

An aerial photograph of a forest fire. A large, dense evergreen tree stands in the center, surrounded by a fire that is spreading across the forest floor. Several firefighters in red gear are visible on the ground, working to contain the fire. The background shows more trees and smoke rising from the fire.

BC WILDFIRE SERVICE

BC Community Forests Conference

May 2025



BC Wildfire
Service



RESILIENCE TO FIRE

RESILIENCE THROUGH FIRE

Fire as a hazard

Fire as an ecosystem process

Fire management as a function of emergency management

Fire stewardship as a function of land stewardship

Priorities defined by Provincial BC Emergency Management System

Priorities defined by local stewardship objectives (Title Holders and Land Managers)

Reduction of risk from current state

Restoring/maintaining appropriate patterns of ecosystem processes (including disturbance)

Fuels management as a means to manage fire

Fire management as a means to manage fuels

Fuels management and fire behaviour

Landscape fire ecology and ecosystem health

Influence future fire behaviour (make future fires more fightable)

Achieve desired fire effects (make future ecosystems better able to self-regulate fire regimes)

Manipulate landscape structure to reduce risk to tangible static values

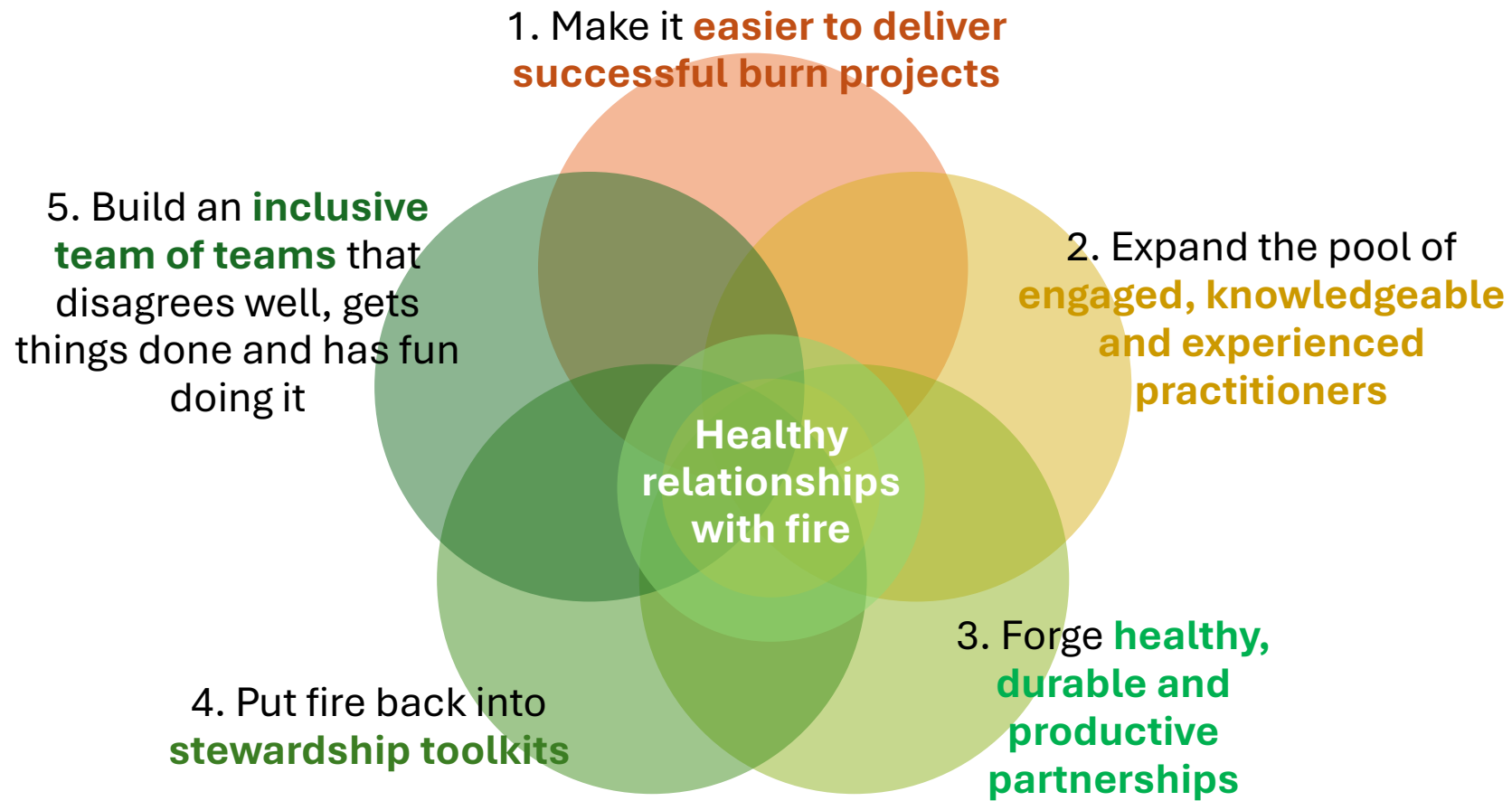
Maintain and enhance dynamic ecosystem processes within acceptable ranges

Reset assessment and plan after wildfire

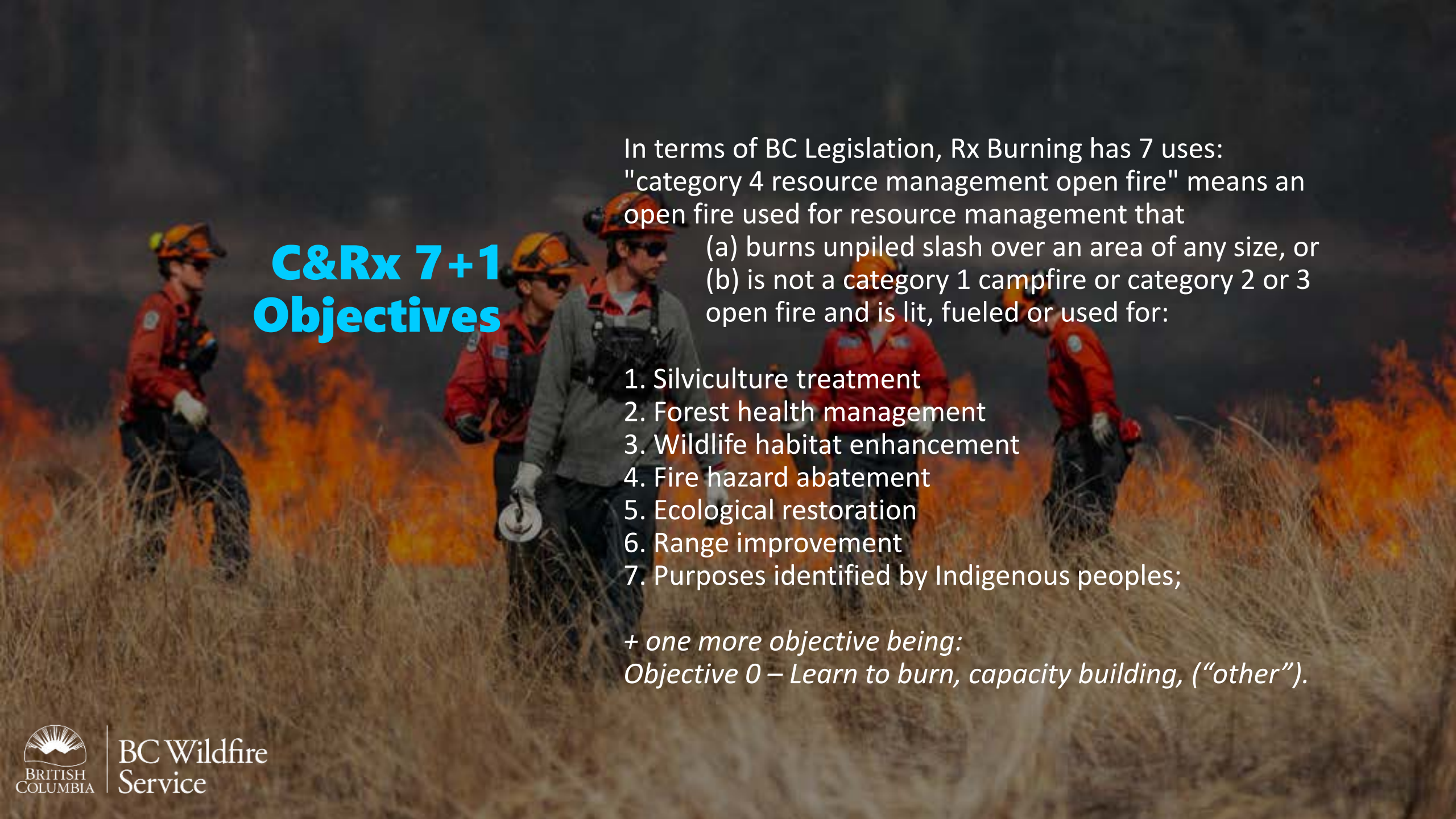
Integrate and build off wildfire

3-10 year planning window (priorities driven by risk)

10-40 year planning window (priorities driven by cumulative fire effects on the landscape)



Healthy relationships **with fire** [---] **Healthy relationships**, with fire.



C&Rx 7+1 Objectives

In terms of BC Legislation, Rx Burning has 7 uses:

"category 4 resource management open fire" means an open fire used for resource management that

(a) burns unpile slash over an area of any size, or
(b) is not a category 1 campfire or category 2 or 3 open fire and is lit, fueled or used for:

1. Silviculture treatment
2. Forest health management
3. Wildlife habitat enhancement
4. Fire hazard abatement
5. Ecological restoration
6. Range improvement
7. Purposes identified by Indigenous peoples;

+ one more objective being:

Objective 0 – Learn to burn, capacity building, (“other”).

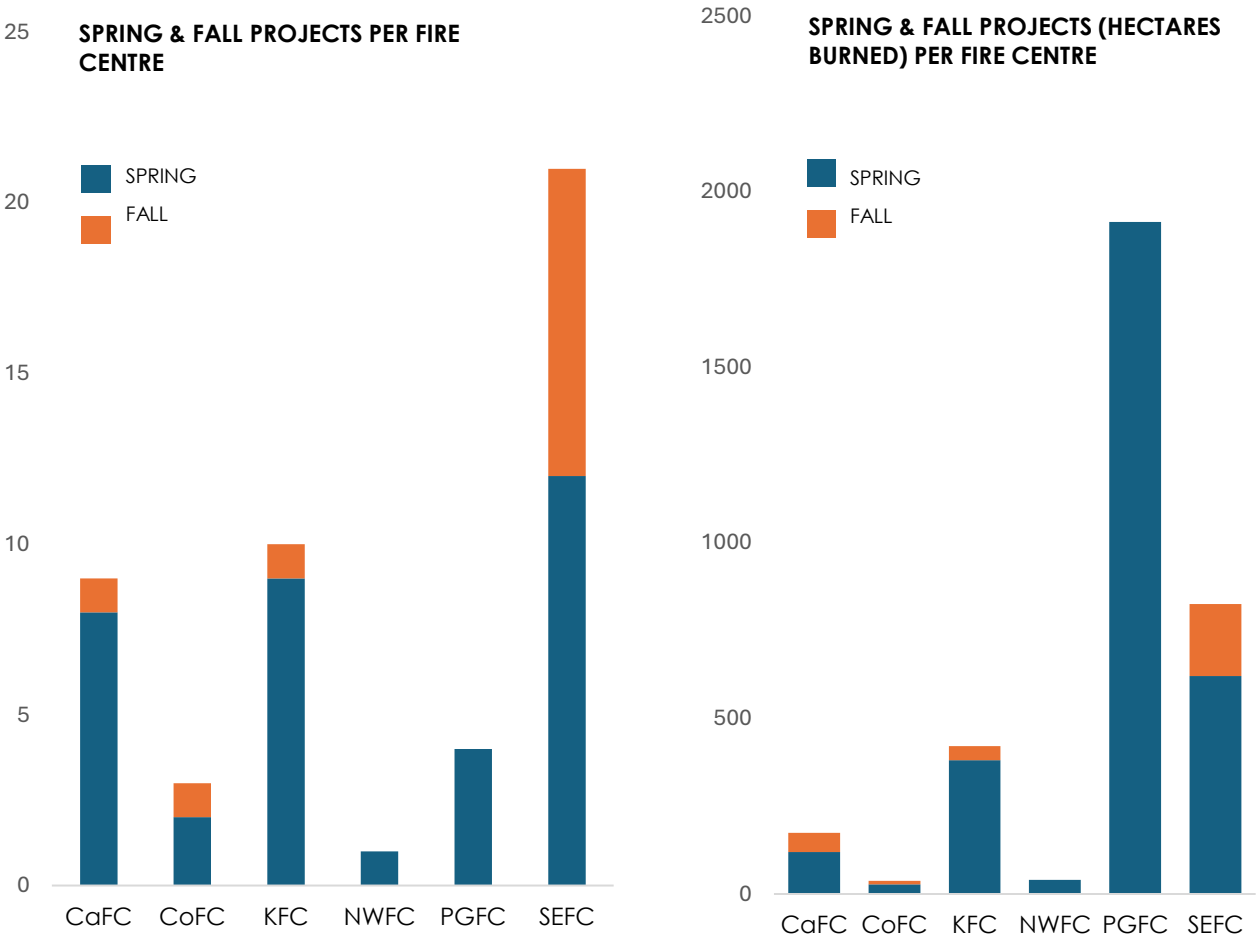
2024 BURNING STATISTICS

In total, **48 projects** were implemented in 2024, burning a **total of 3,412.8 ha**

36 of the 50 projects planned for delivery in the spring were implemented, covering a total of 3,088 hectares.

With the available burning windows in the fall, another 12 projects were implemented.

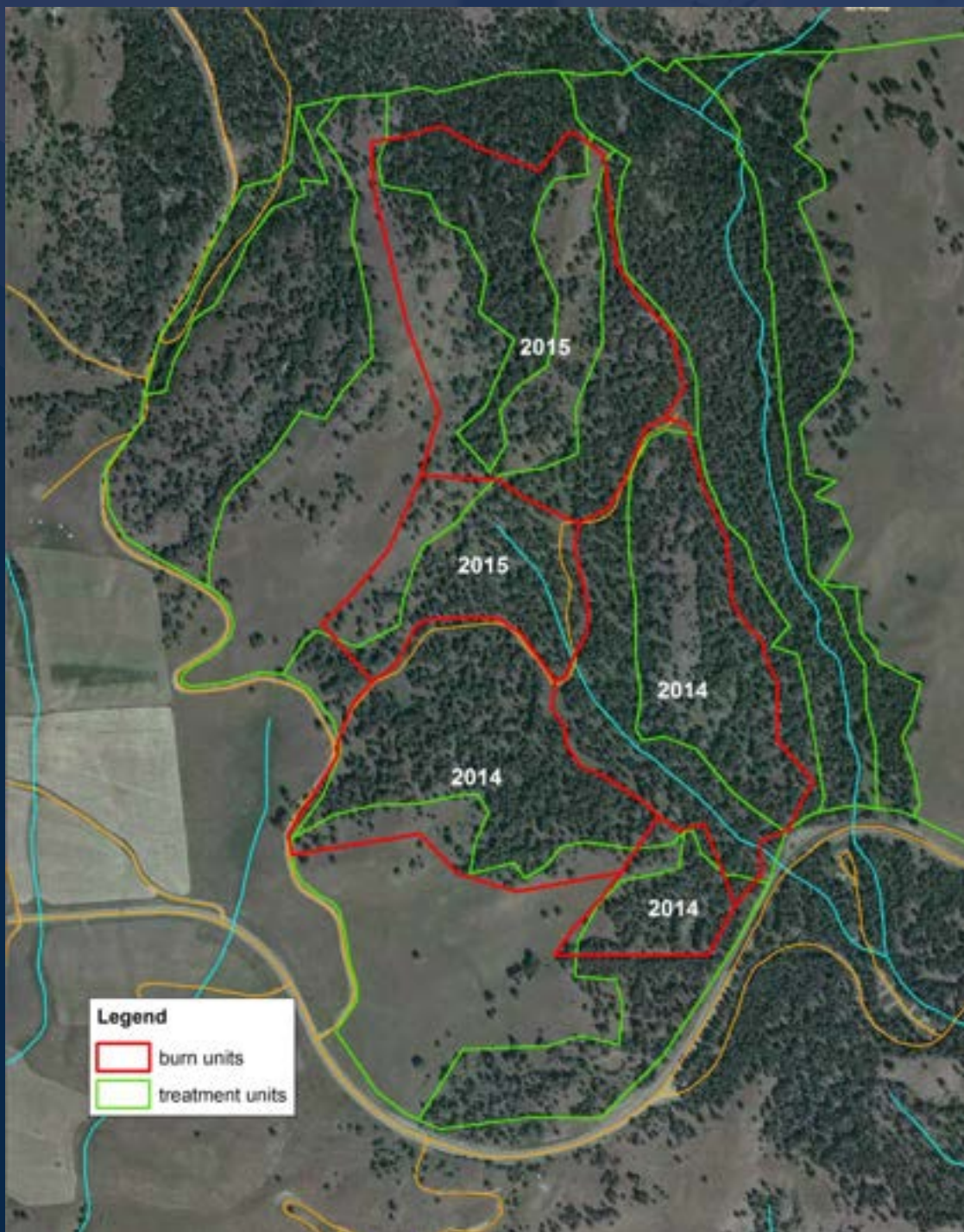
CaFC	Cariboo Fire Centre
CoFC	Coastal Fire Centre
KFC	Kamloops Fire Centre
NWFC	Northwest Fire Centre
PGFC	Prince George Fire Centre
SEFC	Southeast Fire Centre



CRx Integration into Stewardship Toolkits

Planning And Prep is the most impactful stage for Cost mgmt. of projects

If units are planned with Fire in mind, fuel free zones can be created during fuels management work (harvesting or slashing). The Principles of Wildfire suppression are the same for controlled burning. Lets set up both for success!



natural slope



vegetation
breaks



existing roads
& trails

GUIDANCE AND TEMPLATES

New Template Roll out for 2025

- Burn plan
- Turn over Document**
- Complexity rating Guide
- Signature Sheet**

Next Up

- Policy 9.5 & SOP update
- Admin guidance (Project code, Direct Fire vote, Funding Prioritization)
- Mobilization guidance update
- Lessons Learned Template
- “How to” RMOF guidance



Requirement for a burn plan

A burn plan is required for any category 4 resource management open fire as per the Wildfire Regulation, unless an agreement (referred to in [section 23.1 of the Wildfire Regulation](#)) exists between the Province and an Indigenous governing body that defines open fire use.

Burn planning resources:

These documents are intended as guidance, and are subject to regional and jurisdictional planning cycles and processes. All practitioners must communicate and coordinate with local Land Managers and fire centres.

- [Prescribed Fire Approval Process \(PDF 79.4 KB\)](#) (April 2025)
- [Prescribed Fire Roadmap \(PDF 575 KB\)](#) (April 2025)

Burn Plan templates:

- [Burn Plan Template \(DOCX 108KB\)](#) (February 2025)
- [Prescribed Fire Complexity Analysis Guide \(DOCX 63KB\)](#) (February 2025)
- [Burn Plan Signature Sheet \(DOCX 90.6 KB\)](#) (April 2025)
- [Prescribed Fire Project Turnover Document \(DOCX 42 KB\)](#) (February 2025)

Policies and procedures:

Policies and procedures are under development. Please [contact your local fire centre](#) if you need more information about planning a burn.

Communications tools:

Disclaimer: These tools are intended to support the communications plan requirement outlined in the Burn Plan and were designed based on projects co-developed/delivered with BC Wildfire Service. They provide advice for public notification tactics and considerations, but may not be suitable for all projects.

- [Public Notification Tool \(PDF 26.1 MB\)](#) (April 2025)
- [Communications and Engagement Plan template \(DOCX 29.3 KB\)](#) (April 2025)

MOVING FORWARD

- We want to see prescribed fire as part of forest management:
 - Industry participation and leadership is critical to expansion of prescribed fire on the land base.
 - Prescribed fire is a safe and effective active forest management tool.
 - Mitigates risk, increases resilience, promotes biodiversity.
 - Supports reconciliation and cultural practices.

Kootenay ʔa-kinq̓uku TREX

In September 2024, the BC Wildfire Service and ʔaq̓am, a Ktunaxa Nation community, co-hosted a [prescribed fire training exchange](#) (TREX) with support from the First Nations' Emergency Services Society. This pilot project was the first-ever delivery of a TREX in B.C. and will serve as one model for future prescribed fire training opportunities in other regions of the province.

Kootenay ʔa-kinq̓uku TREX took place over the course of two weeks, gathering 33 participants and 12 facilitators representing 13 different agencies and communities. Expanding the use of fire as a stewardship tool in B.C. will require more partnership-based training initiatives like TREX. Our intention is to continue to work towards that goal in collaboration with Indigenous and local governments, the contract community, fire ecologists, academics, other branches of government, and many others.

We hope to support the facilitation of regular, recurring deliveries of TREX along with other opportunities to develop practitioner skills in all aspects of prescribed fire, including planning, coordinating, implementation, and more.

Read the Kootenay ʔa-kinq̓uku TREX [report](#) to learn more and [check out the video](#) to see participants burning and learning





QUESTIONS FOR US?

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