**WLP Amendment Template (Wildfires)**

This WLP amendment template is being provided by the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations. It has been specifically designed for wildfires. The Federation’s intent is to revise it so it can be used for all WLP amendments, whether necessitated by a catastrophic event or for some other reasons. Until that is done, feel free to revise it to meet your requirements.

The blue italicized font is hidden text. It is intended to provide additional information that will be helpful when amending a WLP. Please delete it before submitting the amendment for approval. In a Word (.docx) document, this is done by going to WORD (top left of the toolbar), selecting PREFERENCES, then VIEW and clicking off Hidden Text under Show Non-Printing Characters. For how to turn of hidden text in earlier versions of word, please refer to the front page of the WLP template document.

Use of this template is straightforward. Tick the applicable box **☐** to request an exemption or propose an amendment or alternative performance requirement. Where additional information is required, a text box has been provided; e.g. [Enter Details].

**No tick in a box = no amendment!**

Be aware that some requirements may be exempted or amended; e.g. measures for invasive plants. Make sure you consider both options and select the one that is best rationalized given the post fire conditions on the WL.

Preferably, the person preparing the amendment will delete the sections for which a box has not been ticked; i.e. no amendment is being proposed/requested. That will be helpful in reducing the size of the document and allowing licensees, their consultants, ministry staff and decision makers to focus on the amendment(s) being requested.

Every effort has been made to be as comprehensive as possible. However, there may be some opportunities for amendments that have been missed. Licensees should check the legislation (FRPA) and applicable regulations (e.g. WLPPR, Government Actions Regulation, etc.) themselves.

**Woodlot Licence Plan Amendment (Wildfires)**

**WOODLOT LICENCE #:** [Enter WL #]

**WOODLOT LICENCE HOLDER:**

 Name: [Enter Name]

 Address: [Enter Address, City, Province, Postal Code]

 Phone #: [Enter Home #] [Enter Work #] [Enter Mobile #]

 Email address: [Enter Email Address]

**WOODLOT LICENCE PLAN:**

The term of this amendment is the same as the term of the approved WLP to which it applies, which is [Enter Start Year] to [Enter End Year].

**SIGNATURES:**

**Authorized Licensee:**

 Signature

 [Print Name]

 [Enter Date]

**Registered Professional Forester:**

 (if required) Signature

 [Enter Name]

 [Enter Date]

Seal

**Delegated Decision Maker:**

The following amendments have been approved. [Enter additional information or statements as required]

 [Enter Date]

 Signature

 [Enter Name]

 [Enter Title]

[Enter District Name]

**1.0 RATIONALE**

The following amendments are required because a wildfire has impacted the woodlot licence.

## 2.0 AMENDMENT AREA

 This amendment applies to:

 **☐** Schedule A (private) land

 **☐** Schedule B (Crown) land

 **☐** Both the Schedule A and B lands

 as shown on the attached map (Appendix I).

Tick the applicable box. A map showing the area burned by the wildfire must be attached. Preferably, it will be the same scale and level of detail as the WLP map in the approved WLP.

**3.0 MAP AND INFORMATION**

Include a map showing the areas on the WL that have been impacted by wildfire in Appendix B.

If any of the information required under section 8(1) of the WLPPR needs to be amended because of the wildfire, include that information here.

[Enter Details]

### 4.0 AMENDMENTs & EXEMPTIONS

The following amendments and exemptions are required due to a wildfire impacting the woodlot licence.

WLPPR, sections 78 and 79 contain provisions for a minister to exempt a woodlot licence holder from certain requirements that are not practicable given the circumstances and conditions applicable to a particular area; e.g. a burned over area of a WL.

An exemption decision made under FRPA and WLPPR section 78 must be made by the minister, who has delegated decision making authority to the District Manager.

Exemption decisions made under WLPPR section 79 must be made by the minister responsible for the Wildlife Act; who has delegated decision making authority to the Director, Resource Management.

 **4.1 Stocking Standards & Free Growing**

**☐ Exemption.** The woodlot licensee is exempt from having to establish a free growing stand on the burned areas within the WL as described below. The wildfire is a circumstance that caused conditions that make it not practicable to establish a free growing stand on these areas. Include a map or [describe the area to which the exemption applies].

 **☐** **Amended stocking standards.** The amended stocking standards in Appendix A apply to

burned areas within the WL that have not been exempted from the requirement to establish a free growing stand.

 **4.2 Invasive Plants**

**☐ Exemption.** The woodlot licensee is exempt from having to specify or implement measures to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive plants on the burned areas within the WL. The wildfire is a circumstance that caused site conditions that are likely to cause the introduction and spread of invasive plants. Include map or [describe the area to which the exemption applies].

 **☐** **Amendment.** The following measures to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive

plants listed in the Invasive Plant Regulation that are likely the result of the woodlot licence holder’s forest practices apply to burned areas within the WL that have not been exempted.

Describe the measures that you feel are appropriate and willing to commit to carrying out given the conditions caused by the wildfire. See the WLP template for suggested measures.

[Enter Details]

**4.3 Natural Range Barriers**

**☐ Exemption.** The woodlot licensee is not required to specify or implement measures to

mitigate the effect of removing or rendering a natural range barrier ineffective because there are no natural range barriers within the burned area or the wildfire has removed or rendered the natural range barriers within the burned area ineffective.

**☐** **Amendment.** The following measures to mitigate the effect of removing or rendering

ineffective natural range barriers resulting from forest practices carried out by the woodlot licensee apply to the following NRBs. Measures will be implemented as soon as practicable following timber harvesting and prior to spring turnout if possible; and no later than one year after operations are complete. The woodlot licence holder is not responsible for on-going maintenance of the replacement barrier.

[Enter Details]

Identify the location and type of each natural range barrier; describe the post-wildfire effectiveness of each, and list the measures you commit to carrying out.

**4.4 Wildlife Tree Retention**

There are two aspects of wildlife tree retention (WTR) which warrant consideration; one is the % of the WL area that will be retained as wildlife trees (WLPPR, s. 52) and second is the strategy that will apply (WLPPR, s. 11).

With respect to s. 52, a licensee’s options are to:

* Seek an exemption from WTR requirements in the burned area, or specified areas within;
* Amend the WLP by specifying a different retention %; or
* Status quo.

If an exemption or amendment is approved, then a licensee will want to check and make sure the WTR strategy is still applicable. If not, then the WLP will need to be amended to include a new strategy.

**4.4.1 WTR Requirement** (WLPPR, s.52)

**☐ Exemption.** The woodlot licensee is exempt from the requirements of WLPPR section 52 with respect to the burned areas on the WL as described below. The wildfire is a circumstance that has created conditions that make it not practicable to retain wildlife trees on these areas. Include map or [describe the area to which the exemption applies].

You may request an exemption for the entire burned area or specify areas within the burned area to which the exemption will apply.

**☐** **Amendment.** The proportion of the area in the holders WLP that will be retained as

wildlife trees is: [Enter %]%. [Provide a rationale for the new %.]

Note that it must be a percentage of the entire WL area including the burned area. So, for example, let’s say a WL with an 8% WTR requirement has been 25% burned. A licensee might propose a 6% requirement for the entire WL knowing that the resultant strategy will only be implement on the 75% of the WL that was not burned.

**4.4.2 WTR Strategy** (WLPPR, s.11)

**☐ Amendment.** Because of a wildfire on the WL, the WTR strategy is amended as follows: [Enter Details].

 The amended strategy must meet the requirements of WLPPR s.11, and remember to address both wildlife tree areas and individual wildfire trees. It is recommended that a licensee use a similar format as provided in the WLP template.

 **4.5 Conserving and Protecting Cultural Heritage Resources**

 **☐** **Amendment**. The following

 **☐** result or

 **☐** strategy

 to conserve and protect cultural heritage resources that are the focus of a traditional use and of continuing importance to aboriginal people and not regulated by the *Heritage Conservation Act* applies to cultural heritage resources that are known to exist in the burned areas within the WL.

 [Enter Details]

You may choose to include a result or strategy. For more information about the requirements for a result or strategy respecting CHRs, please refer to the bulletin entitled “Woodlot Licences: Information Sharing and Consultation with First Nations” which can be found at https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HTH/external/!publish/web/timber-tenures/woodlots/FN-Information-sharing/FN-consultation-bulletin.pdf and/or the WLP template.

####  4.6 Areas Where Timber Harvesting will be Avoided or Modified

WLPPR s. 8(3) requires a licensee to describe in their WLP areas where timber harvesting will be avoided or modified during the term of the plan, including specifying the retention of trees in riparian management areas. In this section describe any new areas where harvesting will be modified or avoided, and any new or changed retention for trees in RMZs. In section 4.6.3 describe the retention of trees in RMZs within areas designated as modified harvest.

#### 4.6.1 Areas Where Timber Harvesting will be Avoided

**☐** Within the burned area, the following are areas where timber harvesting will be avoided.

[Enter Details]

List all areas within the burned over area in the WL that is the subject of this amendment where harvesting will be avoided. Include new areas or any amendments/changes to previously approved areas.

#### 4.6.2 Areas Where Timber Harvesting will be Modified

**☐** Within the burned area, the following are areas where timber harvesting will be modified and a description of the modified practices that apply to each.

[Enter Details]

List all areas within the burned over area in the WL that is the subject of this amendment where harvesting will be modified and describe the modified practices that will apply. Include new areas or any amendments/changes to previously approved areas.

#### 4.6.3 Retention of Trees in Riparian Management Zones

The retention of trees in RMZs with the modified harvest areas within the burned area will be as follows:

Tick the box that applies or describe the retention applicable to the various RMZs in the burned areas of the WL.

 **☐** No retention. The wildfire killed all the trees.

 **☐** As many of the merchantable and un-merchantable living trees as practicable will be

retained.

 **☐** A post-harvest stand structure as described below. [Enter Details]

Examples of how best to describe post-harvest stand structure are available in the WLP template.

 **4.7 Visual Quality Objectives (WLPPR, section 59)**

Note: this section applies to VQOs for scenic and or visually sensitive areas within the WL. There is no option for a licensee to amend VQOs via a WLP amendment, but it is possible to be exempted from having to meet VQOs on areas where it is not practicable to achieve them.

 **☐** When carrying out primary forest activities, the woodlot licensee is not required to

comply with any visual quality objective for burned areas within the WL as described below. Include map or [describe the area to which the exemption applies].

 **4.8 Road Construction in a Riparian Reserve Zone (WLPPR, section 59)**

If, because of the wildfire, you feel it will be necessary to construct a road in a RRZ within a cutblock, then you must amend the WLP to specify the construction in WLP (WLPPR S.39(2.1)).

 **☐** As a result of the wildfire, road construction in the following RRZ(s) will be necessary.

 [Identify the RRZ(s) that will have road construction].

**NOTE:** As per WLPPR s. 79, the Minister responsible for the Wildlife Act may grant exemptions with respect to sections 4.9 to 4.12. The Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations may or may not be responsible for the Wildlife Act. If not, then a separate exemption request to the appropriate minister will be required.

**4.9 General Wildlife Measures** (WLPPR, section 55)

**☐** When carrying out primary forest activities, the woodlot licensee is not required to comply with the general wildlife measures established for burned areas within the WL as described below. Compliance with this provision is not practicable given the circumstance and conditions created by the wildfire. Include map or [Enter Name].

**4.10 Wildlife Habitat Features** (WLPPR, section 56(2))

**☐** The woodlot licensee is exempt from the requirements of WLPPR section 56(2) with respect to wildlife habitat features in the burned areas of the WL that were already damaged or rendered ineffective by the wildfire.

**4.11 Fisheries Sensitive Watershed Objectives** (WLPPR, section 57)

**☐** The woodlot licensee is not required to carry out primary forest activities consistent with a fisheries sensitive watershed objective that applies to burned areas within the WL.

**4.12 Water Quality Objectives** (WLPPR, section 58)

**☐** The woodlot licensee is not required to carry out primary forest activities consistent with a water quality objective that applies to burned areas within the WL.

#### 4.13 Alternative Performance Requirements

The following lists alternative performance requirements for practice requirements not already addressed in previous sections. Note: Some practice requirements that were eligible for an exemption were addressed previously.

In addition to alternative performance requirements having to be expressed in measureable terms as described in the WLPPR, the amendment must specify the location to which the alternative performance is applicable and provide a rationale for how the alternative is consistent with established objectives (WLPPR s.9), if any.

####  4.13.1 Soil Disturbance Limits (WLPPR section 24(1)(a))

 **☐** **Amendment:** Within the burned areas, the amount of soil disturbance on the net

area to be reforested will not exceed:

 [Describe the alternative performance requirement]

 [Location (or provide a map)]

 [Rationale]

####  4.13.2 Permanent Access Structures (WLPPR, section 25)

 **☐** **Amendment:** The following will apply to cutblocks within the burned areas.

* For cutblocks > 5 ha, the maximum amount of the total area within a cutblock that will be occupied by permanent access structures will not exceed [Enter Details].
* For cutblocks < 5 ha, the maximum amount of the total area within a cutblock that will be occupied by permanent access structures will not exceed [Enter Details].
* For the WL area, the maximum amount of the total area within the woodlot licence area that will be occupied area by permanent access structures will not exceed [Enter Details].

####  4.13.3 Width of Stream Riparian Areas (WLPPR section 36(4)(a))

 **☐** **Amendment:** The minimum widths of stream RRZ, RMZ and RMA in the burned

areas within the WL as described below.

 [Describe the alternative performance requirement]

 [Location (or provide a map)]

 [Rationale]

####  4.13.4 Width of Wetland Riparian Areas (WLPPR section 37(3)(a))

 **☐** **Amendment.**  The minimum widths of wetland RRZ, RMZ and RMA in the

burned areas within the WL are as follows:

 [Describe the alternative performance requirement for each]

 [Location (or provide a map)]

 [Rationale]

####  4.13.5 Width of Lake Riparian Areas (WLPPR section 38(2)(a))

 **☐** **Amendment.** The minimum widths of lake RRZ, RMZ and RMA in the burned

areas within the WL are as follows:

 [Describe the alternative performance requirement]

 [Location (to provide a map]

 [Rationale]

####  4.13.6 Cutting, Modifying or Removing Trees in a Riparian Reserve Zone (WLPPR, s. 39(1)

Describe the purposes, other than those listed in WLPPR s.39(1), for which cutting, modification or tree removal may occur in a RRZ because of the wildfire.

 **☐** In addition to the purposes listed in WLPPR section 39(1), trees in a RRZ may cut,

modified or removed as follows:

 [Describe the alternative performance requirement]

 [Location (or provide a map)]

 [Rationale]

####  4.13.7 Road Construction in a Riparian Management Zone

If the wildfires necessitate building roads in riparian management zones that was not provided for in the approved WLPPR, include an amendment here.

 **☐** **Amendment**. In addition to the conditions described in WLPPR sections 40(1)(b),

(c) & (d), roads required for post wildfire activities will be constructed in riparian management zones as follows:

 [Describe the alternative performance requirement]

 [Location (or provide a map)]

 [Rationale]

####  4.13.8 Coarse Woody Debris

 **☐** **Amendment.** The minimum amount of coarse woody debris that will be left on

burned areas for which there is a requirement to establish a free growing stand will be:

 [Describe the alternative performance requirement]

 [Location (or provide a map)]

 [Rationale]

**4.14 Other Exemptions Possible under WLPPR section 78**

The following is a list of other exemptions which may be requested under WLPPR section 78 if the provisions are no longer practicable given the circumstances and conditions resulting from a wildfire. For each of the exemptions requested, provide a rationale and identify the area(s) to which it would apply; i.e. all the burned area or specific sites within the burned area. You can cut and paste the live text box or just type in the required information.

[Identify the area to which the exemption applies and provide a rationale].

**☐ Modification of Insect Behavior** (WLPPR, section 30)

**☐ Use of Livestock** (WLPPR, section 31)

**☐ Restrictions in a Riparian Reserve Zone** (WLPPR, section 39(3))

**☐ Restrictions in a Riparian Management Zone** (WLPPR, sections 40(2) (3) & (4))

**☐ Temperature Sensitive Streams** (WLPPR, section 42)

**☐ Stream Crossings** (WLPPR, section 43)

**☐ Fish Passage** (WLPPR, section 40)

**☐ Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat** (WLPPR, section 45)

**☐ Use of Livestock in Riparian Areas** (WLPPR, section 46)

**☐ Protecting Water Quality** (WLPPR, section 47)

**☐ Licensed Waterworks** (WLPPR, section 48)

**☐ Excavated or Bladed Trails** (WLPPR, section 49)

**☐ Roads in a Community Watershed** (WLPPR, section 50**)**

**☐ Use of Fertilizer** (WLPPR, section 51)

**☐ Coarse Woody Debris** (WLPPR, section 54)

**☐ Resource Features** (WLPPR, section 56(1)

**☐ Recreation Objectives** (WLPPR, section 60)

**☐ Roads and Associated Structures** (WLPPR, section 61)

**☐ Design of Bridges** (WLPPR, section 62)

**☐ Structural Defects** (WLPPR, section 64)

**☐ Culvert Fabrication** (WLPPR, section 65)

**☐ Clearing Widths** (WLPPR, section 67)

**☐ Road Maintenance** (WLPPR, section 68)

**☐ Hazard Warning** (WLPPR, section 72)

**☐ Notice – Road in Community Watershed** (WLPPR, section 73)

**☐ Notification of Timber Harvesting or Road Construction** (WLPPR, section 74)

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ZONES, LANDSCAPE UNITS OR SENSITIVE AREAS**

Each of the following are specifically identified and addressed in the Resource Management Zones (RMZ), Landscape Units and Sensitive Areas section of the WLP template. They are listed here to ensure they are not overlooked or misunderstood when it comes to amending a WLP in response to a wildfire.

* **WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS -** The only way for a woodlot licence holder to be exempted from meeting the objective set for a wildlife habitat area (WHA) is if the order is revised or rescinded. However, as noted in section 4.9, it is possible for a woodlot holder to be exempted from the general wildlife measures that apply to a WHA.
* **SCENIC AREAS -** A woodlot licence holder may be exempted from having to meet the visual quality objectives applicable to a scenic area – see 4.7.
* **UNGULATE WINTER RANGES -** The only way for a woodlot licence holder to be exempted from meeting the objective set for an ungulate winter range (UWR) is if the order is revised or rescinded. However, as noted in section 4.9, it is possible for a woodlot holder to be exempted from the general wildlife measures that apply to a UWR.
* **FISHERIES SENSITIVE WATERSHEDS -** See 4.11, a woodlot licence holder may be exempted from meeting fisheries sensitive watershed objectives.
* **COMMUNITY AND DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY INTAKES THAT ARE LICENSED UNDER THE WATER SUSTAINABILITY ACT AND ANY RELATED WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURES -** There is no provision to exempt or modify the objectives respecting community and domestic water supply intakes. An exemption with respect to WLPPR, s. 48 is limited to licenced water works that are not community and domestic water intakes.
* **CONTIGUOUS AREAS OF SENSITIVE SOILS -** Conserving the productivity and hydrologic function of soils is an objective set by government for which there is no exemption or amendment.
* **RESOURCE FEATURES OTHER THAN WILDLIFE HABITAT FEATURES AND OTHER FEATURES WHERE THE LOCATION MUST BE DISCLOSED -** If the feature is subject to a possible exemption or amendment (see above), then a licensee will have to contact the district manager to have a confidential discussion because the location; i.e. particular area to which the amendment or exemption would apply, cannot be disclosed.

**5.0 Supplemental Information**

If you required to subject the WLP amendment to review & comment and/or make reasonable efforts to meet with First Nations, please fill out the following.

**5.1 Review & Comment**

**5.1.1 Advertising**

Include a copy of the newspaper advertisement.

**5.1.2 Referrals**

Describe when and to whom this amendment was referred.

[Enter Details]

**5.1.3 Copy of Written Comments Received**

Include a copy of all written comments received during the review and comment period.

[Enter Details]

**5.1.4 Revisions Made Because of Written Comments Received**

Describe revisions you made to these amendments because of any written comments received.

[Enter Details]

**5.2 Efforts Made to Meet with First Nations**

Describe efforts (date and content) to meet with First Nations groups, and include any written comments received from these discussions.

[Enter Details]

# APPENDICES

**Appendix A:**

## Stocking Standards, Regeneration Dates and Free Growing Dates for Free Growing Stands

Except for areas that have been exempted from the requirement to establish a crop of free growing trees, these stocking standards apply to the burned over areas within the WL.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification** | **Preferred Species** | **Acceptable Species** | **MITD[[1]](#footnote-1)** | **TSS** | **MSSpa** | **MSSp** | **Regen****date** | **FG Date**  | **Min. FG Ht by Species** | **Crop[[2]](#footnote-2) Tree to** |
| **Zone** | **Subzone** | **Variant** |  |  | **(m)** | **(sph)** | **(sph)** | **(sph)** | **(yrs)** | **(yrs)** | **Species** | **Ht (m)** | **Brush %** |
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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Regen date = Regeneration Date****FG Date = Free Growing Date** | **MITD = Minimum distance between well-spaced trees of the preferred and acceptable species** | **Crop Tree to Brush % = the height of free growing trees relative to the competing vegetation within a 1 m radius cylinder around the tree.** |
| **TSS = Target Stocking Standard (sph = healthy well-spaced trees / ha)** | **MSSpa = Minimum Stocking Standard of well-spaced trees of preferred and acceptable species** | **MSSp = Minimum Stocking Standard of well-spaced trees of preferred species** |

**Appendix B:**

**AMENDED WLP MAP**

This map must show the area within the WL that is subject to this amendment.

If not described in text, the specific areas to which exemptions, amendments and alternative performance requirements apply should be shown on maps included in this appendix.

Please use more than one map, as required, so the information is legible and the maps don’t get cluttered.

1. Minimum Inter-tree Distance (MITD) =1.6 meters for planting on hygric, sub-hydric or mechanically site prepared areas; and 2.0 meters on all other areas (except those areas where site factors or objectives require a different minimum inter-tree distance. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Crop Tree to Brush % = 125% for the BG, ESSF, IDF, MH, MS, PP biogeoclimatic zones and 150 % for all other areas. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)