



BC Wildfire Service

Fuel Management today and into the future – September 2019

- Background
- Current Fuel Management Programs
- Overview of Quesnel Programs
- Future Vision, Policy, Tenure to support Fuel Management
- Opportunities for Contractor workforce / Fibre use

Current Risk Reduction Tools



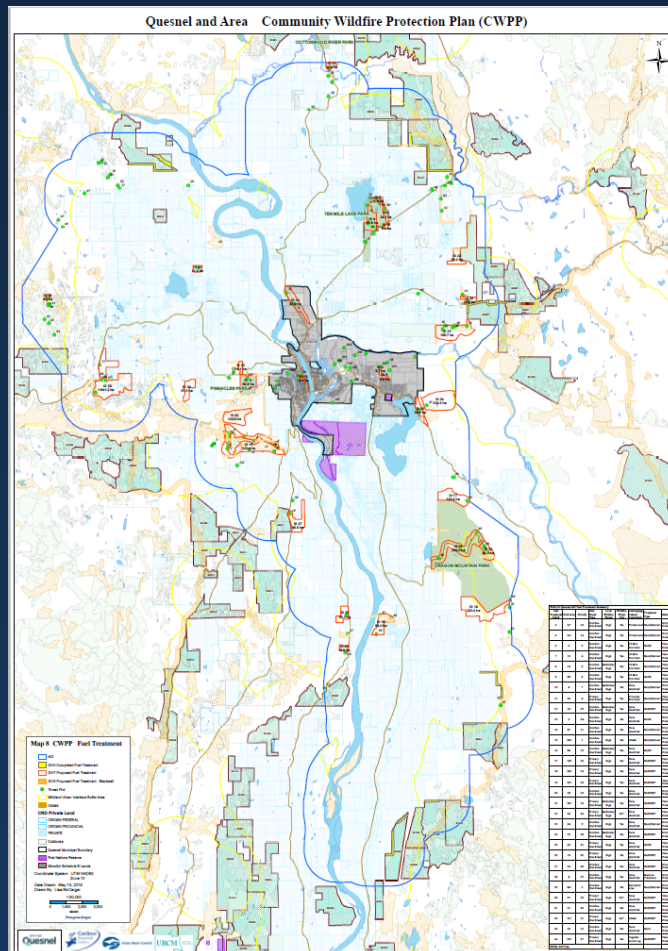
- BCWS Prescribed Fire Program
- Community Resiliency Investment Program (CRI)
- Forest Enhancement Society BC (FESBC)
- Wildfire Risk Reduction Program (WRR)

Prescribed Fire Program



- Broad acknowledgement that we need to put fire back on the land in a managed fashion. Opportunity for gov't to work hand in hand with Indigenous Communities and Industry;
- Wildfire is working with the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals to develop Professional guidance in developing prescriptions;
- Many of the proposed areas for prescribed burning will require both mechanical and hand treatment prior to implementation to achieved desired outcomes.

Community Resiliency Investment Program (CRI)



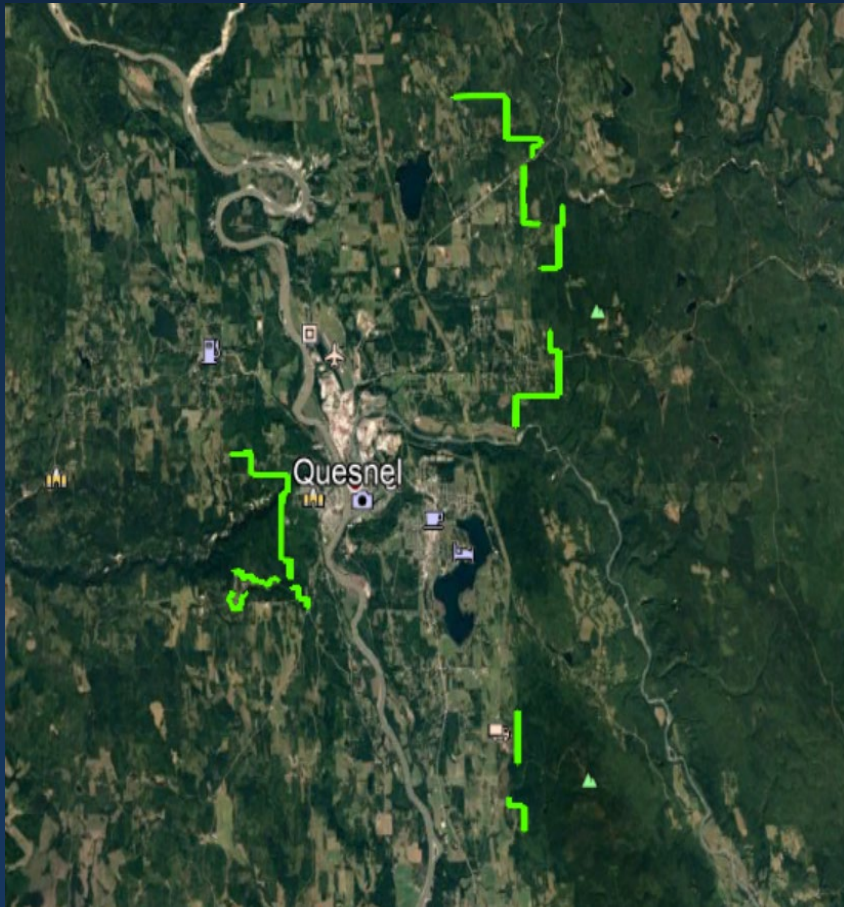
- Currently 6 CRI funded projects in Quesnel region
- Two of these project are at the operational phase, and four are in the planning phase.
- Current application deadline is October 18th

Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Funding Principles and Prioritization



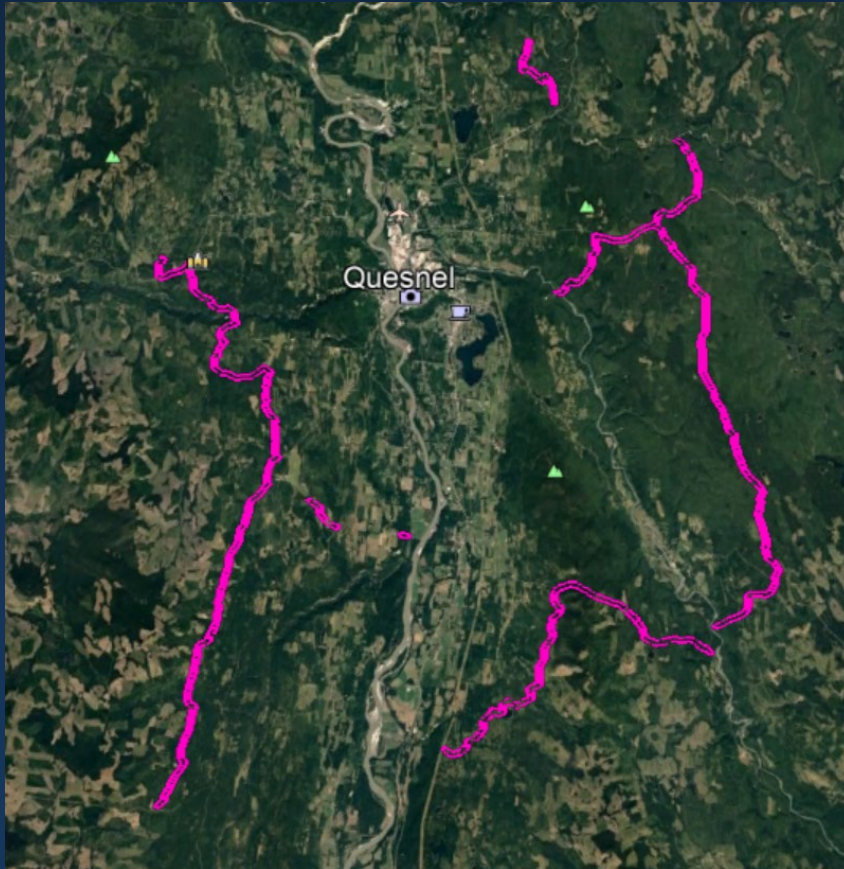
- WRR is a gov't funding program
- Wildfire will help to prioritize locations based on level of risk to communities and high value assets.
- Those interested in conducting WRR activities on Crown land are encouraged to contact the Fire Centre or Natural Resource district.
- Currently 9 FES project and 6 WRR projects

WRR Proposed Primary Fuel Breaks



- Identified areas for potential primary fuel breaks around Quesnel.
- Proposed areas in the discussion phase with FLNRORD and BCWS

WRR Landscape Level Fuel Breaks



- Proposed Landscape Level fuel breaks
- Planning phase in West Quesnel almost completed
- Operational phased is planned to be advertised on BC bid in the near future.
- Potentially 350-500ha of treatment area
- Other proposed areas are under discussion for prioritization.

Employment opportunities



- Professional forestry workers familiar with writing fuel management prescriptions and conducting prescribed burning;
- Logging contractors that are able to efficiently handle the non saw log material, can schedule treatments outside of fire season;
- Labour crews to conduct manual treatments in sensitive areas;
- Quesnel well positioned with pulp and pellet manufacturing. Fuel treatments will help supply fibre to these facilities as the traditional by product from saw log industry decreases.

Policy and Future Opportunity



- Community forests that are long term area based tenures that have objectives greater than “traditional timber uses”.
- Stumpage policy on Community Forests that recognize higher cost operations that meet social objectives;
- Need to look for policy incentives to reduce fuel loading. Ultimate goal of self-sustaining treatments;
- Government has a role to reduce competing objectives and prioritize fuel treatments in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- Not every treatment will be 100% but we need to start treating the backlog and learn as we go.

Questions?



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