INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
August 13, 2021

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
BC Wildfire Service

Planned Ignitions on McKay Creek Fire K71030

Today (August 13), Personnel are preparing to conduct planned ignitions on the McKay Creek Wildfire in the Applesprings Creek area if conditions permit and if they are required. Residents of nearby communities are The decision to use planned ignitions is taken with the utmost care. Residents of nearby communities are advised that smoke will be visible from Lillooet, Moha, Fountain, Highway 99, Highway 40 (Lillooet Pioneer Road), and surrounding areas. Operational closures along the Highway 40 (Lillooet Pioneer Road) may take place during the burning operations to ensure the safety of crews on the ground and the public.

During these hot, dry drought conditions that result in extreme fire behaviour, fighting fire with fire is one of the most effective and safest tools at BCWS' disposal. This planned ignition operation will slowly and methodically remove vegetation through burning it and reduce fuel for the fire. This brings the fire's edge from the top of steep mountainous slopes downward towards the valley bottom and a strong fireguard that is safer and easier to access by ground crews. This proactive approach results in the fire moving downslope with more moderated fire behaviour. Once complete, this operation area will act as a strong fuel break that will protect communities in the valley bottom, and those farther south and north.

The Incident Management Team's highly-trained Ignitions Specialists and BC Wildfire Service Crews will closely monitor the operation. Ignitions specialists developed a detailed plan for this operation which involves the identification, assessment and mitigation of all hazards. Ground crews, heavy equipment, structure protection units and aerial support will be on-site to support the operation. The planned ignition area will be approximately 1,500 hectares.

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