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Overview

This is a wildfire risk assessment and planning template intended to guide ranchers in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region through the process of identifying areas of high risk on their ranch, and subsequently identifying locations where effort to mitigate that risk should be prioritized.

Compass Resource Management and B.A. Blackwell and Associates have developed this template as part of a project to help ranchers in the Cariboo-Chilcotin reduce their risk from wildfires.

Drawing from other existing resources and tailoring the approach based on input from interviews, workshops, and visits with ranchers in the Cariboo-Chilcotin district, this template intended to help ranchers ask the most important questions and to indicate what sorts of information might be the most helpful in guiding a strategy to reduce risk from wildfires. However, it’s unlikely that any individual rancher will be able to complete the template alone - much of the information required in this template will likely need to be developed in partnership with some professional assistance. In particular, the following areas might require consultation:

- Identifying where potential extreme fire behaviour presents a risk to ranch resources,
- Planning fuel treatments to address those areas,
- Designing a sprinkler setup plan that will minimize damage,
- Developing detailed maps of the ranch and range.

More extensive resources on the basic concepts of preparing for wildfire can be found in the companion Summary of Wildfire Risk Assessment and Management Planning Resources document. Though this template draws the most applicable tools and approaches from those resources, additional context and background information on a variety of important topics exists in those resources.

In addition to those resources, support for gathering some of the information needed to complete the maps and checklists in this template can be found through local Provincial offices:

- For more resources related to FireSmart, or for guidance on implementing FireSmart practices or setting up structural sprinkler kits, contact the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner: (250) 952-4913, or OFC@gov.bc.ca.
- For more resources related to developing fuel prescriptions and on getting permits for treatments on your range tenure, contact the Cariboo FLNRO Range Officer: https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/contacts.htm.
RANCH WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS AND RISK MITIGATION PLANNING TEMPLATE

**EMERGENCY CONTACTS:** Fill in important contact information for people to notify in case of a fire on or near your ranch, for example, yourself, neighbours, provincial officials, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>PHYSICAL ADDRESS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>

**RANCH INFORMATION:** Fill in basic information about your ranch. This may be important for anyone coming to your ranch to help in the event of a fire.

**Ranch Office Location:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**Permit RAN ID #:**

**Animals:** *Fill in the table below based on where you would expect your animals to be during the early (May – June) and peak fire seasons (July – September)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of animals at the ranch:</th>
<th># of animals on Crown range tenure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Early</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Usual Turnout Date:**

**Usual Roundup Date:**

**How many people are normally on the ranch?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where can they normally be found?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RANGE LEVEL BASEMAP

Replace this page with a map that shows the layout of your ranch and tenure that includes roads and access points to your range.
RANCH-LEVEL HAZARD ASSESSMENT & MITIGATION PLAN

The first step toward being prepared for wildfire around your main ranch area is to eliminate hazards that could cause further damage, or make it difficult to protect your buildings and infrastructure in the event of a wildfire on or near your ranch. Use the checklist below to identify specific hazards that you may be able to eliminate and preparedness actions that could help protect your buildings and other assets in the event of a fire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANCH-LEVEL ASSETS</th>
<th>Hazards Cleared?</th>
<th>Mitigation Steps</th>
<th>Priority Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e.g., Main house</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Install metal roof, move woodpile</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each building on your ranch, identify whether the basic hazards listed above have been mitigated to the extent possible. If hazards still exist, list the steps to eliminate them, and indicate the level of priority relative to the other actions on the list.

For more information, see the BC FireSmart Homeowner’s Manual or call the Office of the Fire Commissioner.
RANCH LEVEL SPRINKLER SETUP PLAN MAP

Replace this page with a map of your ranch area that identifies water hookup locations and includes a sprinkler setup plan to be used in case of emergency.
RANGE-LEVEL HAZARD ASSESSMENT & MITIGATION PLAN

Proactively mitigating wildfire risk through fuel management requires careful consideration of the types and distribution of fuels around the ranch, and an understanding of how various treatments can make important reductions in fuel loads close to high value areas. In almost all cases, the advice of a professional forester familiar with fire behaviour will be required to develop smart fuel treatment prescriptions to reduce wildfire risk. An understanding of where high value areas of your ranch are will help greatly for prioritizing the many actions in the fuel treatment plan. Once a plan has been developed, use the table below to indicate what actions to reduce fuels and mitigate wildfire risk need to be taken. Also indicate what priority level these steps should be assigned, relative to the other actions on the list.

Priority-setting Guidelines
☐ Other than your main ranch area, what areas of your ranch are critical to your day-to-day operations (e.g. corrals, loading areas, etc.)?
☐ Which specific fence lines are most important to keeping your animals safe and on your range?
☐ Are there areas that may not be important day-to-day but could be important for emergency response (e.g., for example, safe spaces, evacuation routes, etc.)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANGE-LEVEL ASSETS</th>
<th>Mitigation Steps</th>
<th>Priority Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e.g., Crown fence</td>
<td>Clear fuels from ROW, widen ROW to 4m</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.g., corrals</td>
<td>Maintain 20m fuel free buffer</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


RANGE LEVEL FIRE INTENSITY MAP

Replace this page with a map of your range area – this map can be used for showing fire intensity (if possible) or for drawing out mitigation plan steps as detailed on the preceding page. Contact the FLNRO Wildfire Management Office to discuss acquiring data showing fire risk and/or fire behaviour.
CONTINGENCY PLANS

Even the best preventative risk management strategies can only reduce – not eliminate – the likelihood of wildfires occurring on ranches in Cariboo-Chilcotin. Wildfires will occur at some point, and it is important to know in advance how to respond. If you believe you can maintain an area on your ranch that meets all of the criteria in the box below, seek professional advice to help you write out a detailed livestock Shelter-in-Place plan. Include a map that indicates safe areas and multiple routes off the ranch. Note that Shelter-in-Place is inherently dangerous, and opting to take this approach should only be done under the advice of a professional.

**Shelter-in-Place Guidelines**
- □ Area is at least 0.5 ha / 1 acre?
- □ Area is at least 100m from nearest timber?
- □ Area is free of burnable fuels (i.e., mowed or grazed to stubble or plowed)?
- □ Area is free of barbed-wire fence (i.e., fence is woven or poly)?
- □ Area is free of overhead powerlines and other falling hazards?
- □ Have enough water for 3 days?
- □ Have enough food for 3 days?
- □ More than one route in and out?

For more information on Shelter-in-Place guidelines, contact the BC Ministry of Agriculture

**Shelter in Place Plan:**
Even if evacuating livestock is not likely to be possible in some cases, having an evacuation plan for personnel is an important step in planning for wildfires. For ranches where evacuating livestock may be possible, it is important to develop alternative evacuation plans depending on fire conditions.

Complete a detailed evacuation checklist below, depending on the particulars of your ranch.

- Turn off power