

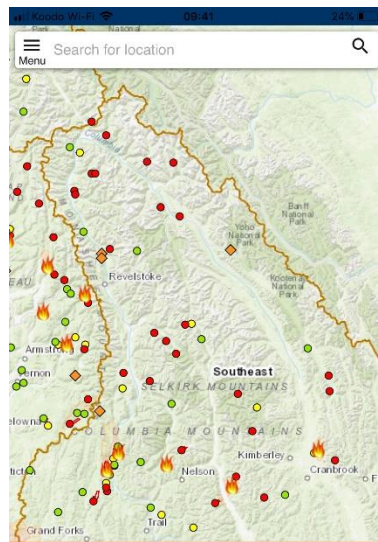


# Management Team Report June-July 2021

## WOODLANDS

### Wildfire Alert

BCWS Information Bulletin July 17, 2021: The Southeast Fire Centre (SEFC) is experiencing unprecedented hot and dry conditions challenging fire suppression efforts. Below-average spring precipitation and above seasonal temperatures accelerated the drying of forest fuels at a rate not previously observed, making them highly susceptible to ignition. British Columbia continues to experience unusual weather patterns for this time of year, including the Southeast Fire Centre. These conditions are currently challenging available firefighting resources within British Columbia, as the rest of Canada and many areas in the United States are facing similar challenging conditions. This means that some of the provinces and countries that would normally help out during B.C.'s fire season are currently busy fighting their own wildfires and are unable to assist as much as they could under different circumstances. There have been 241 fire starts in the Southeast Fire Centre so far in the 2021 fire season, with 65 currently active. This is above the five year average of 133 fire starts for this time of year. Note that this includes the 2017 and 2018 catastrophic wildfire years. The BC Wildfire Service is responding to wildfires on a priority basis within the Southeast Fire Centre. The top priority is always human life and safety. The second priority is property. The third priority is the protection of areas with high environmental values including community watersheds and species at risk. The fourth priority is resource values.



We expect that extreme weather conditions will impact our 2021 planned operations considerably. With increased demand on licensees to monitor interface and resource values and support BCWS on crown land we have focused on assembling fire equipment and crew capability towards wildfire first response. We have several water units organized and are adding radio communication devices. Several neighbouring Community Forests have already been impacted by fire, such as NACFOR and SIFCO, who is currently fighting an 800ha blaze in its tenure.

### Harvesting

#### CP 42 Milford

Harvest complete. The last loads are moved off the landings and blocks are rough piled.

#### CP43 Branch 7

CP43 information here: <https://kaslocommunityforest.org/kalso-bjerkness-fletcher/>

Harvest complete, but some of the blocks are still waiting for mechanical clean-up. Timber Ridge was awarded this contract and will return to Branch 7 in late fall, when burning restrictions are lifted.



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CP

## 44 Nashton

Active. CP44 information: <https://kaslocommunityforest.org/keen-creek/>



Timber Ridge has built the spur to Blk 1 and was nearing the second switchback just as fire danger ratings demanded operations shut-down. Long-term forecast continues in the mid 30 C with no rain in sight. Water sources that were present during our 2019 Landscape Level Wildfire Plan data reconnaissance in then mid/end August have dried up several weeks ago. We are just now entering regular wildfire season. We are focused on hauling our log decks out of the bush and to the mills for safety. Logging equipment will leave the bush as well, until operations can re-start. Timber Ridge will complete culvert installation along the spur if possible. We are communicating with both, RDCK and VOK about access sharing protocols.

## CP 48 Cooper Face

CP 48 information here:

<https://kaslocommunityforest.org/cooper-davis/>

We have provided Lance Constantine with wood supply from Cooper Face. This works well for all of us since he has his mill up and running in Cooper Creek. It will give him some time to get a feel for the local market.

Road construction into the block is nearing completion with only a few culverts left to install. Harvesting was anticipated to start the first week of August but will be delayed due to fire season.



## CP 51 Keen Creek



Some of the timber damaged by hemlock looper as we noticed during our fall 2020 overview flight in Keen Creek did not recover. We found an estimated 45ha of killed timber between 4km and 6km along the Keen Mainline. We invited Marnie Duthy-Holt, FLNRORD Forest Entomologist for a visit and have spent the better part of a day learning about this moth. Block layout is complete and we are





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applying for the cutting permit and Timber Ridge will commence harvesting when conditions allow.

## Lost Ledge Road

We are hopeful that we can move forward with the opening of the access to the Lost Ledge North bench despite fire restrictions. The bench contains important timber resources to bridge the mid-term timber gap and access would assist us greatly in fire fighting.

## Silviculture

The heat wave is causing much stress on our seedlings. Herbaceous brushing is on hold. Shade versus moisture competition is a double-edged sword for regeneration. Brush saws are classified a high-risk tool during fire season and operation is currently not advised.

## Dr. Lori Daniels UBC Research Team



## **Fuel Mitigation Treatment Efficacy Research**

Dr. Lori Daniels (Tree Ring Lab) and her research team are collaborating with community forests around BC to assess the efficacy of treatments to reduce wildfire risk and hazards. Their research approach is to measure and compare fuels treated and untreated areas and use stand-level models to assess probability of fire and potential fire effects. Ideally, they can collect data before and after treatments, as well as nearby forests that are not being treated. Our invitation to Dr. Daniel's crews was accepted and they spent the week of July 12 to 16 establishing research plots in both, the Kaslo-Shutty corridor and the Schroeder wildfire risk reduction project.

## Recreation

We have corresponded with the KORTS insurer. They are now looking back into our request to 'add the KDCFS addl. Insured to KORTS insurance'. Further discussions with a different insurer raised further questions and suggestions that input from a lawyer should be sought to explore if an agreement of shared collaboration potentially could make the KDCFS more vulnerable if legal action against KORTS was sought. Further investigation into this issue was deferred to allow for wildfire priorities.

## INTERNAL

### BCCFA responds

Susan Mulkey has responded to the director's request from June 23 board meeting that the BCCFA promote tabular rates for Community Forests:

"the issue of tab rates has long been the priority for the BCCFA. We will be engaging with MoF on their expressed interest to "harmonize rates" with the FNWL, WL and CFAs. We are also involved in some data collection to assist in building our case for keeping the tab rates or better!"

## Management Team Recommendations

1. that decisions revolving around the KORTS MOU are postponed until fire weather subsides and further information can be sourced
2. that the directors assemble a Charity Firewood CTE to identify 3 charities to receive a truck load of firewood