
FACTSHEET

December 16, 2020

Ministry of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations, and Rural
Development

Reducing Wildfire Risk near Ellison Provincial Park

- BC Timber Sales (BCTS) and its partners are working to reduce the risk of wildfires in the Eastside Road and Ellison Provincial Park area, southwest of Vernon.
- BCTS, the British Columbia Wildfire Service (BCWS), the Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District and the Regional District of North Okanagan have identified significant sections of public land in this area as Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas.
- WUI areas contain combustible forest fuel and are adjacent to homes, farm structures or other outbuildings.
- The lack of historic fires in the area has resulted in an overstocked forest. This has created an increased risk of wildfires and degraded wildlife habitat.
- The Ellison Park Wildfire Risk Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration project will see approximately 20 hectares of WUI harvested in two patches south of Ellison Provincial Park on Eastside Road (see attached map).
- The prescribed fuel mitigation treatment will mimic the results of a forest fire. Approximately 65 per cent of the existing stand will be harvested to create a more fire resilient forest and restore the wildlife habitat to a more natural state.
- To reduce disturbance to the ground and public recreation activities, harvesting is designated as winter only and will be completed by the spring of 2022.
- The proposed harvest areas have been subject to consultation with First Nations and referred to stakeholders and the public for input.
- Funding for communities to treat WUI areas is available through the BCWS FireSmart program, the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative and the Forest Enhancement Society (FES).
- Public comments related to BCTS operations in the Okanagan Columbia should be addressed to: BCTS.Okanagan.Columbia@gov.bc.ca.

Learn More:

- BCTS is a self-financing program within the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (the Ministry) that sustainably manages the harvesting and reforestation of approximately 20 per cent of the timber available for harvest from British Columbia's public land to support the market pricing system.
- For a video about BC Timber Sales' business and operations, visit: youtu.be/sJDLHYyGVg8



Photo of stand before treatment.



Aerial view of stand after treatment.



Ground view of stand after treatment. The remaining ground fuel will be cleaned up with a secondary manual treatment.

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