

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan



Village of Valemount

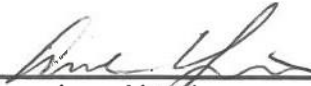
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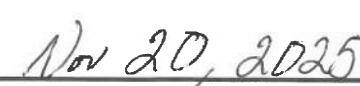




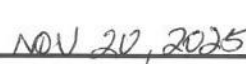
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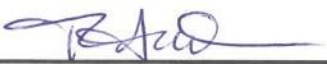



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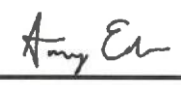

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The area of interest of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) is part of the unceded ancestral territories of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and the Simpcw First Nation. The Lheidli T'enneh are a subgroup of the Dakelh people. The Simpcw First Nation is one of 17 Bands of the Secwépemc Nation. The traditional territories of the Lheidli T'enneh and the Simpcw First Nation lands extend well beyond the borders of the village of Valemount.

This project was a collaborative effort with valuable contributions from various sources. The authors would like to thank Rundi Anderson, the Emergency Program Coordinator for the Village of Valemount and Michel Woodman, the FireSmart™ Coordinator for the Village of Valemount who dedicated their time and provided guidance and support during the plan development as well as sharing invaluable local knowledge. In addition, the authors would like to thank the following individuals for their information, contributions, and guidance:

- Alana Duncan, Manager, Valemount Community Forest
- Anne Yanciw, Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Valemount
- Carleena Shephard, Corporate Officer, Village of Valemount
- Colby Molcak, Manager of Emergency Preparedness, Regional District of Fraser Fort George
- Darin Summerhays, Wildfire Technician, Robson Valley Fire Zone
- Dean Schneider, Building Inspector, Village of Valemount
- Elliott Ingles, Area Supervisor, BC Parks
- Melanie Stutt, Emergency Operations Coordinator, Simpcw First Nation
- Ray Mikolash, Wildfire Officer, Robson Valley Fire Zone
- Rick Lalonde, Valemount Fire Chief
- Sadia Zannat, Emergency Management Officer, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation
- Trevor Pelletier, Village of Valemount

This plan would not have been possible without the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program and funding from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

The cover photo depicting Kinbasket Lake from the McKirdy Meadows Trail was submitted by Karly Ireland.

FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS

AAR	After action review
AOI	Area of Interest
BC	British Columbia
BCWS	British Columbia Wildfire Service
BEC	Biogeoclimatic Zones
CDC	Conservation Data Centre
CFRC	Community FireSmart and Resiliency Collaborative
CRI	Community Resiliency Investment
CSGS	Cultural Sites and Green Space
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
CWRP	Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan
EMP	Emergency Management Plan
FBP	Fire Behaviour Prediction
CRI FCFS	Community Resiliency Investment FireSmart Community Funding & Supports
FMP	Fuel Management Prescriptions
GIS	Geographic Information System
Ha	Hectares
HRVA	Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis
HIZ	Home Ignition Zone
HWY	Highway
IPP	Independent Power Providers
Km	Kilometers
NDT	Natural Disturbance Type
OCP	Official Community Plan
PSTA	Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis
PTU	Proposed Treatment Unit
RDFFG	Regional District of Fraser Fort George

ROS	Rate of spread
SARA	Species at Risk Act
UBCM	Union of British Columbia Municipalities
VRI	Vegetation Resource Inventory
VVFD	Valemount Volunteer Fire Department
WDPA	Wildfire Development Permit Area
WRR	Wildfire Risk Reduction
WRTS	Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit
WSPP	Wildland Structure Protection Program
WTA	Wildfire Threat Assessment
WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) for the Village of Valemount builds on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to enhance the community's ability to respond to wildfires and protect the wildland-urban interface (WUI). This plan assesses wildfire risk and provides specific objectives, recommendations, and action plans across seven FireSmart™ disciplines: Education, Community Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-Training, Emergency Planning, and Vegetation Management.

The intended audience for this plan includes several key groups to ensure its support and effectiveness. This plan will help guide local residents, local government, emergency responders, land and resource managers, community groups, provincial agencies, and stakeholders to a collaborative approach to becoming resilient to wildfires.

The CWRP focuses on the Village of Valemount, with some emphasis on areas within the eligible WUI. Since the CWPP, the WUI has been updated to a one-kilometer buffer around homes and structures, incorporating new developments and identifying additional treatment units.

A total of 36 prioritized recommendations and action items have been outlined to guide the Village of Valemount in mitigating wildfire threats. These include hosting community events, distributing educational materials, conducting home and infrastructure assessments, ensuring compliance with the Wildfire Act, and developing local bylaws. The plan also emphasizes the importance of interagency cooperation, training, emergency planning, and vegetation management.

It is recommended that the CWRP be reviewed annually and updated every five years to reflect changes in demographics, land use, and environmental conditions.

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Table 1. CWRP Summary of Action Items

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description
Education			
1	High	Maintain a permanent FireSmart Coordinator position	The grant funded FireSmart Coordinator is in a term position. This position should be maintained on a permanent basis to coordinate a FireSmart program in the Village of Valemount. A FireSmart Coordinator is a critical investment in community safety, resilience, and climate adaptation. By having someone dedicated year-round to wildfire risk reduction, education, coordination, and recovery the Village of Valemount greatly improves its resiliency to wildfire. A FireSmart Coordinator is a requirement for further CRI funding.
2	High	Host FireSmart community events	FireSmart focused events enhance community engagement and share information about FireSmart goals, plans, and future events. They are key to community education.
3	Moderate	Classroom delivery of FireSmart focused education to local schools.	Deliver FireSmart education from FireSmart BC Education Package to local schools to teach children about FireSmart practices and to get them involved. Students can bring this information home to share with their families.
4	Moderate	Order and distribute FireSmart educational material	Educational materials will increase public awareness and knowledge of FireSmart principles and steps the public can take in FireSmarting their community and properties.
5	Moderate	Increase the FireSmart education material available in the community by engaging in the FireSmart BC Library Program at the local library and FireSmart children/youth material to summer children/youth programs.	Increase the FireSmart education material available at the local library. Funding is available through the UBCM's CRI program to access additional education materials. This program includes Wildfire Resiliency Literacy Kits, Ember Activity Packages, Colouring Contest materials, and access to Storytime Videos with Ember.
6	Moderate	Apply for Neighborhood Recognition Program	Encourage community support of FireSmart initiatives and grass roots uptake via a Neighborhood Champion. Complete assessments, create a plan, sponsor a local neighborhood FireSmart Collaborative, conduct FireSmart events, invest in neighborhood efforts and complete an annual report.
7	High	Encourage residents to have a FireSmart Home Ignition Zone (HIZ), Wildfire Mitigation Program and/or Farm and Ranch Assessment for their home/property. Based on the outcome of the Assessments, encourage property owners to implement as many mitigation activities as possible through local rebate programs for	A FireSmart Coordinator or other qualified staff are required to complete the Home Ignition Assessments. For a more comprehensive home assessment, the community can consider participating in FireSmart BC's Wildfire Mitigation Program. The FireSmart BC Wildfire Mitigation Program engages residents in wildfire mitigation activities by offering a professional home assessment with property-specific recommendations. The assessments are offered free of charge through the Valemount FireSmart Coordinator.

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description
		completed eligible FireSmart activities.	Additional personnel may need to be trained to complete assessments. Schedule revisits to encourage completion of recommended actions. Funding is available through the UBCM's CRI program to complete FireSmart HIZ Assessments/ Farm and Ranch Assessments for property owners. Once the assessments are complete, residents are eligible to take part in the FireSmart Rebate program to offset the costs of mitigation activities.
8	Low	Promote the FireSmart Plant Program	Provide literature/education materials to the local businesses (Home Hardware), and landscaping companies that provide plants to the community
Legislation and Planning			
9	Moderate	Consider local bylaw implementation, complete bylaw review.	Specific local wildfire prevention bylaws will enhance the community's wildfire resiliency. Enforcement capacity may need to be assessed. Amend bylaws for vegetation management (e.g. location and type of landscaping, removal of fuel accumulations), and incorporation of FireSmart materials in new construction and renovation. An update to the Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) may be taken in conjunction with the bylaw review.
10	High	Develop and offer a local FireSmart Rebate Program to residential property or homeowners that complete eligible FireSmart activities to provide incentive and assist with the financial barriers to implementing FireSmart on private land.	The Village of Valemount, through the Emergency Preparedness staff or the FireSmart Coordinator can develop a program and communicate the available resources. Ensure the local residents are aware of the FireSmart Rebate program and are actively taking part in implementing eligible FireSmart activities and applying for rebates upon completion. Funding is available through the UBCM's CRI program to support rebate programs. As of 2024, rebates are limited to 50% of the total cost of the eligible activities identified in the CRI Program Guide and up to \$5,000 per property.
11	Low	Amend the CWRP to ensure it is current (within 5 years)	Plan to amend current CWRP within 5 years of development date or if there have been significant changes in the community or to the associated funding structures.
12	High	Conduct an analysis to prioritise which vacant lots within the AOI present the greatest wildfire threat and notify property owners to prioritise vegetation management efforts.	Under British Columbia's Fire Safety Act, municipalities like Valemount have a legal responsibility to ensure that vacant landowners are aware of fire hazards their properties may pose to neighboring properties with structures.
Development Considerations			
13	Moderate	Develop database of structures and areas where assessments or treatments have been completed	Ensure there is a record and spatial data of assessments and treatments for future planning, maintenance projects, and required funding.

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description
		Have KMZ file stored with the Village of Valemount.	Collect which areas have had requests for assessments, completed assessments, treatments, and follow up assessments. Develop a secure internal system to track Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) assessments within the municipality, ensuring compliance with privacy and data protection standards. Data will also be maintained through the FireSmart BC program and will remain confidential, not subject to public access under the Freedom of Information Act. Records and spatial data—including assessment requests, completed evaluations, and follow-up visits—will be used solely to support wildfire resilience planning and meet reporting requirements for funding programs such as CRI, without collecting unnecessary personal information. Creating and managing spatial data will require support from a GIS Technician, a role that Valemount currently does not have in-house. This may necessitate either training existing staff in GIS capabilities or outsourcing the work to external specialists.
14	High	Complete FireSmart Critical Assessments on all Village of Valemount Critical Infrastructure.	Complete assessments. Once completed, implement the FireSmart recommendations and mitigation activities or develop a plan for activities that are not immediately actionable with the goal of reducing hazard scores as much as possible.
15	High	Apply FireSmart principles in new construction in the Village of Valemount.	All new construction should apply FireSmart policies and recommendations in the Village of Valemount OCP. Consider adopting a Wildfire Development Permit Area (WDPA) that would be the framework for new construction. Ensure emergency evacuation and egress are considered in new developments.
Interagency Cooperation			
16	High	Participate in a Community FireSmart and Resiliency Collaborative	Participating in a CFRC will improve mitigation efforts, enhance safety and coordination during emergencies and response to wildfires. The CFRC will ensure the CWRP action items are implemented and that community efforts align with broader resiliency plans. Explore options for effective fire prevention measures between the municipality and the fire department and implement options. Participation in a CFRC is a requirement for further CRI funding.
17	High	Obtain permission from the land manager in areas within the WUI on Regional District land to complete wildfire threat assessments and fuel treatment	Valemount can request CRI funding for the 2026/2027 application, with permission from the land manager, to complete wildfire threat assessments and potential fuel treatment within the eligible WUI on Regional District land to support wildfire resilience surrounding the AOI. Coordinate with the RDFFG and the CLWRR program as potential treatment units have been identified in the 2022 Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Tactical Plan.

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description
18	High	Work with CN Rail to reduce fuels around the rail corridor	To mitigate risk of sparks from trains igniting fires within the Village of Valemount and WUI. If planned burning is part of fuel reduction, the Village of Valemount bylaws have an exemption for live fire training by the Valemount Fire Department. Consult with CN Rail and BCWS to implement prescribed burning in areas adjacent to the rail corridor with grass or shrub fuel types.
19	High	Work with BC Hydro to encourage ongoing vegetation clearing occurs on the BC Hydro transmission lines and at the Valemount substation	While the main powerlines that supply the Village of Valemount and the substation are outside of the AOI, ongoing power supply is critical. Maintaining vegetation management along powerline corridors will support fire prevention and increase safety and access.
20	High	Coordinate cross-training opportunities between the Valemount Fire Department and the BC Wildfire Service Robson Valley Fire Zone	Organize and/or participate in cross-jurisdictional meetings, tabletop exercises, or mock scenarios specifically focused on wildfire preparedness and response. Cross training and desktop preparedness events have been found to improve response during emergency events.
FireSmart Training and Cross Training			
21	Moderate	Increase number of community members with training relating to FireSmart activities and wildfire risk reduction	Offer courses such as the FireSmart 101, Local FireSmart Representative, Wildfire Risk Reduction, S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety to increase awareness of FireSmart principles, fire behaviour and suppression throughout the community.
22	Moderate	Training for Valemount Fire Department	Train personnel that will be expected to deploy the structure protection trailer when needed. Courses may include: WSPP-115 Wildland structure protection S-231 Engine Boss
23	Moderate	Attend the Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit	Continue to send members to the WRTS to stay up to date on the latest research, best practices, and innovations in wildfire prevention. The WRTS provides those attending a with a valuable networking opportunity with different agencies, specialists, and communities.
Emergency Planning			
24	High	Update the Evacuation Plan	The Village of Valemount has an evacuation plan from 2021. An update of the plan with checklists and evacuation drills would be beneficial. Develop a comprehensive evacuation plan for the Village of Valemount and promote the use of the Wildfire Evacuations Checklist at community events. Include the evacuation plan in the table top exercises.
25	Moderate	Assess the Structure Protection Unit inventory and apply for CRI funding to acquire additional Structure Protection Unit inventory as necessary.	Sufficient protection is needed in the Village of Valemount to ensure community protection as the Village of Valemount is remote from larger centres that could provide aid. Four phases for acquiring a structure protection trailer have been released through CRI FCFS funding. The phases have been designed to ensure communities have proper equipment for structure protection throughout each phase.

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description
			The Valemount Fire Department is a RDFFG function. The Village of Valemount can collaborate with the RDFFG as the lead.
26	High	Ensure roof top sprinklers are installed on all critical infrastructure in the Village of Valemount	To ensure maximum protection, ensure that public buildings and critical infrastructure have roof top sprinklers installed.
27	High	Develop a deployment plan to deliver a constant and sufficient, amount of water from a reliable source capable of supporting full deployment of roof-top sprinklers for all participating properties.	Valemount has initiated and promoted a roof-top sprinkler program however, water sources to support sprinkler deployment have not been identified. This is crucial to ensure an effective wildfire response and maximize the system's potential to protect homes during an emergency. Work with the BCWS, Valemount Emergency Management, and Valemount Fire Department.
Vegetation Management			
28	High	Engage land managers (public and private) to initiate wildfire threat assessments followed by fuel treatment.	Due to the timing of the CWRP application some public and private areas near Valemount could not be assessed as part of the CWRP development, as there were not sufficient permissions. The Village of Valemount can engage local stakeholders to ensure these areas are assessed during the 2026 funding phase and eligible for funding to complete fuel treatment during the 2027 funding phase. Discussion opportunities may be held during the CFRC meetings to best align all stakeholders objectives.
29	Moderate	Complete a community vegetation management project	A small scale (< 2 ha area) project is desired as a community project to inspire action and act as a demonstration site. Providing a visual example of a fuel treatment area that follows FireSmart principles can help residents better understand what effective treatment looks like and may inspire them to implement similar practices on their own properties.
30	Moderate	Engage a project manager to manage the treatment units.	Apply for grant funding to hire a project manager to oversee the fuel treatment. As minimal areas within the AOI are eligible for treatment, this position may be an added scope in addition to an existing position.
31	High	Prescription development on proposed treatment units	Prescription development is necessary in areas where fuel treatment will take place to assess current risk and prescribe a treatment to lessen the risk. Updates may be necessary in treatment units with outdated prescriptions (over 10 years).
32	High	Organize Community Chipper Day(s) to encourage and assist residents with removal of vegetation and debris around their homes.	Develop a plan for debris removal to incentivize residents to complete fuel reduction projects on their properties, without having to dispose of the accumulated debris on their own. This could be by equipment rentals, employing a resident to haul debris to a waste station, purchase of a chipper, etc.
33	High	Complete funding applications for fuel treatment	The main funding streams to implement fuel treatment on municipal land is UBCM CRI FCFS. The FireSmart coordinator should review application packages and amendments as well as any additional funding opportunities that may become available. Applications should be submitted annually for treatment and maintenance of treatment units.

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description
34	High	Apply for funding for FireSmart Crew Member(s) to complete fuel treatments on private property for vulnerable populations (e.g. elderly) who have completed a Home Ignition Zone Assessment.	Funding is available to hire a FireSmart crew to engage in vegetation management on private land, for vulnerable populations (e.g. elderly).
35	High	Complete wildfire risk reduction fuel treatment in proposed treatment units identified in the CWRP	After prescription development, implement fuel treatment according to prescriptions completed in the identified proposed treatment units and continue maintenance. Treatment units are identified in areas where a wildfire poses the highest threat to the community. Treatment will lessen the impact of a wildfire to these areas. Fuel treatments may be mechanical or hand treatment, or a mix of both.
36	High	Conduct wildfire threat assessments at sawmills in the Industrial Park	While the sawmills are not in the AOI the sawmills pose additional risk due to the increased fibre onsite. Collaborate with sawmill authorities and the RDFFG to promote completion of wildfire threat assessments aimed at identifying specific hazards and opportunities for suppression.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2023 wildfire season was the most destructive in BC's history. 2,245 fires burned 2.84 million hectares, resulting in loss of life, homes and structures, and over 200 evacuation orders affecting approximately 48,000 people. Prior to 2023, significant wildfire seasons included 2021 (869,300 hectares burned), 2018 (1,354,284 hectares burned), and 2017 (1,216,053 hectares burned).

In July of 2024, multiple wildfires occurred in the Robson Valley including Dunster-Croydon, Beaver River, and Canoe Road, that prompted evacuation orders and alerts for parts of Valemount, McBride, and Dunster. The nearby 2024 Jasper fire had and continues to have considerable impact on Valemount. Valemount hosted evacuees and the fire impacted the Valemount economy by displacing workers, loss of employment and a decrease in tourism. These disastrous wildfire seasons, especially in 2023 and 2024, have proven that forests and communities in British Columbia are extremely vulnerable to wildfire and, therefore, require mitigation and adaptation to become resilient.

In response, funding was obtained from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) under the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) FireSmart Funding and Supports Program to develop the Village of Valemount CWRP. The Village of Valemount contracted the CWRP development to Geoterra Integrated Resource Systems Ltd. (Geoterra). This CWRP has been completed per funding requirements according to the 2023 CRI CWRP template.

This CWRP examines wildfire risk within the village of Valemount and provides the community with recommendations on mitigating those risks by following identified action items. It provides

readers with an understanding of what measures to take to increase prevention and preparedness to create a resilient community to wildfires.

Following the 2023 CRI CWRP template, this plan is arranged in the following order:

1. **Introduction:** This section introduces the plan's purpose, goals, intended use, and background information.
2. **Relationship to Other Plans:** This section provides linkages to other plans that influence the development and usage of the CWRP.
3. **Community Description:** This section describes the plan's area of interest and the Wildland Urban Interface within the communities including values at risk, critical infrastructure, culturally significant sites, and general information about the communities.
4. **Wildfire Risk Assessment:** This section assesses the local wildfire risk by providing results of threat assessments, local fire history, the Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA), and vulnerabilities within the communities.
5. **FireSmart Disciplines:** This section describes recommended prevention measures for each of the seven FireSmart Disciplines that are relevant to the community's wildfire resiliency.
 - Education
 - Legislation and planning
 - Development Considerations
 - Interagency Cooperation
 - Cross Training
 - Emergency Planning
 - Vegetation and Fuels Management
6. **Action Plan and Implementation:** This section provides an action plan, prioritization, and timelines for implementation as well as means for tracking progress.

1.1 Plan Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the CWRP is to identify wildfire risks within the Village of Valemount to describe the potential consequences of a wildfire, to examine strategies to reduce the risk and provide implementation recommendations to create resilient communities. The goal of the CWRP is to integrate local knowledge, best practices, relevant research, and proven mitigation techniques to provide the community with an achievable, detailed framework that is designed to minimize the impact of a wildfire by allowing the community to adapt and recover from such events more effectively. Implementing specific actions will result in:

1. Reduced likelihood of a wildfire entering the community.
2. Increased success of wildfire suppression efforts and emergency response.
3. Reduced impacts and losses to property and critical infrastructure.
4. Reduced negative economic and social impacts on the community.

The WUI is the zone where flammable vegetation interfaces with homes, structures, and critical infrastructure. There are variations in jurisdictional boundaries which can lead to coordination challenges. For the purposes of this CWRP, the WUI is defined as a one (1) km buffer from a

structure density of six (6) or greater / km². This area is particularly vulnerable to wildfires as it is where human development and the natural environment meet or intermingle. The WUI was first established to identify mitigation opportunities. This is the eligible area that is available for additional funding opportunities for wildfire risk reduction (WRR) fuel treatments.

1.2 Plan Development Summary

This CWRP provides a comprehensive framework for The Village of Valemount to proactively address current and future challenges in relation to wildfire resiliency. Developed in accordance with FireSmart BC guidelines, the reader can identify any of the relevant seven FireSmart Disciplines in Table 1 they wish to explore further and find the recommended action items specific to the community. From there, they can locate the FireSmart Disciplines in Section 5.0, which expands on individual disciplines, an analysis of how the discipline is relevant to the community, and action planning.

The CWRP development framework can be categorized into the following five sections:

Area of Interest (AOI) and WUI

The initial step in the CWRP development was to identify the areas the CWRP will need to implement which would also identify all relevant stakeholders. This was done by confirming the AOI. The Village of Valemount's AOI is defined by the municipal boundary for the Village of Valemount. From there, the WUI was identified as explained in the Plan Purpose and Goals. The majority of the WUI surrounding the Village of Valemount is privately owned.

Consultation

Consultation included the Lheidli T'enneh and Simpcw First Nations as the Village of Valemount is located within the traditional territories of these First Nations. Consultation with the Village of Valemount Staff aimed to understand current or completed wildfire mitigation efforts and assist in identifying specific community challenges and prioritize action items. A part-time FireSmart Coordinator was hired by the Village of Valemount to support future mitigation efforts and support the plan development. Public and stakeholder engagement was conducted to spread awareness of the CWRP development and solicit input from the community.

Review of Relevant Plans and Legislation

A review of local or higher level plans, guides, bylaws, and policies for any relevance and potential influence they may have on the CWRP. See Section 2.0 Relationship to Other Plans and Legislation for further information.

Identify Values at Risk and Complete Wildfire Risk Assessment

Values at risk were identified through desktop analysis and the Village of Valemount and Staff consultation. A list of values and locations can be found in Section 3.5 Values at Risk. Confirming the local wildfire risk involved analysis of local fire history, topography, weather patterns, and vegetation type, followed by field visits to complete wildfire threat assessments in areas identified as potential treatment units.

Recommendations and Action plan

A community specific action plan was developed in accordance with the seven FireSmart Disciplines and outlines the individual plan objectives, priority, timeframe, personnel required, and metric for success. The Action Plan can be found in Section 6.1 CWRP Action Plan.

2.0 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS AND LEGISLATION

The purpose of this section is to identify and review provincial and local plans and legislation that are relevant to wildfire mitigation within the Village of Valemount. The Village of Valemount AOI falls within the footprint of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG) CWPP. At the time of writing of this CWRP the RDFFG was in the process of finalizing a CWRP that would encompass Valemount and the surrounding area.

2.1 Local Plans

The Village of Valemount Official Community Plan (OCP) was developed in 2021 to outline the community's strengths and potential challenges in relation to governance, land and resources, economic development, culture and language, infrastructure, and human and social services, and to be a roadmap to a successful implementation plan. An update to the Official Community Plan is in progress.

The Village of Valemount Emergency Management Plan was developed in 2021 to outline the structure, organization and required actions that need to be taken before, during, and after an emergency or disaster. An update to the Emergency Management Plan is in progress.

A CWPP was created through a collaboration with between the Village of Valemount and the company B. A. Blackwell and Associated Ltd. The recommended 48 action items across five key areas, Communication and Education, Planning, Critical Infrastructure, Residential Infrastructure, Training and Emergency Response, and Fuel Management. Many of the recommended action items are still valid. However, since 2012, aspects of the Village of Valemount have changed and a new understanding of FireSmart principles has emerged. Funding structures have changed and new standards for CWRP writing and reporting have been developed, as a result, some of the recommendations from this previous CWPP are not applicable to this CWRP.

The forementioned plans and specific Village of Valemount and how they relate to the CWRP are included in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Relationship to Other Local Plans

Plan Type	Relationship to CWRP
Valemount Official Community Plan (OCP) (2021 – Update underway)	The OCP sets Valemount's land-use vision, environmental stewardship objectives, and hazard-management policies. This CWRP aligns with those policies by embedding wildfire mitigation into land-use designations, Development Permit Area (DPA) guidelines, and the OCP's implementation framework. The OCP has FireSmart principles outlined throughout,

	including the following strategies and policies relating to wildfire: • Section 6.5.3 Public spaces and community facilities should consider future needs as a result of climate change, and how they can help the community during times of stress. These considerations may include: Refuge space from excessive heat, wildfire smoke, power outages, and others. • Section 6.6.4 All development must show an understanding of and incorporate FireSmart Canada principles and design standards. • Section 7.3.3 Developers and local homeowners should meet the following objectives during floodplain and steep slope developments: Design developments to allow for the continuation of ecological processes that are essential for ecosystem sustainability (erosion, slip and subsidence, flooding, fire, etc.) • Sections 7.5.13, 7.6.9, and 7.7.9 To promote wildfire resistance for built structures, the use of cedar shakes and batten box roof materials is discouraged. • Sections 7.5.18, 7.6.14, and 7.7.15 Landscaping should incorporate plants native to Valemount region and should be selected in accordance with FireSmart Canada standards wherever possible. • Section 8.1.5 The Village supports site design that maximizes FireSmart compliant tree planning and green space retention with an emphasis on open space and street trees to reduce building energy demand. • Section 9.7.2 The Village should create and review an Emergency Response and Management Plan. The Plan should examine existing capacity to respond to emergencies within the Village. The plan should also incorporate wildfire best practices and guidelines established by FireSmart Canada and should be updated every 5 years after its adoption.
Valemount Emergency Management Plan (EMP) (2021 – Update underway)	The EMP is an all-hazards plan completed in 2021, the CWRP references its established protocols to maintain consistency and inform future updates. The EMP is the overarching document for evacuation planning and the Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA). The HRVA is included in the EMP as Annex A. Wildfire is identified in the HRVA. The HRVA was developed in 2016 and it needs to be updated. The EMP provides information regarding available resources that could also be used in carrying out the CWRP Action Plan. The EMP outlines the following response in the event of a fire: • The Valemount Volunteer Fire Department is the lead agency for all operations involving fire

	suppression, rescue, motor vehicle accidents, and incidents involving basic hazardous materials within the Village boundaries. In the event of EOC activation, the VVFD will ensure that a VVFD representative reports to the EOC to assume the role of Operations Fire Branch Coordinator as necessary and available. The Wildfire Management Branch is recognised for managing wildfires on crown lands and lands outside of the municipal boundary of the Village of Valemount. The Wildfire Management Branch is recognised for its capacity to assist and support the Village of Valemount.
Improving Asset Management Planning at the Village of Valemount (March 2020)	The current Asset Management Plan includes some specific wildfire elements. The risk, capital and condition work focus on water, sewer, roads and drainage assets, and on climate-driven threats like wildfire, flooding, freeze-thaw cycling and extreme storms. The Asset Management Plan indicates that it is unknown if there are sufficient buffer zones around the water and sewer systems to reduce the risk of wildfire damage. The CWRP can be used as a mechanism to ensure Critical Infrastructure Assessments are done on these assets.
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) (2012)	The 2012 CWPP Prepared by B.A. Blackwell & Associates established Valemount's first systemic wildfire risk assessment, mapped fuel, and outlined recommended actions in five key areas (education, planning, structure protection, emergency response, and fuel management). It drove early success through local fuel treatments and the 2025 CWRP builds on the CWPP's foundation. The CWRP will preserve and update the CWPP to ensure continuity, capture past achievements, and provide a pathway to further wildfire resiliency.
Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Program Tactical Plan (2022) (now called WUI WRR Plan)	Proposed treatment units have been identified through a 2022 Tactical Plan developed by the Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Program by the Ministry of Forests (now known as WUI WRR Plans). These proposed treatment units are outside of the AOI however, some occur within the WUI.

There are several bylaws that have a relationship with the CWRP itemized in Table 3. Bylaw relationship to CWRP. These bylaws influence the means to engage in fire preparedness, response, and prevention. There are no bylaws that relate to building materials or vegetation management. There are opportunities for the Village of Valemount to enact further bylaws to encourage FireSmart principles.

Table 3. Bylaw relationship to CWRP

Bylaw	Relationship to CWRP
Open Air Burning Bylaw No. 703, 2016	This bylaw prohibits open air burning within 100 m of any residence.

Bylaw	Relationship to CWRP
Fireworks Regulation Bylaw No. 749, 2016	This bylaw restricts, permits and schedules fireworks use to minimize human-caused ignitions in support of the CWRP's wildfire-prevention objectives.
Water Supply and Regulations Bylaw No. 709, 2014	This bylaw prescribes hydrant operations and water-use rules essential to CWRP fire-suppression measures. This bylaw enables the Village of Valemount to shut off domestic water supply to ensure there is sufficient capacity for fire suppression.

2.2 Higher Level Plans

The Village of Valemount is encompassed by the AOI of the Fraser-Fort George Regional District CWPP. It will be important for the Village of Valemount to review both plans to see where resiliency efforts align and identify opportunities to collaborate. Both plans and their relationship to the CWRP are outlined in Table 4, below. Coordination between Valemount and the RDFFG is essential to achieving wildfire risk reduction for the Village of Valemount as the footprint of the RDFFG CWRP includes populated communities (e.g. Cedarside) and the WUI around Valemount. The Village of Valemount will also benefit from combining resources and efforts with the RDFFG.

Table 4. Relationship to Regional Districts CWRP's

Plan/Legislation	Relationship to CWRP
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG) Electoral Area H CWRP	The RDFFG CWRP addresses the land area outside of the Village of Valemount, including the community of Cedarside and can be used as a mechanism to address WUI wildfire threat to Valemount and the surrounding community. The RDFFG CWRP was in the process of being finalized at the time of writing of this document.

3.0 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

3.1 Area of Interest

The area of interest (AOI) is defined as the areas within the municipal boundary of the Village of Valemount. This is the area in which the Village of Valemount is eligible to pursue funding through the FireSmart Community Funding Supports (FEFS) program. The recommendations associated with this CWRP apply to the AOI and the wildland urban interface (WUI) within 1 km of the AOI.

The Village of Valemount falls within the RDFFG. The Cedarside area, south of the Village of Valemount is part of the RDFFG and included in the RDFFG CWRP.

A substantial portion of the land in and surrounding the AOI is privately owned. Additionally, as of 2021, approximately 65% of the land in the Village of Valemount was considered to be vacant. This included 240.9 hectares of private land and 27 hectares of municipal land (Village of Valemount, 2021).

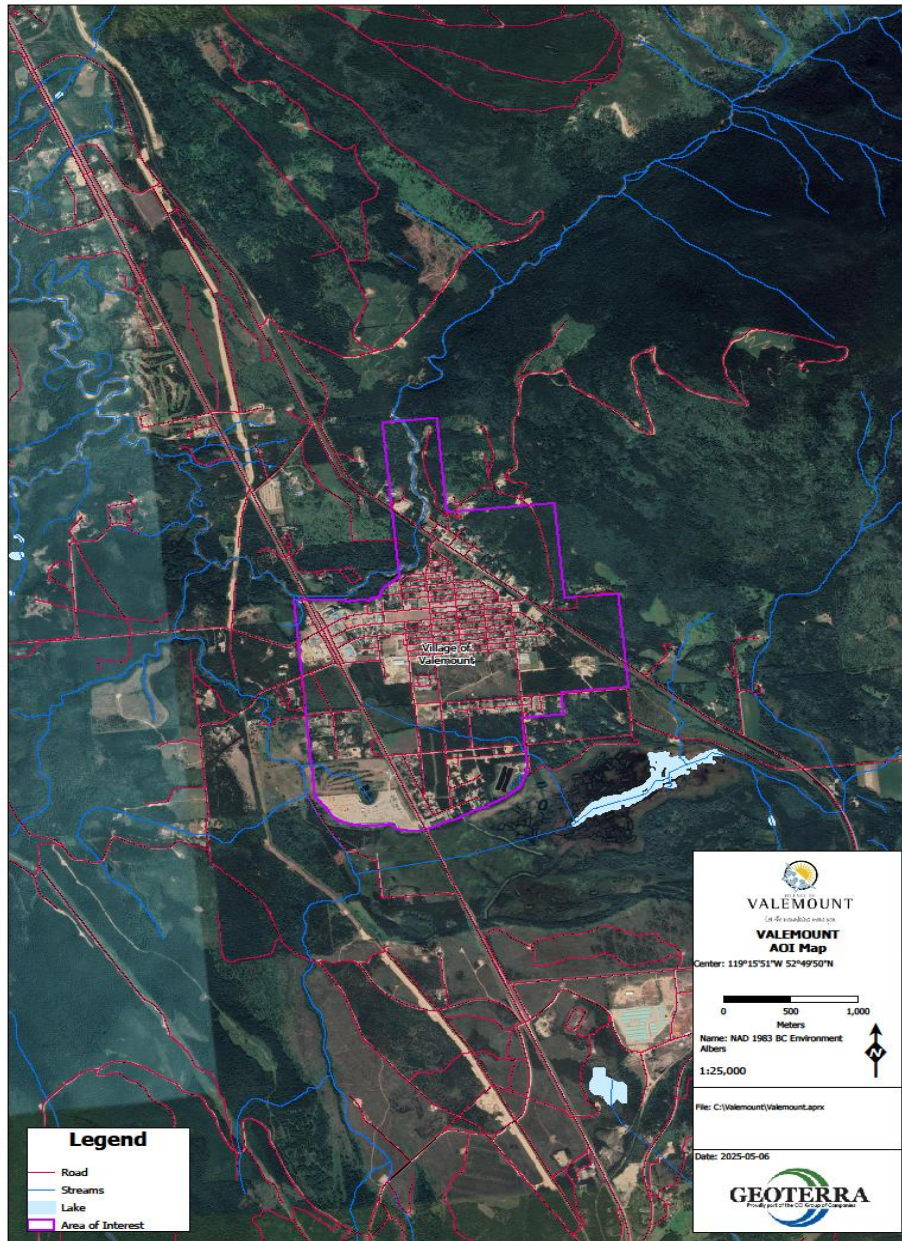


Figure 1. Village of Valemount AOI.

3.2 Wildland-Urban Interface

The wildland-urban interface (WUI) is the area where human development and forested land overlap. For the purpose of the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program, the WUI is defined as the area within one km of a structure density class greater than six. In more populated communities, the WUI is a well-defined area with a clear transition between structures and vegetation.

Homes and structures within the WUI are susceptible to fire spread either through radiant heat, direct flame contact from surrounding vegetation or nearby structures, or the most common, ember cast, when embers become windborne from a nearby fire and travel ahead of the fire, igniting homes and structures while also igniting new fires in unburned vegetation, known as spot fires. The entire Village of Valemount is designated as WUI making it highly susceptible to fire spread.



Figure 2. Example of homes within the WUI near the Village of Valemount Cranberry Lake Rd area.

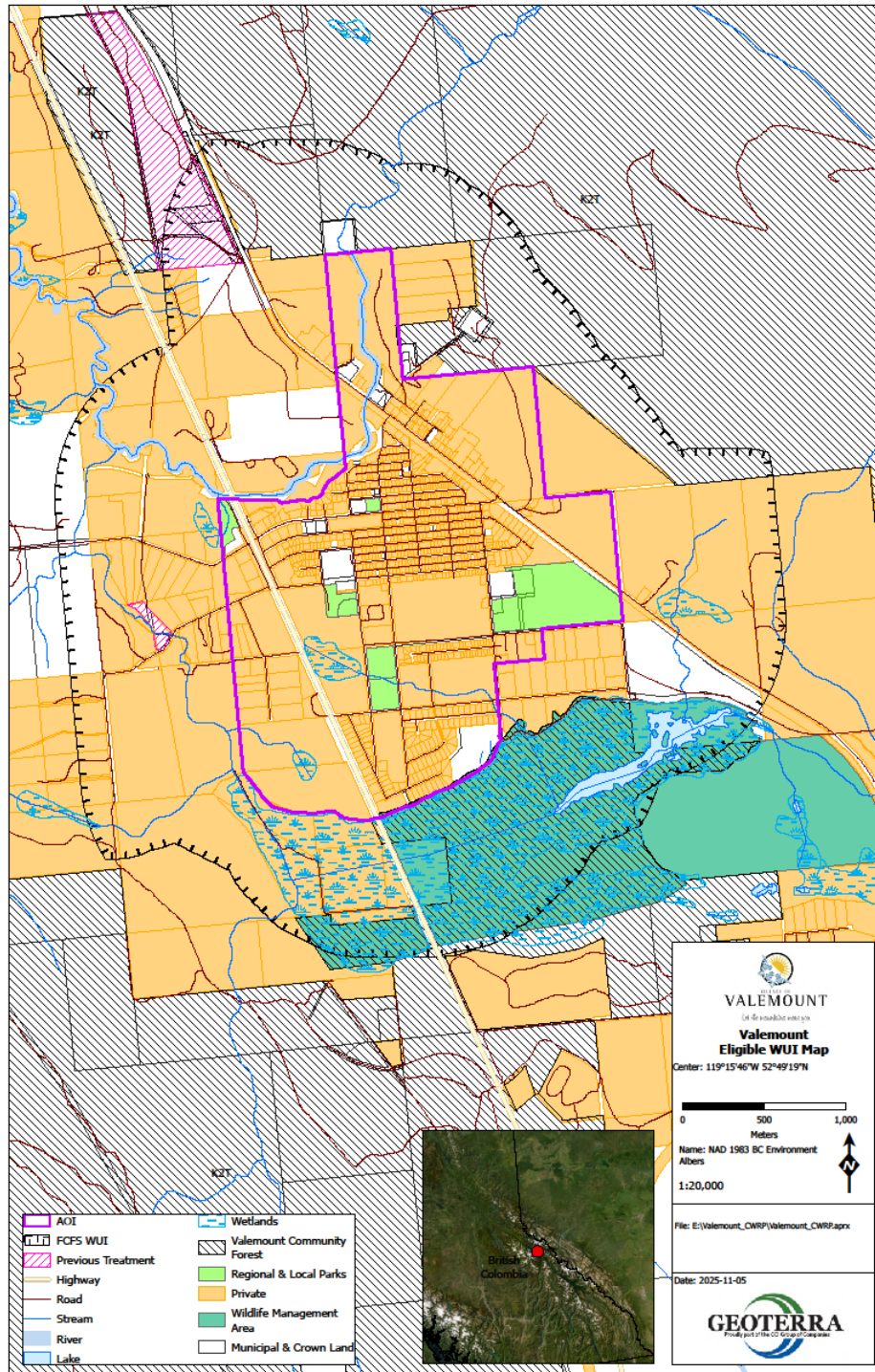


Figure 3. Eligible WUI at the Village of Valemount.

3.3 Community Information

The Village of Valemount respectfully acknowledges that the lands in which Valemount is situated are on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of both the Simpcw First Nation, a part of the Secwépemc Nation, and the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation who have been consulted throughout the duration of this plan development.

The Village of Valemount is at the eastern gateway to the Robson Valley, nestled between the Rocky, Monashee, and Cariboo Mountains, approximately 20 km southeast of the junction between Highway 16 and Highway 5. Valemount is situated in an important transportation corridor and is popular for summer and winter tourism. The Village of Valemount is bisected by Highway 5, which is a two-lane highway traveling north-south. The proximity to Mount Robson Provincial Park and Jasper National Park makes it a popular destination, especially in the summer months. The Robson Valley is characterized as rural residential properties with a large agricultural presence.

Residents and visitors are able to access full-service municipal amenities including K-12 education at Valemount Elementary and Secondary Schools, a staffed Health Centre, RCMP detachment, Fire Hall, BC Ambulance Service, Recreation Centre, seniors care, and several places of worship. The Village of Valemount also maintains parks and trails throughout the municipal boundary.

The most recent Government of Canada census data available for the Village of Valemount is from 2021. According to the 2021 data, the population was 1,052. There was a median individual income of \$36,800 and median household income of \$60,400 for the 880 individuals in the population aged over 15 years in private households in Valemount. Of the 602 recorded private dwellings, 445 or 74% required minor repairs, and 70 or 11.6% required major repairs. Regular home maintenance is critical to reducing the risk of wildfire damage, including structural and vegetation management. There was a total of 220 people in the census data over the age of sixty-five who may require assistance in maintaining their homes to meet FireSmart objectives.

Table 5. Community Information

Source	2021 Census Govt. of Canada
Total Population	1,052
Population Density (people/sq. km)	203.8
Median Age	44.8
Total Number of Private Dwellings	602
Private Dwellings Occupied by Usual Residents	515
Median household Income (\$)	60,400
Single Parent Households	50
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.7

3.4 Culturally Significant Sites

Provincial records do not indicate any previously recorded archaeological sites within the Village of Valemount. The CN Rail Valemount Station was designated as a historic site, although the site is not protected under the [Heritage Conservation Act](#) or any local government act. For First Nations, due to the sensitivity of the cultural sites, many sites may not be publicly known, and the First Nation may wish to keep the locations confidential. Cultural values have the potential to be impacted by wildfire through physical damage or alteration. Wildfire suppression techniques can disturb unidentified archaeological sites. If cultural values are inventoried and identified as sensitive sites, the possibility of protection and accommodation of these features in a wildfire incident is increased.

Given the overlap with the traditional territories of the Lheidli T'enneh and Simpcw First Nations, there is the potential for both archeological and culturally important sites within the AOI and WUI. It is recommended that in consultation with the Lheidli T'enneh and Simpcw First Nations the Village of Valemount develop a spatial data set that includes the location of all cultural heritage resources that can be shared with response agencies in the event a wildfire impacts the community. Suppression efforts can be focused to help protect such areas. In addition, this could influence fuel treatment options. Archaeological or cultural resource assessments may be required to ensure that known or unknown cultural resources are not inadvertently damaged or destroyed, and that First Nations strategies for land management in their traditional territory are complied with. See section 5.4 for Interagency Cooperation recommendations. In addition to mapping, assessments should be completed around any culturally significant sites using the FireSmart Cultural Sites and Green Space (CSGS) Assessment to evaluate risk and develop fuel management strategies that could include hand treatment and/or cultural burning.

3.5 Values at Risk

During a wildfire, values are broken into four categories that are prioritized for response efforts based on importance and risk, as discussed in the British Columbia Provincial Coordination Plan for Wildland Urban Interface Fires (Province of British Columbia, 2016). The highest priority is human life and safety, second is critical infrastructure and property, third is high environmental and cultural values (watersheds, habitat for species at risk, etc.) and fourth is resource values (timber harvesting sites, resource extraction sites, etc.).

Table 6. Values Prioritized for Response

Response Priority	Description
Human Life and Safety	Village of Valemount Residents and Visitors Firefighters Evacuation Routes Human Health
Critical Infrastructure and Property	Village Office (Emergency Operations Centre) Water Treatment Plant Sewer Plant Fire Hall BC Ambulance Station RCMP Detachment Health Centre BC Hydro Transmission Line Elementary and High Schools

	Robson Valley Community Services Building Golden Years Lodge Village Public Works Yard Community Hall and Sportsplex Recreation Centre Homes
Environmental and Cultural Values	Fish and Wildlife (species and habitats) Ceremonial and Meeting Sites Watersheds Species at Risk (SAR) habitat
Resource Values	Timber and Woodlots Tourism Sites Agriculture

3.5.1 Human Life, Safety, Health, and Emergency Response

The Village of Valemount is a rural community bisected by Highway 5 and the CN Rail line. The remoteness of the community affects the availability of services and additional response capabilities in the event of a wildfire. Valemount's wildfire response hinges on close coordination between the Valemount Volunteer Fire Department, the Valemount Fire Zone, RCMP, BC Ambulance, local health services and the Regional District's Emergency Management team.

The Valemount Emergency Management Plan provides guidance and direction relating to emergency mitigation, planning, preparedness, response, and recovery. In the event of a natural disaster, such as a wildfire, immediate response measures are initiated. The Emergency Management Plan details the procedures necessary for activating the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) when required, including determining the appropriate level of activation; coordinating the mobilization of personnel and resources to establish the EOC; and disseminating crucial information to the public. The primary EOC is situated at the Village Office, which is located at 735 Cranberry Lake Rd, Valemount.

Wildfire smoke reduces air quality and causes health problems. As stated by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BC Centre for Disease Control, 2024), some people are at a higher risk of health issues due to smoke exposure, including people with pre-existing conditions or respiratory infections, people who are pregnant, infants, small children, and the elderly. Everyone is advised to reduce their exposure to smoke, but those at risk should take extra precautions.

Studies have shown that wildfires can also affect the mental health of those impacted, as indicated in a report by the University of Alberta (P., Eboreime, & Agyapong, 2021). Post-wildfire studies have shown higher rates of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, anxiety, depression, and substance abuse in areas that have been impacted by wildfire, especially those who have experienced evacuations. Ecological grief is a term used for the emotional distress caused by environmental changes, usually caused by a natural disaster such as wildfire or climate change. Communities and individuals may suffer from ecological grief when areas they deem significant face destruction. This can impact the connection to the land and local traditions.

The Village of Valemount has a local fire department. The Fire Hall is located at 1380, 5th Ave in Valemount. They service the Village of Valemount and a portion of Electoral Region H

surrounding the Village that is part of the RDFFG. This includes the Village of Valemount, the Valemount north area in the vicinity of Blackman Road, and Cedarside to the south to the vicinity of Bear Road and Camp Creek Rest Area, as well as 4 km down the Canoe Forest Service Road. Fire hydrant coverage around the Village of Valemount is good. It is essential that the fire department personnel are trained and equipped to respond to both structural fires and wildfires. The fire department does Wildland Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115) training which includes Wildland Fire Fighter-1 or S-100/S-185, ICS 100 and Wildland Personal Protective Equipment in house for all their volunteers.

The Robson Valley Fire Zone has resources located near the Village of Valemount. Including seasonal staff, there are 23 staff who report to the Valemount Zone Office, located at 3390 Selwyn Road, Valemount. There are four initial attack crews, one Operations Assistant, three Wildfire Assistants, two Wildfire Technicians, and a Wildfire Officer. The BC Wildfire Service can provide mutual aid and fire suppression for the Village of Valemount. However, the Valemount resources may not always be available as they are routinely dispatched outside the Robson Valley Fire Zone depending on wildfire risk and response provincially.

3.5.2 Critical Infrastructure

Critical infrastructure are essential assets necessary for a community to function. The interference of such assets could impact a community's health, safety, security, or economic well-being and its ability to rebuild.

As per the UBCM CWRP Instruction Guide, critical infrastructure includes structures designated as Emergency Operations Centres or Emergency Support Services facilities (e.g. reception centres, group lodging locations for evacuees), water pump stations, communication towers, and electrical generations stations, but does not include all critical infrastructure identified through the local emergency management plan.

Critical infrastructure may be vulnerable to wildfires in various ways. Structure proximity to available fuels which could be the forest or single conifer trees that have not been treated to FireSmart recommendations, if the building is constructed of flammable materials, and any potential openings that would allow embers to enter the structure. Much of the critical infrastructure in the Village of Valemount was built with construction materials that have low susceptibility to wildfire, as identified in Table 7, below. While high-level analyses indicates a low risk, critical infrastructure assessments will be required to be completed by the Village of Valemount on all critical infrastructure to identify vulnerabilities and mitigation opportunities.

Table 7. Village of Valemount Critical Infrastructure

Critical Infrastructure	Location	Description	Risk to Wildfire
Village Office	735 Cranberry Lake Rd, Valemount	Serves as the Village Office and the building also houses the Valemount Visitor Centre. The Village Office is the designated Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).	Low risk to fire. Metal roof with stucco siding, limited trees and mostly deciduous.

Critical Infrastructure	Location	Description	Risk to Wildfire
Valemount Community Hall	101 Gorse St, Valemount	Multi-purpose venue that can serve as an Emergency Reception Centre.	Low risk, cinderblock building, flat roof, minimal risk from vegetation under the access ramp.
Health Centre	1445 5 Ave, Valemount	Provides healthcare for individuals and families at community-based family practice clinics.	Moderate risk for wood siding, low risk asphalt roof, limited vegetation.
Valemount Elementary School	1445 7 Ave, Valemount	Enrollment in the school includes kindergarten through grade 7.	Low risk, cinderblock building, flat roof.
Valemount Secondary School	201 Ash St, Valemount	Enrollment in the school includes grades 8 through 12.	Low risk, metal siding, flat roof.
Robson Valley Community Services	99 Gorse Street, Valemount	Community services including Valemount College	Low risk, cinderblock building, flat roof.
Village Public Works Buildings	101 Gorse Street, Valemount	Houses equipment used for water systems, road and infrastructure maintenance, snow removal, waste removal, landscaping and cemetery duties.	Low risk, limited fuel storage onsite, cinderblock building with metal roof. Multiple sheds, most are metal roof. Standing timber to the south and east of the yard.
Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) detachment	1435 5 Ave, Valemount	Local RCMP detachment that serves Valemount, Albreda, Tete Juane Cache, and Mount Robson Park.	Low risk, building construction is generally FireSmart, including metal roof, non-flammable exterior walls, limited vegetation nearby and mowed grass.
BC Ambulance Station	1450 9 Ave, Valemount	A 24/7 Alpha station with two paramedics per shift.	Generally FireSmart, stick frame construction, asphalt shingle roof.
Valemount Fire Hall	1380 5 Ave, Valemount	Fire hall with approximately 30 volunteer firefighters, two frontline engines, a tender, and one spare second line engine.	Low risk, cinderblock building with flat roof. Storage shed behind with metal roof.
Water Treatment Facility	1885 Hillside Drive, off Larch St near the junction of Larch and Juniper, Valemount	Water treatment facility which includes the intake pumping station, reservoir.	Infrastructure is generally FireSmart but pumping station lacks secondary power supply. Stand alone building cement board panels with flat roof and surrounded by conifer forest.
Pump House	1333 Juniper Street	Distributes water for domestic, agriculture, and industrial use. Will ensure a consistent and available water supply for firefighting.	Low risk with vegetation cleared around building, cinderblock building, flat roof.

Critical Infrastructure	Location	Description	Risk to Wildfire
Village Sewer Treatment	400 Ash Street, Valemount	Treatment facility and settling ponds with treated water release into Cranberry Marsh.	Low risk, metal siding with a metal roof.
Canoe Valley Recreation Centre	100 Elm Street, Valemount	Arena and gymnasium, owned by the RDFFG.	Low risk, front is cinderblock with metal roof and the rest is all metal.
Golden Years Lodge	1300 Main Street, Valemount	Senior care home.	Moderate risk, wood siding with asphalt roof.
Communication Towers	5 Mile: 1700 Hillside Drive Cedarside: 695 Cedarside Road Tete Juane: 12950 Highway 5 North	Three communication towers that are outside of the AOI, included to ensure consideration in the event of an emergency.	Metal towers need to be assessed for vegetation encroachment.

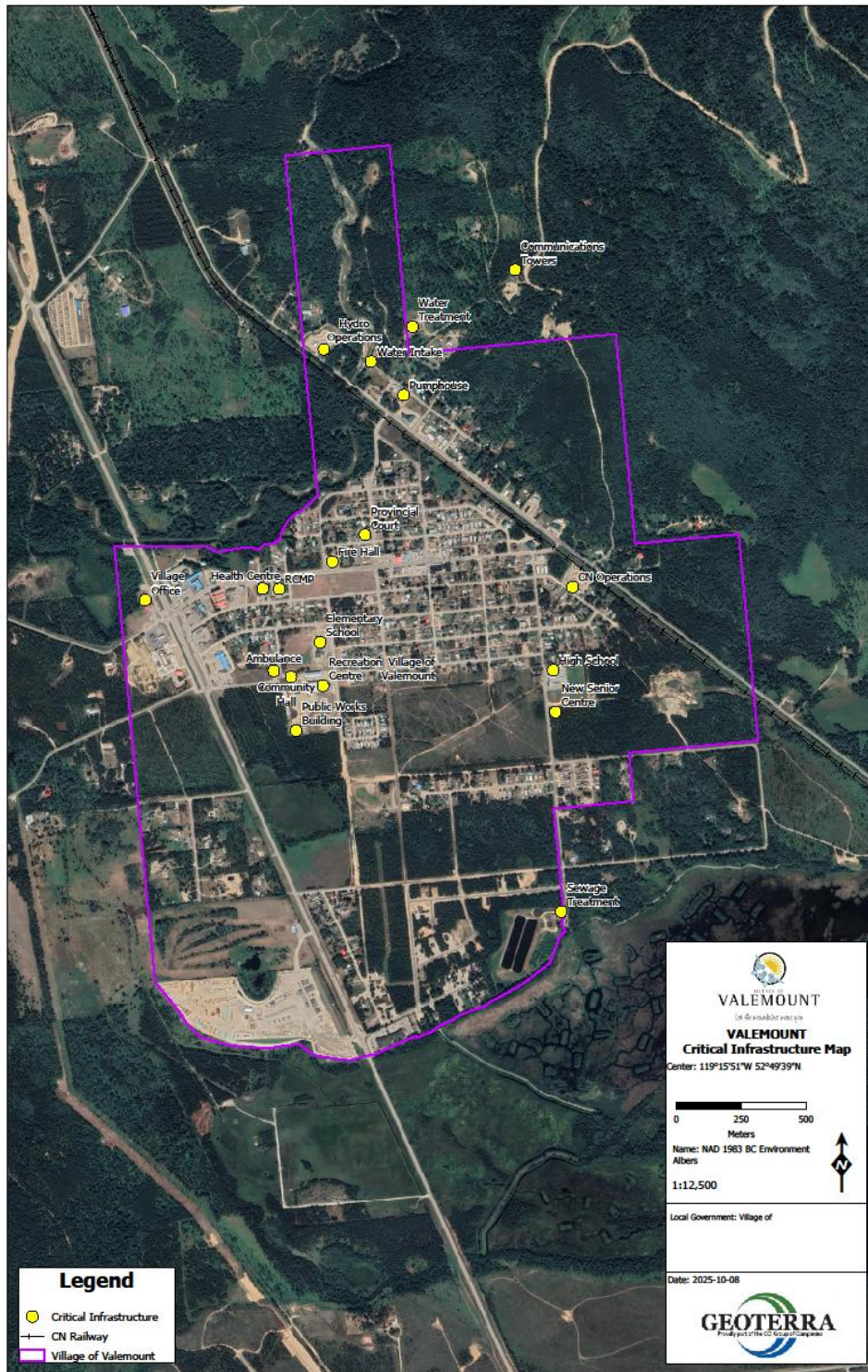


Figure 4. Village of Valemount Critical Infrastructure.

Electrical Power

BC Hydro supplies the Village of Valemount with electricity. There is a 25kV transmission line that goes from the Valemount Substation, located south of Valemount on the Westridge Forest Service Road. The transmission through the Robson Valley, supplying the Valemount Substation is 138kV with wooden poles. There are local options for power in the Robson Valley through Independent Power Providers (IPPs). There are two IPPs in Valemount and four IPPs in McBride (BC Hydro, 2025). The IPPs are capable of providing power to the entire Robson Valley when water levels are high, from June to September, which occurred in July 2024 when BC Hydro upgraded the Valemount substation (Poppo, 2024).

Wildfire has the potential to disrupt electricity supplied to the Village of Valemount. In 2003 the McLure Fire damaged electrical infrastructure and left residents in the Robson Valley without power on July 31, and the electrical supply was not restored until August 22. Electricity to the Robson Valley is supplied via overhead power lines with wooden power poles. Wildfires can potentially disrupt service to electrical networks by a wildfire damaging wooden power poles. This can result in down lines and poles needing to be replaced, or alternatively, a power line may act as an ignition source and cause a wildfire. Down trees on charged lines from strong winds, decayed or damaged trees, or even animal activity can result in ignition, and a wildfire may ensue. It is important to monitor vegetation around power lines and maintain vegetation management. Vegetation management is required on high voltage transmission lines' rights of way. BC Hydro is subject to the Wildfire Act and Regulation, which requires them to maintain power line corridors in a condition that would not start or cause a fire to spread. Vegetation management includes cutting or brushing standing vegetation resulting in a buildup of dead, dry debris. Therefore, debris abatement must occur during or after treatment. Well maintained power line corridors can act as a fuel break or access point for fire fighters. Valemount should advocate that BC Hydro maintains compliance in their vegetation management obligations.

Property owners are responsible for keeping the service wires and transformer boxes clear of vegetation. The service wire is the line that carries electricity from the pole to the property. The trees and vegetation in this area should have at least one metre of clearance around the line. Shrubs and plants near transformer boxes must have at least three meters clearance on all sides (BC Hydro, 2025).

Water and Sewer

The Village of Valemount has municipal water and sewer treatment facilities for the AOI. The water treatment plant was built in 2010 and can treat up to 5,500,000 liters of water per day. Water reservoirs can store up to 1,981,000 liters of water. The Village's water source comes from Swift Creek. The watershed encompasses the entire drainage area of Swift Creek and occupies an area approximately 13,232 ha. Located to the northwest of the Village of Valemount, the watershed topography is a rugged drainage with terrain dominated by large, steep mountains. Elevations rise towards the northeast where the highest point is recorded at 2,580 meters. Water is carried to the water treatment plant from the pump house for treatment

then distributed via 22 km of water lines to the community. The sewage treatment plant was constructed in 1980 with upgrades in 2008. Sewage is transported to the sewage treatment plant using 17 km of sewer lines and 9 lift stations. The sewage treatment plant can treat up to 1500 cubic meters of waste per day (Urban Systems, 2020; Village of Valemount, n.d.). The water and sewer treatment facilities have backup generators, however the intake pump for the water treatment facility does not have a secondary power supply.

Climate change and wildfire is a growing concern affecting water quality as they have the potential to negatively impact water supplies for years post fire. When a wildfire burns trees and vegetation around a water source, it exposes the soil, resulting in increased erosion and run-off of sediment and debris during a rain event post-fire. The introduction of added debris into the water source will alter the water quality and increase costs for treatment. Additionally, the added debris in the water poses the potential to damage the infrastructure used to treat and transport water (Province of British Columbia, 2024). A fire in the Swift Creek drainage would pose a significant risk to the water supply for the Village of Valemount. There have been multiple fires in the drainage, the largest in 2004.

Regarding wildfire response, there is good access to water in the AOI. The Village of Valemount has a network of 86 fire hydrants (Urban Systems, 2020). Swift Creek could be utilized by firefighters should a fire occur on the north side of the Village of Valemount and Cranberry Lake could be a resource for air support (helicopter water bucketing). Kinbasket Lake has been used as a water source for air support in the past.

To effectively combat wildfires in the case of limited water firefighters may need to rely on alternative methods, such as air support, natural or constructed fuel breaks, or utilizing controlled burns. In some cases, natural water sources may be diverted to support firefighting efforts which could result in impacting local ecosystems and drinking water supply. Strategies for water conservation and alternative sources for fire response such as long-term water storage systems should be included in an Emergency Management Plan.

3.5.3 Environmental Values

The BC [Conservation Data Centre](#) (CDC) tracks rare, endangered, or threatened species and ecosystems within the province. Species are given conservation status ranks depending on the level of concern about their risk. Species are listed as red when considered “endangered” and listed as blue when considered “threatened”. The CDC has mapping available that provides locations of known occurrences. Within the AOI there have been occurrences of the *carex adusta* (lesser brown sedge). Within the WUI south of the AOI, there have been occurrences of one blue-listed species: the *charadrius vociferus* (killdeer).

The Canadian Federal Government protects endangered and threatened species and habitat through the [Species at Risk Act](#) (SARA). SARA data identifies areas surrounding of the Village of Valemount to be critical habitat for the *pinus albicaulis* (whitebark pine), although it is not identified within the Village of Valemount.

Areas with endangered or threatened species or habitats must be considered when planning wildfire risk reduction treatment as altering such areas could result in harmful consequences.

Strategies to address these areas could include adjusting methods to minimize harm such as targeted treatments in high-risk areas and leaving critical habitats undisturbed, using low impact methods such as hand treatments, timing activities to avoid sensitive and critical periods, and monitoring the response of species and habitat to any treatments.

3.5.4 Resource Values

Timber and Woodlots

The Valemount Community Forest Company Ltd. was established in 2007. The VCF manages, harvests, and markets logs from the area around the Village of Valemount and plays a vital role in the sustainable management of forest resources surrounding Valemount while also providing a source of revenue and employment for the community. Although the VCF is outside of the AOI, fuel treatment conducted within the VCF has the potential to enhance wildfire resiliency for the Village of Valemount by lowering fuel loads and creating defensible spaces.

The Robson Valley is home to several active woodlots that supply timber to local processing facilities. South of Valemount, the Valemount Industrial Park manages a significant area of industrial land dedicated to forestry operations. Within this park, two specialty mills operate: the Valemount Specialty Mill, which is wholly owned by the Valemount Industrial Park Corporation, a municipal corporation, employs nine workers and focuses on producing specialized wood products. Cedar Valley Holdings also operates a second mill on-site, employing twelve people and contributing to the region's niche timber manufacturing sector.

Agriculture

The area around Valemount has a mix of traditional farming, and market gardens. There is abundant arable land in the Robson Valley and the soil is ideal for short season crops, such as root vegetables, cabbage, kale, and garlic. There is a strong community market, with a local Farmers Market happening every Thursday during in the afternoon at the Visitor Centre from June to September. For five years, until spring 2025, there was a market garden project by the Valemount Learning Society produced greens year-round for the community through the hydroponic farm called Village Greens.

Tourism

Summer and winter tourism is important to the Valemount economy. The area sees an influx of tourism through the summer and winter months from the nearby Jasper and Mount Robson Parks. The headwaters of the Fraser River, that flows through the Robson Valley has white water rafting, fishing, and there are several RV & Campground in the area that offers full-service RV sites, camp sites, and day use areas. Valemount acts as a base of operations for people looking to explore Mount Robson Park, including the Berg Lake Trail. The recent 2024 Jasper Fire and 2021 damage to the Berg Lake Trail have negatively impacted tourism in the area.

In the winter, snowmobiling is popular, as well as cat skiing. There are opportunities for dog sledding in the area as well as two heli-skiing lodges accessed through Valemount. There are opportunities to connect with local guides through the Valemount Area Recreation Development Association which is also involved in building and maintaining the local trail network. The

Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association is also involved in trail management. The area offers a network of cross-country ski trails, as well as warm up huts and back country cabins.

3.5.5 Hazardous Values

Hazardous values refer to specific elements that would pose significant risk to a community and first responders' safety if exposed to a wildfire such as propane storage, landfills, rail yards, storage facilities containing explosives, chemical plants and industrial sites, fuel depots, and power stations and substations. These values are critical to identify and address specific risks and mitigation and coordination with emergency services and first responders to understand how to respond safely and effectively.

Within the AOI, hazardous values include: The Esso, Petro-Canada, Shell, Tempo, Canco and Co-op fuel stations along the frontage roads (Cranberry Lake Rd and Karas Dr). These are full-service gas and diesel stations with propane services including prefilled tanks and tank exchange. There is also fuel or chemical storage at the public works yard, located at 735 Cranberry Lake Rd with pesticide, fertilizer, or chemical storage for agricultural use both within and surrounding the AOI. Implement and inspect that proper storage is utilized and vegetation management is implemented around all existing hazardous values. These areas should be assessed to provide more detail on specific locations and inventory.

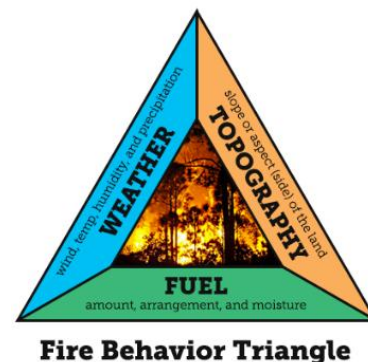
The Valemount Substation is located to the south of Valemount, off of the Westridge Forest Service Rd, which is outside of the AOI. While the substation is outside of the AOI, it is an important value to note as it is surrounded by forest and susceptible to wildfire threat.

4.0 WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

Wildfire threat refers to the likelihood of a wildfire occurring in an area by evaluating the elements of the fire behaviour triangle, fuel, weather, and topography. Wildfire Risk encompasses the likelihood of a wildfire occurring, and the potential impacts or consequences of a wildfire. It considers the vulnerability of the values at risk and potential harm to humans within a community. The areas most vulnerable are those within the WUI.

4.1 Wildfire Environment

The wildfire environment refers to the three elements that influence fire behaviour: fuel, topography, and weather, also known as the 'fire behavior triangle'.



4.1.1 Topography

Topography and features of the landscape influence wildfire behaviour in a variety of ways and are usually broken into slope, aspect, and terrain. Slope is the most significant topographical feature as it affects the rate of spread. Fire travels quicker uphill due to flames and heat rising, which preheats the fuels above and makes them more susceptible to ignition. Aspect is the direction the slope faces. South-facing slopes receive the most direct sunlight, causing higher temperatures, lower relative humidity and fuels to have a lower moisture content. Typically,

greater fire intensity is experienced on south-facing slopes. Terrain refers to variations in land features and can affect fire behaviour by altering the direction and speed of the wind. For example, narrow valleys or knolls may increase the wind speed as it passes through. The same effects are seen in steep-sided gullies or canyons as they create a chimney effect, increasing spread rates and fire intensity.

The Village of Valemount is in the valley bottom and it can be characterized as relatively flat with limited areas of steeper slopes at the base of the Rocky Mountains on the north east end of the Village. Most of the Village of Valemount's structures are found on relatively flat land, 0% - 20% slope.

Table 8. Slope percentages present within the Village of Valemount AOI fire behaviour implications

Slope % Class	% of AOI	Fire Behaviour Implications
<20%	92.4	Very little flame and fuel interaction caused by slope, normal rate of spread.
21-30%	2.8	Flame tilt begins to preheat fuel, increase rate of spread.
31-45%	2.1	Flame tilt preheats fuel and begins to bathe flames into fuel, high rate of spread.
46-60%	1.6	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel, very high rate of spread.
>60%	1.0	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel well upslope, extreme rate of spread

Table 9. Slope position of value and fire behaviour implications

Slope Position of Value	Fire Behaviour Implications
Bottom of Slope/ Valley Bottom	Impacted by normal rates of spread.
Mid Slope - Bench	Impacted by increase rates of spread. Position on a bench may reduce the preheating near the value. (Value is offset from the slope).
Mid slope – continuous	Impacted by fast rates of spread. No break in terrain features affected by preheating and flames bathing into the fuel ahead of the fire.
Upper 1/3 of slope	Impacted by extreme rates of spread. At risk to large continuous fire run, preheating and flames bathing into the fuel.

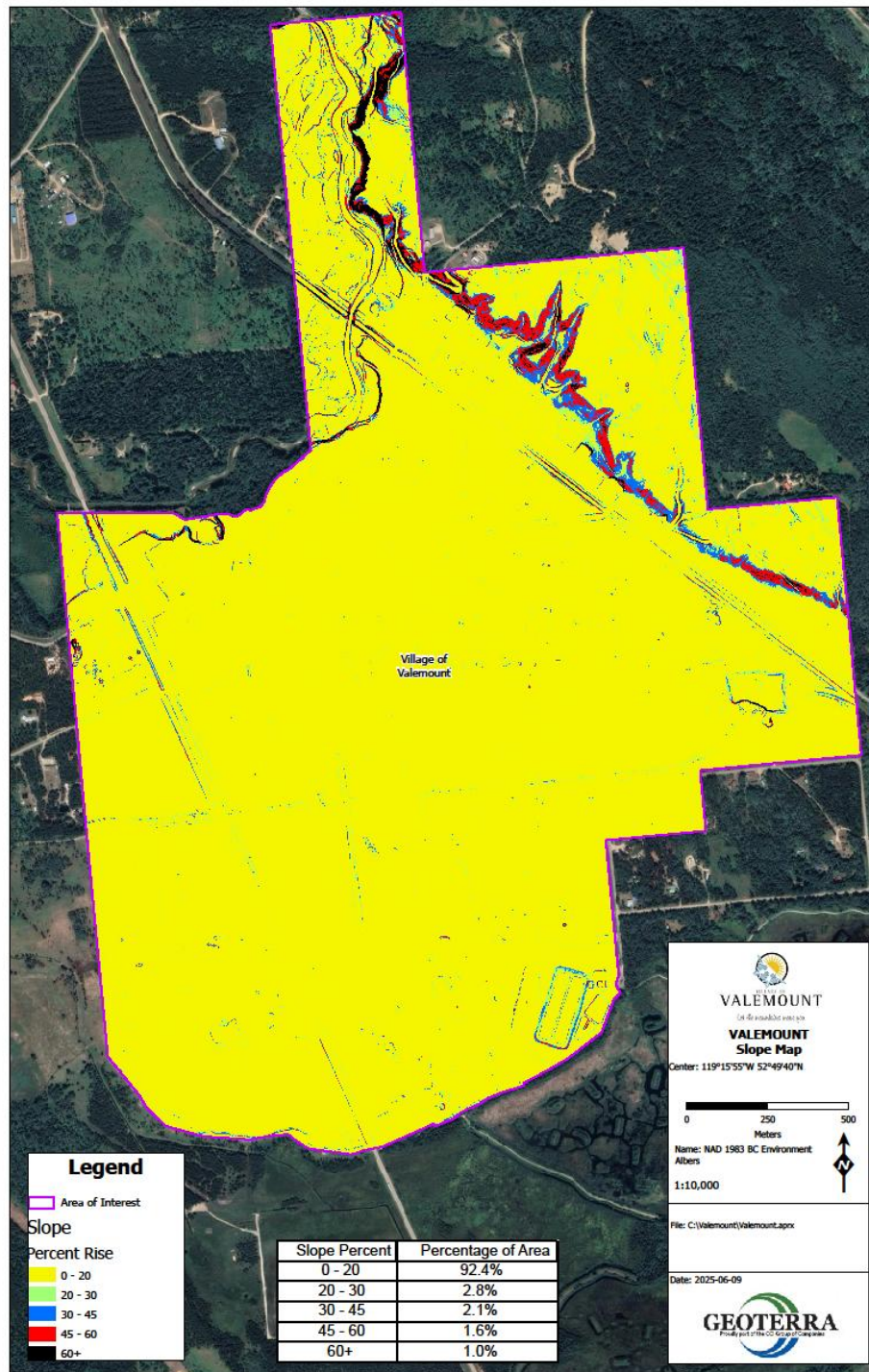


Figure 5. Village of Valemount slope percent.

4.1.2 Fuel

Forest fuels are the dead and living vegetation that would be available to burn during a wildfire. Fire behaviour and intensity will vary depending on the conditions and composition of the surrounding fuels. As outlined by the BCWS in an article called Understanding Forest Fuels (BC Wildfire Service, 2022), due to the high moisture content of deciduous trees, coniferous trees are more flammable and will burn with higher intensity than deciduous trees. Larger diameter fuels are slower to burn and with greater intensity. Fine fuels such as grass and leaf litter with low moisture content will ignite easily, leading to a fast rate of spread. They may also act as kindling to ignite the heavier fuels. The continuity of fuels will affect a fire's ability to spread both horizontally and vertically.

Ladder fuels are the vertical arrangement of fuels that connect surface fuels to the canopy, such as branches, small trees, or shrubs. When these fuels are present, fires can spread vertically, from a surface fire into a crown fire. Crown fires are difficult to control due to their rapid rate of spread, high intensity, and the development of spot fires, which occur when embers are carried by the wind and ignite a new fire ahead of the main fire. Wildfire risk reduction focuses on removing ladder fuels to reduce the possibility of a crown fire.

The Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction (FBP) System is a standardized system used to predict potential fire risk across Canada. Sixteen fuel types have been identified based on stand characteristics that would affect fire behaviour. Through the [Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis](#) (PSTA) (Government of British Columbia, 2023), BCWS maintains a fuel type layer that has derived fuel types using forest inventory data. The act of assigning a fuel type to a stand is subjective, not every stand will fit into the FBP fuel type benchmarks but rather, the fuel type should best describe how a wildfire would burn in the given stand, as described in the British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description (Perrakis, Eade, & Hicks, 2018)

Table 10 describes the fuel types present within the Village of Valemount's WUI, fuel type characteristics and associated fire behavior.

Table 10. Fuel types present in the Village of Valemount's AOI.

Fuel Type	Area (ha)	%	Fuel Characteristics
Non-Fuel	291.7	59	Non-fuel types are assigned to areas that have characteristics that would not normally support wildfires, such as, alpine areas with patchy vegetation, exposed rock, or roads and developed areas.
O-1a/b	28.8	5.9	Continuous grass cover. O-1a represents matted grass, usually common in the spring after the snowmelt, and O-1b which represents standing dead grass. Ignition and spread is highly variable depending on the level of curing. Fires in grass are extremely susceptible to wind and can have a very quick rate of spread. Crown fire and spotting potential is low.
C-7	17.5	3.6	Uneven-aged, lower density conifer stands with less than 50% canopy closure overall. Surface fuels consist of grass, scattered shrubs and fine fuels. Associated fire behavior is generally surface fire with moderate crown fire and spotting potential.
M-1/2	12.9	2.6	Mixed-wood stands with anywhere between 25%-75% conifer or deciduous composition. Crown fire and spotting potential is between low to moderate, depending on the percent of conifer present.

Fuel Type	Area (ha)	%	Fuel Characteristics
D-1/2	51.2	10.4	Deciduous stands with less than 25% conifer composition. Fire behavior is dependent on the amount of conifers present. Stands with little to no conifers can be characterized as a natural fuel break from wildfire. Crown fire and spotting potential is very low.
W	13.7	2.8	Water
C-2	0.1	0.02	Boreal Spruce, tree crowns extend to or near the ground, and dead branches are typically draped with bearded lichens. There is crown and spotting fire potential.
C-3	76.2	15.5	Dense (1000/2000 stems/ha), younger conifer stands with complete crown closure. Stands have high crown base height with fairly open understory of sparse conifer. Crown fire and spotting potential is moderate.

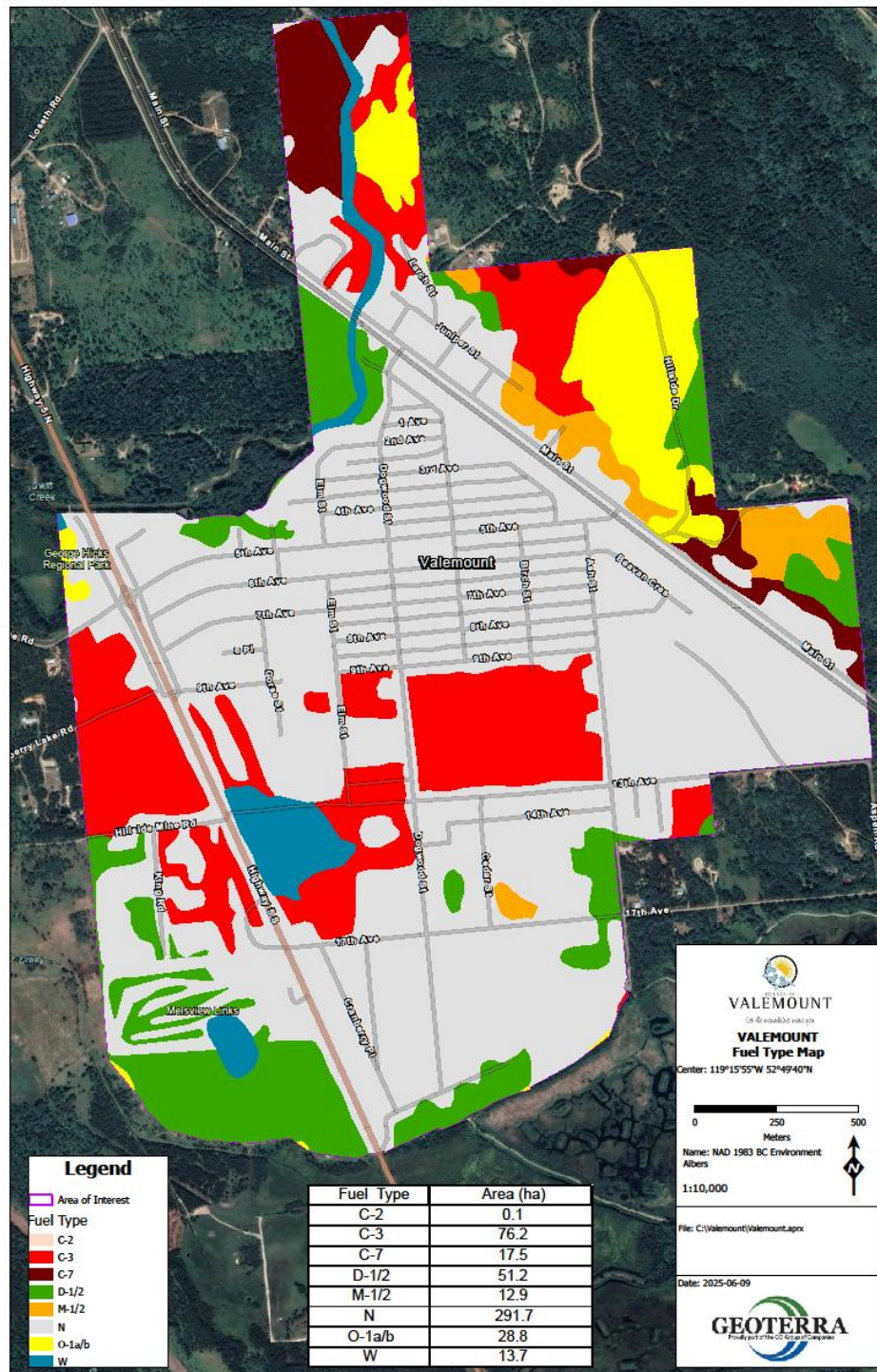


Figure 6. Fuel types present in the Village of Valemount.

4.1.3 Weather

Wind, temperature, humidity, and precipitation are the key elements that affect fire behaviour, influencing the rate of spread, fire intensity, duration and fuel consumption. The AOI is within one Biogeoclimatic (BEC) zone, the Dry Hot Sub-boreal Spruce subzone (SBSdh1). In BC, the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) system identifies and categorizes ecosystems throughout the province. The BEC combines climate, vegetation and site characteristics (soils, elevation, slope position, geology) to classify a particular area's ecosystem. The Dry Hot Sub-boreal Spruce subzone occurs between 700 to 1225 m in elevation. It is the driest subzone in the Rocky Mountain Trench. Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine tends to be the dominant tree species.

The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) operates roughly 260 weather stations that take hourly weather readings, including wind direction, wind speed, precipitation, temperature, and relative humidity. These observations provide the Wildfire Service with the data needed to predict the localized potential for fire ignition and anticipated fire behaviour, which aids in resource allocation to manage wildfires effectively.

Table 11. Closest BCWS weather stations to the Village of Valemount

Weather Station	Distance	Elevation
Valemount Airport	5km NW of Valemount	788 m
Valemount 2	5km SW of Valemount	1163 m

Weather readings taken in the Village of Valemount over the last 30 years show typical weather patterns, shown by mean daily maximum and minimum temperature and mean monthly precipitation in the area. July and August are the warmest months of the year, with the lowest fire season (March 1 to November 1) precipitation occurring in April, May, and August, making the area vulnerable to wildfires in the spring and summer. In August, fuels would have low moisture content due to a long drying period.

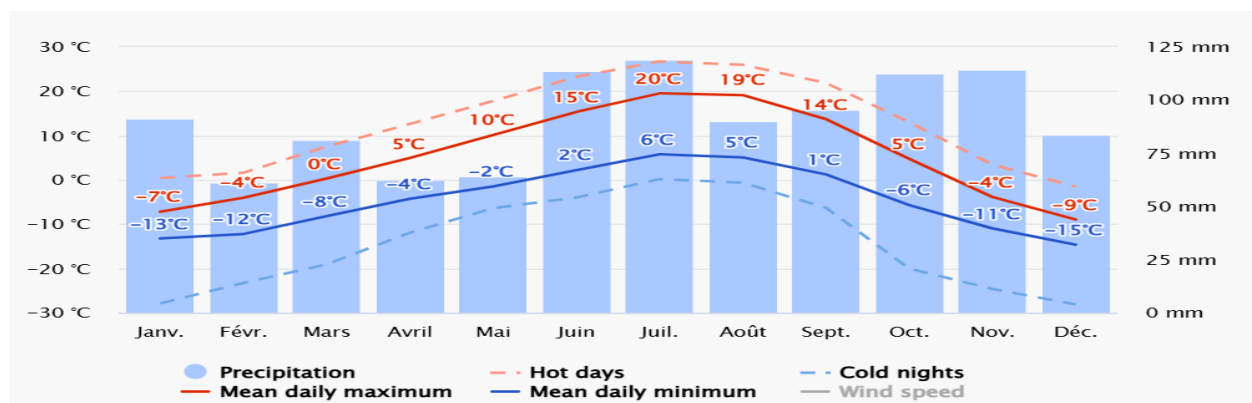


Figure 7. 30-year modelled climate averages for Valemount (Source: Meteoblue Weather).

Wind is the most influential factor in relation to fire spread and intensity. It determines the fire's spread path, accelerates the rate of spread, dries fuels, and blows embers ahead of the fire, causing spot fires. Weather data collected for the Village of Valemount shows a fairly constant prevailing wind from the southwest—south southeast, with the prevailing wind most often coming from the south. There are intermittent wind counts from all other directions. Prevailing winds can aid in prioritizing treatment units, specifically ones downwind from values.

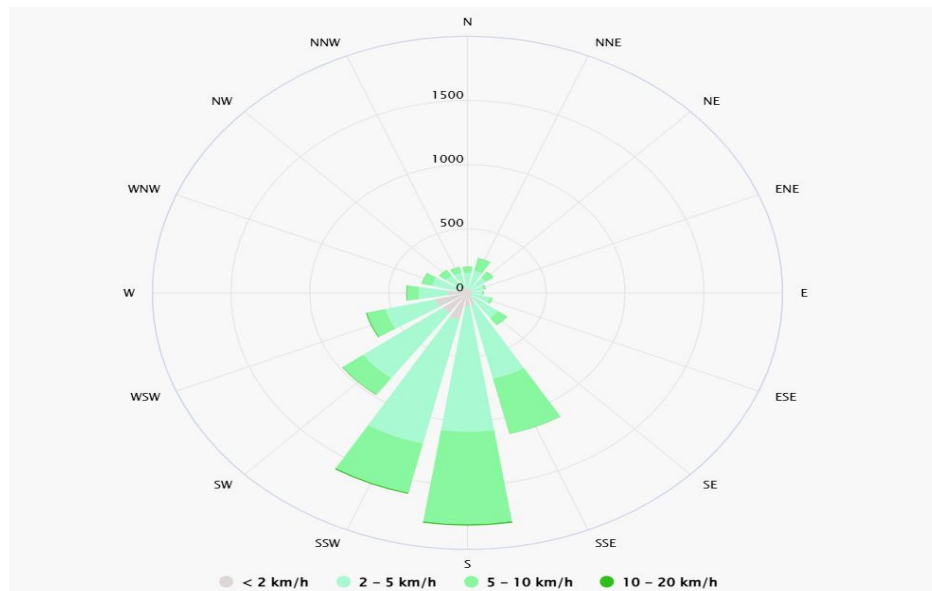


Figure 8. Frequency of wind counts by direction for Valemount. (Source: Meteoblue weather)

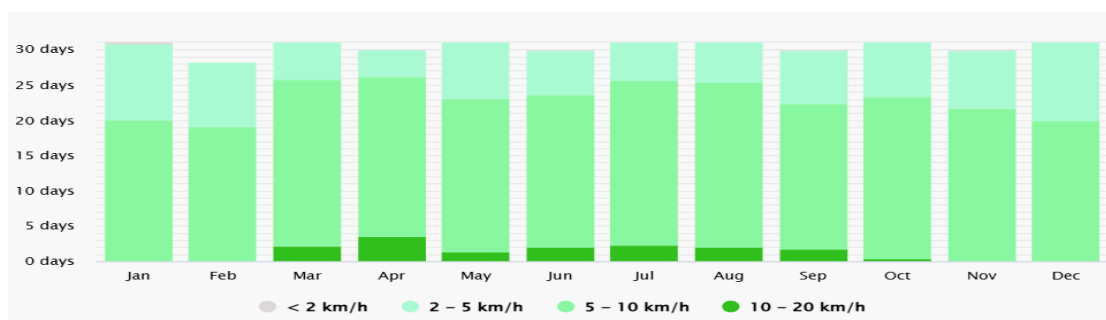


Figure 9. Days per month windspeeds reached a certain speed in Valemount. (Source: Meteoblue weather)

4.2 Local Fire History

The province is divided into 5 Natural Disturbance Types (NDT), which provide a general description of an ecosystem's average fire regime and a framework for classifying BC's ecosystems. (British Columbia Ministry of Forests and British Columbia Ministry of Environment,

Lands and Parks, 1995). The Village of Valemount's AOI is within NDT 3, ecosystems with frequent stand-initiating fires. NDT 3 ecosystems are characterized by frequent wildfires that range from small spot fires to conflagrations covering tens of thousands of hectares. This results in a landscape mosaic of stands of different ages with individual stands being even-aged (Hall, 2010).

Historical fire data provided by BCWS dates back to 1920, with fire perimeters only being tracked on large fires over four hectares (1950). The last large fires to occur within the boundaries of the Village of Valemount were from 1921 to 1945, all of which were human-caused. See below for more details.

The most significant recent fire was the Canoe Road fire (G32044), which was discovered on August 10, 2024, and due to a lightning strike in the area. The fire initiated on private property, in pine forests (C3 – Mature Jack or Lodgepole Pine fuel type) south of the Village of Valemount. The fire spread into slash and was burning toward the Village of Valemount, but it was contained before it damaged any structures. The initial response was by the Valemount Fire Department that then requested assistance from the BC Wildfire Service. The fire was changed to 'Being Held' status with the BC Wildfire Service within the first 24 hours.



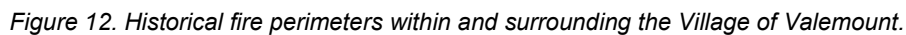
Figure 10. Canoe Road wildfire (G32044) August 10, 2024. (Source: BCWS)



*Figure 11. Canoe Road Fire (G32044)
August 10, 2024. (Source: Christine Plante)*

The BC Wildfire response included 7 air tankers, 2 pieces of heavy equipment, 3 helicopters, 3 water trucks, and approximately 40 firefighters to aid the local fire department on August 10, 2024. The fire was classed as ‘being held’ on August 11 at 17:35, ‘under control’ on Aug 12 at 12:30, and ‘out’ on Aug 17 at 08:00. According to local the BCWS Wildfire Officer, there could have been structure loss under different conditions. The key to the successful containment without structure loss was the quick response by the Valemount Fire Department, followed by a rapid request for support and assistance from the BC Wildfire Service that included aerial suppression as well as the earlier removal of the decedent wood. The cut block served as an effective fuel break.

An additional area of concern for the Village of Valemount is the Swift Creek drainage. There were several large fires in the drainage, a notable fire occurred in 2004. Fires in the drainage pose additional risk to the water supply of the Village of Valemount. Large fires can introduce additional debris (ash, sediment) and could result in slope stability issues that cause mudslides, putting the pump house at risk.



4.3 Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis

The Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) is a GIS analysis tool that identifies relative wildfire threat ratings throughout the province of BC. It can be utilized by communities, resource managers and practitioners planning wildfire risk mitigation activities as a starting point when assessing local wildfire threat, as it is derived from provincial-level datasets, including provincial fuel type mapping (vegetation resource inventory (VRI)), topography, weather, historical fire occurrence and population densities. The PSTA outputs are spatial layers illustrating wildfire threat, fuel typing, fire density, head fire intensity, and spotting impact.

- Wildfire Threat – The likelihood of a wildfire occurring in an area based on fuel type, weather, and topography.
- Fuel typing – Public land has been given one of the 16 FBP fuel type layers based on VRI, geography, and density class.
- Fire Density – A weighted number of historical fires per 10km radius.
- Head fire intensity – The predicted energy output at a fire's head, used to estimate the control difficulty.
- Spotting impact – the potential for ember transfer ahead of the main fire, igniting additional spot fires.

The provincial scale relative wildfire threat has been derived from evaluating three elements: fire density, head fire intensity (under the 90th percentile fire weather), and spotting impact. The final threat rating is represented by a 10-level scale (1 being the lowest, 10 being the highest), and grouped into four threat classes: Low, Moderate, High, Extreme. Class 7 is the threshold for high or extreme fire behaviour and mitigation efforts should be focused in these areas. Other than areas with no data, the threat class covering the greatest amount of area within the AOI is followed by Moderate. Much of the area is private land and engagement with the landowners will be needed to lower the threat. See Table 12 for threat ratings within the Village of Valemount AOI. The threat ratings are from the PSTA data prior to the field WTAs.

It should be noted that data has not been collected on private land resulting in no threat rating assigned for much of the surrounding areas adjacent to the AOI, within the WUI.

Table 12. Wildfire threat within the Village of Valemount AOI.

Wildfire Threat	Area (ha)	% of land
Extreme (9,10)	4	0.8
High (7,8)	0.7	0.1
Moderate (4,5,6)	97.4	19.8
Low (1,2,3)	0	0
Water	12.3	2.5
No Data	377.7	76.6

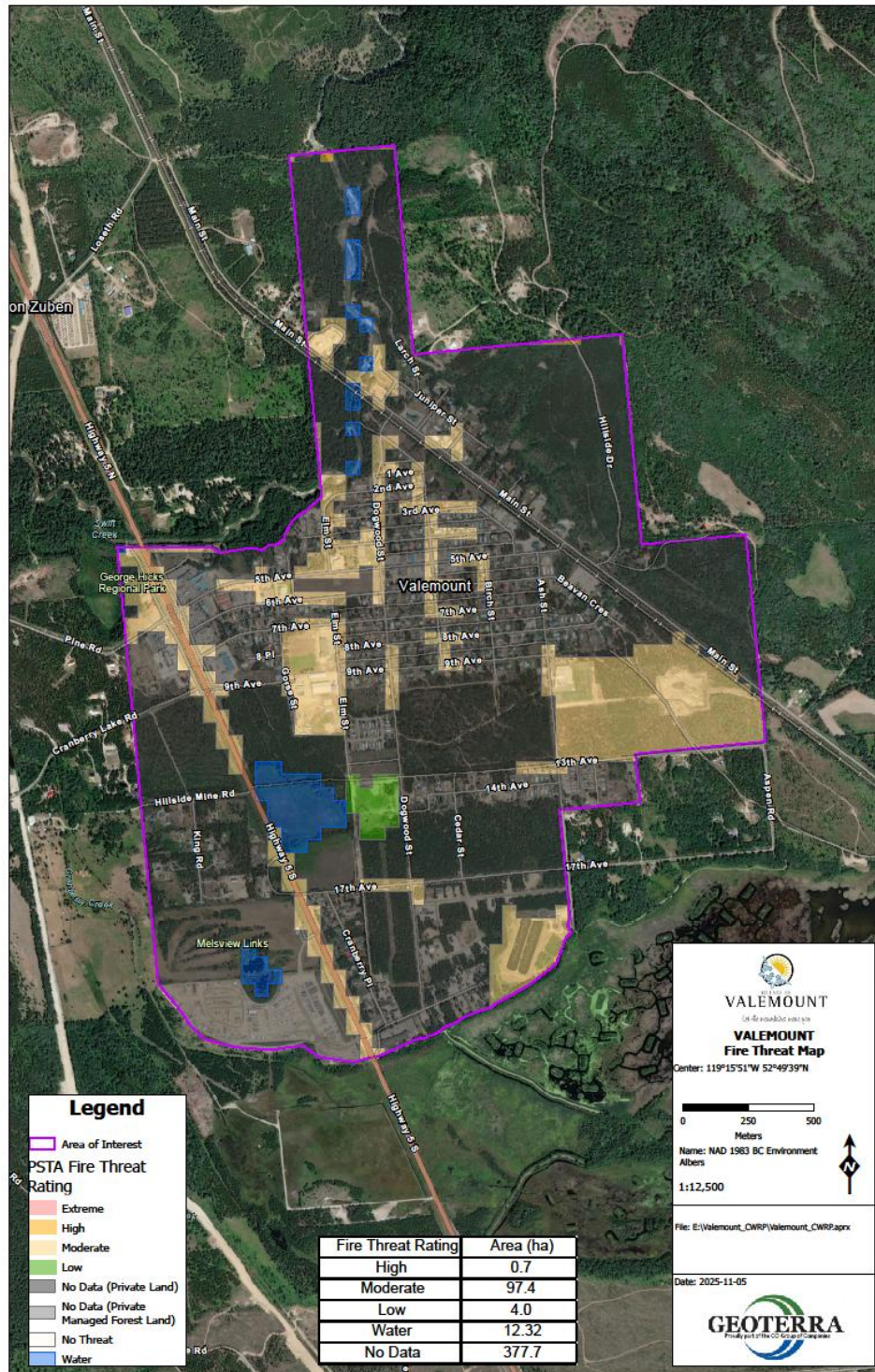


Figure 13. Wildfire Threat within the Village of Valemount AOI.

4.4 Local Wildfire Threat Assessment

Wildfire threat refers to the potential for a wildfire to occur and impact a specific area based on factors like fuel type, topography, and weather. The goal of wildfire threat assessments (WTA) is to ground truth and verify the PSTA data and produce updated local fuel types to reflect the local wildfire threat. The local threat assessments have two components: Priority setting (placement of treatment unit in relation to values) and fuel assessment.

Field assessments were completed in June 2025 over in areas previously identified as priority areas to receive fuel treatment within the WUI using desktop analysis that considered:

- Eligible public land.
- PSTA data – Areas with moderate to extreme threat rating.
- Values and critical infrastructure – high or extreme threat ratings in close proximity to values.
- Previously treated areas – Relation to previously treated areas or non-fuel type areas.
- Weather and topography – Placement in relation to the summer prevailing winds and slope placement of values.
- Local knowledge – Areas identified as high priority by the Village of Valemount staff, or feedback from residents during community engagement.
- Access – areas that could be accessed by crews to complete treatment.
- Land ownership – public lands or areas with permission to assess.

It should be noted that Wildfire Threat Assessments are only eligible for public, government-owned land base within the AOI (Provincial Crown, Municipal, parks). Valemount has limited public land within the AOI therefore, assessment opportunities were limited; however, similar assessment methods may be used to identify and prioritize high risk vacant lots throughout Valemount as recommended in Table 28. CWRP Recommended Action Items.

Two plots had wildfire threat assessments completed with additional photograph documentation and field notes. Table 13 provides a summary of the assessments' results, including the individual scores from eleven factors and the overall score with an assessment rating of low, moderate, high, or extreme. Table 15 compares the PSTA data, including fuel typing and threat rating, to the results of the WTAs. While plots 2 and 3 score as 'High' the assessors noted that given the proximity to homes these plots should be considered as 'Extreme'.

Table 13. Summary of fuel assessment from the Wildfire Threat Assessments completed in AOI.

Plot ID	Location	Assessment Components											Rating
		1 score	2 score	3 score	4 score	5 score	6 score	7 score	8 score	9 score	10 score	11 score	Total Score

Plot 1	McKirdy Road	5	8	8	15	10	8	4	5	5	5	5	78	High
Plot 2	Dogwood Street	5	8	8	15	10	8	4	5	5	5	5	78	High

Table 14. Site level scoring table in the Southern Interior from the 2020 Wildfire Threat Assessment Guide.

Eco-Province	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Southern Interior Mountains	0-47	48-65	66-79	80-100

Table 15. Threat plot scores and ratings results from the Wildfire Threat Assessments.

Threat Plot Number	PSTA Threat	FBP Fuel Type	Assessors Fuel Type	Priority Setting Score	Fuel Assessment Score	Fuel Assessment Rating
Plot 1	High	No Data	C-4	54	78	High
Plot 2	No Data	No Data/C-3	C-4	50	78	High

Fuel type verification was completed at each of the WTA plots. Plot locations were not necessarily selected based on any observed discrepancy at a desktop level; plot locations were selected primarily based on the field observations, local wildfire threat rating, and areas of proposed fuel treatments. There is limited public land in the Valemount AOI. Once in the field, the fuel types were verified. Fuel type factors greatly affect many of the attributes evaluated during the assessments. There was one location where fuel type changes were recommended, as shown in Table 15. Threat plot scores and ratings results from the Wildfire Threat Assessments. The appropriate form was completed and submitted to the wildfire management branch.

4.5 Local Wildfire Risk

While wildfire threat refers to the likelihood of a wildfire occurring in a specific area, wildfire risk refers to the likelihood plus the consequence of a fire negatively impacting people, property and values.

The local wildfire threat assessment process divides the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) into three distinct zones: the first 100 meters (WUI 100), 101 to 500 meters (WUI 500), and 501 to 1000 meters (WUI 1000). These zones help guide the classification of threat levels and the prioritization of mitigation treatments which typically begin at the WUI 100 and work their way out.

Table 16. Threat plot scores and ratings results from the Wildfire Threat Assessments.

Proximity to the Interface	Descriptor	Explanation
WUI 100	(0-100 m)	This Zone is always located adjacent to the value at risk. Treatment would modify the wildfire behaviour near or adjacent to the value. Treatment effectiveness would be increased when the value follows FireSmart principles.

WUI 500	(101-500m)	Treatment would affect wildfire behaviour approaching a value, as well as the wildfire's ability to impact the value with short- to medium- range spotting; should also provide suppression opportunities near a value.
WUI 1000	(501-1000 m)	Treatment would be effective in limiting long - range spotting but short- range spotting may fall short of the value and cause a new ignition that could affect a value.
	>1 000 m	This should form part of a landscape assessment and is generally not part of the zoning process. Treatment is relatively ineffective for threat mitigation to a value, unless used to form a part of a larger fuel break / treatment.

Scoring resulting from the Wildfire Threat Assessment is used to determine a wildfire risk classification. Wildfire risk applies to forest fuel hazard, proximity of values (homes, school) fire spread patterns including local prevailing winds, and topography. The two Wildfire Threat Assessments completed resulted in a wildfire risk of **high** meaning a fire occurring in these areas could cause substantial damage to structures, infrastructure, or ecological values and mitigation actions are recommended to reduce vulnerability.

4.5.1 Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment

A Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) is a comprehensive analysis of potential hazards, the risk that specific hazards will occur, possible vulnerabilities should specific hazards occur, and adverse impacts that a hazard may have on identified vulnerabilities.

The Village of Valemount has a local Emergency Management Plan that includes a HRVA as Annex A. While wildfire is identified, the HRVA was developed in 2016 and it is not considered sufficient by Village of Valemount staff and needs to be revised.

5.0 FIRESMART DISCIPLINES

FireSmart™ Canada is a national program that provides a framework to help individuals, communities, and professionals implement effective wildfire prevention practices through guidelines, programs, resources, and training. The program aims to encourage and empower homeowners and communities with the necessary knowledge and tools to become resilient to wildfires.

Seven FireSmart Disciplines have been identified and recognized as core components for effectively managing and reducing the risk of wildfires.

The next sections of the CWRP are designed to address and organize FireSmart efforts into seven disciplines, each focusing on different areas of prevention and resilience. Finally, there is an implementation plan of action items.

1. Education
2. Legislation and Planning
3. Development Considerations

4. Interagency Considerations
5. Cross-Training
6. Emergency Planning
7. Vegetation Management

FireSmart's needs are unique to each individual community; it is important to promote consistent and continuous effective efforts, which is why, through CRI FSCF grant funding, the Village of Valemount brought on a FireSmart Coordinator under the Emergency Management Department. The FireSmart Coordinator will develop, support, and implement FireSmart activities within the AOI, including those identified in this CWRP, which will be covered in the following sections. It is a goal of the FireSmart Coordinator to gain the Neighborhood Recognition status for Village of Valemount neighborhoods.

Table 17. Notable wildfire vulnerabilities within the Village of Valemount.

Village of Valemount Vulnerabilities	Mitigation Opportunities
Unmanaged private land and vacant lots	Consider a vacant-lot maintenance bylaw with enforcement Institute a rebate program and debris-drop/chipper program Provide education material to lot-owners.
Public awareness of FireSmart principles, engagement, and capacity for action	Education and engagement campaigns, e.g. by the FireSmart Coordinator. Additional resources to assist low income households
Many homes are constructed of combustible materials, are in need of maintenance, and have flammable vegetation within 10m of the structure.	Complete HIZ assessments Implement or participate in a rebate program for community members conducting home mitigation activities. Offer vegetation debris removal options to encourage residents to complete risk reduction in the home ignition zone.
Emergency Response Capacity – the volunteer fire department has limited personnel and equipment; mutual aid is hindered by distance to larger centres.	Train community members in wildfire response to increase capacity. Include fire department in CFRC for opportunity to coordinate efforts. Access funding for additional structure protection unit resources.
Isolated community with limited access egress in case of emergency and long distance to larger centres.	Develop a robust evacuation plan to ensure there are protocols in place to manage vulnerable populations (e.g. elderly).
Minimal treatment completed in WUI	Work with the RDFFG and Valemount Community Forest Continue applying for or supporting applications for funding opportunities to complete treatment in proposed treatment units. Work with private landowners to encourage action and complete prescriptions in proposed treatment units.

5.1 Education

Public education and outreach efforts help community members learn about wildfire and its potential impacts to their communities. In addition, these efforts should be designed to help individuals understand their role in taking action to reduce risk. Education and outreach activities are designed for all groups to benefit, including elected officials, community planners, residents, visitors, businesses, land managers, first responders, and more.

FireSmart education is essential in public awareness and engagement. Educating the public on how wildfires start and spread and ways to mitigate risk allows individuals to equip themselves with the necessary knowledge and tools to take proactive measures around their homes and communities and to encourage others to follow suit.

This section aims to identify various target audiences and the most effective and efficient means of distributing FireSmart education to them. Depending on the audience and their specific goals, different information may be desired, which is why varied delivery methods should be offered. Material may be tailored to reflect the Village of Valemount community's history, values, and traditions.

Analysis

FireSmart education and public outreach initiatives in the Village of Valemount are now supervised by the FireSmart Coordinator. The new grant funded position of the FireSmart Coordinator significantly improves the resources available to the community in terms of spreading awareness and public engagement. The Coordinator will act as a key contact for community members, staff, stakeholders, nearby communities, First Nation Communities, and the government.

A substantial proportion of the property in the Village of Valemount and surrounding WUI is privately owned land. Additionally, a substantial portion of that private land is vacant. Additional effort is needed to engage the private landowners to undertake FireSmart initiatives. Municipal staff and multiple stakeholders acknowledged the challenge that vacant land presents. One of the only options for engagement with landowners of vacant or undeveloped properties may be to add FireSmart materials to other mailouts, such as property tax notices, which the Village of Valemount has engaged in. There is heightened awareness due to the 2024 Jasper fire and it is an opportunity for action. There are many options to engage residents within the local community, the challenge is to ensure there is effective engagement.

The Village of Valemount has undertaken several FireSmart education initiatives since the FireSmart Coordinator position was filled, including FireSmart Coordinator attending the Valemountain Days, providing education materials at the weekly local Farmers Market, and hosting a FireSmart Community BBQ at a fuel treatment site. The fuel treatment Community BBQ was an opportunity to show community members the work the BC Wildfire Crews have been doing withing the Village of Valemount to alleviate the fire risk, see Figure 14. Location of

FireSmart fuel treatment posted on the Village of Valemount website. The event was well attended and the treatment site provides a readily accessible example of treatment that Valemount residents could replicate on their private land. The area does not have a current fuel management prescription.



Figure 14. Location of FireSmart fuel treatment posted on the Village of Valemount website.

While prevention and preparedness are crucial for a community's resilience to wildfire and can reduce the damage a wildfire has on a community. Recovery effort is likewise reduced, therefore, education on post-fire recovery and response should also be included. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to FireSmart education, it will be valuable for the Village of Valemount to continue to explore education initiatives. While the CWPP has been in place since 2012, the Village of Valemount now has more resources at hand to encourage community uptake.

Action Planning

The Village of Valemount will continue to grow its local FireSmart program. The FireSmart Coordinator position provides opportunities to maintain and grow resource allocation to FireSmart education. It is recommended that the Village of Valemount continue to advance its FireSmart program by sustaining dedicated resources for public education and adapting these initiatives based on local engagement and feedback. Building long-term community involvement may benefit from sharing FireSmart information through existing community organizations. For example, the Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association, presents a group of engaged community members. Integration of a FireSmart focus into well-loved local activities like Valemountain Days is a means to engage new audiences. Additionally, research indicates positive strategies, such as education at community events are preferred (Ergibi & Helleln, Awareness and adoption of FireSmart Canada: Barriers and incentives, 2020).

Valemount should also continue to explore innovative approaches to connect with residents. Free FireSmart resources (e.g., Homeowners Manual, “Tips to FireSmart Your Home”, the FireSmart Landscaping Guide, and the FireSmart Begins at Home mobile app) are digestible for residents. Incorporating FireSmart into school programming can foster awareness among youth and promote conversations around fire safety at home. Given that wildfire is an ecological reality in the Robson Valley, educating youth on how to co-exist with and manage fire is a critical step toward long-term community resilience.

The following recommendations highlight various FireSmart education opportunities, as well as continuing existing efforts within the Village of Valemount.

Table 18. Education recommendations for the Village of Valemount.

Recommendation	Objective/Comments
Maintain a permanent FireSmart Coordinator position	The grant funded FireSmart Coordinator is in a term position. This position should be maintained on a permanent basis to coordinate a FireSmart program in the Village of Valemount. A FireSmart Coordinator is a critical investment in community safety, resilience, and climate adaptation. By having someone dedicated year-round to wildfire risk reduction, education, coordination, and recovery the Village of Valemount greatly improves its resiliency to wildfire. A FireSmart Coordinator is a requirement for further CRI funding.
Host FireSmart community events	FireSmart focused events enhance community engagement and share information about FireSmart goals, plans, and future events. They are key to community education.
Classroom delivery of FireSmart focused education to local schools.	Deliver FireSmart education from FireSmart BC Education Package to local schools to teach children about FireSmart practices and to get them involved. Students can bring this information home to share with their families.
Order and distribute FireSmart educational material	Educational materials will increase public awareness and knowledge of FireSmart principles and steps the public can take in FireSmarting their community and properties.
Increase the Firesmart education material available in the community by engaging in the FireSmart BC Library Program at the local library and FireSmart children/youth material to summer children/youth programs.	Increase the FireSmart education material available at the local library. Funding is available through the UBCM's CRI program to access additional education materials. This program includes Wildfire Resiliency Literacy Kits, Ember Activity Packages, Colouring Contest materials, and access to Storytime Videos with Ember.
Apply for Neighborhood Recognition Program	Encourage community support of FireSmart initiatives and grass roots uptake via a Neighborhood Champion. Complete assessments, create a plan, sponsor a local neighborhood FireSmart Collaborative, conduct FireSmart events, invest in neighborhood efforts and complete an annual report.
Encourage residents to have a FireSmart HIZ, Wildfire Mitigation Program and/or Farm and Ranch Assessment for their home/property. Based on the outcome of the Assessments, encourage property owners to implement as	A FireSmart Coordinator or other qualified staff are required to complete the Home Ignition Assessments. For a more comprehensive home assessment, the community can consider participating in FireSmart BC's Wildfire Mitigation

Recommendation	Objective/Comments
many mitigation activities as possible through local rebate programs for completed eligible FireSmart activities.	Program. The FireSmart BC Wildfire Mitigation Program engages residents in wildfire mitigation activities by offering a professional home assessment with property-specific recommendations. The assessments are offered free of charge through the Valemount FireSmart Coordinator. Additional personnel may need to be trained to complete assessments. Schedule revisits to encourage completion of recommended actions. Funding is available through the UBCM's CRI program to complete FireSmart HIZ Assessments/ Farm and Ranch Assessments for property owners. Once the assessments are complete, residents are eligible to take part in the FireSmart Rebate program to offset the costs of mitigation activities.
Promote the FireSmart Plant Program	Provide literature/education materials to the local businesses (IDA, Home Depot), and landscaping companies that provide plants to the community

Resources

FireSmart educational resources and materials are available through various agencies. The following list offers several options the Village of Valemount may utilize and share.

[FireSmart BC](#)

[FireSmart Canada](#)

[First Nations' Emergency Services Society of British Columbia \(FNESS\)](#)

[Wildfire Preparedness Guide](#)

[Emergency management in B.C.](#)

[BC Wildfire Service](#)

[Wildfires and your health](#)

[Canadian Mental Health Association - Coping with Disaster Stress](#)

[Hope for Wellness](#)

5.2 Legislation and Planning

Legislation and Regulation can be a very effective tool for reducing wildfire risk on provincial crown lands and within the administrative boundaries of a local government or First Nation communities. Provincial acts and regulations provide the means for local governments and First Nation communities to implement wildfire risk reduction actions through bylaws.

Legislation and planning can play a significant role in building and maintaining FireSmart neighbourhoods. Several federal and provincial laws, acts, and regulations aim to reduce wildfire risk. Legislation and planning for wildfire resilience on a local level targets specific community needs that provincial or federal policies may not cover. Should the Village of Valemount decide to develop and implement its own local bylaws, existing provincial and federal policies should be considered, as they could either support or restrict local legislation.

Federal laws affecting wildfire resiliency plans within the Village of Valemount include acts protecting certain wildlife species and habitats. Fuel management must consider treatment's impact on areas with federally protected wildlife species or habitat and how to mitigate that impact. Species and habitats present within the AOI are discussed in (Government of Canada, 2025) (Government of British Columbia, 2021) (Government of British Columbia, 2025) 3.5.3.

Federal acts to consider are:

- Canada Federal Species at Risk Act (SARA)
- Canada Federal Fisheries Act

Provincial acts and regulations provide a legal framework and objectives to reduce wildfire risks and provide guidance on community development, emergency response, and land management.

- Wildfire Act
- Wildfire Regulation
- Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation
- BC Building Act and Building Code

Analysis

Local plans relevant to wildfire risk and emergency planning were reviewed during the CWRP development process. The Village of Valemount can enact local bylaws in relation to wildfire prevention. Such bylaws can be a very effective tool to limit wildfire risk. Considerations to be made when reviewing options for wildfire prevention legislation are:

- Capacity to enforce bylaws.
- Time/season restrictions - Legislations limited to fire season.

- Fire danger restrictions - Legislations limited to high or extreme fire danger.
- Area restrictions – Evaluate areas with known problematic use such a bonfires, motors, smoking, fireworks, or other sources of ignition and implement area ban during high or extreme fire danger.
- Permits – Fire use permits.

As found in the Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation, high-risk activities are limited during fire season and may be prohibited during high or extreme fire danger. As portions of the Village of Valemount land are bisected by the CN Rail line, it is recommended that the Village of Valemount monitor all high-risk activity to ensure compliance with the Act and Regulation.

Action Planning

Table 19. Legislation and planning recommendations for the Village of Valemount.

Recommendation	Objective/Comments
Consider local bylaw implementation, complete bylaw review.	Specific local wildfire prevention bylaws will enhance the community's wildfire resiliency. Enforcement capacity may need to be assessed. Amend bylaws for vegetation management (e.g. location and type of landscaping, removal of fuel accumulations), and incorporation of FireSmart materials in new construction. An update to the HRVA may be taken in conjunction with the bylaw review.
Develop and offer a local FireSmart Rebate Program to residential property or homeowners that complete eligible FireSmart activities to provide incentive and assist with the financial barriers to implementing FireSmart on private land.	The Village of Valemount, through the Emergency Preparedness staff or the FireSmart Coordinator can develop a program and communicate the available resources. Ensure the local residents are aware of the FireSmart Rebate program and are actively taking part in implementing eligible FireSmart activities and applying for rebates upon completion. Funding is available through the UBCM's CRI program to support rebate programs. As of 2024, rebates are limited to 50% of the total cost of the eligible activities identified in the CRI Program Guide and up to \$5,000 per property.
Amend the CWRP to ensure it is current (within 5 years)	Plan to amend current CWRP within 5 years of development date or if there have been significant changes in the community or to the associated funding structures.
Conduct an analysis to prioritise which vacant lots within the AOI present the greatest wildfire threat and notify property owners to prioritise vegetation management efforts.	Under British Columbia's Fire Safety Act, municipalities like Valemount have a legal responsibility to ensure that vacant landowners are aware of fire hazards their properties may pose to neighboring properties with structures.

Resources

[Fisheries Act](#)

[Species at Risk Act](#)

[Wildfire Act](#)



Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan



[Wildfire Regulation](#)

[Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation](#)

[Building Act](#)

5.3 Development Considerations

Development decisions, such as land use types, structure density, road patterns, and other considerations, shape the built and natural environments. These decisions can bring lasting impacts to the WUI and wildfire risk by affecting public and first responder safety and survivability of homes, critical infrastructure, and other community features. Considering these factors early in the development process can reduce wildfire risk to life safety and property.

Development decisions can impact the potential damage a wildfire may cause to a structure. Homes and buildings occurring in the WUI are at an increased risk of ignition by wildfire. This risk increases significantly when structures are built out of flammable building materials, or structures are located in close proximity to flammable vegetation, debris, or other structures constructed of flammable materials.

Analysis

Various factors contribute to the susceptibility of a structure and public safety during a wildfire:

- Location of development, including hazardous or vulnerable land uses, in relation to high threat forested vegetation, steep slopes, and other geographical features that contribute to extreme fire behavior.
- Access and circulation patterns.
- Availability and adequacy of water supply.
- Type of construction materials on structures and attachments.
- Lot size and structure density.
- Design guidelines and architectural standards.

As the Village of Valemount grows and new developments are constructed, all of the aforementioned factors should be considered. While there are general FireSmart policies in the Official Community Plan (OCP), it is recommended that the Village of Valemount adopt a building standard for all new construction, whether private, business or critical infrastructure. A structured framework for building plans to implement FireSmart practices can help develop the Village of Valemount's resilience. A Wildfire Development Permit Area (WDPA) could be established within the community and included in an updated OCP. Guidelines contained in a WDPA could include fire-resistant building

HOME DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

WILDFIRE REALITY

Wildfires are a natural part of our ecosystems. Without wildfire, the landscape loses its diversity. Wildfires recycle nutrients, help plants reproduce and create a mosaic of vegetation that provides habitat for a variety of wildlife. By choosing to extend our lifestyles and communities further into forested areas, we become more exposed to the danger of wildfire. Living where wildfires can occur puts your homes at risk, but it is possible to live safely with this natural event.

Development standards play a significant role in reducing the potential impact a wildfire will have on a community. A building is more likely to be destroyed in a wildfire when it is located in a high-density area where fire is able to easily transfer from building to building. The potential for damage intensifies when flammable building materials are used. The recommendations in this guide will reduce the risk of wildfire to your home and neighbourhood.



materials, FireSmart landscaping, and building location layouts and could be required in new critical infrastructure or areas identified in the Village of Valemount OCP where future housing could be located. Being proactive in the building phase can decrease the likelihood of damage or loss, and compared to alternative building material options, fire-resistant building materials have significantly longer lifespans, reducing the need for repairs and retrofitting.

Critical Infrastructure had not been assessed at the time of this plan's completion; however, funding can be sought to complete the assessments. Assessments can assist future building plans by highlighting areas that have been well executed as well as areas that could use improvements. A WDPA and input from assessments could be greatly beneficial while the Village of Valemount plans the construction of their new infrastructure.

Adequate access is crucial for public safety by allowing first responders to reach all residences safely and efficiently, while also providing the public with a safe egress in the case of an evacuation. During new developments and as part of any updates to the OCP, EMP and evacuation plan, egress in a wildfire situation should be reviewed and included in any follow up table top exercises.

Action Planning

The following recommendations highlight development consideration opportunities for the Village of Valemount to consider.

Table 20. Development Consideration recommendations for the Village of Valemount.

Recommendation	Objective/Comments
Develop database of structures and areas where assessments or treatments have been completed	Ensure there is a record and spatial data of assessments and treatments for future planning, maintenance projects, and required funding.
Have KMZ file stored with the Village of Valemount.	Develop a secure internal system to track Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) assessments within the municipality, ensuring compliance with privacy and data protection standards. Data will also be maintained through the FireSmart BC program and will remain confidential, not subject to public access under the Freedom of Information Act. Records and spatial data—including assessment requests, completed evaluations, and follow-up visits—will be used solely to support wildfire resilience planning and meet reporting requirements for funding programs such as CRI, without collecting unnecessary personal information. Creating and managing spatial data will require support from a GIS Technician, a role that Valemount currently does not have in-house. This may necessitate either training existing staff in GIS capabilities or outsourcing the work to external specialists.
Complete FireSmart Critical Assessments on all Village of Valemount Critical Infrastructure.	Complete assessments. Once completed, implement the FireSmart recommendations and mitigation activities or develop a plan for activities that are not immediately actionable with the goal of reducing hazard scores as much as possible.
Apply FireSmart principles in new construction in the Village of Valemount.	All new construction should apply FireSmart policies and recommendations in the Village of Valemount OCP. Consider

	adopting a WDPA that would be the framework for new construction. Ensure emergency evacuation and egress are considered in new developments.
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Resources

[FireSmart Home Development Guide](#)

[National Guide for Wildland-Urban Interface Fires](#)

[Development permit areas - Province of British Columbia](#)

[Wildfire Development Permit Areas Guide](#)

[FireSmart BC Landscaping Guide](#)

5.4 Interagency Cooperation

It takes the collaborative efforts of multiple stakeholders working together to achieve a fire resilient community. These people include the local fire departments, local government staff, elected officials, First Nations representatives, industry representatives and provincial government residents in your area. Individually they are responsible to their own organizations, but all of the stakeholder organizations are dependent upon each other to develop an effective Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan and undertake a successful wildfire response.

Wildfire prevention, preparedness, and response require coordinated efforts across various agencies and resources. By working together, emergency responders, emergency management services, local governments, businesses, and residents can align resources to improve response efforts, share data and critical information, and allocate resources.

Analysis

As previously discussed in section 3.0 Community Description, the RDFFG jurisdiction overlaps, and is adjacent to, and surrounding the Village of Valemount. Currently, the Village of Valemount is working independently on building its wildfire resilience. A way to encourage collaboration between jurisdictions is the development of a Community FireSmart Resiliency Collaborative (CFRC). A CFRC brings together agencies and partners who can influence or impact wildfire risk reduction to discuss and coordinate wildfire resilience through the framework of the seven FireSmart disciplines. The structure and operation of a CFRC will look different for each community depending on a variety of factors. The Village of Valemount may create its own CFRC or participate in an existing committee. The following are suggestions of who should be involved in the Village of Valemount's CFRC:

- FireSmart Coordinator from the Village of Valemount and Coordinators from other local jurisdictions (e.g. Robson Valley)
- Staff or FireSmart Coordinator(s) from the RDFFG
- The Valemount Fire Department
- Department services for the Village of Valemount
- Local businesses
- BC Government Staff, including Wildfire Service, Parks and Emergency Management
- First Nations and Indigenous communities
- Neighboring local government
- Village of Valemount staff from various departments
- Local land managers
- Valemount Community Forest
- Industry representatives (e.g. BC Hydro or CN Rail)

- Local community organizations
- Residents

A CFRC will ensure that the recommendations included in the CWRP are implemented and monitored, as well as encourage and organize interagency training opportunities, assist in securing funding for wildfire risk reduction, identify mitigation opportunities, collaborate on resource allocation and response efforts including protocols on communications and assign specific roles to those willing to help should the area be affected by wildfire.

Participation in a CFRC will be a requirement to gain ongoing CRI funding. There are several options, including to tie the CFRC to the existing Emergency Management Committee, or to create a stand alone CFRC. Alternatively, members of the Village of Valemount may consider joining the CFRC that is in development with the RDFFG.

Action Planning

Table 21. Interagency Considerations recommendations for the Village of Valemount.

Recommendations	Objective/Comments
Participate in a Community FireSmart and Resiliency Collaborative	Participating in a CFRC will improve mitigation efforts, enhance safety and coordination during emergencies and response to wildfires. The CFRC will ensure the CWRP action items are implemented and that community efforts align with broader resiliency plans. Explore options for effective fire prevention measures between the municipality and the fire department and implement options. Participation in a CFRC is a requirement for further CRI funding.
Obtain permission from the land manager in areas within the WUI on Regional District land to complete wildfire threat assessments and fuel treatment	Valemount can request CRI funding for the 2026/2027 application, with permission from the land manager, to complete wildfire threat assessments and potential fuel treatment within the eligible WUI on Regional District land to support wildfire resilience surrounding the AOI. Coordinate with the RDFFG and the CLWRR program as potential treatment units have been identified in the 2022 Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Tactical Plan.
Work with CN Rail to reduce fuels around the rail corridor	To mitigate risk of sparks from trains igniting fires within the Village of Valemount and WUI. If planned burning is part of fuel reduction, the Village of Valemount bylaws have an exemption for live fire training by the Valemount Fire Department. Consult with CN Rail and BCWS to implement prescribed burning in areas adjacent to the rail corridor with grass or shrub fuel types.
Work with BC Hydro to support ongoing vegetation clearing occurs on the BC Hydro transmission lines and at the Valemount substation	While the main powerlines that supply the Village of Valemount and the substation are outside of the AOI, ongoing power supply is critical. Maintaining vegetation management along powerline corridors will support fire prevention and increase safety and access.
Coordinate cross-training opportunities between the Valemount Fire Department and the BC Wildfire Service Robson Valley Fire Zone	Organize and/or participate in cross-jurisdictional meetings, tabletop exercises, or mock scenarios specifically focused on wildfire preparedness and response. Cross training and desktop preparedness events have been found to improve response during emergency events.

Resources

[Community FireSmart and Resiliency Collaborative Guide](#)

[Emergency management in B.C.](#)

5.5 FireSmart Training and Cross-Training

Wildland-Urban Interface resiliency planning and incident response draw on many different professions who do not typically work in wildfire environment. Cross-training of fire fighters, public works staff, utility workers, local government and First Nations administration, planning and logistics staff, and other key positions will help support the development of comprehensive and effective wildfire risk reduction planning and activities, as well as a safe and effective response.

Wildfire resilience requires involvement from multiple professions and personnel who may have limited to no wildfire experience. Providing relevant training and developing a diverse skill set within the community will help strengthen its ability to prepare for and respond to wildfires, including a successful implementation of the CWRP.

Analysis

With the part-time FireSmart Coordinator position established and working in collaboration with the Emergency Program Coordinator, the Village of Valemount can now organize and offer various wildfire-relevant educational programs and training opportunities. To start with, funding can be obtained for up to four people to be selected to attend the annual Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit, where information sharing and strategies for enhancing wildfire resilience are at the forefront. Additionally, the Village of Valemount can consider offering wildland firefighting training for anyone in the community who is interested in participating. This specialized training will enhance response efforts and help protect the community. It is recommended that the Village of Valemount offer introductory courses as. Below is a list of suggested courses that have UBCM CRI funding available:

- FireSmart 101
- Wildfire Risk Reduction Basic course
- S-100 – Basic Fire Suppression and Safety Course. A two-day introductory course on wildland firefighting and safety.
- S-185 – Fire Entrapment Avoidance & Safety
- ICS 100 – Introduction to the Incident command system.
- Basic Chainsaw Operator
- LFR – Local FireSmart Representative
- WSPP-115 – Wildland Structure Protection Program
- EMRG-1100 – Introduction to Emergency Management in Canada

Additional training opportunities are available, including more advanced courses, depending on a person's experience and course pre-requisite requirements.

Action Planning

Table 22. FireSmart Training and Cross Training recommendations for the Village of Valemount.

Recommendation	Objective/Comments
Increase number of community members with training relating to FireSmart activities and wildfire risk reduction	Offer courses such as the FireSmart 101, Local FireSmart Representative, Wildfire Risk Reduction, S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety to increase awareness of FireSmart principles, fire behaviour and suppression throughout the community.
Training for Valemount Fire Department	Train personnel that will be expected to deploy the structure protection trailer when needed. Courses may include: WSPP-115 Wildland structure protection S-231 Engine Boss
Attend the Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit	Continue to send members to the WRTS to stay up to date on the latest research, best practices, and innovations in wildfire prevention. The WRTS provides those attending a with a valuable networking opportunity with different agencies, specialists, and communities.

Resources

[Courses | FireSmart BC](#)

[Emergency Management Training](#)

[BC Wildfire Training](#)

[FNESS Firefighter Training](#)

5.6 Emergency Planning

Community preparations for a wildfire emergency require a multi-pronged approach. Individuals and agencies need to be ready to react by developing plans, mutual-aid agreements, resource inventories, training and emergency communication systems. All of these make it possible for a community to respond effectively to the threat of wildfires as a whole

Preparation for responding to emergencies is imperative for fast and effective response and overall safety. Emergency planning requires coordination between multiple individuals and agencies who have a comprehensive and uniform understanding of resource inventory, training, and emergency communication systems. Resources quickly become overwhelmed and ineffective when proper pre-planning has not been conducted.

Analysis

A revised evacuation plan needs to be completed for the Village of Valemount. The plan should be made available to the public on the Village of Valemount website. After-action reviews (AAR) should be completed any time emergency response plans, including the evacuation plans, are implemented to allow for review and feedback on what went well, what didn't, and how to improve future response. AARs should include anyone who contributed or was affected by the response.

Pre-Incident Planning

As seen in previous years, including 2021 and 2023, the ability for BC Wildfire Service to respond to wildfires can become limited quickly, and resources become depleted. Therefore, no one agency can be exclusively relied on. While there is a local fire department in the village of Valemount, it is important to ensure those trained in wildfire response are not limited. The Village of Valemount and the Fire Department can increase preparedness through education, training, resource inventory and equipment, and comprehensive planning.

There is an Emergency Management Plan (EMP) in place that will assist the Village of Valemount in responding to emergencies effectively and efficiently. Key components included in the plan address:

- Risk assessments and mitigation.
- Command and control structure.
- Roles and responsibilities.
- Contact list.
- Communication plan.
- Resource inventory and management.
- Evacuation plans.
- Shelter plans.
- Recovery and restoration.

When necessary, the EMP should be reviewed annually and updated, with contact lists updated immediately after changes occur. An AAR should be held anytime the EMP is implemented with everyone involved in the response to refine the plan by identifying areas for improvement and improving future responses. The Village of Valemount should hold tabletop exercises with all personnel included in the command and control structure once a year to ensure smooth implementation of the plan.

In addition, the pre-incident planning may include a local daily action guideline based on expected local wildfire conditions. The following table can be adjusted to accommodate the Village of Valemount's local capacity and circumstances.

Table 23. Example of a Wildfire Response Preparedness Condition Guide.

Fire Level Danger	Action Guidelines
I LOW	All community staff on normal shifts
II MODERATE	All community staff on normal shifts
III HIGH	- All community staff on normal shifts. - Regional fire situation evaluated. - Wildland fire-trained Community staff and EOC staff notified of Prep-Con level. - Hourly rain profile for all weather stations after lightning storms.
IV EXTREME	- Rain profile. - Daily Detection patrols by staff. - Daily fire behavior advisory issued. - Regional fire situation evaluated. - EOC staff considered for stand-by. - Designated Community staff: water tender and heavy machinery operators considered for stand-by/extended shifts. - Consider initiating Natural Area closures to align with regional situations. - Provide regular updates to media Services members/Community staff on fire situation. - Update public website as new information changes.
V FIRE (S) ONGOING	- All conditions apply for Level IV (regardless of actual fire danger rating). - Provide regular updates to media/structural fire departments/residents on fire situation. - Mobilize EOC support if evacuation is possible, or fire event requires additional support. - Implement Evacuation Alerts and Orders based on fire behavior and prediction and under the direction of the Incident Commander.

Recovery Planning

The Jasper fire in 2024 resulted in road closures and the arrival of almost 20,000 evacuees in the Village of Valemount, which has a population of 1,050. The road closures and subsequent changes to tourism have had a substantial impact on Valemount's commercial activity. The Village of Valemount has engaged in recover planning and action as a result. The recovery planning should be revisited, learnings captured and generalized to develop community specific recovery plans in future.

Action Planning

Table 24. Emergency Planning recommendations for the Village of Valemount.

Recommendations	Objective/Comments
Update the Evacuation Plan	The Village of Valemount has an evacuation plan from 2021. An update of the plan with checklists and evacuation drills would be beneficial. Develop a comprehensive evacuation plan for the Village of Valemount and promote the use of the Wildfire Evacuations Checklist at community events. Include the evacuation plan in the table top exercises.
Assess the Structure Protection Unit inventory and apply for CRI funding to acquire additional Structure Protection Unit inventory as necessary.	Sufficient protection is needed in the Village of Valemount to ensure community protection as the Village of Valemount is remote from larger centres that could provide aid. Four phases for acquiring a structure protection trailer have been released through CRI FCFS funding. The phases have been designed to ensure communities have proper equipment for structure protection throughout each phase. The Valemount Fire Department is a RDFFG function. The Village of Valemount can collaborate with the RDFFG as the lead.
Ensure roof top sprinklers are installed on all critical infrastructure in the Village of Valemount	To ensure maximum protection, ensure that public buildings and critical infrastructure have roof top sprinklers installed.
Develop a deployment plan to deliver a constant and sufficient, amount of water from a reliable source capable of supporting full deployment of roof-top sprinklers for all participating properties.	Valemount has initiated and promoted a roof-top sprinkler program however, water sources to support sprinkler deployment have not been identified. This is crucial to ensure an effective wildfire response and maximize the system's potential to protect homes during an emergency. Work with the BCWS, Valemount Emergency Management, and Valemount Fire Department.

Resources

[Create/Maintain an Emergency Management Plan](#)

[Emergency Management Planning Guide](#)

[Community FireSmart and Resiliency Collaboratives](#)

[Disaster Recovery Guide](#)

5.7 Vegetation Management

The general goal of vegetation management is to reduce the potential wildfire intensity and ember exposure to people, infrastructure, structures and other values through manipulation of both the natural and cultivated vegetation that is within or adjacent to a community. A well-planned vegetation management strategy that is coordinated with development, planning, legislation and emergency response wildfire risk reduction objectives can greatly increase fire suppression effectiveness and reduce damage and losses to structure and infrastructure.

Vegetation management requires manipulating existing natural and cultivated vegetation by completing fuel reduction treatments to mitigate the impacts of a wildfire. Fuel treatments will reduce potential wildfire intensity and ember exposure to surrounding structures and values, making the area a defensible space. Fuel treatments typically prioritize areas closest to structures or values and extend outward.

Vegetation management can be accomplished on two different levels:

- Residential scale FireSmart landscaping.
- Fuel management treatments.

FireSmart landscaping (Residential and Critical Infrastructure)

FireSmart landscaping focuses on the design and maintenance of landscapes within the immediate, intermediate, and extended zones, which are the priority zones within the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ).

Immediate Zone 0m - 1.5m

The Immediate Zone is a non-combustible area that starts at the house and extends to 1.5m perimeter around the home and attached structures, including decks. This zone focuses on reducing the risks from windblown embers landing on or near a structure, resulting in ignition. It is essential that all combustible material and vegetation is removed from this area. This includes removing combustible debris from gutters, roofs, and decks and avoiding storing combustible items against the structure or under decks.



It is estimated that 90% of homes damaged or destroyed by wildfires are ignited by sparks and embers. This is why regular maintenance and cleaning of the home and its surroundings are crucial.

Intermediate Zone 1.5m - 10m

Elements in the Intermediate Zone are managed so they don't transmit fire to your home. This area should be free of combustible material or vegetation that could easily combust from a wildfire or embers. Mitigation completed in this area will have the biggest impact in reducing wildfire risk.

Extended Zone 10m – 30m

The goal of the extended zone is to reduce its intensity and rate of spread. Trees should be spaced at least 3 meters apart between crowns, with tree removal favouring retention of deciduous (broadleaf) trees and pruned to a height of 2 meters from the ground to the first branch. The area should be regularly maintained to remove fine fuels.

In some cases, the extended zone may overlap with neighbors or other landowners. It is important to work together to collectively contribute to wildfire resilience.

Analysis

A significant number of homes in the Village of Valemount may require vegetation management within the HIZ to meet FireSmart objectives. The FireSmart Coordinator can begin an initiative to complete HIZ assessments and offer this service to private homeowners. It is recommended that the Village of Valemount consider training one or more individuals in addition to the FireSmart Coordinator to carry out HIZ assessments. Once assessments are complete, residents will clearly understand mitigation efforts required to reduce wildfire risk.

A challenge noted in regard to HIZ assessments and mitigation implementation is public buy-in and cooperation. This is a challenge experienced by many communities, which is why education is critical to the success of FireSmart initiatives. Additionally, communities face the issue of debris disposal. Not everyone has a means to dispose of the debris accumulated from vegetation management completed on their properties, and the existence of such fuels pose a fire risk. The Village of Valemount should consider this and develop debris removal options for community members, such as community chipper day(s). Community events targeting vegetation management and HIZ FireSmart principles, including debris removal, encourage community to participation in FireSmart efforts and may have a better response than targeting households individually. These types of events should be planned once a year to promote FireSmart activities.

Fuel Management Treatment

Fuel management treatment focuses on manipulating forests and grasslands within the treatment unit or WUI by removing or reducing the amount of available fuels. This will alter the way a fire approaches or moves through a community by reducing the likelihood of a fire occurring in the canopy and reducing fire intensity, rate of spread, and ember exposure.

Treatment is done mechanically or manually by removing ladder fuels, reducing crown bulk density, and reducing surface fuel loading. The goal is that if a wildfire were to enter a treated stand, it would burn as a surface fire and not spread into the canopy. This would greatly increase the success of suppression efforts and enhance the safety of first responders.

Additionally, prescribed fire and cultural burning are tools available to the Village of Valemount for vegetation management. These tools may be utilized during the maintenance phase of treatment once the main treatment has been completed. Historically, the Valemount Fire Department conducted burns along the CN right-of-way as fuel reduction and practice events. There may be an opportunity to engage in similar practice within the fuel treatment areas. This may require a revision of the Open Air Burning Bylaw No. 703. Different methods of burning may be implemented depending on specific objectives. It is recommended that the Village of Valemount work with the local BC Wildfire Service Office to determine if there are any areas that would benefit from prescribed burning.

The objectives of fuel treatment in the proposed treatment units are to alter the fire behavior and reduce the potential of a crown fire, which would, in turn, reduce the potential for ember transfer to values and improve the success of suppression efforts.

There are two existing treatment units on Crown Land in the WUI area around the Village of Valemount. Prescriptions have been completed for these treatment units and the BC Wildfire Service has undertaken fuel treatment. The first treatment unit is McKirdy Road (Robson Valley), a 7.2 hectare area which is surrounded by Whiskyfill Road to the northeast, Cranberry Marsh to the south and Aspen Road to the west. The second treatment unit is the Pine Road / Jack Adams Road Fuel Management Treatment which is a 11.1 hectare area west of Valemount. The BCWS has engaged in fuel management in and around the Village of Valemount. The ongoing partnership is welcome and it should be noted that the BCWS work is dependent on response considerations and ideal projects do not have restricted time frames.

Table 25. Proposed Treatment Units within the WUI and treatment Rational.

PTU Name	Total Area (ha)	Treatment Unit Type / Objective	Local Fuel Threat (ha)			Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rational
			Extreme /High	Mod	Low		
TU1A	8.83	Interface Fuel Break – Surface, ladder and crown fuel reduction	8.83			- Land ownership is municipal	- The area has a high-extreme threat rating as per the wildfire threat assessment. - The proposed treatment unit is located adjacent to the rail line, aligning with recommendations to reduce the risk of fire spread originating from railway-related ignitions. - TU1A with TU1B is the largest forested public owned area within the AOI. - TU is easily accessible.
TU1B	12.77	Interface Fuel Break – Surface, ladder and crown fuel reduction	12.77			- Land ownership is municipal	- The area has a high-extreme threat rating as per the wildfire threat assessment. - Treatment will enhance protection from southerly prevailing winds - TU is easily accessible. - TU1A with TU1B is the largest forested public owned area within the AOI.
TU2	3.79	Interface Fuel Break – Surface, ladder and crown fuel reduction	3.79			- Municipal/Local and Regional Greenspace	- The area has a high-extreme threat rating as per the wildfire threat assessment. - High public use areas have an increased risk of human caused fires. - Treatment will reduce the intensity of a fire starting within the TU. - Treatment will enhance an existing fuel break including the highway, a cleared area between the TU and the highway. - TU is easily accessible.

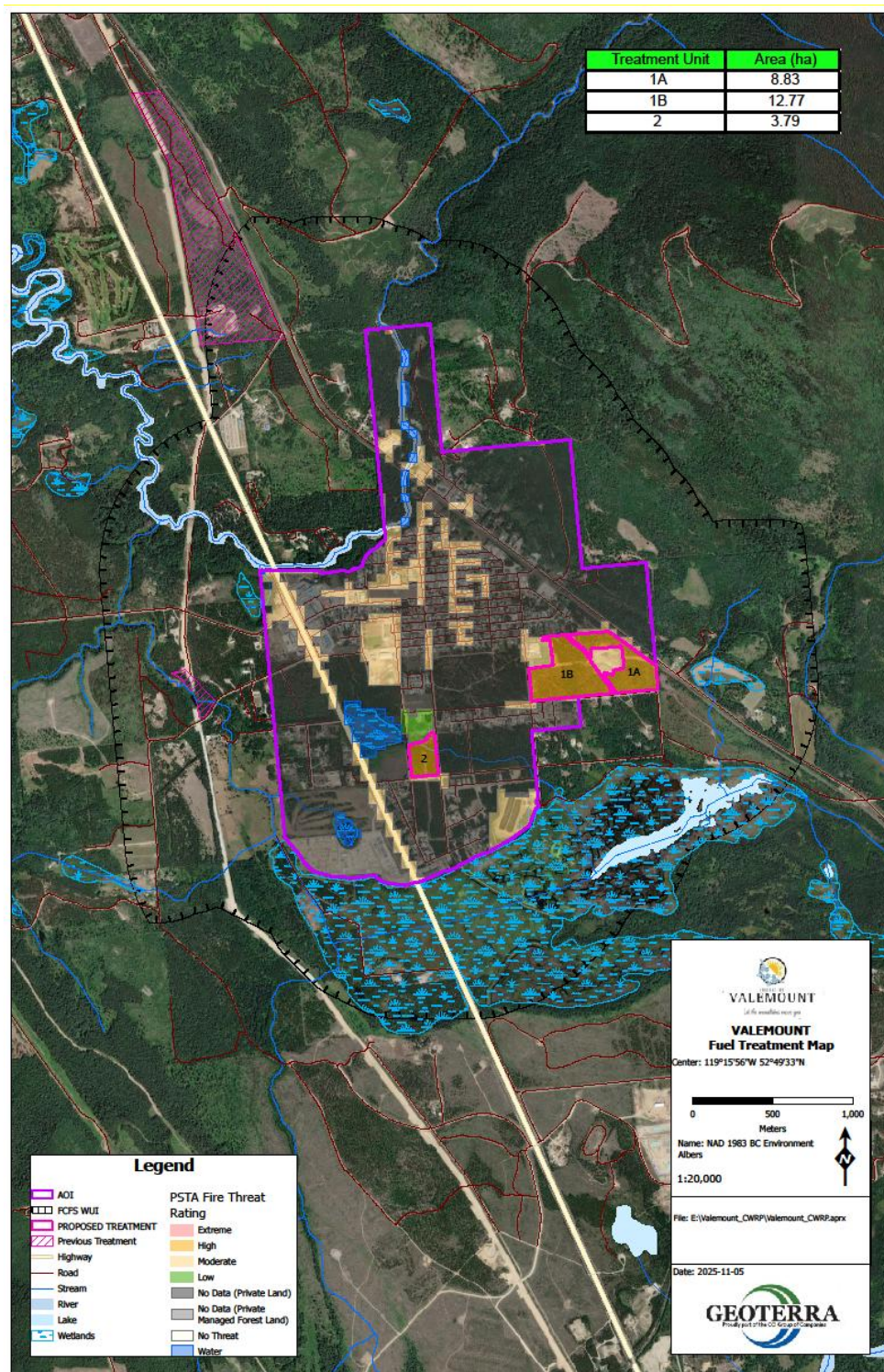


Figure 15. Proposed Treatment Units in Valemount AOI.

Action Planning

Table 26. Vegetation Management Recommendations for the Village of Valemount

Recommendations	Objectives/Comments
Engage land managers (public and private) to initiate wildfire threat assessments followed by fuel treatment.	Due to the timing of the CWRP application some public and private areas near Valemount could not be assessed as part of the CWRP development, as there were not sufficient permissions. The Village of Valemount can engage local stakeholders to ensure these areas are assessed during the 2026 funding phase and eligible for funding to complete fuel treatment during the 2027 funding phase. Discussion opportunities may be held during the CFRC meetings to best align all stakeholders objectives.
Complete a community vegetation management project	A small scale (< 2 ha area) project is desired as a community project to inspire action and act as a demonstration site. Providing a visual example of a fuel treatment area that follows FireSmart principles can help residents better understand what effective treatment looks like and may inspire them to implement similar practices on their own properties.
Engage a project manager to manage the treatment units.	Apply for grant funding to hire a project manager to oversee the fuel treatment. As minimal areas within the AOI are eligible for treatment, this position may be an added scope in addition to an existing position.
Prescription development on proposed treatment units	Prescription development is necessary in areas where fuel treatment will take place to assess current risk and prescribe a treatment to lessen the risk. Updates may be necessary in treatment units with outdated prescriptions (over 10 years).
Organize Community Chipper Day(s) to encourage and assist residents with removal of vegetation and debris around their homes.	Develop a plan for debris removal to incentivize residents to complete fuel reduction projects on their properties, without having to dispose of the accumulated debris on their own. This could be by equipment rentals, employing a resident to haul debris to a waste station, purchase of a chipper, etc.
Complete funding applications for fuel treatment	The main funding streams to implement fuel treatment on municipal land is UBCM CRI FCFS. The FireSmart coordinator should review application packages and amendments as well as any additional funding opportunities that may become available. Applications should be submitted annually for treatment and maintenance of treatment units.
Apply for funding for FireSmart Crew Member(s) to complete fuel treatments on private property for vulnerable populations (e.g. elderly) who have completed a Home Ignition Zone Assessment.	Funding is available to hire a FireSmart crew to engage in vegetation management on private land, for vulnerable populations (e.g. elderly).
Complete wildfire risk reduction fuel treatment in proposed treatment units identified in the CWRP	After prescription development, implement fuel treatment according to prescriptions completed in the identified proposed treatment units and continue maintenance. Treatment units are identified in areas where a wildfire poses the highest threat to the community. Treatment will lessen the impact of a wildfire to these areas. Fuel treatments may be mechanical or hand treatment, or a mix of both.
Conduct wildfire threat assessments at sawmills in the Industrial Park	While the sawmills are not in the AOI the sawmills pose additional risk due to the increased fibre onsite. Collaborate with sawmill authorities and the RDFFG to promote completion of wildfire threat assessments aimed at identifying specific hazards and opportunities for suppression.

References

[Fire and fuel management - Province of British Columbia](#)

[Development Considerations | FireSmart BC](#)

[Home construction | FireSmart Canada](#)

[Tools for fuel management - Province of British Columbia](#)

[FireSmart Begins at Home Guide](#)

6.0 ACTION PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION

Table 23 summarizes the recommended action items for the Village of Valemount to implement to reduce the overall wildfire risk and enhance wildfire resiliency within the AOI. Included in the table are the recommended action, priority ranked low to high of implementation significance, the objective of the recommended action and outcomes, suggested individuals to take the lead on recommended actions, recommended timeframe of when action should be completed, and available funding sources. Suggested priorities and timeframes may be refined with additional input from the community and changing conditions.

Funding for specific action items from identified sources has increased over recent years. The Village of Valemount FireSmart Coordinator should review funding sources often to stay current with cost maximums available.

The prioritization of action items is based on several key factors that ensure the most critical and impactful measures are addressed first.

- **High Priority:** Actions that significantly reduce the risk of wildfire and protect human life, critical infrastructure, and property are given the highest priority. For example, completing Home Ignition Zone assessments and Critical Infrastructure assessments (Action Item 4) directly addresses the most vulnerable areas and structures.
- **Moderate Priority:** Actions that contribute to risk reduction but may have a more indirect impact, such as hosting FireSmart community events (Action Item 2), are prioritized moderately.
- **Low Priority:** Actions that have a lower immediate impact on risk reduction, such as installing signage for fire bans and fire danger ratings (Action Item 1), are given lower priority.

Tracking and Reporting

If there are any substantial changes to local demographics, land use, environmental conditions, policy frameworks, or a major wildfire event, the CWRP should be revised within five years. A summary of revisions and a CWRP implementation progress report should be made publicly available through the Village of Valemount website and community meetings.

Table 27 shows how the recommended action items may be tracked and reported. Additional columns may be added to the action items.

Table 27. Example of tracking and reporting table.

Action Item	Lead	Start Date	Date completed	Outcomes/Successes	Difficulties	Notes
Action	Who lead the implementation of the action item	Date project began	Completion date. An empty column will show the project is ongoing	Any measurable outcomes or successes of the project.	Difficulties faced while trying to implement the project/lessons learned.	Additional notes, takeaways, follow-ups required.

6.1 CWRP Action Plan

Table 28. CWRP Recommended Action Items.

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description	Lead(s) & Required Resources	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding
Education							
1	High	Maintain a permanent FireSmart Coordinator position	The grant funded FireSmart Coordinator is in a term position. This position should be maintained on a permanent basis to coordinate a FireSmart program in the Village of Valemount. A FireSmart Coordinator is a critical investment in community safety, resilience, and climate adaptation. By having someone dedicated year-round to wildfire risk reduction, education, coordination, and recovery the Village of Valemount greatly improves its resiliency to wildfire. A FireSmart Coordinator is a requirement for further CRI funding.	Village of Valemount	Ongoing	Retention of a qualified and committed person who can effectively administer the program.	CRI FCFS
2	High	Host FireSmart community events	FireSmart focused events enhance community engagement and share information about FireSmart goals, plans, and future events. They are key to community education.	FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing (Recommend 3 events per fire season)	Number of events and turnout.	CRI FCFS
3	Moderate	Classroom delivery of FireSmart focused education to local schools.	Deliver FireSmart education from FireSmart BC Education Package to local schools to teach children about FireSmart practices and to get them involved. Students can	FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing, once per year	Delivery of FireSmart education and engagement from students.	CRI FCFS

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description	Lead(s) & Required Resources	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding
			bring this information home to share with their families.				
4	Moderate	Order and distribute FireSmart educational material	Educational materials will increase public awareness and knowledge of FireSmart principles and steps the public can take in FireSmarting their community and properties.	FireSmart Coordinator Village of Valemount	Ongoing	Distribution of materials and number of media postings made.	CRI FCFS
5	Moderate	Increase the Firesmart education material available in the community by engaging in the FireSmart BC Library Program at the local library and FireSmart children/youth material to summer children/youth programs.	Increase the FireSmart education material available at the local library. Funding is available through the UBCM's CRI program to access additional education materials. This program includes Wildfire Resiliency Literacy Kits, Ember Activity Packages, Colouring Contest materials, and access to Storytime Videos with Ember.	FireSmart Coordinator	Immediate and ongoing	Material is easily and consistently available.	CRI FCFS
6	Moderate	Apply for Neighborhood Recognition Program	Encourage community support of FireSmart initiatives and grass roots uptake via a Neighborhood Champion. Complete assessments, create a plan, sponsor a local neighborhood FireSmart Collaborative, conduct FireSmart events, invest in neighborhood efforts and complete an annual report.	FireSmart Coordinator Neighbourhood Champion	Initiate the program spring 2026. Recommendation within 3 years (2028), then annually	A neighborhood achieves FireSmart Neighborhood Recognition by end of 2028.	CRI FCFS
7	High	Encourage residents to have a FireSmart	A FireSmart Coordinator or other qualified staff are required to	FireSmart Coordinator	Immediate and ongoing	Number of assessments	CRI FCFS

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description	Lead(s) & Required Resources	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding
		HIZ, Wildfire Mitigation Program and/or Farm and Ranch Assessment for their home/property. Based on the outcome of the Assessments, encourage property owners to implement as many mitigation activities as possible through local rebate programs for completed eligible FireSmart activities.	complete the Home Ignition Assessments. For a more comprehensive home assessment, the community can consider participating in FireSmart BC's Wildfire Mitigation Program. The FireSmart BC Wildfire Mitigation Program engages residents in wildfire mitigation activities by offering a professional home assessment with property-specific recommendations. The assessments are offered free of charge through the Valemount FireSmart Coordinator. Additional personnel may need to be trained to complete assessments. Schedule revisits to encourage completion of recommended actions. Funding is available through the UBCM's CRI program to complete FireSmart HIZ, Wildfire Mitigation Program/ Farm and Ranch Assessments for property owners. Once the assessments are complete, residents are eligible to take part in the FireSmart Rebate program to offset the costs of mitigation activities.			completed and property owners compliance with recommendations.	

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description	Lead(s) & Required Resources	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding
8	Low	Promote the FireSmart Plant Program	Provide literature/education materials to the local businesses (IDA, Home Depot), and landscaping companies that provide plants to the community.	FireSmart Coordinator	Initiate the program in Spring 2026	Program in place in the local business garden centres.	CRI FCFS
Legislation and Planning							
9	Moderate	Consider local bylaw implementation, complete bylaw review.	Specific local wildfire prevention bylaws will enhance the community's wildfire resiliency. Enforcement capacity may need to be assessed. Amend bylaws for vegetation management (e.g. location and type of landscaping, removal of fuel accumulations), and incorporation of FireSmart materials in new construction. An update to the HRVA may be taken in conjunction with the bylaw review.	Village of Valemount Council	5 years	FireSmart Bylaw study completed, new bylaws implemented if recommended. Capacity to enforce bylaws.	CRI FCFS
10	High	Develop and offer a local FireSmart Rebate Program to residential property or homeowners that complete eligible FireSmart activities to provide incentive and assist with the financial barriers to	The Village of Valemount, through the Emergency Preparedness staff or the FireSmart Coordinator can develop a program and communicate the available resources. Ensure the local residents are aware of the FireSmart Rebate program and are actively taking part in implementing eligible FireSmart activities and applying for rebates upon completion.	FireSmart Coordinator	1 year then ongoing	Available funding and community cooperation.	CRI FCFS

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description	Lead(s) & Required Resources	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding
		implementing FireSmart on private land.	Funding is available through the UBCM's CRI program to support rebate programs. As of 2024, rebates are limited to 50% of the total cost of the eligible activities identified in the CRI Program Guide and up to \$5,000 per property.				
11	Low	Amend the CWRP to ensure it is current (within 5 years)	Plan to amend current CWRP within 5 years of development date or if there have been significant changes in the community or to the associated funding structures.	FireSmart Coordinator Village of Valemount Consultant	5 years	Begin amendment plans and secure funding in 2028-2029.	CRI FCFS
12	High	Conduct an analysis to prioritise which vacant lots within the AOI present the greatest wildfire threat and notify property owners to prioritise vegetation management efforts.	Under British Columbia's Fire Safety Act, municipalities like Valemount have a legal responsibility to ensure that vacant landowners are aware of fire hazards their properties may pose to neighboring properties with structures.	FireSmart Coordinator Village of Valemount	1-2 years	Analysis completed	Village of Valemount
Development Considerations							
13	Moderate	Develop database of structures and areas where assessments or treatments have been completed Have KMZ file stored with the Village of Valemount.	Ensure there is a record and spatial data of assessments and treatments for future planning, maintenance projects, and required funding. Develop a secure internal system to track Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) assessments within the	Village of Valemount	1 year and ongoing	Keep data and spatial data current.	CRI FCFS (ongoing with FireSmart program)

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description	Lead(s) & Required Resources	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding
			municipality, ensuring compliance with privacy and data protection standards. Data will also be maintained through the FireSmart BC program and will remain confidential, not subject to public access under the Freedom of Information Act. Records and spatial data—including assessment requests, completed evaluations, and follow-up visits—will be used solely to support wildfire resilience planning and meet reporting requirements for funding programs such as CRI, without collecting unnecessary personal information. Creating and managing spatial data will require support from a GIS Technician, a role that Valemount currently does not have in-house. This may necessitate either training existing staff in GIS capabilities or outsourcing the work to external specialists.				
14	High	Complete FireSmart Critical Assessments on all Village of Valemount Critical Infrastructure.	Complete assessments. Once completed, implement the FireSmart recommendations and mitigation activities or develop a plan for activities that are not immediately actionable with the goal of reducing hazard scores as much as possible.	FireSmart Coordinator Village of Valemount	Immediately	FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments have been completed by 2027.	CRI FCFS

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description	Lead(s) & Required Resources	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding
15	High	Apply FireSmart principles in new construction in the Village of Valemount.	All new construction should apply FireSmart policies and recommendations in the Village of Valemount OCP. Consider adopting a WDPA that would be the framework for new construction. Ensure emergency evacuation and egress are considered in new developments.	Village of Valemount	1-3 years	Adopt Plan.	Internal
Interagency Cooperation							
16	High	Participate in a Community FireSmart and Resiliency Collaborative	Participating in a CFRC will improve mitigation efforts, enhance safety and coordination during emergencies and response to wildfires. The CFRC will ensure the CWRP action items are implemented and that community efforts align with broader resiliency plans. Explore options for effective fire prevention measures between the municipality and the fire department and implement options. Participation in a CFRC is a requirement for further CRI funding.	FireSmart Coordinator CFRC members	Immediate and ongoing	Attending and participating in meetings.	CRI FCFS
17	High	Obtain permission from the land manager in areas within the WUI on Regional	Valemount can request CRI funding for the 2026/2027 application, with permission from the land manager, to complete	FireSmart Coordinator CFRC members	1-2 years	Permission granted to complete assessments and	CRI FCFS

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description	Lead(s) & Required Resources	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding
		District land to complete wildfire threat assessments and fuel treatment	wildfire threat assessments and potential fuel treatment within the eligible WUI on Regional District land to support wildfire resilience surrounding the AOI. Coordinate with the RDFFG and the CLWRR program as potential treatment units have been identified in the 2022 Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Tactical Plan.			treatment within the eligible WUI on private land.	
18	High	Work with CN Rail to reduce fuels around the rail corridor	To mitigate risk of sparks from trains igniting fires within the Village of Valemount and WUI. If planned burning is part of fuel reduction, the Village of Valemount bylaws have an exemption for live fire training by the Valemount Fire Department. Consult with CN Rail and BCWS to implement prescribed burning in areas adjacent to the rail corridor with grass or shrub fuel types.	FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing (1-5 years)	Fuel treatment completed along rail corridor	CN Funding
19	High	Work with BC Hydro to support ongoing vegetation clearing occurs on the BC Hydro transmission lines and at the Valemount substation	While the main powerlines that supply the Village of Valemount and the substation are outside of the AOI, ongoing power supply is critical. Maintaining vegetation management along powerline corridors will support fire prevention and increase safety and access.	FireSmart Coordinator Village of Valemount BC Hydro	Ongoing (1-5 years)	Fuel treatment completed along the BC Hydro right of way	BC Hydro

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description	Lead(s) & Required Resources	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding
20	High	Coordinate cross-training opportunities between the Valemount Fire Department and the BC Wildfire Service Robson Valley Fire Zone	Organize and/or participate in cross-jurisdictional meetings, tabletop exercises, or mock scenarios specifically focused on wildfire preparedness and response. Cross training and desktop preparedness events have been found to improve response during emergency events.	RDFFG - Valemount Fire Chief BC Wildfire Service	Once every two years	Cross training event(s) occur.	Dependent on Valemount Fire Department and BC Wildfire availability CRI FCFS
FireSmart Training and Cross Training							
21	Moderate	Increase number of community members with training relating to FireSmart activities and wildfire risk reduction	Offer courses such as the FireSmart 101, Local FireSmart Representative, Wildfire Risk Reduction, S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety to increase awareness of FireSmart principles, fire behaviour and suppression throughout the community.	FireSmart Coordinator Emergency Program Coordinator	1-5 years	Deliver training and community interest.	CRI FCFS
22	Moderate	Training for Valemount Fire Department	Train personnel that will be expected to deploy the structure protection trailer when needed. Courses may include: WSPP-115 Wildland structure protection S-231 Engine Boss	RDFFG - Valemount Fire Chief RDFFG	1-3 years (dependent on acquisition of structure protection unit)	Training delivered.	CRI FCFS
23	Moderate	Attend the Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit	Continue to send members to the WRTS to stay up to date on the latest research, best practices, and innovations in wildfire prevention. The WRTS provides those attending a with a valuable networking opportunity with	FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Attendance and participation.	CRI FCFS

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description	Lead(s) & Required Resources	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding
			different agencies, specialists, and communities.				
Emergency Planning							
24	High	Update the Evacuation Plan	The Village of Valemount has an evacuation plan from 2021. An update of the plan with checklists and evacuation drills would be beneficial. Develop a comprehensive evacuation plan for the Village of Valemount and promote the use of the Wildfire Evacuations Checklist at community events. Include the evacuation plan in the table top exercises.	Emergency Program Coordinator	Plan complete in 2 years. Ongoing revisit or drill (Recommend once per year)	Evacuation plan updated.	CRI FCFS
25	Moderate	Assess the Structure Protection Unit inventory and apply for CRI funding to acquire additional Structure Protection Unit inventory as necessary.	Sufficient protection is needed in the Village of Valemount to ensure community protection as the Village of Valemount is remote from larger centres that could provide aid. Four phases for acquiring a structure protection trailer have been released through CRI FCFS funding. The phases have been designed to ensure communities have proper equipment for structure protection throughout each phase. The Valemount Fire Department is a RDFFG function. The Village of Valemount can collaborate with the RDFFG as the lead.	RDFFG FireSmart Coordinator Emergency Operations Coordinator Public Works	2-5 years	Assessment and funding application completed.	CRI FCFS

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description	Lead(s) & Required Resources	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding
26	High	Ensure roof top sprinklers are installed on all critical infrastructure in the Village of Valemount	To ensure maximum protection, ensure that public buildings and critical infrastructure have roof top sprinklers installed.	FireSmart Coordinator	1-2 years	All buildings have sprinklers	CRI FCFS
27	High	Develop a deployment plan to deliver a constant and sufficient, amount of water from a reliable source capable of supporting full deployment of roof-top sprinklers for all participating properties.	Valemount has initiated and promoted a roof-top sprinkler program however, water sources to support sprinkler deployment have not been identified. This is crucial to ensure an effective wildfire response and maximize the system's potential to protect homes during an emergency. Work with the BCWS, Valemount Emergency Management and Valemount Fire Department.	FireSmart Coordinator	1-5 years	Plan development and successful testing to support the current and potential future demand.	CRI FCFS Columbia Basin Trust
Vegetation Management							
28	High	Engage land managers (public and private) to initiate wildfire threat assessments followed by fuel treatment.	Due to the timing of the CWRP application some public and private areas near Valemount could not be assessed as part of the CWRP development, as there were not sufficient permissions. The Village of Valemount can engage local stakeholders to ensure these areas are assessed during the 2026 funding phase and eligible for funding to complete fuel treatment during the 2027 funding phase. Discussion opportunities may be held during the CFRC meetings to best align all stakeholders objectives.	Village of Valemount Valemount Community Forest RDFFG	1-2 years	Areas of concern have been assessed.	CRI FCFS

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description	Lead(s) & Required Resources	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding
29	Moderate	Complete a community vegetation management project	A small scale (< 2 ha area) project is desired as a community project to inspire action and act as a demonstration site. Providing a visual example of a fuel treatment area that follows FireSmart principles can help residents better understand what effective treatment looks like and may inspire them to implement similar practices on their own properties.	FireSmart Coordinator	1-5 years	Maintain proper FireSmart principles and follow the fuel management prescription	CRI FCFS
30	Moderate	Engage a project manager to manage the treatment units.	Apply for grant funding to hire a project manager to oversee the fuel treatment. As minimal areas within the AOI are eligible for treatment, this position may be an added scope in addition to an existing position.	Village of Valemount Valemount Community Forest	2-5 years		CRI FCFS
31	High	Prescription development on proposed treatment units	Prescription development is necessary in areas where fuel treatment will take place to assess current risk and prescribe a treatment to lessen the risk. Updates may be necessary in treatment units with outdated prescriptions (over 10 years).	Village of Valemount Consultant Valemount Community Forest	1-5 years	Prescriptions completed.	CRI FCFS
32	High	Organize Community Chipper Day(s) to encourage and assist residents with removal of vegetation and	Develop a plan for debris removal to incentivize residents to complete fuel reduction projects on their properties, without having to dispose of the accumulated	FireSmart Coordinator Village of Valemount	Ongoing (annually)	Proper equipment and personnel acquired.	CRI FCFS

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description	Lead(s) & Required Resources	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding
		debris around their homes.	debris on their own. This could be by equipment rentals, employing a resident to haul debris to a waste station, purchase of a chipper, etc.	Valemount Community Forest			
33	High	Complete funding applications for fuel treatment	The main funding streams to implement fuel treatment on municipal land is UBCM CRI FCFS. The FireSmart coordinator should review application packages and amendments as well as any additional funding opportunities that may become available. Applications should be submitted annually for treatment and maintenance of treatment units.	FireSmart Coordinator Village of Valemount Valemount Community Forest	Ongoing	Funding applications completed and maintaining eligibility.	CRI FCFS
34	High	Apply for funding for FireSmart Crew Member(s) to complete fuel treatments on private property for vulnerable populations (e.g. elderly) who have completed a Home Ignition Zone Assessment.	Funding is available to hire a FireSmart crew to engage in vegetation management on private land, for vulnerable populations (e.g. elderly).	FireSmart Coordinator Village of Valemount Valemount Community Forest	Starting 2026	FireSmart Crew Member(s) hired	CRI FCFS
35	High	Complete wildfire risk reduction fuel treatment in proposed treatment units identified in the CWRP	After prescription development, implement fuel treatment according to prescriptions completed in the identified proposed treatment units and continue maintenance. Treatment units are identified in areas where	FireSmart Coordinator Village of Valemount	1-5 years	Treatments completed that meet prescription targets.	CRI FCFS

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Objective/Description	Lead(s) & Required Resources	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding
			a wildfire poses the highest threat to the community. Treatment will lessen the impact of a wildfire to these areas. Fuel treatments may be mechanical or hand treatment, or a mix of both.	Contracted mechanical treatment crew Local BC Wildfire Service crews (if possible) Valemount Community Forest			
36	High	Conduct wildfire threat assessments at sawmills in the Industrial Park.	While the sawmills are not in the AOI the sawmills pose additional risk due to the increased fibre onsite. Collaborate with sawmill authorities and the RDFFG to promote completion of wildfire threat assessments aimed at identifying specific hazards and opportunities for suppression.	FireSmart Coordinator Valemount Industrial Park Corporation	1 year Ongoing - annually	Threat assessments completed	CRI Funding (RDFFG) Valemount Industrial Park Corporation

APPENDIX A. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Anchor point - An advantageous location, usually a barrier to fire spread, from which to start or finish construction of a control line. Used to minimize the chance of being flanked (or outflanked) by the fire while the line is being constructed.

Area of interest - The AOI is the geographic scope of the CWRP. For the purpose of the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program, the AOI is the area within the municipal boundary, regional district boundary, or boundary of First Nations land.

Critical Infrastructure – For the purpose of the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program, critical infrastructure includes structures designated as Emergency Operations Centres or Emergency Support Services facilities (e.g. reception centres, group lodging locations for evacuees), water pump stations, communication towers, and electrical generations stations, but does not include all critical infrastructure identified through the local emergency management plan.

Fire danger - A general term used to express an assessment of both fixed and changeable factors of the fire environment that determine the ease of ignition, rate of spread, difficulty of control, and fire impact.

Fire hazard -

1. the risk of fire starting, and
2. the hazard associated with an industrial activity; and
3. if a fire were to start,
 - the volatility of the fire's behaviour,
 - the difficulty of controlling the fire, and
 - the potential threat to values at risk

Fire season - The period(s) of the year during which fires are likely to start, spread, and damage values-at-risk sufficient to warrant organized fire suppression; a period of the year set out and commonly referred to in fire prevention legislation.

FireSmart™ – FireSmart™ Canada is a national program that helps Canadians increase neighbourhood resilience to wildfire and minimize its negative impacts. The FireSmart BC Program is a provincial initiative aimed at reducing the risk of wildfire damage to homes, communities, and forests. The program includes implementation of both prevention and mitigation measures to reduce wildfire threat.

Fuel - Fuel is any organic matter, living or dead, in the ground, on the ground, or in the air that can ignite and burn.

Available fuel - The quantity of fuel (in a particular fuel type) that would actually be consumed under specified burning conditions.

Fine fuels - Fuels that ignite readily and are consumed rapidly by fire (e.g. cured grass, fallen leaves, needles, small twigs). Dead, fine fuels also dry very quickly.

Ground fuels - All combustible materials below the litter layer of the forest floor that normally support smouldering or glowing combustion associated with ground fires (e.g. duff, roots, buried punky wood, peat).

Ladder fuels - Fuels that provide vertical continuity between the surface fuels and crown fuels in a forest stand, thus contributing to the ease of torching and crowning (e.g. tall shrubs, small-sized trees, bark flakes, tree lichens).

Medium fuels - Fuels too large to be ignited until after the leading edge of the fire front passes, but small enough to be completely consumed.

Surface fuels - All combustible materials lying above the duff layer between the ground and ladder fuels that are responsible for propagating surface fires (e.g. litter, herbaceous vegetation, low and medium shrubs, tree seedlings, stumps, downed-dead roundwood).

Fuel management - Fuel management is the modification of forest structure to reduce forest fuel accumulations available to burn in a wildfire. The main goal of fuel management is improving public safety. This may include treatments such as thinning, spacing and pruning trees, and removal of needles and woody debris from the forest floor.

Fuel type - An identifiable association of fuel elements of distinctive species, form, size, arrangement, and continuity that will exhibit characteristic fire behaviour under defined burning conditions.

High risk activity - As defined in the Wildfire Regulation (s.1)

- (a) mechanical brushing;
- (b) disk trenching;
- (c) preparation or use of explosives;
- (d) using fire- or spark-producing tools, including cutting tools;
- (e) using or preparing fireworks or pyrotechnics;
- (f) grinding, including rail grinding;
- (g) mechanical land clearing;
- (h) clearing and maintaining rights of way, including grass mowing;
- (i) any of the following activities carried out in a cutblock excluding a road, landing, roadside work area or log sort area in the cutblock:
 - (i) operating a power saw;
 - (ii) mechanical tree felling, woody debris piling or tree processing, including de-limbing;
 - (iii) welding;
 - (iv) portable wood chipping, milling, processing or manufacturing;
 - (v) skidding logs or log forwarding unless it is improbable that the skidding or forwarding will result in the equipment contacting rock;
 - (vi) yarding logs using cable systems.

Ignition - The beginning of flame production or smouldering combustion; the starting of a fire.

Interface fire - Fires that have the potential to involve buildings and forest fuel or vegetation simultaneously.

Litter - The uppermost part of the forest floor consisting of freshly fallen or slightly decomposed organic materials.

Prescribed fire - The knowledgeable and controlled application of fire to a specific area to accomplish planned resource management objectives. These fires are managed in such a way as to minimize the emission of smoke and maximize the benefits to the site.

Rate of spread (ROS) - The speed at which a fire extends its horizontal dimensions, expressed in terms of distance per unit of time, usually metres per minute (m/min) and kilometres per hour (km/h). Generally thought of in terms of a fire's forward movement or head fire rate of spread, but also applicable to backfire and flank fire ROS.

Smoke management - Scheduling and conducting a prescribed burning program under conditions that will minimize the adverse impacts of the resulting smoke production in smoke sensitive areas.

Spot fire - A spot fire is one that is less than 0.01 hectares (10 metres by 10 metres).

Spotting - A wildfire produces burning embers called firebrands. These firebrands are carried by the surface wind, a fire whirl and/or convection column that fall beyond the main fire perimeter and result in spot fires.

Values-at-risk - The specific or collective set of natural resources and man-made improvements/ developments that have measurable or intrinsic worth and that could of may be destroyed or otherwise altered by fire in any given area

Wildfire risk – Fire risk is a term that combines the probability of fire occurrence with the expected impacts from a fire. It can be defined quantitatively in economic terms or used more generally in a comparative sense; for example, given a similar probability of fire occurrence and spread between different landscapes; *the fire risk at X is greater than the fire risk in Y.*

- Likelihood of a fire occurring
- Associated fire behaviour
- Impacts of the fire (consequence)

Wildfire threat - The ability of a wildfire to ignite, spread, and consume organic material (trees, shrubs, and other organic materials) in the forest. The major components used to define wildfire threat are fuel, weather, and topography.

Wildland urban interface - The wildland urban interface (WUI) is any area where combustible forest fuel is found adjacent to homes, farm structures or other outbuildings. This may occur at the interface, where development and forest fuel (vegetation) meet at a well-defined boundary,

or in the intermix, where development and forest fuel intermingle with no clearly defined boundary.

APPENDIX B. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX C. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

The following table is a summary of public engagement and collaboration with other departments and agencies.

Audience	Discussion Topics
Valemount City Council	An initial meeting was held with the Valemount City Council to introduce the CWRP, the scope and the plan forward.
Engagement at Public Events	A booth was set up at Valemountain Days to provide information and gather public sentiment. A member of Geoterra IRS was in attendance, along with the local FireSmart Coordinator to inform the public of FireSmart activities and the CWRP. A public awareness day was held at the site of the BC Wildfire fuel treatment. Approximately 70 members of the public visited the site to view the results of the pruning and thinning and discuss fuel treatment. A FireSmart Movie Night was held on August 27, 2025 to promote action and encourage public engagement.
Valemount Community FireSmart Collaborative	Valemount initiated a Community FireSmart Collaborative. The Collaborative held its first meeting on July 17, 2025. Geoterra introduced the CWRP to the Collaborative members and covered some of the draft recommendations. The members of the Collaborative were provided draft recommendations for review and feedback.
Social Media	During the Emergency Management Photo Contest, the FireSmart Coordinator advertised the near completion of the CWRP and the need for a cover photo. The benefit and the description of the CWRP was also discussed.
RDFFG	The RDFFG CWRP is being developed simultaneous to the Village of Valemount CWRP. The RDFFG Emergency Services Coordinator was contacted to ensure alignment between the two plans.
Response Agency Feedback	Feedback was sought from the local BC Wildfire Officer and the Village of Valemount Fire Chief on opportunities for resiliency and cooperation. There Valemount Fire Department has a structure protection unit and the volunteer firefighters receive some wildland fire training. There are some opportunities for cross training as it has not occurred recently.

APPENDIX D. WILDFIRE THREAT ASSESSMENTS

Wildfire Threat Assessment Worksheet – Priority Setting Scoring (complete one for entire proposed treatment area)
Location: Valemount, BC

Date: 2025-07-25

Assessor: Stuart Jones

Professional Designation: RPF #5506

Coordinates (Lat/Long – Degrees/Decimal Minutes): 52°49.555N, 119°15.123W

PSTA Threat: Moderate

FBP Fuel Type: Unknown

Assessor's FBP Fuel Type: C4

Ownership: Crown – Municipal

Assessor's Fuel Type Rationale¹: See photos – immature pine

Value Description (include type of value and distance to the value from the proposed treatment area): In treatment area, <200 m to nearest structures

Landscape Assessment					
Proximity of fuel treatment area to value (m)	0-100 25	101-500 20	501- 1,000 15	1 000- 2,000 5	> 2,000 0
Existing Fuel Mgmt. treatment area in place between the proposed treatment area and the value(s)	Yes 5	No 0			
Treatment Placement: using the predominant wind direction/ fire spread pattern, what is the treatment location in relationship to the value(s) location?		Downwind 0	270° offset to prevailing wind/ highest ISI values 7	90° offset to prevailing wind/ highest ISI values 10	Upwind/ highest ISI values 15
Distance to nearest vehicle access (m)		0-200 5	201-400 3	401- 1,000 1	> 1,000 0
Distance to non-fuel / treated ² area near the assessment area (m)		0-200 5	201-400 3	401- 1,000 1	> 1,000 0

Topographical Factors					
Topography: Slope	< 20% 0	21-30% 1	31-45% 3	46-60% 4	> 60% 5
Topography: Aspect (> 20% slope)		North 0	East/Flat 3	West 4	South 5
Slope position of value (only applies if slope is > 20%)		Bottom of slope/ valley bottom 0	Mid slope - bench 1	Mid slope - continuous 3	Upper 1/3 of slope 5

Total Score:	50
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Comments:

Wildfire Threat Assessment Worksheet - Fuel Assessment (Site Level)³	Plot # 1
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Location: Valemount, BC

Date: 25-06-25

Assessor: Stuart Jones

Professional Designation: RPF #5506

Coordinates (Lat/Long – Degrees/Decimal Minutes): 52°49.555N, 119°15.123W

Component/ Sub-Component		Levels/Classes				
	Forest Floor and Organic Layer					
1	Depth of organic layer (cm)	1- < 2 1	2- < 5 3	5- < 10 5	10 - 20 3	> 20 2
	Surface and Ladder Fuel (0.1 – 3.0 meters in height)					
2	Surface fuel composition	Moss, herbs, deciduous shrubs 4	Lichen, conifer shrubs 6	Dead fines fuel ⁴ (<1 cm) 8	Pinegrass 10	Sagebrush, Bunch grass, Juniper, Scotch broom 15
3	Dead and down material continuity (< 7cm)	Absent 0	Scattered < 10 coverage 4	10-25% coverage 8	26-50% coverage 12	> 50% coverage 15
4	Ladder fuel composition	Deciduous 0	Mixwood 5	Other conifer 8	Elevated dead fuel 10	Spruce, Fir, Pine 15
5	Ladder fuel horizontal continuity	Absent 0	Sparse < 10% coverage 2	Scattered 10-39% coverage 8	Patchy 40-60% coverage 10	Uniform > 60% coverage 15
6	Stem/ha (understory) ⁵	< 500 2	501- 800 4	801-1,200 6	1,201-1,500 8	> 1,500 10
	Stand Structure and Composition (Dominant and co-dominant stems)					
7	Overstory composition/ Crown Base Height (CBH)	Deciduous (< 25% conifer) All CBH 0	Mixwood (% conifer) 25% 50% 75% 0 2 3	Conifer with high CBH (> 10m) 3	Conifer with moderate CBH (5-9m) 4	Conifer with low CBH (< 4m) 5
8	Fuel Strata Gap ⁶ (m)		> 10 0	6-9 1	3-6 3	< 3 5
9	Stems/ha (overstory) ⁷	< 400 0	401-600 2	601-900 3	901- 1,200 4	> 1,200 5
10	Crown Closure (CC)	< 20% 0	20-40% or Deciduous Overstory (any closure) 1	41-60% 2	61-80% 5	> 80% 4
11	Dead and dying (% of dominant and co-dominant stems)		Standing dead/ Partial down < 20% 2	Standing dead/ Partial down 21-50% 5	Standing dead/ Partial down 51-75% 8	Standing dead/ Partial down > 75% 10

Total Score⁸:	78
Eco Province:	Southern Interior
Fuel Assessment Rating: (low, high etc.)	High

Comments:

Total score of 80 = Extreme. Given proximity to homes, I would rate as extreme.

SITE INFORMATION

Plot # 1

Date Sampled: 2025-07-25

Coordinates: 52°49.555N,
119°15.123W

Photo Direction: N/A

FBP Fuel Type: C4

Elevation (m): 791

General Location:

Valemount

Slope (%): <20%

Aspect (deg.): N/A

Canopy Closure (%): 61-80%

Average Forest Floor Depth (cm): 5-10

Surface



Ladder



Crown



Wildfire Threat Assessment Worksheet – Priority Setting Scoring (complete one for entire proposed treatment area)**Location:** Valemount, BC**Date:** 25-06-25**Assessor:** Stuart Jones**Professional Designation:** RPF #5506**Coordinates (Lat/Long – Degrees/Decimal Minutes):** 52°49.332'N 119°16.079'W**PSTA Threat:** Unknown**FBP Fuel Type:** Unknown**Assessor's FBP Fuel Type:** C4**Ownership:** Crown - Municipal**Assessor's Fuel Type Rationale¹:** See photo – immature pine**Value Description (include type of value and distance to the value from the proposed treatment area):** In treatment area and <200 m to nearest structure

Landscape Assessment					
Proximity of fuel treatment area to value (m)	0-100 25	101-500 20	501- 1,000 15	1 000- 2,000 5	> 2,000 0
Existing Fuel Mgmt. treatment area in place between the proposed treatment area and the value(s)	Yes 5	No 0			
Treatment Placement: using the predominant wind direction/ fire spread pattern, what is the treatment location in relationship to the value(s) location?		Downwind 0	270° offset to prevailing wind/ highest ISI values 7	90° offset to prevailing wind/ highest ISI values 10	Upwind/ highest ISI values 15
Distance to nearest vehicle access (m)		0-200 5	201-400 3	401- 1,000 1	> 1,000 0
Distance to non-fuel / treated ² area near the assessment area (m)		0-200 5	201-400 3	401- 1,000 1	> 1,000 0

Topographical Factors					
Topography: Slope	< 20% 0	21-30% 1	31-45% 3	46-60% 4	> 60% 5
Topography: Aspect (> 20% slope)		North 0	East/Flat 3	West 4	South 5
Slope position of value (only applies if slope is > 20%)		Bottom of slope/ valley bottom 0	Mid slope - bench 1	Mid slope - continuous 3	Upper 1/3 of slope 5

Total Score:	50
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Comments:

Wildfire Threat Assessment Worksheet - Fuel Assessment (Site Level)³	Plot # 2
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Location: Valemount, BC

Date: 25-06-25

Assessor: Stuart Jones

Professional Designation: RPF #5506

Coordinates (Lat/Long – Degrees/Decimal Minutes): 52°49.332'N 119°16.079'W

Crown Species Composition (species %): Pine

Ladder Fuel Species Composition (species %): Pine

Component/ Sub-Component		Levels/Classes				
	Forest Floor and Organic Layer					
1	Depth of organic layer (cm)	1- < 2 1	2- < 5 3	5- < 10 5	10 - 20 3	> 20 2
	Surface and Ladder Fuel (0.1 – 3.0 meters in height)					
2	Surface fuel composition	Moss, herbs, deciduous shrubs 4	Lichen, conifer shrubs 6	Dead fines fuel ^a (<1 cm) 8	Pinegrass 10	Sagebrush, Bunch grass, Juniper, Scotch broom 15
3	Dead and down material continuity (< 7cm)	Absent 0	Scattered < 10 coverage 4	10-25% coverage 8	26-50% coverage 12	> 50% coverage 15
4	Ladder fuel composition	Deciduous 0	Mixwood 5	Other conifer 8	Elevated dead fuel 10	Spruce, Fir, Pine 15
5	Ladder fuel horizontal continuity	Absent 0	Sparse < 10% coverage 2	Scattered 10-39% coverage 8	Patchy 40-60% coverage 10	Uniform > 60% coverage 15
6	Stem/ha (understory) ^b	< 500 2	501- 800 4	801-1,200 6	1,201-1,500 8	> 1,500 10
	Stand Structure and Composition (Dominant and co-dominant stems)					
7	Overstory composition/ Crown Base Height (CBH)	Deciduous (< 25% conifer) All CBH 0	Mixwood (% conifer) 25% 50% 75% 0 2 3	Conifer with high CBH (> 10m) 3	Conifer with moderate CBH (5-9m) 4	Conifer with low CBH (< 4m) 5
8	Fuel Strata Gap ^c (m)		> 10 0	6-9 1	3-6 3	< 3 5
9	Stems/ha (overstory) ^d	< 400 0	401-600 2	601-900 3	901- 1,200 4	> 1,200 5
10	Crown Closure (CC)	< 20% 0	20-40% or Deciduous Overstory (any closure) 1	41-60% 2	61-80% 5	> 80% 4
11	Dead and dying (% of dominant and co-dominant stems)		Standing dead/ Partial down < 20% 2	Standing dead/ Partial down 21-50% 5	Standing dead/ Partial down 51-75% 8	Standing dead/ Partial down > 75% 10

Total Score⁸:	78
Eco Province:	Southern Interior
Fuel Assessment Rating: (low, high etc.)	High

Comments:

Total score of 80 = Extreme. Given proximity to homes, I would rate as extreme.

SITE INFORMATION

Plot # 2

Date Sampled: 25-06-25

Coordinates: 52°49.332'N
119°16.079'W

Photo Direction: N/A

FBP Fuel Type: C4

Elevation (m): 790

General Location:

Valemount

Slope (%): <20%

Aspect (deg.): N/A

Canopy Closure (%): 61-80%

Average Forest Floor Depth (cm): 5-10

Surface



Ladder



Crown



Wildfire Threat Assessment Worksheet – Priority Setting Scoring (complete one for entire proposed treatment area)**Location:** Valemount, BC**Date:** 2025-07-25**Assessor:** Stuart Jones**Professional Designation:** RPF #5506**Coordinates (Lat/Long – Degrees/Decimal Minutes):** 52°49.555N, 119°15.123W**PSTA Threat:** Moderate**FBP Fuel Type:** Unknown**Assessor's FBP Fuel Type:** C4**Ownership:** Crown – Municipal**Assessor's Fuel Type Rationale¹:** See photos – immature pine**Value Description (include type of value and distance to the value from the proposed treatment area):** In treatment area, <200 m to nearest structures

Landscape Assessment					
Proximity of fuel treatment area to value (m)	0-100 25	101-500 20	501- 1,000 15	1 000- 2,000 5	> 2,000 0
Existing Fuel Mgmt. treatment area in place between the proposed treatment area and the value(s)	Yes 5	No 0			
Treatment Placement: using the predominant wind direction/ fire spread pattern, what is the treatment location in relationship to the value(s) location?		Downwind 0	270° offset to prevailing wind/ highest ISI values 7	90° offset to prevailing wind/ highest ISI values 10	Upwind/ highest ISI values 15
Distance to nearest vehicle access (m)		0-200 5	201-400 3	401- 1,000 1	> 1,000 0
Distance to non-fuel / treated ² area near the assessment area (m)		0-200 5	201-400 3	401- 1,000 1	> 1,000 0

Topographical Factors					
Topography: Slope	< 20% 0	21-30% 1	31-45% 3	46-60% 4	> 60% 5
Topography: Aspect (> 20% slope)		North 0	East/Flat 3	West 4	South 5
Slope position of value (only applies if slope is > 20%)		Bottom of slope/ valley bottom 0	Mid slope - bench 1	Mid slope - continuous 3	Upper 1/3 of slope 5

Total Score: 50**Comments:**¹ Must include three photos for each plot (one of forest floor, one of surface and ladder fuel, one of overstory)² Fuel management type treatment where wildfire threat has been mitigated

Wildfire Threat Assessment Worksheet - Fuel Assessment (Site Level)³	Plot #
Location: Valemount, BC	Date: 25-06-25
	Assessor: Stuart Jones
	Professional Designation: RPF #5506
Coordinates (Lat/Long – Degrees/Decimal Minutes): 52°49.555N, 119°15.123W	

Component/ Sub-Component		Levels/Classes				
	Forest Floor and Organic Layer					
1	Depth of organic layer (cm)	1- < 2 1	2- < 5 3	5- < 10 5	10 - 20 3	> 20 2

Surface and Ladder Fuel (0.1 – 3.0 meters in height)						
2	Surface fuel composition	Moss, herbs, deciduous shrubs 4	Lichen, conifer shrubs 6	Dead fines fuel ⁴ (<1 cm) 8	Pinegrass 10	Sagebrush, Bunch grass, Juniper, Scotch broom 15
3	Dead and down material continuity (< 7cm)	Absent 0	Scattered < 10 coverage 4	10-25% coverage 8	26-50% coverage 12	> 50% coverage 15
4	Ladder fuel composition	Deciduous 0	Mixwood 5	Other conifer 8	Elevated dead fuel 10	Spruce, Fir, Pine 15
5	Ladder fuel horizontal continuity	Absent 0	Sparse < 10% coverage 2	Scattered 10-39% coverage 8	Patchy 40-60% coverage 10	Uniform > 60% coverage 15
6	Stem/ha (understory) ⁵	< 500 2	501- 800 4	801-1,200 6	1,201-1,500 8	> 1,500 10

Stand Structure and Composition (Dominant and co-dominant stems)						
7	Overstory composition/ Crown Base Height (CBH)	Deciduous (< 25% conifer) All CBH 0	Mixwood (% conifer) 25% 50% 75% 0 2 3	Conifer with high CBH (> 10m) 3	Conifer with moderate CBH (5-9m) 4	Conifer with low CBH (< 4m) 5
8	Fuel Strata Gap ⁶ (m)		> 10 0	6-9 1	3-6 3	< 3 5
9	Stems/ha (overstory) ⁷	< 400 0	401-600 2	601-900 3	901- 1,200 4	> 1,200 5
10	Crown Closure (CC)	< 20% 0	20-40% or Deciduous Overstory (any closure) 1	41-60% 2	61-80% 5	> 80% 4
11	Dead and dying (% of dominant and co-dominant stems)		Standing dead/ Partial down < 20% 2	Standing dead/ Partial down 21-50% 5	Standing dead/ Partial down 51-75% 8	Standing dead/ Partial down > 75% 10

Total Score⁸:	78
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³ This sheet is used to summarize and score the completed plot tallies

⁴ Leaves, needles or fine branch material

⁵ Understory is considered ladder and suppressed stems in this category (distinct break between these stems and overstory)

⁶ Fuel Strata Gap – Distance from top of ladder fuel to live crown base height of overstory

⁷ Overstory is dominant and co-dominant stems (Green/Living)

⁸ 110 points based on 65 points on ground, surface and ladder fuel, and 45 points on overstory

Eco Province:	Southern Interior
Fuel Assessment Rating: (low, high etc.)	High

Comments:

Total score of 80 = Extreme. Given proximity to homes, I would rate as extreme.

SITE INFORMATION

Date Sampled: 2025-07-25
Coordinates: 52°49.555N,
119°15.123W
Photo Direction: N/A
FBP Fuel Type: C4
Elevation (m): 791

Plot #

General Location: Valemount
Slope (%): <20%
Aspect (deg.): N/A
Canopy Closure (%): 61-80%
Average Forest Floor Depth (cm): 5-10

Surface



Ladder



Crown



Wildfire Threat Assessment Worksheet – Priority Setting Scoring (complete one for entire proposed treatment area)

Location: Valemount, BC

Date: 25-06-25

Assessor: Stuart Jones

Professional Designation: RPF #5506

Coordinates (Lat/Long – Degrees/Decimal Minutes): 52°49.332'N 119°16.079'W

PSTA Threat: Unknown

FBP Fuel Type: Unknown

Assessor's FBP Fuel Type: C4

Ownership: Crown - Municipal

Assessor's Fuel Type Rationale¹: See photo – immature pine

Value Description (include type of value and distance to the value from the proposed treatment area): In treatment area and <200 m to nearest structure

Landscape Assessment					
Proximity of fuel treatment area to value (m)	0-100 25	101-500 20	501- 1,000 15	1 000- 2,000 5	> 2,000 0
Existing Fuel Mgmt. treatment area in place between the proposed treatment area and the value(s)	Yes 5	No 0			
Treatment Placement: using the predominant wind direction/ fire spread pattern, what is the treatment location in relationship to the value(s) location?		Downwind 0	270° offset to prevailing wind/ highest ISI values 7	90° offset to prevailing wind/ highest ISI values 10	Upwind/ highest ISI values 15
Distance to nearest vehicle access (m)		0-200 5	201-400 3	401- 1,000 1	> 1,000 0
Distance to non-fuel / treated ² area near the assessment area (m)		0-200 5	201-400 3	401- 1,000 1	> 1,000 0

Topographical Factors					
Topography: Slope	< 20% 0	21-30% 1	31-45% 3	46-60% 4	> 60% 5
Topography: Aspect (> 20% slope)		North 0	East/Flat 3	West 4	South 5
Slope position of value (only applies if slope is > 20%)		Bottom of slope/ valley bottom 0	Mid slope - bench 1	Mid slope - continuous 3	Upper 1/3 of slope 5

Total Score:	50
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Comments:

¹ Must include three photos for each plot (one of forest floor, one of surface and ladder fuel, one of overstory)² Fuel management type treatment where wildfire threat has been mitigated

Wildfire Threat Assessment Worksheet - Fuel Assessment (Site Level)³	Plot #
Location: Valemount, BC	Date: 25-06-25
	Assessor: Stuart Jones
	Professional Designation: RPF #5506
Coordinates (Lat/Long – Degrees/Decimal Minutes): 52°49.332'N 119°16.079'W	
Crown Species Composition (species %): Pine	
Ladder Fuel Species Composition (species %): Pine	

Component/ Sub-Component		Levels/Classes				
	Forest Floor and Organic Layer					
1	Depth of organic layer (cm)	1- < 2 1	2- < 5 3	5- < 10 5	10 - 20 3	> 20 2

Surface and Ladder Fuel (0.1 – 3.0 meters in height)						
2	Surface fuel composition	Moss, herbs, deciduous shrubs 4	Lichen, conifer shrubs 6	Dead fines fuel ⁴ (<1 cm) 8	Pinegrass 10	Sagebrush, Bunch grass, Juniper, Scotch broom 15
3	Dead and down material continuity (< 7cm)	Absent 0	Scattered < 10 coverage 4	10-25% coverage 8	26-50% coverage 12	> 50% coverage 15
4	Ladder fuel composition	Deciduous 0	Mixwood 5	Other conifer 8	Elevated dead fuel 10	Spruce, Fir, Pine 15
5	Ladder fuel horizontal continuity	Absent 0	Sparse < 10% coverage 2	Scattered 10-39% coverage 8	Patchy 40-60% coverage 10	Uniform > 60% coverage 15
6	Stem/ha (understory) ⁵	< 500 2	501- 800 4	801-1,200 6	1,201-1,500 8	> 1,500 10

Stand Structure and Composition (Dominant and co-dominant stems)						
7	Overstory composition/ Crown Base Height (CBH)	Deciduous (< 25% conifer) All CBH 0	Mixwood (% conifer) 25% 50% 75% 0 2 3	Conifer with high CBH (> 10m) 3	Conifer with moderate CBH (5-9m) 4	Conifer with low CBH (< 4m) 5
8	Fuel Strata Gap ⁶ (m)		> 10 0	6-9 1	3-6 3	< 3 5
9	Stems/ha (overstory) ⁷	< 400 0	401-600 2	601-900 3	901- 1,200 4	> 1,200 5
10	Crown Closure (CC)	< 20% 0	20-40% or Deciduous Overstory (any closure) 1	41-60% 2	61-80% 5	> 80% 4
11	Dead and dying (% of dominant and co-dominant stems)		Standing dead/ Partial down < 20% 2	Standing dead/ Partial down 21-50% 5	Standing dead/ Partial down 51-75% 8	Standing dead/ Partial down > 75% 10

³ This sheet is used to summarize and score the completed plot tallies

⁴ Leaves, needles or fine branch material

⁵ Understory is considered ladder and suppressed stems in this category (distinct break between these stems and overstory)

⁶ Fuel Strata Gap – Distance from top of ladder fuel to live crown base height of overstory

⁷ Overstory is dominant and co-dominant stems (Green/Living)

Total Score⁸:	78
Eco Province:	Southern Interior
Fuel Assessment Rating: (low, high etc.)	High

Comments:

Total score of 80 = Extreme. Given proximity to homes, I would rate as extreme.

⁸ 110 points based on 65 points on ground, surface and ladder fuel, and 45 points on overstory

SITE INFORMATION

Date Sampled: 25-06-25
Coordinates: 52°49.332'N
119°16.079'W
Photo Direction: N/A
FBP Fuel Type: C4
Elevation (m): 790

Plot #

General Location: Valemount
Slope (%): <20%
Aspect (deg.): N/A
Canopy Closure (%): 61-80%
Average Forest Floor Depth (cm): 5-10

Surface



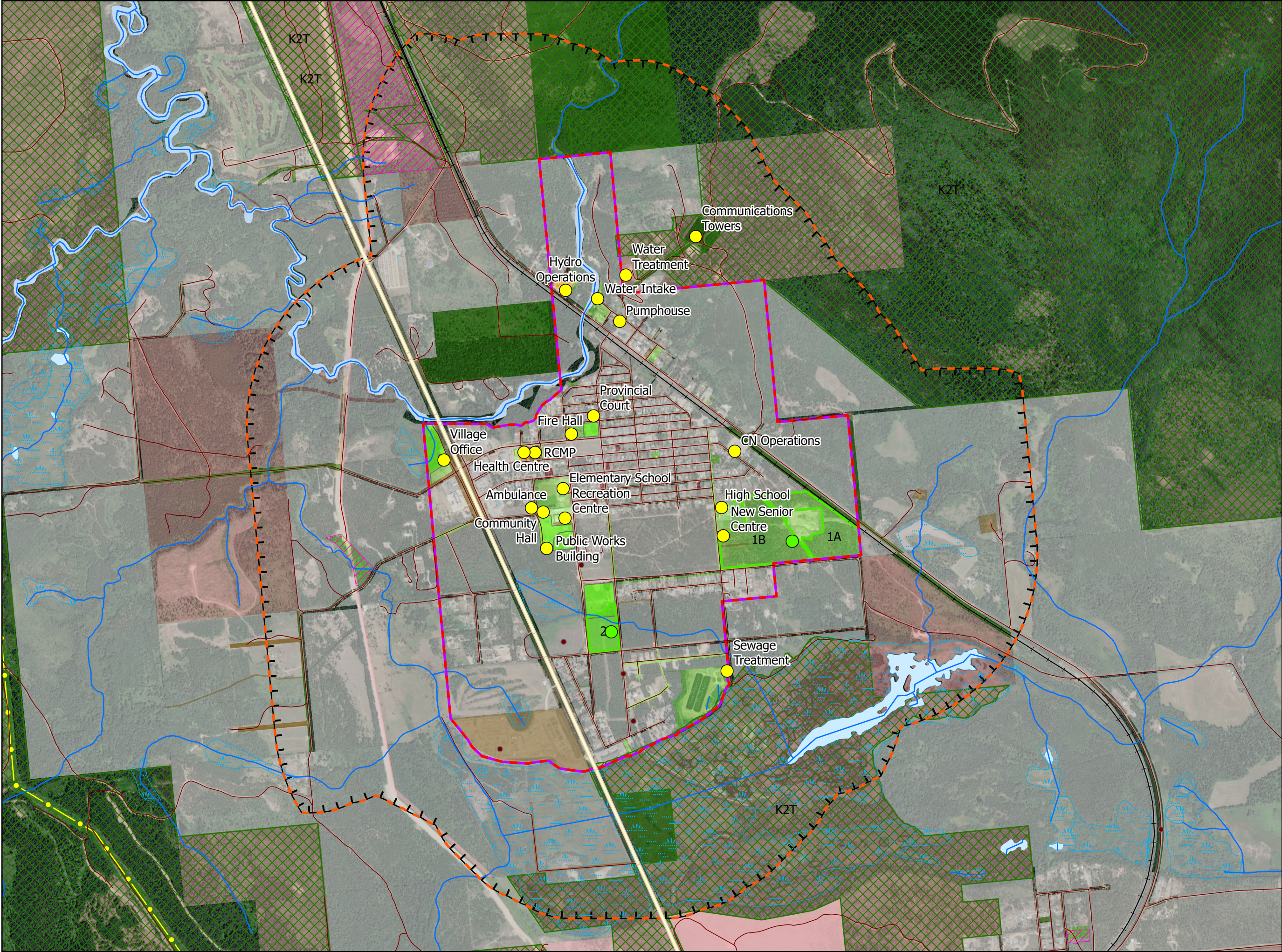
Ladder



Crown



APPENDIX E. MAPS



Village of Valemount

CWRP AOI & VAR Overview Map

LGPS-10939
Consultant: Geoterra

Legend

- AOI
- FCFS WUI
- PROPOSED TREATMENT
- WTA Plot
- Critical Infrastructure
- Fire Department Boundary
- Valemount Fire Protection Area
- Highway
- Road
- Stream
- River
- Lake
- Wetlands
- CN Railway

Land Ownership

- Crown Agency
- Crown Provincial
- Federal
- First Nations
- Mixed Ownership
- Municipal
- Private
- Unclassified
- Untitled Provincial
- Regional & Local Parks
- Valemount Community Forest
- Species at Risk
- Previous Treatment

- Transmission Lines

THIS DRAWING IS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE CLIENT. CCI ASSUMES NO LIABILITY TO ANY OTHER PARTY FOR ANY REPRESENTATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS DRAWING.

Project Location

1:20,000

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1

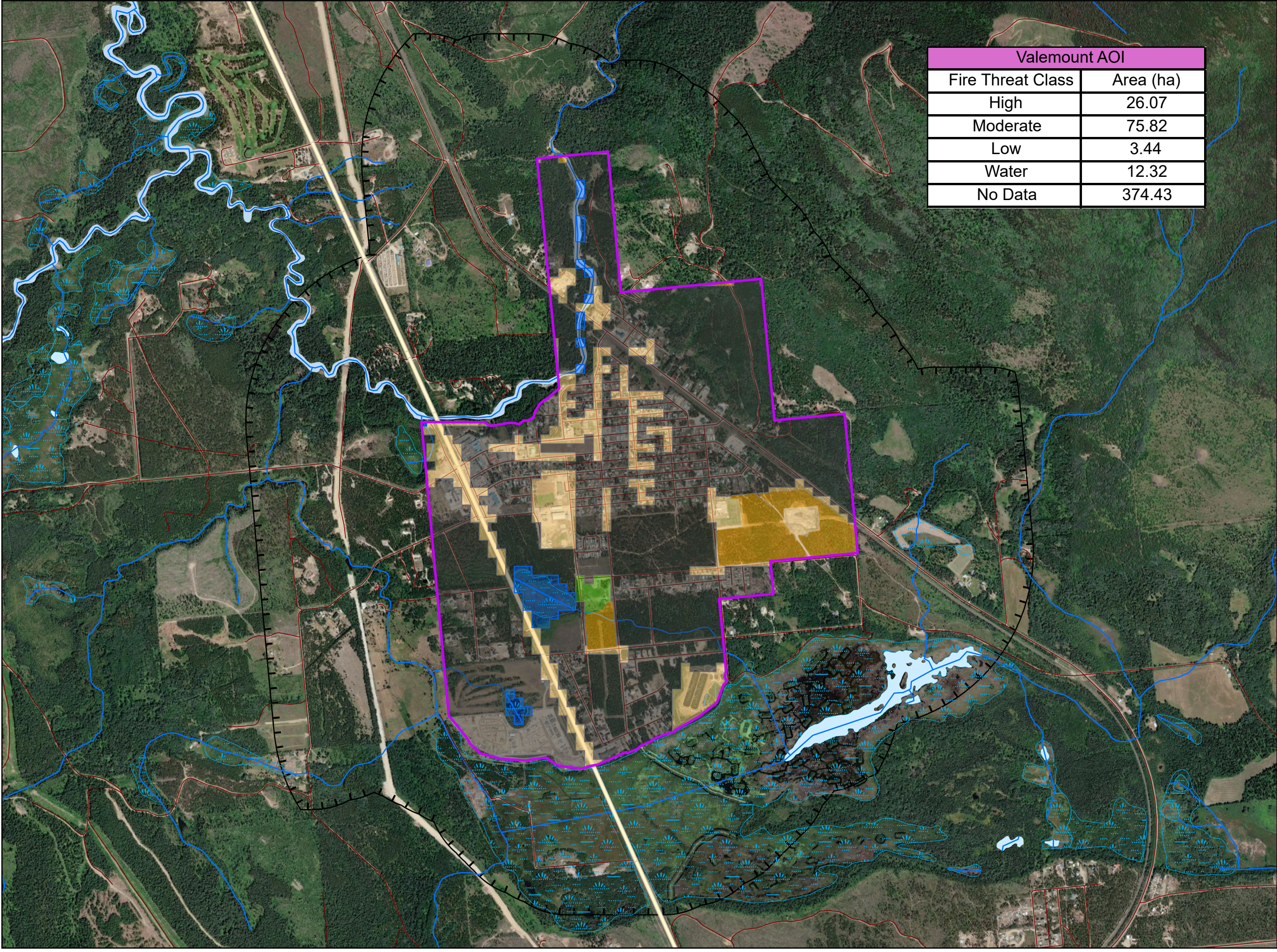
Kilometers

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 BC Environment Albers

Valemount
Let the world take note

GEOTERRA
Proudly part of the CCI Group of Companies

Date: 2025-10-21



Valemount AOI	
Fire Threat Class	Area (ha)
High	26.07
Moderate	75.82
Low	3.44
Water	12.32
No Data	374.43

Village of Valemount

CWRP Local Fire Risk Overview Map

LGPS-10939
Consultant: Geoterra

AOI

FCFS WUI

Highway

Road

Stream

River

Lake

Wetlands

PSTA Fire Threat Rating

Extreme

High

Moderate

Low

No Data (Private Land)

No Data (Private Managed Forest Land)

No Threat

Water

THIS DRAWING IS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE CLIENT. CCI ASSUMES NO LIABILITY TO ANY OTHER PARTY FOR ANY REPRESENTATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS DRAWING.

Project Location

1:20,000

0

0.25

0.5

0.75

1

Kilometers

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 BC Environment Albers

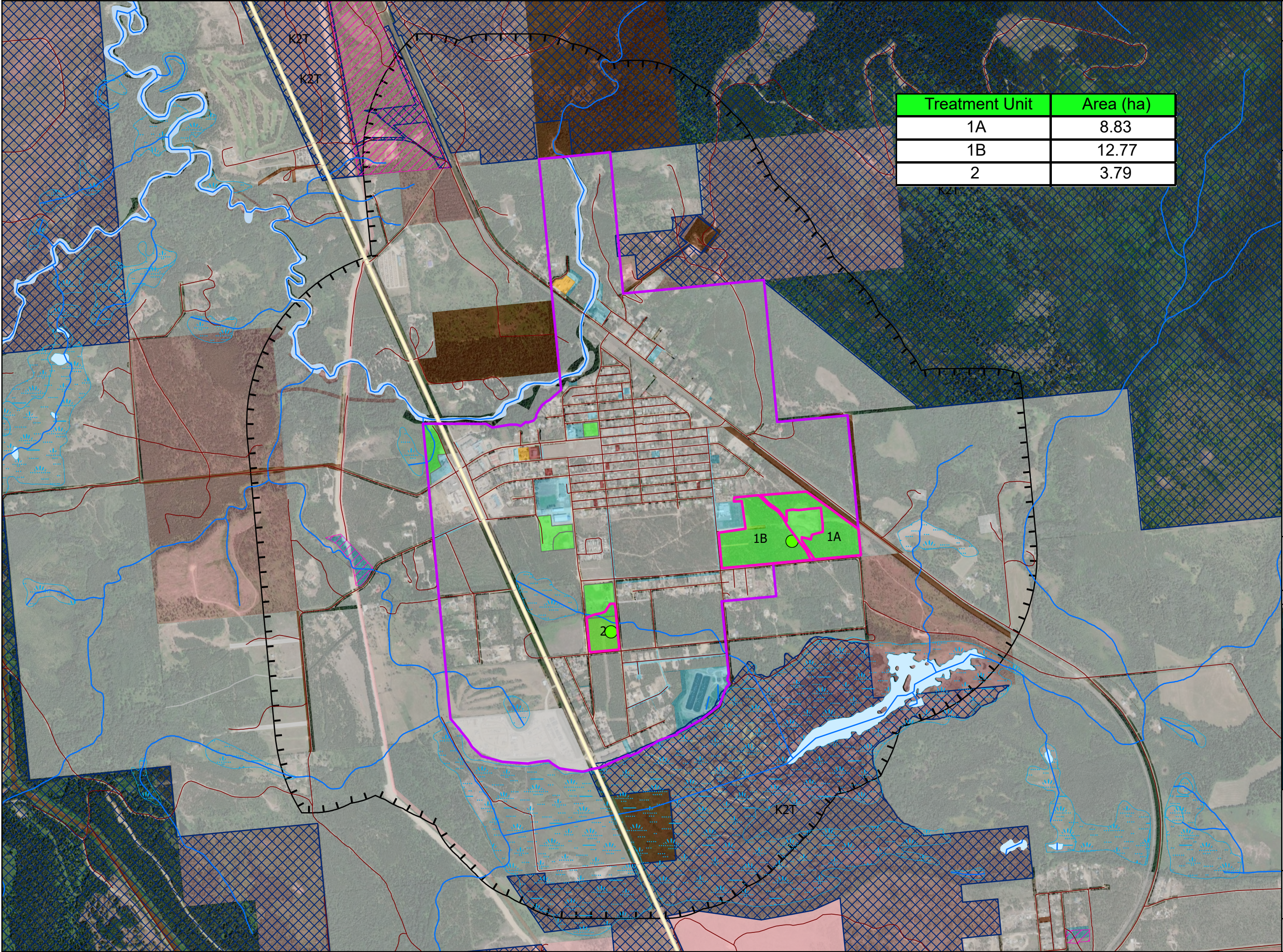
VALEMOUNT

Let the world take note you

GEOTERRA

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Date: 2025-11-05



Treatment Unit	Area (ha)
1A	8.83
1B	12.77
2	3.79

Village of Valemount

CWRP
Proposed Fuel Treatment Units Overview Map

LGPS-10939
Consultant: Geoterra

AOI

FCFS WUI

PROPOSED TREATMENT

WTA Plot

Highway

Road

Stream

River

Lake

Wetlands

Regional & Local Parks

Valemount Community Forest

Previous Treatment

Land Ownership

Crown Agency

Crown Provincial

Federal

First Nations

Mixed Ownership

Municipal

Private

Unclassified

Untitled Provincial

THIS DRAWING IS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE CLIENT. CCI ASSUMES NO LIABILITY TO ANY OTHER PARTY FOR ANY REPRESENTATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS DRAWING.

Project Location

1:20,000

00.250.50.751

Kilometers

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 BC Environment Albers

VALEMOUNT
Let the world take some joy

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Date: 2025-11-05