5.3.1 General recommendations for site-level wildland fire assessments

5.3.1.1 Timing for site-level assessment

Wildland fire assessments should be conducted during snow-free conditions to gain a more accurate understanding of the potential risks of lands being assessed, such as the state of the forest understory and presence of ground fuel accumulation. Undertaking assessments at this time of year would also better enable coordination with other studies that are required to be completed at this time of year, such as environmental impact studies.

5.3.1.2 Proponent and planning authority roles

Both the development proponent and the planning authority have roles regarding site-level assessments. Generally, they are as follows:

The proponent:

- consults with the planning authority to determine requirements regarding wildland fire assessments;
- determines whether there is existing information available regarding the presence of hazardous forest types for wildland fire on and in the vicinity (i.e., generally, within 100 m) of the lands subject to the proposed development (i.e., MNRF hazard data or broad-level assessment undertaken by the planning authority);
- undertakes any necessary wildland fire assessment for the site, which may include seeking further assistance as described below); and
- submits all required information regarding the presence of hazardous forest types and proposed mitigation measures, as appropriate, to the planning authority.

The planning authority:

- includes adequate policies in official plans requiring wildland fire assessment, and identifies information requirements and processes necessary to accompany a planning application;
- makes information available to the proponent that is applicable to the planning application, such as any spatial data regarding hazardous forest types for wildland fire (e.g., results from broad-level assessment undertaken by the planning authority);
- identifies opportunities for the proponent to coordinate wildland fire assessment with other required assessment processes (e.g., completion of assessment to support environmental impact studies);
- reviews wildland fire assessment and mitigation plans accompanying planning applications, and determines whether any further information is required (e.g., completeness of the assessment, description of hazardous forest types, thoroughness of the assessment, adequacy of proposed mitigation measures); and
- as part of the decision regarding the proposed development and in approving applications, makes use of suitable planning tools to implement wildland fire mitigation measures.

The wildland fire assessment processes and tools provided in this Manual are intended to be completed by a property owner or proponent of an application