

# 6. Wells Gray Fire Management Plan Strategy

Date: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Wells Gray Provincial has unique wildfire related risks. A Wells Gray Fire Management Plan, intended to guide response, has been created with BC Parks and BC Wildfire Service. This plan provides effective and clear communication of wildfire considerations in Wells Gray, however; there is room within the framework to provide more detail and align. There is additional information that may be created as a result of the Wildfire Risk Management Plan process that may be beneficial to the Wells Gray Fire Management Plan; as well as existing communication and evacuation plans that could be added as appendixes. By modernizing and updating the existing Fire Management Plan, BC Parks can provide a more robust document for wildfire prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

## Management Strategies

### 6.1 MODERNIZE THE FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WELLS GRAY PROVINCIAL PARK

**DISCUSSION:** BC Parks and BCWS have previously completed a fire management plan. The vision is to create a more robust fire management plan that goes beyond “response” and starts to address wildfire management based on values at risk. The plan would determine prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery and prevention components of wildfire management planning.

**ACTIONS:**

1. Develop a detailed Fire Management Plan for Wells Gray Provincial Park. This may include the following considerations:
  - Maps including trail systems, helipad locations, parks infrastructure, and response zones
  - Communication protocols
  - Permittee evacuation plans
  - Caribou post recovery operational guidance
  - Consideration of wildfire opportunities
  - Other developments as a result of the WRMP process

**RESPONSIBILITY:** BC Parks

**PARTNERS:** BCWS/Caribou Recovery Team/Permittees/Park Operators/EMBC

**RISK RESPONSE GOALS:** Inform risk and guide prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

### 6.2 INTEGRATE DECISION POINTS AND DECISION MAKING TOOLS INTO FIRE PLAN TO GUIDE CLOSURES AND EVACUATIONS

**DISCUSSION:** There is significant social and economic impact from closures and evacuations within Wells Gray to the surrounding area. These decisions can have significant impact on the surrounding community. Integrating decision points which are strategic and rely on wildfire behavior provide strong, defensible guidance for decision makers. BC Parks does currently use a Fire Risk Assessment process as a tool to support closures; the developed decision making tools would be informed by and integrated with the existing process.

**ACTIONS:**

1. Consider the addition of a decision making tools to support wildfire closures and re-openings in Wells Gray Park. This may include the following considerations:
  - Existing legislative and regulatory requirements

- Fire weather indexes
  - Decision points based on geographic location
  - Fire behavior thresholds
  - Evacuation capacity
  - Fire suppression resource availability
2. If applicable, include these decision making tools in the modernized Wells Gray Fire Management Plan.
  3. Create a communication plan with the public that includes decision making protocols.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** BC Parks

**PARTNER:** BCWS/District of Clearwater/TNRD/EMBC

**RISK RESPONSE GOALS:** Reduce risk through increased awareness and decision making tools.