (Note: per Appendix 1a of the template – Burn Plan Signature Sheet, the BCWS Fire Centre Manager or designate is required to approve the burn plan.)

Note: the below activities related to burn implementation are limited to a maximum project allowance of \$3,740 per hectare.

- Burn preparation activities including fire weather index monitoring activities, public notification and preparing black lines. Note: pre-burn costs are eligible costs if no burn window is achieved.
- Burn day activities including spot forecasts, equipment set up and transport (may include aerial ignition) and traffic control.
- Post-burn activities- which include post-burn fire effects monitoring, surveys, mop up

and final reporting.

- o A budget estimate based on mop-up requirements within the approved burn plan should be included. Where an increased level of mop-up (e.g., 100%) is required as indicated by the Burn Boss, in consultation with BCWS, include a contingency cost estimate as a separate budget line item in preparation of potentially dynamic mop-up conditions.
- Pre- and Post-burn surveys using a methodology(s) acceptable to and approved by FNESS. Contact Mitigation Specialist to discuss your proposed methodologies.

INELIGIBLE COSTS AND ACTIVITIES

Any activity that is not outlined above or is not directly connected to activities approved in the application by FNESS is not eligible for grant funding. This includes:

- Emergency plans or related activities.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan or Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan preparation.
- Local fire department training.
- Purchase of machinery and equipment.
- Wildfire costs incurred relating to Prescribed burning escape.
- Activities on land outside the 1 km treatment threshold or land that is scheduled for development.
- Activities for purposes other than fuel treatment (e.g., building of recreational trails without fuel management objectives).
- Staff training costs, including safety and first-aid training.
- Work undertaken by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (including BCWS).
- Purchase of tools (e.g., hand saws, loppers) or structural protection equipment (e.g., hoses, sprinklers).
- Work undertaken to fulfill FLNRORD hazard abatement obligations under the [Wildfire Act](#)
- Removal of non-flammable trash or debris.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

Operational Fuel Treatment:

<https://www.fness.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/fness-isc-2022-2023-on-reserve-operational-fuel-treatment-application-March-27-2023.docx>

FireSmart:

<https://www.fness.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/fness-isc-2022-2023-on-reserve-firesmart-application-March-27-2023.docx>

Cultural Burning Revitalization & Prescribed Fire:

<https://www.fness.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/fness-isc-2022-2023-on-reserve-cultural-burning-revitalization-prescribed-fire-application-March30.2023.docx>

Required Application Contents

FNESS-ISC ON-RESERVE OPERATIONAL FUEL TREATMENT PROGRAM

- Completed application form signed by authorized Band signatory.
- First Nation Band Council Resolution, indicating:
 - A) support for the application,
 - B) willingness to provide overall grant management, and
 - C) identifying a designated Band representative with signing authority for the project if awarded.
- Operational fuel treatment project proposals must be accompanied with current Threat Assessment Worksheets and plot photos, representative of the treatment area, completed as per the WUI Wildfire Threat Assessments methodology used.
 - ▶ If you are applying for an area identified as a Priority Treatment Area in your latest CWPP/CWRP you may submit the plot information submitted with that plan.
 - ▶ Relevant excerpts from your CWPP/CWRP supporting the proposed treatment area.
 - ▶ Applications will set objective for reduction of threat rating through proposed treatments. i.e., The proposed treatment will reduce wildfire threat from ‘moderate’ pre-treatment to ‘low’ post-treatment.
- Proposed treatments must demonstrate a current fuel loading which would result in a surface fire intensity greater than 2,000 kw/m. The application must contain fuel loading data to substantiate the current surface fire intensity and commit to reducing to 2,000 kw/m post-treatment.
- Copy of applicable fuel management prescription if such exists.
- Maps that clearly identify the proposed area(s) that are the subject of the application.
 - ▶ Provide Ortho or satellite-image based mapping which shows infrastructure and vegetation cover is required.
 - ▶ Must show previous fuel treatment areas in the vicinity of the proposed treatment.

FNESS-ISC On-Reserve FireSmart™ Program

- Completed application form signed by authorized Band signatory.
- First Nation Band Council Resolution, indicating: A) support for the application, B) willingness to provide overall grant management, and C) identifying a designated Band representative with signing authority for the project if awarded.
- A map indicating specific structures to be assessed and/or treated.
- A FireSmart Neighbourhood assessment and FireSmart Home Ignition Zone/Z assessments must be completed for an area and/or structures to be treated under your project. These assessments are fundable under this program.
- If known, a description of the FireSmart zones to be treated and activities within each zone.

FNESS-ISC On-Reserve Cultural Burning Revitalization and Prescribed Fire

- Completed application form signed by authorized Band signatory.
- First Nation Band Council Resolution, indicating: A) support for the application, B) willingness to provide overall grant management, and C) identifying a designated Band representative with signing authority for the project if awarded.
- Spatial files covered by the burn identifying the burn area/s.
- Costs associated with the Burn plan development and implementation of the burn.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications should be submitted electronically to kalexandre@fness.bc.ca as Microsoft Word or Portable Document Format (PDF) files.

Applications will be received throughout the program year.

Applications which satisfy our evaluation criteria will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted.

All applications **must** be developed in consultation with FNESS' Mitigation Specialist assigned to your application. You will be asked to lead a site visit which will help us co-develop a supportable application.

Review of Applications

FNESS will perform a review of applications to ensure the required application elements have been submitted to ensure the basic eligibility criteria have been met. All eligible applications will be reviewed by a FNESS Mitigation Specialist.

GENERAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Eligible projects which satisfy program requirements will be subjected to an evaluation which will assess:

- Community involvement with national FireSmart™ Program. Community Recognition or is engaged with the FireSmart™ Community Recognition Program.
 - ▶ FireSmart™ Canada planning and other FireSmart™ initiatives.
 - ▶ FireSmart™ Canada Community Recognition status.
 - ▶ Community involvement and public education (including FireSmart™ committee, community assessment, FireSmart™ day).
- Mapping quality and usefulness
- Complements other initiatives or program activities and contributes to strategic community defense.
- Project addresses problematic fuel types.
- Community performance history on projects of this nature.
- Proposed treatment cost. Cost effectiveness will be a major determinant in the application review process. Historical treatment and prescription costs in similar conditions will be considered in the evaluation.
- Proximity to structures and community infrastructure.

Program specific criteria will include:

On-Reserve Operational Fuel Treatment Program

- Wildfire Threat Rating for the proposed treatment area and proposed threat reduction objective to be achieved through treatment.
- The estimated number of hectares to be treated and proposed project cost per hectare.
- Degree to which the proposed fuel treatment is anchored, accessible/defensible and designed according to expected fire spread and intensity.

On-Reserve FireSmart™ Projects

- Project addresses untreated forest fuels within the FireSmart™ Zones.
- The estimated number of structures to be treated, cost effectiveness of proposed treatment and proposed project cost per structure.
- Treatment effectiveness and longevity.

On-Reserve Cultural Burning Revitalization and Prescribed Fire

- Spatial files covered by the burn identifying the burn area/s.
- Costs associated with the Burn plan development and implementation of the burn.
- If applicable, Fuel Management Prescription and objectives.

APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

An engagement with FNESS' Mitigation department specialist/liason regarding development of the project submission.

A Post-Grant Approval meeting must be held with your assigned Mitigation Specialist immediately upon approval of your project.

All applicants that propose the commercial extraction of trees under these programs are required by federal legislation to obtain ISC Timber Permitting prior to commencement of work, unless registered under Land Management Act.

Bi-Annual Updates - Project Status Report. An update on project status ***must*** be submitted to FNESS Mitigation Department via email kalexandre@fness.bc.ca at minimum on a bi-annual basis.

Successful applicants are responsible for completion of the project as approved and for meeting reporting requirements. Any applicants that change the management objectives and/or scope of a project must consult with the Mitigation Specialist prior to any work being done and may be required to submit an amended application for review and subsequent approval.

Bands are responsible for proper fiscal management, including maintaining acceptable accounting records for the project. FNESS and/or ISC (Canada) reserve the right to audit these records. Communities will be required to provide supporting financial documents upon request by FNESS-ISC (e.g., invoices/timesheets).

Fuel management prescriptions developed under the *On-Reserve Operational Fuel Treatment Program* must be prepared using the current Fuel Management Prescription Template located at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/fuel-management>

Operational fuel treatment projects can only proceed under an approved fuel management prescription. Plans or prescriptions prepared under these programs ***must*** be submitted for review and supported by the Mitigation Specialist prior to implementation in the field.

FireSmart projects can only proceed following completion of FireSmart Home Ignition Zone Assessment Score Card(s) or the FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessment. These assessments must be submitted for review and supported by the Mitigation Specialist.

Submission of Final Reporting on the appropriate Final Report Template applicable to your funding.

GRANT MANAGEMENT

Notice of Funding Decision

All applicants will receive written notice of funding decisions, which will include the terms and conditions of any grant that is awarded.

Revisions Required

Please note that in cases where revisions are required to an application, or an application has been approved-in-principle only, the applicant has 30 days from the date of the written notice to complete the revision. Revisions that are not completed within 30 days may be denied.

Significant changes to either the scope or intent of an approved project may require re-submission and approval of a new application.

Post-Grant Approval Meeting

All approved applicants must meet with the Mitigation Specialist to discuss the approved project prior to commencing work. At this meeting, dates for bi-annual reporting will be established, project goals and obligations will be discussed.

Project Term

All approved *On-Reserve Operational Fuel Treatment Program, On-Reserve FireSmart™ Program and On-Reserve Cultural Burning Revitalization and Prescribed Fire* projects are to be completed within two years of approval. This extended timeframe is intentionally designed to facilitate surface fuel cleanup over two snow-free periods and due to variability of burning windows.

TRANSPARENCY

To ensure transparency and accountability in the expenditure of public funds, all other financial contributions which cover 'eligible costs' of a project must be declared and, depending on the total value,

may decrease the value of the grant awarded under the ISC program. Grant deductions will be made for any project that generates revenue (e.g., sale of forest products) generated from ISC funded projects.

Clients who are in receipt of CRI funding for similar activities as our programs must disclose the nature and geographic focus of their CRI project(s) to ensure no funding overlap between CRI & ISC/FNESS programs occurs.

FINAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS & PROCESS

Required Final Report Contents

Operational Fuel Treatment:

<https://www.fness.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/fness-isc-2022-2023-fuel-treatment-final-report-form-doc.docx-March-27.2023.docx>

FireSmart:

<https://www.fness.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/fness-isc-2022-2023-final-report-firesmart-formMarch-27.2023.docx>

Cultural Burning Revitalization & Prescribed Fire:

<https://www.fness.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/fness-isc-2022-2023-final-report-Cultural-Burning-Revitalization-and-Prescribed-Fire.docx-March-27.2023.docx>

Final reports must include the following:

On-Reserve Operational Fuel Treatment Program Projects

- Completed Final Report Form, including signatures by the authorized Band signatory and a Registered Forest Professional that certifies all works completed are consistent with the objectives of the fuel management prescription for the project.
- Post-treatment Wildfire Threat Assessment Worksheets with threat plot photos from same location as pre-treatment assessments.
- Post-treatment fuel loading assessment transect data.
- Georeferenced PDF maps. See Appendix 2 - Map Requirements
- Spatial data, metadata and methodology relating to the project. See Appendix 1 – Spatial Data Requirements (Operational Fuel Treatment Prescriptions and/or Treatment Final Reporting)

- For prescription development projects, a FNESS reviewed prescription (new or amended) that is signed and sealed by a Registered Forest Professional with all ancillary assessments (e.g., terrain stability, archaeology).

On-Reserve FireSmart™ Program Projects

- Completed Final Report Form, including signature of the authorized Band signatory.
- FNESS-ISC reserves the right to request and review final expenditure reports.
- A georeferenced PDF map or .kml/.kmz or shapefiles of treatment area(s) and structures affected.
- Pre- and post-treatment photographs. A minimum of 4 pre- and post-treatment photographs is required.
- Commentary on compliance/conformance with FireSmart™ standards, a summary of the work completed and the degree of success in meeting the application targets and applicable standards.

On-Reserve Cultural Burning Revitalization and Prescribed Fire

- Pre- and Post-burn effects monitoring report.
- Georeferenced PDF map or .kml/.kmz or shapefiles of treatment area(s) and structures affected consistent with Spatial Data requirements in Appendices 1 and 2
- Costs associated with Burn Plan preparation and Burn implementation.
- FNESS-ISC reserves the right to request and review final expenditure reports.

Applicants are required to submit one electronic copy of the complete final report with all attachments and supporting documents listed therein to the address below:

Submission of Final Reports

Mitigation Department, First Nations' Emergency Service Society.

Email: kalexandre@fness.bc.ca

Review of Final Reports

FNESS will perform a review of all final reports to ensure the required report elements (identified above) have been submitted.

PAYMENTS

Payments under the **FNESS-ISC Operational Fuel Management Program** will be based on net area treated. No payment will be made for No Work Zones or other area net-downs (i.e., existing roads, building sites, utility rights-of-way) within the project area.

Amount payable will be the product of Net Area (hectares) treated multiplied by the per hectare rate specified in the approval letter.

Progress Payments

FNESS-ISC On-Reserve Operational Fuel Treatment Program: Progress payments will be considered to a maximum of 75% of approved grant amount upon field verification of works completed. A map showing treatment area completed must be submitted to the Mitigation Specialist for field verification.

FNESS-ISC On-Reserve FireSmart™ and Cultural Burning Revitalization and Prescribed Fire Programs: Progress payments may be considered if appropriate rationale is provided, and expenditures-to-date confirmed. Progress payments will be capped at 75% of the total grant amount.

Deductions to Grant Amounts Payable

Revenue Generation

Revenues resulting from an approved *On-Reserve Operational Fuel Treatment Program* project shall be deducted from the eligible grant amount.

Other Grant Contributions

Where other grant programs fund ‘eligible costs’ under the ISC/FNESS program, described in Section 6, those grant amounts will be deducted from the eligible grant amount payable.

Documentation must be available to demonstrate how actual costs from other grant contributions are accounted for. For example, labour costs must include information on the number of hours worked, the hourly rate, and the eligible activity that was undertaken (e.g., 50 hours at \$18/hour for chipping).

Under no circumstances will the ISC/FNESS grant result in payment of more than 100% of the eligible project cost (or net project cost in cases where revenue is generated).

For example:

Eligible project cost of \$75,000.

Other Grant Contributions (for ‘eligible costs’ under this program) of \$25,000.

Net Project Revenue of \$15,000.

Maximum payable under FNESS-ISC Grant = \$35,000.

Changes to Approved Projects

Approved grants are specific to the project as identified in the application, and grant funds are not transferable to other projects. Approval from FNESS will be required for any significant variation from the approved project. To propose changes to an approved project, approved applicants are required to submit:

- Description of the new or revised activities and area (if applicable).
- Description of new or revised expenditures.
- Written rationale for changes to activities and/or expenditures.
- Please note that the applicant may be required to submit an updated, signed application form.
- Changes to boundaries or activities may require amendment(s) to the approved timber permit issued by ISC. ISC can advise on the necessity for amendments.

Final Payments

Final grant payment will not be approved until all administrative, technical, and spatial data requirements have been met.

Payment requests must originate from the Band. Contractors and Consultants cannot submit requests on the Band's behalf.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The *2020 Wildland Urban Interface Wildfire Threat Assessment* guides and worksheets are available at:

- 2020 Wildfire Threat Assessment
 - [2020 Wildfire Threat Assessment Guide & Worksheets](#)

FireSmart **BC**™ Canada provides resources for home and private landowners, industry, and governments to lessen the effects of wildfire. For more information and to learn about the FireSmart program in BC FireSmart Community Recognition Program, visit <https://firesmartbc.ca/>; <https://firesmartcanada.ca/>

Forest Professionals British Columbia (FPBC) is the business name for the Association of BC Forest Professionals provides multiple documents regarding the roles and responsibilities of forest professional that may be helpful when selecting a consultant or contractor to work with <https://www.fpbc.ca/>

DEFINITIONS

GNSS: Global Navigation Satellite System. The satellite network used for navigation in Canada.

Gross Area: The total of all areas contained within your treatment boundary.

Net Area: The total of all treated area within your treatment boundary. All non-treated areas such as roads, home sites, Wildlife Tree or other No-Work Zones are to be deducted from the Gross area and the resultant Net Area will be the basis of payment for the purposes of these programs.

Linear features such as roads, non-forested right of ways, greater than 4m in width are to be netted out of the gross area.

First Nations owned critical infrastructure: Assets owned by First Nation or Treaty First Nation that are either:

- Identified as Critical in a FireSmart™ BC Critical Infrastructure Assessment Guide available here: https://firesmartbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/FireSmartBC_FireSmartCriticalInfrastructureGuideFINAL.pdf [FireSmart BC Critical Infrastructure Guide](https://firesmartbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/FireSmart_FireSmartCriticalInfrastructureAssessment_Fillable_V1.pdf) ; https://firesmartbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/FireSmart_FireSmartCriticalInfrastructureAssessment_Fillable_V1.pdf [FireSmart BC Critical Infrastructure Assessment](#) and/or
- recognized as essential to the health, safety, security or economic wellbeing of the community and the effective functioning of government (such as fire halls, emergency operations centers, radio repeaters, etc.)

Vegetation management: The general goal of vegetation management is to reduce the potential wildfire intensity and ember exposure to people, infrastructure, structures, and other values through manipulation of both the natural and cultivated vegetation that is within or adjacent to a community.

Vegetation management can be accomplished through two different activities:

- **Residential scale FireSmart™ landscaping:** The removal, reduction, or conversion of flammable plants (such as landscaping for residential properties, parks and open spaces) in order to create more fire-resistant areas in [FireSmart™ Immediate, Intermediate and Extended Zone Non-combustible Zone and Priority Zones 1, 2 and 3](#). Refer to the [FireSmart Guide to Landscaping](#). [FireSmart BC Guide to Landscaping](#).
- **Operational Fuel Treatments:** The manipulation or reduction of living or dead forest and grassland fuels to reduce the rate of spread and head fire intensity and enhance likelihood of successful

suppression. For the purposes of these programs is generally situated outside of FireSmart™ Extended Zone 2 and no further than 1 km from an on-reserve structure cluster.

Wildfire risk: A notional product of the Likelihood of a fire occurring, the likely behavior of such a fire and the potential impacts on lives and property.

Wildfire threat: The ability of a wildfire to ignite, spread, and consume organic material (trees, shrubs, and other organic materials) in the forest. The major components used to define wildfire threat are fuel, weather, and topography which break down further to:

- Fuel: loading, size and shape, arrangement (horizontal and vertical), compactness, chemical properties, and fuel moisture
- Weather: temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and direction and rainfall
- Topography: slope (increase/ decrease rate of spread), and aspect (fuel dryness)

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): As defined in the [FireSmart Begins at Home Manual](#) the wildland urban interface (WUI) is any area where combustible forest fuel is found adjacent to homes, farm structures or other outbuildings. This may occur at the interface, where development and forest fuel (vegetation) meet at a well-defined boundary, or in the intermix, where development and forest fuel intermingle with no clearly defined boundary.

WUI Risk Class (RC): The level of risk (“risk class”) reflects the analysis of weighted PSTA threat components within the individual WUI Risk Class polygons. Five risk class ratings were applied to the WUI polygons, with “1” being a higher relative risk and “5” being the lowest relative risk.

Structure Density requirement: Operational Fuel Treatment Applications will only be considered for treatments located within 1 kilometre of a structure cluster which satisfies the density requirement of at least 6 structures/square kilometre.

APPENDIX 1 – SPATIAL DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR FINAL REPORTING

Operational Fuel Treatment Prescriptions and/or Treatment Final Reporting

To ensure consistency in reporting it is important to note that all area submissions of work completed are to reflect net area only. The template for this year’s submissions is automated to include area reporting and project identification; keep this in mind when using the template.

Submission Standards

The expectation for submissions into the *ISC-FNESS On-Reserve Operational Fuel Treatment Program* is to use the ESRI File Geodatabase standard (.gdb). This standard was selected due to the many ways the file geodatabase supports and enforces data integrity. If there is a desire to submit data in other formats outside of the File Geodatabase standard, contact Nathan Wisla (nwisla@fness.bc.ca) to accommodate the request. Otherwise, the standard geodatabase template will be provided. KML and KMZ submissions will not be accepted as the primary submission for fuel treatment activities.

GNSS Collection

To ensure data consistency at the collection level, all GNSS devices must be set to the data collection conventions that follow:

- All GNSS data must be savable and convertible for inclusion in a geo-referenced PDF submission.

Projection Standards

- NAD_1983_BC_Environment_Albers (EPSG:3005).
- UTM projections and the generic “PCS_Albers” coordinate system will **not** be accepted.

Datum

- NAD83, based on the GRS80 ellipsoid.

Naming Conventions

All submitted geodatabases should easily identify the project, community, and year the project was first applied for. All submitted documents should follow the naming convention:

<project ID>_<First Nation Federal ID>_<community>_<intake year>.gdb

Operational Fuel Treatments (OFT)

All submitted GNSS tracks shall be separated into exactly 3 different polygon features and prefixed with whether the submission was an operation or a prescription:

1. **OP_PROJECT_BOUNDARY** – outlines the entire boundary of work. This feature reflects the gross area.
2. **OP_TREATMENT_UNIT** – outlines the areas that can be worked, modifying the treatment unit names as needed. This feature should reflect the net area. The areas, if subdivided, need to be specified with a polygon identifier that *identifies regions within the work area's treatment unit* (polygon A, polygon B, etc.).
3. **OP_NO_WORK_ZONE** – outlines the areas that cannot be worked or were not worked. This feature should reflect the area omitted from the gross area

Prescribed Fuel Treatments

All submitted GNSS tracks shall be separated into 3 features:

1. **PRESC_PROJECT_BOUNDARY** – outlines the entire boundary of work. This feature reflects the gross area.
2. **PRESC_TREATMENT_UNIT** – outlines the areas that have been prescribed. This feature should reflect the net area.
3. **THREAT_PLOTS** – points delineating the threat plots as outlined in the prescription.

Proposed Fuel Treatments (CWRP)

All submitted GNSS tracks shall provide the same information provided in the [2023 CRI Application Guide](#) (Page 50).

1. **AOI** – CWRP area of interest
2. **FCFS_WUI** – FireSmart 1km WUI
3. **PROPOSED_TREATMENT** – outlining the gross area of proposed treatments.

APPENDIX 1

Within the geodatabase, all information that belongs to the project's collected GNSS tracks¹ will be put in a *feature dataset* outlining whether the submission is a prescription or an operation. Supplementary data such not highlighted explicitly above that are submitted with the project can be stored outside of those feature datasets in the same geodatabase.

PRESCRIPTION – for all prescription GNSS tracks.

OPERATION – for all operational treatment GNSS tracks.

CWRP – for all proposed GNSS tracks.

To clarify this shift, the geodatabase template that will be provided upon request can be used as a reference.

¹ The reason **only** the GNSS tracks are submitted to feature datasets are to easily find polygons that outline work completed or proposed. Feature datasets will also throw errors if the feature is in the wrong projection, making sure the data is submitted correctly the first time.

Attribute Tables for Operational Fuel Treatments

Since the operational treatments are being reported differently this year, provided in the table below are the new attributes that will need to be used in reporting **only for operational fuel treatments**.

Prescriptions and proposals will be reported as they were in previous intakes. Please refer to the [CRI 2023 Application Guide](#) starting on page 50 for required attributes for everything apart from operational treatments. All GNSS tracks will contain supporting information for the project in its attribute table. Information that needs to be tracked is as follows:

Table 1: Matrix of applicable fields for each GNSS track.

Attribute Name	Attribute Descriptor	Boundary	WorkZone	NoWorkZone
PROJECTID	Project ID	✓	✓	✓
LOCALGOV	First Nation that applied	✓	✓	✓
TUID	Treatment Unit ID	✓	✓	✓
POLYGON	Working polygon (Polygon A, Polygon B, etc.)	✗	✓	✗
WORK_UNIT	Treatment unit and working polygon combined	✗	✓	✗
STARTED	Date the treatments began	✗	✓	✗
COMPLETED	Date the treatments were completed	✗	✓	✗
DATA_COLLECTION_METHOD	How the data was collected	✓	✓	✗
DATA_COLLECTION_DATE	When the data was collected	✓	✓	✗
YEAR	The year the treatment was applied for	✓	✓	✓
AREA_HA	The area of the	✓	✓	✓

APPENDIX 1

	polygon in hectares			
REASON	The reason this polygon was omitted from work	×	×	✓

Operational and Prescribed Treatment Regime (NEW)

Starting with this year’s program intake, stand treatment and debris management activities are **no longer required as attributes on GNSS tracks**. In order to be more proactive in recording stand treatments and debris management than previous years, a separate table of activities is now required. When recorded this way, treatment types and treatment methods (hand/burn/mechanical) can be recorded individually in each treatment unit. This table is intended to supplement and reference work unit polygons identified in the OP_TREATMENT_UNIT and PRESC_TREATMENT_UNIT feature classes.

The table must be saved in the geodatabase under the name:

<OP/PRESC>_TREATMENT_REGIME

*Table 2: Example input into the summary of treatments. Note that this is **not** an exhaustive list of fundable treatment types. For the exhaustive list, please see Appendix 2.*

WORK UNIT ²	METHOD	TREATMENT
1A	Hand	JS
1A	Mechanical	TR
1B	Hand	TF
2A	Mechanical	DM
3A	Hand	JS

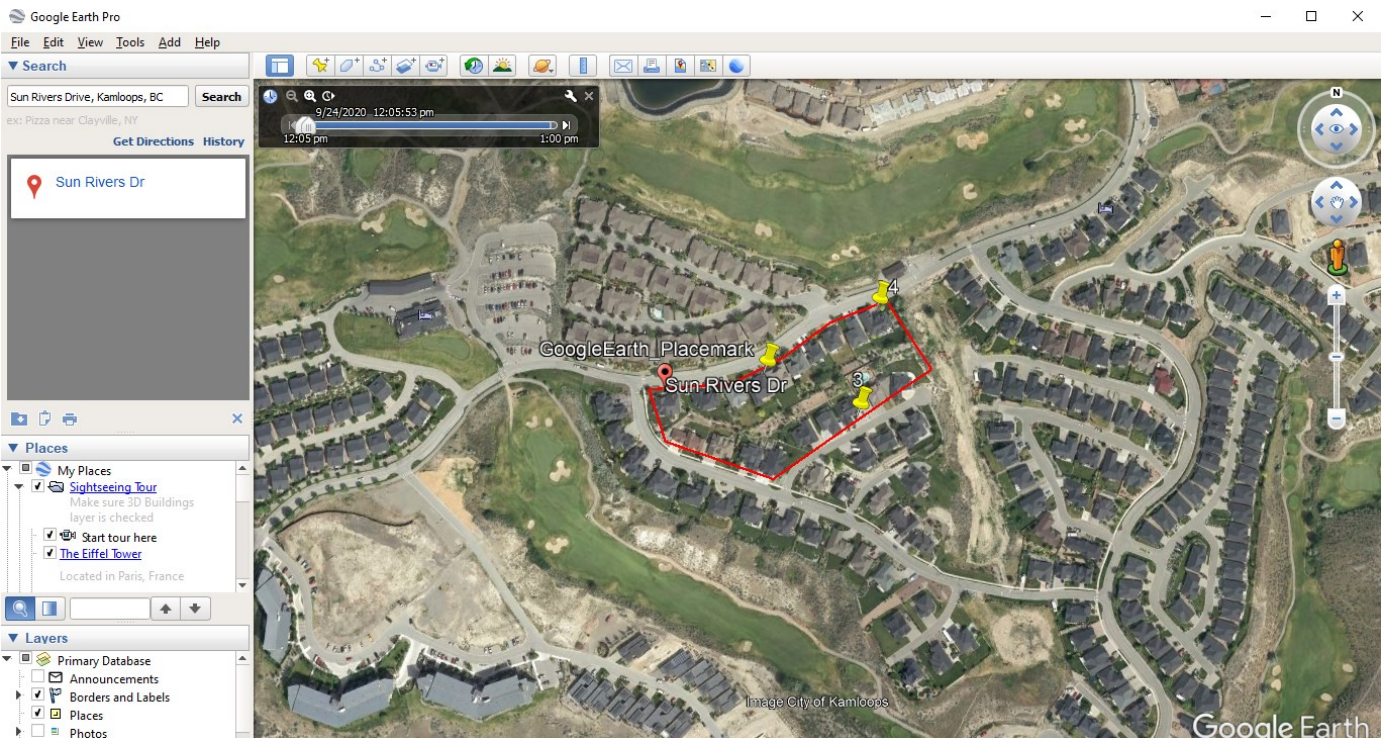
² Work units are the treatment polygons identified in the working polygons, which may be more specific than the treatment unit. Example: if the treatment unit is “3”, and the polygon is “A”, then the Work Unit is “3A” If the polygon is the same as the work unit, then there is no need for a polygon identifier.

On-Reserve FireSmart™ Program

The *On-Reserve FireSmart™ Program* is designed to be supportive of communities and encourage fuel and structure mitigations around homes and other community assets. As such the reporting and mapping requirements are simplified.

The mapping expectation is for a simple polygon map created on Google Earth or other geo-spatial platform that permits importation of such a map into FNESS' spatial platform. The map should pinpoint individual structures which benefitted from treatment. No spatial metadata submission is required.

An example of a simple map generated on Google Earth is shown:



Structures Treated identified by pins. Pins of various colours can be employed to illustrate treatment differences if desired.

The FireSmart™ Area of Interest is shown by a red outline created with the 'Polygon' tool in Google Earth.

The pin and polygon data can be plotted like above and the map and raw .kmz/.kml data to be included with the final report submission.

Data Quality and Submissions

Project submissions not following proper naming conventions will not be accepted. Submissions that omit attributes or a treatment table properly identifying completed or proposed work will also not be accepted.

Completed project files are to be emailed to the FNESS Mitigation Department attention nwisla@fness.bc.ca.

APPENDIX 2 – MAP REQUIREMENTS (FINAL REPORT)

ON-RESERVE OPERATIONAL FUEL TREATMENT PROGRAM

Gross and net area treated must be clearly depicted on maps. Net treatment area excludes roads, no work zones, wildlife tree patches, utility right of ways, etc.

Table 3: List of all fundable treatment activities.

The map should also include reference data such as roads, railways, transmission lines, pipelines, water bodies and rivers/creeks. PDF maps should be compressed to reduce unnecessary large file sizes.

The maps must contain:

- Descriptive title
- Scale (as text or scale bar)
- UTM Graticules on the margins
- North arrow
- Legend
- Consultant names
- First Nation band number
- Date

Applicants are required to submit a large format georeferenced PDF map that clearly represents the treatment area(s) at a suitable scale.

The mandatory maps and minimum content of each are:

1. **Overview Map** General overview map of the project boundary in relation to communities and other major features and base data.

2. **Treatment Unit Map with Tabular Area Summary**

- Show project boundary and treatment units.
- Wildfire threat class plot locations color coded by derived threat class.
- Map must include a tabular area summary, by activity, using the stand treatment activity codes provided in the figure.

Activity	Code
Tree Felling	TF
Juvenile Spacing	JS
Pruning	PR
Broadcast Burning	BB
Spot Pile Burning	SB
Piling	PI
Surface Fuel Collection	SFC
Tree Planting	PL
Debris Management (chipping, etc.)	DM
Debris Removal	DR
Tree Removal (sawlogs, firewood, etc.)	TR
Fire Effects Monitoring	FEM
Cultural Burning	CB
Containment Lines	CL
Site Rehabilitation	SR

APPENDIX 3 – CULTURAL BURNING REVITALIZATION & PRESCRIBED FIRE

To be eligible for funding, all burn plan activities must be in alignment with the requirements for funding fuel management activities identified outside of FireSmart Noncombustible Zone and Priority Zones 1 and 2. Prescribed Fire Plan preparation and implementation, refer to Appendix 3 for more description and guidelines. Cultural Burning Revitalization and Prescribed Fire must be within 1 km WUI and be on-reserve lands.

Eligible Prescription/Burn Plan Development Costs & Activities:

- Activities related to prescription development (e.g., approved Canadian wildfire modelling, pre-burn fire effects monitoring or stakeholder engagement)
- Activities related to burn plan development including identification of values in containment areas, additional data collection requirements and engaging with burn specialists. Pre- and Post-burn fire effects monitoring
- Required professional assessments (e.g., geotechnical, archaeological, fire ecologist, range agrologist, etc.)
- Site evaluation, including field reconnaissance, wildfire threat assessment plots, data collection as outlined in prescription guidance document and the evaluation of site access
- Lay out and traversing of proposed areas for treatments
- Preparation of all final report requirements, including maps, spatial data, and metadata

Undertake planning and development for Cultural & Prescribed Burn Plans on First Nations land, limited to:

- Develop burn plans and supply the required cost breakdown (must be based on eligible fuel management prescription) Must utilize the BCWS Prescribed Fire Burn Plan Template. (Note: per Appendix 1a of the template – Burn Plan Signature Sheet, the BCWS Fire Centre Manager or designate is required to approve the burn plan.)

BC Wildfire Service Burn Plan Resources:

- [Appendix 1 - Prescribed Fire Burn Plan Template](#) (DOCX, 53 KB) (October 1, 2019)
- [Appendix 1a - Burn Plan Signature Sheet](#) (PDF, 258 KB)
- [Appendix 2 - Prescribed Fire Communications Plan Template](#) (DOCX, 49 KB)
- [Appendix 3 - Prescribed Fire Approval Process](#) (PDF, 442 KB)

APPENDIX 3

- [Appendix 4 - Prescribed Fire Steps](#) (PDF, 456 KB)

Policies and Procedures:

- [Policy 9.5 - Prescribed Fire and Resource Management Open Fire](#) (PDF, 634 KB)
- [Prescribed Fire - Standard Operating Procedure](#) (PDF, 741 KB)

Prescribed fire complexity rating guide

A complex rating system has been adapted to B.C. to rate Broadcast Burns into three (3) levels. The rating system is included in the Burn Plan as Schedule 2. Once a burn has been rated it will be classified as a Type I, Type II, or a Type III burn. At this point a Burn Boss can be selected that meets the appropriate certification level.

[Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating Guide](#) (PDF)