

Nisga'a Lands Wildfire Management Plan

DRAFT

April 2013



Photo: Collier Azak

Produced by:



Nisga'a Lisims Government
Lands and Resources
Toll Free 1-866-633-0888
(250)633-3000



DRAFT

Content, Interpretation and Limitations

Content - This Plan is comprised of this text document and a 1:100,000 map.

Interpretation - Colors on the Map indicate the fire management option and the site specific management strategies specified in the text document.

Limitations - This plan is limited to Nisga'a Public Lands and Nisga'a Village Lands. This plan does NOT include lands owned by the Nisga'a Nation outside Nisga'a Lands. Mill Bay has been included in this plan as the only parcel of private land.

Nisga'a Village Lands have been included in this plan for the purpose of addressing forest fire situations only.

Introduction

This plan was prepared in accordance with the Nisga'a Final Agreement and Relevant Nisga'a legislation including the Nisga'a Forest Act. This plan has been prepared in cooperation with the Nisga'a Lisims Government Emergency Management Plan (Feb 2012).

The purpose of this plan is to;

1. Provide a resource to guide activities required under 4.12 of the Emergency Response and Recovery Plan,
2. Specify relevant contact information within the Emergency Management Plan,
3. Guide Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations control and suppression activities on Nisga'a Lands.

Fire Accountability Matrix

Following the transition period, greater responsibility passes to the Nisga'a Nation with respect to fire suppression and control of forest fires. Chapter 5, paragraph 57-61 of the final agreement specify action and cost responsibility for forest fires on Nisga'a Lands.

- On May 11, 2005, British Columbia is responsible for control and suppression of forest fires on Nisga'a Public lands. This remains unchanged from the transition period.
- On May 11, 2005, the Nisga'a Nation will be responsible for the control and suppression of forest fires on Nisga'a Village Lands and on Nisga'a Private Lands.
- On May 11, 2005, the Nisga'a Nation will pay the costs incurred by British Columbia in controlling and suppressing forest fires on Nisga'a Public Lands **IF** the forest fire:
 - originates on Nisga'a Public Lands and is caused by an act of God or an industrial user authorized by the Nisga'a Nation;
 - originates on Crown Land and is caused by an act of God;
 - originates on private land and is caused by an act of God; or



DRAFT

- originates on Nisga'a Village Lands or on Nisga'a Private Lands.
- The Nisga'a Nation does not have the cost responsibility for fires caused on Nisga'a Public Lands that are, incendiary, or industrial where the activity was not authorized by the Nisga'a Nation.

The majority of the fires that are expected to occur on Nisga'a Lands will ultimately be the cost responsibility of the Nisga'a Nation.

The Ministry of Forests will continue to use existing crews and fire weather resources for pre-suppression activities adjacent and within Nisga'a Lands.

Fire Management Options in Nisga'a Lands

Protection options in the Nisga'a Lands Wildfire Management Plan provide for a full range of suppression responses from aggressive control and extinguishment, to surveillance. Firefighter and public safety is of the highest priority for all options. [Note: In general, control, contain, and confine strategies relate with different protection options. Control strategies can be associated with critical and full protection, a contain or confine strategy can be associated with modified protection, and a confine (to a geographic area) strategy can be associated with limited protection.

(RED) Critical Protection - suppression action provided on a wildland fire that threatens human life, inhabited property, identified cultural and historical sites, designated physical developments and structural resources. The suppression objective is to provide complete protection to identified sites and control the fire at the smallest area reasonably possible. The allocation of suppression resources to fires threatening critical sites is given the highest priority.

Full fire suppression and control activities initiated by the Ministry of Forests can proceed without Nisga'a Nation authority. The Ministry of Forests will contact the Nisga'a Nation representative as soon as possible.

(YELLOW) Modified Protection - suppression action provided on a wildland fire in areas where values to be protected do not justify the expense of full protection. The suppression objective is to reduce overall suppression costs without compromising protection of higher-valued adjacent resources. The allocation of suppression resources to fires receiving the modified protection option is of a lower priority than those in critical and full protection areas. A higher level of protection may be given during the peak burning periods of the fire season than early or late in the fire season.

Minor fire suppression and control activities can proceed without the authority of the Nisga'a Nation. The Nisga'a Nation is consulted prior to any additional commitment of resources in cases where the Nisga'a Nation may be required to pay the cost. The Ministry of Forests and Nisga'a Nation jointly assess the fire situation.

(GREEN) Limited Protection - lowest level of suppression action provided on a wildland fire in areas where values to be protected do not justify the expense of a



DRAFT

higher level of protection, and where opportunities can be provided for fire to help achieve land and resource protection objectives. The suppression objective is to minimize suppression costs without compromising protection of higher-valued adjacent resources. The allocation of suppression resources to fires receiving the limited protection option is of the lowest priority. Surveillance is an acceptable suppression response as long as higher valued adjacent resources are not threatened.

Fires are assessed when resources are available. The Ministry of Forests will inform the Nisga'a Nation of the location and status of the fire periodically.

Site Specific Fire Management Strategies

■(RED)Critical Protection (See Reference map)

- (1)Proposed Recreation area North of Mill Bay
- (2)Burton Creek Hotsprings and Trail
- (4)Fishery Bay
- (6)Ishkheenickh potential recreation site
- (11)Dragon Lake campground and picnic site
- (12)Heritage sites along the Grease Trail, Old Aiyansh
- (13)Hlgu Isgwit hot springs

- All fires will be actioned by Initial Attack, or according to priorities as established in consultation with the Nisga'a Nation and the Fire Control Centre, or as directed by the following guidelines.
- Nisga'a Nation must be notified of all fires that initiate in, threaten, or are approaching any of the above listed areas that have been reported to the Fire Centre.
- Fires that are not controlled by the end of the first burning period will be jointly assessed by MOF and the Nisga'a Nation to determine the proper course of action.
- No mechanized access will be authorized for use inside the above listed areas unless approved by the Nisga'a Nation. The goal is to achieve fire control with a minimum impact on cultural, recreational and ecological processes. Guidelines for fire suppression actions in order of preference:
Aerial application of water
 - Aerial application of foam retardant
 - Aerial application of default retardant
 - Ground action with water
 - Ground action with hand tools
- No heavy equipment to be used unless authorized by the Nisga'a Nation. "**Light Hand on the Land**", approach will be the status quo unless prior consultation and written approval, dictates otherwise.



DRAFT

- A rehabilitation plan will be developed for impacted areas in consultation with the Nisga'a Nation and the Fire Center staff responsible for on the ground operations, prior to "Mop-up" of an action fire.
- Nisga'a Nation must be given regular and frequent updates.
- The Fire Center will prepare press releases related to fires in Nisga'a Lands and send them to the Director of Lands and Resources for pre-approval prior to release. The media contact for the Nisga'a Nation will be the Information Officer.

■(RED) Critical Protection (See Reference map)

(1)Village of Gingolx, Federal Government dock access road, Mill Bay (private land)

(5)Village of Laxgalts'ap

(8)Village of Gitwinksihlkw and area

(9)Village of New Aiyansh, Irene Meadows, Nass Camp, Fulmar Creek

(10)BC Hydro Power Line Right of way and Buffer

- All fires will be actioned by Initial Attack, or according to priorities as established in consultation with the Nisga'a Nation and the Fire Control Centre, or as directed by the following guidelines.
- Fires within forested areas of Village Lands will be actioned by Village Government fire control and suppression resources.
- The Nisga'a Nation must be notified of all fires that initiate in, threaten, or are approaching any of the above listed areas that have been reported to the Fire Centre. For fires originating in Village Lands the NLG Fire Chief must be notified as soon as possible.
- Fires within Nisga'a Public Lands that are not controlled by the end of the first burning period will be jointly assessed by MOF and the Nisga'a Nation to determine the proper course of action.
- Fires within forested areas of Nisga'a Village Lands that are not controlled by the end of the first burning period will be jointly assessed by the applicable Village Government and Nisga'a Lisims Government to determine the proper course of action.
- Mechanized access will be authorized for use inside the above listed areas unless restricted by the Nisga'a Nation. The goal is to achieve fire control for the protection of human life, inhabited property, identified cultural and historical sites, designated physical developments and structural resources
Guidelines for fire suppression actions in order of preference:
 - Aerial application of water
 - Aerial application of foam retardant
 - Aerial application of default retardant
 - Ground action with water
 - Ground action with hand tools
 - Ground action with heavy equipment
- Heavy equipment may be used unless restricted by the Nisga'a Nation.



DRAFT

- A rehabilitation plan will be developed for impacted areas in consultation with the Nisga'a Nation and the Fire Center staff responsible for on the ground operations, prior to "Mop-up" of an action fire.
- Nisga'a Nation must be given regular and frequent updates.
- The Fire Center will prepare press releases related to fires in Nisga'a Lands and send them to the Director of Lands and Resources for pre-approval prior to release. The media contact for the Nisga'a Nation will be the Information Officer.

(YELLOW) Modified Protection

- Nisga'a Nation must be notified of all fires that initiate in, threaten, or are approaching any of the above listed areas that have been reported to the Fire Centre.
- All fires will be jointly assessed by the MOF and the Nisga'a Nation. Fires will be actioned by Initial Attack, according to priorities as established in consultation with the Nisga'a Nation and the Fire Control Centre, or as directed by the following guidelines.
- Mechanized access will be authorized for use inside the above listed areas unless restricted by the Nisga'a Nation. The suppression objective is to reduce overall suppression costs without compromising protection of higher-valued adjacent resources. Guidelines for fire suppression actions in order of preference:
 - Aerial application of water
 - Aerial application of foam retardant
 - Aerial application of default retardant
 - Ground action with water
 - Ground action with hand tools
 - Ground action with heavy equipment
- Heavy equipment may be used unless restricted by the Nisga'a Nation.
- A rehabilitation plan will be developed for impacted areas in consultation with the Nisga'a Nation and the Fire Center staff responsible for on the ground operations, prior to "Mop-up" of an action fire.
- Nisga'a Nation must be given regular and frequent updates.
- The Fire Center will prepare press releases related to fires in Nisga'a Lands and send them to the Director of Lands and Resources for pre-approval prior to release. The media contact for the Nisga'a Nation will be the Information Officer.



DRAFT

(GREEN) Limited Protection

- All fires will be jointly assessed by the MOF and the Nisga'a Nation. The suppression objective is to minimize suppression costs without compromising protection of higher-valued adjacent resources.
- Mechanized access will be authorized for use inside the above listed areas unless restricted by the Nisga'a Nation. The goal is to achieve fire control for the protection of human life, inhabited property, identified cultural and historical sites, designated physical developments and structural resources
Guidelines for fire suppression actions in order of preference:
 - Aerial application of water
 - Aerial application of foam retardant
 - Aerial application of default retardant
 - Ground action with water
 - Ground action with hand tools
 - Ground action with heavy equipment
- Heavy equipment may be used unless restricted by the Nisga'a Nation.
- A rehabilitation plan will be developed for impacted areas in consultation with the Nisga'a Nation and the Fire Center staff responsible for on the ground operations, prior to "Mop-up" of an action fire.
- Nisga'a Nation will be given updates when available or upon request.
- The Fire Center will prepare press releases related to fires in Nisga'a Lands and send them to the Director of Lands and Resources for pre-approval prior to release. The media contact for the Nisga'a Nation will be the Information Officer.

Fire Suppression on Nisga'a Village Lands

UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Please call 250-633-3000 for more information



DRAFT

Fire Suppression on Private Lands

Listing of private lands adjacent Nisga'a Lands:

Property Description		
<i>District Lot</i>	<i>Block/Lot/plan etc</i>	<i>Total Area (acres)</i>
4006	Frac. SW ¼	147
3053		103
3063	Frac. NE ¼	153
3061	SW ¼	156
3061	SE ¼	156
1712	E ½ of NE ¼ of Frac. SE ¼	20
1728, 1729	Lot A, Plan 8537	22.76
1722	Bk. A of SW ¼	56.66
1712	Frac. N ½	33
3080	E ½	160
2	Range 5, Coast District	160
1725	Bk. A	115.6 (combined w other properties)
1726	Bk. B	115.6 (combined w other properties)
1730	Bk. A	115.600 (Combined w other properties)
3051	Bk. A	115.600 (Combined w other properties)
4011	SW ¼ Except plans 10005, 12223	80.67
1728	Lot 5, Plan 5555	4
1718	Lot 1, Plan 7486	13.56
1718	Lot 2, Plan 7486	4.31
2625	Bk. C	0.99
1726	Bk. A	0.57
4012	Bk. B	13
4011	NE ¼	160
4011	Lot A, Plan 12223	72.985
1728	Lot 7, Plan 6816	11.79
1224		45.45
1728	Lot 1, Plan 4739	4.94
4012	Frac. NW ¼ Except Bk. A and Plan 9176	89.8
4012	Bk. A	7
453	Bk. A	10
4011	Lot 1, Plan 10005	9.88
2627	SE ¼ Except Telegraph Line	160
2627	Frac. SW ¼ Except Telegraph Line	103
2626	Bk. A	20
3051	N ½ of NE ¼	80
3051	S ½ of NE ¼ Except Plan 12661	78.93
2625	Bk. B	9.88
4011	NW ¼	172
4012	Bk. E	9.22
4012	Bk. H	8.75



DRAFT

Property Description		
<i>District Lot</i>	<i>Block/Lot/plan etc</i>	<i>Total Area (acres)</i>
1728	Lot 6, Plan 6816	17.9
4012	Bk. F	9.29
4012	Bk. G	8.55
1729	Except Plans 8537 & 9553	115.66
1712	E ½ of SE ¼ of Frac. SE ¼	20
1713	SW ¼ of Frac. SW ¼	36
1718	S ½ of SW ¼ Except Plans 5830, 7486	56.51
1718	Lot 3, Plan 7486	3.74
1728	Except plans 4739, 5164, 5555, 6816, 8537, 10545	83.26
1729	Lot A, Plan 9553	38.77
4012	Bk. I	8.55
1718	Lat A, Plan 5830	1.07
4011	SE ¼ except Plans 5249, PRP45170	151.48
1728	Lot 2, Plan 4739	4.38
1718	N ½ of SW ¼ Except Plan PRP13808	51.14
1720		161
1718	Lot A, Plan PRP13808	24.96
4015	Except Telegraph Line	162.96
4013	Frac. SE ¼	81
4012	Bk. C	10.9
4012	Bk. D	8.83
1728	Lot 1, Plan 10545	8.68
453	Bk. C	5.07
453	Bk. D	5.1
	Woodlot Licence 141	
	Agriculture Lease 631313	
	Agriculture Lease 633080	

Contact Information

- NLG Fire Chief – Warren Fekete, RPF, Forest Resources Manager
 - (250)633-3092 office
 - (250)615-2431 home
 - (250)615-7589 cel
 - Email: Warrenf@nisgaa.net

- NLG Fire Chief (alternate) – Rodney Moore, Resource Officer
 - (250)633-3047 office
 - (250)633-2535 home
 - (250)615-8956 cel
 - Email: Rodneym@nisgaa.net



DRAFT

- NLG Director of Lands and Resources (Acting) – Warren Fekete
 - (250)633-3092 office
 - (250)615-2431 home
 - (250)615-7589 cel
 - NLG Emergency Program Coordinator – Edward Allen
 - (250)633-3007 office
 - (778)634-3414 home
 - (250)615-2685 cel
 - Email: Edwarda@nisgaa.net
 - NLG Information Officer – Bobby Clark
 - (250)633-3022
 - Email: BClark@nisgaa.net
 - Village of New Aiyansh
 - Village Government Office –ph: (250)633-3100
 - Fire Dept. –ph: (250)633-2232 or (250)633-2263
 - Village of Gitwinksihlkw
 - Village Government Office – ph: (250)633-2294
 - Fire Dept – ph: (250)633-2626
 - Village of Laxgalts'ap
 - Village Government Office – ph: (250)621-3212
 - Fire Dept – ph: (250)621-3366, home (250)621-3360
 - Village of Gingolx
 - Village Government Office –ph: (250)326-4212
 - Fire Dept – ph: (250)326-4238
 - Appointed Fire Warden – _____
-
- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| • Nisga'a Village Lands | Phone Local Fire Department |
| • Report a Wildfire | 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 from a cel phone |
| • Wildfire Information | 1-888-3FOREST or 1-888-336-7378 |
| • Burn Registration Line | 1-888-797-1717 |
| • Enquiry BC | 1-800-663-7867 |

Distribution & Referral List

This plan will be referred and distributed to the following organizations/agencies

- NLG Executive
- NLG Directorate of Fish and Wildlife
- Village of New Aiyansh
- Village of Gitwinksihlkw
- Village of Laxgalts'ap
- Village of Gingolx
- Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations