



Fuel Treatment Information

Sea to Sky District Project—Gates Lake - Birken/SLRD Area

Dates: July 2020 to March 20, 2021

Agency Responsible:

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

Understory thinning will be undertaken beginning this summer, to be completed by March 20, 2021 in the area south of the Birken/Gates Lake community. Crown forest treatment units amounting to 27 hectares will be treated. Removing excess fuel will reduce wildfire occurrence, severity and spread, and prevent wildfire spreading into the tops of trees. It will also permit better access for crews responding to wildfires in this area.

Crews will remove heavy undergrowth, prune lower branches on trees up to 3 metres in height, and widen spacing between the trees by removing smaller stems. This material will be piled in piles no larger than 2 meters tall and 3 meters wide, in locations that will not add an increased fire risk. These piles may be burnt to reduce smoke impacts as per the Ministry of Environment Open Burning Smoke Control regulations as conditions permit in the fall or winter of 2020 or spring of 2021, or some other form of fibre utilization will be practiced, such as chipping or small stem bucking and roadside stacking for local firewood consumption.

The treatment will also improve ecosystem and habitat restoration for Spotted Owl and the Old Growth Management Area that overlay the treatment area. By reducing fuel in this area, it also prepares for future options to initiate low intensity controlled burning to this forest. Low intensity natural fire was a normal and natural process within this ecosystem, which helped reduce the intensity of wildfire, maintain and enhance plants, birds, insects and other wildlife in the area, and create biodiversity.

This treatment is expected to mitigate the risk of wildfire to the community of Birken and provide a safer evacuation route for the public if necessary. The project will connect pre-existing fuel breaks in the area, to create a continuous fuel break that will reduce flame lengths and the rate of spread of wildfire approaching the community.

For more information about this project contact:

Stefana Dranga, RPF, RPBio, Land and Resource Coordinator,
at the Sea to Sky District office located at 101-42000 Loggers Lane in Squamish, BC.
Email: FLNRO.SeaToSkyDistrict@gov.bc.ca or Telephone: 604 898-2100

For more information visit:

[https://tinyurl.com/Wildfire Risk Reduction](https://tinyurl.com/WildfireRiskReduction)



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

BE PREPARED: REDUCE THE RISK OF WILDFIRE

Whether you are a homeowner, an active member of your community or participate in local government, there are things you can do today to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire in your area. The FireSmart program is designed to help reduce the risk of wildfire near your home and neighbourhood — providing a better opportunity for firefighters to defend your home in an emergency wildfire situation.

Visit www.FireSmartBC.ca to:

1. Take the free online, **FireSmart 101 course**.
2. Assess your risk from wildfire using the **FireSmart Home Assessment** and the **Wildfire Exposure Assessment**.
3. Download the **FireSmart Homeowners Manual**.
4. Learn about the **FireSmart Canada Community Recognition Program (FCCRP)**
5. Download **educational resources**.
6. Sign up for the **FireSmart BC newsletter**.



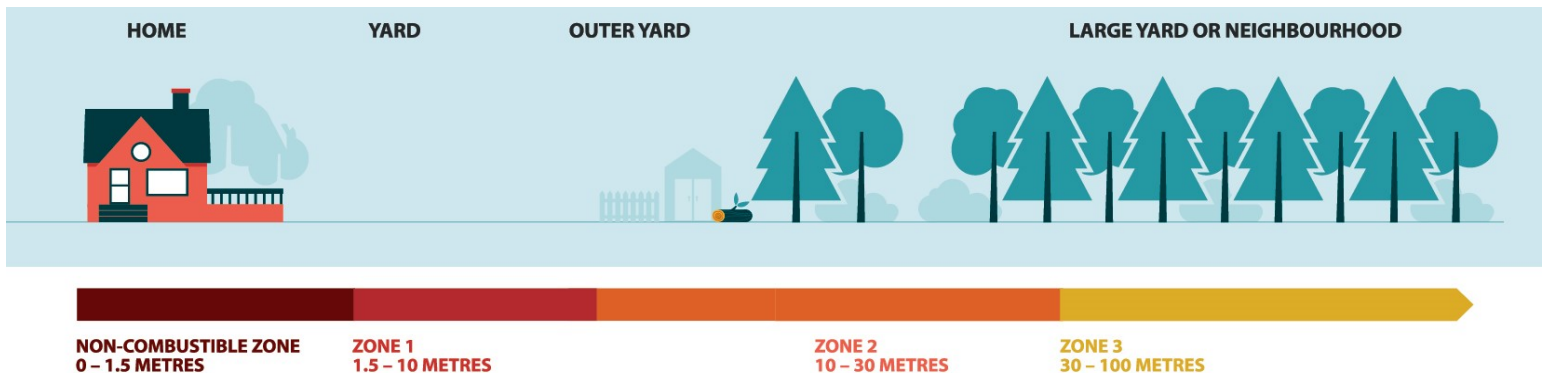
Make your home more resilient to wildfires is by applying the following FireSmart principles:

NON-COMBUSTIBLE ZONE: The non-combustible surface should extend around the entire home and any attachments, such as decks.

ZONE 1: This should be a fire-resistant zone. Eliminate debris from areas where embers and firebrands are likely to collect; on the roof, on and below decks or stairs, at the base of exterior walls, in gutters and vents, in woodpiles.

ZONE 2: Thin and prune evergreen trees to reduce hazard in this area. Regularly clean up accumulations of fallen branches, dry grass and needles from on the ground to eliminate potential surface fuels.

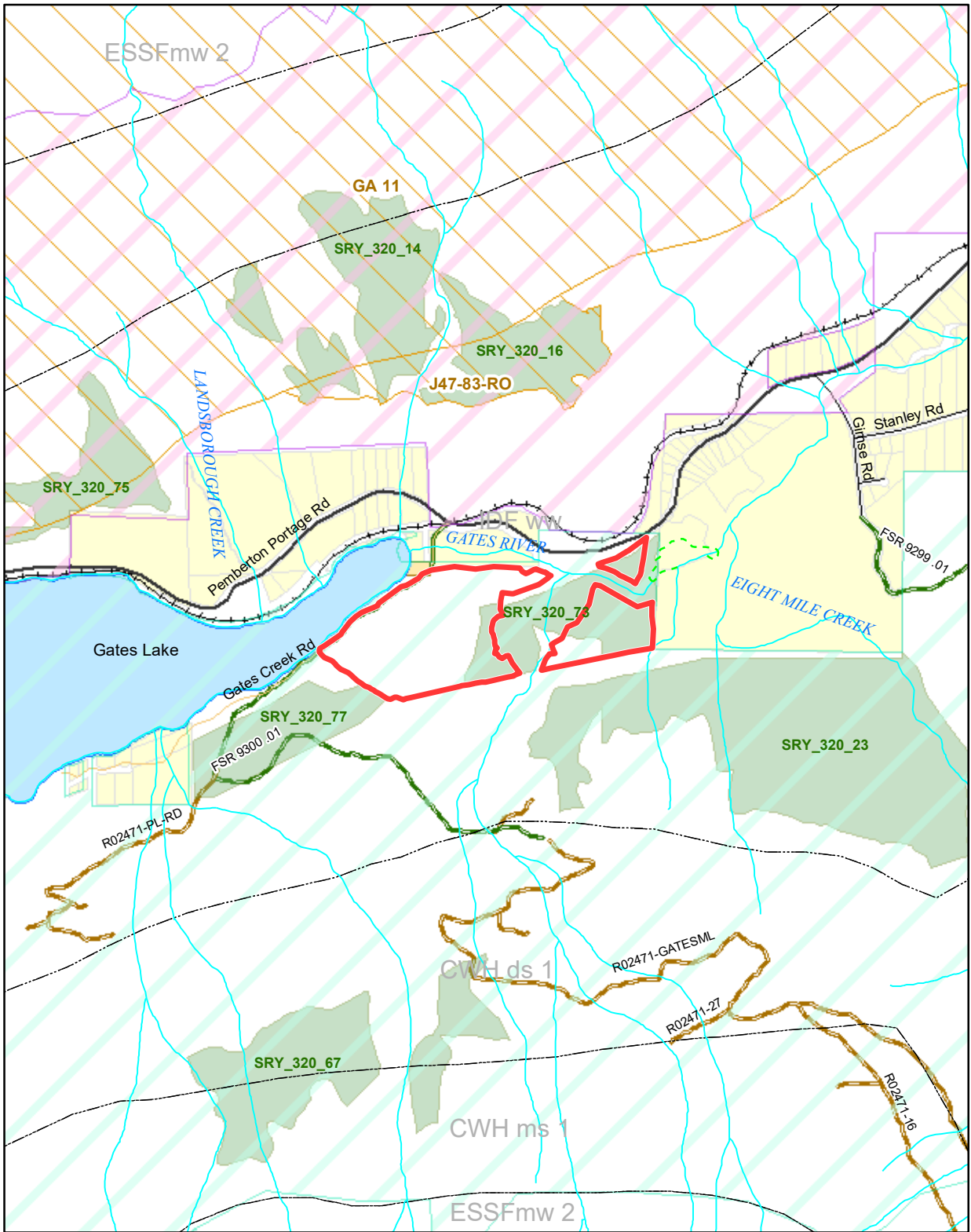
ZONE 3: Look for opportunities to create a fire break by creating space between trees and other potentially flammable vegetation. Thinning and pruning is effective here as well. These actions will help reduce the intensity of a wildfire.



YOUR BEST PROTECTION IS PREVENTION AND YOUR BEST TOOL IS THE FIRESMART PROGRAM.



BC Wildfire Service



**Wildfire Risk Reduction
Project Map**

**GOVWRC002
Gates Lake**

Fiscal Year 2020/2021
TU Area: 27 ha
Service: Operational Treatment

Legend

- WRR Unit
- Woodlot / ComFor
- Private
- Residential Lease
- Provincial Parks
- Spotted Owl LTOH
- Spotted Owl MFHA
- Approved UWR
- Approved WHA
- Old Growth Mgmt. Area
- BGC Subzone/Variant
- Indian Reserves



Map Scale
1:20,000

June 2020

