



BCTS
BC Timber Sales



BC Timber Sales and Wildland Urban Interface Harvesting in the East Kootenays

The British Columbia Wildfire Service (BCWS), in concert with the communities within the Rocky Mountain Natural Resource District and the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK), have identified significant sections of Crown land that are Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas. WUI is any area where combustible forest fuel is found adjacent to homes, farm structures or other outbuildings. Funding for communities to treat WUI areas is available via the BCWS FireSmart program, the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative and the Forest Enhancement Society (FES).

A significant degree of timber harvesting is required to reduce hazards in WUI areas. BC Timber Sales (BCTS) is well positioned to take a lead role on WUI areas in our operating areas with a mature timber component, consistent with the Forest Practices Board recommendations: www.bcfpb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/SIR43-Fuel-Management-Update.pdf

- In the Rocky Mountain Natural Resource District and the Regional District of East Kootenay there are 412,655 ha of Crown forest that is identified as WUI areas. BCTS operating areas represent 25% or 102,000 ha of those WUI areas.
- BCTS has harvested 238 ha of those WUI areas in the last two years, utilizing a partial cutting stocking standard that results in a shaded fire break. Information on the harvesting and reforestation standards and practices for WUI areas can be found at: www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/land-based-investment/forests-for-tomorrow/fire_management_stocking_standards_guidance_document_march_2016.pdf
- BCTS is working on a five year plan that identifies additional WUI harvesting areas surrounding Cranbrook (including the Cranbrook Community Forest), Elkford, Newgate, Wardner and other areas in the RDEK. Information on specific BCTS plans can be found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content?id=BF21F486D82E41E69C22F1A71782F613>
- Proposed BCTS areas are harvested as per the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, the BCTS Sustainable Forest Management Plan, local Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Best Practices for Ecosystem Restoration and the Cranbrook Community Forest Management Plan. All proposed harvest areas are subject to consultation with First Nations and referred to stakeholders and the public for input.
- BCTS, partially funded by FES, has a WUI project in the Mt. Baker road area, adjacent to the Cranbrook Community Forest and nearby residences. The project is supported by BCWS, RDEK, the City of Cranbrook, the Rocky Mountain Trench Society and the Cranbrook Community Forest Society.

Examples of Wildland Urban Interface Harvesting

Cranbrook Community Forest



Gold Creek Reservoir



Jaffray Area



Westview Subdivision



Further information on BC Timber Sales harvesting plans in Wildland Urban Interface areas in the Rocky Mountain Natural Resource District and the Regional District of East Kootenay can be directed to:

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