

Wasoqopa'q First Nation Fuel Mitigation Proposal

Executive Summary

Wasoqopa'q First Nation and The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq have partnered to create the Wasoqopa'q Wildfire Resilience Committee to direct work on the Mi'kmaq Wildfire Resilience Project within WFN Communities. To decrease the risks to communities from wildfires, The Wildfire Committee is proposing several fuel mitigation projects in Gardner's Mills, Gold River, Ponhook, and Wildcat.

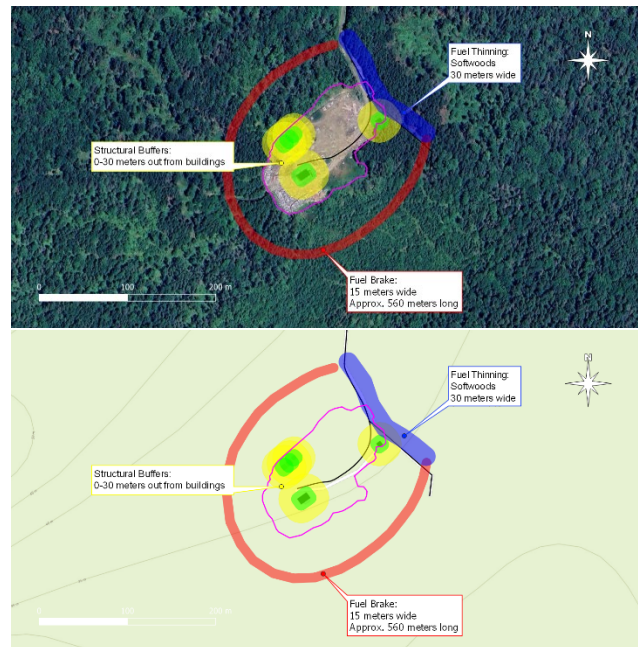
Gardner's Mills

Reasoning: The Gardner's Mills Sawmill Operation has been noted as an area of high concern for wildfire. Concerns stem from the risk of wildfire spreading in from the heavily wooded surroundings, as well as the high risk of fire spreading out of the area from spontaneous ignition of materials from the sawmill operation.

Fuel Break: A 15-meter-wide clearing, approximately 560 meters long, arcing around the sawmill operation from the access road.

Fuel Thinning: Approximately 30-meter-wide fuel thinning area, selectively removing softwoods and other fuel-loads of concern. This area follows the sawmill operation access road, between the two ends of the fuel break.

Structural Buffers: Removing fuels from **0-10 meters** out from base of structures. Selectively thinning fuels from **10-30 meters** out from base of structures.

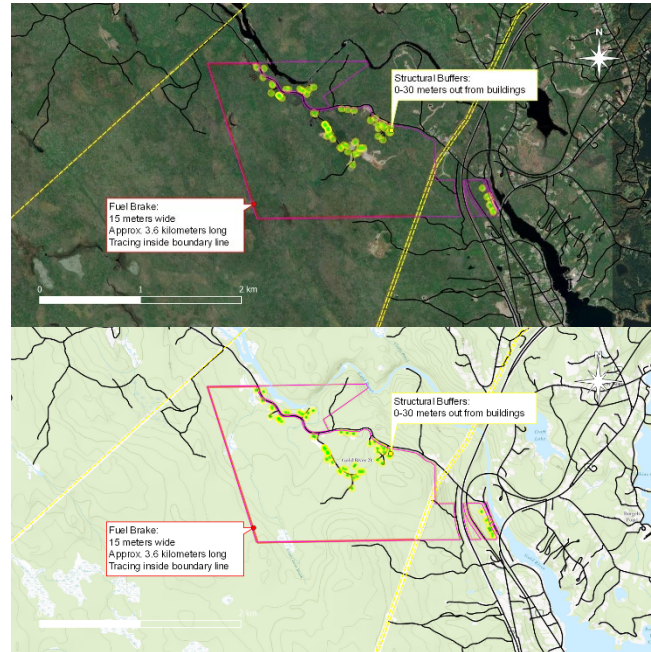


Gold River

Reasoning: The nearest fire response to Gold River would be from Chester, with a response time of more than 10 minutes. The community also lacks municipal hydrants, and access to the Gold River would be quite difficult for suppression efforts. Slowing the spread of wildfire into, or throughout the community would increase the time community members have to react.

Fuel Break: A 15-meter-wide clearing, approximately 3.6 kilometers long, within a portion of the community boundary line. Running west from Beech Hill Road; following the western extent of the boundary, heading south-southeast; then following the southern boundary line to the Nova Scotia Power right-of-way to the west of Highway 103; finally, the Gold River, Beech Hill Road, and the Nova Scotia Power right-of-way act as the remaining sides to the fuel break.

Structural Buffers: Removing fuels from **0-10 meters** out from base of structures. Selectively thinning fuels from **10-30 meters** out from base of structures.

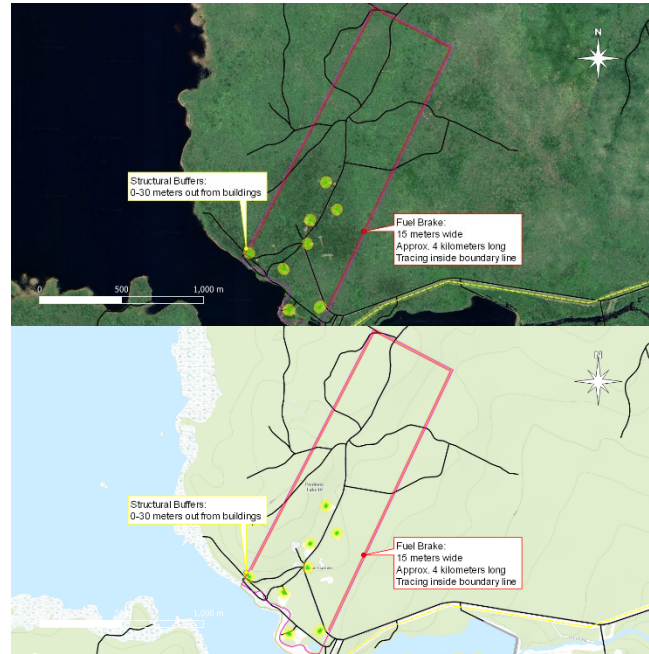


Ponhook

Reasoning: The community is very isolated from any fire response and access to Lake Rossignol is quite difficult for response vehicles. Slowing the spread of wildfire into, or throughout the community would increase the time community members and emergency response personnel have to react.

Fuel Break: A 15-meter-wide clearing, approximately 4 kilometers long, within most of the community boundary line. Running from Old Garden Road, following the interior of the boundary line around the community, terminating slightly north of Francis Circle. Lake Rossignol will act as the remaining side of the fuel break.

Structural Buffers: Removing fuels from **0-10 meters** out from base of structures. Selectively thinning fuels from **10-30 meters** out from base of structures.



Wildcat

Reasoning: Though the community of Wildcat is both isolated and at high risk of wildfire, the geography and size of the area hinder the ability to create a fuel break. This adds emphasis to the need for structural buffer zones.

Structural Buffers: Removing fuels from **0-10 meters** out from base of structures. Selectively thinning fuels from **10-30 meters** out from base of structures.

