

# SOUTHEAST FIRE CENTRE

## Wildfire Recovery

### Wildfire suppression rehabilitation:

Wildfire suppression rehabilitation can sometimes begin as soon as disturbance(s) from fire suppression activities happen. Wildfire suppression rehabilitation, or “rehab”, is a form of deactivation, specific to fire suppression activities. In order to minimize impacts from fire suppression activities, rehabilitation practitioners are responsible for developing and implementing wildfire suppression rehabilitation plans that address the following six objectives:

- Restoring natural drainage patterns.
- Stabilizing soils.
- Minimizing surface erosion.
- Minimizing fire hazards.
- Promoting revegetation while preventing invasive species from inhabiting affected areas.
- Repairing damaged infrastructure.

There are many ways that the B.C. government and our partners rehabilitate damages caused by fire suppression activities, including:

- Removing introduced materials from stream crossings, restore stream profiles as required, stabilize stream banks, and promote the revegetation of the riparian area.
- Pulling back or recontouring sites with displaced or exposed soils that are no longer stable.
- Constructing water management structures or treating soils in a manner that reduces potential for erosion.
- Salvaging or disposing of timber and vegetation that has been felled, knocked down, or pushed aside and may pose a fire hazard.
- Preparing the soils and seeding where required to promote natural vegetation to establish on exposed soils while reducing the risk of invasive species establishment.
- Repairing infrastructure damaged by heavy equipment such as fences.



Find a video on wildfire suppression rehabilitation here by using the following QR code:



### Timeline for rehabilitation:

Rehabilitation projects require a year-round effort but tasks often change with the seasons. The spring season is often used for training, contract development for the upcoming field season, and for any works not completed from the previous wildfire season. The summer, and fall seasons are when rehabilitation practitioners are most active in the field.

### SEFC Information Section

Email: [BCWS.SEFCInformationOfficer@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCWS.SEFCInformationOfficer@gov.bc.ca)

Phone: 250 318-7715

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### Post wildfire natural hazard risk analysis process

The post-wildfire natural hazards risk analysis (PWFNHRA) process allows for the province to study burned areas and determine if a risk is present. This process begins with a screening exercise, wherein wildfires greater than 50 Ha in size undergo a desktop review to determine the potential for these risks as well as the steepness of the terrain.

Fires with identified risks with terrain steep enough to generate possible hazards may be selected for a reconnaissance-scale review. The reconnaissance review typically consists of:

- A helicopter overflight.
- On-the-ground verification of burn-severity and soil characteristics.
- Verification of suspected values at risk such as homes and provincial or community infrastructure.

For a detailed PWFNHRA, which may be required if moderate or high risk is indicated, community experts are given the opportunity to provide input and local knowledge to the study. The process starts after the reconnaissance report is complete, with a goal of delivering a completed detailed report prior to onset of winter if possible.

### Ecological wildfire recovery

Following a wildfire, a landscape can be assessed in terms of impacts to ecological, social, cultural and economic values. Once the impact to values is known, decisions can be made to manage or address any concerns.

To recover a landscape disturbed by wildfire, the desired future condition of the values that were affected must be determined. This is best done at the regional or district level by integrating existing management objectives for ecosystem, resource and socio-cultural values into a planning instrument (e.g., an Ecological Wildfire Recovery Plan) that describes:

- The priority values that have been disturbed by fire.
- The best uses going forward (e.g., salvage harvesting).
- The desired future condition for the priority values (objectives).
- The actions designed to achieve the objectives.



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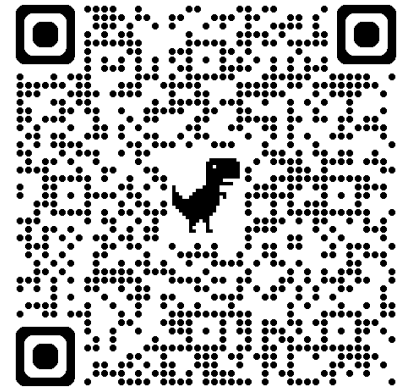
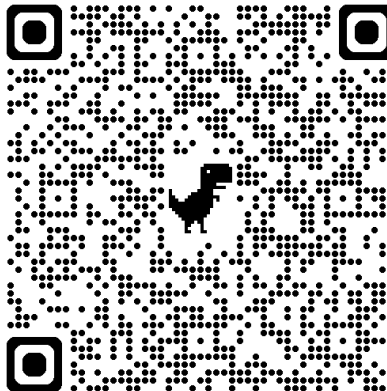
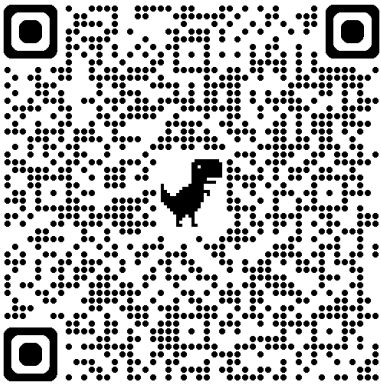
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Wildfire suppression  
rehabilitation

Post wildfire natural hazard  
risk analysis

Ecological wildfire recovery



Wildfire Map

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