

Prepared for. Beaver Hills Initiative

August 2018


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## Executive Summary

The Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI) was set up to address unprecedented pressures from rapid growth and increased economic activity in and around the Cooking Lake moraine. The Beaver Hills Biosphere is a distinct and biologically diverse area located just east of Edmonton that was recognized by UNESCO as a Biosphere in 2016.

BHI consists of over twenty organizations includes five local governments: Beaver County, Camrose County, Leduc County, Strathcona County, and Lamont County. In addition, the provincial and federal governments, local residents, indigenous organizations, NGOs, and academia comprise the list of member organizations.

These groups work together to create a sustainable region through shared initiatives and collaborative actions. Through regional collaboration, Beaver Hills is a resilient landscape that is capable of sustaining natural and cultural resources for current and future generations and where people live, work, and play in harmony with nature (Beaver Hills Initiative, 2018).

This FireSmart Plan was initiated in response to a gap identified by the BHI Board of Directors and the BHI Research and Monitoring Working Group (RMWG). The focus of the RMWG is to identify, promote, and support relevant research within the Beaver Hills Biosphere that is consistent with the overall objectives of the BHI. CPP Environmental worked directly with Brian Eaton of the BHI RMWG in the execution of the project and with the FireSmart committee in development of the FireSmart Plan.

The identified project stakeholders for the FireSmart Plan included Strathcona County, Beaver County, Leduc County, Camrose County, and Elk Island National Park, and Alberta Environment and Parks. After direct consultation, Lamont County chose not to participate in this project. As such, Lamont County is only represented on the broad BHI landscape level.

The BHI's FireSmart Plan includes the following components:

1. Wildfire Hazards and Risk Assessment
2. Wildfire Mitigation Strategies
3. Prometheus Fire Model

## Acknowledgments

The development of this FireSmart Plan was made possible through the collaboration of the Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI) partners: Beaver County, Camrose County, Leduc County, Strathcona County, Elk Island National Park, and Alberta Environment and Parks. The FireSmart Plan was developed with involvement of key stakeholders via a FireSmart Committee and outside the committee through project support as needed.

| Beaver County <br> Mike Hoffman, Regional Emergency Manager | Camrose County, No. 22 <br> Mike Kuzio, Protective Services Manager |
| :--- | :--- |
| Bob Beck, Chief Administrative Officer | Vern Kovac, Fire Chief for Round Hill |
| Michael Simpson, Chief Administrative Officer, | Strathcona County <br> Gordon George, BA <br> Community Safety Education Coordinator, <br> Village of Ryley <br> Leduc County <br> Brad Gurmin, Regional Fire Marshal FireSmart Representative |
| Elk Island National Park | Alberta Environment and Parks <br> James Cook, Fire and Visitor Safety <br> Coordinator |
| Kale Kirkland, Superintendent Parks Ecologist |  |

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Kristofer Heemerych, Wildfire Prevention Officer

The Guidebook for Community Protection (Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, 2013), and FireSmart: Protecting your Community from Wildfire (Partners in Protection, 2013) were utilized in the development and writing of this document.


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## 1. Introduction

The Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI) FireSmart Plan encompasses a portion of the Beaver Hills sub-watershed and portions of:

- Beaver County
- Camrose County
- Leduc County
- Strathcona County
- Lamont County
- Elk Island National Park
- Alberta Environment and Parks
- Beaverhill Lake Heritage Rangeland, Natural Area
- Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreational Area
- Ministik Bird Sanctuary

Since Lamont County chose not participate and as such, no section has been included in this plan.
Strathcona County had an in-depth FireSmart Plan developed in 2016 and as such, this plan only includes an update to weather and wildfire incidents.

Portions of the City of Edmonton, the City of Fort Saskatchewan and Sturgeon County are excluded. See
Table 1 and Figure 1.
Table 1: BHI study area breakdown by entity

| Site Name | Area |  | Percentage of BHI |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Ac | Ha | Area (\%) |
| Lamont County | 191,396 | 77,455 | 20.4 |
| Beaver County | 288,648 | 116,812 | 30.7 |
| Camrose County | 67,979 | 27,510 | 7.2 |
| Leduc County | 33,403 | 13,518 | 3.6 |
| Strathcona County | 310,070 | 125,481 | 33.0 |
| Elk Island National Park | 47,551 | 19,243 | 5.1 |
| Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial <br> Recreation Area | 24,445 | 9,893 | 2.6 |
| Beaverhill Lake Heritage | 43,257 | $\mathbf{1 7 , 5 0 6}$ | 4.6 |
| Rangeland Natural Area | Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary | 18,132 | 7,338 |
| Beaver Hills Initiative Study Area | $\mathbf{9 3 9 , 2 5 7}$ | $\mathbf{3 8 0 , 1 0 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |

The approach and methodology utilized in developing BHI FireSmart Plan followed the processes within the Alberta Government FireSmart Guidebook for Community Protection (2013) and included innovative and adapted approaches to meet the needs of the different planning areas and project stakeholders. The
objective of the FireSmart Plan is to develop FireSmart mitigation strategies and actions to manage wildfire risk, and support health, sustainability, and resiliency of ecological systems within the Beaver Hills Biosphere.


Figure 1. Beaver Hills Initiative Study Area

## FireSmart Committee

A FireSmart Committee was established as part of the project. The committee was comprised of key stakeholders who were directly affected by the FireSmart Plan for the Beaver Hills Biosphere. FireSmart committee meetings were set up to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to voice concerns, and provide input and feedback throughout the development of the FireSmart Plan. Involvement of the committee and other stakeholders throughout the planning process was key in developing a plan that was tailored to the people, landscape, and culture of the BHI. Meetings were held both in larger groups comprised of all or most of the FireSmart committee members, and in smaller, focused groups comprised of specific stakeholders.

The FireSmart committee comprised of the following representatives:

- Bob Beck (Beaver County),
- Brad Gurmin (Leduc County),
- Gordon George (Strathcona County),
- James Cook (Elk Island National Park),
- Ksenija Vujnovic (Alberta Environment and Parks),
- Mike Hoffman (Beaver County), and
- Mike Kuzio (Camrose County).

The FireSmart Committee and CPP Environmental met on two different occasions as a group. The objectives of these two meetings were to:

- Communicate the project scope, goals, and objectives of the FireSmart Plan
- Clarify member roles and participation
- Obtain input prior to field assessments
- Communicate questions and concerns, as well as discuss any feedback on the project

Table 2: Group FireSmart Committee Meetings

| FireSmart <br> Committee <br> Meetings | Date | Location | Agenda Topics |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- |
| Meeting <br> One | 12 -Oct-17 | Strathcona <br> County Hall | - Project Overview - Project scope/goals/objectives <br> - Review BHI FireSmart committee member roles and <br> participation <br> - Review identified communities (subdivisions, villages, and <br> hamlets) per County and get inputs from each County on <br> target areas <br> - Identify the Alberta Governments properties <br> - Review samples of County site assessment results so far <br> - Set meeting \#2 date to present and discuss the findings <br> of the Hazard and Risk assessments, obtain feedback <br> from the risk assessment results, and gather input into the <br> development of the Wildfire Mitigation Strategies |

\(\left.$$
\begin{array}{|c|c|l|l|}\hline \begin{array}{c}\text { FireSmart } \\
\text { Committee } \\
\text { Meetings }\end{array} & \text { Date } & \text { Location } & \text { Agenda Topics } \\
\hline \begin{array}{c}\text { Meeting } \\
\text { Two }\end{array} & \text { 16-Jan-18 } & \begin{array}{l}\text { Strathcona } \\
\text { County Hall }\end{array} & \begin{array}{l}\text { - Review objectives of FireSmart Committee Meeting \#2 } \\
\text { - Review of the minutes of FireSmart Committee Meeting } \\
\# 1\end{array}
$$ <br>
- Review completed work to date <br>

- Schedule updates\end{array}\right\}\)| - Review Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment results |
| :--- |
| - Review Wildfire Mitigation Strategies |
| - Public engagement discussions |
| - Next steps |

Meetings with individual stakeholders were completed to provide opportunities for focused feedback on the overall FireSmart Plan and the particular section that was applicable to each stakeholder.

Table 3: Meetings with individual stakeholder to review the FireSmart Plan

| Date | Planning Area | Representative |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| May 1 1 ${ }^{\text {st }} \mathbf{2 0 1 8}$ | Beaver County | Mike Hoffman (Regional Emergency Manager) |
| May 1 $^{\text {st }}$, 2018 | Leduc County | Brad Gurmin (Regional Fire Marshal) |
| May 2 $^{\text {dd }} \mathbf{2 0 1 8}$ | Camrose County | Mike Kuzio (Protective Services Manager) |
| May 4 $^{\text {th }}, \mathbf{2 0 1 8}$ | AEP and Parks | Ksenija Vujnovic (Parks Ecologist) and Kristofer Heemerych <br> (Wildfire Prevention Officer) |

## Public Engagement

Development of the FireSmart Plan included public engagement sessions which provided opportunities to engage with the general public within the three counties. Public engagement sessions were held in association with local community events, specifically the local markets and/or Farmers Market.

At each public session, a booth was set up to provide information on the status of the FireSmart project and how the project fit into the goals of sustainability and resiliency of the Beaver Hills Biosphere. FireSmart Committee members were encouraged to attend. CPP Environmental coordinated and facilitated the public engagement sessions, including documentation of feedback and booth attendance records.

The public engagement events provided an opportunity to obtain public inputs into the preliminary findings of the draft FireSmart Plan. The events also provided an opportunity to explain the risks of wildfire to the public in a personal (private property), a local (community), and a regional level (BHI). Along with the draft FireSmart Plan and supporting maps on display, the booth also had educational FireSmart pamphlets that were available for the public to review and take home.

Table 4: Public Engagement Sessions

| Stakeholder | Date | Location | Number of General Public Attendees | Stakeholder Attendees | Stakeholder Inputs |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beaver County | May 25 ${ }^{\text {th }}$, 2018 | Tofield Farmer's Market | 8 | - | No concerns were brought forward |
| Beaver County | March $1^{\text {st }}, 2018$ | Ryley Market | 24 | - | No concerns were brought forward |
| Camrose County | May $26^{\text {th }}, 2018$ | Camrose <br> Farmer's Market | 12 | - | No concerns were brought forward |
| Leduc County | May 24 ${ }^{\text {th }}$, 2018 | Leduc County Farmer's Market | 10 | Brian Oliver (Fire Inspector) and Leduc County Fire Services | No concerns were brought forward |

## 2. Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies

The major components of the FireSmart Plan are the individual Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessments (WHRA) and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies (WMS) for each planning area.

This section contains the separate Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessments and Mitigation Strategies for Beaver County, Camrose County, and Leduc County. The Alberta Environment and Parks section consists of a general assessment of Beaverhill Lake Heritage Rangeland Natural Area, Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreational Area, and Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary. The Elk Island National Park section consists of only an Executive Summary that was developed under the guidance of Elk Island National Park representatives.

## Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment focuses on the wildfire threat regarding rural subdivisions, villages, and hamlets within the study area. Rural settings often have an abundance of vegetated (forested) lands adjacent to, or intermixed with, a community. This intermixing of community and forest is referred to as the Wildland Urban Interface. Communities within the Wildland Urban Interface may be at risk from wildfire.

The assessment is meant to determine the hazards and risks of a wildfire threatening the Wildland Urban Interfaces within the study area. The Wildfire Hazard and Risk assessment used five main categories to evaluate hazards and risk:

1. Values at Risk
2. Community Risk Assessment (Inherent Risk Score)
3. Wildfire Behaviour Potential (Vegetation fuel types, Fire season weather, Fire weather indices, Topography, and Wildfire behavior analysis)
4. Wildfire Incidence
5. Firefighting Capabilities

These hazards and risks are also known as wildfire threat. Wildfire threat is determined by analyzing Values at Risk, Wildfire Behaviour Potential, wildfire incidence, and Fire Department capabilities.

To assist in determining the wildfire threat, field assessments were completed within Beaver County, Camrose County, and Leduc County. No field assessments were completed in Lamont County, Strathcona County, Elk Island National Park, or the lands under AEP.

## Community Wildfire Risk Assessment

The Community Wildfire Risk Assessment is used to assess risks on subdivisions, villages and hamlets within the BHI study area. The Community Wildfire Risk Assessment is a unique tool developed to compare wildfire risk between rural communities relative to one another. Each rural community is unique and contains different factors that influence the risk in the event of a wildfire.

Categories incorporated in the risk matrix are based on:

1. Likelihood of Occurrence focuses on variable such as: fuel types, slope, ignition sources, residential burning types allowed, and crossover days.
2. Defensibility of Community focuses on variable such as: structure density, fire spread barriers, forest fuel size, maintenance, access, and suppression capability.

The Community Risk Assessment process includes both inherent and residual risk rankings; these are the amount of risk that exists in the absence of controls and the amount of risk that remains after controls are accounted for, respectively. When used, the tool illustrates the reduction of risk if a certain measures are undertaken.

## Wildfire Mitigation Strategies

Wildfire Mitigation Strategies are recommended actions that can alter the potential or behavior of a wildfire that could ultimately reduce potential impacts of a wildfire event. Mitigation strategies may include vegetation management, development opportunities, educational sessions, and community engagement activities. Although mitigation strategies are suggested for counties, it is recommended that all rural subdivisions, villages, and hamlets participate in the mitigation strategies. At this time, no formal vegetation prescriptions were developed in this document. Mitigation strategies for the study area have been compiled and are identified in Table 5.

Recommendations are based on Wildland Urban Interface disciplines while considering Values at Risk, Wildfire Behaviour Potential, wildfire incidence, and firefighting capabilities. The Wildland Urban Interface seven disciplines are detailed in the FireSmart Guidebook for Community Protection (2013):

1. Education - enhances awareness and opportunities for prevention and mitigation.
2. Development - land use factors to enhance community protection.
3. Vegetation Management - removal, reduction, and conservation of hazardous fuels including ecological and environmental consideration.
4. Legislation - Fire bylaw, Land use bylaw, restricted covenants, etc.
5. Inter-agency Cooperation - mutual aid agreements, required for managing all stages of a wildfire emergency.
6. Cross-Training - required for seamless teamwork during a wildfire emergency, with mutual aid partners.
7. Emergency Planning - ensures human life is preserved as priority on in wildfire emergencies with Emergency Response Plans.

Table 5: Overview of Wildfire Mitigation Strategies for the BHI Study Area

| Recommendations | Beaver County | Camrose County | Leduc County | Beaverhill Lake Heritage Rangeland Natural Area | Cooking Lake Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area | Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1. Education |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1a. Educate and encourage community member involvement in FireSmart activities. | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ |  |  |  |
| 1b. Distribute information regarding FireSmart priority zones. | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ |  |  |  |
| 1c. Distribute and/or post information regarding FireSmart and wildfire prevention at strategic locations such as public buildings, kiosks, and trail heads. |  |  |  | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ |
| 1d. Promote residences to use the "Alberta Emergency Alert" App for up to date information on wildfire emergencies. | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ |  |  |  |
| 2. Development |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2a. Develop and implement Best Management Practices for road construction to ensure suitable access for emergency services. | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ |
| 2b. Ensure that the primary and secondary power lines are maintained. | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ |
| 2c. Consult with the Regional Water Services Commission to improve water distribution through the planning area. | $\times$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2d. Obtain Superior Tanker Shuttle Service (STSS) accreditation. | $\times$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Vegetation Management |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3a. Regular maintenance of vegetation in the FireSmart Non-combustible Zone and Zone 1. | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ |  |  |  |
| 3b. Conduct Area Hazard Assessments on standard values (houses and associated structures) in close proximity to Park boundaries that were not assessed as part of the communities. | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ |  |  |  |
| 4. Legislation |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4a. Update the fire permit requirements to include procedures for addressing holdover fires during the winter season. | $\times$ |  |  |  |  |  |

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| Recommendations | Beaver County | Camrose County | Leduc County | Beaverhill Lake <br> Heritage <br> Rangeland <br> Natural Area | Cooking Lake Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area | Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4b. Develop a land use bylaw that incorporates FireSmart principles. | $\times$ | $\times$ |  |  |  |  |
| 4c. Adjust the issuing of fire permits as a year round requirement. |  | $\times$ | $\times$ |  |  |  |
| 4d. Continue to limit development within the planning area. |  |  |  |  |  | $\times$ |
| 5. Inter-Agency Cooperation |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5a. Coordinate a pre-fire season meeting with other agencies to discuss the upcoming wildfire season. | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ |  |  |  |
| 6. Cross-Training |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6a. Create desktop scenarios to test out and understand protocols during wildfire emergencies. | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ |  |  |  |
| 6b. Participate in joint wildfire exercises with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ |  |  |  |
| 7. Emergency Planning |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7a. Draft and/or update and test out the Emergency Response Plan in regards to wildfire emergencies. | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ |  |  |  |
| 7b. Create Wildfire Preparedness Guides for communities. | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ |  |  |  |

Beaver Hills Initiative FireSmart Plan, August 2018

## Section A. Beaver County

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# Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies <br> Beaver County 

Prepared for: Beaver Hills Initiative

August 2018


ENVIRONMENTAL

## Executive Summary

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and the Wildfire Mitigation Strategies for Beaver County was developed as part of the overall FireSmart Plan for the Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI). The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment was used to identify the landscape wildfire risk in communities within the planning area.

As part of the Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment, 36 rural subdivisions and one village were assessed individually for wildfire risk using the Community Wildfire Risk Assessment tool. The assessment allows Beaver County to compare the wildfire risk of rural communities relative to each other. Communities could then be ranked and prioritized for implementation of mitigation as needed.

The Guidebook for Community Protection (Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, 2013), and FireSmart: Protecting your Community from Wildfire (Partners in Protection, 2013), were essential followed in the development of this section of the plan.

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies section was prepared in collaboration with Beaver County representatives.

- Bob Beck (Chief Administrative Officer)
- Mike Hoffman (Regional Emergency Manager)


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- Fall

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- Spring
- Summer
- Fall

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## 1 Planning Area and Stakeholders

The planning area for Beaver County focuses on the Village of Ryley and 36 subdivisions along the west section of Beaver County (Table 1). The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment includes a two kilometer buffer surrounding the selected planning areas which takes into account wildfire entering and/or leaving the community.

### 1.1 Planning Area

Only the western portion of Beaver County falls inside the Beaver Hills Initiative study area. The planning area (Beaver County) is located approximately 57 kilometers southeast of Edmonton, Alberta (Figure 1). The planning area is outside of the Forest Protection Area of Alberta. The land uses within the planning area include: agriculture (crop, hay, and pasture), rural residences, and subdivisions. Forest fuels are fragmented on the landscape. See Appendix A1 for Overview and Topography map.


Figure 1. General location of Beaver County within the Beaver Hills Initiative boundary.

Table 1. List of Subdivisions and Municipalities in Beaver County that were assessed as part of the BHI Study area.

| Name | Legal Land Description | Name | Legal Land Description |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Aspen Estates | NE 30-51-19-W4M | Jade Estates | SE 8-50-20-W4M |
| Beaver Meadows | NE 9-50-20-W4M | Joyland Estates | SE 8-50-20-W4M |
| Beaver Creek Estates $7822987$ | SE 34-50-20-W4M | Kingsway Estates | SE 12-50-20-W4M |
| Beaver Creek Estates $7822988$ | NE 27-50-20-W4M | Lori Estates | NE 15-50-20-W4M |
| Beaver Creek Estates $8622084$ | NW 27-50-20-W4M | Lindbrook Estates | NE-12-051-20-W4M NW-07-051-19-W4M SE-12-051-20-W4M |
| Beaver Hills Estates | SE 36-51-20-W4M | Meadowbrook Estates | SW 12-51-20-W4M |
| Birch Grove Estates | NW 12-51-20-W4M | Miquelon Estates | SW 10-50-20-W4M |
| Carey Ridge Estates | SE 18-50-20-W4M | Park Glen Estates | NE 35-52-19-W4M |
| Cinnamon Ridge Estates | NW 9-50-20-W4M | Rolling Glory | SE 28-50-20-W4M |
| Country Squire Estates | NW 21-51-19-W4M | Royal Glen | SE 28-50-20-W4M |
| Cultural Point Lindbrook | E $1 / 2$ 12-51-20-W4M | Sherwood Forest Estates | SW 35-51-20-W4M |
| Desert Estates | SE 17-50-20-W4M | Twin Lakes | SW 23-52-19-W4M |
| El-Greco Estates | SE 15-52-19-W4M | Unnamed Subdivision 1 | SE 16-50-20-W4M |
| Forest Glen | W $1 / 2$ 17-51-19-W4M | Unnamed Subdivision 2 | SW 12-50-20-W4M |
| Hillhurst Estates | SE 13-50-21-W4M | Unnamed Subdivision 3 | S $1 / 231-51-19-W 4 \mathrm{M}$ |
| Hunter Estates | SW 15-50-20-W4M | Whispering Hills | NE 19-51-19-W4M |
| Huntington Estates | SE 9-50-20-W4M | Willow Lake Estates | E $1 / 2$ 26-50-20-W4M |
| Islet Lake Estates | NW 36, NE 35-51-20W4M | Village of Ryley | $\mathrm{N} 1 / 24$ and SE 9-50-17W4M |

### 1.2 Stakeholders

Beaver County focuses mainly on the west section of the county, but does not include the Village of Ryley. To gain insight about the planning area, key stakeholders were involved in the process.

How do we get to a FireSmart landscape? Get the right people to participate. (Partners in Protection, 2003)

Table 2. List of stakeholders and their respective responsibilities in the development of the Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies.

| Stakeholders | Responsibilities |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | - Development and implementation of the project <br> - Peaver Hills Initiative <br>  <br> Beaver County |
| - Provide resources to complete the project |  |
| - Contract administration |  |

## 2 Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment analyzes Values at Risk, Wildfire Behavior Potential, wildfire incidences, and firefighting capabilities.

Table 3: Results for the Wildfire Hazard and Risk for Beaver County planning area

| SPRING | SUMMER | FALL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MODERATE | LOW | MODERATE |

### 2.1 Values at Risk

Values at Risk include aspects within a community, man-made or natural, which have measurable or intrinsic worth, and have the potential to be negatively altered by fire (Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, 2011). Values at Risk encompass four broad types of values (Partners in Protection, 2003):

- Standard Values - homes and other common structures found in communities
- Critical Values - infrastructure that is vital to the wellbeing of those who reside in the planning area (e.g. major roads, power lines, etc.)
- Dangerous Goods Values - anything which may pose a safety threat to emergency responders or the public
- Special Values - areas that have natural, cultural, historical, or emotional importance to a community

Table 4: Values at Risk within and surrounding the subdivisions and village in the planning area.

| Value Type | Description |
| :--- | :--- |
| Standard | Multiple houses and associated structures within the identified <br> communities in Beaver County. |


| Value Type | Description |
| :---: | :---: |
| Critical * | - Beaver County Office <br> - Communication Tower (3) <br> - Fire Hall, Lindbrook Community Hall <br> - Post Office, Ryley Community Centre <br> - Ryley School <br> - Senior Citizen Centre <br> - Spilstead Community Hall <br> - Village of Ryley Administration Office <br> - Water Filling Station <br> - Water Treatment Facility |
| Dangerous Goods | - Tempo Gas Station <br> - Propane Tank <br> - Waste Transfer Station <br> (2) <br> - Propane Tank (6) <br> - Private Industrial Lot <br> - Natural Gas Facility <br> - Gas Station <br> - Crops Production Services <br> - Landfill |
| Special | - Lindbrook Star Gazer Campground and RV Park <br> - Conservation Habitat (2) <br> - Ryley Cemetery <br> - Mennonite Cemetery <br> - Conservation Habitat <br> - Campground <br> - Total Life Christian Church <br> - Centennial Park <br> - Good News Community Church <br> - Bethel Lutheran Church <br> - Seventh Day Adventist Church |

* Pipelines, railways, and transmission lines are identified on Linear Disturbance and Water Sources maps (see Appendix A8).


### 2.2 Community Risk Assessment

The Community Wildfire Risk Assessment is a unique tool developed by CPP Environmental to compare wildfire risk between rural communities relative to one another. Each rural community is unique and contains different factors that influence the risk in the event of a wildfire.

Categories incorporated in the risk matrix are based on:

1. Likelihood of Occurrence focuses on variable such as: fuel types, slope, ignition sources, residential burning types allowed, and crossover days.
2. Defensibility of Community focuses on variable such as: structure density, fire spread barriers, forest fuel size, maintenance, access, and suppression capability.

### 2.2.1 Inherent Risk Score

The inherent risk encompasses finer community details and identifies the natural or man-made fuel breaks, and fragmented fuels due to agriculture and rural road networks. Factors such as fuel breaks and fragmented fuels can affect how potential wildfires spread across the landscape. The matrix takes into account conditions within and adjacent to the community. Each section of the matrix is weighted differently and assists in determining the overall threat for that community. Once calculated, the risk scores were ranked from highest to lowest to assist in prioritization communities (Table 5). See Appendix A3 for the Inherent Risk Map and Community Risk Assessment Results.

| Risk Score Ranking Matrix |  |
| :---: | :--- |
| $1350-2520$ | Wildfire Hazard Rating: Extreme |
| $\mathbf{7 0 2 - 1 3 4 9}$ | Wildfire Hazard Rating: High |
| $\mathbf{3 0 0 - 7 0 1}$ | Wildfire Hazard Rating: Moderate |
| $\mathbf{0 - 2 9 9}$ | Wildfire Hazard Rating: Low |

Table 5. Inherent Risk Score for Community Risk Assessment.

| Community | Inherent Risk Score |
| :--- | :---: |
| Cultural Point Lindbrook | 646 |
| Beaver Creek Estates 8622084 | 630 |
| Hunter Estates | 612 |
| Aspen Estates | 594 |
| Beaver Creek Estates 7822988 | 578 |
| Beaver Creek Estates 7822987 | 576 |
| Desert Estates | 576 |
| Joyland Estates | 561 |
| Unnamed Subdivision 1 | 560 |
| Hillhurst Estates | 555 |
| Lori Estates | 555 |
| Whispering Hills | 546 |
| Cinnamon Ridge Estates | 544 |
| Rolling Glory | 544 |
| Huntington Estates | 540 |
| Islet Lake Estates | 527 |
| Royal Glen | 525 |
| Lindbrook Estates | 512 |
| Jade Estates | 510 |
| Unnamed Subdivision 2 | 504 |
| Beaver Hill Estates | 496 |


| Community | Inherent Risk Score |
| :--- | :---: |
| El-Greco Estates | 494 |
| Park Glen Estates | 480 |
| Meadowbrook Estates | 476 |
| Kingsway Estates | 450 |
| Unnamed Subdivision 3 | 448 |
| Willow Lake Estates | 442 |
| Village of Ryley | 435 |
| Miquelon Estates | 429 |
| Beaver Meadows | 420 |
| Twin Lakes | 403 |
| Country Squire Estates | 396 |
| Forest Glen | 384 |
| Birch Grove Estates | 378 |
| Sherwood Forest Estates | 378 |
| Carey Ridge Estates | 360 |

### 2.3 Wildfire Behavior Potential

Wildfire behavior is defined as "the manner in which fuel ignites, flame develops, and fire spreads and exhibits other related phenomena as determined by the interaction of fuels, weather, and topography" (Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, 2002).

To better understand seasonal wildfire potential within the planning areas, the fuels data, historical weather data, and fire weather indices were analyzed. The analysis included: vegetation types, temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, wind speed and wind direction, Fire Weather Index (FWI), Fine Fuel Moisture Code (FFMC), and Initial Spread Index (ISI).

### 2.3.1 Vegetation Fuel Types

Beaver County is located within the central parkland and the dry mixedwood sub-regions of Alberta. Forests within these sub-regions are characterized by trembling aspen (Populus tremuloides), white spruce (Picea glauca), balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera), black spruce (Picea mariana), and white birch (Betula papyrifera). The area is part of the Cooking Lake Moraine, which is comprised of hummocky "knob and kettle" terrain that creates variable fuel types and a large quantity of pothole waterbodies.

Fuel types within the planning area consist of small patches of deciduous forests. Agricultural land is common on the landscape and makes up most of the vegetated non fuel grass fuel types. Grass vegetation is common throughout the planning area including: all utility corridors, open fields, right-of-ways, water course channels, and ditches. Grass fuels throughout the county are in various states of maintenance.

Vegetation fuel data was acquired from the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) FireWeb website. Since fuel data for Beaver County is outside of the Forest Protection Area, field assessments, satellite imagery, and Google Earth were used to verify the provincial vegetation fuel data.

See Appendix A4 for fuel maps.
Table 6. Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System Fire Behavior Prediction (CFFDRS FBP) System Fuel Types within the Beaver County planning area.

| CFFDRS FBP System <br> Fuel Types | Common Language <br> Equivalent | Fuel Coverage in Planning Area |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | ha | \% |  |
| D1/D2 | Aspen | 20,582 | 17.6 |
| M1/M2 | Boreal Mixedwood | 1,617 | 1.4 |
| O1 | Grass | 44,102 | 37.9 |
| C1/C2 | Spruce-Lichen and Boreal <br> Spruce | 859 | 0.7 |
| Vegetated Non-Fuel | Vegetated Non-Fuel | 36,267 | 31.1 |
| Non-fuel | Non-Fuel | 13,390 | 11.5 |



Figure 2: D1/D2 Fuel Distribution and Vegetation example
Deciduous stands consisting of aspen (Populus tremuloides) and balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera) are most likely to burn prior to green-up in the spring due to the resin in the buds being highly flammable or during the fall after the leaves drop. The wildfire intensity in deciduous stands is lower compared to coniferous stands, as deciduous stands are unlikely to have a crown fire due to the lack of ladder fuels. Instead, a vigorous surface fire is most likely to be experienced due to the grasses and forbs that make up the composition of the ground vegetation. Within the planning area, deciduous stands vary in size and are concentrated along the west section of the planning area. The D1/ D2 fuel types consist of approximately $17.6 \%$ of the planning area.


Figure 3: M1/M2 fuel Distribution and Vegetation example
Mixedwood stands are comprised of a mixture of deciduous and coniferous vegetation. Coniferous trees are associated with being volatile fuels and have a higher probability of ignition than deciduous trees. The presence of conifers in a mixedwood stand increases the potential for spotting as well as crown fire due to an increased presence of ladder fuels. Consequently, a wildfire in a mixedwood stand may have a higher degree of difficulty in controlling. Within the planning area, mixedwood stands comprise a small portion of the landscape and are often located as isolated patches. The M1/ M2 fuel types consist of approximately $1.4 \%$ of the planning area.


Figure 4: 01 Fuel Distribution and Vegetation example
A concern for the planning area is the ignition risks for grass fires. Grass fuels are a concern in the spring and fall when grass is dead and dry (cured fine fuel conditions). During these times, ignition becomes very easy and Rate of Spread (ROS, $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{min}$ ) is high. The O1 fuel type make up the largest percentage, consisting of approximately $37.9 \%$ of the planning area (the cross-hatched is considered an O1 fuel, but is not included in the $37.9 \%$ ).


Figure 5: C1/C2 Fuel Distribution and Vegetation example
Coniferous species such as white spruce (Picea glauca) and black spruce (Picea mariana) are considered volatile fuels. Conifer fuels are considered a high risk due to: the ability to burn throughout the fire season, the likelihood and high potential for spotting, and the likelihood and high potential for crown fires. The C1/C2 fuel types consist of approximately $0.7 \%$ of the planning area.


Figure 6: Vegetated Non-Fuel Distribution
Vegetated non-fuels include areas of maintained grass and managed agriculture land. Vegetated non-fuels make up the second largest percentage and cover approximately $31.1 \%$ of the planning area


Figure 7. Non-Fuel Distribution
Non-fuels include road networks, waterbodies, and anthropogenic features. Non-fuels cover approximately $11.5 \%$ of the planning area (the cross-hatched area is now considered an O 1 fuel type).

### 2.3.2 Fire Season Weather

The analysis of the historical weather included: temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, wind speed, and wind direction.

Crossover days were used to identify periods of high fire concern. Crossover is wildfire term that identifies days when the minimum daily relative humidity $(\mathrm{RH})$ becomes lower than the ambient temperature. As RH lowers, fuels dry at a quicker rate. The combination of low RH and higher temperatures reduces the moisture content of fine fuels (grasses, needles, herbaceous vegetation) which can impact the Rate of Spread (ROS) of fires. Standard units utilized for the rate of spread variable is usually indicated as meters per minute ( $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{min}$ ). Crossover days are easily identifiable by Emergency Services personnel when monitoring weather conditions during the fire season. The majority of crossover days occur in May during the spring fire season. This will be a period of high concern for wildfire as dead fine fuels are dry and the new vegetation has yet to mature. The second season of concern is September when vegetation begins to die, the temperature is still high, and the RH drops significantly during the day. Burning periods in the fall decrease as the days get shorter although the low RH and higher temperatures amplify the wildfire risk.

Using daily noon actuals, the temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, and wind speed were averaged. The data reflects the fire season weather by using data from 2009 to 2017 during the months of March to October. Temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, and wind speed were calculated by averaging the monthly totals.

## See Table 7 and Appendix A5.

Table 7. Summary of data from three Weather Stations for the planning area

## Weather Stations: Camrose, Holden AGDM, Mundare AGDM

March 1, 2009 - October 31, 2017

| Month | Average Temp. $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ | Average Relative Humidity (\%) | Average Wind Speed (km/hr) | Average Precip. (mm) | Average Crossover days/year | Average $90^{\text {th }}$ <br> Percentile FWI (days/yr) | Average $90^{\text {th }}$ <br> Percentile FFMC (days/yr) | Average $90^{\text {th }}$ <br> Percentile ISI (days/yr) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| March | -5 | 79 | 14 | 12 | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| April | 3 | 69 | 16 | 26 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| May | 11 | 59 | 15 | 41 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 7 |
| June | 15 | 69 | 14 | 70 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| July | 17 | 76 | 12 | 84 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| August | 16 | 74 | 11 | 42 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| September | 11 | 69 | 13 | 24 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| October | 4 | 76 | 14 | 17 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 |

*FWI/Daily data for April-October only due to snow cover
**Temp/RH/WS/Precip data based on hourly data

Wind roses depict the distribution of wind speed and direction. Figure 8 illustrates the proportion of wind direction and speed for the days associated with the FWI 90 th percentiles per season. The seasons represent the following months: spring (March to May), summer (June to August), and fall (September and October).

Beaver County Hourly(1000-1900LST) Wind Rose 2009-2017


Figure 8: Beaver County Hourly (1000-1900) Wind rose (2009-2017) for spring, summer, and fall
Spring: Winds are predominately from the northwest and southeast. Wind speeds are generally greater than $20 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$ and gusts may reach upwards of $40 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$. Southerly winds are often referred to as drying winds as
moisture can be easily removed from fine fuels. The stronger the wind, the faster a fire will spreads due to more oxygen being supplied for combustion and drier surface fuels. Stronger wind speeds may result in spotting.

Summer: Winds are predominately from the northwest. Gusts may reach upwards of 30 to $40 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$.
Fall: Wind events are predominately from the northwest. Wind speeds are usually greater than $20 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$ and gusts may reach upwards of $40 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$. Strong wind speeds may result in spotting.


Figure 9. Illustration of spotting during a wildfire (Adopted from http://www.firewise.org). Spotting occurs when embers from burning material gets transported by the wind which has the potential to start new secondary fires.

### 2.3.3 Fire Weather Indices

Being outside of the Forest Protection Area, there is limited access to fire weather indices. Three measures provided further insight to wildfire risk: Fire Weather Index (FWI), Fine Fuels Moisture Code (FFMC), and the Initial Spread Index (ISI).

The FWI is used as a general index of fire danger throughout forested areas in Canada (Natural Resources Canada, 2016). The daily FWI is calculated using temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and precipitation at a specific time index (13:00). The $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile FWI was calculated to better understand what months are at a higher risk of sustaining a wildfire in the planning area. Appendix A5 illustrates the distribution of days that are within the FWI $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile.

The FFMC was also analyzed since grass fires have historically been a large concern for local fire departments. The FFMC considers the dryness of small and fine forest fuels such as grass. Daily FFMC is calculated using temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and precipitation based on the previous day's weather information. The planning area is located within the central parkland and the dry mixedwood natural sub-region where standing or matted grass vegetation is common. Appendix A5 shows the distribution of days that are within the FFMC 90 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ percentile.

The ISI is a key component in fire behavior in regards to the Canadian Forest fires Danger Rating System (CFFDRS). The ISI integrates fuel moisture for fine dead fuels and surface wind speed to estimate a spread potential. ISI is a key input for fire behavior predictions in the FBP system. The rate of spread predicts the
speed of the fire and takes into account of the potential for spotting and crowning fires. Appendix A5 shows the distribution of days that are within the ISI $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile.

Table 8: $90^{\text {th }}$ Percentile FWI, FFMC, and ISI rating results for the Beaver County planning area based on Weather Stations: Camrose, Holden AGDM, and Mundare AGDM (March 1, 2009 - October 31, 2017).

| Hazard Rating | FWI | FFMC | ISI |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 34.8 <br> (Extreme) | 92 <br> (Extreme) | 16 <br>  y |

### 2.3.4 Topography

Topography influences fire behaviour similar to wind where the degree of slopes directly impacts the rate of spread of a fire.

The topography in the planning area consists mainly of gentle slopes and flat terrain except near the northwest boundary where slightly greater slopes are present. The rate of spread of a wildfire could change in areas with the slightly steeper slopes. The subtle elevation changes throughout the remaining area will have little effect on fire behaviour. The coniferous fuels as well as the dead and down woody debris present on the steep slopes may further increase the rat of wildfire spread, increasing the overall risk in these areas.

See Appendix A1 for the Overview and Topography maps.

### 2.4 Wildfire Behavior Analysis

Fire weather predictions are based on the analysis of fuels, weather, and topography. Three methods were utilized to predict fire behavior: Wildfire Behaviour Potential, Wildfire Threat Rating, and the Prometheus Wildfire Model.

### 2.4.1 Wildfire Behaviour Potential and Wildfire Threat Rating

Wildfire Behaviour Potential and Wildfire Threat Rating maps were acquired from the Alberta FireWeb (AAF). The Alberta FireWeb is a spatial tool that allows wildfire planners to better understand wildfire threat in an area. Wildfire Threat Rating and Fire Behaviour Potential maps for spring, summer and fall from FireWeb were analyzed.

It is important to note that Wildfire Threat Rating calculations were not intended to be used outside the Forest Protection Area. The rating calculations do not account for the municipal firefighting resources and the potential for quick response times from the fire halls

The Fire Behaviour Potential varies seasonally within the planning area. The Fire Behavior Potential for spring is moderate, while the summer and fall season ranges from low to moderate. During the summer season, Fire Behaviour Potential is reduced as the fuels are no longer cured/dried.

Wildfire Hazard and Risk ratings depict seasonal ranges in the Wildfire Threat Rating. The Wildfire Threat Rating is predominately moderate with individual areas ranging from low to high during spring. In the summer and fall season, low to moderate threat rating are present. As the planning area is outside of the Forest Protection Area, the overall risk could decrease thus, lowering the Wildfire Threat Rating.

See Appendix A6 and A7 for Wildfire Threat Rating and Fire Behaviour Potential maps.

### 2.4.2 Prometheus Wildfire Model

Prometheus runs were completed at a landscape scale that included the entire BHI study area. Historical fire season weather was modelled and the $90^{\text {th }}$ FWI percentile was used to identify burning days. Ignition points were selected based on dominate wind direction, continuity of fuels, and the potential to impact communities within the study area. The Prometheus models are discussed in further detail in Section 3 of the BHI FireSmart Plan.

## 3 Wildfire Incidents

Beaver County's documented wildfire incidents are mainly a result of anthropogenic activities, ranging from agriculture to transportation and electrical utilities to recreation. Fire response statistics (2015-2017) were analyzed to determine: when the wildfire initiated, the liable party involved, cause of ignition, and the time until extinguished. Six fire stations (Tofield, Ryley, Holden, Bruce, Viking, and Kinsella) are available to assist in wildfire suppression. Table 9 summarizes how the wildfires were started, the stakeholder involved, and the level of difficulty in extinguishing the fire which is identified through the time taken to suppress it.

Table 9. Beaver County Wildfire Incidence Statistics

| Beaver County Wildfire Incidences between 2015-2017 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Station | Month | Stakeholder | Cause | Hours to Extinguish |
| Tofield | May,2015 | Fortis Alberta Inc. | Arching Power Line | 1 hr 30 min |
|  | June, 2015 | Landowner | Controlled burn re-ignited | 3 hr 17 min |
|  | June, 2015 | Landowner | Fire pit got away | $1 \mathrm{hr} \mathrm{45min}$ |
|  | June, 2015 | Landowner | Mower sparks started grass fire | 2 hr 8 min |
|  | July,2015 | CN Rail | Train started grass fire | 1hr |
|  | July, 2015 | Landowner | Unknown | 2hr |
|  | December, 2015 | Fortis Alberta Inc. | Powerline | 1hr |
|  | December, 2015 | Fortis Alberta Inc. | Powerline | 45 min |
|  | January, 2016 | Wawanesa Insurance | Combine started fire | 1hr 40min |
|  | June, 2016 | CN Rail | Train started grass fire | 1 hr 40 min |
|  | August, 2016 | Fortis Alberta Inc. | Powerline | 1hr 40min |
|  | August, 2016 | Landowner | Cigarette lighter | 3 hr 45 min |
|  | Jun, 2017 | Fortis Alberta Inc. | Grass fire in ditch | 1hr |
|  | October, 2017 | Landowner | Started by baler | $6 \mathrm{hr} \mathrm{18min}$ |
|  | October, 2017 | Fortis Alberta Inc. | Grass fire in ditch | 2hr |
|  | October, 2017 | Fortis Alberta Inc. | Grass fire in ditch | 15 min |
|  | October, 2017 | Landowner | Grass fire started by combine | 1hr 20min |
| Ryley | January, 2016 | Fortis Alberta Inc. | Powerline | 2 hr 35 min |
|  | June, 2016 | County of Minburn \#27 | Controlled burn caught by wind | 2 hr |

Beaver County Wildfire Incidences between 2015-2017

| Station | Month | Stakeholder | Cause | Hours to Extinguish |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | June, 2016 | County of Camrose | Unknown | 3hr 20min |
|  | June, 2017 | CN Rail | Brush on fire along train tracks | 50min |
|  | August, 2017 | Landowner | Burn barrel caught field on fire | 2hr 18min |
| Holden | June, 2015 | Landowner | Fire pit got away | 3hr |
|  | June, 2015 | Landowner | Controlled burn reignited | 2hr |
|  | June, 2015 | Corner View Land \& Saddle LTD. | Controlled burn re-ignited | 3hr |
|  | June, 2015 | Landowner | Old brush piles reignited | 3hr |
|  | February, 2016 | Landowner | Combine fire | 2hr |
|  | June, 2016 | CN Rail | Brush along train tracks caught on fire | 2hr |
|  | June, 2016 | CN Rail | Brush along train tracks caught on fire | 1hr |
|  | July, 2016 | CN Rail | Brush along train tracks caught on fire | 1hr |
|  | Dec, 2016 | Landowner | Baler caught field on fire | 2hr |
|  | August, 2017 | CN Rail | CN grinding tracks | 1 hr |
|  | August, 2017 | CN Rail | CN grinding tracks | 1hr 14min |
| Bruce | August, 2016 | CN Rail | Brush along train tracks caught on fire | 1hr |
|  | August, 2016 | Fortis Alberta Inc. | Powerline | 20 min |
| Viking | May, 2015 | CN Rail | Brush along train tracks caught on fire | 1hr |
|  | May, 2015 | CN Rail | Brush along train tracks caught on fire | 45 min |
|  | May, 2015 | Landowner | Burning bin caught bales on fire | 2hr |
|  | July, 2015 | CN Rail | Brush along train tracks caught on fire | 1hr |
|  | June, 2016 | County of Minburn \#27 | Unknown | 2hr |
|  | July, 2016 | Fortis Alberta | Lighting | 3 hr |
|  | July, 2016 | Landowner | Baler on fire | 3hr 30min |
|  | December, 2016 | Landowner | Fire pit ignited field and building | 3hr 30min |
|  | May, 2017 | CN Rail | Fire caused by fire | 33 min |
|  | June, 2017 | Lefsrud Seed and Processor | Controlled burn spread by wind | 2 hr |
|  | October, 2017 | Fortis Alberta Inc. | Powerline | 15 min |
| Kinsella | May, 2015 | CN Rail | Brush along train tracks caught on fire | 1hr 30min |

Beaver County Wildfire Incidences between 2015-2017

| Station | Month | Stakeholder | Cause | Hours to <br> Extinguish |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | July, 2015 | CN Rail | Brush along train tracks <br> caught on fire | 50 min |
|  | June, 2017 | CN Rail | Brush along train tracks <br> caught on fire | 1 hr |
|  | August, 2017 | Landowner | Fire from Baler | 2 hr |
|  | August, 2017 | CN Rail | Brush along train tracks <br> caught on fire | 2 hr |
|  | September, 2017 | Fortis Alberta Inc. | Power line | 43 min |

## 4 Firefighting Capabilities

Firefighting capabilities within the planning area are adequate and are able to respond to wildfire events that occur in the county. Mutual aid agreements exist between neighbouring counties including: Strathcona County, Lamont County, Flagstaff County, Minburn County, and the M.D of Wainwright. If county resources are dedicated to other incidents, Beaver County can request assistance through mutual aid agreements.

Along with mutual aid agreements, Beaver County has a standard inventory of firefighting resources at its disposal. Table 10 details the available equipment at fire stations based out of Beaver County.

Table 10. Beaver County Fire Department Resources

| Fire Stations | Equipment Type | Quantity |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Tofield | Pumpers | 2 |
|  | Mini-Pumpers (Brush Truck) | 2 |
|  | Tanker | 1 |
| Ryley | Pumper | 1 |
|  | Mini-Pumper (Brush Truck) | 2 |
|  | Pumper | 1 |
|  | Mini-Pumper (Brush Truck) | 1 |
|  | Tanker | 1 |
| Viking | Pumper | 1 |
|  | Pumpers | 2 |
|  | Mini- Pumper (Brush Truck) | 1 |
|  | Tanker | 1 |
|  | Pumper | 1 |
|  | Mini-Pumper (Brush Truck) | 1 |

## 5 Wildfire Mitigation Strategies

### 5.1 Education

## Recommendation 1a:

Educate and encourage community member involvement in FireSmart activities.

Recommendation 1b: Distribute information regarding FireSmart priority zones.

## Recommendation 1d:

Promote residences to use the "Alberta Emergency Alert" App for up to date information on wildfire emergencies.

Education of local residents will assist in mitigating wildfires occurrences within the County. Through platforms such as social media, open houses, rural newsletters, and local school presentations/events, FireSmart objectives can be highlighted, explained and/or demonstrated. These platforms will encourage engagement with surrounding residents on issues revolving around those tasks and methods. It is recommended that Beaver County develops an educational program that focuses on fire prevention and fire safety when conducting operations such as slash burning.

Information distributed should focus and highlight Non-combustible Zone and Priority Zone 1. These areas should have priority. Information should also include, but not be limited to, fuel removal, fuel reduction, and conversion of the property.

Encouraging the download and use of the Alberta Emergency Alert app allows for a simple way for residents to have access to, and stay updated with, necessary information during potential emergencies.

### 5.2 Development

Beaver County's Public Works and Study Development Department oversees functions related to road maintenance and other land use planning matters. Infrastructure affects a community's resilience to wildfire. Current aspects to consider for possible improvements to further mitigate wildfire risks include:

- Access
- Water availability
- Signage
- Utilities
- Staging Areas


### 5.2.1 Access

## Recommendation 2a:

Develop and implement Best Management Practices for road construction to ensure suitable access for emergency services.

There are multiple means of ingress/egress to allow for safe movement of traffic during an emergency within and surrounding Beaver County. The main means of egress is Hwy 14 that runs northwest and southeast
through the middle of the planning area, along with secondary Hwy 630, 833, and 834 running north and south. A network of township and range roads are also available to people as a means of ingress/egress during an emergency. The roads are designed to accommodate two-way traffic and are wide enough to allow for evacuating vehicles to pass responding emergency personnel and equipment.

Road maintenance is required during spring melt and for newly constructed roads suffering from deep ruts, large puddles, or a washboard surface. It is recommended that Beaver County develops and implements Best Management Practices for road construction to ensure suitable access for emergency services. Best Management Practices may include:

- enhancement of driving surface widths
- improvement of ditch slopes to improve driving surface stability
- installment of "No Parking" signage on roads critical for evacuation
- installment of designated evacuation route signs


### 5.2.2 Utilities

Recommendation 2b: Ensure that the primary and secondary power lines are maintained.

Single, secondary, and three phase power lines are present within Beaver County. Fortis Alberta owns and oversees the maintenance along the distribution right of ways. The majority of the lines have been maintained, but in certain locations vegetation management will required. Secondary lines are prominent in the rural subdivisions and although these lines conduct less voltage in comparison to the other distribution lines, wildfires can result from these lines under the right conditions.

### 5.2.3 Water Availability

Recommendation 2c: Consult with the Regional Water Services Commission to improve water distribution through the planning area.

Recommendation 2d: Obtain Superior Tanker Shuttle Service (STSS) accreditation.

The subdivisions concentrated along west section of the county do not have fire hydrants within the community. Instead, a water truck fill station has been constructed west of the intersection of Hwy 14 and secondary Hwy 833 which would be available for firefighting purposes. The truck fill station is located in the NE 35-2-50-19-W4M and has an output of 60,000 gallons. The municipal water distribution system is operated by the "Highway 14 Regional Water Services Commission", an entity comprised of representatives from nearby municipalities and the county. Considerations have been identified to extend the regional waterline from Strathcona County further into Beaver County.

### 5.2.4 Staging Areas

Staging areas are for the purpose of the Fire Department to setup and run operations. They are determined on a case by case basis and consider key elements such as fire location and direction of burn. Possible staging areas have been identified in Appendix A9. Criteria for selecting possible staging area locations
included adequate space to marshal equipment and equipment turn arounds, solid surfaces capable of supporting the fire trucks, and are close or within the community. Emergency Services may also utilize the County office or other facilities present in the Town of Tofield or the Village of Ryley.

### 5.3 Vegetation Management

| Recommendation 3a: | Regular maintenance of vegetation in the FireSmart Non-combustible <br> Zone and Zone 1. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Recommendation 3b: | Conduct Area Hazard Assessments on standard values (houses and <br> associated structures) in close proximity to Park boundaries that were not <br> assessed as part of the communities. |

Vegetation management has four FireSmart priority zones: Non-combustible Zone and Priority Zones 1, 2, and 3. Application of vegetation management within the four priority zones will reduce hazards and improve the defensibility of a structure. Vegetation should not be modified, reduced, or removed if considered within the riparian zone, or other sensitive areas.


Figure 10: FireSmart Zones (http://www.firesmartcanada.ca/resources-library/firesmart-home-ignition-zone-graphic).

Non-combustible Zone is the area 0 to 1.5 meters immediately around a structure and is considered the most critical area. This zone prevents flammable fuels from doing immediate damage to the structure.

Priority Zone 1 has a radius of 1.5 to 10 meters around the structure. Keeping this area clear of flammable vegetation and debris can reduce the risk of the structure igniting during a wildfire and increases the defensibility of the structure.

Priority Zone 2 has a radius of 10 to 30 meter around the structure. Maintenance of Priority Zone 2 aids in lowering the intensity and the rate of spread of a wildfire.

Priority Zone 3 extends out from 30 meters. Priority Zone 3 modification may be necessary if there are high threat levels due to heavy continuous vegetation and steep topography that could not be sufficiently reduced by fuel management in Priority Zone 2. Fuel management options for Zone 2 and 3 are most effective when conifer trees are present.

Within the Beaver County planning area, the need for fuel treatment within Priority Zone 3 may be required, but should be conducted on a case by case basis for mitigating wildfire threat to Values at Risk on the landscape.

Table 11: FireSmart Priority Zones Fuel Management options to improve defensibility of structures in the event of wildfire.

| Priority Zone | Fuel Management Option |
| :--- | :--- |
| Non-combustible <br> Zone and Zone 1 | Mow grass (10 centimeters or less) |
|  | Remove ground litter and downed trees |
|  | Remove over mature, dead and dying trees |
|  | Plant fire resistant vegetation |
|  | Thin and/or prune existing vegetation |
|  | Remove piled debris |
| Zone 2 and 3 | Thinning understory |
|  | Pruning lower branches (within two meters from the ground) |

### 5.4 Legislation

Bylaws are an important aspect of a community. The purpose of bylaws are that "they are understandable, enforceable, and accomplish the council's desired goal" (Municipal Affairs, 2013). The review of the Bylaws included current regulations and an investigation of recommendations that could be undertaken to address specific issues to aid in meeting FireSmart goals.

### 5.4.1 Burning Bylaws

Recommendation 4a:
Update the fire permit requirements to include procedures for addressing holdover fires during the winter season.

During the plan development, Beaver County representatives identified holdover fires from residents burning brush piles as a wildfire risk in the county. The risk could be mitigated through updating the fire permit procedures and requirements that are related to Fire Permit Bylaw 04-2013.

### 5.4.2 Land Use Bylaws

Recommendation 4b: Develop a land use bylaw that incorporates FireSmart principles.

Incorporating FireSmart principals into the development process will ensure that the community grows in a manner that will facilitate mitigating wildfire risk within the community. The bylaw should also consider FireSmart practices as per Chapter 3 of Partners in Protection's FireSmart: Protecting Your Community from Wildfire (2003). Inclusion of FireSmart assessments prior to building a structure or developing an area will identify the hazards and risks for the sites. Based on the assessments, recommendations on setbacks from top of slopes, landscaping, and driveway or road development would be important to identify prior to development.

### 5.5 Inter-Agency Cooperation

## Recommendation 5a: <br> Coordinate a pre-fire season meeting with other agencies to discuss the upcoming wildfire season.

Wildfires around rural communities can exceed the capabilities of local emergency responders. When Fire Service Agreements are in place, additional resources of personnel, equipment, and specialized equipment are made available. Currently, Beaver County has mutual aid agreements in place with Lamont County, Strathcona County, Flagstaff County, Camrose County, Wainwright County, and Minburn Fire Department along with AAF. It is recommended that Beaver County continue to maintain current mutual aid agreements. Beaver County Emergency Services should conduct an annual pre-season meeting with mutual aid agreement holders to discuss interagency cooperation during a wildfire incident.

### 5.6 Cross-Training

## Recommendation 6a:

Create desktop scenarios to test out and understand protocols during wildfire emergencies.

Recommendation 6b: Participate in joint wildfire exercises with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

It is recommended that the Fire Department execute desktop scenarios as part of their training regime. Desktop scenarios will help firefighters to work through relevant scenarios relating to Beaver County, and to test out and understand protocols during emergencies.

Beaver County Fire Department should participate in joint exercises with the AAF Wildfire Management Branch in the Rocky Mountain House District. These exercises should emphasize mutual aid scenarios. Having multiple agencies participate in these training exercises will benefit all parties by illustrating key differences in strategies, tactics, and equipment.

### 5.7 Emergency Planning

## Recommendation 7a:

Draft and/or update and test out the Emergency Response Plan in regards to wildfire emergencies.

Recommendation 7b:

Beaver County has an Emergency Response Plan drafted, however the current plan lacks detail in relation to wildfire incidents. It is recommended that the Emergency Response Plan be updated to incorporate wildfire emergency response and evacuation planning. In addition, it is recommended that Wildfire Preparedness Guides be developed for subdivisions and municipalities in the Beaver County planning area.

## 6 Summary of Recommendations

Each of the recommendations is ordered upon urgency and effort to assist each of the communities in making a working plan. Urgency and effort levels were set using the following criteria:

Urgency is a measure of timeliness and is rated as high, moderate, or low. The rates of timeliness mean:

| High | The recommendation is critical and should be commenced as soon as possible. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Moderate | Recommendation is important and may be worked on as a staged approach to program <br> improvement. |
| Low | The recommendation may be completed as resources become available. |

Effort is a measure of resources required over a period of time and is rated as high, moderate, or low. The rates of resources mean:

| High |
| :--- |
| Moderate |
| Low |

Requires direct project funding (for contracted services), possibly a multi-year project, preferably managed through dedicated resources for the term of the project, involves significant external stakeholder involvement.

May require direct project funding (for contracted services), generally completed within one business year, managed with assigned resources and possibly involves external stakeholder input.

Generally will not require direct project funding, managed through existing resources as routine business, often can be completed within one or two business quarters and generally does not involve external stakeholders.

Note: The following tables contain the recommendations, indicating their respective urgency and level of effort required for implementation.

## Public Education

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Moderate | Moderate | 1a. Recommendation <br> Educate and encourage community member <br> involvement with FireSmart Activities. <br> Project Lead <br> BHI Committee Representative <br> Benefits <br> Increase community education and involvement. | Annually | 5.1 |
| High | Moderate | 1b. Recommendation <br> Distribute information regarding FireSmart priority <br> zones. <br> Project Lead <br> BHI Committee Representative <br> Benefits <br> Reduce flammable fuels nearest to the structure. | Annually | 5.1 |
| Moderate | Moderate | 1d. Recommendation <br> Promote residences to use the "Alberta Emergency <br> Alert" App for up to date information on wildfire <br> emergencies. <br> Project Lead <br> BHI Committee Representative <br> Benefits <br> Community alertness if emergencies arise. | Annually | 5.1 |

## Development

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| High | Moderate | 2a. Recommendation <br> Develop and implement Best Management Practices <br> for road construction to ensure suitable access for <br> emergency services. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Improve emergency response times. | One Time | 5.2 .1 |
| High | Moderate | 2b. Recommendations <br> Ensure that the primary and secondary power lines <br> are maintained. <br> Project Lead | Annually | 5.2 .2 |
| Public Works Departments <br> Benefits <br> Preventative measures to maintain community safety. |  |  |  |  |


| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Moderate | Moderate | 2c. Recommendation <br> Consult with Regional Water Services Commission to <br> improve water distribution through the planning area. <br> Project Lead <br> Planning and Development Department <br> Benefits <br> Increase water resources in the planning area. | Annually | 5.2 .3 |
| Moderate | Moderate | 2d. Recommendation <br> Obtain Superior Tanker Shuttle Service (STSS) <br> accreditation. <br> Project Lead <br> Emergency Services Board <br> Benefits <br> Increase response time and decrease insurance <br> rates. | Annually | 5.2 .3 |

## Vegetation Management

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Moderate | Low | 3a. Recommendation <br> Regular maintenance of vegetation in the FireSmart <br> Non-combustible Zone and Zone 1. <br> Project Lead <br> Planning and Development Department <br> Benefits <br> Decrease fire hazards. | Annually | 5.3 |
| Moderate | Moderate | 3b. Recommendation <br> Conduct Area Hazard Assessments on standard <br> values (houses and associated structures) in close <br> proximity to Park boundaries that were not assessed <br> as part of the communities. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Preventative measures to maintain community safety. | One Time | 5.3 |

## Legislation

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Low | Moderate | 4a. Recommendation <br> Update the fire permit requirements to include <br> procedures for addressing holdover fires during the <br> winter season. <br> Project Lead <br> Administration Members <br> Benefits <br> Decrease fire hazards. | One Time | 5.4 .1 |
| Moderate | Moderate | 4b. Recommendation <br> Develop a land use bylaw that incorporates FireSmart <br> principles. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Preventative measures to maintain community safety. | One Time | 5.4 .2 |

## Inter-Agency Cooperation

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Moderate | Low | 5a. Recommendation <br> Coordinate a pre-fire season meeting with other <br> agencies to discuss the upcoming wildfire season. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Improve and maintain mutual aid agreements. | Annually | 5.5 |

## Cross-Training

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Moderate | Low | 6a. Recommendation <br> Create desktop scenarios to test out and understand <br> protocols during wildfire emergencies (example: <br> Wildfire CD's). <br> Project Lead <br> Fire Department, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry <br> Benefits <br> Increase fire preparedness for the season. | Annually | 5.6 |


| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Moderate | Low | 6b. Recommendation <br> Participate in joint wildfire exercises with Alberta <br> Agriculture and Forestry. <br> Project Lead <br> Fire Department, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry <br> Benefits <br> Increase fire preparedness for the season. | Annually | 5.6 |

## Emergency Planning

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Low | Moderate | 7a. Recommendation <br> Draft and/or update and test out the Emergency <br> Response Plan in regards to wildfire emergencies. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Improve Emergency Preparedness. | Annually | 5.7 |
| Low | Moderate | 7b. Recommendation <br> Create Wildfire Preparedness Guides for <br> communities. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Improve Emergency Preparedness. | One Time | 5.7 |

## Appendix A1: Overview and Topography Map



## Appendix A2: Values at Risk Maps








Appendix A3: Inherent Risk Map and Community Risk Assessment Results


Beaver Hills Initiative
Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities


Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities


Beaver Hills Initiative
Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities


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## Appendix A4: Fuel Map



Appendix A5: Fire Season Weather and Fire Indices Charts


Distribution of the Number of Days between 2009-2017 within the FWI 90th Percentile in Beaver County




## Appendix A6: Wildfire Threat Rating Maps

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall




Appendix A7: Wildfire Behaviour Potential Maps

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall





## Appendix A8: Linear Disturbance and Water Sources Map



## Appendix A9: Access and Staging Area Maps





































Beaver Hills Initiative FireSmart Plan, August 2018

## Section B. Camrose County

# Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies 

Camrose County

Prepared for: Beaver Hills Initiative
August 2018


ENVIRONMENTAL

## Executive Summary

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and the Wildfire Mitigation Strategies for Camrose County was developed as part of as part of the overall FireSmart Plan for the Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI). The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment was used to identify the landscape wildfire risk in communities within the study area.

As part of the Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment, five rural subdivisions and two hamlets were assessed individually for wildfire risk using the Community Wildfire Risk Assessment tool. The assessment allows Camrose County to compare the wildfire risk of rural communities relative to each other. Communities can then be ranked and prioritized for implementation of mitigation as needed.

The Guidebook for Community Protection (Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, 2013), and FireSmart: Protecting your Community from Wildfire (Partners in Protection, 2013), were essential in the development of this section of the plan.

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies section were prepared in collaboration with Camrose County representatives.

- Mike Kuzio (Protective Services Manager)
- Vern Kovac (Fire Chief for Round Hill)


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Appendix B4: Fuels Map
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Appendix B6: Wildfire Threat Rating Maps

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall

Appendix B7: Wildfire Behaviour Potential Maps

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall

Appendix B8: Linear Disturbance and Water Sources Map
Appendix B9: Access and Staging Area Maps

## 1 Planning Area and Stakeholders

The planning area consists of the northern portion of Camrose County and focuses on five subdivisions and two hamlets within the BHI study area. Camrose County is located approximately 85 kilometers southeast of Edmonton, Alberta (Figure 1).

### 1.1 Planning Area

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment includes a two kilometer buffer surrounding the communities to take into account a wildfire entering and/or leaving the community. The planning area is entirely within the Non Forest Protection Area. The land uses within the planning area includes: agriculture (crop, hay, pasture), rural residences, and subdivisions. Forest fuels are fragmented on the landscape. See Appendix B1 for Overview and Topography map.


Figure 1: General Location of Camrose County, District 22, within Beaver Hills Initiative boundary

BHI - Camrose County - Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies, August 2018

Table 1: List of Subdivisions and Municipalities in Camrose County that were assessed as part of the BHI study area

| Type | Name | Legal Land Description |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Hamlet | Kingman | N1/26-50-20-W4M |
|  | Round Hill | $\mathrm{N} 1 / 2$ 19-48-18-W4M $\mathrm{S} 1 / 230-48-18-\mathrm{W} 4 \mathrm{M}$ |
| Subdivision | Grouse Meadows | S $1 / 25-50-20-\mathrm{W} 4 \mathrm{M}$ |
|  | Macree Acres | NW 25-49-21-W4M |
|  | Miquelon Acres | SE 26-49-21-W4M |
|  | Sanctuary Estates | N $1 / 26$ 6-50-20-W4M |
|  | Whispering Hills | NW 35-49-20-W4M |

### 1.2 Stakeholders

To gain insight about the planning are, key stakeholders were involved in the process. Table 2 lists the key stakeholders involved and their responsibilities in developing the Wildfire Risk and Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Strategies.

How do we get to a FireSmart landscape? Get the right people to participate. (Partners in Protection, 2003)

Table 2: List of Stakeholders and their respective responsibilities in the development of the Wildfire Hazard and Rik Assessment and Mitigation Strategies

| Stakeholders | Responsibilities |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | • Development and implementation of the project <br> Beaver Hills Initiative <br>  <br>  <br>  <br> - Provide resources to complete the project <br> - Provide funding for the project |
| - Contract administration |  |

## 2 Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment analyzes Values at Risk, Wildfire Behavior Potential, wildfire incidence, and firefighting capabilities.

Table 3: Wildfire Hazard and Risk for the portion Camrose County that were assessed as part of the BHI planning area

| SPRING | SUMMER | FALL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MODERATE | LOW | LOW |

### 2.1 Values at Risk

Values at Risk are aspects within a community, man-made or natural, which have measurable or intrinsic worth, and have the potential to be negatively altered by fire (Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, 2011). Values at Risk encompass four broad types of values (Partners in Protection, 2003):

- Standard Values - homes and other common structures found in communities
- Critical Values - infrastructure that is vital to the wellbeing of those who reside in the planning area (e.g. major roads, power lines, etc.)
- Dangerous Goods Values - anything which may pose a safety threat to emergency responders or the public
- Special Values - areas that have natural, cultural, historical, or emotional importance to a community

Table 4: Values at Risk within and surrounding the subdivisions and hamlets in the planning area.

| Value Type | Description |
| :---: | :---: |
| Standard | Multiple houses and associated structures within identified the communities in Camrose County. |
| Critical * | - Cornerstone Christian Academy <br> - Post Office <br> - Kingman Community Hall <br> - Fire Hall <br> - Round Hill and District Community Centre <br> - Round Hill Elks Recreation Centre <br> - Round Hill School |
| Dangerous Goods | - Active Well (4) <br> - Fuel Tanks (2) <br> - Round Hill Lagoon <br> - Gas Co-op Services |
| Special | - Salem Lutheran Church <br> - Kingman Regional School Museum <br> - Round Hill Community Playground <br> - Trondhjem Lutheran Church <br> - Wildlife Sanctuary |

* Pipelines, railways, and transmission lines are identified on Linear Disturbance and Water Sources maps (see Appendix B8)


### 2.2 Community Risk Assessment

The Community Wildfire Risk Assessment is a unique tool developed by CPP Environmental to compare wildfire risk between rural communities relative to one another. Each rural community is unique and contains different factors that influence the risk in the event of a wildfire.

Categories incorporated in the risk matrix are based on:

1. Likelihood of Occurrence focuses on variable such as: fuel types, slope, ignition sources, residential burning types allowed, and crossover days.
2. Defensibility of Community focuses on variable such as: structure density, fire spread barriers, forest fuel size, maintenance, access, and suppression capability.

### 2.2.1 Inherent Risk Score

The inherent risk encompasses finer community details; it identifies the natural or man-made fuel breaks, and fragmented fuels due to agriculture and rural road networks. Factors such as fuel breaks and fragmented fuels can affect how potential wildfires spread across the landscape. The matrix takes into account conditions within and adjacent to the community. Each section of the matrix is weighted differently and assists in determining the overall threat for that community. Once calculated, the risk scores were ranked from highest to lowest to assist in prioritization of communities. See Appendix B3 for the Inherent Risk Score map and Community Risk Assessment Results.

| Risk Score Ranking Matrix |  |
| :---: | :--- |
| $1350-2520$ | Wildfire Hazard Rating: Extreme |
| $\mathbf{7 0 2 - 1 3 4 9}$ | Wildfire Hazard Rating: High |
| 300-701 | Wildfire Hazard Rating: Moderate |
| $\mathbf{0 - 2 9 9}$ | Wildfire Hazard Rating: Low |

Table 5: Inherent Risk Score and ranking for the Community Risk Assessment

| Community | Inherent Risk Score |
| :--- | :---: |
| Grouse Meadows | 592 |
| Hamlet of Round Hill | 544 |
| Hamlet of Kingman | 462 |
| Whispering Hills | 459 |
| Sanctuary Estates | 405 |
| Macree Acres | 403 |
| Miquelon Acres | 320 |

### 2.3 Wildfire Behavior Potential

Wildfire behavior is defined as "the manner in which fuel ignites, flame develops, and fire spreads and exhibits other related phenomena as determined by the interaction of fuels, weather, and topography" (Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, 2002).

To better understand seasonal wildfire potential within the planning areas, fuels data, historical weather data, and fire weather indices were analyzed. The analysis included: vegetation types, temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, wind speed and wind direction, Fire Weather Index (FWI), Fine Fuel Moisture Code (FFMC), and Initial Spread Index (ISI).

### 2.3.1 Vegetation Fuel Types

Camrose County is located in the central parkland and dry mixedwood sub-regions of Alberta. Forests within these sub-regions are characterized by trembling aspen (Populus tremuloides), white spruce (Picea glauca),
balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera), black spruce (Picea mariana), and white birch (Betula papyrifera). The area is part of the Cooking Lake Moraine, which is comprised of hummocky "knob and kettle" terrain that creates variable fuel types and a large quantity of pothole waterbodies.

Fuel types within the planning area consist mainly of deciduous-dominated vegetation. Forest vegetation is present in higher amounts in the northwest section. Agricultural land is common on the landscape and makes up most of the vegetated non-fuel fuel type. Grass vegetation is common throughout the planning area, including: all utility corridors, open fields, right-of-ways, water course channels, and ditches. Grass fuels throughout the county are in various states of maintenance.

Vegetation fuel data was acquired from the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) FireWeb website. Since fuel data for Camrose County is outside the Forest Protection Area, field assessments, satellite imagery, and Google Earth were used to verify the provincial vegetation fuel data.

See Appendix B4 for fuel maps.
Table 6: Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System Fire Behavior Prediction (CFFDRS FBP) System Fuel Types within Camrose County planning area

| CFFDRS FBP System Fuel Types | Common Language Equivalent | Fuel Coverage in Planning Area |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | ha | \% |
| D1/D2 | Aspen | 7,725 | 28.1 |
| M1/M2 | Boreal Mixedwood-50\% conifer | 1,700 | 6.2 |
| 01 | Grass | 10,389 | 37.8 |
| C1/C2 | Boreal Spruce | 542 | 2.0 |
| Vegetated Non-Fuel | Vegetated Non-Fuel | 5,381 | 19.6 |
| Non-Fuel | Non-Fuel | 1,804 | 6.6 |



Figure 2: D1/D2 Fuel Distribution and Vegetation example
Deciduous stands consist of aspen (Populus tremuloides) and balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera). These stands are most likely to burn prior to green-up in the spring due to the resin in the buds being highly
flammable or during the fall after the leaves drop. The wildfire intensity in deciduous stands is lower compared to coniferous stands since deciduous stands are unlikely to have a crown fire due to the lack of ladder fuels. Instead, a vigorous surface fire is most likely to be experienced in these stands due to the grasses and forbs that make up the composition of the ground vegetation. Within the planning area, deciduous stands are varied in size and are concentrated along the western section. The D1/ D2 fuel types make up the second largest percentage and consist of approximately $28.1 \%$ of the planning area.


Figure 3: M1/M2 Fuel Distribution and Vegetation example
Mixedwood stands are comprised of a mixture of deciduous and coniferous vegetation. Coniferous trees are associated with being volatile fuels and have a higher probability of ignition than deciduous trees. The presence of conifers in a mixedwood stand increases the potential for spotting as well as crown fires due to an increased presence of ladder fuels. Consequently, a wildfire in a mixedwood stand may have a higher degree of difficulty in controlling. Within the planning area, mixedwood stands are varied in size and are concentrated along the west section the planning area. The M1/ M2 fuel types consist of approximately $6.2 \%$ of the planning area.


Figure 4: O2 Fuel Distribution and Vegetation example
A concern for the planning area is the ignition risks for grass fires. Grass fuels are a concern in the spring and fall when grass is dead and dry (cured fine fuel conditions). During these times, ignition becomes very easy and the Rate of Spread (ROS, m/min) will be high. The O1 fuel types make up the largest percentage and consist of approximately $37.8 \%$ of the planning area.


Figure 5: C1/C2 Fuel Distribution and Vegetation example
Coniferous species such as white spruce (Picea glauca) and black spruce (Picea mariana) are considered volatile fuels. Conifer fuels are considered a high risk due to: the ability to burn throughout the fire season, the likelihood and high potential for spotting, and the likelihood and high potential for crown fires. The planning area contains some stands dominated by white spruce and/or black spruce. The C1/C2 fuel types consist of approximately $2.0 \%$ of the planning area.


Figure 6: Vegetated Non-Fuel Distribution
Vegetated non-fuels include areas of maintained grass and managed agriculture land. Vegetated non-fuels cover approximately $19.6 \%$ of the planning area.


Figure 7: Non-Fuel Distribution
Non-fuels include road networks, waterbodies, and anthropogenic features. Non-fuels cover approximately 6.6\% of the planning area.

### 2.3.2 Fire Season Weather

The analysis of the historical weather included: temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, wind speed, and wind direction.

Crossover days were used to identify periods of high fire concern. Crossover is wildfire term that identifies days when the minimum daily relative humidity $(\mathrm{RH})$ becomes lower than the ambient temperature. As RH lowers, fuels dry at a quicker rate. The combination of low RH and higher temperatures reduces the moisture
content of fine fuels (grasses, needles, herbaceous vegetation within forested stands), which can impact the Rate of Spread (ROS) of wildfire. Crossover days are easily identifiable by Emergency Services personnel when monitoring weather conditions during the fire season. The majority of crossover days occur in May during the spring fire season. This will be a period of high concern for wildfire as dead fine fuels are dry and the new vegetation has yet to mature. The second season of concern is September when vegetation begins to die, the temperature is still high, and the RH drops significantly during the day. Burning periods in the fall decrease as the days get shorter although the low RH and higher temperatures amplify the wildfire risk.

Using daily noon actuals, the temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, and wind speed were averaged. The data reflects the fire season weather by using data from 2009 to 2017 during the months of March to October. Temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, and wind speed were calculated by averaging the monthly totals.

See Table 7 and Appendix B5.
Table 7: Summary of data from two Weather Stations for the planning area

| Weather Stations: Camrose and Holden AGDM March 1, 2009-October 31, 2017 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Month | Average Temp. $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ | Average Relative Humidity (\%) | Average Wind Speed (km/h) | Average Precip. (mm) | Average Crossover (days/yr) | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Average } \\ 90^{\text {th }} \\ \text { Percentile } \\ \text { FWI } \\ \text { (days/yr) } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Average } \\ 90^{\text {th }} \\ \text { Percentile } \\ \text { FFMC } \\ \text { (days/yr) } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | ```Average \(90^{\text {th }}\) Percentile ISI (days/yr)``` |
| March | -5 | 79 | 14 | 11 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| April | 3 | 70 | 16 | 23 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| May | 11 | 60 | 16 | 38 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| June | 15 | 70 | 14 | 67 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| July | 17 | 76 | 13 | 81 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| August | 16 | 75 | 11 | 42 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| September | 11 | 70 | 13 | 24 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| October | 4 | 77 | 14 | 15 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 |

*FWI/Daily data for April-October only due to snow cover
**Temp/RH/WS/Precip data based on hourly data

Wind roses depict the distribution of wind speed and direction. Figure 8 illustrates the proportion of wind direction and speed for the days associated with the FWI $90^{\text {th }}$ percentiles per season. The seasons represent the following months: spring (March to May), summer (June to August), and fall (September and October).


Figure 8: Camrose County Hourly (1000-1900) Wind rose (2009-2017) for spring, summer, and fall
Spring: Winds are predominately from the northwest and southeast. Wind speeds are generally greater than $20 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$ and gusts may reach upwards of $40 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$. Southerly winds are often referred to as drying winds as moisture can be easily removed from fine fuels. The stronger the wind, the faster a fire will spreads due to more oxygen being supplied for combustion and drier surface fuels. Stronger wind speeds may result in spotting.

Summer: Winds are predominately from the northwest. Gusts may reach upwards of 30-40 km/hr.
Fall: Wind events are predominately from the northwest. Wind speeds are usually greater than $20 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$ and gusts may reach upwards of $40 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$. Strong wind speeds may result in spotting.


Figure 9. Illustration of spotting during a wildfire (Adopted from http://www.firewise.org). Spotting occurs when embers from burning material gets transported by the wind which has the potential to start new secondary fires.

### 2.3.3 Fire Weather Indices

Being outside of the Forest Protection Area, there is limited access to fire weather indices. Three measures that provide further insight to wildfire situation are: Fire Weather Index (FWI), Fine Fuels Moisture Code (FFMC), and the Initial Spread Index (ISI).

The FWI is used as a general index of fire danger throughout forested areas in Canada (Natural Resources Canada, 2016). The daily FWI is calculated using temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and precipitation at a specific time index (13:00). The $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile FWI was calculated to better understand what months are at a higher risk of sustaining a wildfire in the planning areas. Appendix B5 illustrates the distribution of days that are within the FWI $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile.

The FFMC was also analyzed since grass fires have historically been a large concern for local Fire Departments. The FFMC considers the dryness of small and fine forest fuels like grass. Daily FFMC is calculated using temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and precipitation based on the previous day's weather information. The planning area is located within the central parkland and the dry mixedwood natural sub-region where standing or matted grass vegetation is common. Appendix B5 shows the distribution of days that are within the FFMC $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile.

The ISI is a key component in fire behavior in regards to the Canadian Forest Fires Danger Rating System (CFFDRS). The ISI integrates fuel moisture for fine dead fuels and surface wind speed to estimate a spread potential. ISI is a key input for fire behavior predictions in the FBP system. The rate of spread predicts the speed of the fire and takes into account of the potential for spotting and crowning fires. Appendix B5 shows the distribution of days that are within the $I S I 90^{\text {th }}$ percentile.

Table 8: 90th Percentile FWI, FFMC, and ISI rating results for the Camrose County planning area based on Weather Station: Camrose and Holden AGDM (March 1, 2009 - October 31, 2017)

| Hazard Rating | FWI | FFMC | ISI |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 35.1 <br> (Extreme) | 92 <br> (Extreme) | 16 <br> (Extreme) |

### 2.3.4 Topography

Topography influences fire behaviour similar to wind where the degree of slopes directly impacts the rate of spread of a fire.

The topography in the planning area consists of mainly flat terrain. Camrose County has minimal elevation changes throughout the county except on the northern boundary that borders Beaver County. The greater slope percentages present in this area could increase the rate of spread of a wildfire. The subtle elevation changes throughout the remaining location of the planning area will have little effect on fire behaviour. The coniferous fuels as well as the dead and down woody debris present on the steep slopes may further increase the rate of wildfire spread, increasing the overall risk in these areas.

See Appendix B1 for the Overview and Topography map.

### 2.4 Wildfire Behavior Analysis

Fire weather predictions are based on the analysis of fuels, weather, and topography. Three methods were utilized to predict fire behavior: Wildfire Behaviour Potential, Wildfire Threat Rating, and the Prometheus Wildfire Model.

### 2.4.1 Wildfire Behaviour Potential and Wildfire Threat Rating

Wildfire Behaviour Potential and Wildfire Threat Rating maps were acquired from the Alberta FireWeb (AAF). The Alberta FireWeb is a spatial tool that allows wildfire planners to better understand wildfire threat in an area. Wildfire Threat Rating and Fire Behaviour Potential maps for spring, summer, and fall from FireWeb were analyzed.

It is important to note that Wildfire Threat Rating calculations were not intended to be used outside the Forest Protection Area. The rating calculations do not account for the municipal firefighting resources and the potential for quick response times from the fire halls.

The Fire Behaviour Potential varies seasonally within the planning area. The Fire Behavior Potential for spring is predominately low with the southeast section at moderate. During the summer and fall season, the fire potential is low. During the summer season, Fire Behaviour Potential is reduced to mainly a low rating due to the fact the fuels area no longer cured/dried.

Wildfire Hazard and Risk ratings depict seasonal ranges in the Wildfire Threat Rating. The Wildfire Threat Rating during spring is moderate with isolated patches of extreme where the coniferous fuel types reside. The summer season is mainly low where the fall is intermixed between low and moderate threat ratings. As the planning area is outside of the Forest Protection Area, the overall risk could decrease thus lowering the Wildfire Threat Rating.

See Appendix B6 and B7 for Wildfire Threat Rating and Fire Behaviour Potential maps.

### 2.4.2 Prometheus Wildfire Model

Prometheus runs were completed at a landscape scale that included the entire BHI study area. Historical fire season weather was modelled and the $90^{\text {th }}$ FWI percentile was used to identify burning days. Ignition points were selected based on dominate wind direction, continuity of fuels, and the potential to impact communities within the study area. The Prometheus models are discussed in further detail in Section 3 of the BHI FireSmart Plan

## 3 Wildfire Incidents

Camrose County has documented that the majority of wildfire incidents within the County have resulted from anthropogenic activities ranging from agriculture to recreation. Fire response statistics (2015-2017) were analyzed to determine when a wildfire occurred, the cause of ignition, and the total count of occurrences. Table 9 summarizes the total amount of wildfire incidences from 2015-2017. Hay Lakes fire department lies outside the BHI study area but would respond to a wildfire event if it was closer than the Hamlet of Round Hill. No response calls have been issued from this fire hall responding to a wildfire event within the BHI study area (2015-2017).

Table 9. Camrose County Wildfire Incidence Statistics

| Camrose County Grass/Brush Fire Incidences between 2015-2017 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: |
| Station | Year | Cause | Count |
| Round Hill | 2015 | Grass fires in ditch | 2 |
|  | 2016 | Grass fire in farmers field | 1 |
|  | 2017 | Grass and tree fire on private farm land | 3 |
| Hay Lakes | No recorded wildfire events within BHI study area. |  |  |

## 4 Firefighting Capabilities

Firefighting capabilities within the planning area are adequate and are able to respond to wildfire events that occur in the section of the County. Mutual aid agreements exist between neighbouring counties such as: Ponoka County, Lacombe County, Flagstaff County, Stettler County, Wetaskiwin County, and Beaver County. In addition, the municipalities that have mutual aids include: Tofield, Bawlf, Ferintosh, Edberg, Bashaw, Heisler, Daysland, Hay Lakes, Bittern Lake, and Rosalind. If county resources are dedicated to other incidents, Camrose County can request assistance through mutual aid agreements.

Along with mutual aid agreements, Camrose County has a standard inventory of firefighting resources at its disposal. Table 10 is a brief list of available equipment based out of Round Hill and Hay Lakes fire stations.

Table 10: Camrose County Fire Department Resources

| Fire Stations | Equipment Type | Quantity |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Round Hill | Pumpers (800 gallons) | 2 |
|  | $3 / 4$ ton Brush Truck (200 gallon) | 1 |
|  | Tanker (1800 gallon) | 1 |
| Hay Lakes | 1992 GMC Pumper | 1 |
|  | 2012 International Pumper | 1 |
|  | $3 / 4$ ton Brush Truck (200 gallons) | 1 |

## 5 Wildfire Mitigation Strategies

### 5.1 Education

## Recommendation 1a:

Educate and encourage community member involvement in FireSmart activities.

Recommendation 1b: Distribute information regarding FireSmart priority zones.

Recommendation 1d:
Promote residences to use the "Alberta Emergency Alert" App for up to date information on wildfire emergencies.

Education of local residents will assist in mitigating wildfires occurrences within the county. Through platforms such as social media, open houses, rural newsletters, and local school presentations/events, FireSmart objectives can be highlighted, explained and/or demonstrated. These platforms will encourage engagement with surrounding residents on issues revolving around those tasks and methods. It is recommended that Camrose County develops an educational program that focuses on fire prevention and fire safety when conducting operations such as slash burning.

Information distributed should focus and highlight Non-combustible Zone and Priority Zone 1. These areas should have priority. Information should also include, but not be limited to, fuel removal, fuel reduction, and conversion of the property.

Encouraging the download and use of the Alberta Emergency Alert app allows for a simple way for residents to have access to, and stay updated with, necessary information during potential emergencies.

### 5.2 Development

The Camrose County Public Works department oversees functions related to road maintenance and other land use planning matters. Infrastructure affects a community's resilience to wildfire. Current aspects of development to consider for possible improvements to further mitigate wildfire risks include:

- Access
- Water availability
- Signage
- Utilities
- Staging Areas


### 5.2.1 Access

Recommendation 2a:
Develop and implement Best Management Practices for road construction to ensure suitable access for emergency services.

Within and surrounding Camrose County, there are multiple means of ingress/egress to allow for safe movement of traffic during an emergency. The main means of access is Hwy 21 that runs along the western planning area boundary of study area boundary along with Hwy 617, 623, and 833. A network of township
and range roads are also available as a means of ingress/egress during an emergency. The roads are designed to accommodate two-way traffic and are wide enough to allow for evacuating vehicles to pass responding emergency personnel and equipment.

Road maintenance is required during spring melt and on newly constructed roads suffering from deep ruts, large puddles, and or a washboard surface. It is recommended that Camrose County develops and implements Best Management Practices for road construction to ensure suitable access for emergency services. Best Management Practices may include:

- enhancement of driving surface widths
- improvement of ditch slopes to improve driving surface stability
- installment of "No Parking" signage on roads critical for evacuation
- installment of designated evacuation route signs


### 5.2.2 Water Availability

The planning area subdivisions and hamlets do not have fire hydrants. The closest water truck fill station available for firefighting purposes is located near the transition of Hwy 21 to Secondary Hwy 617. The fill station is referred to as 'Hays Lakes' Water Well. The northwest section of the selected BHI study area has the highest concentration of standing waterbodies which can assist the local fire department in drawing water for firefighting purposes.

### 5.2.3 Utilities

## Recommendation 2b: Ensure that the primary and secondary power lines are maintained.

Single, secondary, and three phase power lines are present within Camrose County. Fortis Alberta owns and oversees the maintenance along the distribution right of ways. The majority of the lines have been maintained, but in certain locations vegetation management will be required. Secondary lines are prominent in the rural subdivisions and although these lines conduct less voltage in comparison to the other distribution lines, wildfires can result from these lines under the right conditions.

### 5.2.4 Staging Areas

Staging areas are for the purpose of the Fire Department to setup and run operations. They are determined on a case by case basis and consider key elements such as fire location and direction of burn. Possible staging areas have been identified in Appendix B9. Criteria for selecting possible staging area locations included adequate space to marshal equipment and equipment turn arounds, solid surfaces capable of supporting the fire trucks, and are close or within the community. Emergency Services may also utilize the County office or other facilities present in the Town of Camrose.

### 5.3 Vegetation Management

## Recommendation 3a:

Regular maintenance of vegetation in the FireSmart Non-combustible Zone and Zone 1.

## Recommendation 3b:

Conduct Area Hazard Assessments on standard values (houses and associated structures) in close proximity to Park boundaries that were not assessed as part of the communities.

Vegetation management has four FireSmart priority zones: Non-combustible Zone and Priority Zones 1, 2, and 3 . Application of vegetation management within the four priority zones will reduce hazards and improve the defensibility of a structure. Vegetation should not be modified, reduced, or removed if considered within the riparian zone, or other sensitive areas.


Figure 10: FireSmart Zones (http://www.firesmartcanada.ca/resources-library/firesmart-home-ignition-zone-graphic)

The Non-combustible Zone is the area that is 0 to 1.5 meters immediately around a structure and is considered the most critical area. This zone prevents flammable fuels from doing immediate damage to the structure.

Priority Zone 1 has a radius of 1.5 to 10 meter radius around the structure. Keeping this area clear of flammable vegetation and debris can reduce the risk of the structure igniting during a wildfire and increases the defensibility of the structure.

Priority Zone 2 has a radius of 10 to 30 meter around the structure. Maintenance of Priority Zone 2 aids in lowering the intensity and the rate of spread of a wildfire.

Priority Zone 3 extends out from 30 meters. Priority Zone 3 modification may be necessary if there are high threat levels due to heavy continuous vegetation and steep topography that could not be sufficiently reduced by fuel management in Priority Zone 2. Fuel management options for Zone 2 and 3 are most effective when conifer trees are present.

Within the Camrose County planning area, the need for fuel treatment within Priority Zone 3 may be required, but should be conducted on a case by case basis for mitigating wildfire threat to values at risk on the landscape.

Table 11: FireSmart Priority Zones Fuel Management options to improve defensibility of structures in the event of wildfire

| Priority Zone | Fuel Management Option |
| :--- | :--- |
| Non-combustible <br> Zone and Zone 1 | Mow grass (10 centimeters or less) |
|  | Remove ground litter and downed trees |
|  | Remove over mature, dead and dying trees |
|  | Plant fire resistant vegetation |
|  | Thin and/or prune existing vegetation |
|  | Remove piled debris |
| Zone 2 and 3 | Thinning understory |
|  | Pruning lower branches (within two meters from the ground) |

### 5.4 Legislation

Bylaws are an important aspect of a community. The purpose of bylaws are that "they are understandable, enforceable, and accomplish the council's desired goal" (Municipal Affairs, 2013). The review of the Bylaws included current regulations and an investigation of recommendations that could be undertaken to address specific issues to aid in meeting FireSmart goals.

### 5.4.1 Land Use Bylaw

Recommendation 4b: Develop a land use bylaw that incorporates FireSmart principles.

Incorporating FireSmart principals into the development process will ensure that the community grows in a manner that will facilitate mitigating wildfire risk within the community. The bylaw should also consider FireSmart practices as per Chapter 3 of Partners in Protection's FireSmart: Protecting Your Community from Wildfire (2003). Inclusion of FireSmart assessments prior to building a structure or developing an area will identify the hazards and risks for the sites. Based on the assessments, recommendations on setbacks from top of slopes, landscaping, and driveway or road development would be important to identify prior to development.

### 5.4.2 Fire Permit Bylaw

Recommendation 4c: Adjust the issuing of fire permits as a year round requirement.

Residents occupying rural subdivisions who burn organic materials must obtain a fire permit. Currently, a fire permit allows the individual to commence open burning activities from April 1 to October 31. Burning activities that fall outside the proposed season do not require a burning permit. It is recommended that Camrose County issue fire permits as a year round requirement.

### 5.5 Inter-Agency Cooperation

## Recommendation 5a:

Coordinate a pre-fire season meeting with other agencies to discuss the upcoming wildfire season.

Wildfires around rural communities may exceed the capabilities of local emergency responders. When Fire Service Agreements are in place, additional resources of personnel, equipment, and specialized equipment are made available. Currently, Camrose County has mutual aid agreements in place with Ponoka County, Lacombe County, Flagstaff County, Beaver County, Stettler County, and Wetaskiwin County Fire Departments. It is recommended that Camrose County continue to maintain current mutual aid agreements. Camrose Emergency Services should conduct an annual pre-season meeting with mutual aid agreements holders to discuss interagency cooperation during a wildfire incident.

### 5.6 Cross-Training

## Recommendation 6a:

Create desktop scenarios to test out and understand protocols during wildfire emergencies.

Recommendation 6b: Participate in joint wildfire exercises with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

It is recommended that the fire department execute desktop scenarios as part of their training regime. Desktop scenarios will help firefighters to work through relevant scenarios relating to Camrose County and test out and understand protocols during emergencies.

Camrose County fire department should participate in joint exercises with AAF Wildfire Management Branch in the Rocky Mountain House District. These exercises should emphasize mutual aid scenarios. Having multiple agencies participate in these training exercises will benefit all parties by illustrating key differences in strategies, tactics, and equipment.

### 5.7 Emergency Planning

Recommendation 7a:

Recommendation 7b:

Draft and/or update and test out the Emergency Response Plan in regards to wildfire emergencies.

Camrose County has an Emergency Response and an Evacuation Plan already drafted in relation to wildfire incidents. The Evacuation Plan can be referenced in Section 3.1 and Section 3.11 of the Wildfire Plan in Camrose County's Regional Emergency Plan. It is recommended once the Emergency Response Plan is updated, that the plan incorporates wildfire incidents in regards to emergency response and evacuation plans. It is recommended that the Emergency Response Plan be updated to incorporate wildfire emergency response and evacuation planning. In addition, it is recommended that Wildfire Preparedness Guides be developed for each individual subdivision and municipalities within the Camrose County planning area.

## 6 Summary of Recommendations

Each of the recommendations is ordered upon urgency and effort to assist each of the communities in making a working plan. Urgency and effort levels were set using the following criteria:

Urgency is a measure of timeliness and is rated as high, moderate, or low. The rates of timeliness mean:

| High | The recommendation is critical and should be commenced as soon as possible. |
| :---: | :--- |
| Moderate | Recommendation is important and may be worked on as a staged approach to program <br> improvement. |
| Low | The recommendation may be completed as resources become available. |

Effort is a measure of resources required over a period of time and is rated as high, moderate, or low. The rates of resources mean:

| High | Requires direct project funding (for contracted services), possibly a multi-year project, <br> preferably managed through dedicated resources for the term of the project, involves <br> significant external stakeholder involvement. |
| :---: | :--- |
| Moderate | May require direct project funding (for contracted services), generally completed within <br> one business year, managed with assigned resources and possibly involves external <br> stakeholder input. |
| Low | Generally will not require direct project funding, managed through existing resources as <br> routine business, often can be completed within one or two business quarters and <br> generally does not involve external stakeholders. |

Note: The following tables contain the recommendations, indicating their respective urgency and level of effort required for implementation.

## Public Education

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Moderate | Moderate | la. Recommendation <br> Educate and encourage community member <br> involvement with FireSmart Activities. Involvement can <br> be through social media, open houses, rural <br> newsletters, or through local school events. <br> Project Lead <br> BHI Committee Representative <br> Benefits <br> Increase community education and involvement. | Annually | 5.1 |
| High | Moderate | 1b. Recommendation <br> Distribute information regarding FireSmart priority <br> zones. <br> Project Lead <br> BHI Committee Representative <br> Benefits <br> Reduce flammable fuels nearest to the structure. | Annually | 5.1 |
| Moderate | Moderate | 1d. Recommendation <br> Promote residences to use the "Alberta Emergency <br> Alert" App for up to date information on wildfire <br> emergencies. <br> Project Lead <br> BHI Committee Representative <br> Benefits <br> Community alertness if emergencies arise. | Annually | 5.1 |

## Development

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Moderate | Moderate | 2a. Recommendation <br> Develop and implement Best Management Practices <br> for road construction to ensure suitable access for <br> emergency services. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Improve emergency response times. | One Time | 5.2 .1 |
| High | Moderate | 2b. Recommendation <br> To ensure that the primary and secondary power lines <br> are maintained. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Preventative measures to maintain community safety. | Annually | 5.2 .3 |

## Vegetation Management

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Moderate | Low | 3a. Recommendation <br> Regular maintenance of vegetation in the FireSmart <br> Non-combustible Zone and Zone 1. <br> Project Lead <br> Planning and Development Department <br> Benefits <br> Decrease fire hazards. | Annually | 5.3 |
| Moderate | Moderate | 3b. Recommendation <br> Conduct Area Hazard Assessments on standard <br> values (houses and associated structures) in close <br> proximity to Park boundaries that were not assessed <br> as part of the communities. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Preventative measures to maintain community safety. | One Time | 5.3 |

## Legislation

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Moderate | Moderate | 4b. Recommendation <br> Develop a land use bylaw that incorporates FireSmart <br> principles. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Preventative measures to maintain community safety. | One Time | 5.4 .1 |
| Moderate | Moderate | (To adjust the issuing of fire permits to a year round <br> Project Lead. <br> Administration Members <br> Benefits <br> Decrease fire hazards. | One Time | 5.4 .2 |

## Inter-Agency Cooperation

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Moderate | Low | 5a. Recommendation <br> Coordinate a pre-fire season meeting with other <br> agencies to discuss the upcoming wildfire season. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Improve and maintain mutual aid agreements | Annually | 5.5 |

## Cross-Training

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Moderate | Low | 6a. Recommendation <br> Create desktop scenarios to test out and understand <br> protocols during wildfire emergencies (example: <br> Wildfire CD's). <br> Project Lead <br> Fire Department, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry <br> Benefits <br> Increase fire preparedness for the season. | Annually | 5.6 |
| Moderate | Low | 6b. Recommendation <br> Participate in joint wildfire exercises with Alberta <br> Agriculture and Forestry. <br> Project Lead <br> Fire Department, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry <br> Benefits <br> Increase fire preparedness for the season. | Annually | 5.6 |

## Emergency Planning

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Low | Moderate | 7a. Recommendation <br> Draft and/or update and test out the Emergency <br> Response Plan in regards to wildfire emergencies. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Improve Emergency Preparedness. | Annually | 5.7 |

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| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Low | Moderate | 7b. Recommendation <br> Create Wildfire Preparedness Guides for <br> communities. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department. <br> Benefits <br> Improve Emergency Preparedness. | One Time | 5.7 |

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Appendix B1: Overview and Topography Map


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## Appendix B2: Values at Risk Maps









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Appendix B3: Inherent Risk Map and Community Risk Assessment Results


Beaver Hills Initiative
Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities


Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities


Beaver Hills Initiative
Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities


Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities


Beaver Hills Initiative
Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities


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Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities


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## Appendix B4: Fuels Map



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Appendix B5: Fire Season Weather and Fire Indices Charts


Distribution of the Number of Days between 2009-2017 within the FWI 90th Percentile in Camrose County




BHI - Camrose County - Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies, August 2018

Appendix B6: Wildfire Threat Rating Maps

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall




BHI - Camrose County - Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies, August 2018

Appendix B7: Wildfire Behaviour Potential Maps

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall




BHI - Camrose County - Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies, August 2018

Appendix B8: Linear Disturbance and Water Sources Map


BHI - Camrose County - Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies, August 2018

Appendix B9: Access and Staging Area Maps








Beaver Hills Initiative FireSmart Plan, August 2018

## Section C. Leduc County



# Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies <br> Leduc County 

Prepared for: Beaver Hills Initiative

August 2018


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## Executive Summary

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and the Wildfire Mitigation Strategies for Leduc County was developed as part of as part of the overall FireSmart Plan for the Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI). The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment was used to identify the landscape wildfire risk in communities within the study area.

As part of the Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment, 15 rural subdivisions and one hamlet were assessed individually for wildfire risk using the Community Wildfire Risk Assessment tool. The assessment allows Leduc County to compare the wildfire risk of rural communities relative to each other. Communities can then be ranked and prioritized for implementation of mitigation as needed.

The Guidebook for Community Protection (Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, 2013), and FireSmart: Protecting your Community from Wildfire (Partners in Protection, 2013), were essential followed in the development of this section of the plan.

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and the Wildfire Mitigation Strategies section was prepared in collaboration with Leduc County representatives include:

- Brad Gurmin (Regional Fire Marshal)


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Appendix C6: Wildfire Threat Rating Maps

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall

Appendix C7: Wildfire Behaviour Potential Maps

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall

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## 1 Planning Area and Stakeholders

The planning area consists of the northeast portion of Leduc County and focuses on 15 subdivisions and one hamlet within the BHI study area. The planning area is located approximately 36 kilometers southeast Edmonton, Alberta (Figure 1).

### 1.1 Planning Area

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment includes a two kilometer buffer surrounding the communities to take into account wildfire entering and/or leaving the communities. The planning area is outside the Forest Protection Area of Alberta. The land uses within the planning area includes: agriculture (crop, hay, pasture), rural residences, and subdivisions. Forest fuels are fragmented on the landscape. See Appendix C1 for Overview and Topography map.


Figure 1. General location of Leduc County within the Beaver Hills Initiative boundary.

Table 1. List of Subdivisions and Municipalities in Leduc County that were assessed as part of the BHI study area.

| Type | Name | Legal Land Description |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Hamlet | Looma | SE 35-50-23-W4M |
| Subdivision | Brightwood Estates | SW 35-50-22-W4M |
|  | Caywood | SE 25-50-23-W4M |
|  | Century Woods | NE 27-50-22-W4M |
|  | Hazel Grove | NE 31-50-22-W\$M |
|  | Kenick Estates | SW 34-50-23-W4M |
|  | Martinview Estates | SW 26-50-23-W4M |
|  | Panorama | NW 31-50-22-W4M |
|  | Paradise Hills | NE 20-50-22-W4M |
|  | Ridge Meadows | NE 27-50-23-W4M |
|  | Southwood Park | NE 27-50-22-W4M |
|  | Steinke Estates | NE 35-50-22-W4M |
|  | Tiebeke Estates | SW 36-50-22-W4M |
|  | Wildland Meadows | NE 18-50-21-W4M |
|  | Woodland Heights | SW 34-50-23-W4M |
|  | Woodvale Park | NE 26-50-22-W4M |

### 1.2 Stakeholders

The assessment focuses mainly on residential communities located in the northeast portion of Leduc County. To gain insight about the planning area, key stakeholders were involved in the process. Table 2 lists the key stakeholders involved and their responsibilities in developing the Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies.

How do we get to a FireSmart landscape? Get the right people to participate. (Partners in Protection, 2003)

Table 2. List of Stakeholders and their respective responsibilities in the development of the Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies.

| Stakeholders | Responsibilities |
| :---: | :---: |
| Beaver Hills Initiative | - Development and implementation of the project <br> - Provide resources to complete the project <br> - Provide funding for the project <br> - Contract administration |
| Leduc County | - Provide local knowledge and inputs into the plan <br> - Review and approve the plan |

## 2 Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment analyzes Values at Risk, Wildfire Behavior Potential, wildfire incidence, and firefighting capabilities.

Table 3: Wildfire Hazard and Risk results for the portion Leduc County that were assessed as part of the BHI study area.

| SPRING | SUMMER | FALL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MODERATE | LOW | MODERATE |

### 2.1 Values at Risk

Values at Risk are aspects within a community, man-made or natural, which have measurable or intrinsic worth, and have the potential to be negatively altered by fire (Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, 2011).

Values at Risk encompass four broad types of values (Partners in Protection, 2003):

- Standard Values - homes and other common structures found in communities
- Critical Values - infrastructure that is vital to the wellbeing of those who reside in the planning area (e.g. major roads, power lines, etc.)
- Dangerous Goods Values - anything which may pose a safety threat to emergency responders or the public
- Special Values - areas that have natural, cultural, historical, or emotional importance to a community

Table 4: Values at Risk within and surrounding the subdivisions and hamlet in the planning area.

| Value Type | Description |
| :--- | :--- |
| Standard | Multiple houses and associated structures within identified the <br> communities in Leduc County |
| Critical * | • Communication Tower (2) <br> - Looma Community Hall <br> - Dome Structure |
| Dangerous Goods | - Looma Waste and Transfer Station <br> - Propane Tank |
| Special | - Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary <br> - Cemetery (2) <br> - Centennial Park |

[^0]
### 2.2 Community Risk Assessment

The Community Wildfire Risk Assessment is a unique tool developed by CPP Environmental to compare wildfire risk between rural communities relative to one another. Each rural community is unique and contains different factors that influence the risk in the event of a wildfire. Categories incorporated in the risk matrix are based on:

1. Likelihood of Occurrence focuses on variable such as: fuel types, slope, ignition sources, residential burning types allowed, and crossover days.
2. Defensibility of Community focuses on variable such as: structure density, fire spread barriers, forest fuel size, maintenance, access, and suppression capability.

### 2.2.1 Inherent Risk Score

The inherent risk encompasses finer community details and identifies the natural or man-made fuel breaks, and fragmented fuels due to agriculture and rural road networks. Factors such as fuel breaks and fragmented fuels can affect how potential wildfires spread across the landscape. The matrix takes into account conditions within and adjacent to the community. Each section of the matrix is weighted differently and assists in determining the overall threat for that community. Once calculated, the risk score is ranked from highest to lowest to assist in prioritization communities (Table 5). See Appendix C3 for Inherent Risk Score Map and Community Risk Assessment Results.

| Risk Score Ranking Matrix |  |
| :---: | :--- |
| $1350-2520$ | Wildfire Hazard Rating: Extreme |
| $702-1349$ | Wildfire Hazard Rating: High |
| $300-701$ | Wildfire Hazard Rating: Moderate |
| $\mathbf{0 - 2 9 9}$ | Wildfire Hazard Rating: Low |

Table 5. Inherent Risk Score and ranking for the Community Risk Assessment.

| Community | Inherent Risk Score |
| :--- | :---: |
| Caywood | 527 |
| Woodland Heights | 504 |
| Hazel Grove | 476 |
| Hamlet of Looma | 476 |
| Woodvale Park | 468 |
| Martinview Estates | 464 |
| Tiebeke Estates | 464 |
| Kenick Estates | 448 |
| Southwood Park | 448 |
| Century Woods | 442 |
| Steinke Estates | 434 |


| Community | Inherent Risk Score |
| :--- | :---: |
| Ridge Meadows | 420 |
| Wildland Meadows | 375 |
| Panorama | 312 |
| Paradise Hills | 297 |
| Brightwood Estates | 280 |

### 2.3 Wildfire Behavior Potential

Wildfire behavior is defined as "the manner in which fuel ignites, flame develops, and fire spreads and exhibits other related phenomena as determined by the interaction of fuels, weather, and topography" (Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, 2002).

To better understand seasonal wildfire potential within the planning areas, the fuels data, historical weather data, and fire weather indices were analyzed. The analysis included vegetation types, temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, wind speed and wind direction, Fire Weather Index (FWI), Fine Fuel Moisture Code (FFMC), and Initial Spread Index (ISI).

### 2.3.1 Vegetation Fuel Types

Leduc County is located in the central parkland and the dry mixedwood sub-regions of Alberta. Forests within these sub-regions are characterized by trembling aspen (Populus tremuloides), white spruce (Picea glauca), balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera), black spruce (Picea mariana), and white birch (Betula papyrifera). The area is part of the Cooking Lake Moraine, which is comprised of hummocky "knob and kettle" terrain that creates variable fuel types and a large quantity of pothole waterbodies.

Fuel types within the planning area consist mainly of deciduous-dominated vegetation and vegetated nonfuels. Agricultural land is common on the landscape and makes up most of the vegetated non-fuel grass fuel types. Grass vegetation is common throughout the planning area, including: all utility corridors, open fields, right-of-ways, water course channels, and ditches. Grass fuels throughout the county are in various states of maintenance.

Vegetation fuel data was acquired from the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry FireWeb (AAF) website. As fuel data for Beaver County is outside the Forest Protection Area, field assessments, satellite imagery, and Google Earth were used to verify the provincial vegetation fuel data.

See Appendix C4 for fuel maps.
Table 6. Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System Fire Behavior Prediction (CFFDRS FBP) System Fuel Types within Leduc County planning area.

| CFFDRS FBP |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| System Fuel Types | Common Language | Fuel Coverage in Planning Area |  |
|  | ha | $\%$ |  |
| D1/D2 | Aspen | 3,322 | 24.6 |
| M1/M2 | Boreal Mixedwood- | 0 | 0 |


| CFFDRS FBP |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| System Fuel Types | Common Language | Fuel Coverage in Planning Area |  |
|  | Equivalent | ha | $\%$ |
|  | $50 \%$ conifer |  |  |
| O1 | Grass | 1,127 | 8.3 |
| C2 | Boreal Spruce | 208 | 1.5 |
| Vegetated Non-Fuel | Vegetated Non-Fuel | 6,920 | 51.2 |
| Non-Fuel | Non-Fuel | 1,945 | 14.4 |



Figure 2: D1/D2 Fuel Distribution and Vegetation example.
Deciduous stands consist of aspen (Populus tremuloides) and balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera). These stands are most likely to burn prior to green-up in the spring due to the resin in the buds being highly flammable or during the fall after the leaves drop. The wildfire intensity in deciduous stands is lower compared to coniferous stands, as deciduous stands are unlikely to have a crown fire due to the lack of ladder fuels. Instead, a vigorous surface fire is most likely to be experienced in these stands due to the grasses and forbs that make up the composition of the ground vegetation. Within the planning area, deciduous stands are varied in size and are concentrated along the west section the planning area. The D1/ D2 fuel types make up the second largest percentage and consist of approximately $24.6 \%$ of the planning area.


Figure 3: M1/M2 Fuel Distribution.
Mixedwood stands are comprised of a mixture of deciduous and coniferous vegetation. There are no M1/M2 stands present within the planning area.


Figure 4: 01 Fuel Distribution and Vegetation example.
A concern for the planning area is the ignition risks for grass fires. Grass fuels are a concern in the spring and fall when grass is dead and dry (cured fine fuel conditions). During these times ignition becomes very easy and Rate of Spread (ROS, $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{min}$ ) is high. The O1 fuel types consist of approximately $8.3 \%$ of the planning area.


Figure 5: C2 Fuel Distribution and Vegetation example.
Coniferous species such as white spruce (Picea glauca) and black spruce (Picea mariana) are considered volatile fuels. Conifer fuels are considered a high risk due to: the ability to burn throughout the fire season, the likelihood and high potential for spotting, and the likelihood and high potential for crown fires. The C2 fuel types consist of approximately $1.5 \%$ of the planning area.


Figure 6: Vegetated Non-Fuel Distribution.
Vegetated non-fuels includes areas of maintained grass and managed agriculture land. Vegetated non-fuels make up the largest percentage and consist of approximately $51.2 \%$ of the planning area.


Figure 7: Non-Fuel Distribution.
Within the planning area, the distribution of non-fuels varies throughout. Non-fuels include: road networks, waterbodies and anthropogenic features. Non-fuels cover approximately $14.4 \%$ of the planning area.

### 2.3.2 Fire Season Weather

The analysis of the historical weather included temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, wind speed, and wind direction.

Crossover days were used to identify periods of high fire concern. Crossover is wildfire term that identifies days when the minimum daily relative humidity $(\mathrm{RH})$ becomes lower than the ambient temperature. As RH lowers, fuels dry at a quicker rate. The combination of low RH and higher temperatures reduces the moisture content of fine fuels (grasses, needles, herbaceous vegetation within forested stands) which can impact the Rate of Spread (ROS) of fires. Crossover days are easily identifiable by Emergency Services personnel when monitoring weather conditions during the fire season. The majority of crossover days occur in May during the spring fire season. This will be a period of high concern for wildfire as dead fine fuels are dry and the new vegetation has yet to mature. The second season of concern is September when vegetation begins to die, the temperature is still high, and the RH drops significantly during the day. Burning periods in the fall decrease as the days get shorter although the low RH and higher temperatures amplify the wildfire risk.

Using daily noon actuals, the temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, and wind speed were averaged. The data reflects the fire season weather by using data from 2009 to 2017 during the months of March to October. Temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, and wind speed was calculated by averaging monthly totals.

See Table 7 and Appendix C5.

Table 7. Summary of data from two Weather Stations for the planning area.

| Weather Stations: Camrose and Edmonton South Campus U of A March 1, 2009 - October 31, 2017 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Month | Averag e Temp. ( ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) | Average Relative Humidit y (\%) | Averag e Wind Speed (km/h) | Averag e Precip. (mm) | Average Crossove r (days/yr) | Average $90^{\text {th }}$ <br> Percentil e FWI <br> (days/yr) | Average $90^{\text {th }}$ <br> Percentil e FFMC (days/yr) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Average } \\ 90^{\text {th }} \\ \text { Percentil } \\ \text { e ISI } \\ \text { (days/yr) } \end{gathered}$ |
| March | -4 | 79 | 12 | 7 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| April | 4 | 68 | 14 | 16 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| May | 11 | 59 | 14 | 29 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| June | 15 | 69 | 13 | 40 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| July | 17 | 76 | 12 | 51 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| August | 16 | 75 | 10 | 30 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Septembe | 11 | 72 | 11 | 20 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| October | 4 | 76 | 12 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

*FWI/Daily data for April-October only due to snow cover
**Temp/RH/WS/Precip. data based on hourly data

A wind rose depicts the distribution of wind speed and direction. Figure 8 illustrates the proportion of wind direction and speed for the days associated with the FWI $90^{\text {th }}$ percentiles per season. The seasons represent the following months: spring (March to May), summer (June to August), and fall (September and October).


Figure 8: Leduc County Hourly (1000-1900) Wind rose (2009-2017) for spring, summer, and fall.

Spring: Winds are predominately from the northwest and southeast. Wind speeds are generally greater than $10 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$ and gusts may reach upwards of $40 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$. Southerly winds are often referred to as drying winds as moisture can be easily removed from fine fuels. The stronger the wind, the faster a fire will spreads due to more oxygen being supplied for combustion and drier surface fuels. Stronger wind speeds may result in spotting.

Summer: Winds are predominately from the northwest. Gusts may reach upwards of 30 to $40 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$.
Fall: Wind events are predominately from the northwest. Wind speeds are usually greater than $20 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$ and gusts may reach upwards of $40 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$. Stronger wind speeds may result in spotting.


Figure 9: Illustration of spotting during a wildfire (adopted from http://www.firewise.org). Spotting occurs when embers from burning material gets transported by the wind which has the potential to start new secondary fires.

### 2.3.3 Fire Weather Indices

Being outside of the Forest Protection Area, there is limited access to fire weather indices. Three measures that provide further insight to wildfire situation are: Fire Weather Index (FWI), Fine Fuels Moisture Code (FFMC), and the Initial Spread Index (ISI).

The FWI is used as a general index of fire danger throughout forested areas in Canada (Natural Resources Canada, 2016). The daily FWI is calculated using temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and precipitation at a specific time index (13:00). The $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile FWI was calculated to better understand what months are at a higher risk of sustaining a wildfire in the AEP planning areas. Appendix C5 illustrates the distribution of days that are within the FWI $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile.

The FFMC was also analyzed as grass fires have historically been a large concern for local Fire Departments. The FFMC considers the dryness of small and fine forest fuels like grass. Daily FFMC is calculated using temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and precipitation based on the previous day's weather information. The planning area is located within the central parkland and the dry mixedwood natural sub-region where standing or matted grass vegetation is common. Appendix $\mathbf{C} 5$ shows the distribution of days that are within the FFMC $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile.

The ISI is a key component in fire behavior in regards to the Canadian Forest fires Danger Rating System (CFFDRS). The ISI integrates fuel moisture for fine dead fuels and surface wind speed to estimate a spread potential. ISI is a key input for fire behavior predictions in the FBP system. The rate of spread predicts the speed of the fire and takes into account of the potential for spotting and crowning fires. Appendix C5 shows the distribution of days that are within the ISI $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile.

Table 8: 90th Percentile FWI, FFMC, and ISI rating results for the Leduc County planning area based on Weather Station: Camrose and Edmonton South Campus U of A (March 1, 2009 - October 31, 2017).

| Hazard Rating | FWI | FFMC | ISI |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 31.4 <br> (Extreme) | 91 <br> (Very High) | 14 |

### 2.3.4 Topography

Topography influences fire behaviour similar to wind where the degree of slopes directly impacts the rate of spread of a fire.

The topography in Leduc County consists mainly of flat terrain. The planning area has minimal elevation changes throughout. The subtle elevation changes throughout the area will have little effect on fire behaviour. The coniferous fuels as well as the dead and down woody debris present on steeper slopes may further increase the rate of wildfire spread, increasing the overall risk in these areas.

See Appendix C1 for the Overview and Topography maps.

### 2.4 Wildfire Behavior Analysis

Fire weather predictions are based on the analysis of fuels, weather, and topography. Three methods were utilized to predict fire behavior: Wildfire Behaviour Potential, Wildfire Threat Rating, and the Prometheus Wildfire Model.

### 2.4.1 Wildfire Behaviour Potential and Wildfire Threat Rating

Wildfire Behaviour Potential and Wildfire Threat Rating maps were acquired from the Alberta FireWeb (AAF). The Alberta FireWeb is a spatial tool that allows wildfire planners to better understand wildfire threat in an area. Wildfire Threat Rating and Fire Behaviour Potential maps for spring, summer and fall from FireWeb were analyzed.

It is important to note that wildfire threat rating calculations were not intended to be used outside the Forest Protection Area. These rating calculations do not account for the municipal firefighting resources and the potential for quick response times from the fire halls.

The Fire Behaviour Potential varies seasonally within the planning area. The Fire Behavior Potential for spring is predominately moderate with isolated patches of extreme Fire Behaviour Potential. During the summer and fall season it ranges from low to moderate fire potential. During the summer season, fire behaviour potential is reduced to mainly a low rating due to the fact the fuels area no longer cured/dried.

Wildfire Hazard and Risk ratings depict seasonal ranges in the Wildfire Threat Rating. The wildfire threat rating during spring, summer, and fall is mainly low. As the planning area is outside of Forest Protection Area, the overall risk could decrease thus, lowering the Wildfire Threat Rating.

See Appendix C6 and C7 for Wildfire Threat Rating and Fire Behaviour Potential maps.

### 2.4.1 Prometheus Wildfire Model

Prometheus runs were completed at a landscape scale that included the entire BHI study area. Historical fire season weather was modelled and the $90^{\text {th }} \mathrm{FWI}$ percentile was used to identify burning days. Ignition points were selected based on dominate wind direction, continuity of fuels, and the potential to impact communities within the study area. The Prometheus models are discussed in further detail in Section 3 of the BHI FireSmart Plan.

## 3 Wildfire Incidents

Leduc County's documented wildfire incidents are shown to have resulted primarily from anthropogenic activities ranging from agriculture to utilities. Fire response statistics (2015-2017) were analyzed to determine when the wildfire occurred, cause of ignition, and the total count of occurrence. One main fire station (New Sarepta) oversees wildfire events within the BHI study area for Leduc County. Table 9 summarizes the total amount of wildfire incidences from 2015-2017.

Table 9. Leduc County Wildfire Incidence Statistics.
Leduc County Ground Cover Fire Incidences from 2015-2017

| Station | Year | Cause | Count |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| New Sarepta | $2015-2017$ | Surface Fires | 37 |

## 4 Firefighting Capabilities

Firefighting capabilities within the planning area are adequate and are able to respond to wildfire events that occur within the section of the County. Mutual aid agreements exist between neighbouring counties such as: Strathcona County, Camrose County, and Beaver County. In addition, the municipalities that have mutual aids are: City of Leduc, Hamlet of Nisku, City of Edmonton, and the Town of Beaumont. If county resources are dedicated to other incidents, Leduc County can request assistance through mutual aid agreements.

Along with mutual aid agreements, Leduc County has a standard inventory of firefighting resources at its disposal from the nearest fire hall. Table 10 is a brief list of available equipment based out of New Sarepta fire station.

Table 10. Leduc County Fire Department Resources.

| Fire Stations | Equipment Type | Quantity |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| New Sarepta | Pumper (5000L) | 2 |
|  | Mobile Range Unit <br> Quad fitted with 8ft trailer and firefighting gear. | 1 |
|  | Tanker (3000 gallon) | 1 |
|  | Rescue Truck | 1 |

## 5 Wildfire Mitigation Strategies

### 5.1 Education

## Recommendation 1a:

Educate and encourage community member involvement in FireSmart activities.

Recommendation 1b: Distribute information regarding FireSmart priority zones.

Recommendation 1d:
Promote residences to use the "Alberta Emergency Alert" App for up to date information on wildfire emergencies.

Education of local residents will assist in mitigating wildfires occurrences within the County. Through platforms such as social media, open houses, rural newsletters, and local school presentations/events FireSmart objectives can be highlighted, explained and/or demonstrated. These platforms will encourage engagement with surrounding residents on issues revolving around those tasks and methods. It is recommended that Leduc County develops an educational program that focuses on fire prevention and fire safety when conducting operations such as slash burning.

Information distributed should focus and highlight Non-combustible Zone and Priority Zone 1. These areas should have priority. Information should also include, but not be limited to, fuel removal, fuel reduction, and conversion of the property.

Encouraging the download and use of the Alberta Emergency Alert app allows for a simple way for residents to have access to, and stay updated with, necessary information during potential emergencies

### 5.2 Development

Leduc County's Planning Development department oversees functions related to road maintenance and other land use planning matters. Infrastructure affects a community's resilience to wildfire. Current development aspects to consider for possible improvements to further mitigate wildfire risks include:

- Access
- Water availability
- Signage
- Utilities
- Staging Areas


### 5.2.1 Access

## Recommendation 2a: <br> Develop and implement Best Management Practices for road construction to ensure suitable access for emergency services.

Within and surrounding Leduc County, there are multiple means of ingress/egress to allow for safe movement of traffic during an emergency. The main means of access is Hwy 21 that runs northwest and southeast through the west section of the planning area along with Hwy 623, 617, and 833. A network of township and range roads are available to people as a means of ingress/egress during an emergency. The roads are designed to accommodate two way traffic and are wide enough to allow for vehicles evacuating to pass responding emergency personnel and equipment.

Road maintenance is required during spring melt and on newly constructed roads suffering from deep ruts, large potholes, or a washboard surface. It is recommended that Leduc County develops and implements Best Management Practices for road construction to ensure suitable access for emergency services. Best Management Practices may include:

- enhancement of driving surface widths
- improvement of ditch slopes to improve driving surface stability
- installment of "No Parking" signage on roads critical for evacuation
- installment of designated evacuation route signs


### 5.2.2 Water Availability

Only one dry fire hydrant was identified within the planning area (Wildland Meadows). The closest water fill station/outlet is located near the municipality of New Sarepta at the intersection of Hwy 21 and Sec Hwy 623. Although there are numerous water bodies present in Leduc County, natural water sources are not considered a viable source of water for wildfire suppression.

### 5.2.3 Utilities

Recommendation 2b: Ensure that the primary and secondary power lines are maintained.

A series of single, secondary, and three phase power lines are present within Leduc County. Fortis Alberta owns and oversees the maintenance along the distribution right of ways. The majority of the lines have been maintained, but in certain locations vegetation management will be required. Secondary lines are prominent in the rural subdivisions and although these lines conduct less voltage in comparison to the other distribution lines, wildfires can result from these lines under the right conditions.

### 5.2.4 Staging Areas

Staging areas are for the purpose of the Fire Department to setup and run operations. They are determined on a case by case basis and consider key elements such as fire location and direction of burn. Possible staging areas have been identified in Appendix C9. Criteria for selecting possible staging area locations included adequate space to marshal equipment and equipment turn arounds, solid surfaces capable of supporting the fire trucks, and are close or within the community. Emergency Services may also utilize the County office or other facilities present in the City of Leduc or the Hamlet of Nisku.

### 5.3 Vegetation Management

| Recommendation 3a: | Regular maintenance of vegetation in the FireSmart Non-combustible <br> Zone and Zone 1. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Recommendation 3b: | Conduct Area Hazard Assessments on standard values (houses and <br> associated structures) in close proximity to Park boundaries that were not <br> assessed as part of the communities. |

Vegetation management has four FireSmart priority zones: the Non-combustible Zone and Priority Zones 1, 2 , and 3 . Application of vegetation management within the four priority zones will reduce hazards and improve the defensibility of a structure. Vegetation should not be modified, reduced, or removed if considered within the riparian zone, or other sensitive areas.


Figure 10: FireSmart Zones (http://www.firesmartcanada.ca/resources-library/firesmart-home-ignition-zonegraphic).

Non-combustible Zone is the area 0 to 1.5 meters immediately around a structure and is considered the most critical area. This zone prevents flammable fuels from doing immediate damage to the structure.

Priority Zone 1 has a radius of 1.5 to 10 meter around the structure. Keeping this area clear of flammable vegetation and debris can reduce the risk of the structure igniting during a wildfire and increases the defensibility of the structure.

Priority Zone 2 has a radius of 10 to 30 meter around the structure. Maintenance of Priority Zone 2 aids in lower the intensity and the rate of spread of a wildfire.

Priority Zone 3 extends out from the 30 meter. Priority Zone 3 modification may be necessary if there are high threat levels due to heavy continuous vegetation and steep topography that could not be sufficiently reduced by fuel management in Priority Zone 2. Fuel management options for Zone 2 and 3 are most effective when conifer trees are present.

Within the Leduc County planning area, the need for fuel treatment within Priority Zone 3 may be required but should be conducted on a case by case basis for mitigating wildfire threat to Values at Risk on the landscape.

Table 11: FireSmart Priority Zones Fuel Management options to improve defensibility of structures in the event of wildfire.

| Priority Zone | Fuel Management Option |
| :--- | :--- |
| Non-combustible <br> Zone and Zone 1 | Mow grass (10 centimeters or less) |
|  | Remove ground litter and downed trees |
|  | Remove over mature, dead and dying trees |
|  | Plant fire resistant vegetation |
|  | Thin and/or prune existing vegetation |
|  | Remove piled debris |
| Zone 2 and 3 | Thinning understory |
|  | Pruning lower branches (within two meters from the ground) |

### 5.4 Legislation

Bylaws are an important aspect of a community. The purpose of bylaws are that "they are understandable, enforceable, and accomplish the council's desired goal" (Municipal Affairs, 2013). The review of the Bylaws included current regulations and an investigation of recommendations that could be undertaken to address specific issues to aid in meeting FireSmart goals.

### 5.4.1 Fire Permit Bylaw

Recommendation 4c: Adjust the issuing of fire permits as a year round requirement.

Residents occupying rural subdivisions who burn organic materials must obtain a fire permit. A fire permit allows the individual to commence open burning activities from April 1 to October 31. Burning activities that fall outside the proposed season do not required a burning permit. It is recommended that Leduc County issue fire permits as a year round requirement.

### 5.5 Inter-Agency Cooperation

## Recommendation 5a:

Coordinate a pre-fire season meeting with other agencies to discuss the upcoming wildfire season.

Wildfires around rural communities can exceed the capabilities of local emergency responders. When Fire Service Agreements are in place, additional resources of personnel, equipment, and specialized equipment are made available. Currently, Leduc County has mutual aid agreements in place with Strathcona County, Beaver County, Camrose County, City of Leduc, Hamlet of Nisku, City of Edmonton, and the Town of Beaumont fire department. It is recommended that Leduc County continue to maintain current mutual aid agreements. Leduc Emergency Services should conduct an annual pre-season meeting with mutual aid agreements holders to discuss interagency cooperation during a wildfire incident.

### 5.6 Cross-Training

## Recommendation 6a:

Create desktop scenarios to test out and understand protocols during wildfire emergencies.

Recommendation 6b: Participate in joint wildfire exercises with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

It is recommended that the Fire Department execute desktop scenarios as part of their training regime. Desktop scenarios will help firefighters to work through relevant scenarios relating to Leduc County and test out and understand protocols during emergencies.

Leduc County Fire Department should participate in joint exercises with AAF Wildfire Management Branch in the Rocky Mountain House District. These exercises should emphasize mutual aid scenarios. Having multiple agencies participate in these training exercises will benefit all parties by illustrating key differences in strategies, tactics, and equipment.

### 5.7 Emergency Planning

## Recommendation 7a:

Draft and/or update and test out the Emergency Response Plan in regards to wildfire emergencies.

Leduc County has an Emergency Response and Evacuation Plan already drafted that incorporates wildfire emergencies. The Evacuation Plan and Emergency Response Plan can be referenced on the Leduc County regional website. In addition, it is recommended that wildfire preparedness guides be developed for each individual subdivision and hamlet present within the Leduc County planning area.

## 6 Summary of Recommendations

Each of the recommendations is ordered upon urgency and effort to assist each of the communities in making a working plan. Urgency and effort levels were set using the following criteria:

Urgency is a measure of timeliness and is rated as high, moderate, or low. The rates of timeliness mean:

| High | The recommendation is critical and should be commenced as soon as possible. |
| :---: | :--- |
| Moderate | Recommendation is important and may be worked on as a staged approach to program <br> improvement. |
| Low | The recommendation may be completed as resources become available. |

Effort is a measure of resources required over a period of time and is rated as high, moderate, or low. The rates of resources mean:

| High | Requires direct project funding (for contracted services), possibly a multi-year project, <br> preferably managed through dedicated resources for the term of the project, involves <br> significant external stakeholder involvement. |
| :---: | :--- |
| Moderate | May require direct project funding (for contracted services), generally completed within <br> one business year, managed with assigned resources and possibly involves external <br> stakeholder input. |
| Low | Generally will not require direct project funding, managed through existing resources as <br> routine business, often can be completed within one or two business quarters and <br> generally does not involve external stakeholders. |

Note: The following tables contain the recommendations, indicating their respective urgency and level of effort required for implementation.

## Public Education

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Moderate | Moderate | 1a. Recommendation <br> Educate and encourage community member <br> involvement with FireSmart Activities. Involvement can <br> be through social media, open houses, rural <br> newsletters, or through local school events. <br> Project Lead <br> BHI Committee Representative. <br> Benefits <br> Increase community education and involvement. | Annually | 5.1 |
| High | 1b. Recommendation <br> Distribute information regarding new FireSmart priority <br> zones. <br> Project Lead <br> BHI Committee Representative <br> Benefits <br> Reduce flammable fuels nearest to the structure. | Annually | 5.1 |  |
|  | 1d. Recommendation <br> Promote residences to use the "Alberta Emergency <br> Alert" App for up to date information on wildfire <br> emergencies. <br> Project Lead <br> BHI Committee Representative <br> Benefits <br> Community alertness if emergencies arise. | Annually | 5.1 |  |
| Moderate | Moderate |  |  |  |

## Development

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Moderate | Moderate | 2a. Recommendation <br> Develop and implement Best Management Practices <br> for road construction to ensure suitable access for <br> emergency services. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Improve emergency response times. | One time | 5.2 .1 |


|  |  | 2b. Recommendation <br> To ensure that the primary and secondary power lines <br> are maintained. | Annually |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: |
| High | Moderate | 5.2 .3 |  |
| Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Preventative measures to maintain community safety. |  |  |  |

## Vegetation Management

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Moderate | Low | 3a. Recommendation <br> Regular maintenance of vegetation in the FireSmart <br> Non-combustible Zone and Zone 1. <br> Project Lead <br> Planning and Development Departments <br> Benefits <br> Decrease fire hazards. | Annually | 5.3 |
| Moderate | Moderate | 3b. Recommendation <br> Conduct Area Hazard Assessments on standard <br> values (houses and associated structures) in close <br> proximity to Park boundaries that were not assessed <br> as part of the communities. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Preventative measures to maintain community safety. | One Time | 5.3 |

## Legislation

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Moderate | Moderate | 4c. Recommendation <br> To adjust the issuing of fire permits as a year round <br> requirement. <br> Project Lead <br> Administration Members <br> Benefits <br> Decrease fire hazards. | One Time | 5.4 .1 |

## Inter-Agency Cooperation

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Moderate | Low | 5a. Recommendation <br> Coordinate a pre-season meeting with other agencies <br> to discuss the upcoming wildfire season. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Improve and maintain mutual aid agreements. | Annually | 5.5 |

## Cross-Training

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Moderate | Low | 6a. Recommendation <br> Create desktop scenarios to test out and understand <br> protocols during wildfire emergencies (example: <br> Wildfire CD's). <br> Project Lead <br> Fire Department, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry <br> Benefits <br> Increase fire preparedness for the season. | Annually | 5.6 |
| Moderate | Low | 6b. Recommendation <br> Participate in joint wildfire exercises with Alberta <br> Agriculture and Forestry <br> Project Lead <br> Fire Department, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry <br> Benefits <br> Increase fire preparedness for the season. | Annually | 5.6 |

## Emergency Planning

| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Low | Moderate | 7a. Recommendation <br> Draft and/or update and test out the Emergency <br> Response Plan in regards to wildfire emergencies. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Improve Emergency Preparedness. | Annually | 5.7 |


| Urgency | Effort | Recommendation | Frequency | Section |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Low | Moderate | 7b. Recommendation <br> Create Wildfire Preparedness guides for communities. <br> Project Lead <br> Public Works Department <br> Benefits <br> Improve Emergency Preparedness. | One Time | 5.7 |

## Appendix C1: Overview and Topography Map



BHI - Leduc County - Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies, August 2018

## Appendix C2: Values at Risk Maps








Appendix C3: Inherent Risk Map and Community Risk Assessment Results


Beaver Hills Initiative
Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities


Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities


Beaver Hills Initiative
Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities


Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities


Beaver Hills Initiative
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Beaver Hills Initiative
Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities


Wildfire Risk Assessment For Rural Communities

| COMMUNITY： |  |  |  | Martinview Estates |  |  |  | INHERENT |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Rating | Scores |
| LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE | $\begin{aligned} & \stackrel{u}{山 己} \\ & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{z} \\ & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{u} \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | D Fuels－Deciduous <br> O Fuels－Grasses <br> M Fuels－Mixedwood <br> C Fuels－Patchy conife <br> C Fuels－Conifer |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 0 \text { or } 1 \\ & 0 \text { or } 2 \\ & 0 \text { or } 3 \\ & 0 \text { or } 2 \\ & 0 \text { or } 4 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \\ & 2 \\ & 0 \\ & 2 \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | ／10 | 5 |  |  |
|  | 夏 를 를 |  |  | VAR on the sustained slope or within 100 m of the top crest of a slope Fuel Type：D1 $\qquad$ Slope \％： <br> 0－10\％ |  |  |  | 0 to 6 | 2 |
|  |  |  |  | A Absent－No dead or down material <br> B Scattered－3－5m separating logs，branches \＆twigs <br> C Abundant－Continuous logs，branches \＆twigs |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \hline 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \\ \hline / 3 \end{gathered}$ | 1 |
|  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 㞻 } \\ & \text { 민 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \mathrm{A} \\ & \mathrm{~B} \\ & \mathrm{C} \end{aligned}$ | Absent－＜25\％of trees have ladder fuels Scattered－25\％－75\％of trees have ladder fuels Abundant－$>75 \%$ of trees have ladder fuels |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \\ & 3 \\ & 5 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \\ & 3 \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ／5 | 3 |
|  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { A } \\ & \text { B } \\ & \text { C } \\ & \text { D } \end{aligned}$ | Recreation（Presence） <br> Overhead Utility Line adjacent to forest <br> ＜ 1 km from primary／secondary roadway <br> ＜ 1 km from railway |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 0 \text { or } 1 \\ & 0 \text { or } 1 \\ & 0 \text { or } 1 \\ & 0 \text { or } 1 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 1 \\ & 1 \\ & 1 \\ & 0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ／4 | 3 |
|  |  |  |  | A | Incinerator Fires <br> Open Fires <br> Backyard Fire Pits－Standard Design |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \hline 0 \text { or } 1 \\ 0 \text { or } 1 \\ 0 \text { or } 1 \\ \hline / 3 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 1 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{A} \\ & \mathrm{~B} \\ & \mathrm{C} \\ & \mathrm{D} \end{aligned}$ | Avg \＃of crossover days $>25$ per year <br> Avg \＃of crossover days＜ 25 per year <br> Avg \＃of crossover days＜ 20 per year <br> Avg \＃of crossover days＜ 10 per year |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & 4 \\ & 3 \\ & 2 \\ & 1 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ／4 | 1 |
| Consequence $\times$ Likelihood $=$ INHERENT RISK ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | TOTAL： | 16 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

BHI - Leduc County - Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies, August 2018

## Appendix C4: Fuel Map



Appendix C5: Fire Season Weather and Fire Indices Charts


Distribution of the Number of Days between 2009-2017 within the FWI 90th Percentile in Leduc County



Distribution of the Number of Days between 2009-2017 within the ISI 90th Percentile in Leduc County


BHI - Leduc County - Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies, August 2018

Appendix C6: Wildfire Threat Rating Maps

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall




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## Appendix C7: Wildfire Behaviour Potential Maps

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall




Appendix C8: Linear Disturbance and Water Sources Map


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Appendix C9: Access and Staging Area Maps

















Beaver Hills Initiative FireSmart Plan, August 2018

## Section D. Strathcona County



# Fire Weather and Wildfire Incidences Updates <br> Strathcona County 

Prepared for: Beaver Hills Initiative
August 2018


ENVIRONMENTAL

## Executive Summary

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and the Wildfire Mitigation Strategies for Strathcona County was developed in 2016, as part of the overall Strathcona County FireSmart Plan. As a part of the BHI FireSmart Plan, the weather data and wildfire incidences were update to reflect the new data.
The updated FireSmart Plan for Strathcona County were prepared in collaboration with Strathcona County representatives.

- Gordon George (Community Safety Education Supervisor)


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Appendix D1: Fire Season Weather and Fire Indices Charts

## 1 Planning Area

The planning area consists of the western portion of Strathcona County within the BHI study area. Strathcona County is located directly east of Edmonton, Alberta (Figure 1).

After discussion with Strathcona County representatives, an update of the weather and wildfire incidences from the 2016 Strathcona County FireSmart Plan was completed.


Figure 1.General location of Strathcona County within Beaver Hills Initiative boundary.

## 2 Fire Weather and Wildfire Incidences Updates

### 2.1 Fire Season Weather

The analysis of the historical weather included temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, wind speed, and wind direction.

Crossover days were used to identify periods of high fire concern. Crossover is wildfire term that identifies days when the minimum daily Relative Humidity (RH) becomes lower than the ambient temperature. As RH lowers, fuels dry at a quicker rate. The combination of low RH and higher temperatures reduces the moisture content of fine fuels (grasses, needles, herbaceous vegetation within forested stands), which can impact the Rate of Spread (ROS) of fires. Crossover days are easily identifiable by Emergency Services personnel when monitoring weather conditions during the fire season. The majority of crossover days occur in May during the spring fire season and will be a period of high concern for wildfire as dead fine fuels are dry and the new vegetation has yet to mature. The second season of concern is September when vegetation begins to die, the temperature is still high, and the RH drops significantly during the day. Burning periods in the fall decrease as the days get shorter, however, the low RH and higher temperatures amplify the wildfire risk.

Using daily noon actuals, temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, and wind speed were averaged. The data reflects the fire season weather by using data from March to October from 2009 to 2017. Temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, and wind speed was calculated averaging monthly totals.

See Table 1 and Appendix B1.
Table 1. Summary of data from four Weather Stations for the planning area.

| Weather Stations: Elk Island National Park, Oliver AGDM, Edmonton South Campus UA, and Edmonton Blatchford. March 1, 2009 - October 31, 2017 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Month | Average Temp. $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ | Average Relative Humidity (\%) | Average Wind Speed (km/h) | Average Precip. (mm) | Average Crossover (days/yr) | Average $90^{\text {th }}$ Percentile FWI (days/yr) | Average $90^{\text {th }}$ Percentile FFMC (days/yr) | Average $90^{\text {th }}$ Percentile ISI (days/yr) |
| March | -3.4 | 72.1 | 7.6 | 10.1 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| April | 4.5 | 62.8 | 9.2 | 22.2 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 2.3 | 2.9 |
| May | 11.5 | 54.7 | 8.8 | 31.4 | 2.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 5.1 |
| June | 15.5 | 64.4 | 7.5 | 42.5 | 0.6 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 1.5 |
| July | 17.6 | 70.4 | 6.7 | 56.3 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.7 |
| August | 16.4 | 70.4 | 6.1 | 30.0 | 0.3 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.9 |
| September | 11.5 | 69.3 | 6.8 | 21.6 | 0.7 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 1.7 |
| October | 4.5 | 71.6 | 7.9 | 15.3 | 0.1 | 1.3 | 0.2 | 1.3 |

*FWI/Daily data for April-October only due to snow cover
**Temp/RH/WS/Precip data based on hourly data

Wind rose depict the distribution of wind speed and direction. Figure 2 illustrates the proportion of wind direction and speed for the days associated with the FWI 90th percentiles per season. The seasons represent the following months: spring (March to May), summer (June to August), and fall (September and October).


Figure 2. Strathcona County Hourly (1000-1900) Wind rose (2009-2017) for spring, summer, and fall.
Spring: Winds are predominately from the northwest and southeast. Wind speeds are generally greater than $10 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$ and gusts may reach upwards of $40 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$. Southerly winds are often referred to as drying winds as moisture can be easily removed from fine fuels. The stronger the wind, the faster a fire will spreads due to more oxygen being supplied for combustion and drier surface fuels. Stronger wind speeds may result in spotting.

Summer: Winds are predominately from the northwest. Gusts may reach upwards of $20-30 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$.
Fall: Wind events are predominately from the northwest. Wind speeds are largely greater than $10 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$ and gusts may reach upwards of $40 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$. Strong wind speeds may result in spotting.


Figure 3. Illustration of spotting during a wildfire (Adopted from http://www.firewise.org). Spotting occurs when embers from burning material gets transported by the wind which has the potential to start new secondary fires.

### 2.1.1 Fire Weather Indices

Being outside of the Forest Protection Area, there is limited access to fire weather indices. Three measures that provide further insight to wildfire situation are: Fire Weather Index (FWI), Fine Fuels Moisture Code (FFMC), and the Initial Spread Index (ISI).

The FWI is used as a general index of fire danger throughout forested areas in Canada (Natural Resources Canada, 2016). The daily FWI is calculated using temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and precipitation at a specific time index (13:00). The $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile FWI was calculated to better understand what months are at a higher risk of sustaining a wildfire in the planning areas.

The FFMC was also analyzed as grass fires have historically been a large concern for local Fire Departments. The FFMC considers the dryness of small and fine forest fuels, like grass. Daily FFMC is calculated using temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and precipitation based on the previous day's weather information. The planning area is located within the central parkland and the dry mixedwood natural sub-region where standing or matted grass vegetation is commonly found.

The ISI is a key component in fire behavior regarding the Canadian Forest Fires Danger Rating System (CFFDRS). The ISI integrates fuel moisture for fine dead fuels and surface wind speed to estimate a spread potential. ISI is a key input for fire behavior predictions in the FBP system. The rate of spread predicts the speed of the fire and takes into account of the potential for spotting and crowning fires.

Table 2. $90^{\text {th }}$ Percentile FWI, FFMC, and ISI rating results for the Strathcona County planning area based on Weather Station: Elk Island National Park, Oliver AGDM, Edmonton South Campus UA, and Edmonton Blatchford. (March 1, 2009 - October 31, 2017).

| Hazard Rating | FWI | FFMC | ISI |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 27 <br> (Very High) | 92 <br> (Extreme) | 11 |

## 3 Wildfire Incidents

Strathcona County has documented wildfire incidents. General Fire response statistics (2015-2017) were gathered based upon the following criteria:

- calls within the Rural Strathcona Service Area;
- outside fires ( $95 \%$ did not spread to an adjacent property);
- brush trucks dispatched.

It must be noted that the following statistics could not analyzed for the type of call.
Table 3. Strathcona County Wildfire Incidence Statistics.

| Strathcona County Outside Fire Incidences between 2015-2017 |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Year | Count |
| 2015 | 124 |
| 2016 | 101 |
| 2017 | 78 |

BHI - Strathcona County - Fire Weather and Wildfire Incidences Update, August 2018

Appendix D1: Fire Season Weather and Fire Indices Charts





Beaver Hills Initiative FireSmart Plan, August 2018

## Section E. Elk Island National Park

## Executive Summary

Elk Island National Park (EINP) is located within the Beaver Hills area and were one of the key stakeholders in the development of the FireSmart Plan for the Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI).

Through consultation with Dale Kirkland, Superintendent, Elk Island National Park and James Cook, Fire and Visitor Safety Coordinator, Elk Island National Park it was decided to produce a simple executive summary for the Elk Island National Park section of the BHI FireSmart plan.

The Fire Management Plan for EINP is in the final draft phase and is expected to be released in 2018. Once released, a copy will be provided to BHI to supplement the BHI FireSmart Plan. The Fire Management Plan for EINP will provide coverage to meet the objectives set out for the BHI FireSmart Plan project.

The following excerpts are from the Executive Summary and Section 3.2 of the EINP draft Fire Management Plan to give additional context:
"Elk Island National Park (EINP) is located within the Beaver Hills area, in central Alberta. EINP protects a portion of the Southern Boreal Plains and Plateaux Natural Region (Elk Island Management Plan 2011). The area is representative of the Boreal Transition ecoregion found along the southern fringes of the larger Boreal Plains ecozone. This ecosystem, a unique transitional area of the lower boreal mixedwood forest, is surrounded on all sides by the Aspen Parkland ecoregion.
"The EINP Fire Management Plan was developed in accordance with PCA and Park Management Planning guiding documents, and will provide the direction for the fire management program at Elk Island over the next 10 years. Evaluation and review of the success and management effectiveness of the program will be undertaken as defined in the Park condition and active management monitoring protocols."

## "3.2 Parks Canada's Wildland Fire Management Directive

The Wildland Fire Management Directive provides detailed guidance to the fire program. Fire management activities will support Parks Canada's mandate by restoring and maintaining EI, managing wildfire risk, and providing unique visitor experiences and educational opportunities. At a park level, this strategic direction is implemented through a WFMP that must address:

- Wildfire prevention
- Wildfire risk reduction
- Wildfire preparedness
- Wildfire management and response
- Prescribed fire implementation

The associated Standard Operating Procedure on Wildland Fire Management Planning directs development of a WFMP that incorporates the park's ecological and cultural objectives. The planning process includes an assessment of wildfire risk in communication with neighbouring communities and jurisdictions."

Beaver Hills Initiative FireSmart Plan, August 2018

## Section F. Alberta Environment and Park



Beaverhill Lake Heritage Rangeland Natural Area Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreational Area Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary

Prepared for: Beaver Hills Initiative


## Executive Summary

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies for the Cooking Lake - Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area (PRA), the Beaverhill Lake Heritage Rangeland Natural Area, and the Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary were developed as part of the overall FireSmart Plan for the Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI). The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment was used to identify the landscape wildfire risk for three separate provincially held lands within the study area.

The Guidebook for Community Protection (Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, 2013), and FireSmart: Protecting your Community from Wildfire (Partners in Protection, 2013) were followed in the development of this section.

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and the Wildfire Mitigation Strategies were prepared in collaboration with Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) representatives.

| Cooking Lake - Blackfoot <br> Provincial Recreation Area <br> (PRA) | Beaverhill Lake Heritage <br> Rangeland Natural Area | Ministik Lake Game Bird <br> Sanctuary |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  <br> Resource Management <br> Coordinator) |  <br> Resource Management <br> Coordinator) |  <br> Resource Management <br> Coordinator) |
| Ksenija Vujnovic (Parks Ecologist) | Ksenija Vujnovic (Parks Ecologist) | Kristofer Heemerych (Wildfire |
| Kristofer Heemerych (Wildfire | Kristofer Heemerych (Wildfire | Prevention Officer) |
| Prevention Officer) | Prevention Officer) |  |

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## 1 Planning Area and Stakeholders

The Beaver Hill Initiative contains multiple provincially held lands. Of these lands, three main areas were analyzed for the Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment.


Figure 1: Overview of Beaverhill Lake Heritage Rangeland Natural Area, Cooking Lake - Blackfoot, and Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary within the BHI study area.

### 1.1 Planning Area

All three planning areas fall within the Beaver Hills Initiative study area. See Appendix F1 for the Planning Areas Overview map.

### 1.1.1 Beaverhill Lake Heritage Rangeland Natural Area

The Beaverhill Lake planning area is located approximately 106 kilometres east of Edmonton, Alberta (Figure 1) within Beaver County and Lamont County. The planning area is outside the Forest Protection Area. The land uses within the planning area includes: grazing dispositions, wildlife management zones, and recreational activities.

### 1.1.2 Cooking Lake - Blackfoot Provincial Recreational Area

The Cooking Lake - Blackfoot planning area is located approximately 44 kilometres east of Edmonton, Alberta (Figure 1) within Beaver County. The planning area is outside the Forest Protection Area. The land uses within the planning area includes: wildlife management zones, agriculture, recreational and education activities, and industry.

### 1.1.3 Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary

The Minstik Bird Sanctuary planning area is located approximately 24 kilometres southeast of Edmonton, Alberta (Figure 1) within Beaver County, Camrose County, Leduc County, and Strathcona County. The planning area is outside the Forest Protection Area. The land uses within the planning area includes: wildlife management zones, recreational activities, and parcels of private land.

### 1.2 Stakeholders

The three planning areas are diverse and support a variety of land uses. Table 1 lists the key stakeholders involved and their responsibilities in developing the Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment.

All stakeholders were provided opportunities to review the document and provide input during the process.

How do we get to a FireSmart landscape? Get the right people to participate. (Partners in Protection, 2003)

Table 1. List of stakeholders and their respective responsibilities in the development of the Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies.

| Stakeholders | Responsibilities |
| :---: | :---: |
| Beaver Hills Initiative | - Develop and implementation of the project. <br> - Provide resources to complete the project. <br> - Provide funding for the project. <br> - Contract administration. |
| Beaver County | - Provide local knowledge and inputs into the plan. <br> - Review and approve the plan. |

## 2 Previous FireSmart Plans

The Beaverhill Lake FireSmart Plan was developed in 2011 by Beaver County and Lamont County, for both the Beaverhill Lake Heritage Rangeland and Beaverhill Lake Natural Area. The 2011 plan consisted of a landscape fire assessment, wildland urban interface planning, and a fire hazard containment/ reduction

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program. The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment takes into account the information provided in the 2011 FireSmart Plan.

## 3 Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment

The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment analyzes the Values at Risk, Wildfire Behavior Potential, wildfire incidence, and firefighting capabilities.

Table 2: Results for the Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment for each study area.

| Season | Beaverhill Lake | Cooking Lake - Blackfoot | Minstik Bird Sanctuary |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Spring | MODERATE | MODERATE | MODERATE |
| Summer | LOW | LOW | LOW |
| Fall | LOW | LOW | LOW |

### 3.1 Values at Risk

Values at Risk are aspects within a community, either man-made or natural, which have measurable or intrinsic worth, and have the potential to be negatively altered by fire (Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, 2011).

Values at Risk encompass four broad types of values (Partners in Protection, 2003):

- Standard Values - homes and other common structures found in communities.
- Critical Values - infrastructure that is vital to the wellbeing of those who reside in the planning area (e.g. major roads, power lines, etc.).
- Dangerous Goods Values - anything which may pose a safety threat to emergency responders or the public.
- Special Values - areas that have natural, cultural, historical, or emotional importance to a community.
Table 3: Values at Risk within the planning areas.

| Values At Risk | Beaverhill Lake | Cooking Lake - Blackfoot | Minstik Bird Sanctuary |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Numerous farm residences and structures in surrounding area |  |  |
| Standard * |  | - Bus Shelter (4) <br> - Vault Toilet (19) <br> - Fire Pit (40) <br> - Storage (12) <br> - Maintenance Facility <br> - Picnic Shelter (11) | - Boat Launch |
| Critical | Utilities and distribution power lines |  |  |

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| Values At Risk | Beaverhill Lake | Cooking Lake - Blackfoot | Minstik Bird Sanctuary |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Standard * | Numerous farm residences and structures in surrounding area |  |  |
|  |  | - Maintenance Yard <br> - Communication Tower <br> - Office (2) <br> - Water Valve <br> - Fire Spotting Tower |  |
| Dangerous Goods | - Wellsite | - Wellsite (24) <br> - Horse Excrement Storage Bin (3) <br> - Fuel Supply (2) <br> - Gas Meter and Waste Water Station | - Wellsite (9) |

* Major utilities and distribution power lines are identified on Linear Disturbance and Water Sources maps
* Not all Standard Values at Risk identified are a concern to Alberta Parks as they follow the Fire Priority Suppression list: Human life, Communities ect.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) has its own fire suppression priority list to protect Values at Risk during a wildfire event. The priority list is as follows:

1. Human life (e.g. commercial/ industrial camps, campgrounds, etc.)
2. Communities (e.g. villages, hamlets, etc.)
3. Watersheds/ soils (e.g. critical fish habitat, sensitive soils, etc.)
4. Natural resources (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, etc.)
5. Infrastructure (e.g. major roads, distribution lines, etc.)

### 3.1.1 Areas for Special Consideration

The Beaverhill Lake Heritage Rangeland Natural Area contains areas of special consideration:

- Marsh Habitat Development Areas (3),
- Waterfowl Production Areas (2),
- Drainage Irrigation Areas (2), and
- Waterfowl Habitat Protection Area.


### 3.2 Wildfire Behavior Potential

Wildfire behavior is defined as "the manner in which fuel ignites, flame develops, and fire spreads and exhibits other related phenomena as determined by the interaction of fuels, weather, and topography" (Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, 2002).

To better understand seasonal wildfire potential within the planning areas, fuels data, historical weather data, and fire weather indices was analyzed. The analysis included vegetation types, temperature, relative humidity, precipitation, wind speed and wind direction, Fire Weather Index (FWI), Fine Fuel Moisture Code (FFMC), and Initial Spread Index (ISI).

### 3.2.1 Vegetation Fuel Type

The Beaver Hills area is located in the central parkland and dry mixedwood sub-regions of Alberta. Forests within these sub-regions are characterized by trembling aspen (Populus tremuloides), white spruce (Picea

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glauca), balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera), black spruce (Picea mariana), and white birch (Betula papyrifera). The area is part of the Cooking Lake Moraine, this moraine is comprised of hummocky "knob and kettle" terrain that creates variable fuel types and a large quantity of pothole waterbodies.

Vegetation fuel data was acquired from the AAF Fireweb website. Satellite imagery and google earth were used to compare against the provincial vegetation fuel data.

See Appendix F3 for Fuels Maps.

## Beaverhill Lake Heritage Rangeland Natural Area

Fuel types consist mainly of deciduous dominated vegetation that consist of trembling aspen (Populus tremuloides) and balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera). Inputs from the FireSmart Committee have verified the historical lake bed is no longer dominated by surface water. The waterbody has transitioned and now dominated by grass vegetation. Areas utilized for agricultural uses (hay and pasture) are also dominated by grass vegetation.

## Cooking Lake - Blackfoot Provincial Recreational Area

Fuel types within the planning area consists mainly of deciduous vegetation (D1/D2). Higher densities of coniferous tree species are concentrated along the southwest section of the area. Grass vegetation dominates the interior portion of the area.

## Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary

Fuel types within the planning area consist mainly of deciduous vegetation at large densities. Higher densities of coniferous tree species are scattered throughout the area. Agricultural farmland and grass vegetation are commonly found outside the Ministik with only small segments within the area.

Table 4: Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System Fire Behavior Prediction (CFFDRS FBP) System Fuel Types.

| CFFDRS FBP System <br> Fuel Types | Common language Equivalent |
| :--- | :--- |
| D1/D2 | Aspen |
| M1/M2 | Boreal Mixedwood (50\% conifer) |
| O1 | Grass |
| C1/C2 | Spruce - Lichen Woodland |
| Vegetated Non-Fuel | Vegetated Non-Fuel |
| Non-Fuel | Non-Fuel |

Table 5: Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System Fire Behavior Prediction (CFFDRS FBP) System Fuel Types within the planning areas.

| CFFDRS FBP <br> System Fuel <br> Types | Beaverhill Lake |  | Cooking Lake - <br> Blackfoot |  | Ministik Bird Sanctuary |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ha | \% | ha | $\%$ | ha | \% |
| D1/D2 | 831 | 4.8 | 4,736 | 47.9 | 4,817 | 65 |
| M1/M2 | 26 | 0.2 | 29 | 0.3 | 136 | 1.9 |
| O1 | 1,450 | 8.3 | 4,374 | 44.2 | 4 | 0.1 |
| C1/C2 | 38 | 0.2 | 40 | 0.4 | 497 | 6.8 |

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| Vegetated Non- <br> Fuel | 2,881 | 16.5 | $<0.01$ | $<0.01$ | 336 | 4.6 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Non-Fuel | 4 | 0.02 | 716 | 7.2 | $<0.01$ | $<0.01$ |

* The Beaverhill Lake has mostly dried up and fuels have not been updated to reflect this; thus, a red hatched area has been added to show the additional O1 fuels in this area.

Figure 2: D1/D2 distribution in the Planning Areas.


Deciduous stands are most likely to burn prior to green-up in the spring due to the resin in the buds being highly flammable or during the fall after the leaves drop. The wildfire intensity is lower compared to spruce stands, because deciduous stands are unlikely to have a crown fire due to the lack of ladder fuels. Instead, a vigorous surface fire is most likely to be experienced in these stands due to the grasses and forbs that make up the composition of the ground vegetation. The deciduous stands consist of aspen (Populus tremuloides) and balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera).

Figure 3: M1/M2 distribution in the Planning Areas.


Mixedwood stands are comprised of a mixture of deciduous and coniferous vegetation. Coniferous trees are associated with being volatile fuels and have a higher probability of ignition than deciduous trees. The presence of conifers in a mixedwood stand increases the potential for spotting as well as crown fire due to an increased presence of ladder fuels. Consequently, a wildfire in a mixedwood stand will have a higher degree of difficulty in controlling.

Figure 4: O1 distribution in the Planning Areas.


A common concern for the planning areas is the ignition risks for grass fires. Grass fuels are a concern in the spring and fall when grass is dead and dry (cured fine fuel conditions), which provides for easy ignition and fast moving fires. Cured grass fires will have a high rate of spread ( $\mathrm{ROS}, \mathrm{m} / \mathrm{min}$ ).

The Beaverhill Lake has mostly dried up and fuels have not been updated to reflect this; thus, a red hatched area has been added to show the additional O 1 fuels in this area.

Figure 5: C1/C2 distribution in the Planning Areas.


Coniferous species such as white spruce (Picea glauca) and black spruce (Picea mariana) are considered volatile fuels. Conifer fuels are considered a high risk due to: the ability to burn throughout the fire season, the likelihood and high potential for spotting, and the likelihood and high potential for crown fires.

Figure 6: Vegetated Non-Fuel distribution in the Planning Areas.


The distribution of vegetated non-fuels varies within the planning areas due to being predominantly composed of forest fuels. Vegetated non-fuels includes areas of maintained grass and managed agriculture land.

Figure 7: Non-fuel distribution in the Planning Areas.


The distribution of non-fuels varies within the planning areas. Non-fuels includes road networks (gray), waterbodies (blue), and anthropogenic features (gray). Inputs from the FireSmart Committee have verified the historical lake bed (Beaverhill Lake) is no longer dominated by surface water. The waterbody has transitioned and now dominated by herbaceous and low shrubby vegetation.

### 3.2.2 Fire Season Weather

Crossover days were used to identify periods of high fire concern. Crossover is a wildfire term that identifies days when the minimum daily Relative Humidity (RH) becomes lower than the ambient temperature. As RH lowers, fuels dry at a quicker rate. The combination of low RH and higher temperatures reduces the moisture content of fine fuels (grasses, needles, herbaceous vegetation), which can impact the rate of spread of fires. Crossover days are easily identifiable by Emergency Services personnel when monitoring weather conditions

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during the fire season. The majority of crossover days occur in May during the spring fire season and will be a period of high concern for wildfire as dead fine fuels are dry and the new vegetation has yet to mature. The second season of concern is September when vegetation begins to die, the temperature is still high, and the RH drops significantly during the day. Burning periods in the fall decrease as the days get shorter, however, the low RH and higher temperatures amplify the wildfire risk.

See Appendix F4 for Fire Season Weather and Fire Indices Charts.
Weather data was retrieved from Weather Station Data Viewer for Camrose, Edmonton South Campus UA, Elk Island Nat Park, and Mundare AGDM. The data reflects the fire season weather by using data from March to October from 2009 to 2017.

Table 6. Summary of data from four Weather Stations for Planning Areas.
Weather Stations: Camrose, Edmonton South Campus U of A, Elk Island Nat Park, and Mundare AGDM (March 1, 2009 - October 31, 2017)

| Month | Average Temp. $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ | Average Relative Humidity (\%) | Average Precip./ month (mm) | Average Wind Speed (km/h) | Average Crossover days/year | Average $90^{\text {th }}$ <br> Percentile FWI <br> (days/year) | Average $90^{\text {th }}$ <br> Percentile FFMC (days/year) | Average $90^{\text {th }}$ <br> Percentile ISI <br> (days/year) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| March | -4 | 76 | 11 | 11 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| April | 4 | 67 | 26 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| May | 11 | 57 | 38 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| June | 15 | 68 | 58 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| July | 17 | 75 | 70 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| August | 16 | 74 | 38 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| September | 11 | 71 | 24 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| October | 4 | 74 | 16 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |

*FWI/Daily data for April-October only due to snow cover
**Temp/RH/WS/Precip. data based on hourly data

Wind roses depict the distribution of wind speed and direction. The Figure 8 illustrates the proportion of wind direction and speed for the days associated with the FWI 90th percentiles per season. The seasons represent the following months: spring (March to May), summer (June to August), and fall (September and October).

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Figure 8: Planning Areas Hourly (10:00 - 19:00 LST) Wind Rose (2009 - 2017): spring, summer, and fall.


Spring: Winds are predominately from the northwest and southeast, and may have gusts upwards of 40 $\mathrm{km} / \mathrm{hr}$. Southerly winds are often referred to as drying winds as moisture can be easily removed from fine fuels. The stronger the wind, the faster a fire will spreads due to more oxygen being supplied for combustion and drier surface fuels. Stronger wind speeds may result in spotting.

Summer: Winds are predominately from the northwest. Gusts may reach upwards of 30-40 km/hr but are generally less than $20 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$.

Fall: Wind events are predominately from the northwest and gusts may reach upwards of $40 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{hr}$. Stronger wind speeds may result in spotting.


Figure 9: Illustration of spotting during a wildfire (Adopted from http://www.firewise.org). Spotting occurs when embers from burning material gets transported by the wind which has the potential to start new secondary fires.

### 3.2.3 Fire Weather Indices

Being outside of the Forest Protection Area, there is limited access to fire weather indices. Three measures that provide further insight to wildfire condition are: Fire Weather Index (FWI), Fine Fuels Moisture Code (FFMC), and the Initial Spread Index (ISI).

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The FWI is used as a general index of fire danger throughout forested areas in Canada (Natural Resources Canada, 2016). The daily FWI is calculated using temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and precipitation at a specific time index (13:00). The $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile FWI was calculated to better understand what months are at a higher risk of sustaining a wildfire in the AEP planning areas. Appendix F4 illustrates the distribution of days that are within the FWI $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile.

The FFMC was also analyzed to provide insight into the risk associated with fine fuels. Grass fires have historically been a large concern for the local Fire Departments. The FFMC considers the dryness of small and fine forest fuels, like grass. Daily FFMC is calculated using temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and precipitation based on the previous day's weather information. All three planning areas are located within the central parkland and/or the dry mixedwood subregion where standing or matted grass vegetation is commonly found. Appendix F4 shows the distribution of days that are within the FFMC 90 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ percentile.

The ISI is a key component in fire behavior regarding the Canadian Forest Fires Danger Rating System (CFFDRS). It integrates fuel moisture for fine dead fuels and surface wind speeds to estimate a spread potential. ISI is a key input for fire behavior predictions in the Fire Behaviour Prediction system. The rate of spread predicts the speed of the fire and takes into account of the potential for spotting and crowning fires. Standard units utilized for this variable is usually placed as meters per minute ( $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{min}$ ). Appendix F4 shows the distribution of days that are within the ISI $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile.

Table 7: 90 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Percentile FWI, FFMC, and ISI rating results for the three Planning Areas based on Weather Stations: Camrose, Edmonton South Campus U of A, Elk Island Nat Park, and Mundare AGDM (March 1, 2009 - October 31, 2017).

| Hazard Rating | FWI | FFMC | ISI |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 29.5 | 91 | 13 |
|  | (Very High) | (Very High) | (Very High) |

### 3.2.4 Topography

Topography influences fire behaviour similar to wind where slopes can directly impacts the rate of spread of a fire. The area is part of the Cooking Lake Moraine, this moraine is comprised of hummocky "knob and kettle" terrain that creates variable local topography.

See Appendix F1 for Overview and Topography Maps.

## Beaverhill Lake Heritage Rangeland Natural Area

Beaverhill Lake is mainly flat with some limited elevation changes along the boundary, as well as in the historical lake bed. The subtle elevation changes throughout the planning area will have little effect on fire behaviour. Both the grass fuels and the dead and down woody debris that are present on the slopes of the lake bed may increase the wildfire rate of spread and thereby increasing the overall risk in the area.

## Cooking Lake- Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area

Cooking Lake - Blackfoot consists of gentle slopes with moderate elevation changes especially near the southwest section. The greater slope percentages present in this area could increase the rate of spread of a wildfire. The coniferous fuels as well as the dead and down woody debris present on steeper slopes may further increase the wildfire rate of spread thereby increasing the overall risk in the area.

## Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary

Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary consists of mainly flat terrain with some gently slopes. The area has minimal elevation changes throughout with the exception of the northern and southern boundaries. The areas with minimal elevation changes will have little effect on fire behaviour. The coniferous fuels as well as the dead and down woody debris present on the steeper slopes may further increase the wildfire rate of spread, thereby increasing the overall risk.

### 3.3 Wildfire Behavior Analysis

Fire weather predictions are based on the analysis of fuels, weather, and topography. Two methods were utilized to predict fire behavior: Wildfire Behaviour Potential and Wildfire Threat Rating, and the Prometheus Wildfire Model.

### 3.3.1 Wildfire Behaviour Potential and Wildfire Threat Rating

Wildfire Behaviour Potential and Wildfire Threat Rating maps were acquired from the Alberta FireWeb (Alberta Agriculture and Forestry). The Alberta FireWeb is a spatial tool that allows wildfire planners to better understand wildfire threat in an area. Wildfire Threat Rating and Fire Behaviour Potential maps for spring, summer and fall from FireWeb were analyzed.

It is important to note that wildfire threat rating calculations were not intended to be used outside the Forest Protection Area. This is because it does not account for municipal firefighting resources that the municipalities and counties have at their disposal, as well as the quick response times from the fire halls.

See Appendix F5 and F6 for Wildfire Threat Rating and Fire Behaviour Potential maps.

## Beaverhill Lake Heritage Rangeland Natural Area

The Fire Behaviour Potential varies seasonally within the planning area. The Fire Behavior Potential for spring has a moderate fire potential, while the summer and fall season ranges from low to moderate. During the summer season, fire behaviour potential is reduced to mainly a low rating due to green up. The surface water within Beaverhill Lake has receded significantly over the past years. As a result, the fireweb database has not captured the vegetation that now occupies the historic lake bed and therefore not representing an accurate rating within the historic lake boundary.

Wildfire Hazard and Risk ratings depict seasonal ranges in the Wildfire Threat Rating. The Wildfire Threat Rating is low to moderate.

## Cooking Lake- Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area

The Fire Behaviour Potential varies seasonally within the planning area. The Fire Behavior Potential for spring is predominately low with the southeast section at moderate. During the summer and fall season, the fire potential is low as fuels are no longer cured/dried.

Wildfire Hazard and Risk ratings depict seasonal ranges in the Wildfire Threat Rating. The wildfire threat rating during spring is moderate with isolated patches of extreme correlating to where the coniferous fuels reside. The summer season is mainly low where the fall is intermixed between low and moderate fire behaviour potential.

## Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary

The Fire Behaviour Potential varies seasonally within the study area. The fire behavior potential for spring is predominately moderate with isolated patches of extreme fire behaviour potential. During the summer and fall season it ranges from low to moderate fire potential. During the summer season, fire behaviour potential is reduced to mainly a low rating due to green up.

Wildfire Hazard and Risk ratings depict seasonal ranges in the wildfire threat rating. The wildfire threat rating during spring, summer, and fall is mainly low.

### 3.3.2 Prometheus Wildfire Model

Prometheus runs were completed at a landscape scale that included the entire Beaver Hill Initiative study area. Historical fire season weather was modelled and the $90^{\text {th }}$ FWI percentile was used to identify burning days. Ignition point were selected based on dominate wind direction, continuity of fuels, and the potential to impact communities within the study area. The Prometheus models are discussed in further detail in Section 3 of the BHI FireSmart Plan.

## 4 Wildfire Incidents

Information on wildfire incidents that occur outside the Forest Protection Area are not recorded by AAF. Based on information from AEP, Table 8 details the wildfire and land use history in the area. According to AEP, the main source of recent fires are human-caused.

Table 8: Historical Wildfire and Land Use, Beaverhill Lake, Cooking Lake - Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area, Ministik Lake Bird Game Sanctuary.

| Date | Historical Wildfire and Land Use |
| :--- | :--- |
| $1880 ' s$ | Part of Beaver Hills Timber Reserve administered by <br> Federal Government |
| $\mathbf{1 8 9 2}$ | Area designated as a Timber Reserve |
| $\mathbf{1 8 9 5}$ | Major fires swept through the area |
| 1895 | Wm. Stephens appointed first Forest Ranger; <br> originally 170 sq. miles set aside as a Forest Reserve |
| $\mathbf{1 8 9 9}$ | Proclaimed a Forest Reserve by Departmental Order |
| $1910-1911$ | First Tree Nursery established |
| 1915 | First grazing began |
| 1924 | Fire destroyed most of the plantings in the tree <br> nursery |
| 1928 | The original fire tower was built |
| $\mathbf{1 9 2 9}$ | Fires swept through the area |
| 1930 | Beaver Hills Forest Reserve taken over by the <br> province of Alberta |
| $\mathbf{1 9 5 3}$ | Fires swept through the area |
| 1880 's | Part of Beaver Hills Timber Reserve administered by <br> Federal Government |
| $\mathbf{1 8 9 2}$ | Area designated as a Timber Reserve |
| $\mathbf{1 8 9 5}$ | Major fires swept through the area |

## 5 Firefighting Capabilities

As per the Forest and Prairie Protection Act, Section 7, counties and municipal districts are responsible for fighting and controlling all wildfires within their municipal boundary. This includes wildfires within all public lands (occupied and unoccupied) that are within their municipal boundaries.

In all cases of wildfire within the planning area, AAF assists in fighting wildfires when requested through the mutual aid agreements. AEP has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with AAF where they can request assistance to fight wildfires in parks. There are Mutual Aid Agreements between the municipalities that provide adequate coverage for fighting wildfire within the planning area.

## 6 Wildfire Mitigation Strategies

Recommendation numbering corresponds to the master mitigation overview table for the BHI study area.

| Rec | Beaverhill <br> Lake Heritage <br> Rangeland <br> Natural Area |  | Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1. Education <br> Education of local residents will assist in mitigating wildfire occurrences. Through platforms such as social media, open houses, rural newsletters, and local school presentations/events, FireSmart objectives can be highlighted, explained, and/or demonstrated. <br> Information should also focus and highlight the critical FireSmart Priority Zones: Non-combustible Zone, Priority Zone 1. Non-combustible Zone focuses on the materials and vegetation in a 1.5 meter radius from a selected structure. Priority Zone 1 is the area within a 10 meter radius from structures. Structures within the Priority Zone 1 could range from bins and sheds to garages and houses. These areas should be priority, as maintenance will reduce the risk of ignition and increase the definability of the structure. Information should also include, but not be limited to fuel removal, reduction, and conversion of the property. |  |  |  |
| 1c. Distribute and/or post information regarding FireSmart and wildfire prevention at strategic locations such as public buildings, kiosks, and trail heads. | x | x | x |
| 2. Development <br> The provincial areas contain the largest amount of continuous fuels within the BHI study area. A network of township and range roads are available for landowners who reside closest to the provincial area. The roads are designed to accommodate two way traffic and are wide enough to allow for evacuation past responding emergency personnel and equipment. Road maintenance is required during spring melt to minimize deep ruts, large potholes, and/or a washboard surface roads frequently used for access. In the right conditions, wildfires can be caused from power lines. Staging areas for directing field operations are determined on a case by case basis and consider key elements such as fire location and wind direction. |  |  |  |
| 2a. Develop and implement Best Management Practices for road construction to ensure suitable access for emergency services. | X | x | x |

BHI - Beaverhill Lake Heritage Rangeland Natural Area, Cooking Lake - Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area, Ministik Lake Bird Game Sanctuary - Wildfire Risk and Hazard Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategies, August 2018

| Recommendations | Beaverhill <br> Lake Heritage <br> Rangeland <br> Natural Area | Cooking Lake <br> - Blackfoot <br> Provincial <br> Recreation <br> Park | Ministik Lake <br> Game Bird <br> Sanctuary |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2b. Ensure that the primary and secondary power lines <br> are maintained. | x | x | x |
| 4. Legislation   x <br> 4d. Continue to limit development within the planning <br> area.    |  |  |  |

## Appendix F1: Overview and Topography Maps





## Appendix F2: Values at Risk Maps











## Appendix F3: Fuels Maps





## Appendix F4: Fire Season Weather and Fire Indice Charts

Weather data obtained from the following AGDM Weather Stations (March 1, 2009 - October 31, 2017):

- Camrose
- Edmonton South Campus U of A
- Elk Island Nattional Park
- Mundare






## Appendix F5: Wildfire Threat Rating Maps




$|$|  | Wildfire Threat Rating  <br> $\square$ Non-Fuel <br> $\square$ Low Wildfire Threat Potential <br> $\square$ Moderate Wildfire Threat Potential <br> $\square$ High Wildfire Threat Potential <br> $\square$ Very High Wildfire Threat Potential <br> $\square$ Extreme Wildfire Threat Potential |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\quad$ |  |

## Fuel type



Source: Contains information licensed under the
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Open Government License -Abera.
Coordinates system: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N

| $1: 110,000$ |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |



## Appendix F6: Wildfire Behavior Potential Maps



## Spring




Spring



## Spring



## Appendix F7: Linear Disturbance and Water Source Maps





## 3. Prometheus Fire Model

Prometheus is a wildfire growth model that is widely utilized across Canada (Tymstra et al., 2010). The model was implemented within this analysis to better understand how a fire may be influenced by the fuel types, weather, and topography within the planning area. Prometheus simulations assist by allowing for the analysis of: fire intensities, sizes, ignitions points, weather conditions, and thus, overall consequence of a wildfire within the project area.

This section includes a general overview of vegetation fuels within the BHI study area and a description of the Prometheus simulations.

## BHI Vegetation Fuel Types

The Beaver Hills area is located in the central parkland and dry mixedwood sub-regions of Alberta. Forests within these sub-regions are characterized by trembling aspen (Populus tremuloides), white spruce (Picea glauca), balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera), black spruce (Picea mariana), and white birch (Betula papyrifera). The area is part of the Cooking Lake Moraine, this moraine is comprised of hummocky "knob and kettle" terrain that creates variable fuel types and a large quantity of pothole waterbodies.

Fuel types within the planning area consists of small patches of deciduous forests. Agricultural land is common on the landscape and makes up most of the vegetated non fuel grass fuel types. Grass vegetation is present and common, and is present on utility corridors, open fields, right-of-ways, and water course channels or ditches.

Vegetation fuel data was acquired from the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) Fireweb website. Field assessments, satellite imagery, and google earth were used to compare against the provincial vegetation fuel data.

Table 6. Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System Fire Behavior Prediction (CFFDRS FBP) System Fuel Types for the BHI study area

| CFFDRS FBP System Fuel Types | Common Language Equivalent | Fuel Coverage in the BHI Study Area |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | ha | \% |
| D1/D2 | Aspen | 81,054 | 21.0 |
| M1/M2 | Boreal Mixedwood | 4,219 | 1.0 |
| 01 | Grass | 11,9219 | 31.0 |
| C1/C2 | Spruce-Lichen and Boreal Spruce | 3,371 | 1.0 |
| Vegetated Non-Fuel | Vegetated Non-Fuel | 134,095 | 35.0 |
| Non-fuel | Non-Fuel | 37,899 | 10.0 |




Figure 2: Fuels Map for BHI Study Area

## Prometheus Simulations

As with all models, Prometheus has practical limitations and assumptions. The assumptions made for the analysis are listed in the table below. Three simulations were completed for this plan. All ignition points were selected in mixedwood (M1/ M2) stands with continuous fuels.

Table 7: Assumptions implemented in the Prometheus Simulations

| Prometheus Assumptions |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Model Assumption | - No fire suppression <br> - Fuel types consistent <br> - Forest and grass fuels considered <br> - Barriers include waterbodies and roads (10 or 8 meter width) <br> - Terrain effect was enabled <br> - Breaching was enabled |
| User Assumption | - Grass $100 \%$ cured and no green-up in May <br> - Scenario start at mid-morning to mid-afternoon <br> - 25.4 or greater FWI will support fire growth. <br> - Weather in BHI does not vary from the Oliver AGDM, Mundare AGDM, Holden AGDM, Elk Island National Park, Edmonton South Campus UA, Edmonton Blatchford, and Camrose weather stations. <br> - Topography - elevation and aspect are not considered <br> - Non-fuel area has $25 \%$ or less vegetation |



Figure 3: Prometheus Simulations Ignition Points

## Simulation A:

The Prometheus simulation illustrates an extreme fire event (minimum FWI in the $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile or greater) within the available fuel types. The simulation was developed under spring conditions (May $24^{\mathrm{th}}, 2015$ ) and had a burn time of eleven hours ( $13: 00$ to 00:00). The ignition point was located within the Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary and directly south of Hillhurst Estates. Simulated fire intensity varied from low to very high.

Prometheus Simulation A

| Time Step | Date and Time | Temp ( ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { RH } \\ & \text { (\%) } \end{aligned}$ | Precip (mm) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { WS } \\ & (k m / h) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { WD } \\ & \text { (deg) } \end{aligned}$ | HFFMC | HISI | DMC | DC | BUI | HFWI | Area (ha) | Perimeter (m) | $\qquad$ Perimet Perimeter (m) | Time to Completion | FFMC | FWI | ISI |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 24/05/2015 13:00 | 25.3 | 12.7 | 0 | 12.0 | 164 | 94.1 | 14.1 | 63.3 | 140.2 | 63.2 | 31.7 | 0.00 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 11:00:00 | 96.3 | 38.6 | 19 |
| 1 | 24/05/2015 14:00 | 27.5 | 13.2 | 0 | 11.7 | 194 | 94.6 | 14.7 | 63.3 | 140.2 | 63.2 | 32.6 | 15.48 | 1521.31 | 1521.31 | 10:00:00 | 96.3 | 38.6 | 19 |
| 2 | 24/05/2015 15:00 | 27.0 | 13.2 | 0 | 6.6 | 178 | 94.9 | 11.8 | 63.3 | 140.2 | 63.2 | 28.1 | 43.43 | 3076.45 | 2593.87 | 9:00:00 | 96.3 | 38.6 | 19 |
| 3 | 24/05/2015 16:00 | 26.3 | 13.1 | 0 | 18.0 | 108 | 95.1 | 21.9 | 63.3 | 140.2 | 63.2 | 42.2 | 74.59 | 4426.42 | 3247.32 | 8:00:00 | 96.3 | 38.6 | 19 |
| 4 | 24/05/2015 17:00 | 25.5 | 13.9 | 0 | 14.7 | 126 | 95.2 | 18.7 | 63.3 | 140.2 | 63.2 | 38.2 | 109.63 | 5639.44 | 3694.82 | 7:00:00 | 96.3 | 38.6 | 19 |
| 5 | 24/05/2015 18:00 | 26.1 | 13.9 | 0 | 10.8 | 149 | 95.4 | 15.6 | 63.3 | 140.2 | 63.2 | 33.9 | 142.52 | 6280.62 | 2881.42 | 6:00:00 | 96.3 | 38.6 | 19 |
| 6 | 24/05/2015 19:00 | 24.8 | 17.1 | 0 | 18.8 | 123 | 95.4 | 23.5 | 63.3 | 140.2 | 63.2 | 44.2 | 164.89 | 7378.44 | 2894.28 | 5:00:00 | 96.3 | 38.6 | 19 |
| 7 | 24/05/2015 20:00 | 23.0 | 20.0 | 0 | 9.0 | 133 | 95.3 | 14.3 | 63.3 | 140.2 | 63.2 | 31.9 | 186.71 | 8713.39 | 3405.51 | 4:00:00 | 96.3 | 38.6 | 19 |
| 8 | 24/05/2015 21:00 | 22.1 | 21.9 | 0 | 7.6 | 156 | 95.3 | 13.2 | 63.3 | 140.2 | 63.2 | 30.3 | 228.14 | 11508.01 | 5413.47 | 3:00:00 | 96.3 | 38.6 | 19 |
| 9 | 24/05/2015 22:00 | 20.3 | 25.5 | 0 | 7.9 | 171 | 95.1 | 13.1 | 63.3 | 140.2 | 63.2 | 30.1 | 269.43 | 12337.41 | 4707.23 | 2:00:00 | 96.3 | 38.6 | 19 |
| 10 | 24/05/2015 23:00 | 18.0 | 29.1 | 0 | 9.3 | 167 | 94.8 | 13.5 | 63.3 | 140.2 | 63.2 | 30.8 | 311.75 | 14929.48 | 5514.17 | 1:00:00 | 96.3 | 38.6 | 19 |
| 11 | 25/05/2015 0:00 | 15.8 | 34.0 | 0 | 3.4 | 183 | 94.5 | 9.6 | 63.3 | 140.2 | 63.2 | 24.4 | 345.25 | 16323.45 | 5718.36 | 0:00:00 | 96.3 | 38.6 | 19 |



## Simulation B:

The Prometheus simulation illustrates an extreme fire event (minimum FWI in the $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile or greater) within the available fuel types. The simulation was developed under spring conditions (May $25^{\text {th }}, 2015$ ) and had a burn time of eleven hours ( $13: 00$ to $00: 00$ ). The ignition point was located within Elk Island Nation Park just north of Tawayik Lake. Simulated fire intensity varied from low to moderate.

## Elk Island National Park

| Time Step | Date and Time | Temp ( ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) | RH (\%) | Precip (mm) | WS (km/h) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { WD } \\ & \text { (deg) } \end{aligned}$ | HFFMC | HISI | DMC | DC | BUI | HFWI | Area (ha) | Perimeter (m) | Active Perimeter (m) | Time to Completion | FFMC | FWI | ISI |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 25/05/2015 13:00 | 25.8 | 18.4 | 0 | 8.0 | 272 | 93.0 | 9.8 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 25.8 | 0.00 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 11:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 1 | 25/05/2015 14:00 | 24.7 | 18.6 | 0 | 7.6 | 267 | 93.2 | 9.9 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 26.1 | 0.26 | 181.43 | 181.43 | 10:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 2 | 25/05/2015 15:00 | 26.4 | 15.6 | 0 | 8.8 | 248 | 93.7 | 11.2 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 28.3 | 2.07 | 515.53 | 515.53 | 9:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 3 | 25/05/2015 16:00 | 26.7 | 14.8 | 0 | 7.7 | 344 | 94.0 | 11.2 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 28.3 | 5.96 | 903.16 | 721.24 | 8:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 4 | 25/05/2015 17:00 | 26.5 | 15.4 | 0 | 7.3 | 126 | 94.3 | 11.4 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 28.6 | 12.11 | 1313.89 | 1034.64 | 7:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 5 | 25/05/2015 18:00 | 24.9 | 18.3 | 0 | 7.0 | 198 | 94.3 | 11.2 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 28.4 | 21.26 | 1848.06 | 1395.42 | 6:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 6 | 25/05/2015 19:00 | 23.7 | 20.9 | 0 | 12.1 | 304 | 94.3 | 14.6 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 33.8 | 30.91 | 2486.88 | 1665.75 | 5:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 7 | 25/05/2015 20:00 | 22.0 | 26.8 | 0 | 13.7 | 352 | 94.3 | 15.6 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 35.3 | 43.50 | 3346.76 | 2285.13 | 4:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 8 | 25/05/2015 21:00 | 21.0 | 25.2 | 0 | 8.8 | 89 | 94.2 | 12.1 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 29.8 | 61.54 | 4047.21 | 2843.76 | 3:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 9 | 25/05/2015 22:00 | 19.0 | 30.1 | 0 | 3.5 | 166 | 94.0 | 9.1 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 24.5 | 83.39 | 4855.54 | 3537.45 | 2:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 10 | 25/05/2015 23:00 | 17.1 | 35.4 | 0 | 0.6 | 321 | 93.8 | 7.6 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 21.6 | 105.19 | 5564.52 | 3739.69 | 1:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 11 | 26/05/2015 0:00 | 15.4 | 44.0 | 0 | 3.2 | 83 | 93.4 | 8.2 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 22.7 | 125.11 | 6236.18 | 4043.65 | 0:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |



## Simulation C:

The Prometheus simulation illustrates an extreme fire event (minimum FWI in the $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile or greater) within the available fuel types. The simulation was developed under spring conditions (May $25^{\text {th }}, 2015$ ) and had a burn time of eleven hours ( $13: 00$ to 00:00). The ignition point was located within Leduc County just north of Ridge Meadows and east of Kenick Estates. Simulated fire intensity varied from low to moderate.

Leduc County

| Time Step | Date and Time | Temp $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ | RH <br> (\%) | Precip (mm) | WS (km/h) | $\begin{gathered} \text { WD } \\ \text { (deg) } \end{gathered}$ | HFFMC | HISI | DMC | DC | BUI | HFWI | Area <br> (ha) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Perimeter } \\ & \text { (m) } \end{aligned}$ | Active Perimeter (m) | Time to Completion | FFMC | FWI | ISI |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 25/05/2015 13:00 | 25.8 | 18.4 | 0 | 8.0 | 272 | 93.0 | 9.8 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 25.8 | 0.00 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 11:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 1 | 25/05/2015 14:00 | 24.7 | 18.6 | 0 | 7.6 | 267 | 93.2 | 9.9 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 26.1 | 0.88 | 338.92 | 338.92 | 10:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 2 | 25/05/2015 15:00 | 26.4 | 15.6 | 0 | 8.8 | 248 | 93.7 | 11.2 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 28.3 | 5.72 | 863.62 | 863.62 | 9:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 3 | 25/05/2015 16:00 | 26.7 | 14.8 | 0 | 7.7 | 344 | 94.0 | 11.2 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 28.3 | 10.64 | 1212.44 | 467.72 | 8:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 4 | 25/05/2015 17:00 | 26.5 | 15.4 | 0 | 7.3 | 126 | 94.3 | 11.4 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 28.6 | 13.60 | 1414.23 | 591.36 | 7:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 5 | 25/05/2015 18:00 | 24.9 | 18.3 | 0 | 7.0 | 198 | 94.3 | 11.2 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 28.4 | 23.88 | 1935.39 | 1033.89 | 6:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 6 | 25/05/2015 19:00 | 23.7 | 20.9 | 0 | 12.1 | 304 | 94.3 | 14.6 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 33.8 | 34.22 | 2796.99 | 940.74 | 5:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 7 | 25/05/2015 20:00 | 22.0 | 26.8 | 0 | 13.7 | 352 | 94.3 | 15.6 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 35.3 | 40.16 | 3005.82 | 1200.73 | 4:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 8 | 25/05/2015 21:00 | 21.0 | 25.2 | 0 | 8.8 | 89 | 94.2 | 12.1 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 29.8 | 54.10 | 3930.89 | 1534.05 | 3:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 9 | 25/05/2015 22:00 | 19.0 | 30.1 | 0 | 3.5 | 166 | 94.0 | 9.1 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 24.5 | 71.48 | 4758.16 | 1824.66 | 2:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 10 | 25/05/2015 23:00 | 17.1 | 35.4 | 0 | 0.6 | 321 | 93.8 | 7.6 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 21.6 | 82.52 | 5689.99 | 1564.36 | 1:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |
| 11 | 26/05/2015 0:00 | 15.4 | 44.0 | 0 | 3.2 | 83 | 93.4 | 8.2 | 69.1 | 147.2 | 69 | 22.7 | 93.85 | 6514.50 | 1437.95 | 0:00:00 | 96.1 | 34.5 | 15.1 |



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## 5. Glossary

Barriers to Spread - A fire barrier is an area that cannot burn, or burns slowly, which emergency responders may use as a staging point, anchor point, safety zone, or evacuation route.

Buildup Index (BUI) - Total amount of fuel available for combustion.
Combustible Material - Materials that must be heated at temperatures above normal, between $37.8^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $93.3^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\left(100^{\circ} \mathrm{F}\right.$ and $\left.200^{\circ} \mathrm{F}\right)$, before they will ignite.

Conduction: when heat (energy) is transferred through solid matter.

Coniferous - Plants that do not shed leaves in the fall. In this report coniferous is synonymous with spruce or pine trees.

Continuous Fuels - Patches of forest or grass fuels that do not have any barriers to spread. These areas may have the ability to support fire over longer distances.

Convection: when heat (energy) is transferred between objects that are in physical contact.

Crossover - Occurs when the value of the RH is equal to, or lower than, the value of the temperature and is an indicator of potential extreme fire behavior.

Cured or Curing - Dried or drying grass. Grass cures in the fall and remains cured until green up in the spring.

Deciduous - Plants that shed leaves in the fall. In this report deciduous is synonymous with aspen or poplar trees.

Drafting Water - The use of suction to move water from a vessel or body of water below the intake of the suction tank.

Dry Hydrant - A fire hydrant that is not pressurized. A dry hydrant is a pipe that goes out to a water body so that a pumper truck can draw water from water body.

Fine Fuel Moisture Code (FFMC) - A numerical indicator of the ease of ignition of litter and other cured fine fuels such as small twigs, needles and grasses.

Fire Behavior - The manner in which fuel ignites, flame develops, fire spreads and exhibits other related phenomena.

Fire Hazard - A material, substance or action that may cause a wildfire.
FireSmart - Actions taken to minimize the unwanted effects of wildfire.
Fire Resistant - Material that is designed to resist burning and withstand heat.
Fire Weather Index (FWI) - This is a numeric rating of fire intensity. It is suitable as a general index of fire danger throughout the forested areas of Canada.

Flammable - Materials that will burn or catch on fire easily at normal temperatures; below $37.8^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ or $100^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$

Flank Fire - A fire that is burning at an angle approximately $90^{\circ}$ to the wind.
Fuels - Combustible materials. In this report fuels tends to describe trees, plant debris (such as dead branches, leaves, etc.) but may also include man made materials.

Head Fire Intensity (HFI) - The energy that a fire generates. HFI is separated into six classes, one being low fire behavior and six being extreme fire behavior.

| Head Fire Intensity Class Description \& Firefighting Methods |  |  |
| :---: | :--- | :--- |
| Head Fire <br> Intensity | Fire Behavior | Firefighting Methods |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | Very low vigour, smouldering <br> ground or creeping surface fire, <br> low intensity | Self-extinguishing unless high drought code and/or build-up <br> index values prevail, in which case mop-up is generally <br> extensive. |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | Low vigour surface fire | Direct attack by firefighters with hand tools and water is <br> possible. Constructed fireguard should hold. |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | Moderately vigorous surface fire | Hand-constructed fireguards are likely to be challenged. <br> Heavy equipment is generally successful in controlling such <br> fires. Indirect attack suggested. |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | Highly vigorous surface fire, may <br> be torching trees or intermittent <br> crown fire | Control efforts at the fire's head may fail. Indirect attack only <br> by firefighting personnel. |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | Very high vigorous surface fire <br> or crown fire | Very difficult to control. Suppression action must be restricted <br> to the fire's flanks. Indirect attack with aerial ignition may be <br> effective. |
| $\mathbf{6}$ | Extreme disastrous fire | Suppression actions should not be attempted until burning <br> conditions improve. |

Heat Transfer - Exchange of thermal energy, between physical systems depending on the temperature and pressure by dissipating heat.

Incinerator Fires - Burning of house hold waste in an approved container with proper screening and venting.

Intensity - Measures of energy output. Amount of energy released during a fire.
Ladder Fuels - Fuels that provide a vertical continuity between surface fuels and crown fuels. (E.g. tall grasses, shrubs, branches)

Mixedwood - A mixture of both coniferous and deciduous trees. Typically spruce and aspen.
Mutual Aid Agreement - Allows municipalities to prepare for emergency events that exceed their local resource capabilities.

Ninetieth Percentile ( $90^{\text {th }}$ ) - A measure of statistical distribution. The $90^{\text {th }}$ percentile is the value for which $90 \%$ of the data points are smaller and $10 \%$ are bigger.

Prevailing Winds - The predominant winds in that area.

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Radiation: When heat (energy) is transferred from warmer surfaces to cooler surroundings. (E.g. The heat from the sun)

Rate of Spread (ROS) - The distance a fire will spread in a given period, measured in meters per minute.

Relative Humidity ( $\mathbf{R H}$ ) - It is the ratio of moisture in the air (water vapor) to the amount that the air can hold at the same temperature and pressure if it were saturated.

Riparian Zone - An area of land adjacent to a stream, lake, or wetland that contains vegetation that, due to the presence of water, is distinctly different from the vegetation of adjacent upland areas.

Risk - The probability of an undesirable event occurring.
Severity - A loss or change in organic matter both above and below ground.
Spotting - when a fire creates embers that travel through the air and can ignite fuels or structures.
Staging Area - An area that can be utilized to pre-position equipment and personnel during an incident.
Stand(s) - A group of trees that are similar in size, species, and understory.
Stakeholder - The range of groups and individuals who have a formal or informal stake in planning and management decisions.

Wildland Urban Interface - The area where buildings are adjacent to, or within, forests, grasslands, scrublands, or other wildland vegetation.


[^0]:    * Major utilities and distribution power lines are identified on Linear Disturbance and Water Sources maps (see Appendix C8)

