



1
**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AGENDA**

Thursday, January 3, 2019

PAGE NO.

ACTION

CALL TO ORDER

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Receive

AGENDA – January 3, 2019

Approve

MINUTES

3-11

Committee of the Whole Meeting
Minutes – June 7, 2018

Receive

REPORT

12

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer – Smithers,
Houston and Area Television Rebroadcasting

Recommendation
(Page 12)

CORRESPONDENCE

13-43

Vanderhoof Community Forest – Wildfire Risk
Management Plan

Receive

44-45

Legislative Assembly of BC - Select Standing
Committee on Crown Corporations – Call for Written
Submissions

Receive

46

Northern Health – Media Bulletin – Northern Health
Connections Modified Holiday Schedule

Receive

INVITATIONS

47

Community Energy Association – BC Municipal
Climate Leadership Council Workshop re: Climate
Action Planning – January 18, 2019 – Vancouver, BC

Receive

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, June 7, 2018

PRESENT: Chair Bill Miller

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Chris Beach
Eileen Benedict
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Thomas Liversidge
Rob MacDougall
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Gerry Thiessen

Director Absent Dwayne Lindstrom, Village of Fraser Lake

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Debbie Evans, Regional Agriculture Coordinator
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 11:48 a.m.,
returned at 12:50 p.m., left at 1:44 p.m., returned at 2:17 p.m.
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development
- left at 1:33 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Alistair Schroff, Lakes Animal Friendship Society – left at 12:03
p.m.
Gord Lester, Burns Lake Community Forest – left at 11:57 a.m.
Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager, Burns Lake Community
Forest – left at 11:57 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 11:19 a.m.

**AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY**

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2018-5-1

“That the Agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Committee of the Whole meeting of June 7, 2018 be approved;
and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this
meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes –May 3, 2018

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Bachrach

C.W.2018-5-2

"That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of May 3, 2018 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST – Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager RE: Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Project

Chair Miller welcomed Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager, Burns Lake Community Forest.

Mr. Varga provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

2018: Burns Lake Community Forest

Mission Statement

ComFor Management Services Ltd and subsidiary Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd. manage and operate the Community Forest Agreement K1A in a safe, profitable, and innovative manner that enhances the forest resources while respective to the principles of intergraded use, environmental stewardship, and public consultation.

Topics

- History
- Community Benefit
- MPBM (Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation) Project
- Future of Rural Communities

History

- BLCF was established in July, 2000 as a Pilot Community Forest Licence, consisting of 23.325 ha
- In the first 15 years:
 - o From 23.325 ha to 92.062 ha
 - o From an AAC of 23.677 m³ to an uplift of 500,000 m³
 - o 2016 – AAC is 225,000 with Green Partition
- Re-structuring and re-focusing the Community Forest vision and mission became the primary objective
- MPB Outbreak produced new challenges
- In April of 2005, BLCF was awarded 25 year Community Forest Agreement (K1A)
- MPB management has managed BLCF
 - o Race to salvage dead pine became the norm

Harvest Performance

MP #3 and resultant AAC determination (2016)

- 225,000 m³ AAC, a maximum volume of 900,000 m³ from 2016 to 2020
- May 2017 Adjustment
 - o Maximum volume that can be live trees or 210,000 up from 180,000 m³
- From 2016 to 2020, accommodate definition "high risk" stand (.50% Pli)
- Very restrictive determination

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST – Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager RE: Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Project (CONT'D)

Community Benefit

For Fiscal 2016/2017

- A total \$283,251.96 was donated to 50 different organizations in the community, as well as \$13,100 in-kind contributions
- 119,960 hours of direct employment (about 53 FTE hrs)
- Purchased over \$3 million worth of goods and services (more than 85% local)
- Over 1 million trees planted 50/50 spruce/pine mix
- \$204,013 was paid in stumpage to B.C. government
- Village of Burns Lake - \$412,054.92 – 23%
- Wet'suwet'en First Nation \$412,054.92 – 23%
- Ts'il Kaz Koh (Burns Lake Band) - \$412,054.92 – 23%
- Retained by COMFOR \$538,698.24 – 30%

Moving into 2018 & Beyond

- Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Project
- Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC)
- Implementation (MPBMP, KPMG-OFA)
- Area Base Tenure Management

Transition to the Future 'Beyond the Beetle'

- MPB has driven management of BLCF since inception in 2000
- Reactive, not proactive

Current Situation

- MPB attacked the majority of the Community Forest (avg 67%)
- Harvested MPB killed timber (logging 11.463+ ha since January, 2007)
- Salvage era end around 2020
- Impact to Timber Supply = Impact to Economy = Socioeconomic Conditions

Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation

- Faced with MPB crisis, what would an owner do?
- BLCOMFOR Board Vision for MPB Mitigation Plan: 'Think like an owner, take action like an owner'
- Board Objectives for MPB Mitigation Plan:
 - o Maximize salvage
 - o Improve timber supply
 - o Diversify products, markets
 - o Improve resource information
- MPB Mitigation Plan Purpose:
 - o MPB Mitigation Plan
 - Improved resource inventories
 - Improved silviculture regimes
 - BLCF economic model
 - Environmental program
 - Forest Stewardship Council
 - New Timber Supply Analysis (TSA)

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST – Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager RE: Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Project (CONT'D)

Challenging Status Quo

- Improved information
 - o Resource data used:
 - Predictive Ecosystem Mapping (PEM)
 - New VRI (Vegetation Resources Inventory)
 - Landbase classification
 - Timber value
 - LIDAR and drones
 - Analysis model set to improve or optimize the management of environmental values
- Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC)
- Public support , communication and engagement
 - o FSC Certified December 2017
 - First Nation Engagement – United Nations Declaration – FPIC
 - Highest environmental stewardship recognition
 - Market diversification

First Nations Engagement and Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC)

- Strengthen FN Involvement
- Develop communication and engagement strategy
- Data Sharing Agreement
- Technical Working Agreement

Future

Where to go next?

- Unlocking the power of area based management
 - o The key to unlocking the power of area-based management rests in taking advantage of the unique rights, obligations and statutory discretions arising from the Community Forest Association (CFA) management plan:
 - o Statutory Discretions
 - Approve Management Plan (MP)
 - Set AAC in accord with Community Forest Association (CFA) (MP)
 - o Rights
 - Tailor MP uniquely suited to CFA
 - Manage land in accord with MP
 - o Obligations
 - Propose an AAC in MP
 - Implement commitments
 - o There is no parallel for this for volume based licenses

Challenging Status Quo – Enabling Implementation

- Minister Donaldson Address – ABCFP (Association of BC Forest Professionals), TLA (Truck Loggers Association) (2018)
- Public Review Fire & Flood (May, 2018)
- Special Committee on Timber Supply Report (2012)
- Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – Fiber Action Plan
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2017) Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako & Village of Burns Lake
- Legacy of Legal orders Covering Lakes TSA and BLCF
 - o Landscape Connectivity
 - o Wildlife Habitat
 - o Biodiversity Conservation
 - o Scenic Areas Management
- Implementation of Mitigation Plan requires revisiting these “Statutory Decisions”

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST – Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager RE: Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Project (CONT'D)

Interface Fires

Top 20 Communities at Risk – Based on the % Area of Hazardous Fuels

*B.A. Blackwell & Associates – BCCFA AGM Presentation 2018

1. Wells
2. Tumbler Ridge
3. Granisle
4. Houston
5. Burns Lake
6. Sparwood
7. Mackenzie
8. Elkford
9. Clearwater
10. Valemount
11. Sun Peaks Mountain Resort
12. Chetwynd
13. Golden
14. Logan Lake
15. Fernie
16. Nelson
17. Fraser Lake
18. Telkwa
19. Slocan
20. Fort St. James

Reduced Resilience to Climate Change

*Lory Daniels, UBC Faculty of Forestry – BCCFA AGM Presentation 2018

- Surface fires + fire exclusion = fuels build-up + climate change = more frequent severe fires

Challenges

*B.A. Blackwell & Associates – BCCFA AGM Presentation 2018

- There are large areas of hazardous fuel types that are within OGMA's and or Mule Deer Winter Range – without treatment many of these areas pose a risk to communities and are not resilient to fire

Discussion took place in regard to the partition cut for BLCF and the impact of the FSC Certification and the ability to have local decision making in regard to issues such as caribou. Director Thiessen commented that while attending the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 2018 Convention in Halifax, NS caribou was a big issue and discussed at length. Mr. Varga commented that BLCF chose to move forward with FSC Certification for environmental stewardship and a land manager on the land base. It also provides an opportunity to recognize long-term sustainable harvest levels for the community forest and the community in the long term.

Director Beach congratulated and thanked BLCF for hosting the BC Community Forest AGM in Burns Lake. He also noted that as a local government stakeholder in BLCF the Village of Burns Lake has provided a letter of support to Burns Lake Community Forest for its FSC certification.

Discussion took place regarding broadcast burning in regard to BCLF Mitigation plan. Mr. Varga noted to date that BLCF has not completed any broadcast burning to date and would be completed as a collaborative approach with BC Wildfire Management. He mentioned that BCLF is investigating the ability to utilize and recover more fibre from the land base. Growing of deciduous stands for bio fuels was also discussed.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY FOREST – Frank Varga, RPF, General Manager RE: Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Project (CONT'D)

Chair Miller spoke of the importance of discussing visual quality objectives and wildfire mitigation. He also noted that the FSC certification provides a tool for communities to address needs.

Discussion took place regarding Bruce Blackwell, B.A. Blackwell & Associates presenting to the Regional Board. Mr. Varga indicated that he has invited him to BLCF to provide a presentation he will provide information when available.

Chair Miller thanked Mr. Varga for attending the meeting.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

LAKES ANIMAL FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY – Alistair Schroff – RE: Update

Chair Miller welcomed Alistair Schroff, Lakes Animal Friendship Society.

Mr. Schroff mentioned that when the Lakes Animal Friendship Society began in 2011 there were very few initiatives addressing companion animal over population in northwest BC. The Village of Burns Lake, since 2011, has become a success story in its animal population initiatives. Mr. Schroff reported that Vet to Pet Mobile Service from Smithers is also becoming active in communities in the northwest that do not currently have veterinarian services. There is also an organization called Spirits Mission located at Saik'uz First Nation that has similar programs. Programs and services are continuing in Burns Lake using local veterinarians for outreach programs to support outlying communities. Mr. Schroff mentioned the excellent support from Mayor Beach and the Village of Burns Lake and the saving from the reduction in animal population and using it for prevention initiatives. It is a local model that is having success.

Mr. Schroff spoke of the provincial organization Paws for Hope that has created the Animal Welfare Advisory Network of B.C. It is bringing the BC SPCA and regional groups together to address common issues. The advisory group is working on identifying deficiencies in communities in order to identify issues. It is an encouraging initiative.

The Lakes Animal Friendship Society has new resources it is distributing:

- New activity book
- Picture book in regard to animal care
 - o First Nations, northern and rural element in the material
 - o Local children provided the artwork
 - o Continue to build on momentum

Mr. Schroff thanked the Regional Board for its support and encouragement in moving forward its initiatives. He expressed appreciation for Electoral Areas "B" (Burns Lake Rural) and "E" (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) for grant in aid support and letters of support in the past. He noted that the Lakes Animal Friendship Society is being recognized across Canada in regard to animal care initiatives.

Director Beach thanked Mr. Schroff for the continued leadership and the difference that has been made in Burns Lake and surrounding community. Mr. Schroff noted that an animal wellness day was held at Lake Babine Nation on May 22, 2018.

Chair Miller thanked Mr. Schroff for attending the meeting.

Break for lunch at 12:03 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

REPORTS

Appreciation for Term in Office for Elected Officials

Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2018-5-3

"That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize staff to plan and organize an end of term BBQ at Chair Miller's residence after an RDBN Meeting for late afternoon/evening."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will contact the Regional Board to determine a date.

Appreciation for Term in Office for Elected Officials

Moved by Director Benedict
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2018-5-4

"That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve ordering one coat for each elected official wanting a coat in 2018 (outgoing and incoming); and further, that the Height 3 & 1 coat in the Chief Administrative Officer's May 30, 2018 report be the coat for consideration."

Opposed: Director Fisher CARRIED
 Director Parker

(All/Directors/Majority)

Road Rescue Bylaws

Moved by Director Beach
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2018-5-5

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the Manager of Administrative Services' May 30, 2018 memo titled "Road Rescue Bylaws."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Electoral Area "D" (Fraser Lake Rural)
 - Option 3 – Place the bylaw on hold and lobby the provincial government to issue task numbers regardless of any bylaw in support of road rescue.
- Electoral Area "F" Emergency Extrication Contribution Local Service Area Establishment Repeal Bylaw No. 1823, 2018
 - Option 1 – Proceed with adoption of the bylaws – contributions to the municipalities would discontinue.
- Lakes District (Electoral Areas "B" and "E") Emergency Response Contribution Local Service Establishment Repeal Bylaw No. 1824, 2018
 - Option 1 – Proceed with adoption of the bylaws – contributions to the municipalities would discontinue.

Staff will bring forward Bylaws at the June 21, 2018 Regional Board meeting.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Chair Miller noted that lobbying efforts move forward from the Regional Board in regard to EMBC's position that task numbers would not be issued to reimburse fire departments for road rescue services in areas covered by any type of road rescue service support by local government bylaws.

2018 UBCM Resolution
Deadline

Moved by Director Beach
Seconded by Director Benedict

C.W.2018-5-6

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the Manager of Administrative Service's May 30, 2018 memo titled "2018 UBCM Resolution Deadline."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Bachrach brought forward the importance of focusing on one or two issues of high priority and only forwarding those resolutions to UBCM. Discussion took place in regard to the process and UBCM resolutions being addressed by the province. The Union of B.C. Municipalities resolutions vs. the Federation of Canadian Municipalities resolutions were discussed along with the action by provincial and federal government in addressing resolutions.

Director Newell questioned the number of resolutions that are brought forward through the UBCM resolution process that are actioned by the province.

Discussion took place in regard to meeting with Ministers advocating a topic and/or issue and providing resolutions to UBCM in regard to the same topics/issues. UBCM resolutions at times will take several years but will initiate a cumulative result in regard to an issue.

Director Thiessen noted the importance of building alliances with other municipalities and regions when bringing forward issues to UBCM and/or the province. Director MacDougall spoke of the structure of the Omenica Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) where a report was completed in regard to a priority identified by OBAC that provided the information for the priority along with a solution.

Discussion took place in regard to advocacy for Waste Management and Road Rescue.

BC Rural Dividend Program
Announcement

Moved by Director Beach
Seconded by Director Parker

C.W.2018-5-7

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the Proposal Writer's May 29, 2018 memo titled "BC Rural Dividend Program Announcement."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS (CONT'D)

2018 Minerals North Tradeshow Report

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director MacDougall

C.W.2018-5-8

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's May 29, 2018 memo titled "2018 Minerals North Tradeshow Report."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Fort Fraser Water Project -Status of Work – May 25, 2018

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Fisher

C.W.2018-5-9

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the report dated May 25, 2018 in regard to the Fort Fraser Water Project – Status of Work – May 25, 2018."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Moved by Director Thiessen
Seconded by Director Beach

C.W.2018-5-10

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the following correspondence:
-Northern Health – Media Release – Northern Health Connections Expands Eligibility to Improve Access to Health Related Travel;
-Office of the Premier and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – Province Launches BC Bus North for Affordable, Safe Travel in Northern B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Rail Safety UBCM Resolution

Moved by Director Repen
Seconded by Director Beach

C.W.2018-5-11

"That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to replace the Rail Safety resolution approved on May 24, 2018 for consideration at the Union of B.C. Municipalities 2018 Convention with the resolution proposed in the Director of Protective Services' June 7, 2018 memo titled "Rail Safety UBCM Resolution" as amended to include all railways and rail operators."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to the limited capacity that exists in the province to respond to a dangerous goods emergency and the AskRail App and contact number. Staff has been in discussion with CN Rail in regard to scheduling a meeting with CN and their dangerous goods experts.



NEW BUSINESS

**RBA Projects and Stakeholder
Engagement**

Discussion took place in regard to RBA Stakeholder engagement and Directors ability to speak and meet with key stakeholders.

Further research was discussed in regard to determining funds flowing in and out of the region. Director Brienen and Repen will follow-up and provide further information to the Regional Board.

**Mathletics – Evelyn Dickson
Elementary School
-Vanderhoof**

Director Thiessen announced that Mrs.Toth's grade 5 class at Evelyn Dickson Elementary School in Vanderhoof is currently # 1 in Canada and #24 in the world within the 'Mathletics' world.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2018-5-12

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:19 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bill Miller, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole Agenda January 3, 2019

To: Chair Thiessen and Board of Directors
From: John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Date: December 18, 2018
Re: Smithers, Houston and Area Television Rebroadcasting

Mr. Harris, from the Rebroadcasting Society, has contacted staff and he indicated that the society is very grateful for the increase in the annual grant from \$50,000 to \$60,000 in 2018.

Mr. Harris discussed the possible cost of the increased financial reporting requirements for the society. The society's financial reporting is strong, increased costs would derive from a professional accountant preparing and looking over their current draft statements. Speaking with our auditors this cost is estimated to be \$1000. The society may be able to have their statements prepared for a lower cost.

Option 1 (below) recommends increasing the annual grant by \$1000 so as not to impact the net benefit to the society by the Regional District's change in policy.

Option 2 (below) recommends maintaining the annual grant at \$60,000.

There is sufficient taxation room in the bylaw to increase taxation from \$60,000 to \$61,000. This is a 1.6% tax increase for this service.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

Recommendation: (All/Directors/Majority)

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the Chief Financial Officer's memo dated December 18, 2018 titled 'Smithers, Houston and Area Television Rebroadcasting' and that the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako that

Option 1: "The annual grant to the Smithers, Houston and Area Television Rebroadcasting Society be increased to \$61,000 in the 2019 proposed budget."

Option 2: "The annual grant to the Smithers, Houston and Area Television Rebroadcasting Society remain at \$60,000 in the 2019 proposed budget."

Jason Llewellyn

From: Darcie Fodor <dfodor@forsite.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 12:40 PM
To: Frank Tiramani; Zoe Dhillon; DeGagne, John M FLNR:EX; Pritchard, Mike FLNR:EX; Jason Llewellyn
Cc: Randy Spyksma
Subject: Vanderhoof CFA Wildfire Risk Management Plan - Context Document
Attachments: VanderhoofCFA_WRMP_Context_13Dec2018.pdf;
VanderhoofCFA_WRMP_ToR_FINAL.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Planning Team,

Attached is a draft copy of the Context Document prepared for the Community Forest's Wildfire Risk Management Plan (WRMP). If you could please review and provide your comments or feedback by **January 11, 2019** that would be appreciated.

The Terms of Reference Document has been finalized, however if there are any outstanding comments to be considered please let me know. I have attached a copy of this final document for your records.

We are moving forward with the analysis this week and will have preliminary results to review with the Team in the New Year. In the coming days I will organize our next Planning Team meeting in January to review these results and finalize the analysis. If you know of any dates in January that you are not available for a meeting, please let me know. I will be travelling to Vanderhoof to meet everyone in person.

Thank you,

 **FORSITE**
Darcie Fodor, RPF, MSFM, BSc
Strategic Planning Forester, RMT Group
tel 250-372-0444 x 307 FORSITE.CA

Vanderhoof Community Forest – Wildfire Risk Management Plan

CONTEXT DOCUMENT

December 14, 2018

Prepared for:

Vanderhoof Community Forest
P.O. Box 900
160 Connaught Street
Vanderhoof, BC
V0J 3A0

Prepared by:

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NL
Nechako Lumber Co. Ltd.
VANDERHOOF, B.C.

 **FORSITE**
Forest Management Specialists

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1 Introduction

In 2017, British Columbia's experienced unprecedented impacts from the flood and wildfire season. The events were among the worst in the province's history, prompting a 10-week provincial state of emergency. Over 65,000 residents were displaced, with direct fire suppression costs estimated at more than \$564 million¹. The mandate of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD), the strategic initiatives of the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS), and the recommendations of documents such as the 2010 BC Wildland Fire Management Strategy² provide the high-level direction for the wildfire management planning in the province. This is reflected in the 2012 – 2017 Strategic Plan³, which identifies the development of landscape wildfire management planning as a priority for BCWS going forward.

A key part of the risk assessment process is the documentation of the *Context* to provide a high-level summary of the overall environmental the Vanderhoof Community Forest is looking to achieve their objectives through the Wildfire Risk Management Plan (Vanderhoof WRMP). This document will discuss the context of wildfire management as it relates to:

- Legislative, regulatory and administrative requirements and expectations of the Plan, including BC's approach to risk, risk tolerance, and response to wildfire related risks;
- Environmental, social, and economic framework; and,
- Risk assessment process – the overall approach used to assess wildfire related risk within the Plan Area, including the risk management framework, risk criteria and approach to impact assessment.

The *Context* for the Vanderhoof WRMP process includes a clear articulation of wildfire as both a threat and opportunity. Wildfire related **threats** to values at risk must be identified and managed. **Opportunities** associated with wildfire on the landscape must also be recognized and managed. Considerations of time frame (short-term vs. long-term goals) as well as geographic scale (site specific vs. landscape level considerations) are important factors when managing wildfire risk.

2 Plan Area

The Vanderhoof WRMP Plan Area includes the Vanderhoof Community Forest Area (CFA) (23,201 ha) and surrounding area. The lands adjacent to the CFA are included in the planning process due to the potential influence of wildfires outside the CFA and the potential of values in the CFA influencing wildfire response. To incorporate these adjacent risks and values, a 5 km buffer was applied to the CFA boundary to represent the total Plan Area of 179,378 ha (Figure 1). Within the 5 km buffer there are additional land uses and jurisdictions that influence the wildfire risk management planning process, including the District of Vanderhoof, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, the Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District, and Stuart River Provincial Park (BC Parks). The Plan Area has 127 recorded wildfire incidents since 1920, with the cause of wildfires greater than 4.0 ha shown in Table 1.

¹ <https://bcfloodfirereview.ca/>

² Government of BC, 2010. The British Columbia Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. BC Wildfire Service. Pages 16-17.

³ Government of BC, 2012. Wildfire Management Branch Strategic Plan. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. BC Wildfire Service. Page 17.

Table 1: Large Wildfires (≥ 4.0 ha) from 1920 to Present

Date	Total Fires	Natural	Human	Unknown
1920 – 1940	97	3	94	-
1941 – 1960	12	2	10	-
1961 – 1980	7	0	7	-
1981 – Present	11	1	7	3

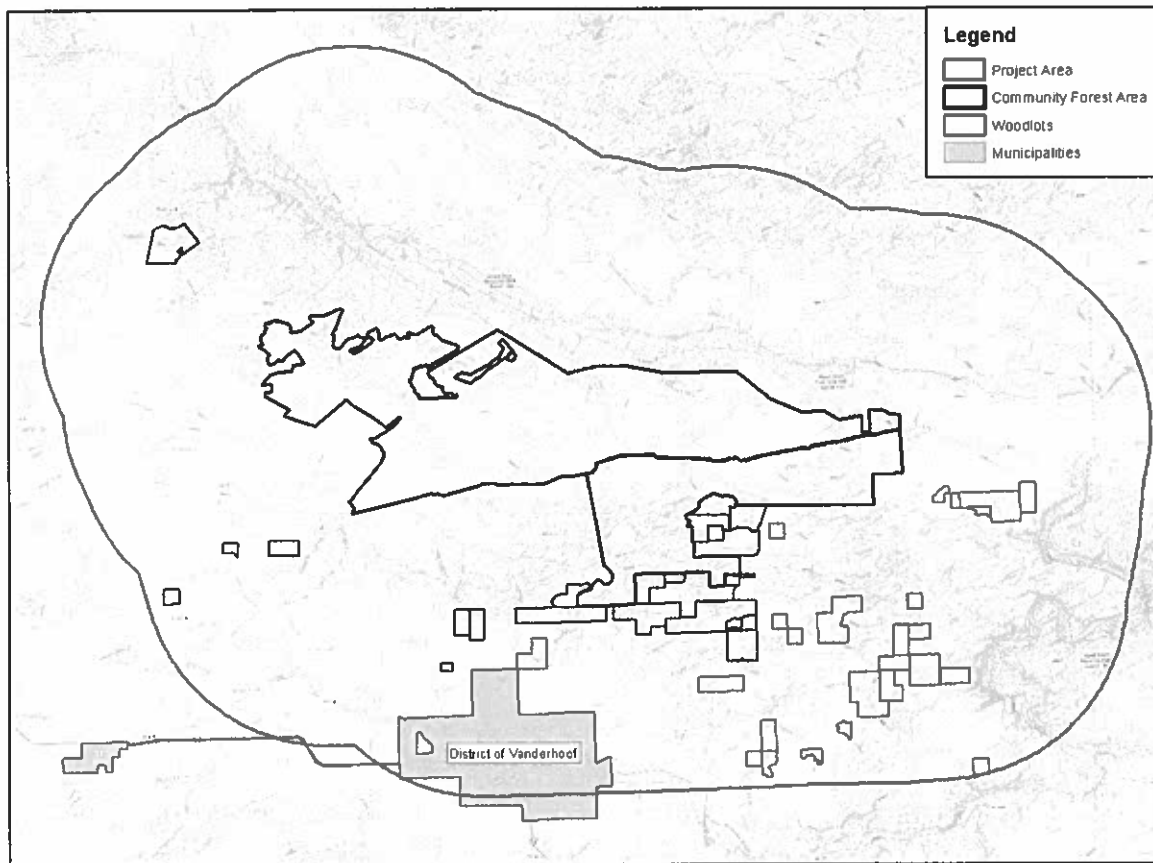


Figure 1: Vanderhoof Wildfire Risk Management Plan Area

3 Legislative and Policy Context

The BCWS has the authority to manage wildfire in the province. A series of strategic plans and guidance documents (policy) are in place that provide direction as to how the BCWS operates. These documents provide guidance to everyday operations as well as more strategic level planning exercises such as this Vanderhoof WRMP. The key legislative and policy context includes the following:

- The **BC Wildfire Act⁴** and **BC Wildfire Regulations** – The Act is the legal driver for all wildfire prevention and mitigation opportunities, and applies to all residents of BC. The intent is to specify responsibilities and obligations for fire use, wildfire prevention and control, and rehabilitation. It provides MFLNRORD and BCWS with the discretion to manage fires on Crown or leased land to

⁴ http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/04031_01

reduce the likelihood of unwanted fire, increase public safety, enhance forest and grassland resources and values, and meet other government objectives.

- **Wildfire Management Branch Strategic Plan⁵ (2012 – 2017)** – Outlines a strategic action for the management of human resources associated with wildfire in order to provide the best possible response to unplanned fire events. This includes supporting the workforce, ensuring effective business practices, optimizing organization structure and resources, achieving effective partnerships and delivery, and leading wildfire management and practices throughout BC. A new strategic plan is to be released by BCWS in 2018.
- **BC Wildfire Service Wildfire Risk Reduction Planning Standard (2018)** – Provides direction and guidance for wildfire risk reduction planning, and describes the requirements for landscape or tactical planning projects to analyze wildfire risk and identify priority areas and actions to achieve risk reduction objectives.
- **BC Wildland Fire Management Strategy⁶ (2010)** – Developed through representatives from seven provincial ministries as well as the Integrated Land Management Bureau and the Oil and Gas Commission, this strategy aims to restore the natural role of wildfire in ecosystem processes in BC while providing an effective response to unwanted fires. It is recommended in this strategy that the BCWS can achieve these results by:
 - Reducing fire hazards and risks around communities and high-value areas;
 - Using controlled burns where risks can be managed and benefits are clear;
 - Monitoring and managing fires having minimal risk to infrastructure, resources, and communities, rather than suppressing them;
 - Implementing land, natural resource, and community plans that incorporate wildfire management at all scales; and,
 - Increasing public awareness and support for wildland fire management.
- **Stuart/Nechako Natural Resource District (VanJam) Fire Management Plan (2018)** – Outlines the suppression priorities for values on the landscape based on the BCWS Resource Strategic Wildfire Allocation Process (RSWAP). The fire management plan identifies priority response values and management concerns related to fire suppression within the District.
- **Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy⁷ (2016)** – The intent of this 10-year plan released under the Canadian Council of Forestry Minister was to provide an in-depth review of current management practices, and identify management objectives and priority areas. Developing and implementing an innovative approach to wildland fire management throughout Canada will ideally foster fire-resilient communities and a coordinated approach to fire prevention and wildfire response.

4 Planning Context

In addition to the legislative and policy context, direction and expectations are also realized through other provincial land use and planning processes. The planning context includes the following:

⁵ http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/wildfire-management/governance/bcws_strategic_plan_2012_17.pdf

⁶ http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/wildfire-management/governance/bcws_wildland_fire_mngmt_strategy.pdf

⁷ <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/pubwarehouse/pdfs/37108.pdf>

- **Vanderhoof Land and Resource Management Plan⁸ (1997)** – Consideration of fire as a tool for range and wildlife enhancement where appropriate, however there is no mention of other opportunities for fire management within this higher level plan. The discussion of fire is through the definition of natural disturbance processes and ecosystem management.
- **Vanderhoof Community Forest Management Plan (2016)** – Summarizes strategic direction and objectives for the CFA, as well as documents the timber resources and non-timber values across the CFA, from harvesting operations to biodiversity and cultural heritage resources.
- **District of Vanderhoof Community Forest Agreement KSP Forest Stewardship Plan (2017 – 2022)** – Provides sustainable forest management strategies to achieve government set objectives for a variety of resource values within the CFA.
- **Climate Change and Fire Management Research Study⁹ (2009)** – This study aimed to address the changing nature of wildfire in response to climate change. It identified knowledge gaps and recommended research priorities, including long-term research projects. Research summaries were categorized into three themes with the intent of strengthening land and fire management opportunities: (1) adapting wildland fire management, (2) balancing management options, and (3) putting science into practice for community resiliency.
- **Fire Management Stocking Standards Guidance Document¹⁰ (2016)** – Considerations for stand structure and composition to meet appropriate fire management objectives. These objectives can be described at a local or landscape level scale, and may seek to reduce fire behaviour, likelihood, intensity, or rate of spread on a target area.
- **Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia¹¹ (2018)** – The result of a strategic review commissioned by the BC Government to independently examine local and provincial government preparedness for and responses to the devastating 2017 flood and wildfire season. The review engaged with communities, stakeholder organizations, industry, first responders, and government and First Nations leaders and officials, and conducted a comprehensive technical data collection and analysis.
- **A Submission to the BC Flood and Wildfire Review 2017 – Association of BC Forest Professionals (2018)** – This report is the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals (ABCFFP) submission to the BC government's 2017 Flood and Wildfire Review. The ABCFFP consulted with select forest professionals about their knowledge and experience of the 2017 wildfire season in order to provide additional information for the Review Team. The second section of this report uses the responses from forest professionals to highlight potential shortcomings and outline key recommendations for moving forward with wildfire management in the province.
- **Risk Management Guideline for the BC Public Sector¹² (2012)** – This guideline, in companion with the ISO 31000 – *Risk Management Principles and Guidelines*, provides the direction and process for standardizing the risk management practice in the province of BC.

⁸ <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/lasb/slrp/plan46.html>

⁹ http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/wildfire-management/governance/bcws_climate_change_research_strategy.pdf

¹⁰ http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/land-based-investment/forests-for-tomorrow/fire_management_stocking_standards_guidance_document_march_2016.pdf

¹¹ <https://bcfloodfirereview.ca/>

¹² http://www.bcucipp.org/sites/bcucipp.civicwebcms.com/files/media/ERM_Guideline.pdf

- **Core Policy & Procedure Manual, Chapter 14: Risk Management¹³** – The intent is to ensure implementation of appropriate Risk Management accountability mechanisms across government. This policy seeks to establish and confirm consistent and compatible risk management standards, processes and practice within government while reducing barriers to successful implementation.
- **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction¹⁴ (2015)** – Adopted at the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, this framework aims to reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health worldwide. This framework recognizes that the State (Crown) has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

4.1 MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

These agreements are in place between the BCWS and different jurisdictions, such as Municipalities. The agreements generally address how aid can be provided, primarily from the BCWS, upon request, to the municipality or other organization in the case of wildfire. These agreements are renewed annually at a provincial level.

5 Environmental Context

The following environmental conditions will influence the implementation of the VCF WRMP process:

- **Natural Disturbance** – The Plan Area includes rolling uphill terrain and grasslands where natural disturbance plays a role in sustaining ecological cycles and in maintaining biological diversity. Wildfire is an important natural disturbance agent within the Plan Area. Fire suppression over the last 100 years¹⁵ has changed the disturbance patterns, and the resulting broader landscape is more prone to large scale catastrophic wildfires. The Plan Area is natural disturbance type (NDT) 3, which is defined as stands with frequent stand initiating events¹⁶.
- **Species At Risk** – No species at risk (plants, animals and ecosystems) have been identified in the Plan Area, and therefore are not included within the process. If species at risk are identified in future iterations then consideration needs to be given to those values and how they may be negatively or positively influenced by wildfire management.
- **Biodiversity** – Biodiversity management in BC is guided by management of old growth management areas (OGMAs), Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs) and following Identified Wildlife Management Strategies for Species at Risk (SAR) and other species of concern. Provincial Government Action Regulation Orders, such as Ungulate Winter Range (UWR), will be considered.

¹³ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/core-policy/policies/risk-management>

¹⁴ <https://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>

¹⁵ The suppression of wildfire is in itself another form of “disturbance”.

¹⁶ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/frep/frep-docs/biodiversityguidebook.pdf>

6 Social Context

6.1 LANDSCAPE AND LAND USE DIVERSITY

The Plan Area represents a landscape that is diverse in:

- Landform – rolling uphill terrain mostly forested with lodgepole pine and sub-boreal spruce with scattered patches of aspen and birch.
- Land designation – area and volume based forest tenures, municipality, recreation areas, etc.
- Land use – organized and dispersed recreation (motorized and non-motorized), forestry, ranching and grazing, agriculture, trapping, oil & gas pipelines, etc.

Given this diversity, there are significant pressures on the landscape and the expectations of the land and its managers. This has a direct influence on the Vanderhoof WRMP process in a number of key ways:

1. Identification and ranking of values at risk from wildfire (threatened and benefiting from fire);
2. First Nation, government, and stakeholders with interests in the land and how it is managed; and,
3. Need for more complex partnerships and collaboration in order to implement wildfire management activities, especially prevention and mitigation activities.

This complexity and diversity also provides opportunities for collaboration and mutual support for wildfire management that may not be possible in other places.

6.2 FIRST NATIONS

The Plan Area overlaps the traditional territory of roughly 4 unique First Nations¹⁷. The Planning Team will work with local First Nations in efforts to manage wildfire-related risks. Incorporating the interests, rights, traditional use and knowledge of First Nations regarding the land and wildfire is an important consideration of the planning process. In addition, multiple recommendations from the 2018 Flood and Fire Review related to First Nations interests and their key role in emergency management in BC moving forward. It is within this evolving framework that the Vanderhoof WRMP will continue to engage with First Nations and create partnerships to ensure a resilient landscape.

6.3 PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER PERCEPTIONS

Public and stakeholder understanding of wildfire as a natural disturbance agent and the impact of fire suppression on wildfire-related risks is being increasingly recognized. This understanding is not consistent across geographic areas, the public and all stakeholders. Wildfire management activities within the Plan Area will need to involve proactive, open and detailed public and stakeholder engagement.

6.4 COMMUNITIES AND THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

With the exception of Vanderhoof, there are no established communities within the Plan Area. Small concentrations of people are located in areas that are not formally identified but represent concentrations of residences/people, all within the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN). These “community areas” have wildland urban interface (WUI) areas that represent a specific challenge when it comes to wildfire risk management. The extent of these WUI areas will continue to increase should more people choose to live, work, and vacation within this area.

¹⁷ First Nations Consultative Areas Database (CAD) query March 7, 2018: <http://maps.gov.bc.ca/ess/hm/cadb/>

BC has been active since 2004 in the development of a provincial FireSmart program, working with the public, communities, and industry to reducing WUI related risks through various programs that address the seven FireSmart disciplines: education, vegetation management, legislation and planning, development considerations, interagency cooperation, emergency planning, and cross training. Communities across the Plan Area have varying levels of engagement in FireSmart related activities.

Significant opportunities and challenges exist for wildfire risk management in the WUI:

- Heavily used land base including both active forest management/ harvesting and public recreation based activities;
- Challenging public dynamics with, in some cases, very polarized perspectives on the use of fire and/or other vegetation management practices in and around communities that can be used to reduce wildfire hazard; and,
- Private land and the ability to dovetail private and Crown land treatments in order to implement meaningful landscape level fire hazard reduction treatments.

7 Economic Context

Due to the size of the Plan Area, the economic context is relatively small when compared to other parts of the province. Significant industry presence exists in the following sectors:

- Forestry/Timber – forest tenures and additional crown forested lands;
- Grazing/Ranching – Crown land integrated with adjacent private lands;
- Trapping;
- Pipelines;
- Electricity Transmission;
- Recreation – dispersed, concentrated; and
- Transportation – main highways.

These industries have significant infrastructure that is at risk from wildfire, from linear infrastructure (e.g. transmission lines) to specific sites (e.g. campsites). None of this infrastructure would benefit from wildfire, other than the reduced wildfire hazard following fire.

8 Key Trends

The following key trends will influence the Vanderhoof WRMP process and the management of wildfire risk in the next five (5) years.

- **Organizational Change and Funding Levels** – Organizational changes within the BC provincial government are ongoing and will influence decision making and strategic level planning initiatives such as wildfire risk management planning more than day-to-day operations. The unprecedented 2017 wildfire season was the catalyst for the BC Flood and Fire Review and subsequent report. The organizational changes that may come from the results of this independent review could influence policy decisions that affect the WRMP.
- **Forest Fuels** – Due in part to historic and ongoing fire suppression and the resulting development of relatively continuous forest types and increased fuel loadings across the Plan Area, there may be an increase in the probability of larger wildfires.

- **Climate Change** – Although the potential influence of climate change on wildfire risks in the Plan Area has not undergone significant study, changes in climate and weather are expected to result in warming and drying trends and a reduction in fire return intervals.
- **Wildland Fire as Strategic Tool** – There is an increasing recognition within government agencies and the public of the benefits of utilizing wildland fire to create a landscape that is less prone to large catastrophic wildfires. It is being increasingly understood that such a strategy and the resulting landscape would have a positive influence on numerous values and could play a key role in risk management across the Plan Area. Better understanding of indigenous use of fire and ecosystem restoration will help inform potential management strategies.
- **Land Use and Potential Population Growth** – A broad range of land use activities may increase across the Plan Area, potentially resulting in a population increase (including an expansion of the WUI). In addition, an increase may be expected in less formal and dispersed public use of the landscape. Ongoing forest management will continue to have a significant impact on fuels within the Plan Area.
- **Collaboration and Partnership** – There is an increasing interest in an open collaborative approach involving partnerships with a range of land and resource managers within MFLRNORD and other government agencies and First Nations. It is expected that a range of partners will also be needed to implement management strategies resulting from the WRMP process.
- **Understanding and Use of Risk Assessment and Management** – A more broad understanding and utilization of risk management exist across the BC government. This will continue to provide for informed risk-based decisions. How well this aligns with the perceptions around risk and risk management in the general public is not known and could be a challenge in the future.

9 Risk Assessment Process

The Vanderhoof WRMP follows the principles of risk management found in the CAN/CSA-ISO 31000-10 *Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines*.

9.1 RISK CONTEXT

The mandate of an organization, how it is structured, and the challenges it currently faces are all a part of the context that influences the organizations approach to risk and risk management. The discussion below¹⁸ discusses risk management within MFLNRORD and BCWS.

9.1.1 DISCUSSION OF RISK

Risk can pertain to both **threats** (negative impacts of wildfire) as well as **opportunities** (positive impacts of wildfire). It is critically important to understand public values and goals in order to manage this risk effectively. Given this predominance of public values on the land base, it is also difficult to quantitatively define risk appetite.

¹⁸ Acknowledging that the 2017 Flood and Fire Review is ongoing and that changes are anticipated

An additional challenge is that the different risks that exist due to wildfire may be opposing, depending on the time and geographic scale that is being considered. A few examples are provided:¹⁹

1. **Time Scale** – Allowing for wildfire on a given landscape to address ecological restoration goals associated with forest ingress, or to improve forage production for wildlife and/or cattle, may be considered unacceptable due to the adjacent community values at risk. This lack of acceptance may be despite hazard reduction (a resulting breakup of the forest fuels) that reduces the long-term wildfire-related risks to the community.
2. **Time Scale** – Allowing fires to burn within a watershed that provides drinking water or irrigation may result in increased risks to water quality and quantity in the short-term, but may reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires and as such, maintain water quality and quantity in the long-term.
3. **Geographic Scale** – Allowing a fire to burn within a watershed that provides drinking water to a community may not be considered high risk if the fire is small and/or the watershed is large. Whereas a more severe fire that burns a significant portion of a given watershed may result in a high risk to water quality.

As demonstrated in the examples above, it is important to discuss risk tolerance and risk appetite within the context of this “dichotomy of scale”.

9.1.2 RISK MANAGEMENT IN BCWS

The development of a provincial risk framework for BCWS is currently ongoing. The risk management process will follow the principals identified within the ISO-31000 standard. The Planning Team will continue to work with BCWS to integrate this into the risk framework, which may involve updates to the WRMP either through this process or in future iterations.

- **Information Gaps in Risk Identification** – Risk assessment is being completed with the best available information. The recent development of the Provincial Strategic Threat Assessment (PSTA) data²⁰ allows regions to view fire related threats based on the current data. Gaps exist in a number of areas including but not limited to: fire weather indices, forest fuels, and the spatial extent of values at risk. Additional information is needed to specify historic fire return intervals and disturbance patterns in order to better spatialize the potential benefits of wildfire and in support of the strategic use of wildland fire on the landscape. One of the most substantial information gaps is the application of the Canadian Forest Fire Fuel types to the provincial ecological landscape. Based primarily on boreal forest types, there remains no fuel type that applies to the interior cedar hemlock, plantation, or mature spruce forest types. This lack of inventory information remains a substantial obstacle to accurate modelling of forest fire risk.
- **Information Management to Support Operations** – Significant amounts of information are becoming available to support decision making around fire prevention and suppression operations. Information management systems are needed that allow this information to be made available to practitioners and decision makers in support of both day-to-day activities as well as incident-based decision making.

¹⁹ It is recognized that these examples are an over simplification of very complex dynamics associated with wildfire risk management around communities and within drinking water watersheds.

²⁰ Most recent data is 2015 although we are aware of 2017 data being compiled (personal communication between Garnet Mierau and Kelly Osbourne, Fire Management Planning Forester, April 6, 2018).

9.2 RISK MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

The following key Risk Management Principles were identified as priority for the Vanderhoof WRMP process:

- 1 **Risk management creates and protects values** – Identifying and responding to wildfire related risks creates and protect values. Fire on the landscape has significant and long-term benefits to habitat and biodiversity as well as landscape level threats to values at risk.²¹ Wildfire also has the ability to be a significant and immediate threat to values across the landscape. The Plan will explicitly address the positive impacts (opportunities) and negative impacts (threats) of wildfire on values and how the impact will be managed to realize or protect value.
- 2 **Risk management is part of decision making** – Risk management can be a key decision support tool, providing background information, understanding of values and due diligence around critically important and complex problems. The Plan will provide information to BCWS regarding values on the land base, and the corresponding risk of wildfire to these values.
- 3 **Risk management explicitly addressed uncertainty** – Risk is the effect of uncertainty on objectives.²² The WRMP will take a structured approach to the identification of (1) the probability of fire, and (2) the values that will be positively or negatively impacted by fire. A significant amount of information will be gathered and generated through the planning process that will be used to develop a risk management plan, and can be used to support subsequent implementation and decisions support across the organization.
- 4 **Risk management is based on the best available information** – Wildfire risk management planning will occur, to some degree, in the absence of information that would be ideal. Best available information will be used at all levels, and data gaps that influence the reliability or accuracy of the plan will be identified in the Plan.
- 5 **Risk management is transparent and inclusive** – For the risk management process to be both respected and sustained, a transparent and inclusive approach is necessary. The planning process will involve an open and inclusive engagement of relevant MFLNRORD specialists, and the collaborative engagement of other government and non-government agencies and organizations that will ultimately be involved in the development and implementation of management plans resulting from the risk management planning process.
- 6 **Risk management is dynamic, iterative, and responsive to changes** – A risk management planning process can provide long-term decision support if it responds to changes that are happening within organizations and on the landscape. The Plan is being developed collaboratively in order to ensure that there is a base understanding of the changes that will influence plan development, implementation and update. The planning process as well as supporting information management systems are being designed and implemented with the intent of regular updates and adjustments to the plan in the future.

9.3 LIKELIHOOD CRITERIA

The following Likelihood Criteria will be used in the Vanderhoof WRMP Risk Assessment process.

²¹ Fire on the landscape generally results in a mosaic of vegetation types and age classes, reducing the probability of larger catastrophic wildfires, reducing the overall risks to values threatened by wildfire.

²² ISO 31000 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines. National Standards of Canada.

Table 2: Likelihood Criteria used in the Vanderhoof WRMP Risk Assessment Process

Rating	Description
Highest	Highest Likelihood
Higher	Higher Likelihood
Moderate	Moderate Likelihood
Lower	Lower Likelihood
Lowest	Lowest Likelihood

9.4 CONSEQUENCES CRITERIA

Consequence is evaluated against criteria which is a reflection of the four (4) provincial priorities. The risk criteria is based on political/legal, economic, social, and environment influences, which describes the internal and external environmental influences used for evaluating consequence. The Vanderhoof WRMP uses the protocol for the BCWS provincial Resource Strategic Wildfire Allocation Process (RSWAP)²³ to identify key components for values at risk, and uses the following four (4) RSWAP categories to form the basis of how consequences are evaluated:

1. Human Life and Safety
2. Property and Critical Infrastructure
3. High Environmental and Cultural Values
4. Resource Values

Values at risk for the Vanderhoof WRMP were organized as per the RSWAP categories shown in Table 3.

9.4.1 IMPACT TABLES

A key assumption in establishing the context is that consequence should be significant. A standard process of evaluating consequence of ‘significant and greater’ allows for a consistent method to equally compare consequence while still incorporating nuances specific to the local area. The categories which define consequence criteria are assessed as highest, higher, moderate, lower, and lowest. The impact tables for the Vanderhoof WRMP are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Impact Weighting

Category	Temporal Modifier	Spatial Scale	Spatial Indicator Rating	Key Words
Highest	Permanent	Provincial	10	Irreversible; critical; permanent; extreme social, environmental, and economic impacts; substantial losses; large scale
	Long/Moderate	Regional/Local	9	
	Short	Local	8	
Higher	Long	Regional/Local	7	Extensive; threatened; long term; requires urgent intervention; disruption; major social, environmental, and economic impacts
	Moderate	Regional/Local	6	
	Short	Local	5	
Moderate	Long	Regional/Local	4	Reversible; manageable with time/effort; localized; significant social, environmental, and economic impacts.
	Moderate	Regional/Local	3	
	Short	Local	2	
Lower	N/A	Local	1	Short term; reversible; temporary
Lowest	Immediate	Local	0	Insignificant; temporary

²³ Stuart/Nechako Natural Resource District (VanJam) Fire Management Plan (2018), page 5

10 Next Steps

This *Context* document provides the theoretical underpinning and principles by which the Vanderhoof WRMP process will be undertaken. The following steps will be undertaken in the further implementation of the planning process:

1. Risk Identification

- Confirm the values at risk – both threatened by and benefiting from wildfire;
- Render the identified values spatially to support analysis;
- Analyze the threat of fire across the Plan Area²⁴; and,
- Identify resulting risks (probability X impact to values).

2. Risk Analysis

- Analysis of the specific risks that are identified; and,
- Understand the causes, sensitivities and mitigation opportunities associated with the identified risks.

3. Risk Evaluation

- Identify which risks and specifically residual risks (risks remaining following mitigation) are considered acceptable; and,
- Identify those that require specific action or further study.

4. Management Strategies

- Developed for key risks that have been identified through the evaluation exercise; and,
- Represent the actions or issues that will require further planning in order to respond to the risks that exist.

²⁴ Consideration of BurnP3 modelling software is being evaluated. This may be limited by timing and budget. PSTA data will be used as a surrogate to burn probability in the absence of any modelling software

Vanderhoof Community Forest – Wildfire Risk Management Plan

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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Executive Summary

The management of wildfire risk is of increasing importance in British Columbia. The development of the Vanderhoof Community Forest Wildfire Risk Management Plan (Vanderhoof WRMP) will support a local and collaborative response to wildfire-related risks. The Vanderhoof WRMP is not intended to be a legally enforceable plan, however it will represent a collaborative local assessment of wildfire risks and development of recommended management strategies in which each collaborating organization can consider in the implementation of their individual mandates. A coordinated approach to wildfire risk is recommended.

The Terms of Reference for the Vanderhoof WRMP outlines the planning process being applied to the Plan Area:

- Plan objectives and planning processes to be undertaken;
- Definition of the Plan Area;
- Identification of Planning Team members and their roles and responsibilities;
- Engagement levels with First Nation communities, stakeholders, and other agencies;
- General risk management and modelling methods; and
- Communication strategies and timelines.

The Vanderhoof WRMP will include input from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – Stuart Nechako Resource District, and the BC Wildfire Service – Prince George Fire Centre, in order to ensure that the plan represents an integrated, coordinated and landscape level response to wildfire risks. Such engagement and input will also help support a coordinated response to wildfire risks in the future.

The objectives of the Vanderhoof WRMP process include:

1. Define strategies and priorities for wildfire prevention and mitigation;
2. Support informed wildfire response decisions and planning;
3. Identify wildfire risk related opportunities;
4. Support an open and transparent understanding of wildfire risks and responses.

The Vanderhoof WRMP process is structured after the principles of risk management found in the CAN/CSA-ISO 31000-10 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines. The process will also work to align with the risk management framework that is currently being developed by the BC Wildfire Service. A specific focus on open engagement and communications will be applied throughout the project to inform and receive input from the public, First Nations, government agencies, and other stakeholders as identified.

The planning process will involve the following key steps:

- Development of a **Terms of Reference**, including a project workplan;
- Documentation of the **Context** within which the WRMP process is being implemented;

- Completion of a **Risk Assessment**, including risk identification, analysis, and evaluation, with a focus on spatial representation of fire probability (or a surrogate thereof) and impact to values;
- Development of **Management Strategies** that represent responses to the identified risks that will guide future actions and activities moving forward; and
- Development of the **Vanderhoof WRMP Final Report** documenting the planning process undertaken, risk results and recommended management strategies.

Key roles and responsibilities are defined for each of the collaborating organizations and in some cases the individuals within. First Nations and stakeholder engagement is planned and the process will include a broad range of interests and specialists within the Plan Area, including but not limited to:

- Wildfire, lands, forestry, fish and wildlife, species at risk, hydrology, watersheds and rangeland specialists;
- BC municipalities in and adjacent to the Plan Area;
- First Nation Communities;
- Forest, range, and any other tenure holders; and
- Utility companies, including power and oil & gas.

Stakeholder engagement will be focused on specific stakeholders or stakeholder groups. A broad public engagement process is not expected during this planning process, although is anticipated following the WRMP development through the implementation of recommended management strategies that result from the plan.

The Vanderhoof WRMP Final Report will provide information and guidance for land and resource managers within the Plan Area, as they respond to wildfire-related threats and opportunities across the Plan Area. Risk response will be informed through the identified risks as well as specific management strategies developed through the planning process, with specific attention given to the suite of fuel management priorities and considerations.

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1 Introduction

The mandate of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD) and BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) is to manage wildfire threats and opportunities to reduce risk to human life, communities and promote healthy ecosystems¹. The BC Wildland Fire Management Strategy² identified the support for higher level wildfire management planning and policies within BCWS. This recommendation is reflected in the 2012 – 2017 Strategic Plan³, which identifies the development of landscape wildfire management planning as a priority for BCWS going forward.

The Vanderhoof Community Forest Wildfire Risk Management Plan (Vanderhoof WRMP) supports the goals of the provincial governments as well as the interest and goals of the Vanderhoof Community Forest. The proposed WRMP process builds on the principles within the ISO 31000 Risk Management Framework, the BC Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis, and the Risk Management Framework that is currently being developed by the BCWS.

Other initiatives that will be considered in the Vanderhoof WRMP include:

- Vanderhoof Community Forest Management Plan (2016);
- District of Vanderhoof Community Forest Agreement KSP Forest Stewardship Plan (2017);
- Vanderhoof Community Forest Working Plan (Draft) (2015);
- Stuart/Nechako NRD (VanJam) Fire Management Plan (2018);
- VanJam Fire Management Tactical Plan (2015);
- Fire Management Stocking Standards Guidance Document (2016);
- FireSmart Manual (2018);
- Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia (2018);
- United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction⁴;
- BC Wildland Fire Management Strategy (2010);
- Wildfire Management Branch Strategic Plan (2012);
- Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy (2016);
- Climate Change and Fire Management Research Study (2009);
- Risk Management Guidelines for the BC Public Sector (2012);
- The *BC Wildfire Act* and BC Wildfire Regulations;
- Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (2015);
- Vanderhoof Land and Resource Management Plan (1997)
- Vanderhoof Access Management Plan for Forest Recreation (2008 – 2013);
- Vanderhoof LRMP and Mountain Pine Beetle: Risk Assessment of Objectives/ Strategies and Options of Action Plans (Draft) (2004);
- Old Growth Management Areas; and,
- Others as discovered through the consultation phase.

¹ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/about-bcws/governance/mandate-strategy>

² Government of BC, 2010. The British Columbia Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. BC Wildfire Service. Pages 16-17.

³ Government of BC, 2012. Wildfire Management Branch Strategic Plan. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. BC Wildfire Service. Page 17.

⁴ <https://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>

The Terms of Reference for the Vanderhoof WRMP (reported here) provides the overall guidance for the planning process by identifying and defining:

- Plan objectives and planning processes to be undertaken;
- Plan Area;
- Planning team members and their roles and responsibilities;
- Engagement levels with First Nation communities, stakeholders and other agencies;
- General risk assessment and modelling methods; and,
- Communication strategies and timelines.

2 Goals and Objectives

2.1 GOALS

The Vanderhoof WRMP Planning Team (the “Planning Team”) will complete a wildfire risk management plan by February 28, 2019. The WRMP will inform the wildfire risk response, mitigation, preparedness and recovery strategies across the Plan Area, and is intended to provide guidance to land and resource managers for the next five (5) years⁵. The WRMP will strive to inform and be informed by other land and resource management planning processes, in an effort to collaboratively reduce wildfire risks across the landscape over the long-term.

2.2 OBJECTIVES

Generated through discussions with the Planning Team, the objectives for the Vanderhoof WRMP are:

OBJECTIVE 1 – Define strategies and priorities for wildfire prevention and mitigation activities in response to identified risks (threats and opportunities)

- Use the planning process to generate priority areas with a high risk of wildfire, and strategies to support wildfire risk response;
- Support the development of resilient communities through fire mitigation and preparedness;
- Support landscape level mitigation in areas susceptible to catastrophic wildfire;
- Continue to consider using “fire to fight fire” as a response tool;
- Identify where the use of managed fire can support both the prevention and mitigation of catastrophic wildfire, and where it can be used as a restoration ecology tool;
- Coordinate with forest development, community based FireSmart initiatives and multiple jurisdictions to foster collaborative partnerships in wildfire risk management;
- Integrate industrial activities where appropriate (e.g. debris and brush disposal, harvest operations, prescribed fire, research, hazard abatement, etc.); and
- Inform and be informed by other forest, land and resource planning and management processes.

OBJECTIVE 2 – Support informed wildfire response decisions and planning

- Build on the history, planning, and implementation of wildfire management in the Plan Area;

⁵ The WRMP may need to be updated from time to time to reflect changes that occur on the land or an improved understanding of wildfire risks that may come to light over time. The WRMP is intended to be a “living document” and updated as necessary.

- Provide support for informed decisions, which further supports due diligence and justification for response tactics;
- Provide detailed information on values at risk on the land base to provide general support for Incident Command decisions;
- Support Fire Analyses within BCWS and MFLNRO; and,
- Support the coordination of wildfire operations with First Nations, appropriate regulatory agencies, governments, and stakeholders.

OBJECTIVE 3 – Support open and transparent understanding of wildfire risks and response with First Nations, governments, and stakeholders

- Engage with First Nations communities, appropriate agencies, and major stakeholders in the planning process;
- Inform involved parties about risks, including public and shared risks; and,
- Develop materials that can be used to support ongoing engagement with the public, landowners and communities.

3 Plan Area

The Vanderhoof WRMP Plan Area includes the Vanderhoof Community Forest Area (CFA) (23,201 ha) and the surrounding area. The lands adjacent to the CFA are included in the planning process due to the potential influence of wildfires outside the CFA and the potential of values in this area influencing wildfire response. To incorporate these adjacent risks and values, a 5 km buffer was applied to the CFA boundary to represent the total Plan Area of 179,378 ha (Figure 1). Burn probability will be considered and values at risk (threats) or benefiting (opportunities) from wildfire will be identified within the Plan Area.

The Plan Area includes other administrative areas or jurisdictions, including:

- District of Vanderhoof;
- Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Area F – Vanderhoof Rural;
- Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Area C – Fort St. James Rural;
- Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District;
- Prince George Timber Supply Area;
- BC Wildfire Service – Prince George Fire Centre;
- Private Land⁶, Woodlots, Range Tenure Holders, etc.; and
- Indian Reserves – Saik'uz First Nation and Nak'azdli Whut'en First Nation.

Each of these areas are under independent management by separate agencies, organizations or individuals, each with their own unique understanding of and engagement in the area for wildfire risk management. The inclusion of these lands and recognition of these organizations or agencies within the Plan Area recognizes that wildfire risk is a shared risk. Inclusion of these areas is made within an atmosphere of collaboration and coordinated planning in order to support effective wildfire risk assessment and management within the Plan Area.

⁶ Although the presence of private land and associated development may influence the risk assessment process, the WRMP will not identify management strategies or responses specific to private land.

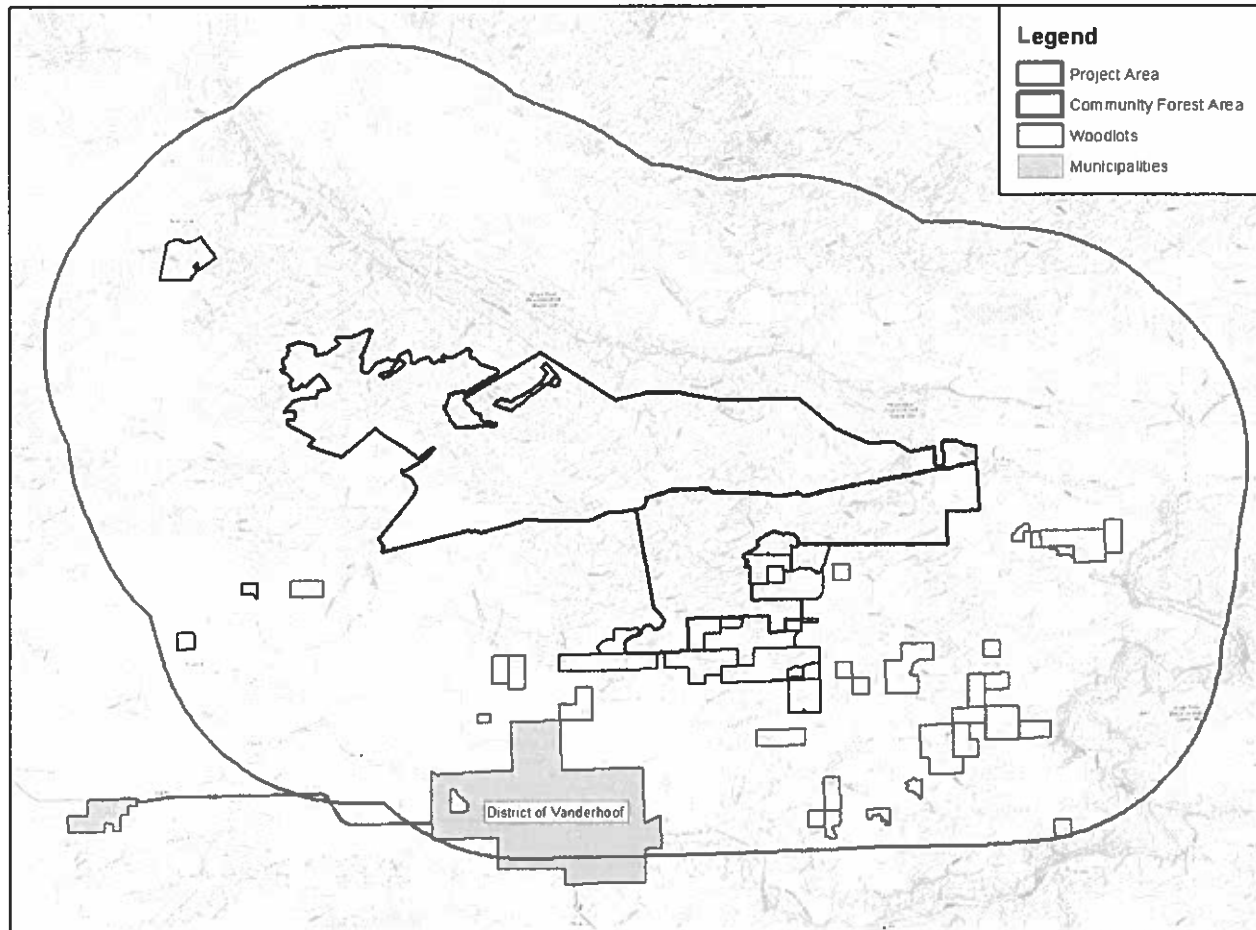


Figure 1. The Plan Area for the Vanderhoof Community Forest Wildfire Risk Management Plan

4 Project Plan

The Planning Team will develop a strategic Wildfire Risk Management Plan for the identified Plan Area. The process is structured after the principles of risk management found in the CAN/CSA-ISO 31000-10 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines, and will draw upon the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In addition, the process will work to align with the Risk Management Framework currently being developed by the BCWS.

4.1 SCOPE AND DELIVERABLES

The key deliverable of the planning process will be a plan that 1) documents the identification, analysis and evaluation of wildfire risks, and 2) identifies management strategies in response to those risks. Key components to this deliverable will include:

- Review of pertinent legislation, regulation, reports and plans in order to capture relevant objectives and values that should be incorporated into the planning process;
- Integration of a variety of fuel management considerations;
- Engagement with First Nations and a range of stakeholders, in order to identify and/or confirm overall objectives and values;



- An integrated risk management approach to ensure that all risks are identified, analyzed and evaluated;
- Description of the key management strategies that should be considered in response to the risks identified; and,
- Development of a series of sub-reports or deliverables that make up the Vanderhoof WRMP, including Terms of Reference, Context, Risk Identification, Risk Analysis and Management Strategies.

In addition, the intent of the planning process is to:

- Align with the wildfire risk management planning process that is currently being developed by the BCWS;
- Form a collaborative group that will bring a wildlife risk lens to the management of lands and natural resource values across the Plan Area;
- Create a priority list of strategies for wildfire mitigation and prevention;
- Proactively inform wildfire response decisions with local information;
- Identify and provide information regarding key resource and cultural values to support response plans;
- Determine opportunities for the use of wildland fire or prescribed fire in response to identified risks;
- Coordinate wildfire risk management with other land and resource managers, along with First Nations interests;
- Use a range of appropriate risk management methodologies and tools for identifying, assessing, evaluating, and responding to wildfire related risk;
- Document the spatial distribution of values at risk, wildfire threats and opportunities, and management strategies based on the level of risk;
- Consider both wildfire threats (areas with values that could be negatively impacted by wildfire) and opportunities (areas with values that could be positively influenced by wildfire);⁷ and
- Identify management strategies, including risk mitigation strategies or activities, in response to identified risks. Detailed plans associated with these management strategies will not be a part of the Vanderhoof WRMP but will be addressed through other programs and processes that would be supported by, align with, or result from the WRMP.

4.2 PLAN TIMEFRAME

The plan is intended to have a five (5) year term. Annual review of the plan is recommended to identify whether changes to burn probability or values at risk warrant a re-analysis, and to gauge the effectiveness of management strategy implementation. A detailed review of the plan is also recommended after five (5) years to support a full risk assessment update.

4.3 PLANNING TIMELINES

The Vanderhoof WRMP represents a structured approach to risk assessment and management that involves the following key steps:

⁷ Understanding and responding to wildfire risks includes the recognition of both threats (values negatively impacted by wildfire) as well as opportunities (values positively influenced by wildfire) and how each of these aspects of risk will influence decisions related to prevention, suppression and the use of fire on the landscape.

1. **Terms of Reference**
 - Project kick-off Planning Team meeting
 - Draft and Final Terms of Reference document
2. **Context**
 - Planning Team meetings and/or discussions
 - Review existing plans, land management requirements, and other inputs
 - Document and summarize the environmental, social, and political context within which the WRMP will be developed
 - Document the fire history for the Plan Area
3. **Risk Assessment**
 - Planning Team meetings and/or discussions
 - Values Workshop to support spatial identification and weighting of identified values
 - **Risk Identification** – spatially identify burn probability (or surrogate) as well as values at risk (threats and opportunities), then weight and/or rank values to support GIS analysis
 - **Risk Analysis/ Evaluation** – confirm identified risks, understand the contributing factors and ability to influence the risks (i.e. are risks acceptable or do they require a response)
4. **Management Strategies**
 - Development of responses to the risks identified
 - Clear measurable actions along with who is responsible, potential partners, timeframe, and risk response goals (e.g. reduce risk, transfer risk)
5. **WRMP Report**
 - Draft and Final WRMP reports to be developed
 - Input from Planning Team

The following timeline is proposed for the completion of the work. Availability of Planning Team members, First Nation communities, partners and any other involved stakeholders who are contacted to provide input and engagement with the plan will be the key factors that will influence the overall timeline.

Table 1. Project Milestones and Timeline for Delivery

Project Plan Milestones	Timeframe
Terms of Reference	Aug – Oct 2018
Context	Oct – Nov 2018
Risk Assessment - Identification	Oct – Nov 2018
Risk Assessment - Analysis & Evaluation	Oct – Dec 2018
Management Strategies	Dec 2018 – Feb 2019
Draft Vanderhoof WRMP Report	Jan – Feb 2019
Final Vanderhoof WRMP Report	February 28, 2019

5 Roles and Responsibilities

The Vanderhoof WRMP will be developed by the Vanderhoof Community Forest Board in partnership with MFLNRORD, BCWS and the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The results of the WRMP will provide guidance to these agencies as they work with their partners to respond to wildfire risk.

The Vanderhoof WRMP process is designed around a structured planning team with a clear understanding of roles, responsibilities, and contributions. The following key roles have been identified, with individual names provided in Section 5.4.

5.1 VANDERHOOF CFA MANAGING FORESTER

The Vanderhoof Community Forest (K5P) was awarded to the District of Vanderhoof (DOV), and is operated by the Vanderhoof Community Forest Board (the Board) made up of the DOV's Mayor and Council. The Board has one employee at the District office who manages the day to day activities (the Manager), however forest management is currently provided by Nechako Lumber (the Managing Forester). The Managing Forester will provide oversight to the planning process and be ultimately responsible for the plan content. The Managing Forester is responsible for:

- Leading the project;
- Confirming the Planning Team;
- Defining and confirming individuals that will be asked to review and provide input to the plan;
- Approving plan components and the final plan;
- Providing oversight during planning process;
- Leading the implementation of the plan in partnership with other land agencies; and
- Responding to public and media communications regarding the WRMP planning process⁸.

5.2 MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Representatives of the Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District (MFLNRORD) are responsible for:

- Providing strategic input and direction to the planning process;
- Planning team support;
- Assist in identifying values at risk;
- Contributing to and providing review and comment on processes and documents;
- Facilitate in the awareness of the planning process with pertinent staff and managers in the Natural Resource District;
- Facilitate the receipt or acceptance of the WRMP by the District Manager⁹; and
- Support implementation of WRMP recommendations (management strategies).

5.3 BC WILDFIRE SERVICE

Representatives of the BCWS are responsible for:

- Providing general support for the planning process;

⁸ This does not preclude government agency responsibilities regarding communications as part of their regular business or activities. Any enquiries regarding the planning process should be brought to the attention of the Vanderhoof CFA Managing Forester.

⁹ It is anticipated that the Vanderhoof WRMP will be reviewed by and received or accepted by the leadership within each of the Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District, the BC Wildfire Service Prince George Fire Centre, and the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The receipt or acceptance of the plan is not considered approval or endorsement but a recognition of the planning process, the work that has been undertaken, and the need for each organization to collaborate as recommended in the WRMP in response to the identified wildfire risks.



- Providing technical and strategic support, such as the provincial threat analysis data;
- Provide feedback to the planning process overall as the provincial framework for wildfire risk management is developed;
- Assist in identifying values at risk and weighing/ranking these values to support analysis;
- Contributing to and providing review and comment on processes and documents;
- Facilitate the awareness of the planning process within pertinent staff and managers at the Prince George Fire Centre;
- Facilitate the receipt or acceptance of the plan by the Fire Centre Manager; and
- Supporting implementation of the plan recommendations.

5.4 PLANNING TEAM

The Planning Team in general is responsible for:

- Formulating the internal context for the WRMP;
- Compiling a comprehensive list of wildfire risks;
- Participating in risk analyses;
- Identifying which risks require response and recommending appropriate management strategies;
- Communicating risk response and management strategies to the Planning Team; and
- Providing prompt input into interim deliverables, documents, and inquiries throughout the planning process.

The following list of individuals constituted the Vanderhoof WRMP Planning Team:

- Frank Tiramani – Managing Forester – Vanderhoof Community Forest (Nechako Lumber)
- Zoe Dhillon – Manager – Vanderhoof Community Forest (District of Vanderhoof)
- John DeGagne – Stewardship Forester – Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District
- Randy Spyskma – Project Lead – Forsite Consultants Ltd.
- Darcie Fodor – Strategic Planning Forester – Forsite Consultants Ltd.

6 Communications and Stakeholder Engagement

The following strategies will be used to support communications within the Planning Team and in support of stakeholder engagement.

6.1 PROJECT STATUS AND PROGRESS REPORTING

Updates will be provided to the Planning Team to document progress against the timelines and deliverables, issues, and key steps moving forward.

6.2 PUBLIC AND MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

General and media enquiries regarding the planning process are expected. Without limiting the responsibility or requirements of individual government agencies to respond to direct enquiries or communicate with the public or media, or all general public enquiries should be directed to the Vanderhoof CFA Managing Forester who will respond with support from the Planning Team as needed.

Where communications regarding the planning process are responded to by government agencies, the Vanderhoof CFA Managing Forester will be notified accordingly.

6.3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Several First Nations and stakeholder groups have been identified within the Plan Area. Engagement with each of these groups in support of the Vanderhoof WRMP planning process is expected. These groups include:

- BC Provincial Government Land & Resource Specialists;
- External Land & Resource Managers;
- Surrounding First Nation communities;
- Additional key stakeholders; and,
- The public.

The level of engagement for each group varies and will evolve throughout the life of the project. Engagement is also dependent upon First Nations and stakeholder availability and willingness to participate.

6.3.1 BC PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT LAND & RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

Specialists within MFLNRORD will be engaged by the Planning Team through meetings and interviews as identified. This effort will be coordinated through the Planning Team representative from the Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District. The intent of this engagement is to ensure a broad understanding of values potentially influenced by wildfire as well as general perspectives on wildfire threats, wildfire opportunities, and wildfire use on the landscape. Individuals included in this group will include but are not limited to: lands, forestry, fish and wildlife, species at risk, ecosystems, hydrology, rangelands, First Nations, and others.

6.3.2 EXTERNAL LAND & RESOURCE MANAGERS

There are a broad range of governmental organizations that have responsibility for land and resource management in the Plan Area. The organizations within this group include provincial agencies, such as MFLNRORD, as well as those related to specific land jurisdictions or designations that are reflected in the Plan Area. Engagement of these organizations through meetings, teleconferencing, or interviews will be carried out to secure input into the planning process. The focus of this engagement will be influenced by their perspectives on values influenced by wildfire and the perceived wildfire threats and opportunities.

6.3.3 FIRST NATIONS

The Plan Area overlaps the traditional territory of several First Nation groups¹⁰. The Planning Team is working with local First Nations in efforts to manage wildfire-related risks, including hazard reduction and

¹⁰ First Nations Consultative Areas Database (CAD) query on August 9, 2018 (<http://maps.gov.bc.ca/ess/hm/cadb/>) included:

- Nak'azdli First Nation (across the Plan Area);
- Saik'uz First Nation (across the Plan Area except portion southeast of Stuart River Provincial Park);
- Lheidli T'enneh First Nation (eastern portion of the Plan Area outside of the CFA agreement area); and
- Nadleh Whut'en First Nation (western portion of the Plan Area outside of the CFA agreement area, west of Hwy 27).

FireSmart activities. In addition, incorporating the interests, rights, traditional use and knowledge of First Nations regarding the land and wildfire is an important consideration of the planning process.

6.3.4 KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Significant industrial activity within the Plan Area will be considered, with a focus on forest tenures, range tenures, guide outfitters, trappers, recreation interests, and others as identified by the Planning Team. Businesses or organizations involved in these sectors or groups will be contacted, and through a structured interview process, their perspective on wildfire risk assessment will be secured. Specific attention will be given to:

- Values potentially influenced by wildfire, including infrastructure and other investments; and,
- Current activities that they are engaged in, in response to wildfire risk.

6.3.5 THE PUBLIC

Engagement with the public is not planned as a part of the WRMP development. Select members of the public, given their involvement or exposure to wildfire risk management and/or land and resource management, will be engaged during the planning process. Broader engagement with the public may be required as part of the implementation of management strategies that will flow from the WRMP.

7 Decision Making Methods

Key decisions must be made at various stages of plan development. A range of processes can be used to achieve an informed and defensible decision. The CSA-IEC/ISO 31010-10 *Risk Management – Risk Management Techniques* will be used as a general guide or source. Experience and input from the Planning Team will also be used to define the specific strategies and processes that will be employed.

In general, the following approaches will be used:

- Review of existing information including the current environment and situation;
- Review of plans for objectives, values, and other relevant inputs;
- Structured interviews with land managers to confirm findings and contribute additional information;
- Completion of a resource values inventory using collaborative meetings with partners and taking into account the BC Government Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis;
- Confirmation of risk criteria, summarizing the risks within a risk register, and ranking the risks across the Plan Area;
- Development and prioritization of management strategies; and
- Building existing operational treatments and modifying or expanding upon them within the management strategies.

8 Authority for Decisions

Authority for decisions regarding the planning process and the development of the Vanderhoof WRMP rests with the Vanderhoof CFA Managing Forester. Having said this, the Vanderhoof WRMP is a

collaborative process involving the Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District (MFLNRORD), BCWS and the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, and collaboration on the overall planning process is expected. In addition, there is an intent to align with the Wildfire Risk Management Framework that the BCWS is currently developing.

The Vanderhoof CFA Managing Forester is accountable for the following during the planning process:

- Direct the planning process as needed;
- Guiding the Planning Team in a collaborative and consensus based approach as much as possible;
- Adjudicate any disagreement amongst the Planning Team or other contributors; and
- Following Planning Team input, approve the interim WRMP components, including:
 1. Terms of Reference,
 2. Context Document,
 3. Risk Assessment, and
 4. Vanderhoof WRMP Report.

Key to informed and timely approval of the plan will be meaningful review of the interim reports by members of the Planning Team. It is expected that requests for plan revisions are related to how well the results and recommendations align with the administrative and legislative/regulatory framework, rather than conclusions of the broad stakeholder and Planning Team informed process.

9 Plan Acceptance, Ownership and Responsibility

9.1 ACCEPTANCE OF PLAN BY PARTNERS

It is expected that the Vanderhoof WRMP will be reviewed by and received or accepted by the leadership within: Vanderhoof Community Forest Board, the Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District, the BC Wildfire Service Prince George Fire Centre, and the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The receipt or acceptance of the plan is not considered approval or endorsement per se, but a recognition of the planning process, acceptance of the guidance that it provides and the need for each organization to collaborate as recommended in response to the identified wildfire risks. Key to securing this acceptance will be ongoing awareness of the planning processes by the leadership within each organization, which is the responsibility of the Planning Team representatives of each organization.

9.2 OWNERSHIP OF PLAN AND RELATED DATA

Although initiated by and led by the Vanderhoof CFA Managing Forester, the plan itself is a collaborative effort that will only provide value to wildfire risk management if the partners continue to work together to respond to wildfire risks in the Plan Area. The WRMP and any related data will be owned by the Vanderhoof Community Forest Board.

9.3 PUBLIC ACCESS TO PLAN

It is expected that the Vanderhoof WRMP will be made available to the public. A public version of the plan may be used to facilitate this. At a minimum the public document would summarize the planning process that was undertaken, the risks identified (including maps), and management strategies that were developed in response to the risks, along with a rationale.

9.4 RESPONSIBILITY OF PLAN RENEWAL

The Vanderhoof Community Forest Board is the lead proponent for the WRMP and will take on the responsibility, funding permitting, for the ongoing review and renewal of the WRMP moving forward. A collaborative approach to wildfire risk management will continue to be critical to ensure meaningful risk reduction is realized across the landscape over the long-term. Future collaboration and partnering with the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, the BCWS and the Stuart Nechako Natural Resource District is expected to ensure wildfire risk management efforts are sustained.

10 Information Management and Access

A significant amount of information will be gathered, generated and analyzed through the planning process. During the project, the collected information will be used to help communicate ideas, inputs and results. Much of this information will be in the form of digital spatial data. To support this effort, the following approaches will be used:

- A secure Web Map will be used to support the sharing of spatial information associated with the Vanderhoof WRMP planning process;
- PDF maps with the spatial data to serve and solicit input; and,
- GIS-based environment that systemizes and automates spatial overlays in support of risk identification.

It is important to recognize that much of the information produced from the planning process will not be included in the plan documents. The spatial data will be retained and managed for the Vanderhoof CFA by the Managing Forester (currently Nechako Lumber) under the responsibility of the Manager. All spatial data, except for confidential cultural or archeological data provided by First Nations, will be made available to the province.



Cheryl Anderson

Subject: FW: Message from the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

From: info@civicinfo.bc.ca <info@civicinfo.bc.ca>
Sent: December 18, 2018 10:34 AM
To: info@civicinfo.bc.ca
Subject: Message from the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

This message is being sent by CivicInfo BC to all BC Local Governments on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

Subject: Call for Written Submissions - Select Standing Committee on Crown Corporations
Intended Recipient(s): Mayors/Chairs/Chief Administrative Officers
Attachments: None. See message below.

MESSAGE:

Dear Mayor and Council / Chair and Board,

On November 27, 2018, the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia authorized the all-party Select Standing Committee on Crown Corporations to conduct an inquiry into transportation network services (ride hailing services).

The Committee's Terms of Reference specifies that the Committee may only consider input on four areas of regulation. As part of its work, the Committee would like to invite you to provide a written submission focused on any or all of the following four topics:

- What criteria should be considered when establishing boundaries?
- How should regulations balance the supply of service with consumer demand, including the application of the Passenger Transportation Board's current public convenience and necessity regime as it pertains to transportation network services?
- What criteria should be considered when establishing price and fare regimes that balance affordability with reasonable business rates of return for service providers?
- What class of drivers' licence should be required for ride-hailing drivers to ensure a robust safety regime without creating an undue barrier for drivers?

Should you wish to participate, would you kindly provide a written submission in pdf or word format to CrownCorporationsCommittee@leg.bc.ca by **Friday, February 1, 2019**. Written submissions may be 500 words in length, with an additional 1000 words to answer each of the questions above for a maximum of 4500 words.

Submissions to parliamentary committees are considered public documents and may be published on the Committee's website or made available to interested parties upon request following the release of the Committee's report.

Further information on the work of the Committee, including a list of Members and the Committee's Terms of Reference, is available online at: <https://www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/cc>

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If you have any questions about the work of the Committee, please contact the Parliamentary Committees Office at 250-356-2933 or CrownCorporationsCommittee@leg.bc.ca.

On behalf of the Committee, thank you for your consideration of this invitation. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Bowinn Ma, MLA (North Vancouver-Lonsdale), Chair
Stephanie Cadieux, MLA (Surrey South), Deputy Chair

cc: Susan Sourial, Clerk to the Committee

Select Standing Committee on Crown Corporations
c/o Parliamentary Committees Office
Room 224, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

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CivicInfo BC makes no representations or warranties whatsoever, either expressed or implied, with respect to the accuracy, reliability or suitability for any purpose, of the information contained or referenced in this message.

MEDIA BULLETIN

For immediate release
 December 17, 2018

Northern Health Connections modified holiday schedule

The Northern Health Connections program will run on a modified schedule starting December 17th, leading up to a holiday season break.

NH Connections provides transportation for clients travelling to non-emergent health services outside their home communities. A variety of routes connect communities across northern B.C., along with service to Vancouver. Demand for the service typically drops over the holiday season as fewer people book health care appointments.

Starting December 17th, NH Connections buses will begin their last routes for 2018. Regular routes will resume the week of January 1st 2019.

Departs	Final route (2018)	First route (2019)
Prince George to Vancouver	December 20 th	January 1 st
Vancouver to Prince George	December 22 nd	January 3 rd
Prince George to Prince Rupert	December 23 rd	January 2 nd
Prince Rupert to Prince George	December 22 nd	January 3 rd
Prince George to Fort St. John	December 20 th	January 3 rd
Fort St. John to Prince George	December 22 nd	January 5 th
Valemount to Prince George	December 18 th	January 8 th
McBride, Valemount to Kamloops	December 20 th	January 3 rd
Burns Lake to Terrace	December 20 th	January 3 rd
Fort Nelson to Dawson Creek	December 18 th	January 8 th
Dawson Creek to Fort Nelson	December 20 th	January 10 th
Mackenzie to Prince George	December 19 th	January 2 nd
Quesnel to Prince George	December 18 th	January 8 th
Burns Lake to Prince George	December 18 th	January 8 th
Burns Lake via Fort St. James	December 19 th	January 2 nd

The NH Connections booking centre will be closed on statutory holidays (December 25th and 26th, and January 1st, 2019), but open on regular business days. Full details on the NH Connections holiday schedule and other program information are available through the booking centre at 1-888-647-4997; via e-mail at NHConnections@northernhealth.ca; or on the internet www.nhconnections.ca.

Media Contact: NH media line – 1-877-961-7724

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Cheryl Anderson

From: Susan Chalmers <schalmers@communityenergy.bc.ca>
Sent: December 18, 2018 9:37 AM
To: Cheryl Anderson
Subject: BCMCLC Workshop after Elected Area Rep Elected Officials Seminar - Jan. 18, 2019

Dear Cheryl,

The BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council and Community Energy Association are hosting a workshop related to climate action planning after the Elected Area Representatives Elected Officials Seminar at the Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport in Richmond on January 18, 2019. We would appreciate it if you could forward the details of the workshop to the Elected Area Directors in your regional district.

How can you support climate action and clean growth in your community?

Join the BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council (BCMCLC) and the Community Energy Association for an interactive workshop on the topic of climate action immediately following the Elected Area Rep Elected Officials Seminar. The workshop will be held from 2:45-4:45 pm on January 18 in the Bridgeport Room at the Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport.

Who is it for? This workshop is for newly elected officials to learn about the roles of local governments in climate and energy planning as well as project and program implementation. It is also for returning elected officials to receive a refresher and updates on federal and provincial government initiatives and emerging opportunities for local governments to take action on climate change.

Learn about:

- the roles of local and senior governments;
- the foundations of community energy planning;
- key actions for the building, transportation, waste and energy sectors; and
- reporting and recognition for local government climate action.

Get inspired by case studies from leaders in your region and discuss strategies with your peers in small breakout group sessions.

To register for this workshop, visit <https://climateaction101eaeos.eventbrite.ca>.

For further information about this event, please contact Maya Chorobik at 604-628-7076 (ext. 709) or mchorobik@communityenergy.bc.ca.

Kind Regards,
Susan

Susan Chalmers, Administrator



Facilitators of the BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council

Office: (604) 628-7076 ext. 707 | Mobile: (778) 871-2711