

# **Quesnel and Area Community Wildfire Roundtable**

## **Approved Summary as of May 5, 2025**

**Meeting date:** November 14, 2024, 1:00PM to 4:00PM

**Location:** Quesnel Seniors Centre, Quesnel and online

**Present (for at least a portion of the meeting) (virtual attendees in italics):**

BC Ministry of Forests (Quesnel District) – Tyrone Green, Vincent Luu

BC Parks – Annie Ellison

BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) Quesnel Zone – John Salewski, Tom Foley,

BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) Cariboo Fire Centre – Tom Foley, Peter Holub

Cariboo Regional District – *Travis Flanagan*

Central Interior Mapping – Roland Jarett

City of Quesnel – Erin Robinson

?Esdilagh – *Justin Dore*

Forest Enhancement Society of BC – *Brian Watson*

Fraser Basin Council – Mike Simpson (contractor), *Alex de Chantal*

Frontera Consulting – *Mac Montgomery, Jen Clement*

Lhtako Dene First Nation – *Bruce McDonald*

Nazko First Nation – Florian Bergoin

Pet Safety Coalition Society of Canada – Debbie Knabke

Wells Barkerville Community Forest – Eric Matzner

West Fraser – Ross Griffith

Woodlots BC – John Massier

Xatsull – *Roxanne Pop*

### **1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives**

Mike Simpson, a facilitator and professional forester on contract to Fraser Basin Council, welcomed everyone and acknowledged unceded Lhtako Dene Territory and other nations in the larger area being discussed. A round of introductions took place for people in the room and those participating online.

The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. Early departures were noted.

### **2. Previous Meeting Summary**

The [meeting summary from April 16, 2024](#) was approved. Action items were reviewed; see table at end of this summary for an updated list of action items.

### **3. Dragon Mountain Update**

The following was shared on-screen, it was received from Lindsay Vandesteeg, BC Parks Land and Resource Section Head in advance of the meeting (noting Sean Owens has left his position):

Update below from the BC Parks Land and Resource Program (LRP) on the planned Dragon Park treatment to support the Quesnel Roundtable. The update is from Sean Owens, who's last day with BC Parks is today. I will be the LRP contact until we manage team hiring and configuration.
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#### Dragon

- Last table meeting we talked about what was next for Dragon to get to treatment – updating the TU 1 and 2 prescriptions and mapping.
  - We did complete that with the contractor through the spring.
  - With that prescription update, we were able to work with the bike club to reduce the bike trail buffer width as well (from 30m on either side to 15m on either side) to better support treatment effectiveness in terms of risk reduction.
- We talked about need a PFR for archaeology
  - we were able to contract that work and it's been completed and with First Nations for review
- We also talked about getting the RFP for treatment out asap
  - while getting the RFP out was a primary focus, there were delays in getting the prescription and mapping updated. the updated prescription is now very clear regarding what trees are to be removed and what's retained, and mapping is greatly improved and should really help facilitate treatment crews implementing
- For the RFP, we went with a (4 year) multi-year contract to treat half of the project area (the hand area).
  - some delays getting approval for the multi-year contract
  - We went with the hand treatment area to start with because we were already experiencing so delays and not having to deal with the merch removal factor including authorizations, we felt that streamlined getting the RFP out
- We put out the RFP for treatment and project management and had 2 contractors bid on treatment, and 1 for project management.
  - We had budgeted \$13,000 / hectare for treatment, up from \$9,000 last year, and both bids were much higher than the budget
  - We reviewed the cost with BCWS and the increased budget was not supported and we had to cancel the solicitation
  - Because we couldn't get a treatment contractor, we obviously couldn't use a Project Manager, so that was cancelled as well
- At this point, we are looking at again putting the opportunity for treatment out on BC Bid next fiscal, a few things we'd aim for:
  - Put the solicitation out early, actually this time, as there are no outstanding pieces
  - Multi year again for that improved job security of those bidding year over year and to reduce admin work of having to resolicit the work each year
  - Consider alternative funders, FES, FEP, other?
  - Other strategies?
  - Higher budget..?

Related to the Dragon Mountain Park operations, Ross Griffith noted that West Fraser has submitted a cutting permit for 170 ha of timber harvest with wildfire risk reduction objectives for an area immediately SE of Dragon Mountain Park. It was also noted that this area is now within the tenure area of the new [Three Rivers Community Forest](#) (TRCF).

Suggestions, options and ideas included the following:

- Consider underwriting more of the expensive WRR hand treatments with a higher level of logging in Dragon Mountain Park; consider utilizing the stumpage generated within BC Parks
- Consider repurposing "turned back" Forest Employment Program (FEP) funds from Bowron Park and put them towards Dragon Mountain
- Consider FESBC funds to work with the BC Parks contract proponent to "find a rate to make it work" and don't consider this a normal job

- Consider the cost of inaction, impacts of future wildfires in the area and on communications infrastructure, compared to the cost of just getting the work done
- Consider a multi-year FESBC application by TRCF to do enhanced WRR work post-harvest after West Fraser logs the 170 ha cutblock to SE of Dragon Mtn park

It was agreed that Mike Simpson can facilitate and support the **Dragon Mountain Subcommittee** as a smaller group to advance this, with the goal of meeting by mid-December.

#### 4. Sisters' Creek Update

Vincent Luu noted that there was a community meeting on June 19, 2024 to discuss wildfire risk reduction (WRR) activities proposed on the Sisters Creek recreation area, west of Kersley. The community was comfortable with what was proposed, therefore the following will proceed:

- Hand treatments this fall/winter adjacent to the accessibility trail and road, awarded to Seneca Enterprises who have an air curtain burner
- Mechanical treatments in TU 2 to commence next fiscal year, the area closest to homes

#### 5. Information Sharing – What's Underway

##### City of Quesnel

Erin gave an update on various WRR projects by funding source:

- FESBC funded projects – completed 3 prescriptions: Wonderland (FTU 34a), Sisters Creek (FTU 16) and Baker Creek (FTU 32)
  - Baker Creek was divided into 2 units. One is hand treatment and one is mechanical/hand. The hand unit was completed spring 2024. The mechanical unit is now TRCF.
  - Wonderland – divided into 3 units (2 hand and 1 mechanical). The hand treatments were bid as 1 project. We will use a phased approach to complete. Current funding until March 2024. Phase 2 applied for through FESBC. Wonderland is now TRCF.
  - Working on transition plan for TRCF polygons.
- Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Funding
  - Completed 2 year funding in August 2024.
  - Applied for 1 year CRI funding 2025 (approved)
    - Community wildfire resiliency plan (CWRP) development (working with Lhtako and CRD on co-development)
    - Hosting the **Wildfire Mitigation Specialist (WMS) or Home Partner Program Course**
  - \$6,000 +GST to host the WMS/HPP course
  - \$2,000 additional funding if you require classroom rental and lunches (most communities use a Fire Department classroom for free, also most provide lunches for 3 days for all participants)
  - 14 participants max, there is no fee per participant
  - We would require a classroom for 3 days
  - We would require 5 homes to assess during the course as a group (friends, family, FD members all work well)
  - SPU – building a SPU trailer
  - 19 days of assistance to private land, similar to what United Way provided circa 2018-19

- Continuing our FireSmart Education and Outreach
- City now has Ember costume, contact Erin to borrow it

### **Ministry of Forests, Quesnel District**

Vincent Luu noted that they are working with BC Timber Sales (BCTS) on implementation of FTUs 20, 21 and 22 east of Quesnel along Hwy 26. Prescriptions have been developed for the 100m strip adjacent to private land for all units. FTU 20 will go up for auction this winter. An additional area between units 20 and 22 will be advanced for WRR work in 2025/26. No word on new developments with Osisko hydro line so rather than waiting they are proceeding with WRR plans.

### **WUI WRR Plan**

Vincent Luu introduced Mac Montgomery with Frontera Forest Solutions, they were the successful bidder to develop the wildland-urban interface wildfire risk reduction (WUI WRR) plan for the area surrounding the City of Quesnel of 99 000 ha, very similar in shape and size to the original community wildfire protection plan area of interest. Later in the meeting, it was suggested that the WUI WRR plan look at some Rec Sites and Trails BC sites: Huska Lake near Stanley. Mac invited people to email him [mmontgomery@fronterasolutions.ca](mailto:mmontgomery@fronterasolutions.ca) with suggestions for what to include in the WUI WRR plan, which will be completed by March 2025.

### **Future CWRPs**

Irene Israel, Manager of Emergency Program Services with Cariboo Regional District, provided the following in advance of the meeting:

[The CRD have] put in an application for [[Union of BC Municipalities Community Resiliency Investment Program](#)] for a

- 1) FireSmart position and training
- 2) FireSmart education throughout the CRD
- 3) 6 CWRPs for Electoral Areas D, E, F, G, H, and L

The remaining 6 CWRPs [are] planned to be completed in 2026.

I was also hoping to introduce to you the Project Lead for the CWRPs– Leanne Rivet who is the Emergency Program Coordinator at the CRD

Erin Robinson noted that City of Quesnel has applied for funds to develop a CWRP for 1km buffer beyond City of Quesnel boundaries. She also noted that until CRD has their plans in place, the City of Quesnel will offer services funded by CRI in the old CWPP area.

### **Wells-Barkerville Community Forest**

Eric noted that they have 17 ha of proposed mechanical and hand WRR treatments that has an application submitted to FESBC.

### **Pet Safe Coalition Society of Canada**

Debbie noted that their organization assists evacuees with sheltering their animals, they work closely with emergency services providers. They are also focusing efforts on preparedness and would welcome the opportunity to work with FireSmart assessors (local FireSmart representatives or LFRs, or certified wildfire mitigation specialists) to encourage people to be prepared for evacuation if they have animals.

### **CN Rail**

Karla Graf introduced herself and noted that CN Rail is stepping up effort to prevent wildfires and expand their network of contacts with others working on wildfire prevention. (Mike Simpson noted that they've showed up at other community wildfire roundtable meetings this fall.) She noted that CN Rail are looking to work with BCWS, Indigenous communities and others on prevention and mitigation. They also have a community funding program.

### **BC Wildfire Service – Quesnel Zone**

Matt noted that their BCWS crews are assisting with some WRR implementation projects, including Troll Mountain (30 ha) and Kostas Cove. He also noted they have a high school program to engage students, and will be hiring 5 more positions in the Zone. In coordination with City of Quesnel FireSmart education initiatives, they have done presentations to 5 elementary schools and 2 showings of The Test documentary in Wells and Quesnel. They've also had an education presence at various farmers markets and Moose Meadows farm. It was also noted that Ted Traer is doing FarmSmart (not through BCWS).

Debriefing the wildfire season, Matt noted there were 70 wildfires almost all in the east, and many of them large and aggressive (one grew 14 000 ha in one day). He noted they were as prepared as they could have been and there was good cooperation with volunteer fire departments. Their zone has a higher level of experience at 10 years on average than most zones. John Salewski added that the fine fuel moisture codes (FFMC) and duff moisture codes (DMC) were the highest since 1987. Challenges existed in communicating with off-grid miners working remotely in the area.

### **BC Wildfire Service – Cariboo Fire Centre**

Tom Foley noted that City of Quesnel is doing a similar approach in updating their 5 year old CWPP, and that the District of 100 Mile House is preparing a CWRP. Regarding the ongoing mapping action item, he noted that comprehensive kml (Google Earth) files can be shared of past fuel treatment areas in the short term, and that BCWS is creating an internal dashboard which will also be available in iMapBC. *[Post-meeting, Tom shared a list of data resources, it's in Appendix 1.]* He noted that forest cover is being updated from old fuel treatments conducted under UBCM's Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) which ran 2004-2018.

### **BC Parks**

Anne noted that there are 35-40 ha of WRR prescriptions developed for Bowron Provincial Park frontcountry areas: the registration area and campground, and maintenance centre and staff housing.

### **Fraser Basin Council**

Alex de Chantal noted that Fraser Basin Council still has some funding to coordinate training (\$100, \$185, incident command system) of community emergency response societies and fire brigades in areas beyond structural fire protection, contact him [adechantal@fraserbasin.ca](mailto:adechantal@fraserbasin.ca) if you want to be put on a list for spring training.

### **Nazko First Nation**

Florian noted that their 2021 CWRP has enabled about 100 ha of WRR activities to be completed around the community, and they have a FireSmart coordinator and active education program. Currently their crews are doing fuel treatments to address egress concerns on the 5100 and Nazko Roads. FESBC has funded a large prescription area east of the community, this is a research project in partnership with UBC to use detailed remote sensing data to reduce costs, develop prescriptions and address values.

## 6. Next Steps

Vince Luu noted that there is a **burn course with Colleen Ross** coming up in spring 2025 with seats available, contact him if anyone is interested.

### Next meetings

**Spring**, exact date TBD (either late March or early May, not April). Mike to seek a date via doodle poll at least a month in advance. Field trip options:

- Milburn Mountain commercial thinning demonstration
- Sisters Creek fuel treatment
- Pinnacles mechanical treatment
- NOT Dragon Mountain (ugly)

Possible presentations to line up:

- Spot burning – Peter Holub (well in future, only one sample so far)
- Forest landscape plan update and egress routes – Erin Robinson
- Mike Sakakibara on fuel hazard risk assessment along Hwy 26 corridor (TBD)

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>Dragon Mountain</b> subcommittee to re-engage to determine next steps, assess options identified above	Erin Robinson, Ron Richert, Roland Jarrett, Bruce McDonald, Anne Ellison, Chris Nowotny, Lindsay Vandesteeg, Jason Ward, Matt Duran, John Salewski, Tom Foley, Ross Griffith, Mike Sakakibara, Brian Watson	Before Christmas
Update <i>Quesnel and Area CWPP implementation status 16apr24.docx</i>	Mike	Before spring meeting
<b>Communications about wildfire risk reduction treatments</b> with community members <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Utilize volunteer fire departments</li><li>• Utilize CRD electoral area directors, they have communication networks and can help spread accurate information</li></ul>	Those implementing WRR treatments	Ongoing
Email <a href="mailto:mmontgomery@fronterasolutions.ca">mmontgomery@fronterasolutions.ca</a> with input to include in the <b>WUI WRR plan</b> surrounding Quesnel	Everyone	Well before March 2025
Contact Erin Robinson to borrow <b>Ember costume</b>	Everyone	Ongoing
Coordinate <b>FireSmart education</b> events, work together	Pet Safe Coalition, CRD, BCWS, City	Ongoing

## Appendix 1 – External Mapping Resources

Structure data is derived primarily from the ICI Society AddressBC information and therefore only ICI Society members are eligible to obtain this information via the ICI Society, BCWS no longer distributes structure point data. For information on becoming an ICI Society member please visit <http://www.icsociety.ca/>. A listing of publicly available CI data can be downloaded [here](#).

For Local Authorities or Contractors working on their behalf needing direct access to the ICI Society Data Catalogue or Web Map Viewer, both parties are required to sign the Appropriate Use Agreement. Please contact Steve Mark at [smark@icsociety.ca](mailto:smark@icsociety.ca) to initiate this process.

The following datasets can be located on the [DataBC Data Catalogue](#) for Public self-serve:

1. **[Wildfire Risk Reduction \(group\)](#)**
  - i. BC Wildfire Fuel Treatments
  - ii. BC Wildfire PSTA Fire Density
  - iii. BC Wildfire PSTA Fire Threat Rating
  - iv. BC Wildfire PSTA Head Fire Intensity
  - v. BC Wildfire PSTA Human Fire Density
  - vi. BC Wildfire PSTA Lightning Fire Density
  - vii. BC Wildfire PSTA Spotting Impact
  - viii. BC Wildfire Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class
  - ix. BC Wildfire WUI Human Interface Buffer
  - x. BC Wildfire Wildland Urban Interface 1km Buffer
  - xi. BC Wildfire Fire Fuel Types - Public
2. **[Fire Locations - Current](#) and [Fire Perimeters - Current](#)**
3. **[Fire Incident Locations - Historical](#) and [Fire Perimeters - Historical](#)**
4. **[BC Wildfire Active Weather Stations](#)**
5. **Fuel Treatments – Completed** [RESULTS - Activity Treatment Units](#)  
Definition Query:  
GEOMETRY\_EXIST\_IND = 'Y' AND RESULTS\_IND = 'Y' AND  
(SILV\_FUND\_SOURCE\_CODE IN ('CF', 'FEP', 'WRR') OR  
(SILV\_FUND\_SOURCE\_CODE = 'FES' AND FIA\_PROJECT\_ID LIKE  
'WR%')) AND SILV\_BASE\_CODE NOT IN ('LB', 'SU') AND  
(SILV\_OBJECTIVE\_CODE\_1 IN ('FRE') OR SILV\_OBJECTIVE\_CODE\_2  
IN ('FRE') OR SILV\_OBJECTIVE\_CODE\_3 IN ('FRE'))
6. **FESBC Wildfire Projects** (no spatial for Activities) [RESULTS - Openings](#)  
[svw](#)  
Joined to [RESULTS - Activity Treatment Units](#) on OPENING\_ID  
Definition Query:  
SILV\_FUND\_SOURCE\_CODE = 'FES' AND GEOMETRY\_EXIST\_IND =  
'N' AND FIA\_PROJECT\_ID LIKE 'WR%'
7. **Prescribed Fire – Completed** (last 20 years) [RESULTS - Activity Treatment](#)  
[Units](#)  
Definition Query:  
SILV\_TECHNIQUE\_CODE = 'BU' AND SILV\_METHOD\_CODE =  
'BROAD' AND GEOMETRY\_EXIST\_IND = 'Y' AND  
ATU\_COMPLETION\_DATE >= timestamp '2002-01-01 00:00:00'
8. **Prescribed Fire within Opening** (no spatial for Activities) [RESULTS -](#)  
[Openings svw](#)  
Joined to [RESULTS - Activity Treatment Units](#) on OPENING\_ID

Definition Query:

```
WHSE_FOREST_VEGETATION.RSLT_ACTIVITY_TREATMENT_SVW.  
SILV_TECHNIQUE_CODE = 'BU' AND  
WHSE_FOREST_VEGETATION.RSLT_ACTIVITY_TREATMENT_SVW.  
SILV_METHOD_CODE = 'BROAD' AND  
WHSE_FOREST_VEGETATION.RSLT_ACTIVITY_TREATMENT_SVW.  
GEOMETRY_EXIST_IND = 'N' AND  
WHSE_FOREST_VEGETATION.RSLT_ACTIVITY_TREATMENT_SVW.  
ATU_COMPLETION_DATE >= timestamp '2002-01-01 00:00:00'
```

9. **Fuel Treatments – Prescribed** [RESULTS - Activity Treatment Units](#)

Definition Query:

```
GEOMETRY_EXIST_IND = 'Y' AND RESULTS_IND = 'Y' AND  
(SILV_FUND_SOURCE_CODE IN ('CF', 'FEP', 'WRR') OR  
(SILV_FUND_SOURCE_CODE = 'FES' AND FIA_PROJECT_ID LIKE  
'WR%')) AND SILV_BASE_CODE IN('LB' , 'SU' ) AND  
(SILV_OBJECTIVE_CODE_1 IN ('FRE') OR SILV_OBJECTIVE_CODE_2  
IN ('FRE') OR SILV_OBJECTIVE_CODE_3 IN ('FRE'))
```

10. [WUI RiskClass products](#) developed for external clients and communities and are posted on the ftp site. Includes KMZ and PDF products.

**Tools for fuel management:**

- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/vegetation-and-fuel-management/fire-fuel-management>

**Results information submission specifications:**

- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/silviculture/silviculture-reporting-results/business-and-policy-documentation>

For additional information on layers specific to the 2021 Wildfire Threat Analysis please see the [Wildfire Threat Analysis Component Report](#), the [BC Provincial Fuel Type Layer Overview Report](#), as well as the documentation provided with the published datasets in DataBC. Please note that some of the datasets are meant to be used for high level strategic purposes only. You can also view provincial maps of PSTA data by clicking [here](#). For information on appropriate use and interpretation of the data please contact Kelly Osbourne at (250) 356-2025 or [Kelly.Osbourne@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kelly.Osbourne@gov.bc.ca). Please note that some of the layers in this data package are updated on a yearly basis. If you are working on new or updated CWPP's in future years, it is strongly recommended that you obtain a copy of the latest information. -

**CRI GIS standards are located on the UBCM site within the guides for each year:**

- <https://www.ubcm.ca/cri>
- GIS standards:  
[https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HPR/external/!publish/FuelsManagement/GIS\\_Template/](https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HPR/external/!publish/FuelsManagement/GIS_Template/)

For your reference, when submitting spatial data under the Community Resiliency Investment Program, please make sure that you utilize the standards based on your intake year located at <https://www.ubcm.ca/funding-programs/local-government-program-services-funding/community-resilience/firesmart-community>