

BC TIMBER SALES – OPERATING PLAN 17 REFERRAL 2022

FACT SHEET #1 – MOODY AND STEWART FSR

BCTS/WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION FUEL TREATMENT MITIGATION

PROPOSED TREATMENT UNITS

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this information bulletin is to provide more information regarding proposed BC Timber Sales (BCTS) /Wildfire Risk Reduction fuel treatment objectives in the Moody and Stewart watershed Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area. The objective for these planned areas is to use a partial retention silviculture system to create a shaded fuel break, in order to increase community resiliency to wildfire while managing other values in the watershed.

BACKGROUND:

- BC Timber Sales (BCTS) has conducted forest operations (harvesting, road building and silviculture) in the West Christina operating area which includes the Moody and Stewart Watershed.
- Within this West Christina Operating Area BCTS also shares this area with other tenures such as the Grand Forks ATV Club and Kettle River Mountain Bike Association recreation tenures.
- This development is being undertaken in cooperation with the Wildfire Risk Reduction program. They will be conducting fuel reduction treatments in adjacent planted blocks and uneconomical stands to create a connected fire break along Stewart Forest Service Road to reduce the risk of a large-scale wildfire to the community of Christina Lake.
- The Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) program is administered through the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. The program includes fuel management planning and treatment activities focusing on provincial Crown land located around communities, as well as other activities which can be read about here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/funding-for-wildfire-prevention/crip/wrr>

- Moody Creek and its associated sub-basins are important sources of water that support numerous domestic and community water licenses in the Christina Lake area. BCTS will be maintaining regular and ongoing communication with water users and will be managing for water values in their operations. Under the BC Timber Sales Forest Stewardship Plan we have committed to ensure that a hydrologic assessment is completed for the watershed by a qualified registered professional, and the design of developed cutblocks and roads will be consistent with the recommendations of the hydrologic assessment.

- The Moody watershed has many other values such as Ungulate Winter Range, recreation, and visual quality which BCTS will work with specialists and stakeholder to manage.
- In 2018 the BC Wildfire Service developed the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Class Framework to support initiatives related to wildfire risk reduction. This process was updated in 2021. A risk-based framework considers the likelihood of an unwanted wildfire event and the consequences for communities and high-value resources and assets, as a measure of risk, as follows:
 - **Likelihood** is the probability of the unwanted wildfire event occurring.
 - **Consequence** is the amount of damage occurring as a result.
 - **Risk** is measured as the product of likelihood and consequence. Multiple inputs are required to effectively quantify risk (including severity, type of value, and vulnerability to wildfire).

Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class Maps can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/vegetation-and-fuel-management/fire-fuel-management/wui-risk-class-maps/wui-downloads>

The Operating Plan 17 planning shapes in the Moody watershed overlap mostly class 8 (high) polygons and a few small class 9 (extreme) risk class polygons. Keep in mind this risk class framework is based on a model, and is for planning purposes only.

- The WRR program works with local Forest Licensees (including BCTS) to encourage a collaborative approach to fuel treatments within their respective operating areas. Although fuel treatment prescriptions are very site specific, the thinning of the forest by extraction of timber provides for an elevated reduction of potential interface wildfire risks.
- The “Community of Christina Lake Community Wildfire Protection Plan” published in 2009 by Fireline Consulting recommended the creation of open and shaded fuel breaks using several treatments, including the removal of selected whole trees to leave a forest of more separated and fire resistive trees.
- BCTS, Boundary Field Team included the following planning shapes in the 2022 Operating Plan Referral as a means of advising the public of circumstances and facilitating ongoing communication.

PLANNING SHAPE INFORMATION:

BC Timber Sales Plan Fuel Management Information by Planning Cell					
Watershed	Planning Cell	Area (Ha)	Wildfire Risk Class	Estimated Treatment Year	Silviculture System
Moody	E09-17-02	41	High	2025	Partial cut/Variable Retention
Moody	E09-17-05Mid	16	High	2025	Partial cut/Variable Retention
Moody	E09-17-07	24	High	2025	Partial cut/Variable Retention
Moody	E09-17-08	104	High	2025	Partial cut/Variable Retention
Moody	WC_2301	19	High	2025	Partial cut/Variable Retention

The 2009 Christina Lake Community Wildfire Protection Plan Appendix 4A – General Fuel Treatment Recommendations suggest the following criteria for a shaded fuel break:

- Less than 40% retention throughout the treated area to facilitate proper spacing between tree crowns (3-6 crown widths apart)
- Retain live mature Douglas fir and live or dead deciduous, preferentially remove immature Douglas fir to meet thinning standards
- Variation in tree spacing to facilitate diversity and accommodate burn piles. Cluster thinning to protect habitat trees, limit windthrow and enhance diversity – 10-15 clusters of 8-15 trees per hectare
- Unmerchantable stems will be cut and piled to facilitate burning
- Large diameter coarse woody debris lying flush with the forest floor to facilitate decay and slow drying will be retained to protect wildlife habitat and enhance biodiversity
- All streams and wet areas will be buffered and protected to prevent drying or temperature change