Project Description

Kicking Horse Mountain Ski Resort recognizes the landscape level risk that exists within, and adjacent to, the Controlled Recreation Area and wishes to engage in planning and activities that will mitigate this risk and protect the village, resort infrastructure and the resort recreational experience.

This project will be a first step in a longer-term program to plan, prescribe and implement to reduce this risk. The initial step will be to address the risk to the immediate interface of the village and then to expand to the Controlled Recreation Landscape.

The importance of wildfire mitigation to protect the Resort cannot be understated. The Resort assessed value for 2017 was determined to be $207,000,000.00. This amount makes up 25% of the total raw assessed value for Electoral Area of $837,071,161.00. The Resort, business community and residents have put a substantial effort into developing year-round tourism at the Resort. Recent investments have included enhanced summer recreation associated with a resort wide mountain bike park. The Resort has 100 year-round residents and experiences a summer visitor count of over 40,000. There is only one access road to the mountain with possible other egress routes being along Forest Service Roads.

The goal, objective and strategies of this Operational Fuel Management Plan would be as follows:

> *Goal*: To create a fire resilient stand surrounding the village interface that will protect the resort structures and public from an approaching wildfire.
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> *Objectives*: 1) Abate the fuel hazard associated with stands within the village interface; 2) Maximize fibre recovery within the treated areas; 3) Minimize impacts on recreational and visual values.
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> *Strategies:* 1) Pursue harvesting opportunities within the treatment areas to maximize merchantable timber recovery through working with the local licensee; 2) Explore alternate utilization of dead, non-merchantable or undersized timber to minimize post-treatment activity fuels and burning (fire wood, pulp, chips, biofuel, etc.); 3) Develop treatments and boundaries that minimize the impacts or, preferably, enhance the recreational values in the treatment area; 4) Minimize the visual impacts to the resort by appropriately designing boundaries and minimizing the treatment area; 4) Contribute to the local economy through utilizing local personnel and company resources and by pushing recovered fibre towards local industries.

The funding being sought with this application will be to implement about 25 ha of interface fuel management work centred around the village. The treatments will be undertaken as soon as possible and be complete by the Fall.

This project will be a first step in a longer-term program to implement additional fuel management work on the mountain. This will include doubling this initial 25 ha treatment around the village, addressing the interface risk around the residents at the southern end of the Resort as well as exploring opportunities for landscape level fuel breaks to protect the resort.