

Alkali Resource Management

Contract Fire Crews

Hello My name is Gord Chipman and I am the Manager of Alkali Resource Management Ltd, which we call ARM for short.

As you can see in the abstract ARM has a bunch of licences to manage the forests that the Esk'etemc have been living in forever. Our main community is 50 kms south of Williams lake on the East side of the Fraser River. We are very interested in protecting our forests from severe fire events.

We formed our fire crews in 2010 after community members expressed interest in staying home during the summers instead of working for some company in Kamloops or Fort St John during fire season. That is when we got our first Contact with WMB in the form of a Standing Offer. This was supported by the community because they were frustrated with the lack of fire management on the land and there were many people that wanted to re-introduce fire onto the landscape.

We started with 2 - 5 person crews in the first year. Then we moved to 4 - 5 person crews. These were known as type 3 fire fighting crews also known as mop up crews.

In 2017 we had eight- 5 person Type 3 fire crews, which were deployed for over 9 weeks. 2 weeks were on a fire on our community forest.

In 2018 ARM provided two type 3 crews and five type 3 crews, which were deployed on over 10 different fires as well as the fire in our Community forest.

ARM also provides forest technicians for fire line locating and prepares task force teams with heavy equipment when Fire Hazards become high.

ARM complements the winter season with fire hazard reduction projects and tree spacing. This past winter we also hired 3 Wildfire MB crew members which was their off season.

ARM has been working on a landscape level Wildfire Risk Management plan since May 2017 and has been utilising provincial funding to alleviate wildfire risk around Alkali Lake.

In the Future ARM has been tasked by the Esk'etemc to re introduce fire on their landscapes and get back to traditional forest management through prescribed fire.