

Williams Lake Community Forest

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Resiliency Through Fire – Prescribed Fire and
Indigenous Led Cultural Burning

BCCFA CONFERENCE

JUNE 8, 2023

KAMLOOPS, BC

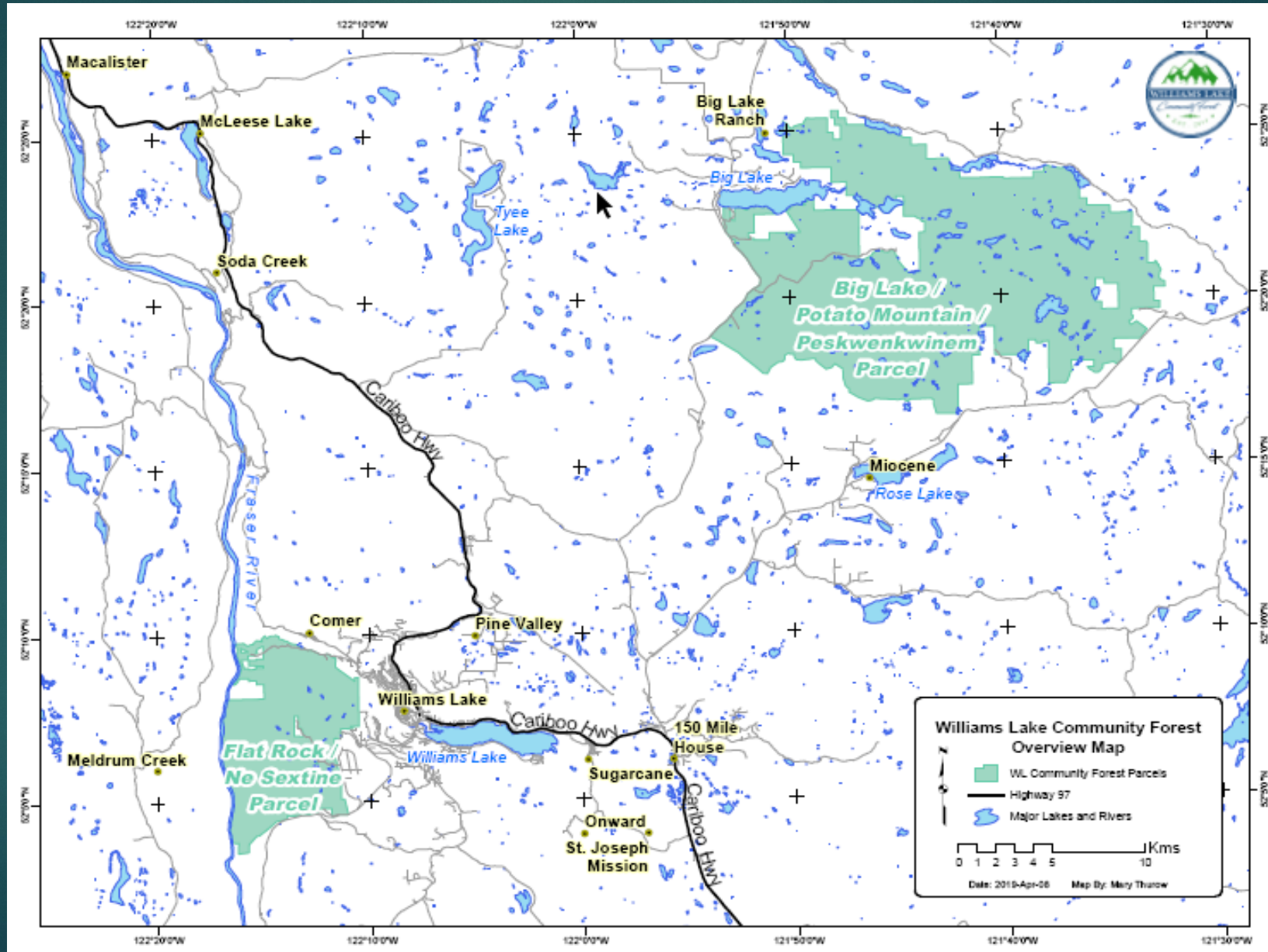


Williams Lake Community Forest Overview

- ▶ WL Community Forest LP
- ▶ 50/50 Partnership
 - ▶ Williams Lake First Nation
 - ▶ City of Williams Lake
- ▶ Annual Allowable Cut of 40,000m³

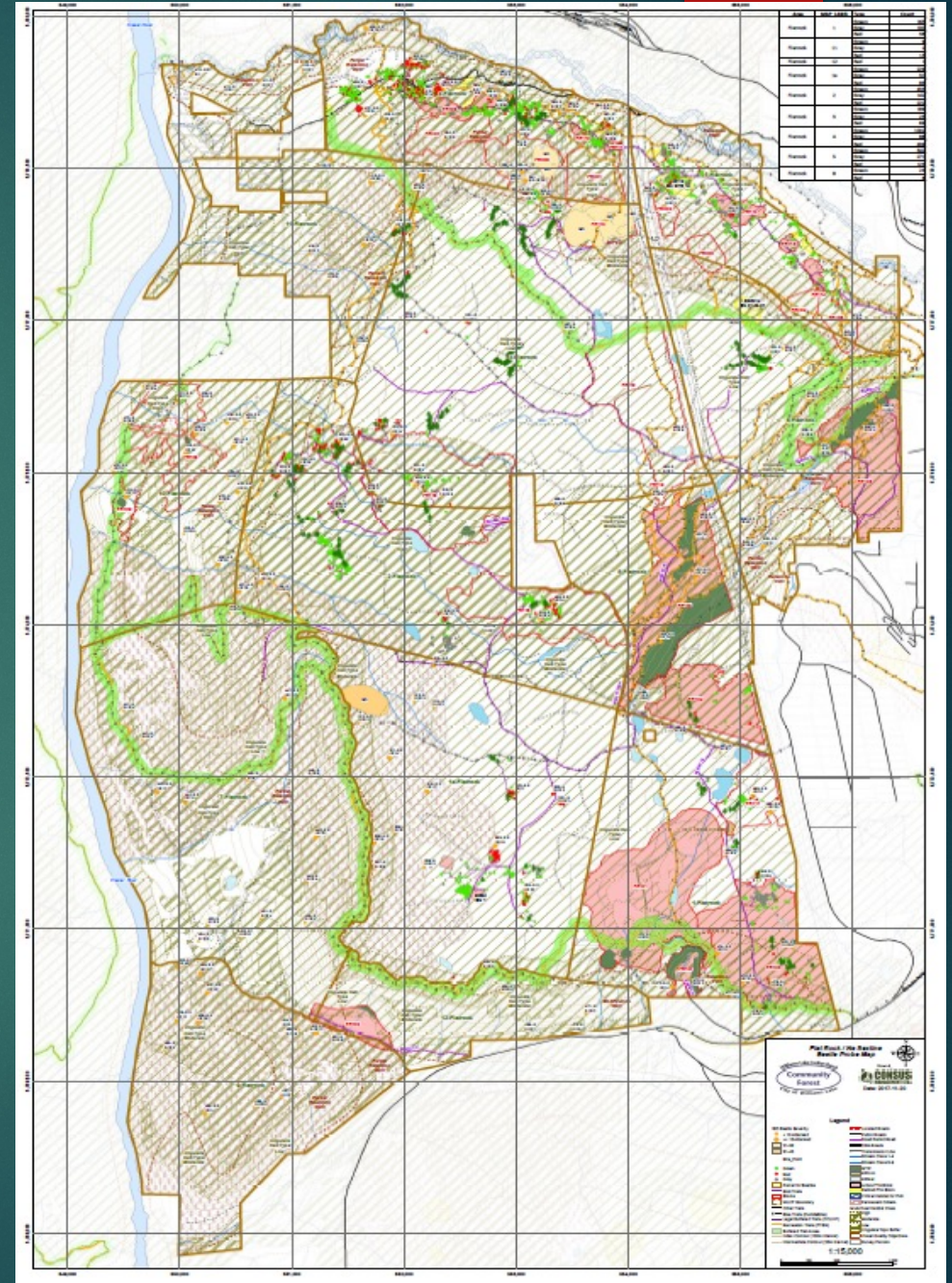


Williams Lake Community Forest Overview



Williams Lake Community Forest Overview

Flat Rock - Ne Sextine



Indigenous Teaching Days

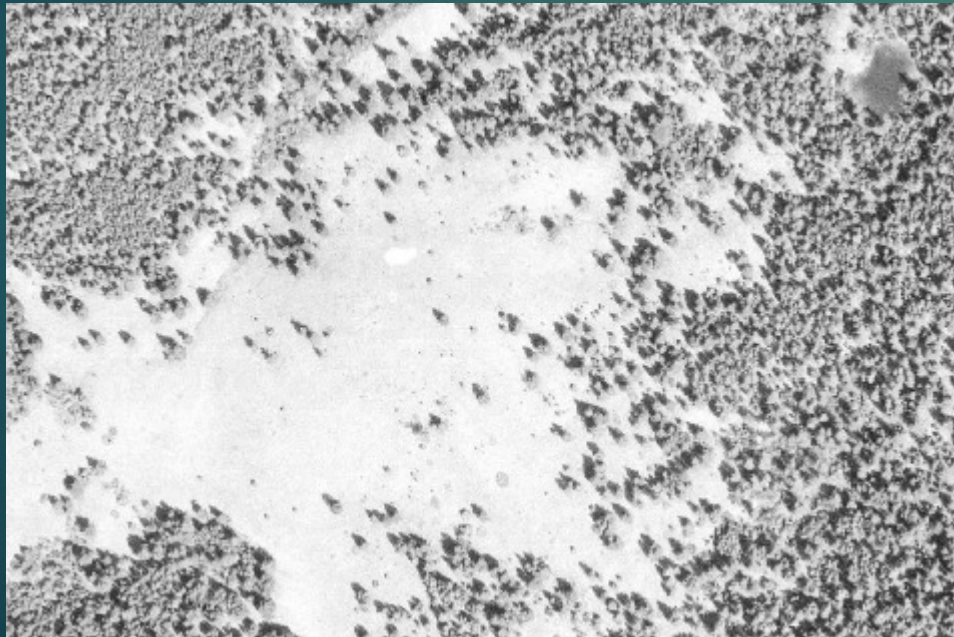
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- ▶ WLFN Elders Tours
- ▶ Archaeology
- ▶ Family Stories
- ▶ Legends
- ▶ Traditional Knowledge

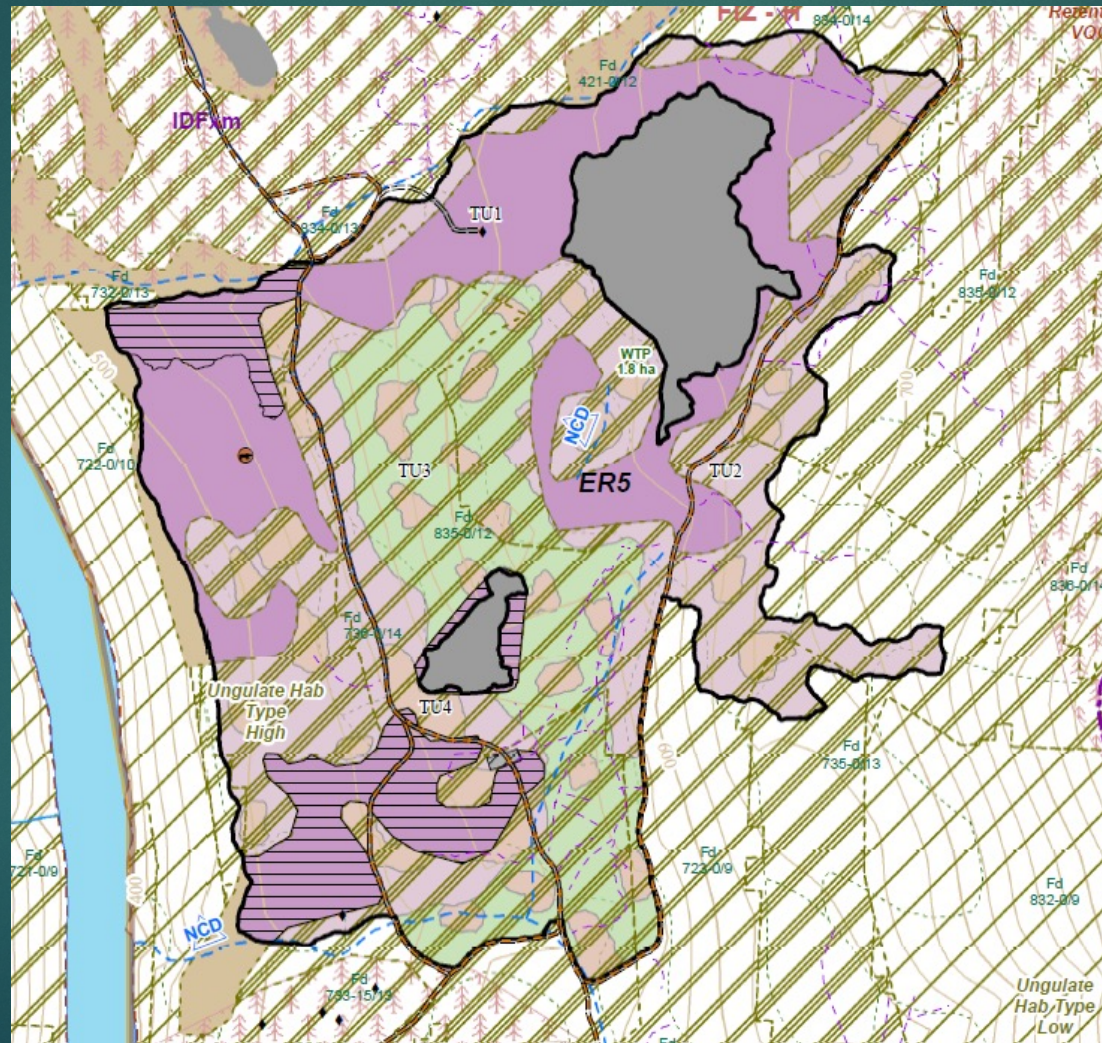


Fire History Research

- UBC Faculty of Forestry
- Dr. Kelsey Copes-Gerbitz



Grassland – Open Forest Restoration and Resilience Treatments



Grassland – Open Forest Restoration and Resilience Work

Hand Treatments

January 2021- March 2022



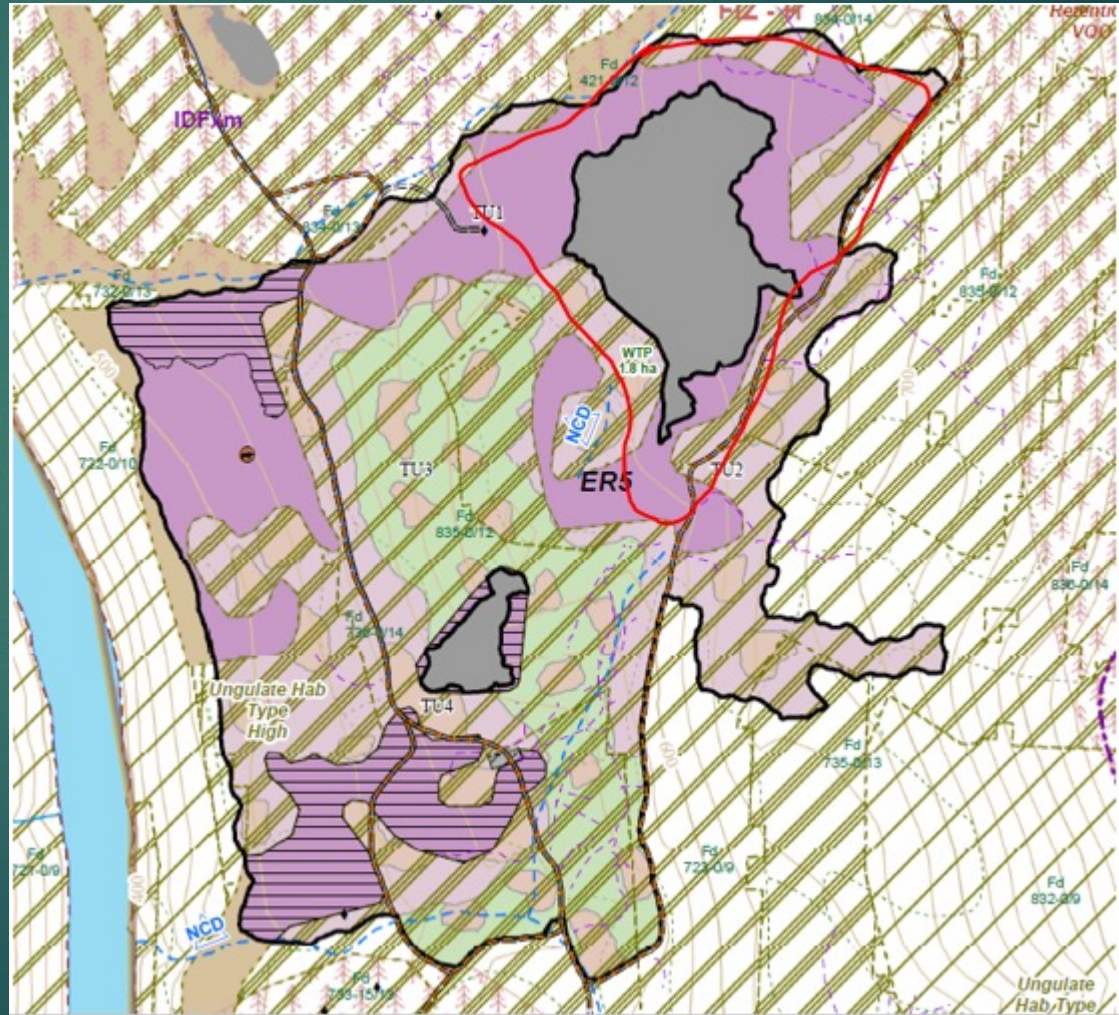
Grassland – Open Forest Restoration and Resilience Treatments

Hand Treatments
January 2021- March 2022



Grassland – Open Forest Restoration and Resilience Treatments

Prescribed Burn
October 2022



Grassland – Open Forest Restoration and Resilience Treatments

Prescribed Burn
October 2022



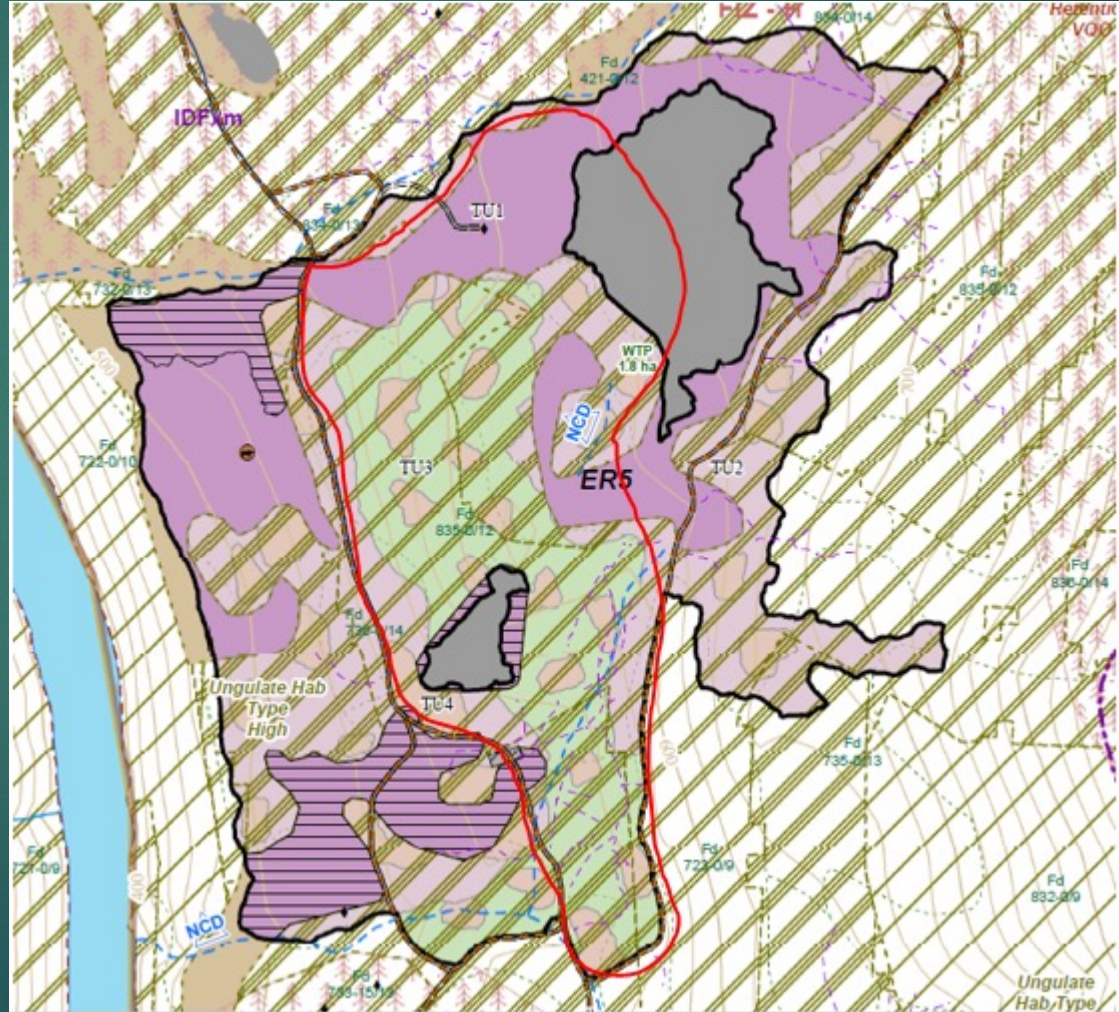
Grassland – Open Forest Restoration and Resilience Treatments

Prescribed Burn
October 2022



Grassland – Open Forest Restoration and Resilience Treatments

Prescribed Burn
May 2023



Grassland – Open Forest Restoration and Resilience Treatments



Prescribed Burn
May 2023



Grassland – Open Forest Restoration and Resilience Treatments

Prescribed Burn
May 2023



Grassland – Open Forest Restoration and Resilience Treatments

Prescribed Burn
May 2023



Prescribed Burning Lessons Learned

Public Communications are Key



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
April 5, 2022

Ministry of Forests
BC Wildfire Service

Prescribed burn planned near Westridge

WILLIAMS LAKE – The BC Wildfire Service, in partnership with the City of Williams Lake, plans to conduct a prescribed burn within the city limits of Williams Lake in efforts to reduce wildfire risks in the area.

The prescribed burn will cover approximately 20 hectares northeast of the Westridge subdivision. Burning may begin as early as April 6, 2022 and will continue periodically until April 30, 2022. The exact timing of the burn will be dependent on weather, site and venting conditions. Ignition will proceed only if conditions are suitable and allow for quick smoke dissipation.

During burn operations some public trail and road access in the area may be closed or restricted. Signage and road blocks will be placed on the trails as needed.

Purpose of this prescribed burn:

- Reduce the fuel loading and the risk of a wildfire spreading within the wildland urban interface
- Promote the growth of local plant species while reducing the spread of invasive plant species.

A low- to moderate-intensity surface fire will be lit within pre-established boundaries to remove combustible materials and mimic a naturally occurring ground fire. BC Wildfire Service staff will be working with members of the Williams Lake Fire Department to carefully prepare, control, and monitor the fire at all times. Smoke and flames will be visible in the city of Williams Lake.



Prescribed Burning Lessons Learned

Fall Burning – Lower Intensity – Lower Resilience Effect – Less Collateral Damage

-Fall Burn



-Spring Burn



Prescribed Burning Lessons Learned

Increased Fire Behaviour = Better Ecological Effects



Prescribed Burning Lessons Learned

Spring Burning:

- Bark Beetle Attack



Prescribed Burning Lessons Learned

Spring Burning:

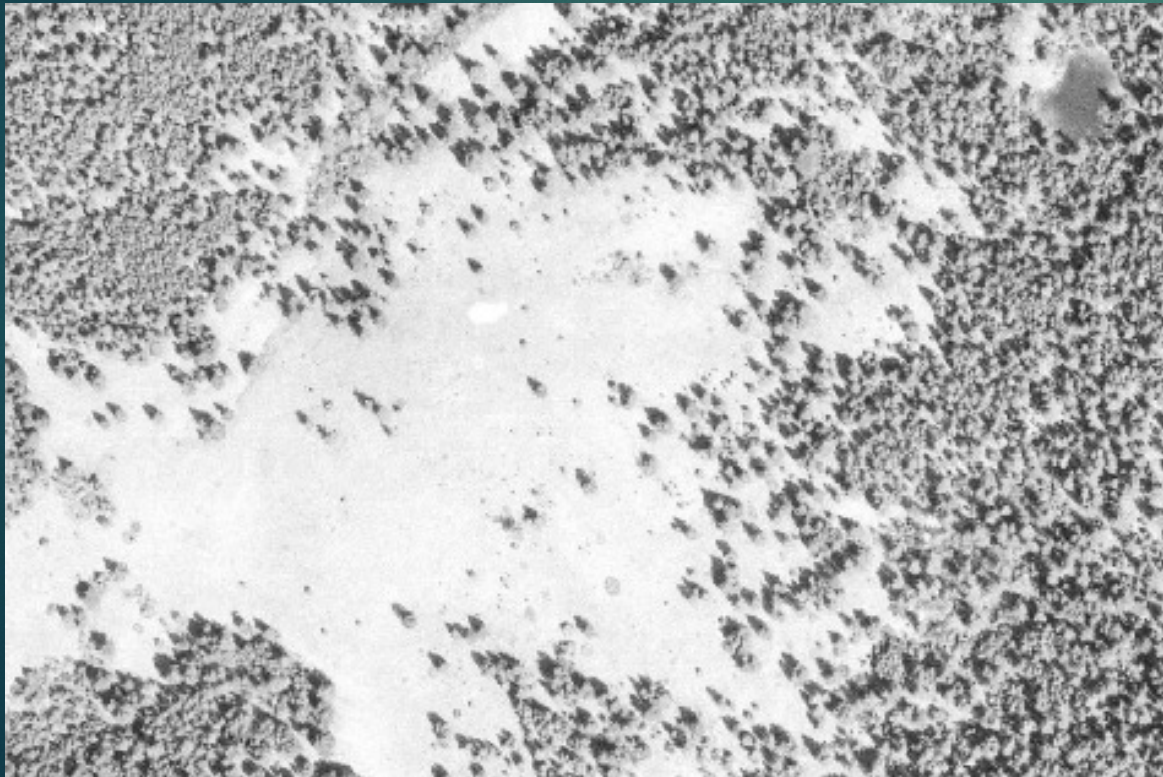
- Timber Values Decreased



Prescribed Burning Lessons Learned

Ecological effects of Fire are Critical to Ecosystem Health

- Any fire management regime is better than the absence of fire
- Fire is a broad brush treatment but we are going to need broad strokes



Prescribed Burning Lessons Learned

- ▶ Indigenous Ecological Knowledge will Lead the Way
- ▶ First Nations leadership will ensure success





Thank you

www.williamslakecommunityforest.com