

TITOLO	PRe-FEU – Forest fire prevention for wood supply chains
Program	PSR 2014-2020, Regione Piemonte, Operazione 16.2.1, Azione 1 Bando 2019
KEYWORDS	Forest planning, wood supply chain, Fire prevention, Landscape, Agroforestry, Climate change adaptation, circular economy, ecosystem services
OBJECTIVES	<p>The PRe-FEU - Forest fire prevention for wood supply chains – aims at reducing wildfire impacts on mountain forests ecosystem services by restoring local wood supply chains. The project implements an innovative forest planning approach integrating wildfire impacts mitigation and valorisation of wood products criteria, able to define biomass exploitation programs in strategic fuel management areas, both on private and public lands, to reduce fire risk at the landscape scale. The effectiveness and safety of firefighting activities will be enhanced by designing preventive green infrastructures, achieving an economy of scale able to ensure the economic viability of the infrastructures’ maintenance over time.</p>
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	<p>Some alpine valleys present a high wildfire risk due to fuel biomass and connectivity, therefore showing a potential for large high severity fires during extreme meteorological events. Pre-Feu aims at establishing the necessary measures for the mitigation of major fires in the Susa Valley, with an “integrated vision” that equally considers ecosystem services supply, firefighting activities support and economic viability. The Integrated Plan for Fires Prevention identifies and designs strategic preventive infrastructures as green active firebreaks to support firefighting, and self-resistant stands where to enhance the resilience of ecosystem services supplied by the forest. These infrastructures are deployed and maintained with flammability reduction operations aimed at modifying quantity, structure and connectivity of understory and crown fuels, as selective thinning and variable retention cutting, prescribed burns and rotational grazing.</p> <p>The preventive infrastructures’ functionality is achieved by giving value to the wood extracted from the silvicultural interventions through their placing in a short supply chain for high quality assortments and bioenergy production from the processing remnants. Susa valley sawmills will therefore promote the contribution of local timber for preventing of major fires and protecting the essential ecosystem services supplied by forests.</p> <p>The Integrated Plan for Fires Prevention covers the entire forested area of the Upper Susa valley (about 26300ha), and an additional pilot area located in the Lower Susa valley (about 1000ha), in order to define the location of the preventive strategic area on an overall surface of around 1500-3000ha (approximately 5-10% of the overall forest area) to be included in the Plan, in accordance with the procedure defined at regional level. Moreover, Pre-Feu aims at presenting an executive project covering 120ha as first set of intervention to be approved by the end of 2022.</p> <p>This Plan results from a collaboration between “Consorzio Forestale Alta Val Susa” (consortium for management of public forests in Upper Susa valley), “Unione dei Comuni della Val Susa” (association of municipalities of the valley), La Foresta, University of Torino, the firefighting service, local logging companies, sawmills and forest owners associations, and contains an economic analysis of the profitability of the planned interventions and the opportunities for synergies with other funding sources (RDP, private investors, ...).</p>