

Burning the Mountainside



Cultural Burning in Forestry

Presented by: Hayden Leo

2025

Agenda

How did it start?

Why are we doing this?

Training

Partnerships

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Creating Opportunities

How did it start?

avalanche lily] that they ate. They used to burn one hill and use the other. When there were a lot of bushes ["sticks", i.e. "when it got bushy"] then the ripe berries disappear and the roots like potatoes [*Erythronium*], *skimuta* [*Lilium columbianum*, tiger lily], *skwenkwina* [*Claytonia lanceolata*, spring beauty or mountain potato], disappear, when it gets too bushy. Then they burned. It was marked out and there one did his own burning. That is what they did so that they could go here and there to pick berries. Each one watched that it was really burnt. All the other bushes were removed. Then the berry bushes grew again. The roots like potatoes [*Erythronium*], the *skimuta* [*Lilium*], the *skwenkwina* [*Claytonia*], all those that were eaten by us, that is where they grow.

It was a few years, I guess it was almost around three years, before those things grew there again. Then there were really lots of berries. Everything was all really fertile. They rarely burnt the big trees. Only the small ones, only around the bushes was burned. It was the same with one hill as with another. That is why we see, we who are grown-up Indians, that all the hills seem to be burnt, because that was what they did to their own hills. They burned them so that they would get good crops there. They told others who went there, "do the same at your place, do the same at your place." Their own hills were just like a garden.

- Baptiste Ritchie

Why are we
doing this?

Community Needs

Forest Stewardship

Training

- Stillwater
- Wildfire

GOVERNMENT-FUNDED 6-WEEK COURSE Wildfire & Community Resilience Training



Starts February 19th, 2025 at T̓s̓il Learning Centre, Mt. Currie, BC

Delivered by Stillwater Consulting in partnership with Lil'Wat Forestry Ventures.

Launch your career in wildfire mitigation and forestry with our comprehensive 6-week training program. This intensive course delivers 240 hours of training across essential field skills, hands-on experience, and industry-recognized certifications to prepare you for success in the natural resource sector.

You'll learn from experienced instructors while gaining practical experience. The course

- Bear Aware
- Danger Tree Assessment (Qualified Person)
- Natural Resource Field Studies including:
Fire Behaviour, FireSmart, Silviculture,
Treeplanting and more
- Intermediate First Aid
- Transportation Endorsement
- Wildland Firefighting (S-courses)
- Work Readiness Skills
- Participant Gear Package

Partnerships

- BC Wildfire
- Cheakamus and Spel'kúmtn Community Forests
- Many Others



Challenges and Benefits



Creating Opportunities

- New Technology
- New Techniques



Discussion

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