

Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society

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



Report date: November 18, 2025
Site visit: October 16, 2025

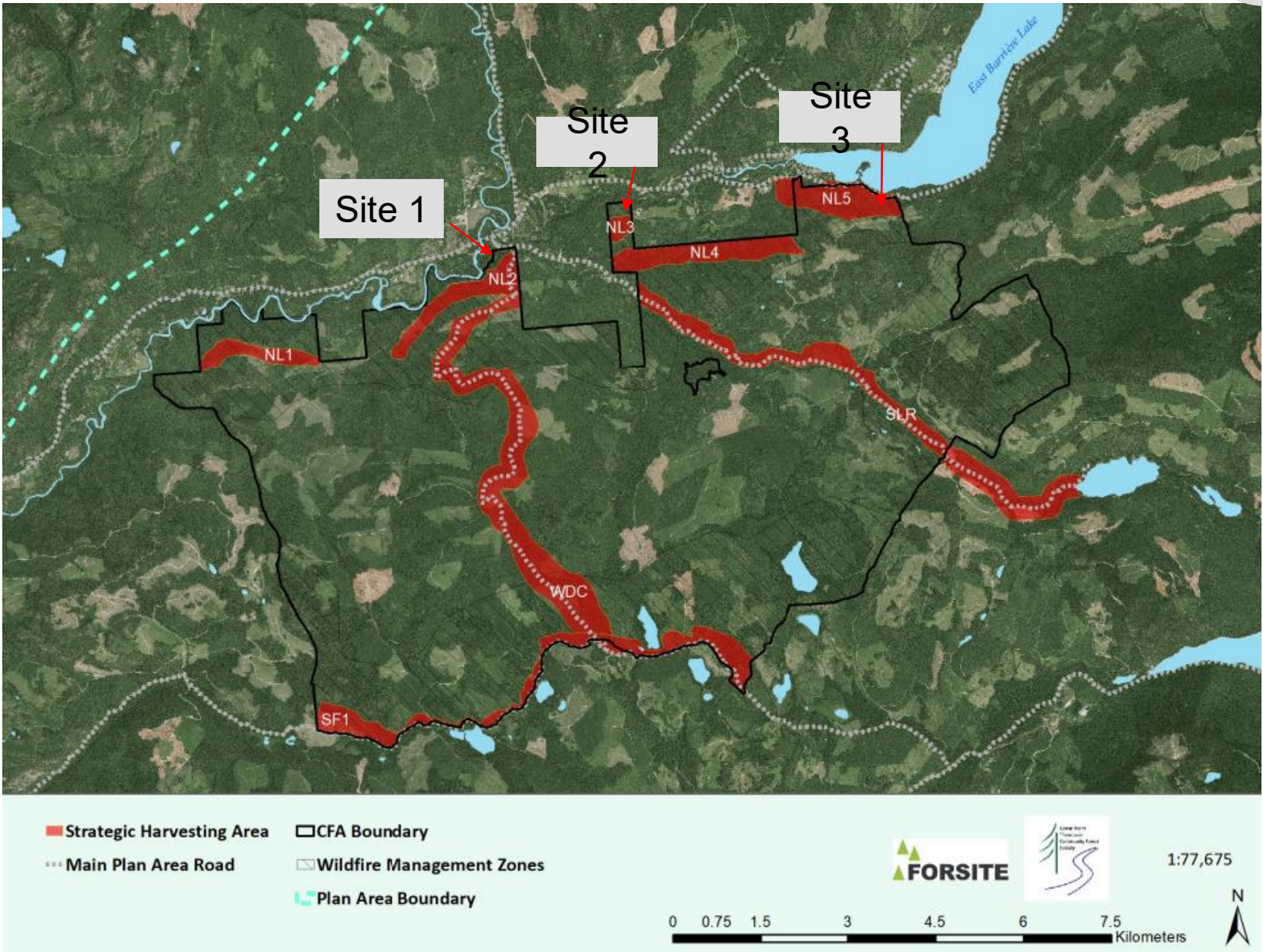
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Key information

Recipient	Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society
Main contact	Mike Francis, Manager, Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society
Responsible FCM	Justin Waito, Kamloops Fire Centre
District manager	Edi Torrans, DKA
Site visit date	October 16, 2025
Site location	Barriere, BC
In attendance	Mike Francis (LNTCFS), Harley Wright (LNTCFS), Nia Misiak (LNTCFS), Dan Winiski (resident), Chris McGourlick (FESBC), Carly Dow (BCCFA), Jennifer Gunter (BCCFA), Erik Leslie (BCCFA), Simon Craig (BCCFA), Jonathan Fane (PwC)
Investment schedule	KA0000008
Project plan	RX0000004 - Barriere
Authorizations	Timber Mark CFA-K1Z, Cutting Permit 10 (mechanical harvest), Section 52 (hand treatment)
Estimated total person days	Total of 230 person days for prescriptions (RX0000004)
Comments	The project developed prescriptions to enhance wildfire resiliency of the Lower North Thompson Community Forest (LNTCF) while reducing threats to values at risk in the surrounding area. This involves reducing fire occurrence, severity, and spread within the treatment unit, regenerating the stand with fire-resistant and ecologically suited species, and protecting Community Forest timber from catastrophic loss due to wildfire.

Field map



Our observations related to the implementation of the project



Higher level planning

HLP for Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society (LNTCFS) Wildfire Risk Reduction Project included:

- LNTCFS Wildfire Risk Management Plan (March 2020)
- LNTCFS 2014 Strategic Plan
- LNTCFS 2015 Management Plan
- LNTCFS Forest Stewardship Plan (2021-2026)

Land or tenure holders:

- Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society - K1Z

Other stakeholders include the residents of East Barriere Lake who will benefit from the treatment of this egress route (NL5).



Fuel management prescription

Primary objectives of the prescribed fuels management treatment activities:

- Prescriptions completed by Forsite Consultants Ltd. summer of 2021.
- Reduce fire occurrence, severity, and spread within NL1 – NL5
- Protect Community Forest timber from catastrophic loss due to wildfire.
- Regenerate stand with species that are fire resistant and ecologically suited.
- Prescriptions were reviewed and approved by BCWS.

Specifications included:

- 198.1ha within 5 treatment areas (NL1,2,3 4, and 5).
- Target crown closure 0-10% for clearcuts and 65-80% for retention.
- Target Surface Loading < 5-10t/ha for fine fuels and approximately 10-15t/ha for coarse fuels.



Prescription unit costs

The BCCFA Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Program provided funding for pre-treatment assessments, surveys, stakeholder engagement, prescription, and administration:

- Pre-treatment WR Assessments: Stakeholder engagement; final Fuel Management Prescription = \$580/ha.
- This cost is in line with other projects of this type.
- Total Labour for project: 229 person days.
- Overall costs = \$115,095.45



Opportunities and challenges

LNTCFS leveraged the BCCFA funded WR prescriptions to secure additional funding from the Forest Enhancement Society of BC to complete WR treatments.

- The BCCFA funded prescriptions were key in the LNTCFS application to FESBC and BCWS. FESBC awarded the LNTCFS and BCWS completed NL5 for a total of \$770,000 for WR treatments. (ROI = 670%).
- LNTCFS established a good working relationship with Forsite and were able to learn how to complete these types of prescriptions and possibly bring the work in-house.
- Large area of the CFA included in the prescriptions allowed for treatment flexibility (treating highest risk areas, best economic use of leveraged treatment funding).
- Concerns were raised regarding large number of piles (~4,000) in NL5 to burn. Further discussions concluded that the pile burning was being done successfully.

Overall project impression

Project Goal:



The project developed prescriptions to enhance wildfire resiliency of the Lower North Thompson Community Forest (LNTCF) while reducing threats to values at risk in the surrounding area. This involves reducing fire occurrence, severity, and spread within the treatment unit, regenerating the stand with fire-resistant and ecologically suited species, and protecting Community Forest timber from catastrophic loss due to wildfire

Project located along the south side of the Barriere River as well as the southwest end of East Barriere Lake.

- Excellent communication and consultation with stakeholders and members of the community.
- Prescriptions were detailed and provided clear direction for the implementation of the prescribed treatments..
- A variety of treatment methods were prescribed to ensure the correct treatment was implemented on a wide variety of sites. Treatments included clearcuts, partial harvests and spacing/pruning of young stands.
- LNTCFS staff closely monitored the treatment implementation and established a good working relationship with the treatment contractors.
- East Barriere Lake Forest Service Road is the only egress route out of the area (East Barriere Lake Community) therefore is a critical infrastructure for both evacuation and access for firefighting efforts.

Actions going forward:

- BCCFA may want to consider formal partnerships with other wildfire risk reduction funding programs (FESBC and BC Wildfire) to maximize treatment areas and overall return on investment of funding.
- Reducing prescription cost by increasing capacity of local forest professionals performing the work and completing the work in conjunction with regular harvesting/core business.

Field pictures



Fuel Management Prescription NL2 – TU2.

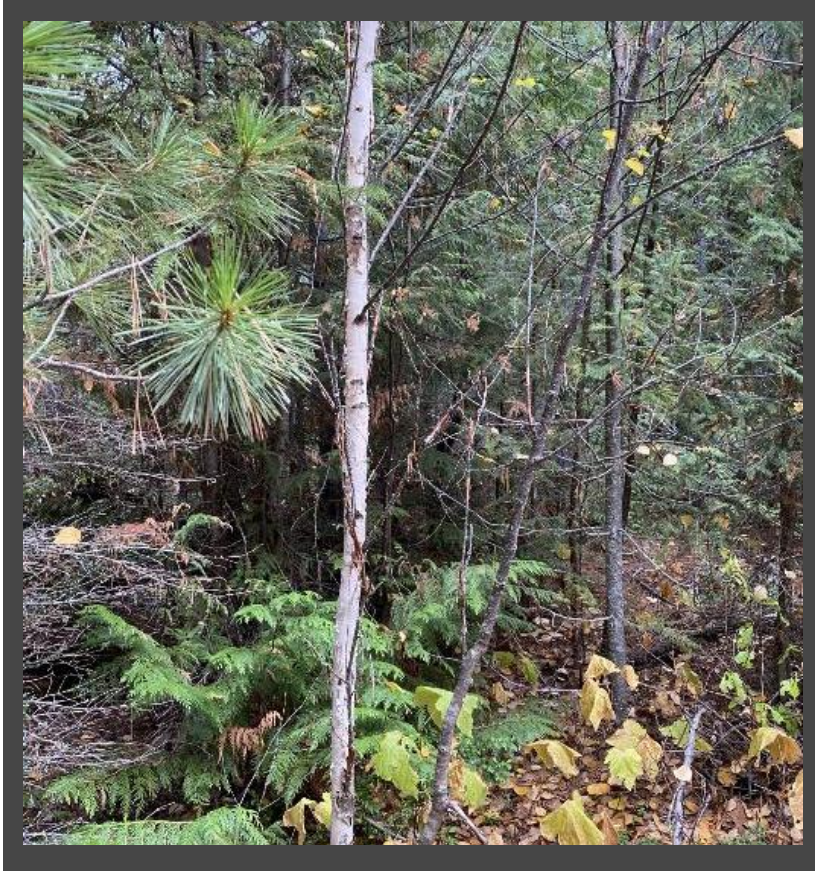
Adjacent stand to treated area. Significant amounts of dead and down. High amounts of ladder fuels.



Fuel Management Prescription NL2 – TU2.

Completed mechanical treatment. Piles have been burnt. No evidence of blowdown.

Field pictures



Fuel Management Prescription NL3 – TU1.

Adjacent stand. Extremely dense 25 year old stand.



Fuel Management Prescription NL3 – TU1.

Hand treatment completed on 25 year old stand. Burning of piles still required.

Field pictures



Fuel Management Prescription NL5 – North end.

Hand treatment ongoing. Steep ground prevented mechanized treatment. Burning of piles started however many still present in the stand.



Fuel Management Prescription NL5 – North end.

Hand treatment ongoing. Burning of piles started however many still present in the stand.

Field pictures



Fuel Management Prescription NL5 – East end of block.

Hand treatment ongoing. Significantly more deciduous in this section. Burning of piles still required.



Fuel Management Prescription NL5 – East end of block.

Hand treatment ongoing. Significantly more deciduous in this section. Burning of piles still required.



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