



Community Fuel Breaks

Getting the most out of your Fuel Break

- History of Fuel Breaks in the NWT
- Sustainable Fuel Breaks with Community Benefits
- Fuel Breaks and 2 Billion Trees



Tulita June 1995



Norman Wells Fuel Breaks



Fuel Break – An Ignition Line



Norman Wells 2003

Fuel Breaks

Tsiigehtchic



Fort Providence



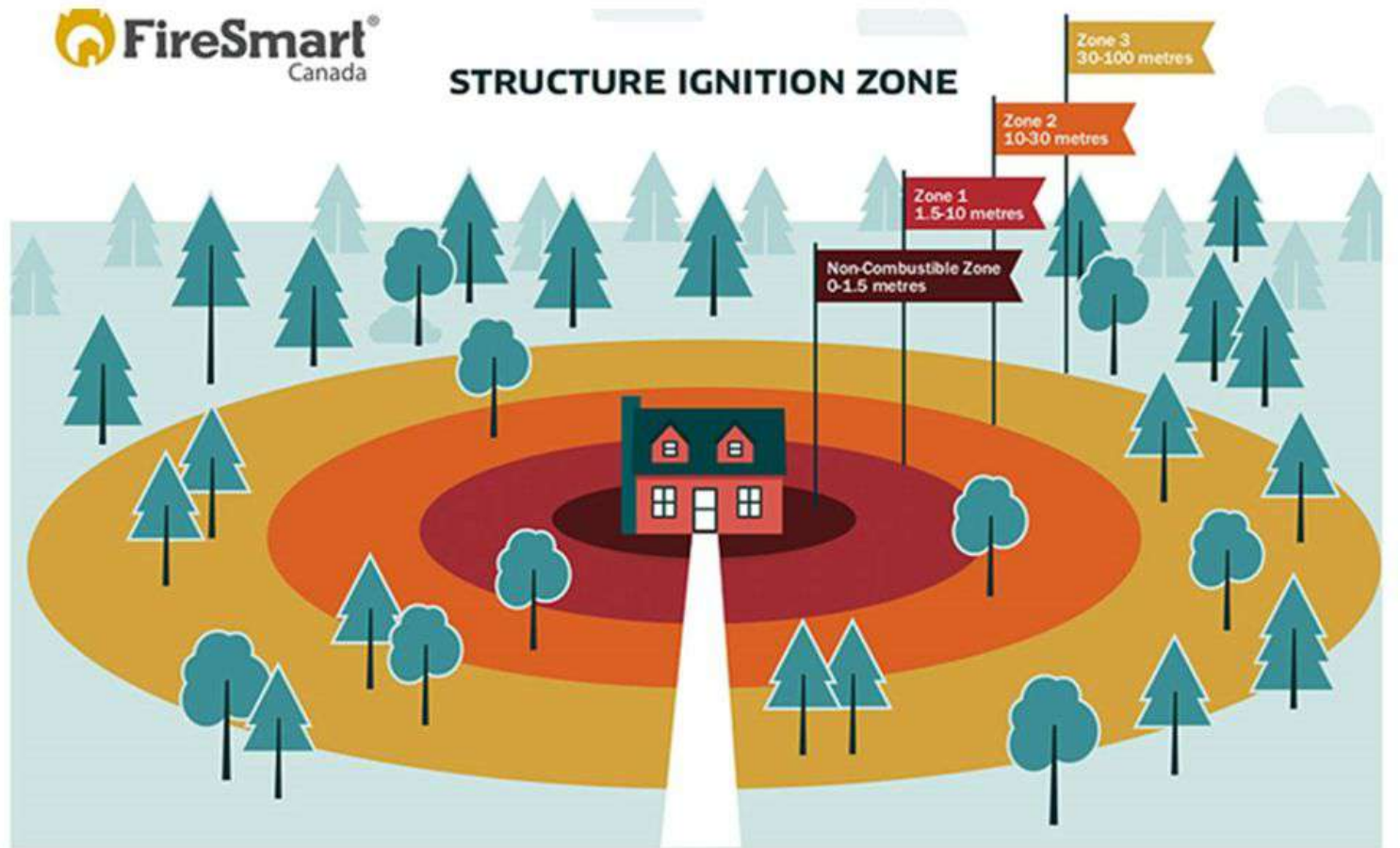


NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
FireSmartTM

Reducing the Fuel around
are homes is a fuel break

Adopting the 7 Disciplines of
FireSmart

Reduce the chance of
embers impacting our
homes, our businesses our
communities





Sustainable Fuel Breaks with Community Benefits

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Challenge

Fuel breaks are a necessary tool to prepare for and decrease wildfire risk

- BUT -

Fuel breaks are expensive, require regular maintenance, can cause permafrost and habitat loss, and can have social and cultural drawbacks

Is there a better path forward?



Reimagining Your Fuel Break



Community Benefits



Infrastructure &
Recreation



Food &
Natural Materials



Forest Type
Conversion



Education &
Training



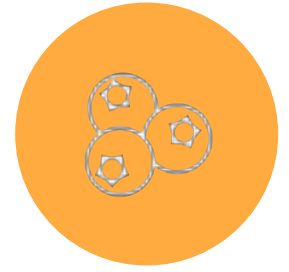
Infrastructure & Recreation

- Infrastructure that requires open spaces
 - airport, roads, gravel pits, sewage lagoon...
- Recreation
 - trails, golf course, sports field, shooting range...





Food & Natural Materials



- Local berries, medicines and other gathered plants can be grown in open spaces
- Agriculture
- Firewood and other timber products





Forest Type Conversion

- Planting or thinning for native deciduous trees (aspen, birch, etc.) at low density
 - much less flammable than spruce and pines
 - Can slow or reduce fire spread
- Wetlands and shrublands
- Can fail under very extreme conditions





Education & Training

- Fuel management demonstration sites
- Training areas for new firefighters
- Research opportunities
- Public education areas



Benefits

Challenges



- Improved access to food and other natural materials



- Improve quality of life



- Maintain local biodiversity



- Potential for jobs/revenue



- Use helps maintain fuel break



- Minimal maintenance



- Funding opportunities through partnerships

- Hesitancy to use infrastructure/ recreation/ planted areas as a fuel break



- Loss of natural forest



- Can be costly



- Business risk



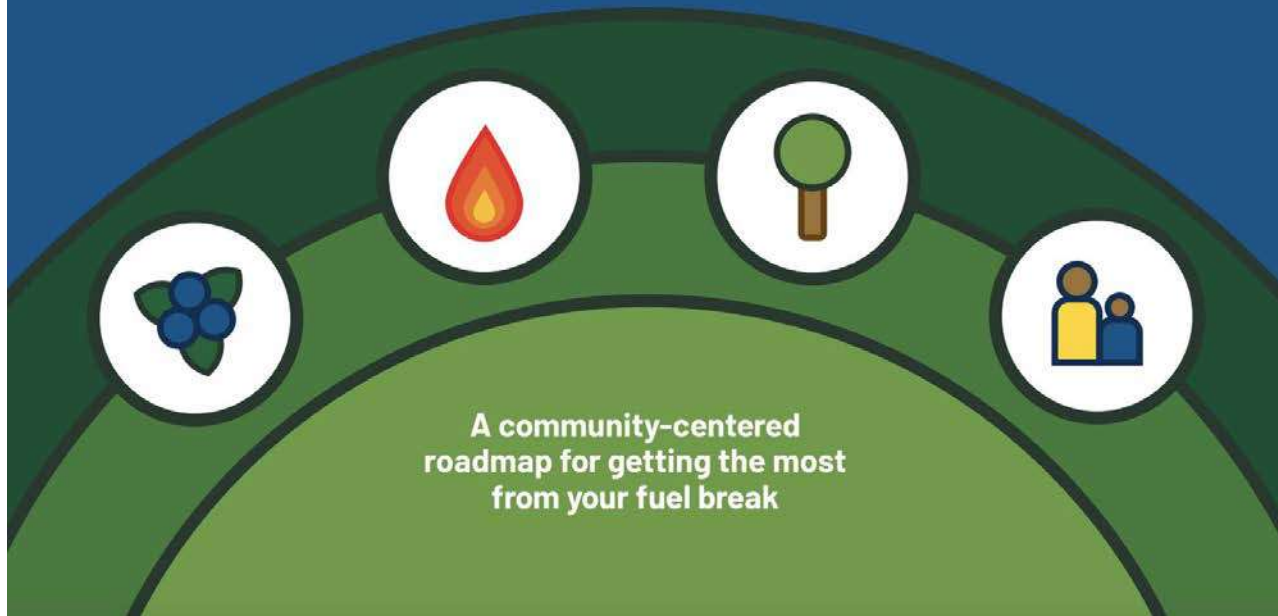
- Difficulty getting seedlings



- Negative wildlife encounters



Fuel Breaks with Benefits



Planning Guide

Scenario Story Cards



A photograph showing three workers in a forest clearing debris for a fuel break. The workers are wearing heavy jackets and hats. One worker in a green jacket is in the background, another in a yellow jacket is in the foreground, and a third in a blue jacket is on the right. They are surrounded by logs, branches, and a white bucket. The ground is covered with pine needles and twigs. A large white circle in the bottom left corner contains text.

**FUEL BREAK
HARVESTING USE CASE**

**Teslin,
Yukon Territory**



Whitehorse South Fire Risk Reduction project





Prescribed Burns





Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation (Kakisa, NWT)



2-Billion Trees & NWT



06/25/2024 09:21

Fort Providence, Hay River, & Fort Resolution





BHS

72 NWT Lot#6 2024

112/80 SU 1+0

Mar 5, 2025

Sustainable Accomplishments

- Plan ahead.
- Patient and dedicated focus.
- Meet deadlines.
- Call.

Breakout Activity

1. Using Map 3 in your CWPP and the scenario cards, come up with 3 ideas for your fuel break that align with your community's priorities.
2. Mark on your map where you would like your ideas to go
3. If you have some time, begin to identify who you want to involve in the planning and building process as well as potential funding sources
 - a. Refer to steps 1, 2 and 3 in the *Fuel Breaks with Benefits* booklet for ideas and more information
4. Each community shares their ideas with their regional group