

Sea to Sky Natural Resource District Project—Cheakamus Canyon (SLRD) Wildfire Risk Reduction Unit

Dates: Fall 2022 to Spring 2023

Agency Responsible:

Ministry of Forests

An operational fuel treatment will be undertaken in various treatment units amounting to a 7.83 hectare area in Cheakamus Canyon up Paradise Valley Rd, through the community of Cheekye. This area is recognized as a priority wildfire risk reduction area by the Sea to Sky Natural Resource District. This fuel management treatment is intended to reduce the threat of wildfire to the community of Paradise Valley and the Paradise Valley Road transportation corridor.

The treatment includes a thinning-from-below approach (which consists of removing smaller diameter tree stems to favour the healthiest and most vigorous dominant and co-dominant trees) and removing excess ground fuels (smaller diameter tree branches on the ground) and ladder fuels by pruning tree branches of a certain height. The intent of this treatment is to reduce wildfire occurrence, severity and spread, prevent wildfire from spreading into the tops of trees, and permit better access for crews responding to wildfire in this area. The works include thinning (of smaller coniferous stems less than 17.5 cm diameter at breast height), pruning some tree branches and removing small dried up branches on the ground for wildfire prevention. This treatment is also intended to reduce the risk of potential ignitions from recreational users. Biodiversity and forest health considerations have been included in the treatments to maintain and enhance ecosystem values.

The end result of this treatment will be to create a shaded fuel break to help protect residents and their infrastructure along Paradise Valley Road and to prevent fire from moving towards the BC Hydro transmission line.

Workers will remove heavy undergrowth and prune lower branches on retained trees up to 3 metres and widen spacing between the trees where possible by removing smaller stemmed conifers smaller than 17.5 cm diameter at breast height. Remaining material will be placed in piles no larger than 2 meters tall and 3 meters wide, in locations that will not result in an increased fire risk. These piles will be burnt to reduce smoke impacts as per the Ministry of Environment *Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation* when conditions permit in the fall or spring.

For more information about this project contact:

Sara Barker, A/Stewardship Officer

at the Sea to Sky District office located at 101-42000 Loggers Lane in Squamish, BC.

Email: FLNRO.SeaToSkyDistrict@gov.bc.ca or Telephone: 604-898-2100

For more information visit: Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction



Ministry of

Forests

BE PREPARED: REDUCE THE RISK OF WILDFIRE

Whether you are a homeowner, an active member of your community, or participate in local government, there are things you can do today to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire in your area. The FireSmart program is designed to help reduce the risk of wildfire near your home and neighbourhood — providing a better opportunity for firefighters to defend your home in an emergency wildfire situation.

Visit www.FireSmartBC.ca to:

- 1. Take the free online, **FireSmart 101 course.**
- 2. Assess your risk from wildfire using the **FireSmart Home Ignition Zone Assessment** and the **Wildfire Exposure Assessment**.
- 3. Download the FireSmart Homeowners Manual.
- 4. Learn about the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP)
- 5. Download educational resources.
- 6. Sign up for the **FireSmart BC newsletter.**

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Make your home more resilient to wildfires is by applying the following FireSmart principles:

NON-COMBUSTIBLE ZONE: The non-combustible surface should extend around the entire home and any attachments, such as decks.

ZONE 1: This should be a fire-resistant zone. Eliminate debris from areas where embers and firebrands are likely to collect; on the roof, on and below decks or stairs, at the base of exterior walls, in gutters and vents, in woodpiles.

ZONE 2: Thin and prune evergreen trees to reduce hazard in this area. Regularly clean up accumulations of fallen branches, dry grass and needles from on the ground to eliminate potential surface fuels.

ZONE 3: Look for opportunities to create a fire break by creating space between trees and other potentially flammable vegetation. Thinning and pruning is effective here as well. These actions will help reduce the intensity of a wildfire.



YOUR BEST PROTECTION IS **PREVENTION** AND YOUR BEST TOOL IS THE **FIRESMART** PROGRAM.





BC Wildfire Service

