

# FireSmart™ Culturally Significant Sites and Green Spaces (CSSGS) Assessment



<b>First Nation or Local Authority Name</b>	
<b>First Nation or Local Authority Email</b>	
<b>Geographic Location / Street Address</b>	
<b>Province</b>	
<b>Assessor Name</b>	
<b>Assessor Qualifications (any professional designations)</b>	
<b>Assessor Phone Number</b>	
<b>Assessor Email</b>	
<b>Assessment Date</b>	
<b>Site or Space photo</b>	
<b>Training assessment (Y/N)</b>	

Refer to the Cultural Significant Sites and Green Spaces Assessment Guide for a fulsome breakdown of each section. In general, for each question, please identify:

- What the hazard is
- Why it is a hazard
- What the recommended mitigation is

The goal of the assessment is not to remove the risk of wildfire altogether, but to make mitigations where possible to create a lower risk environment. If tree removal above 2m in height is required or broad interventions on the landscape are necessary, please refer to worksheet 2 (Fuel Management) in the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports application guide. For Culturally Significant Sites and Green Spaces projects, prioritize mitigating coniferous trees by limbing and removing surface fuels.

# Assessment

## Culturally Significant Site or Green Space description

What is the size of assessed area (estimate in hectares)

What is the surrounding area composed of? (of the space or site)

What is the intended use of the area?

## History

What is the recent wildfire history in this specific area?

## Risk Level

What is the risk level to wildfire ignitions in this specific area? What factors are involved? Ie. public use, activities, traffic, surrounding area.

## Is there a potential need for qualified professional input or a Fuel Management Prescription based on the complexity or sensitivity of the space or site?

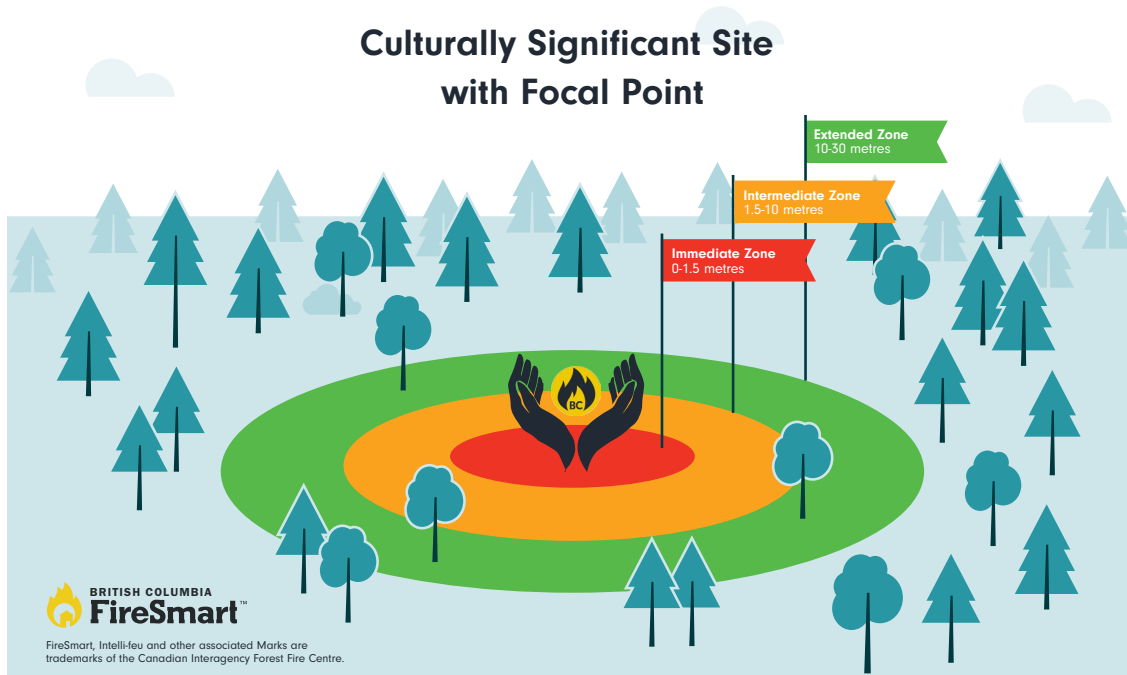
Yes       No

### Qualified profession input can include but is not limited to:

1. Local Fire Keeper or First Nations Knowledge Keeper
2. Ecologist/Biologist: Consider ecological impacts and biodiversity conservation.
3. Forest Professional/Arborist: Manages and removes trees, assess risks, and select fire-resistant species.
4. Cultural Resource Specialist: Preserve cultural values and traditional knowledge.
5. Landscape Architect/Designer: Develop FireSmart landscaping plans.
6. Fire Department or BCWS: Provide fire suppression expertise and coordination.
7. Community Engagement Specialist: Facilitate Aboriginal Rights Holder and relevant stakeholder involvement and communication.
8. Project Manager/Coordinator: Oversee and coordinate mitigation activities.
9. Geo-technical Engineer: Provide technical expertise for implementing FireSmart Community scale vegetation management on slopes.

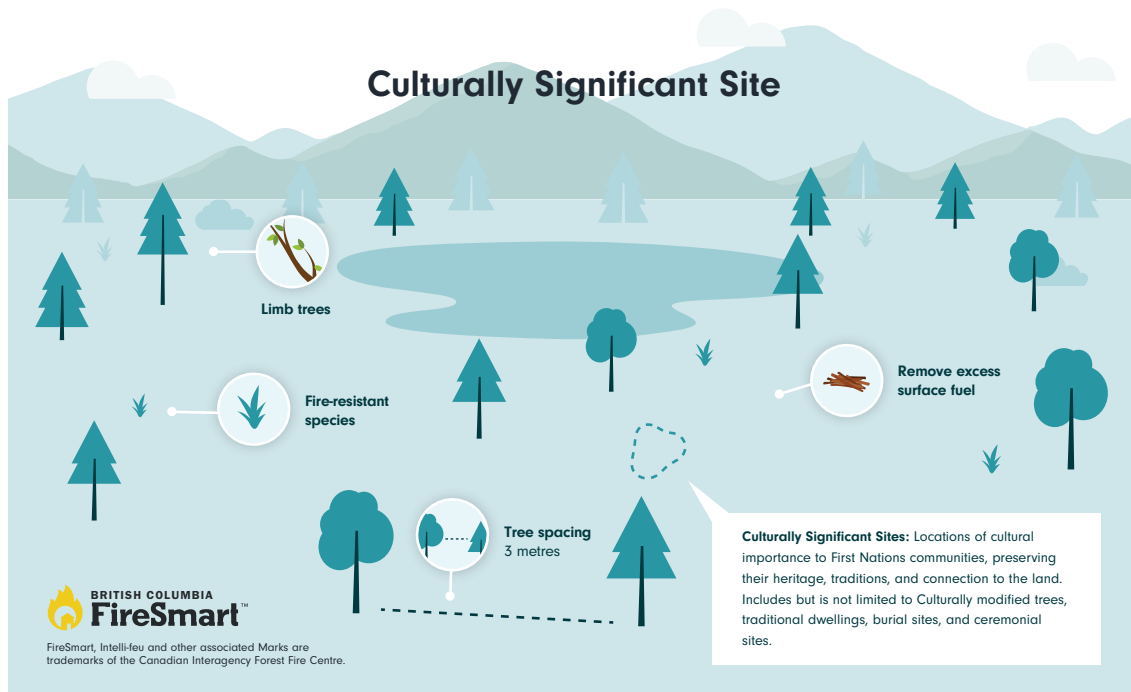
## Note for assessors

- **Section 1:** This section of the assessment should only be filled out when assessing a CSS that has a focal point or specific combustible value, i.e, a culturally modified tree, traditional dwelling, etc.



- **Section 2 to 6:** This section of the assessment includes assessment and mitigation measures similar to the extended zone concepts from the Home Ignition Zone - Extended Zone (10m-30m). The goal is to reduce overall fire behavior of the site or space.





## 1. Culturally Significant sites

Does this site include assessing/mitigating a precise location within the CSS?

- Yes (continue with section 1, sections 2-5 may not be applicable)
- No (continue to section 2-5)

### Immediate Zone (0-1.5m)

**Non combustible surface:** Is there a non-combustible surface extending around the entire focal point/important area of the culturally significant site?

**Live and dead vegetation:** If woody shrubs, trees, or tree branches are present in the immediate zone, are they properly mitigated? Are tall grass, flammable plants, tree needles, leaves, and other combustible materials absent from the immediate zone?

## Intermediate Zone (1.5-10m)

**Trees:** are trees appropriately mitigated?

(Break up the vertical and horizontal fuel continuity by limbing trees off the ground (ideally to at least 2m), separating conifer crown canopies (ideally to at least 3m where ecologically appropriate) and promoting deciduous vegetation. Focus on removing smaller coniferous trees and retaining larger conifers.)

**Shrubs:** Are shrubs well spaced and removed from the drip line of trees in the intermediate zone?



**Surface Fuels:** Are deep accumulation of needles, leaves, branches, mulches and grasses removed from the intermediate zone?

Are Junipers, cedar hedges, or other highly flammable plants absent from the intermediate zone?

## Extended Zone (10-30m)

### **Topography** Is slope adjustment required for the extended zone?

(If protecting a highly sensitive or flammable feature in a Culturally Significant Site, and the slope is 10% or greater, slope adjustment is required. This is accomplished by doubling the zone distances and their mitigation activities; i.e., the intermediate zone would be 20m.)

### **Conifers:** Is there proper crown spacing between conifers (spruce, pine, fir, cedar, larch trees) and/or appropriate clumping in the Intermediate and extended zones?

(Break up the vertical and horizontal fuel continuity by limbing trees off the ground (ideally to at least 2m) separating conifer crown canopies (ideally to at least 3m, where ecologically appropriate) and promoting deciduous vegetation.)

**Are low flammability deciduous trees present in the intermediate and extended zones?**

(When possible, promote low flammability deciduous trees in the intermediate and extended zones such as aspen, poplar, birch, alder, magnolia, maple, elm, oak, ash, and fruit bearing trees.)

**Flammable shrubs:** Are flammable shrubs well-spaced and removed from the drip line of trees in the extended zone?

(Remove all marked shrubs. Remove excessive growth, ground level limbs and dead material (stems, dead leaves, grass, etc.) for retained shrubs in extended zone.)

**Low limbing:** Are the lowest branches in the intermediate and extended zones removed within 2-3m from the ground or limbed to  $\frac{1}{3}$  the tree height, which ever is less?

(If a tree is surrounded by non-combustible surface such as rock beyond the single tree dripline, limbing to the height of 2m may not be required. If limbing a tree to 2m or greater removes more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the canopy, consider removing the entire tree.)

**Surface fuels:** Are heavy accumulation of dead branches, logs, tree needles and wood chips removed in the extended zone?

## 2. Brushing of Trees and Shrubs

**Trees:** Are conifer trees appropriately spaced and/or clustered?

(Break up horizontal fuel continuity by brushing and removing any conifer trees less than 2 metres in height. If tree removal greater than 2 metres in height is necessary, a Fuel Management Prescription may be required - recommended to retain and mitigate larger conifers instead.)

**Shrubs:** Are shrubs appropriately spaced and/or clustered?

(Break up the fuel continuity by separating shrubs into clusters or individual spacing.)

**Surface Fuels:** Are heavy accumulations of dead branches, logs, tree needles, grass, and wood chips mitigated?

(Recommend reducing fuel loads. this could include removing heavy accumulations of leaves and needles, or trimming down grass in high risk areas.)

**Fuel breaks:** are fuel breaks present to break up continuous fuel?

(Fuel breaks can include pathways made of non-combustible material. CRI currently will not fund implementation of pathway.)

### 3. Pruning of Trees and Shrubs

**Trees:** Are coniferous trees pruned to 2m above ground or  $\frac{1}{3}$  of canopy, whichever is less.

(If tree is surrounded by a non-combustible surface such as rock beyond a single tree's dripline, limbing to the height of 2m may not be required. If limbing the tree to 2m or greater removes more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the canopy, consider removing the entire tree.)

**Shrubs:** Are flammable shrubs and excessive build up removed from the drip line of trees?

## 4. Plant Selection

**Trees:** Are low flammability deciduous trees present?

(Such as aspen, poplar, birch, alder, magnolia, maple, elm, oak, and fruit trees?)

**Shrubs:** Are low flammability shrubs present? Are higher flammability shrubs well spaced, absent from drip line, and properly maintained?

(Remove shrubs under drip line. Remove excessive growth, dead material for retained shrubs)



## 5. Hardscaping

**Hardscaping:** Are landscape timbers properly mitigated?

(Are garden boxes constructed with combustible materials? Is there a break up of fuel continuity)

**Mulch:** Is bark mulch present on pathways or garden beds?

(Remove and replace with non-combustible material)

## 6. Slope

**Is slope a contributing factor to wildfire risk in this CSSGS?**

(Recommend breaking up fuel continuity/creating fuel breaks, pruning conifers to 3m instead of 2m)

## 7. General Comments