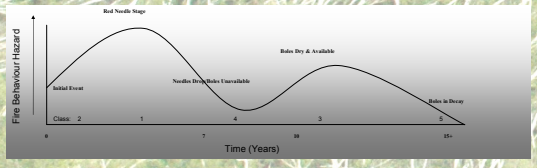
Weather Damaged Fuels Hazard Rating System

Anticipated Fire Behaviour at the Different Stages of the Life Cycle for Damaged Fuels

A rating system has been developed to help classify weather damage fuel based on evaluating and summing the scores of five criteria: foliage condition, continuity, species, anti-fuels and bole contact with the ground. The maximum total rating is 20 which would represent the highest risk as far as fire behaviour is concerned. The lowest possible rating is a three which would represent the least fire behaviour risk.

The following shows the ratings associated with each parameter:

Foliage Condition	+	Fuel Continuity	+	Species	+	Anti-Fuels	+	Boles Surface Contact
 Green – 1		 Scattered – 1		 Hardwood – 0		 Continuous – 0		 Surface Rotting - 1
 Grey – 3		 Broken – 3		 Red, White Pine – 2		 Scattered – 2		 Surface Contact - 3
 Red – 4		 Continuous – 4		 Jack Pine – 3		 Broken – 3		 Elevated - 4
 The life cycle of weather damaged fuels				 Spruce – 4		 None - 4		

Example:

Foliage Condition = Red(4)

Fuel Continuity = Scattered/ Broken (3)

Species = Jack Pine (3)

Anti-Fuels = Continuous (0)

Bole Surface Contact = Elevated (4)

4 + 3 + 3 + 0 + 4 = 14

14 represents a weather damage fuel class of 3

Weather Damaged Fuel Class	Foliage Condition	Fuel Continuity	Species	Anti Fuels	Bole Surface Contact
5	Green	Scattered	Hardwoods	Continuous	Contact/Rotting
4	Green/Grey	Scattered /Broken	Red/White Pine	Continuous -Scattered	Surface Contact
3	Grey	Broken	Jack Pine	Scattered-Broken	Surface
2	Grey/Red	Broken-Continuous	Spruce/Pine	Broken	Surface Elevated
1	Red	Continuous	Black Spruce	None	Elevated

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Weather Damage Fuel Classes:

Weather Damaged Fuel 1= 18-20

(20 = Highest Risk of Fire Behaviour)

Weather Damaged Fuel 2= 15-17

Weather Damaged Fuel 3= 13-14

Weather Damaged Fuel 4= 7-12

Weather Damaged Fuel 5= <7

(3 =Lowest Risk of Fire Behaviour)