

Midway Trails Project

Fuel Mitigation and Fire Risk Reduction



Example of Fire-Proofing on Osoyoos Indian Band permit (managed by Vaagen Fibre Canada)



A mix-severity fire exhibiting what is known as "candling". This process occurs when a single tree becomes engulfed in flames from the ground and into the canopy.

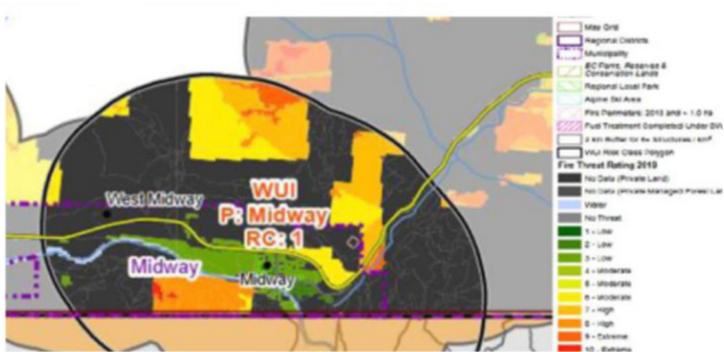
Fuel Removal Project

West Boundary Community Forest is an area-based tenure composed of 21 different parcels spread throughout the West Boundary region. This working forest balances the objectives of timber harvesting, forest health, recreation, wildlife habitat improvement, and fire risk reduction (to name a few). Dealing with forest health issues, visuals, challenging terrain, and multiple values on the landscape—WBCF works to improve all areas in our tenure and manage the forest at a higher level than present industry practices and stewardship across the land base.

The risk of wildfire to an interface *zone* is measured by the *likelihood* of a fire occurring combined with the *consequence* of a fire on our local values. The Province has assigned a risk class between 1 and 5 to municipalities across BC, with 1 being the most at risk and 5 being the least. The parcel south of the Village of Midway has been identified as high to extreme risk of wildfire.

The purpose of this project is to remove blowdown and excess fuels on the forest floor, to harvest areas of fir beetle attack, to create a firebreak on the south boundary (adjacent to the US border), and thin areas that contain an abundance of ladder fuels. These objectives were presented to the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC), which funded over \$100,000 in support of this project.

The proposed plan to remove excess fuels from the site and develop a firebreak and fire suppression access to protect the Village of Midway is regarded by FESBC as a suitable and effective way to mitigate the risk of wildfire in the Midway area and protect this valuable recreational resource. In addition, improving the trails through increased signage and removal of danger trees enhances the recreational experience of local users and visitors.



Wildlife Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Risk Assessment by the Province of BC.



Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia



Fuel Management Techniques

Fuel management practices will include: surface fuel removal (blowdown, fuels buildup) hauled to chip yard and ground on site; thinning of competing small diameter trees from below to reduce the intensity of potential wildfire; pruning to remove ladder fuels; removal of hazard trees; and creation of firebreaks and access points to improve suppression efforts.



Midway Trails Project

Operational Plan

Our goal is to complete the fibre removal portion during the winter while on a snowpack. Site and harvest plans are being developed and will be made available on our website before the project begins. Some final rehabilitation will be planned for the late Spring to ensure that the landscape is left in excellent condition. Grass seeding will be done in disturbed areas and proper drainage established in all wet areas. An old logging road will be used to haul fibre out of the treatment area and no established biking trails will be impacted. If a hiking trail needs to be crossed it will be properly returned to a useable state.

Fuel Mitigation Treatment Area

