

Kaslo and District Community Forest Society

Site Visit with BCCFA Recipient
BCCFA Crown Land Wildfire Risk
Reduction Program

Report date: August 11, 2023
Site visit: October 18, 2022



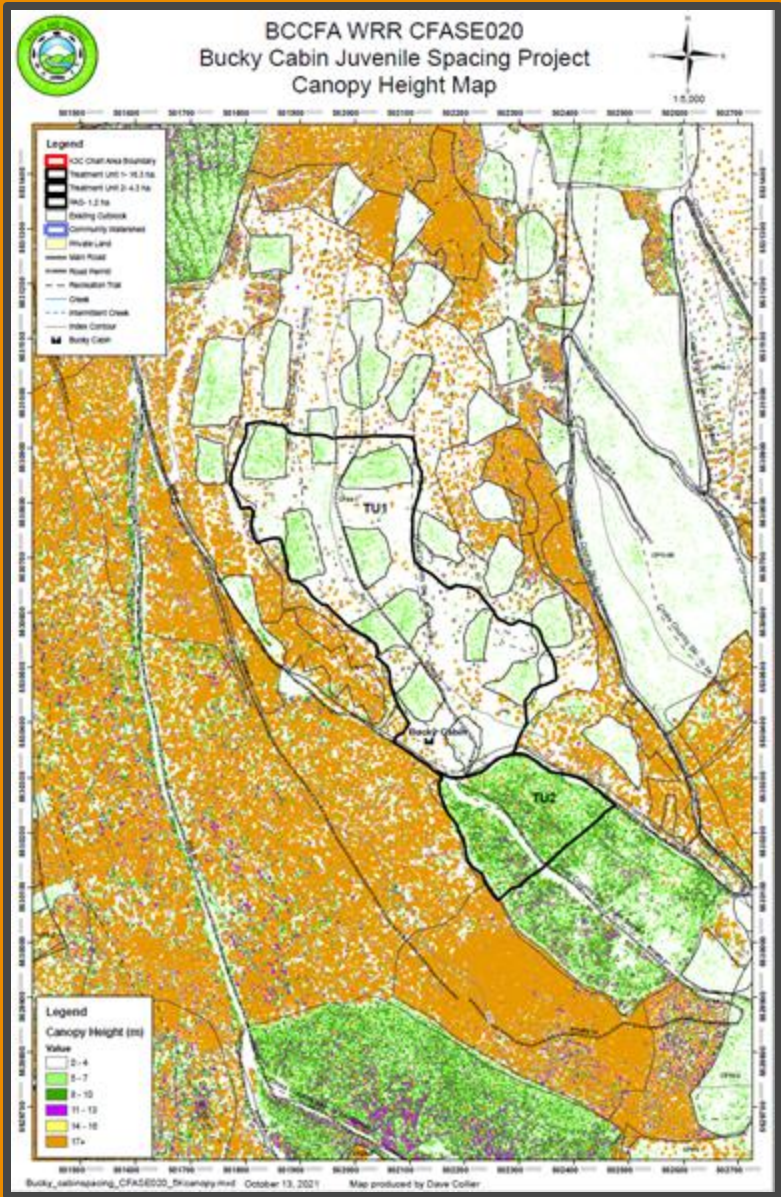
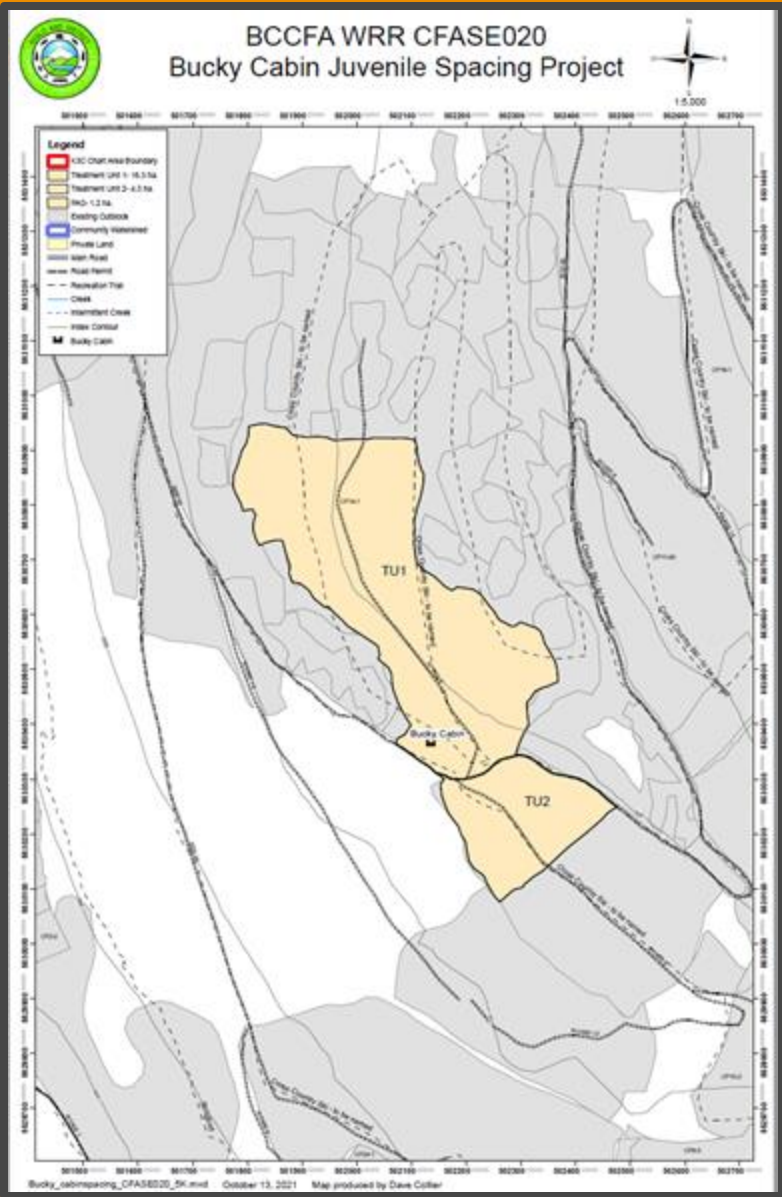
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Key information

Recipient	Kaslo and District Community Forest Society
Main contact	Jeff Reyden, Manager, Kaslo and District Community Forest Society
Responsible WPO	Mike Morrow
District manager	Tara DeCourcy
Site visit date	October 18, 2022
Site location	Mt Buchanan Zone/Kaslo Interpretive Forest Recreation Area - Bucky Cabin
In attendance	Jeff Reyden (KDCFS), Andrew Flockhart (BCWS), Nicole Unrau (BCWS), Jennifer Gunter (BCCFA), Colin Campbell (PwC), Nino Ramadani (PwC)
Investment schedule	<u>SO0000015</u>
Project plan	<u>TX0000024</u> (WRR Lost Ledge Bench / Lardeau)
Authorizations	KDCFS License Number K3C
Estimated total person days	TX0000003 (463 person days)
Comments	This project is located in the Mt Buchanan Zone/ Kaslo Interpretive Forest Recreation Area surround the Bucky cabin. This is a heavily trafficked area by recreational users of all types. The area surrounding the cabin is an immature plantation which suffered from a severe gall rust infestation and is highly susceptible to wildfire. BCCFA CLWRR funding was utilized to hand treat this area through fine/medium surface fuel removed, thinning, and pruning. Debris was piled and burned.

Field maps



Our observations related to the implementation of the project

Higher level planning



HLP for unit treatment units included:

- Unit is located within Mule Deer Winter Range GAR Order area (Moderate and Low Stand Structure Habitat Classes)
- Cross Country Ski Trails go through both treatment units
- Prescription consistent with KDCFS FSP, Kootenay Boundary HLP and BCWS FMP Guidelines
- FN consultation sent out and completed prior to treatment commencement
- Prescription was shared with BCWS and support was provided
- Stakeholder and community engagement occurred
- Nature of treatment (lower intensity hand treatment) posed no visibility concerns from town

Fuel management prescription



FMP for both units completed by KDCFS Specs included:

- 16.3ha in TU1 and 4.3ha in TU 2. Total net area 20.6ha.
- TU 1: 20 year old plantation with high component of dense Lodgepole pine that is infected with gall rust
- TU 2: 30 year old plantation with a high component of dense Lodgepole pine that is infected with gall rust
- Surface fuel loading: TU1 - Pre-treatment 2.1kg/m² (<7.0cm) to 1.7kg/m² (>7cm); Post treatment 0.5kg/m² and 1.5kg/m² respectively.
- Surface fuel loading: TU2 - Pre-treatment 2.1kg/m² (<7.0cm) to 1.9kg/m² (>7cm); Post treatment 0.5kg/m² and 1.5kg/m² respectively.
- TU1 pre-treatment CSI 56, post-treatment is 351. Pre-treatm WI is 14490; post-treatment is 3450.
- TU1 pre-treatment CSI 56, post-treatment is 448. Pre-treatm WI is 15180; post-treatment is 3450.

Unit costs



BCCFA provided funding for pre-treatment assessments, thinning, piling, burning, post treatment survey, project supervision and administration:

- Pre-treatment WR Assessments: Planning, Layout, Stakeholder consultation and prescription development = \$652/ha.
- Manual thinning, piling and burning cost all encompassing was \$7,767/ha
- Manual treatments completed by local contractor.
- Post-treatment assessment: fine fuel loading survey, forest cover survey; final report = \$120.15/ha
- Administration = \$925.12/ha
- Overall costs = \$9,464.27/ha

Opportunities and challenges



KDCFS has a landscape level plan and clear direction for WRR work in the Kaslo region. They have successfully implemented several WRR project in the surrounding area:

- Building capacity and skill sets for local contractors (mechanical and manual) to do this type of work has been valuable for the contractors and KDCFS
- Ability to utilize KDCFS tenure for a fast turn around.
- FMP was reviewed by BCWS well in advance of this project set up.
- Issues with burning windows in the 2022 season dragged this project out and impacted cost.
- Future monitoring for gall rust post treatment of these now treated plantation units.
- KDCFS is in final stages of FMP development for two additional manual projects near Kaslo (planned implementation Fall 2023)

Overall project impression

Implementing important wildfire risk reduction treatment adjacent to the community of Kaslo, as part of the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society BCCFA CLWRR Program

This project was unique in that the treatment addressed both the gall rust infestation and the wildfire risk caused by the highly dense dead juvenile pine as a result of the gall rust.

- The treatment cost at \$9,464.27/ha is in the range of what we see in the Kootenay region for hand treatments, especially on sloped terrain. Additional operational challenges including restricted burning windows due to unseasonably warm temperatures played a factor in the overall project timeline and cost.
- The area is frequented by recreational users in the summer and winter and thus a treatment is prudent. The ski club was consulted and the treatment served to provide less blowdown of dead and dying pine for all rec users in the area.
- The KDCFS has experience developing WRR prescriptions and administering both manual and mechanical treatments. They have build capacity and expertise in the community which has positioned them favorably for future funding opportunities.
- Recent fires in the region over the last few years highlight the need for additional WRR initiatives surrounding the community.



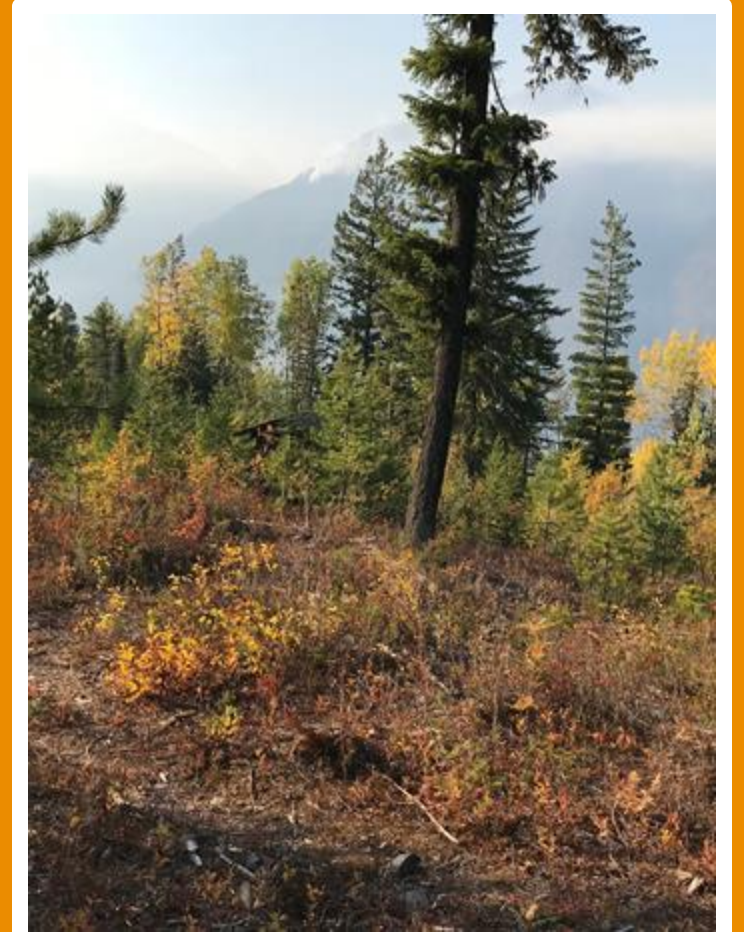
Field pictures



Active burn pile; note the content of dead juvenile pine from gall rust.



Pre-treatment photo showing dense juvenile Lodgepole pine



Post-treatment photo, right next to Bucky cabin

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