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**FIRESMART PROJECTS HELP KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE**

WHITEHORSE – A total of 32 FireSmart projects valued at \$1,202,931 have been approved by Community Services Minister Glenn Hart and Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Archie Lang.

“The Yukon FireSmart program is definitely enhancing community safety,” Hart said. “Community greenbelts are more useable for recreational purposes, waste wood fuels are removed, there are associated employment opportunities and the bottom line is – by managing vegetation surrounding our communities we can significantly reduce the wildfire threat.”

“The benefits of the FireSmart program are becoming better understood,” Lang said. “The treatment of forest fuels in and around our communities not only improves our opportunity to control wildfire, but also contributes towards healthier forest areas. I am very pleased with how Yukon’s land owners are initiating and applying the FireSmart program to their properties.”

FireSmart offers technical support and funds community projects that help to treat vegetation based on the three Rs: removal, reduction, and replacement. There are various treatments available including removal of deadfall and forest fuels, spacing and thinning trees, and planting less flammable tree species.

FireSmart also supports communities to develop long-term wildfire safety plans and make roadways more accessible to fire-fighting equipment. The program creates local employment and skills development with the goal of enhancing the protection of Yukon communities and reducing the potential for significant losses from wildfire.

FireSmart program handbooks are available at Yukon public libraries, the Inquiry Desk at the main Yukon government Administration Building in Whitehorse, the government’s offices in the rural communities, or the Yukon government website at [www.gov.yk.ca](http://www.gov.yk.ca).

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Attachment: FireSmart Project Awards

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**ATTACHMENT: Approved FireSmart Projects**

*FireSmart Projects Announced in August 2005*

Liard First Nations	45,450
Liard Aboriginal Women's Society	35,239
White River First Nation	30,000
Village of Carmacks	45,450
Village of Haines Junction	45,450
Village of Haines Junction - Pine Lake	24,880
Ross River Dena Council	20,000
Mendenhall Recycling Society	45,450
Lorne Mountain Community Association	45,450
Kwanlin Dun First Nation - McIntyre	45,450
West Dawson Community Association	11,455
Town of Watson Lake	45,450
Kluane Lake Athletic Association	45,450
Village of Mayo	45,450
Porter Creek Community Association	45,450
Granger Community Association	45,450
Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation	45,450
First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun	30,000
Pelly Crossing Selkirk First Nation	45,450
Town of Faro	45,450
Village of Teslin	42,546
Kluane First Nation	45,450
Carcross Tagish First Nation	45,450
Ta'an Kwach'an Council	45,450
South McLintock Citizens Association	28,761
Old Crow Plan	15,000
Crestview Community Assn.	31,500
Champagne Aishihik First Nation	45,450
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation	30,000
Mclean Lake Residents Assn.	20,000
Golden Horn School Council	20,000
Marsh Lake Fire Rescue	45,450
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,202,931</b>