NEWSLETTER

Fall, 2024

The Bulkley Morice Wildfire Resilience Project is an independent research project focused on collating existing knowledge of wildfire ecology, forest and fuel management practices and assessing how practices could be revised to improve wildfire resilience within the Bulkley and Morice planning area.

The project is administered by the BV Research Centre and funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

It will provide knowledge, analysis and modeling tools that may be used by different planning processes in the area.

Project Timeline

The project was initiated in April 2024 and will be a 3 year pilot, involving multiple touchpoints with resource managers and communities in the Bulkley and Morice area.

Collaboration

A central tenet of the project will be to engage decision makers, communities and knowledge holders throughout the project and in the model design.

Project Outcome

Forest and fuel management practices are revised to improve wildfire resilience leading to less harmful fire and more beneficial fire.

Why is this important?

There is a consensus that our forest and fire management strategies need to shift to reduce the negative impacts of wildfire and to promote resilient ecosystems.

The Bulkley Morice area, like much of BC, is experiencing an increase in wildfire number and intensity. Climate change and extraordinary weather events are affecting the size and severity of wildfires which are having profound impacts on BC communities and ecosystems. Although it is generally understood that fire is a natural and necessary process on the landscape, the fire ecology and efficacy of risk reduction treatments is not well understood in the Bulkley Morice planning area.

How will the project make a difference?

The project will improve knowledge of wildfire resilience and provide a landscape modeling toolkit that will integrate with emerging initiatives including Indigenous fire stewardship and plans, tactical wildfire plans, and the new Forest Landscape Plan.

The project is designed so that decision makers and resource managers can develop specific management scenarios that integrate the three streams of the project – wildfire mitigation, conservation design, and carbon – with other planning area objectives such timber, recreation and wildlife.
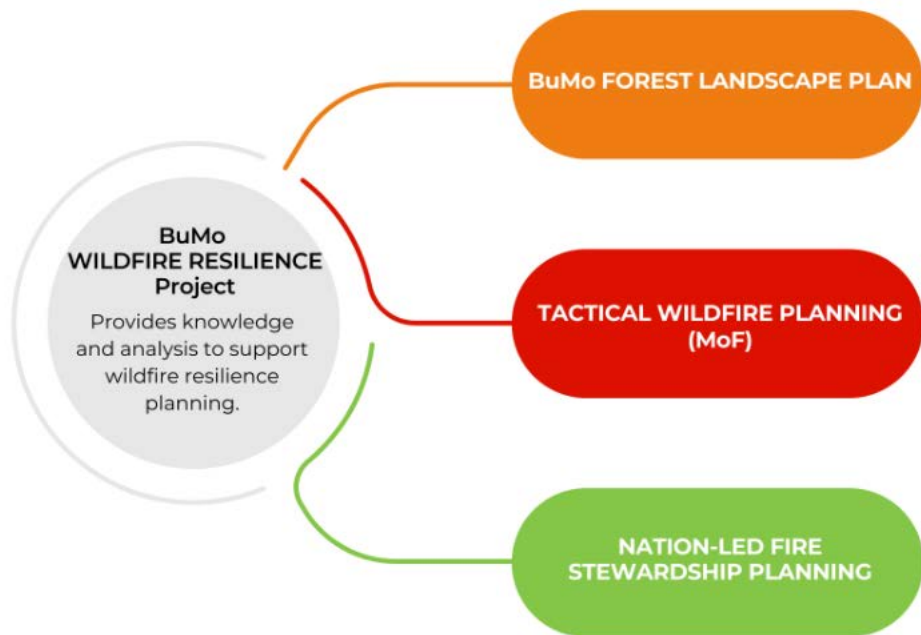
The project has 4 goals:

1. Improve knowledge about wildfire resilience in the face of a changing climate and increased wildfire risk.
2. Develop a landscape-scale wildfire resilience model with conservation and carbon submodules to support planning and programs in the area.
3. Support land managers to develop strategies that increase ecosystem resilience in forest management and wildfire plans that are based on the best available science of wildfire resilience.
4. Operational forestry plans and wildfire mitigation prescriptions are prepared using updated wildfire resilience knowledge.

To achieve these goals, the project will develop a Knowledge Report that describes the best available information about wildfire resilience and documents areas of uncertainty where improved knowledge is required to support decision making. A landscape wildfire modeling toolkit will help project the future risk of wildfire under a changing climate and the effects of wildfire mitigation strategies; sub-modules will examine the relationship of wildfire to conservation values (such as refugia) and carbon.

Relationship to Planning Processes

Best practices for enhancing the forest's resilience to wildfire point to the critical need to:

- plan at the landscape scale,
- consider the future climate's effect on wildfire,
- use the best available science,
- include local and indigenous knowledge,
- involve stakeholders, and
- work collaboratively across governments

**BuMo
WILDFIRE RESILIENCE
Project**

Provides knowledge and analysis to support wildfire resilience planning.

BuMo FOREST LANDSCAPE PLAN

TACTICAL WILDFIRE PLANNING (MoF)

NATION-LED FIRE STEWARDSHIP PLANNING

Project Timeline

The project outcomes are designed to be collaborative and iterative from start to finish. Workshops conducted with local knowledge holders will inform the development of knowledge reports, model parameters and scenario assessments as the project progresses.

Fall, 2026
Collaborative
Workshop #3

Fall, 2026
Revised Knowledge
Report

Fall, 2025
Wildfire Scenarios

Spring, 2025
Landscape Wildfire
Model

Spring, 2025
Collaborative
Workshop #2

Spring, 2025
Draft Knowledge
Report

Nov 20, 2024
Collaborative
Workshop #1

June, 2024
Steering Committee
Established

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Future newsletters will expand on critical questions such as what wildfire resilience means, how we can consider climate change and its effects on wildfire, and how our project is integrating Western and Indigenous knowledge.

Attend an upcoming Open House

Stay tuned for more details about a public open house later this year in Smithers.

Contact us to learn more

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Bulkley Morice
WILDFIRE
RESILIENCE
PROJECT

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