Wildfire Risk Reduction Project Fact Sheet: Silverstar/Brookside Creek (CS-001, CS-002, CS003, CS-007, CS-008 and CS-009)

About BC Timber Sales

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) manages 20 per cent of B.C.'s public timber harvest, driving economic prosperity and supporting sustainable land management. BCTS has expanded its role to reflect community needs and lead the way for an evolving forest sector. This includes wildfire risk reduction (WRR), land and range stewardship and support for diverse manufacturers.

BCTS takes a community-driven, values-based approach that strengthens partnerships with First Nations and local interest holders while promoting resilient forest ecosystems and thriving communities. Operating in 33 communities throughout B.C., BCTS helps sustain economic activity and employment by working with First Nations, contractors and local businesses in the province.

Overview

- In 2019, the Regional District of North Okanagan published their Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan, which identified areas in the BX and Silver Star region as high priority for wildfire risk reduction work.
- In 2024, BCTS joined discussions on opportunities to address these high-risk areas, recognizing BCTS has the tools and expertise needed to carry out important wildfire risk reduction work.
- BCTS in conjunction with the Ministry of Forests WRR team and BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) are developing a WRR project in the Silverstar/Brookside Creek area to strengthen forest resiliency against wildfire. This work includes planning for partial-harvest, non-clear-cut treatments. Following the initial timber harvest treatment the Ministry of Forests is planning to complete additional WRR treatments.
- WRR projects include active stewardship activities to better protect forests against wildfire and reduce the severity of potential wildfires. WRR projects are guided by a fuel management prescription which specifies how many trees are retained or removed, typically resulting in relatively high levels of tree retention. WRR is an innovative silvicultural practice which targets fuel in the forest in specific areas where wildfire risk is high, especially near communities and infrastructure.

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- BCTS conducts annual referrals to relevant stakeholders, including adjacent private landowners, district recreation staff, the regional district, registered water users, Crown tenure holders, range tenure holders, trappers and others.
- On February 12, 2026, BCTS published a notice in the Vernon Morning Star outlining proposed cut blocks in the BX, Brookside Creek and Silver Star areas, and included contact information for individuals wishing to provide comments.
- On April 16, 2026, BCTS hosted two information sessions for local residents who had expressed interest in the proposed activities.
- Recommendations from qualified professionals will be incorporated into the final project design. Assessments include:
    - Riparian (stream) assessments
    - Terrain stability field assessments
    - Visual impact assessments
    - Wildlife assessments
    - Hydrological assessment
- As project planning advances toward final design, BCTS will continue to engage with the broader public and will provide additional opportunities for information sharing, including field visits.

Water Quality

- BCTS recognizes community concerns regarding drinking water protection in forested watersheds and takes these concerns seriously.
- Under the Forest and Range Practices Act, water quality and drinking water sources are protected values, and forest practices must be carried out in a way that prevents sedimentation or other changes that could have a material adverse effect on water quality or downstream water use.
- Provincial monitoring and independent oversight have shown that modern forest practices generally meet these objectives, particularly where riparian (stream) areas are protected and roads are properly designed, constructed and maintained.
- Qualified professionals develop plans, oversee field activities and monitor operations, supported by a rigorous Environmental Management System which protects watershed values.
- Timber harvesting can increase the amount of water entering local aquifers through precipitation and snowmelt due to reduced evapotranspiration from trees, which may result in localized increases in the water table.

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- A watershed risk assessment has been completed for this project. BCTS will use this and other professional assessments to guide site-specific management practices.
- Qualified professionals are currently completing field assessments related to wildlife habitat, biodiversity, soil stability, terrain conditions, visual quality and other site-specific values.
- BCTS is committed to careful planning and responsible forest management practices that maintain healthy forest ecosystems while supporting social, economic and cultural benefits.
- Members of the public are asked not to move ribbons or markers in the field, as this can create confusion and interfere with the proper implementation of management prescriptions, including tree retention and protection of riparian/wildlife habitat areas.

Project Specific Updates

- Further updates on the two projects will be provided as new information becomes available.

TSL TA2904

- Wildfire risk reduction project blocks CS-001, CS-002 and CS-003 are scheduled to be offered for bid between April and June 2027. Harvest timing will be determined by the successful licensee (May 2027 – May 2028).
- The outer boundaries of the blocks have been laid out in the field.
- The next step is to collect cruise information and determine the harvest prescriptions and retention strategy.
- Harvest/Retention plans will be a combination of clump and single tree retention. Each block prescription will be slightly different based on existing timber species and profiles as well as operating terrain. The objective of these prescriptions will be to strengthen the forest resiliency against wildfire. Prescriptions will be developed by registered professional foresters with input from BCWS and WRR staff.
- BCTS will coordinate a field trip opportunity for interested members of the public to view a marked stand prescription.

Unnamed Timber Sale License

- Wildfire risk reduction project blocks CS-007, CS-008 and CS-009 are scheduled to be offered for bid in spring - summer 2028. Harvest timing will be determined by the successful licensee (within one year of award).

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- Field assessments have been completed for these blocks, and partial boundary layout has been completed. Further layout and development are currently on hold pending the results of key assessments, including hydrological and visual impact evaluations.

Learn More

To learn more about and view the Regional District of North Okanagan's Community Wildfire Protection Plans, including the Silver Star Mountain and BX Community plans, visit:
https://www.rdno.ca/emergencymanagement/community-wildfire-protection-plans

To learn more about BC Timber Sales increasing role in important wildfire risk reduction work, visit:
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/bc-timber-sales/sustainability/forest-wildfire-resilience

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