



Coastal Fire Centre

Parksville BC

2023 Seasonal Wildfire Outlook



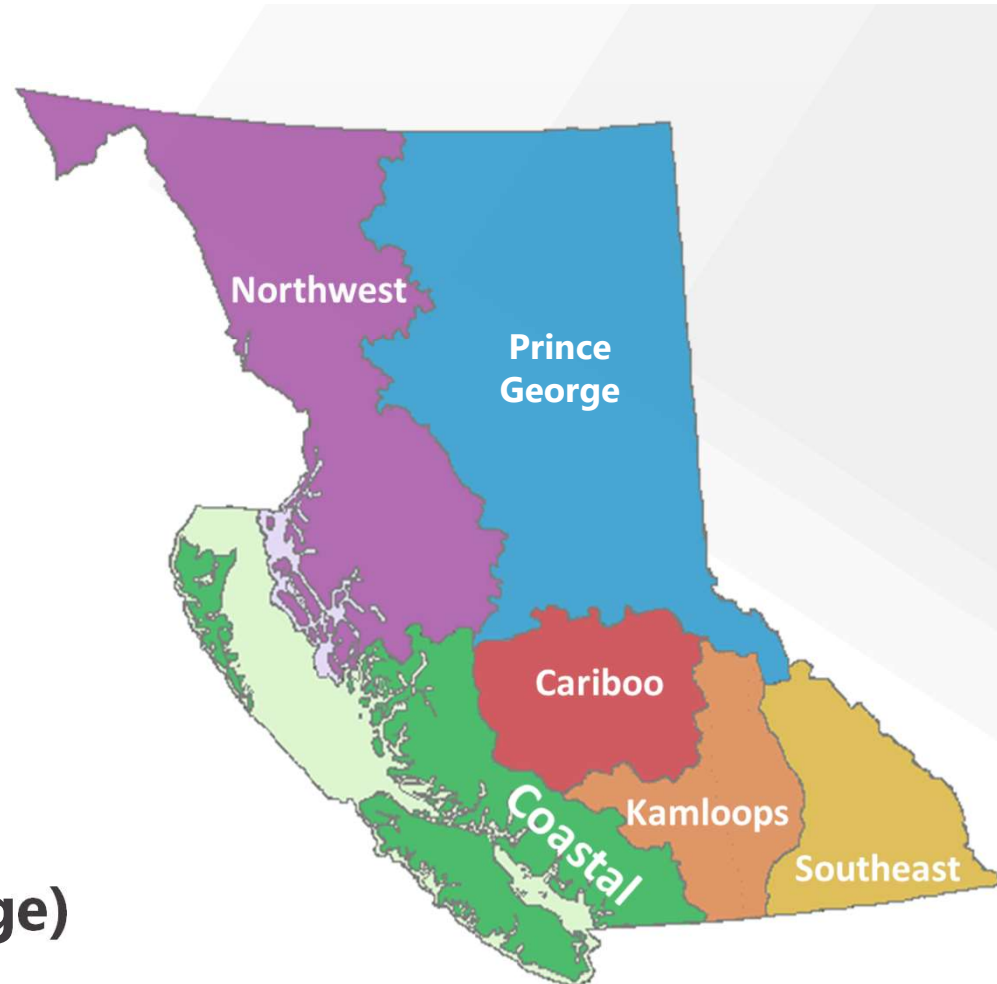
BC Wildfire Service Headquarters and Fire Centres

**Headquarters
(Victoria and Kamloops)**

6 Fire Centres

33 Fire Zones

**Provincial Depots
(Chilliwack and Prince George)**



Coastal Fire Centre

The Coastal Fire Centre (CoFC) is the Regional Wildfire Coordination Centre for the south coast of British Columbia.

The RWCC is the operations hub for the CoFC as well as housing Management and Administration for the fire centre.

Coastal Fire Centre Dispatch operates from this site.



Above: Errington Base in the forefront with CofC situated behind.
Left: Entrance of CoFC from Allsbrook Road.

Zone Offices and Bases

Fraser Zone (V1, VB)

- Cultus Lake Zone Office
 - Haig Base (Hope)
 - Boston Bar - seasonal
 - Haida Gwaii – seasonal

Pemberton Zone (V3)

- Pemberton Zone Office
 - Squamish Base

Sunshine Coast Zone (V5)

- Powell River Zone Office
 - Sechelt Base

South Island Zone (V6)

- Cobble Hill Zone Office

Mid Island Zone (V7)

- Errington Zone Office
 - Port Alberni Base

North Island/Mid Coast Zone (V8, V9, VA)

- Quinsam Fire Zone Office
 - Mid Coast Base (Bella Coola) - seasonal



North Island/Mid-Coast Zone



On the left: Mid Coast Base in Bella Coola
Below: Zone Office at Quinsam near Campbell River, BC



Quinsam Base (Zone Office) Bella Coola (Seasonal)

Zone Staff:	9
Initial Attack Crews:	<u>5</u>
Staff at this location	29

Municipalities:	3
Regional Districts:	4
First Nations:	20
Fire Departments:	2

Mid Island Zone



Above: photo of the Errington Base adjacent to the Coastal Fire Centre.
Right: Port Alberni Base at the Port Alberni Airport.



Errington Base (Zone Office)
Port Alberni Base

Zone Staff:	8
Initial Attack Crews:	4
Unit Crews:	<u>1</u>
Staff at this location	37

Municipalities:	7
Regional Districts:	2
First Nations:	17
Fire Departments:	33

South Island Zone



Cobble Hill Base (Zone Office)

Zone Staff:	8
Initial Attack Crews:	<u>4</u>
Staff at this location	16

Municipalities:	19
Regional Districts:	2
First Nations:	5
Fire Departments:	14

Pemberton Zone



Pemberton Base (Zone Office)
Squamish Base

Zone Staff:	9
Initial Attack Crews:	5
Unit Crews:	<u>2</u>
Staff at this location	62

Municipalities:	3
Regional Districts:	2
First Nations:	7
Fire Departments:	9

Sunshine Coast Zone

Powell River Base (Zone Office)
Sechelt Base

Zone Staff:	8
Initial Attack Crews:	<u>5</u>
Staff at this location	20

Municipalities:	4
Regional Districts:	3
First Nations:	5
Fire Departments:	14



Above: Powell River Zone Office
Left: Sechelt Base at the Sechelt Airport

Fraser Zone



Above: Cultus Lake Zone Office
Right: Haig Base near Hope, BC



Cultus Lake Base (Zone Office)
Haig Base

Zone Staff:	10
Initial Attack Crews:	4
Unit Crew	<u>2</u>
Staff at this location	58

Municipalities:	33
Regional Districts:	1
First Nations:	36
Fire Departments:	47

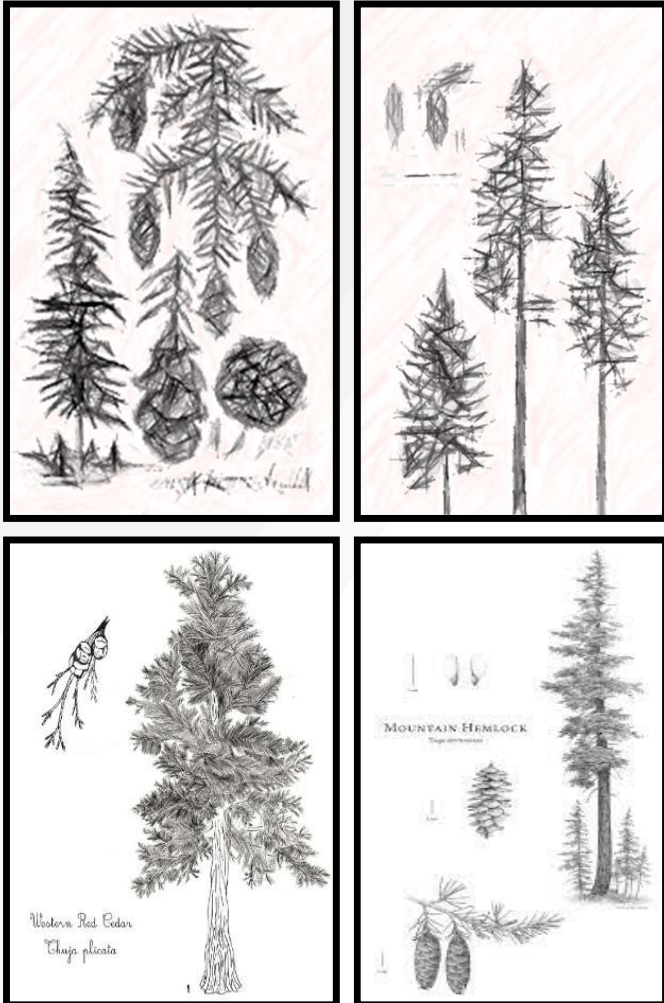
Aviation Resources

Two Airtanker Bases:

- Abbotsford
- Campbell River

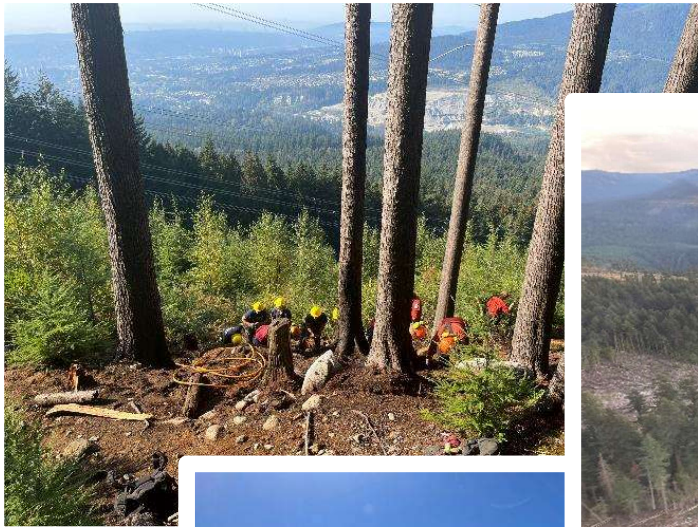
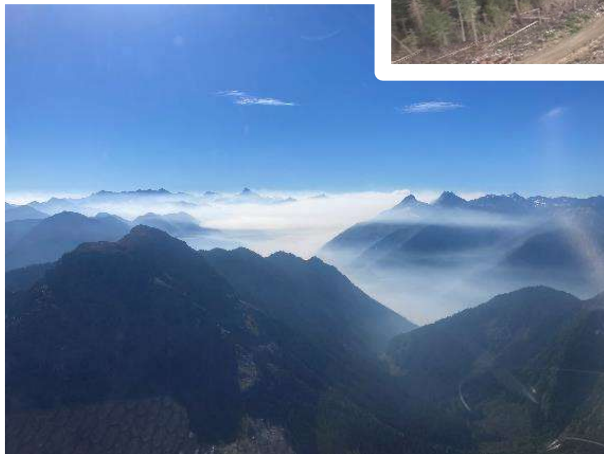
All Rotary Wing
Aircraft are
Contracted Resources





Vegetation

- Western hemlock
- Douglas fir
- Red cedar
- Mountain hemlock



Worksite Challenges

Terrain can be steep and rugged with limited access and may only be accessible by air or water.

Transportation to fires could be by:

- Ground;
- Air; or
- Water.

Climate

East & South Vancouver Island

- Warm, dry, sunny with strong in/outflow winds

Mainland Coast

- Moderate to strong afternoon sea breezes

Major Coastal Valleys

- Poor overnight recoveries and quick changes in wind speeds

Interior Valleys

- Warmest and driest with frequent thunderstorms



B.C. is experiencing a serious and sustained increase in extreme wildfire behaviour and fire events in the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

This upward trend is expected to continue as a result of climate change and urban and industrial expansion into forested areas.

Due to these conditions, the Coastal Fire Centre strongly supports the BC FireSmart  Program and any opportunity to support fuels management projects to help reduce wildfire risk.



BC Wildfire Service Predictive Services Unit Update

- Fading La Niña conditions and cool waters off the B.C. coast are favoring a cool spring.
- Continued snowpack growth will decrease the likelihood of early season lightning caused fires.
- The likelihood of early season grass fire potential will depend on the persistence of valley bottom snow.
- Prescribed burns in the Southern Interior have exhibited aggressive fire behavior that are telling of the dry fuels and elevated drought conditions.
- The number and severity of wildfires in July and August will be largely dependent on the amount of rain received in June which cannot be accurately forecast this far in advance.
- Elevated drought conditions from fall 2022 will persist until significant and prolonged precipitation is observed.

How to Stay Informed

BCWS mobile App or [BCWildfire.ca](https://www.bcwildfire.ca)

- Dashboard / Interactive Map
- Fires of Note
- Prohibitions, Evacuation Alerts, Evacuation Orders and more

BCWS Facebook: BCForestFireInfo

BCWS Twitter: @BCGovFireInfo

Information Hotline: 1 888 3FOREST
(336-7378)

BCWS [YouTube channel](#)

Coastal Fire Centre Information line at: 250-951-4209