



News Release

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For Immediate Release

“Fuel Mitigation Plans Underway in District Woodlot and Community Forest”

For Immediate Release

May 8, 2018 – The District of 100 Mile House and the 100 Mile Development Corporation are actively developing plans for fuel mitigation and Douglas Fir bark beetle management in Woodlot #577 and the 100 Mile Community Forest.

Approval letters from the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. have been received for funding to initiate fire mitigation action planning in Woodlot #577 and 100 Mile Community Forest.

The desired outcomes for the projects are to create Fuel Breaks on areas in the Woodlot and on the Community Forest. The proposed Interface Fuel breaks will give better fire mitigation and increased fire protection for the 100 Mile House community, the Community Forest, Woodlot tenure and local cell tower infrastructure. The treatments will reduce ladder fuels (removal of small trees), reduce the chance of crown fire initiation (pruning of remaining trees to approximately 2 m from the ground), and reduce the amount of heat in the crown if a fire starts (open up stand crown spacing by thinning of mature trees and removal of smaller mature trees). The treatments will be located along private lot boundaries, access points to the tenures and along power lines associated with the cell towers.

The District and the Development Corp are awaiting the Recipient Agreement to be signed prior to commencing work. On the ground treatments are anticipated to start as early as late June.

Community Forest Managers have also submitted paperwork for fuel treatment blocks along Horse Lake Ridge. Information copies can be viewed at the District of 100 Mile House office. Linear feature blocks are planned extending from behind St. Jude’s Catholic Church to Seniors Road, and from Seniors Road around to the top of the ridge and over to the cell towers.

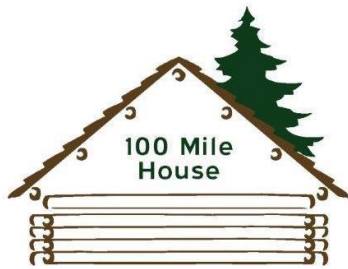
As well, the District and the Development Corp are waiting for approval of blanket salvage permits to start the 2018 Douglas Fir Trap Tree Program, which will take place in 3 distinct areas:

- Woodlot #577 – on the hill below the cell towers at 99 Mile
- Base of Horse Lake Ridge – behind the Horse Lake Christian Fellowship Church
- Cell tower site – at the top of the old ski hill in town

Beetle repellants have been placed along the face of Horse Lake Ridge. These are used in conjunction with the Trap Tree Program to drive beetles out of non-operable areas and attract them into the Trap Tree Program area.

For further information:

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District Woodlot #577 and the 100 Mile Community Forest have entered into an agreement with the BC Wildfire Service to use the identified sites for training fire suppression crews to fall trees.

The District and the Development Corp are actively engaging with the BC Wildfire Service, offering opportunities for practical training, and implementing fuel mitigation actions in areas identified as high priority.

Other fuel management activities planned for the 2018 season include logging small pine blocks along Hwy 24, primarily between the power line and Inman Road. Six small blocks are proposed in that area. Approvals are pending. In addition, blocks of blowdown at east end of the Community Forest area, between Interlakes and Doman Road are also planned. The blowdown event occurred in May 2017.

Finally, the District and the Development Corp are working closely with the Canim Lake Band Natural Resource Department, because fuel management challenges in the Community Forest are very similar to those found in Canim Lake Band's First Nations Woodlands Licence.

While approvals are still pending on many of these projects, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is working diligently to get approvals in place to enable our community to move forward on fuel management objectives.

For further information:

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