



Northwest Fire Centre Briefing Package

Fire Season 2022

Northwest Fire Centre, 3395 Victoria Drive, Smithers, British Columbia, 250-847-6633
<https://intranet.gov.bc.ca/bcws/fire-centres/northwest>

Welcome to the Northwest Fire Centre

The Northwest Fire Centre, based in Smithers, is in the northwest corner of the province. The population of Smithers is approximately 5500. Major employers include the provincial government, forestry, ranching and farming.

The Northwest Fire Centre is approximately 25 million hectares in size. From the Yukon border (in the north) to Tweedsmuir Park (in the south), and from Endako (in the east) to Prince Rupert (in the west). The Fire Centre comprises a variety of landscapes and terrain, including coastal temperate rainforest and mountains to the west, and rolling hills in the east. There are four Zones: Nadina (R1, R2), Bulkley (R3, R4), Skeena (R5, R8) and Cassiar (R9).

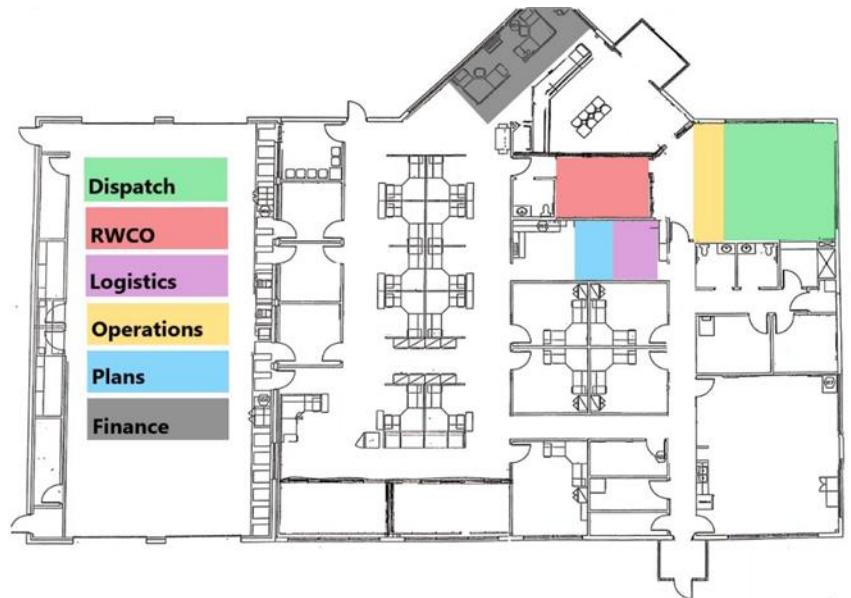
There are around 120 firefighters in the Centre, with bases in Burns Lake, Telkwa, Terrace, Houston, Hazelton, and Dease Lake. Atlin, and Watson Lake are unmanned bases which can be filled with crew members should the fire potential warrant it. Watson Lake is in the Yukon but is a BC base. BCWS staff has blanket permission to work out of this base, and the letter must be taken with personnel who plan on going to the Watson Lake base.

Checking In

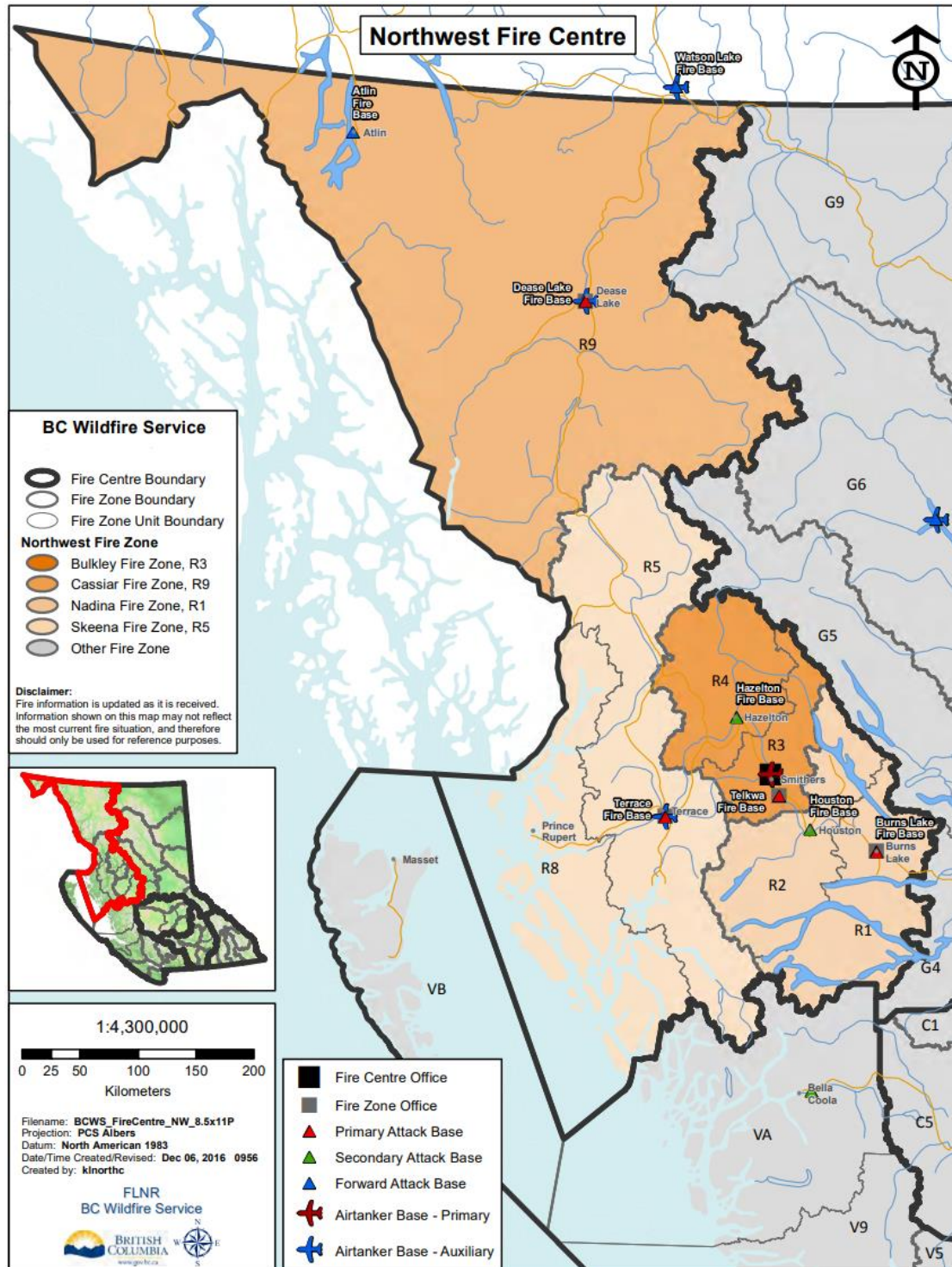
If you are just arriving at the Northwest fire centre for a deployment you must check in. Stop in at the front desk, there someone will show you to Plans, Logistics, and Finance in that order to complete your check in process.

In this Issue:

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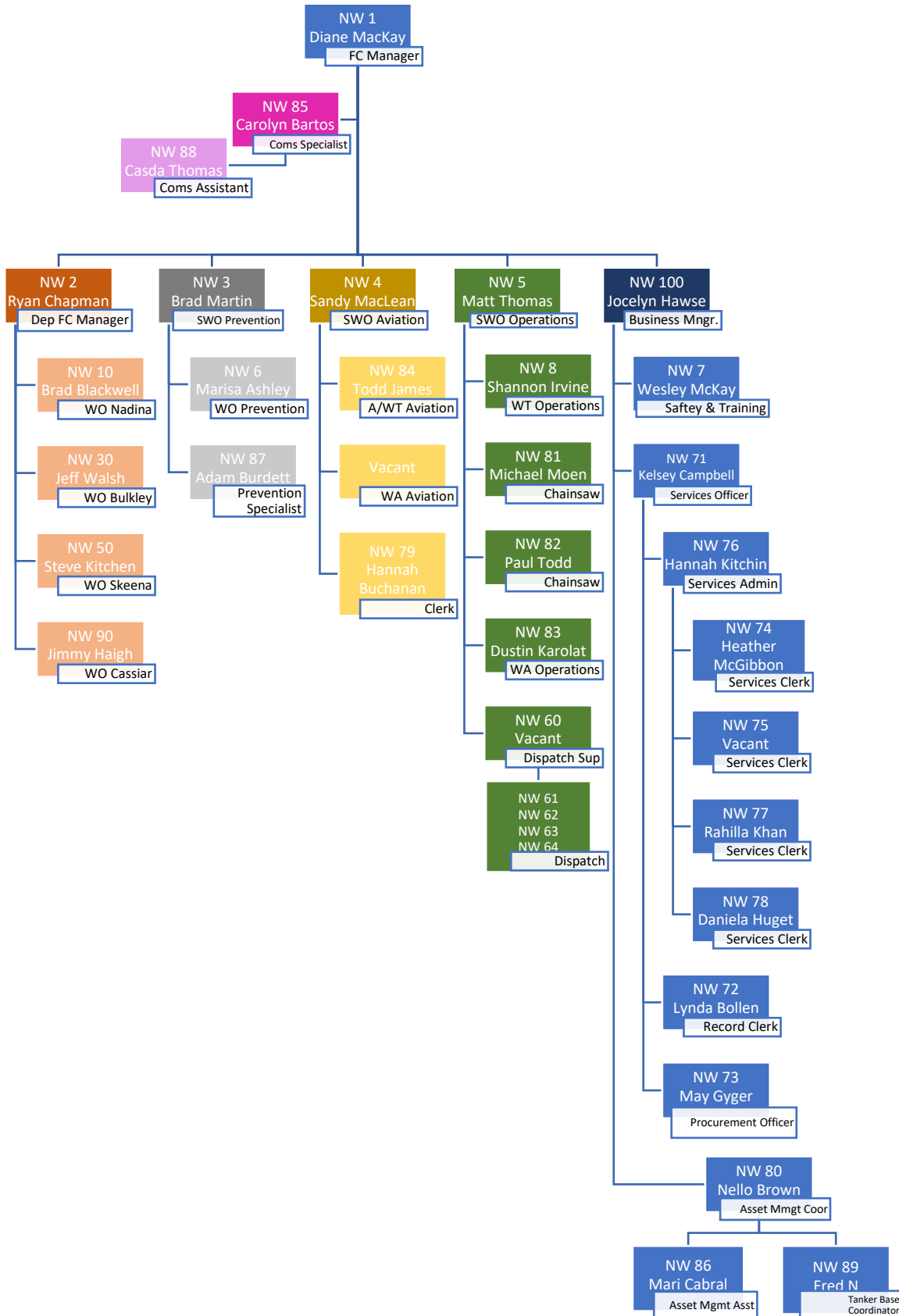


1 - Northwest Fire Centre Organizational Overview



ZONE	FIRE BASE
Nadina	Burns Lake – Zone Office: #8 – 4 th Avenue, PO Box 270, Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0 250-692-3190 Houston – Fwd Attack Base: 2500 Butler Ave, Houston, BC V0J 1Z0 250-845-7916
Bulkley	Telkwa – Zone Office: 11530 Silkhorn Road, Telkwa, BC V0J 2X3 250-846-9851 Hazelton – Fwd Attack Base: 2210 Highway 62, Hazelton, BC V0J 1Y0 250-842-7630
Skeena	Terrace – Zone Office: 4435 Bristol Road, Terrace, BC V8G 0E9 250-643-8264
Cassiar	Dease Lake – Zone Office: Dease Lake Airport, Box 337, Dease Lake, BC V0L 1L0 250-771-5561

1 - Northwest Fire Centre Organizational Overview



2 - Weather & Geography

Nadina Zone Climate Averages 1926-2008				
Season	Precip (mm)	Mean Temp (°C)	Max Temp(°C)	Min Temp(°C)
Winter	203.7	-7.9	8.0	-31.9
Spring	104.9	2.3	22.6	-21.6
Summer	141.1	12.5	29.4	-1.2
Fall	206.3	3.4	23.1	-17.4

Cassiar Zone Climate Averages 1926-2008				
Season	Precip (mm)	Mean Temp (°C)	Max Temp(°C)	Min Temp(°C)
Winter	160.8	-12.8	5.8	-37.3
Spring	73.4	0.5	20.6	-26.2
Summer	125.0	12.0	28.2	-1.4
Fall	178.3	0.8	19.9	-22.9

Skeena Zone Climate Averages 1926-2008				
Season	Precip (mm)	Mean Temp (°C)	Max Temp(°C)	Min Temp(°C)
Winter	715.9	-1.0	9.2	-16.6
Spring	410.3	6.1	22.9	-7.8
Summer	289.1	14.3	29.0	3.6
Fall	808.6	7.0	22.5	-7.2

Bulkley Zone Climate Averages 1926-2008				
Season	Precip (mm)	Mean Temp (°C)	Max Temp(°C)	Min Temp(°C)
Winter	136.9	-7.2	8.4	-30.8
Spring	80.8	4.4	25.1	-17.5
Summer	140.6	13.9	31.4	-0.6
Fall	165.3	4.3	24.3	-16.2

Geography

The region has a diverse geography and landscape, featuring mountain ranges, glaciers plateaus, coastal islands, fjords, estuaries, and numerous lakes and rivers.

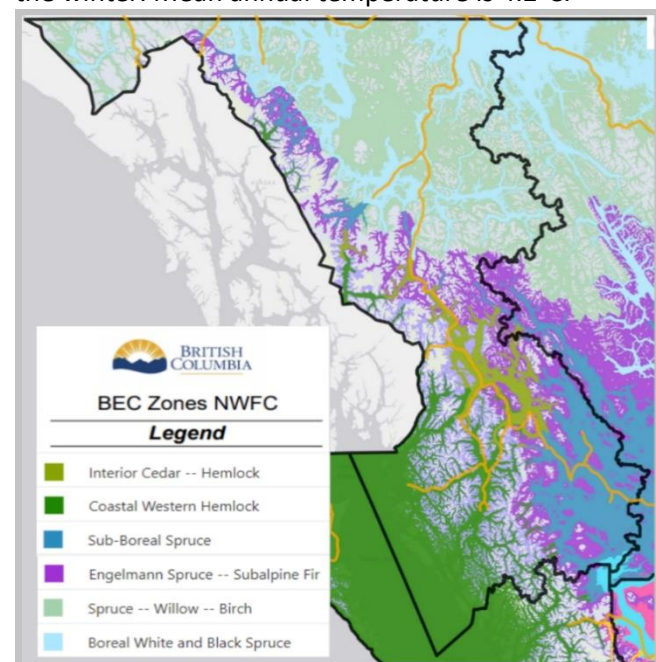
Special features of the region include the Coastal, St. Elias and Skeena Mountain ranges, the Yukon and Stikine plateaus, the Skeena estuary, and the Inside Passage. Due to the complex geography and landscape, the vegetation of the regional varies considerably across the region and contains temperate rainforests to low- elevation and alpine forests.

Weather data was obtained from Foord, V. 2016. Climate patterns, trends, and projections for the Omineca, Skeena, and Northeast Natural Resource Regions, British Columbia. Prov. B.C., Victoria, B.C. Tech. Rep. 097.

www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/Docs/Tr/Tr097.htm. For seasonal summaries, winter was defined as December, January, and February; spring included March, April, and May; summer included June, July, and August; and fall included September, October, and November.

Climate

The climate of the NWFC is dominated mainly by the influence of warm Pacific moisture. Mean annual precipitation is 1393 mm, with higher amounts occurring in the mountains. Most precipitation occurs in fall due to incoming low-pressure systems from the coast. Summers are the driest season, but there is still a considerable amount of rainfall. Extreme temperatures are more moderate than in the other regions in the North Area; they are typically below 30°C in the summer and do not drop below -30°C in the winter. Mean annual temperature is 4.2°C.

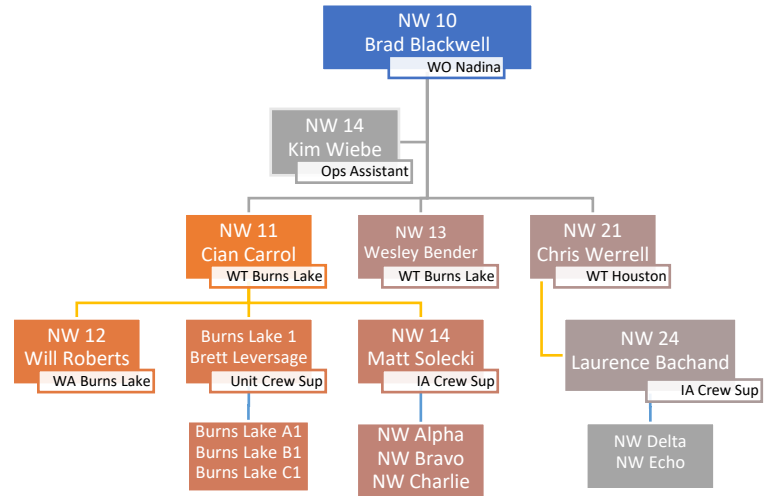
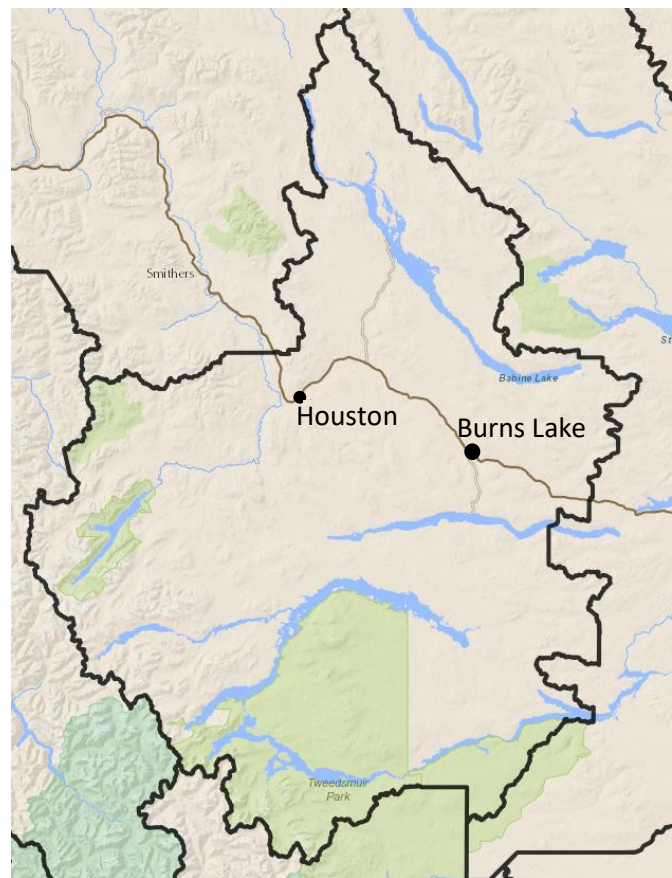


3(i) - Nadina Zone (R1, R2)

The Nadina Fire Zone encompasses the entire Nadina Forest District located in the eastern section of the Bulkley Valley and Lakes areas from Babine Lake (in the north) to Tweedsmuir Park (in the south) and from Endako (in the east) to Hungry Hill (in the west). Most of the population lives around the two communities of Burns Lake and Houston.

The community of Burns Lake, which lies within the Lakes District, has an approximate population of 3,614 within the village. However, with limited resources in many of the neighboring communities Burns Lake supports closer to 10,000 people. Our zone touches on eight First Nations traditional territories. This includes the: Burns Lake Band, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Community of Tachek (Tachet), Lake Babine Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn Indian Band, Skin Tyee Nation, Stellat'en First Nation and Wet'suwet'en First Nation. The major industries within the zone are logging, sawmill work, agriculture, and tourism.

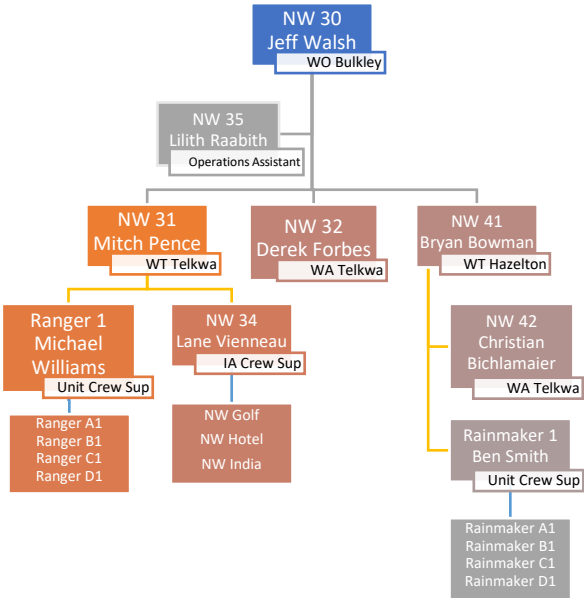
The community of Houston is approximately 80kms northwest of Burns Lake along Highway 16. The population is approximately 3200 people. The leading resource sectors are logging, mining, agriculture, and tourism.



3 (ii) Bulkley Zone (R3, R4)

The Bulkley Zone is divided into two response areas: Bulkley and Kispiox. Typical vegetation types are Spruce and Pine in the East of the zone with Sub-alpine Fir at higher elevations. The Mountain Pine Beetle has killed most Pine stands and the trees are now classified as standing grey and dead. Extra precaution must be taken in areas with this fuel type as the trees themselves are becoming increasingly unstable over time, as well as being a volatile fuel. As one travels West, the coastal influence increases, and the vegetation changes to primarily Cedar Hemlock forests in and around the Hazelton area.

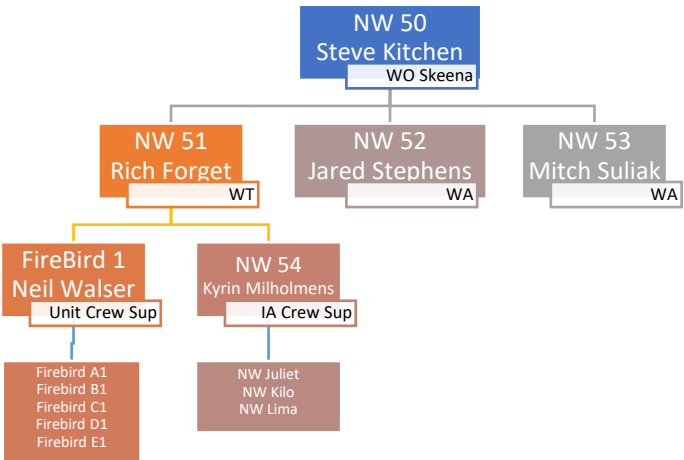
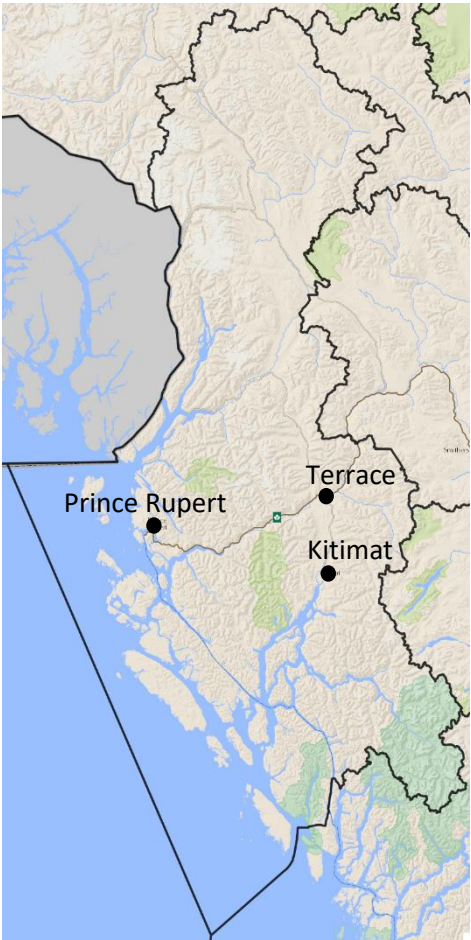
There are two fire attack bases in the respective response areas located in Telkwa and Hazelton. At both bases there will be a minimum amount of gear to respond to local fires.



3 (iii) Skeena Zone (R5, R8)

The Skeena Zone provides fire protection for the western half of the Prince Rupert Forest Region. The Zone borders are – East to Hazelton - West to the Prince Rupert – North to Bell II and South to the lower boundary of the Kitlope Protected Area.

The Skeena Zone has a primary attack base in Terrace. Staffing in Terrace includes a WO, WT, two WAs, three Initial Attack crews (NW Juliet, NW Lima, NW Kilo) and the Firebird Unit Crew.

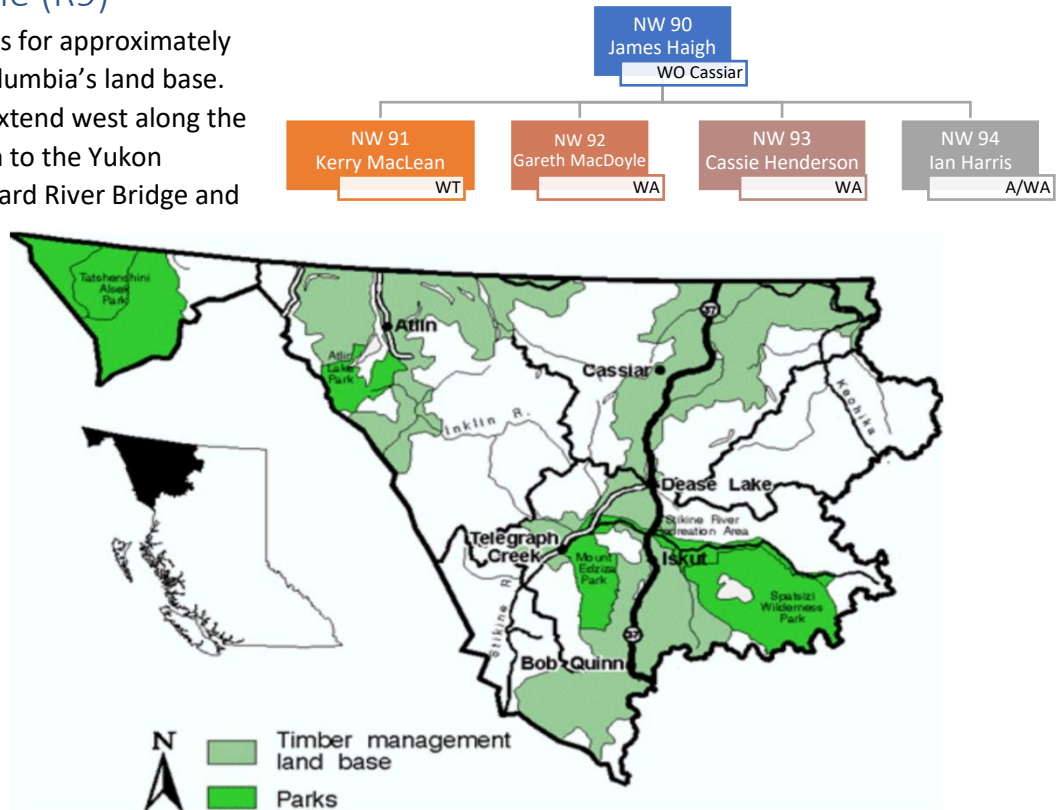


Fuel Type: Fuel types include spruce/hemlock plantations in the lower valleys of Skeena, Kalum, and Kitimat rivers. There is mixed wood and C3 in the Terrace, Thornhill, and Nass River drainages and C5 in the remaining areas.



3 (iv) - Cassiar Zone (R9)

The Cassiar Zone accounts for approximately one seventh of British Columbia's land base. Geographic boundaries extend west along the Alaskan Panhandle, north to the Yukon border, and east of the Liard River Bridge and south to Bob Quinn. It includes four provincial forests – Tuka, Stikine, Dease Lake and Muskwa/Kechika. The Cassiar (37) highway follows the Northwest Transmission Line (NTL) extending north to Tattoga. During the summer, population increases as travelers and seasonal residents visit the area. Cassiar Zone has a primary fire base in Dease Lake and secondary fire base located in Atlin. The Cassiar area has fewer than 5,000 permanent residents with isolated small communities such as Dease Lake, Iskut, Atlin, Telegraph Creek, Good Hope Lake, Lower Post, and Bob Quinn along four transportation corridors. There are three fire equipment trailers positioned in Lower Post, Watson Lake, and Telegraph Creek, and spike camp kits are available upon request.



The Cassiar Zone is known for its northern living lifestyle because there are many outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, fishing, and paddling in this area.

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In the Cassiar zone, common fuel types are boreal spruce (C2), immature (C4) and mature (C3) pine as shown in Figure 7. These fuels are known to burn vigorously when above high fuel hazards.



4 - Appendixes

4(i) - Contact Information

NWFC Short Phone List 2022				
KEY NUMBERS AT NWFC				
Reception Desk	250-847-6600	Fax 250-847-7470		
Dispatch Room	250-847-6633	Fax 250-847-9120		
RWCO	250-847-6621			
Main Conference Room	250-876-7009			
Suskwa Conference Room	250-876-6999			
Ganokwa Conference Room	250-876-7006			
Name	Position	Call Sign	Primary Work Hours	Primary Off Premises
MANAGEMENT				
Mackay, Diane	Manager	NW 1	250-876-6908	250-847-0635
Chapman, Ryan	Deputy Manager	NW 2	250-876-2936	250-643-0037
Hawse, Jocelyn	Business Manager	NW 100	250-876-6949	250-818-8698
Lowe, Jenni	A/ Business Manager	TBD	250-876-6913	250-877-3448
CORPORATE WILDFIRE SERVICES (CWS)				
Vacant (NW 70)	Services Officer	vacant		
Campbell, Kelsey	A/ Services Officer	NW 71	250-876-6914	250-8847-0541
Gyger, May	Procurement Clerk	NW 73	250-876-6921	250-876-8513
Bollen, Lynda	Records Clerk	NW 72	250-876-6968	604-720-4171
Kitchin, Hannah	A/ Services Admin	NW 76	250-876-7170	250-877-8779
Vacant (NW 75)	Financial Services Clerk	vacant		
McGibbon, Heather	Financial Services Clerk	NW 74	250-876-6911	250-917-8204
Khan, Rahilla	Financial Services Clerk	NW 77	250-877-2070	
Huget, Daniella	Fin Services Clerk (As/When)	NW 78	250-876-7137	604-302-5036
OPERATIONS				
Thomas, Matt	SWO	NW 5	250-877-1041	
Vacant (NW 8)	WT	vacant		
Irvine, Shannon	A/ WT	NW 8	250-876-6927	250-643-2491
Karolat, Dustin	WA	NW 83	250-644-6248	250-316-0455
Todd, Paul	Chainsaw Specialist	NW 82	250-876-6972	250-842-8649
Moen, Michael	Chainsaw Specialist	NW 81	250-997-7265	
Vacant (NW 60)	Dispatch Supervisor	vacant	250-847-1102	
Van Eyk, Cassandra	Dispatch Lead	NW 61	250-847-6633	250-818-5391
Guillon, Britta	Dispatcher	NW 62	250-847-6633	250-877-2235
Turko, Jillian	Dispatcher	NW 63	250-847-6633	250-643-3499
Hui, Patrick	Dispatcher	NW 64	250-847-6633	604-906-1889
Akyuz, Ekin	Dispatcher (As/When)	NW 65	250-847-6633	
AVIATION				
Aviation Desk			250-876-7007	
Maclean, Sandy	SWO	NW 4	250-876-6939	250-877-9323
Pearce, Sue (NW 9)	WT	on TA	250-876-6929	250-877-2473
James, Todd	A/ WT	NW 84	250-876-6930	250-877-9841
Vacant (TBD)	A/ WA	vacant		
Buchanan, Hannah	Clerk	NW 79	250-876-3084	250-643-0427
PREVENTION				
Martin, Brad	SWO	NW 3	250-876-6904	250-877-2553
Ashley, Marisa	A/ Fuels Management	NW 6	250-997-2172	604-655-3022
Burdett, Adam	A/ WT	NW 87	250-876-6938	
SAFETY / TRAINING				
McKay, Wes	WT	NW 7	250-808-4158	
COMMUNICATION				
Bartos, Carolyn	Specialist	NW 85	250-877-9356	250-847-4330
Thomas, Casda	Assistant	NW 88	250-847-0878	250-877-9366
ASSET MANAGEMENT				
Brown, Nello	Manager	NW 80	250-877-2571	
MacDoyle, Melissa	Assistant	on leave	TBD	TBD
Cabral, Mari	A/ Assistant	NW 86	250-876-6918	250-643-2527
Nakashima, Fred	Air Tanker Supervisor	NW 89	250-643-3124	
FIELD TECHNOLOGY SERVICES				
Létourneau-Tremblay, Dominic	Analyst	NW 00	250-643-9227	250-896-0563

NADINA ZONE - Burns Lake		ZWCO: 250-692-1374		Fax 250-692-3197
Blackwell, Brad	WO	NW 10	250-640-1656	same
Carroll, Cian	WT	NW 11	250-251-0547	same
Bender, Wesley	WT	NW 13	250-251-1967	same
Roberts, Will	WA	NW 12	250-692-0884	same
Solecki, Matt	IA Crew Sup	NW 14	250-251-4132	250-692-6561
Wiebe, Kim	Ops Assistant	NW 15	250-251-5428	250-692-6227
NADINA ZONE - Houston		ZWCO: 250-692-1374		Fax 250-845-7694
Werrell, Chris	WT	NW 21	250-845-8019	same
Bachand, Laurence	IA Crew Sup	NW 24	250-845-4395	250-551-7456
BULKLEY ZONE - Telkwa		ZWCO: 250-643-8164		Fax 250-846-9852
Walsh, Jeff	WO	NW 30	250-643-1279	same
Pence, Mitch	WT	NW 31	250-877-2544	same
Forbes, Derek	WA	NW 32	250-639-5109	same
Vienneau, Lane	IA Crew Sup	NW 34	250-643-0789	same
Vacant	Ops Assistant	NW 35		
Fraser, Sean	WT (As/When)	NW 36	250-643-0505	same
BULKLEY ZONE - Hazelton		ZWCO: 250-643-8164		
Bowman, Bryan	WT	NW 41	250-877-3910	same
Bichlmaier, Christian	WA	NW 42	778-202-0285	same
SKEENA ZONE - Terrace		ZWCO: 250-643-8264		Fax 250-635-9716
Kitchen, Steve	WO	NW 50	250-641-0577	250-641-0577
Forget, Rich	WT	NW 51	250-615-7938	same
Stephens, Jared	WA	NW 52	250-635-0475	250-635-0312
Suliak, Mitch	WA	NW 53	250-641-7582	same
Milhomens, Kyrin	IA Crew Sup	NW 54	250-631-9995	same
Fiebler, Jennifer	Ops Assistant	NW 55	250-641-7394	250-643-7711
CASSIAR ZONE - Dease Lake		ZONE OFFICE: 250-771-5561 / 250-771-5571		Fax 250-771-5702
Haigh, Jimmy (NW 90)	WO	on leave	250-877-2557	250-771-4513
Maclean, Kerry	A/ WO	NW 91	250-877-2558	250-771-3108
MacDoyle, Gareth	A/ WT	NW 92	250-877-9101	250-643-8874
Henderson, Cassie	WA	NW 93	250-877-9275	same
Harris, Ian	A/ WA	NW 94	250-643-3359	250-552-2586
Bunkhouse			250-771-5551	
Warehouse			250-771-5541	
Tanker Base			250-771-5817	
CASSIAR ZONE - Atlin		250-651-7780		
IA Base			250-651-7638	
IA Bunkhouse			250-651-7613	
CASSIAR ZONE - Watson Lake		AIRPORT: 876-536-2905		
IA Base			876-536-7369	
Tanker Base			876-536-7759	
HEADQUARTERS STAFF AT NWFC				
Meier, Ian (1P4)	Director		250-876-6944	
Reed, Shawn	Indigenous Relations		250-876-6928	
Pearce, Sue (NW 9)	Project Manager		250-876-6929	250-877-2473
NWFC DISTRICT OFFICES				
Nadina District			250-692-2200	
Skeena Stikine District			250-847-6300	
North Coast District			250-624-7460	
Skeena Kalum District			250-638-5100	

Email Inboxes

*Coordination Centre*Finance & Admin: BCWS.NWFCCWS@gov.bc.caInfo: BCWS.NWFCInformationOfficer@gov.bc.caOperations: BCWS.NWFCOperations@gov.bc.caLogistics: BCWS.NWFCLogistics@gov.bc.caPlans: BCWS.NWFCPlans@gov.bc.caSafety: BCWS.NWFCSafety@gov.bc.caRWCO: BCWS.NWFCRWCO@gov.bc.caAviation: BCWS.NWFCAviation@gov.bc.caDispatch: BCWS.NWFCDispatch@gov.bc.ca*Zones*Nadina: BCWS.NWFCNadinaZWCO@gov.bc.caBulkley: BCWS.NWFCBulkleyZWCO@gov.bc.caSkeena: BCWS.NWFCSkeenaZWCO@gov.bc.caCassiar: BCWS.NWFCCassiarZWCO@gov.bc.ca*Fire Centre Preparedness & Weather Call Information*

Time: 0900

Conference ID: 781 276 038#

Phone Number: +1 778-401-6289

Online Access: [Microsoft Teams](#)

4 (ii) - Fire Centre Intranet

The Northwest Fire Centre has a robust and constantly updated intranet page that provides all preparedness-related documents, as well as information for coordination centre positions. To use the webpage, you will need an IDIR account and access to the NWFC Fire Centre G Drive.

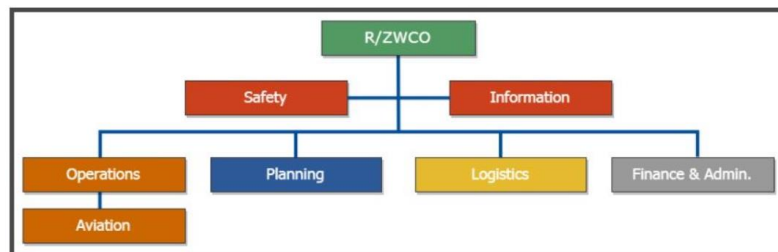
<https://intranet.gov.bc.ca/bcws/fire-centres/northwest>

Northwest Fire Centre


[Priorities for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development](#)

COVID-19 Documentation and Information

Mental Health and Well-Being Resources



Northwest Info

- [Contact and Address Lists](#)
- [NWFC Staff Org Chart](#)
- [Briefing Packages](#)

Preparedness

- [Morning Preparation](#)
- [Preparation Sheets](#)
- [Rosters](#)
- [Pre-Organization](#)
- [Deployment Plans](#)

Coordination Centre

- [Command / RWCO / ZWCO](#)
- [Operations](#)
- [Logistics](#)
- [Planning](#)
- [Finance & Admin](#)

4 (iii) - Aviation

NWFC Skids Down Table (login with idir\username & password)



https://intranet.gov.bc.ca/assets/intranet/bcws-intranet/resource-centre/05-reference-material/aviation/reference_northwest_skids_down.pdf

Pilot Information Guide (login with idir\username & password)



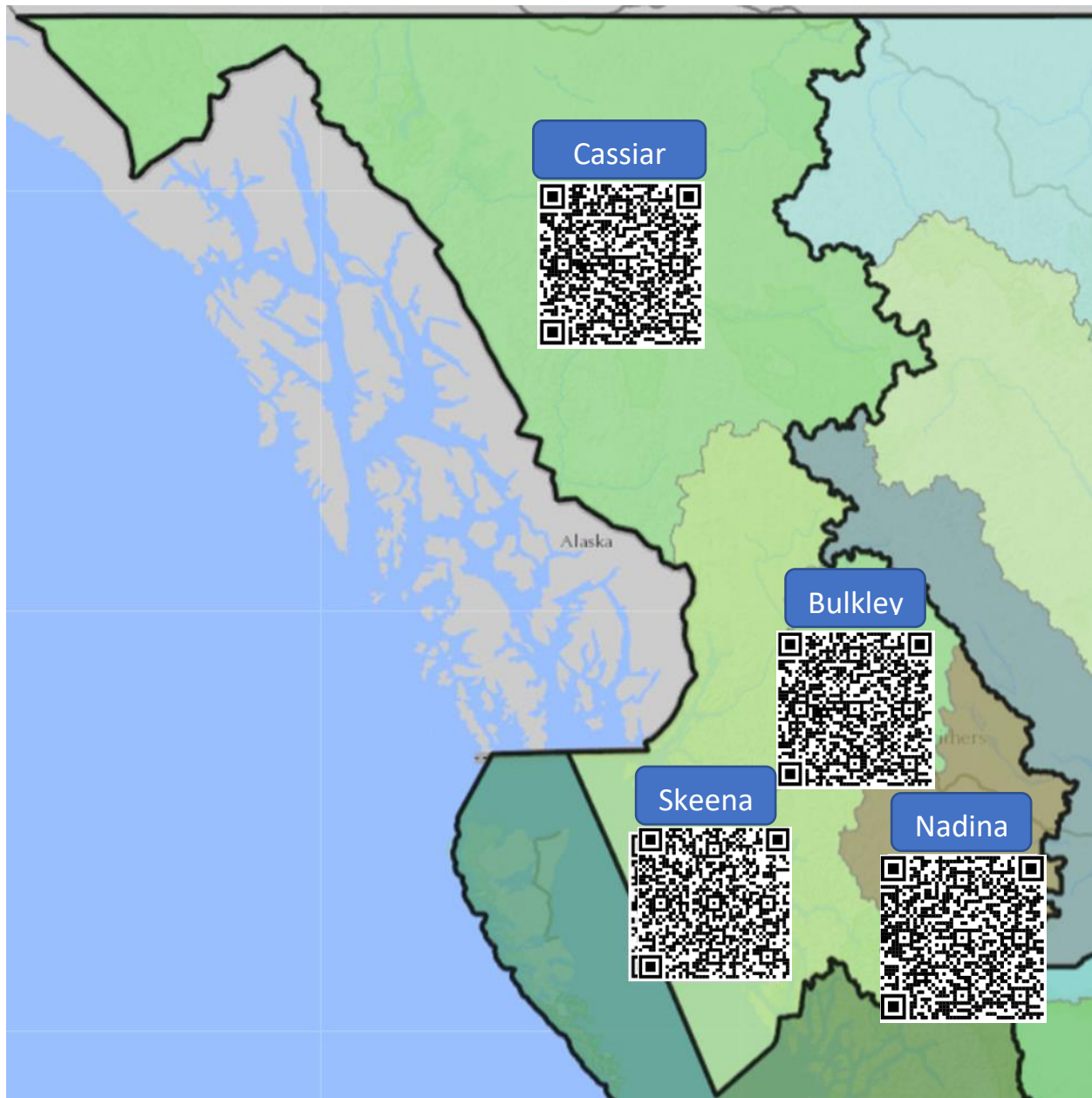
https://intranet.gov.bc.ca/assets/intranet/bcws-intranet/resource-centre/02-standards-sopg-manuals/aviation/pilot_info_guide.pdf

4 (iv) – Maps

NWFC Map Book

To download the maps with the QR code you will need to login with:

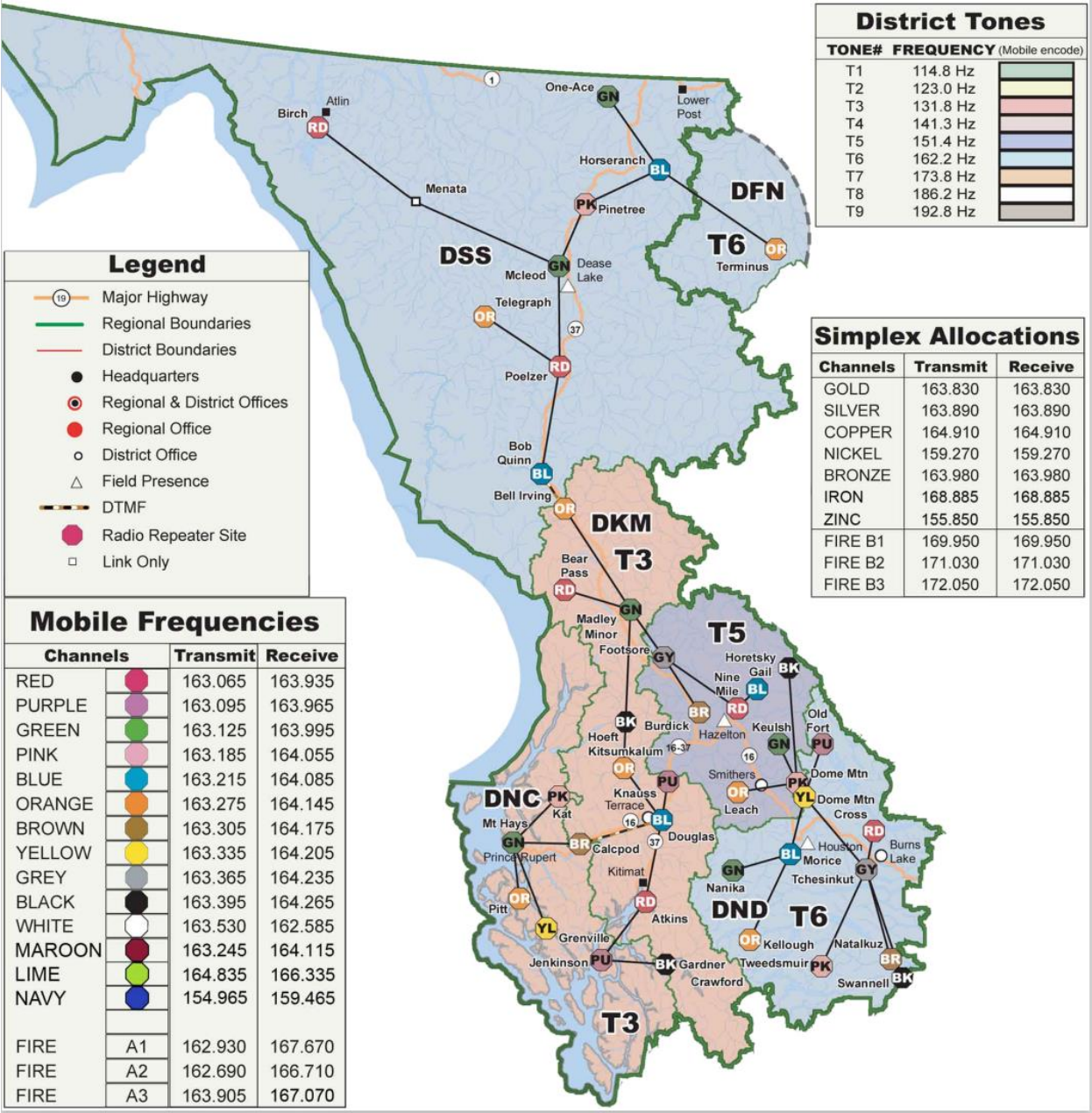
- idir\username
- password



NWFC Repeater Map

Northwest Fire Centre

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
NRS Radio Operations



NWFC Repeater Map QR Code
(login with idir\username & password)



Provincial Repeater Map QR Code
(login with idir\username & password)