

Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction



Context for Residual
Fibre User Industry

Brief background of WRR projects

- Identify areas using remote sensing imagery to determine potential treatment areas.
- Identify the values we are trying to protect. Prioritize based on 4 value category.
 1. Life and property.
 2. Critical infrastructure
 3. Areas of high environmental concern
 4. Timber values.

Our work so far has been specific to the first two values.

Goal of WRR projects

Location of WRR treatments are determined by:

1. Proximity of treatment to the value we are trying to protect.
2. Wind direction
3. Fuel amount and fuel type. Fuel amount is determined by running transects and measuring fuel by categorizing it by size.
4. Existing natural barriers that can link WRR operations to create an effective fire buffer.

WRR projects prescribe:

1. What the fuel loading is prior to operations.
2. What the fuel loading must be following operations (15 tonnes / hectare).
3. Post stand conditions we are trying to achieve (stocking, vegetative response etc).
4. Successful contractor must ensure objectives outlined in prescription are met.

How WRR operations are awarded.

- PGNRD will post contract documents, prescription and map. Opportunity to bid on the project will be posted on BC bid to conduct work.
- All fuel management treatments must meet post-operation fuel reduction targets (15 tonnes / hectare).
- Our goal is utilization of fibre, not pile burning.

How the FLTC works

- The successful bidder of a tendered FLTC or contract (if removing merchantable trees) would be able to market the fibre removed. They would also be responsible for meeting the requirements in the WRR prescription.
- Certain WRR projects have low economic value stands, and supplemental funding would be available to meet the outcome in the WRR prescription.

How would this apply to residual fibre users.

- Operators conducting the WRR projects will be intent on keeping their bids competitive. By finding operable ways to increase fibre utilization, they may be able to reduce their cost / ha as fibre that would otherwise be burnt is now being utilized.
- Residual fibre users could potentially use the Concurrent Residual Harvesting System (CRHS) or apply for a Fibre Recovery Operation FLTC.

Current projects being conducted

1. Tete – Jaune Cache; Blackman Road Polygon 1&2 (8.1 ha). No standing merchantable trees to be removed due to public use of area; removal of ground fuels and <7.5cm DBH). Some volume may be removed from site to meet spacing requirements.
2. Heather Park Elementary School (within PG municipal area). 1.8ha. Chipping operations is prescribed as burning within municipal lands is not allowed.
3. McLeod Lake Indian Band fuel treatment (Summer 2022): 42.8 ha. Harvesting operation.
4. Pilot Mountain: 13.2ha. BCWS led manual operation. Chipping of removed fibre is desired, however burning will occur if no feasible chipping option exists.
5. Pine Road (Valemount) 7.9 ha. BCWS led manual operation.

Other potential Government programs with residual utilization potential.

- DPG Small Scale Salvage Program
- Forests for Tomorrow
- Wildfire Risk Reduction Operations in other Resource Districts (Mackenzie etc.)
- Warren.Neuvonen@gov.bc.ca or call me at 250-649-4381 and I can provide this information.