



Fire Mitigation and Fuel Hazard Reduction Checklist for Woodlot Licences

The purpose of this checklist is to provide guidance to woodlot licensees and/or their consultants for when to consider forest fuel management and the steps to consider. It is not intended to be exhaustive, to cover every situation or circumstance, nor is it legal advice. See the notes following the checklist for additional information regarding each item.

#	Item	Notes (who, when, etc.)	✓
1	Identify candidate areas possibly requiring fuel management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schedule A or B lands - Unacceptably high fuel loads - High risk area - Operational constraints: terrain, access - Societal implications - Assets nearby such as homes, structures - Point of control - Part of Community Wildfire Protection Plan - Understand the costs involved and what is covered from external funding sources: admin, harvesting, appraisal allowances for woodlots under tab rates? Fuel treatment cost options, long term maintenance funding 10-15 yrs out 		
2	Check if you have an eligible project	District, BCWS, Integrated Investment specialist, FESBC, LBI/FFT or others	
3	Apply and secure funding for fuel management prescription and treatments		
4	If project approved, develop fuel management prescription <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retain qualified professional - Consistent with approved WLP and other natural resource impacts/limitations - Any Management Plan (MP) or AAC implications - Seek input from neighbors, FNs, etc. - Signed & sealed - Submitted for approval 		
5	Once prescription approved, if project involves commercial harvesting proceed to next step. If it doesn't, go to step #7.		
6	Harvesting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtain a cutting authority (if you don't already have one) - Consider cut control and ensure adequate AAC is available - Conduct and complete timber harvesting. 	CP checklist and guidance available here (login required)	



#	Item	Notes (who, when, etc.)	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure all licence and legal requirements have been completed; e.g. residue and waste survey, silviculture survey and free growing (if required), fire hazard assessments, fire hazard abatement, reporting, etc. 		
7	Fuel Mitigation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtain FRPA S. 52 authorization to carry out the fuel mitigation work - Ensure supervision by qualified person - Retain contractor - Quality control - Project admin – record keeping and accounting - Reporting – RESULTS and to project funding agency 		
8	Monitor and maintain the effectiveness of the fuel treatment		

Guidance or Explanation

1. Consider Schedule A & B lands, within the wildland-urban interface (WUI), adjacent to homes or structures that have high wildfire risk. Only work on Schedule B lands within the WUI and protects structures is likely to be eligible for funding from the province. Point of control refers to areas that are defensible for wildfire suppression, or anchor points to areas with a lower wildfire hazard or lower fuel loading.

Generally, these are areas with a dense conifer understory that is often dead, branches to the ground, and/or blowdown and material on the ground that provides continuous ladder fuel to the crown. There are some tools to calculate fuel loading available [here](#). A forest professional with experience in wildfire risk assessment and fuel management needs to undertake the assessment and development the prescription to reduce the threat. Work closely with the forest professional to ensure they understand your WLP and your goals for the area.

2. Talk to your forest professional, district staff, BC Wildfire Service, a funding organization or someone experienced in your area with fuel management to find out if your proposed area and project is reasonable and what to do next.
3. The Forest Enhancement Society of BC has funded most work from 2016 to mid-2019, but MFLNRORD will be taking this over in mid-2019 going forward. Talk to your regional MFLNRORD Integrated Investment Specialist about funding options.
4. Ensure the fuel management prescription (including any harvesting required prior to the treatment) is consistent with your WLP, and properly takes into account your commitments in your approved WLP and management plan; e.g. does it have site specific stocking standards and will enough stems be left to be meet the required stocking standard? Fuel management stocking standards and a memo from the Chief Forester are available [here](#). Ask the professional who signed and sealed your WLP and/or the project manager for the organization that got the funds to confirm that the project meets all of a WL licensees' legal requirements. If the prescription isn't consistent, then amend your WLP before starting work; e.g. propose stocking standards for a specified area (the area to be treated), modify a wildlife tree strategy,



or another issue; and remember to engage your forest professional and make sure amendments are signed and sealed, as appropriate.

Depending on the area of fuel management activities being undertaken, you may change the stand structure sufficiently to warrant a new inventory and MP with a revised AAC. Your local MFLNRORD tenures officer or woodlot forester should advise you on this. If necessary, you may want to get confirmation from the district manager that the project will not trigger the need for a new inventory, Management Plan and AAC determination.

Although it's your WL, it's worth consulting with the MFLNRORD district, BC Wildfire Service, First Nations, nearby neighbours, communities and/or other tenure holders regarding the proposed project. There are varying perspectives on fuel management standards and different requirements amongst BC Wildfire Service and other forest professionals.

A fuel management prescription falls under the scope of professional practice and must be signed and sealed by a qualified professional. If possible, use the same professional who signed and sealed your WLP – that way the professional is familiar with your WL and can ensure the prescription is consistent with your approved WLP.

6. For commercial harvesting, you will need a cutting permit (if you don't already have a 1CP or other CP over the area). Use the CP reminder checklist and guidance document [here](#) (login required).

Determine your cut control status and whether you need a cut control limit exemption or an AAC uplift. Check your harvest billing records to determine the cut control status of your WL. You may wish to confirm its status with MFLNRORD.

If you needed to do a commercial timber harvest as a first phase, have you completed all licence and legal requirements? For example, have you: i) completed a residue and waste survey? ii) completed a silviculture survey and declared it stocked? iii) assessed the fire hazard? iv) abated the fire hazard? Funding used for non-obligatory fuel management treatments must be distinctly separate from commercial timber harvesting and a licensee's legal and licence obligations.

7. An exemption may need to be sought from the designated government program administrator (i.e., PricewaterhouseCoopers) to address the tendering requirements in the contribution agreement for the funding. Ensure a contract is in place, who is entering the contract with the contractor and that a Worksafe BC clearance letter is issued. Talk to the project manager from the organization that got the funds, he or she should be responsible for these steps.

A FRPA s. 52 permit is required to authorize work under a fuel management prescription. Don't start work without it!

Supervision should be done by a forest professional qualified in fuel management work, and it should be paid for by project funds. This supervisor should sign off on the work to ensure everyone gets paid. Talk to the project manager from the organization that got the funds.

The project could be audited so keep good records.

Projects must be reported. Most often it is best if the forest professional doing the supervision and the project manager do a RESULTS submission and report to the funder.

8. Fuel management areas ideally have follow-up treatments to maintain their effectiveness at reducing wildfire risk and intensity. You may wish to monitor the growth of trees and distribution of debris and consider a maintenance treatment in 5-10 years.