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Modified Response

Currently in the Coastal Fire Centre we have seven fires which are Modified Response fires:

- **Ramsey Arms**
- **Orford River**—8.5 km North of Orford
- **Marble Creek**—11.5 km south Owikeno Lake
- **Lemolo Creek**—18 km east of Oikeno Lake
- **South Bentinck**—16.5 km west of Bella Coola
- **6 km North of Kimsquit**
- **Sonora Island**

All of these fires were the result of lightning that moved through the Coastal Fire Centre between July 31 to August 4, 2013.

Each of these fires were identified as areas that would either benefit from fire on the landscape due to their location, where action can not be taken, due to the steep terrain. In some cases, the identified values do not warrant the expected cost of suppression, in which case alternatives may be looked at, such as developing a burn plan when it is strategically beneficial to allow the fire to keep burning.

Once a fire starts, whether planned or unplanned, the most basic questions need to be answered: Is this fire beneficial to the land? And will it meet the objectives identified by the land manager and/or stakeholders? And despite how beneficial a fire may be, it must be determined if the timing of the fire is reasonable and safe. What is the weather? Winds? Are resources available if a fire hits its trigger points and suppression is required?

The Coastal Fire Centre respects the objectives of land managers. Land managers and stakeholders determine what values, if threatened, will be protected and trigger points are predetermined with these values in mind. For example, some parks may want a fire on the landscape but have some species within the park that they want protected. A trigger point would be located to avoid any risk to these species while reducing forest fuels overall.

Fire trigger	Land Mgmt objectives review	Current situation concerns
Planned fire – <i>prescribed, etc</i>	Beneficial – <i>land objectives met</i>	Wanted – <i>weather/activity permits</i>
Unplanned fire - <i>lightning, human</i>	Non-beneficial – <i>objectives unmet</i>	Unwanted – <i>unfavourable situation</i>

Fire Management

*‘The activities concerned with the protection of people, property, and forest areas from wildfire and the land use of prescribed burning for the attainment of forest management and other land-use objectives, all conducted in a manner that considers environmental, social and economic criteria.’**

A predetermined fire management plan takes a defined area (fire management area) and determines the probable effects of fire on the land, the values potentially affected, the number and type of resources necessary to monitor and manage the fire, and the cost of the activity versus the potential for harm in the case of a wildfire. A fire management plan will include maps, statistics and charts which will show how and where the fire is expected to move, what the vegetation is in the area and how vigorous the fire is expected to burn according to local or spot forecasts. It also includes an inventory of values on the land base.

If an unplanned fire does occur, and a plan does not already exist, a fire management plan may be developed by specialists in the Coastal Fire Centre and by the land managers.

Fuel Management

*‘The planned manipulation and /or reduction of the flammability and resistance to control of living or dead fuels for forest management and other land-use objectives (e.g., hazard reduction, silvicultural purposes, wildlife habitat improvement).’**

Forest Fuel Management is also known as Wildfire Hazard Reduction. The first goal of forest fuels management is to modify forest fuels, predominantly in interface areas, to help protect structures and lives. The secondary advantages are that fuels management projects reduce fire intensities, reduce potential for crown fires, improve suppression on successive fires in the area, improve firefighter safety and improve resilience to wildfires.

Predominantly in the Spring and Fall, fire crews are actively involved in Fuels Management projects. In consultation with BC Parks, local communities and/or other organizations such as conservancies, the Coastal Fire Centre undertakes projects such as clearing bike or walking trails, helping clear underbrush in parks, creating shaded fuel breaks, as well as thinning, pruning, and pile burning.

See detailed weather forecast page 2

WMB Strategic Plan—Leading Wildland Fire Management and Practices

Included in the *Wildfire Management Branch Strategic Plan 2012-2017* is the goal ‘Leading Wildland Fire Management and Practices’. The priorities listed are to:

⇒ *Reduce loss and damage from wildland fires through community wildfire protection planning and fuel hazard reduction.* To reach this goal Coastal is committed to promoting fuel management programs in several communities, helping communities apply for and implement Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

⇒ *Lead landscape fire management planning that results in fire-adapted communities and fire-resilient ecosystems.* With five fires now in Modified Response within the Coastal Fire Centre, with the support of land managers and stakeholders, it is important to educate all agencies and the public as to the benefits of a fuels management program. Working in concert with a variety of agencies, the Coastal Fire Centre proactively supports the use of prescribed fire as well as utilizing fuel management

programs to enhance landscape fire management planning, and fire management decision-making to reduce the risks to the wildland interface.

⇒ *Develop and promote innovative wildfire management science, practices, technology and decision support models.* Coastal Fire Centre is in the process of developing a photo fuel guide that will aid in modelling fire behaviour using Coastal fuels (vegetation). Wherever and whenever possible the Coastal Fire Centre uses fire weather, geomatics and fire behaviour technology to help forecast, read and analyze fires. Using the latest technology and fire management modelling aids operations in making informed decisions that will impact every part of Coastal’s business from allocating resources to coming up with a comprehensive plan for fighting the fire or managing the fire.

http://BCWildfire.ca/Strategic_Planning

At Coastal

Most campers and residents are eager for the campfire prohibition to be lifted in their ‘neck of the woods’ and the Coastal Fire Centre would be pleased for that to occur but must take every precaution to make sure that in doing so, all risk is mitigated. Fire Behaviour specialists are watching the indices carefully and lifting the prohibitions where and when it becomes safe to do so. It should be noted, however, that our forecasters are noting a pattern which may bring isolated downpours in some areas while other weather stations in the same vicinity are reading minimal amounts or even nil.

Between August 13 and August 16, 2013 the Coastal Fire Centre recorded an additional eleven fires. Seven of those fires are attributed to lightning.

The Coastal Fire Centre has **rescinded** the campfire and Category 3 prohibition in the Mount Waddington Regional District. This area extends over the northern tip of Vancouver Island and the northern Gulf Islands and mainland from Call Inlet to Smith Sound. For more information on the location of this partial rescind and how it applies please go to www.bcwildfire.ca.

Areas you may now have a campfire within the Coastal Fire Centre are: Mount Waddington Regional District, Haida Gwaii and the ‘Fog Zone’.

Weather

SYNOPSIS: An onshore flow with heavy clouds and showers extends northwest of a Nanaimo to Whistler line all the way to Prince Rupert. Some of the showers are moderate to heavy with hourly rainfalls more than 5mm. However latest satellite imagery shows that the trailing end of the stream is already clearing over central Vancouver Island and so its likely the heavy showers do not last all that long. But that does not mean there will be much sunshine today—unless you are up in Manning Park or the Fraser Canyon where a subsiding flow over the mountains will allow at least sunny periods. The southwest flow continues tomorrow and with a relatively unstable air mass a few more widely spread showers are likely in all zones especially in the morning. The first hint of a developing high pressure ridge starts up late Saturday and the air mass starts drying out over areas southeast of Campbell River.

OUTLOOK: The wet flow continues to shift north on Sunday as the ridge slowly builds bringing drier warm conditions to southern zones while the North Island, Mid-coast and Haida Gwaii continue to see showers. By Tuesday its turning sunny and warm and this trend peaks on Wednesday.

To Date in Coastal	
Fires to Date	
Person Caused	79
Lightning Caused	105
Total Number of Fires	187
Fire Danger Rating today	
Current Prohibitions For Recent Changes go to: bcwildfire.ca	
Category 2 Open Fire	
Campfire (Allowed in Mount Waddington, Haida Gwaii and the 'Fog Zone')	
Category 3 (Allowed in Mount Waddington, Haida Gwaii and the 'Fog Zone')	