



Wildfire Costing System (WFCST)

Q: What is Wildfire Costing?

A: Wildfire Costing (WFCST) is the new program that replaces the DEC (Daily Estimated Costs) and SitRep cost submission processes. It requires cost estimates to be entered to the project level. This new system will increase cost-reporting accuracy and our ability to reconcile estimates to actuals.

Q: Why was Wildfire Costing developed?

A: Wildfire Costing was developed to be a “one stop shop” for all direct fire cost estimates. It gives us the ability to: enter estimated costs where they are incurred, advise Treasury Board of best estimates for budget purposes, run reports in different ways and compare estimates with CAS actuals.

Q: How was Wildfire Costing developed?

A: Wildfire Costing was developed based on feedback from staff. To improve costing for 2016, the Systems Advisory Committee (SAC) and Corporate Services worked with CGI (BCWS’ vendor for “Wildfire One”) to create an initial version of Wildfire Costing. Over the fall and winter, further testing and input was solicited from Corporate Services staff and other end users across the province. CGI and IMB have taken that feedback and developed a visual, electronic costing system for all staff to use in 2016. This is the first version of the new system.

Q: Who will be using WFCST?

A: All staff responsible for reporting direct fire costs will use the system. Access will be granted based on roles and responsibilities.

Q: How can you access training tools to learn how to use the system?

A: A dedicated intranet page will be established to house training materials for Wildfire Costing. “Train the trainers” have been identified and they will deliver training to local staff with facilitation assistance from the PWCC and IMB.

Q: What documents should you read to understand new process/protocols for reporting costs?

A: You will be notified when the Green Book is updated. Key processes and protocols will also be covered off during training sessions.

Q: What does it mean to cost to the “project level”?

A: Costing to the “project level” means allocating expenditures under a “project number”. A project number can either be an incident number or a pre-defined number from the Chart of Accounts.

Q: Will aviation costing be a part of the new system?

A: Wildfire Resource Management (WFRM) will be the application responsible for capturing aviation costs, but it may not be ready before fire season. Therefore, Wildfire Costing will accommodate an interim manual process to capture summarized DASS/aviation costs. This follows a similar process to what was used in 2015 to populate SitRep. Once WFRM is online, you will no longer need to re-enter these costs into WFCST.

Q: How can you give feedback about Wildfire Costing System?

A: A centralized feedback form will be posted on the intranet page and it will be open for your feedback throughout the season.

Q: Who can users contact if they have questions about the system?

A: Technical questions: Self-service: <http://nrsservicedesk.gov.bc.ca>
Phone support: 250-952-6801 option 1; Toll-Free: 1-866-952-6801
Email enquiries: NRSApplications@gov.bc.ca

Training questions: Your local corporate services training representative.

MORE INFORMATION:

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