Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative

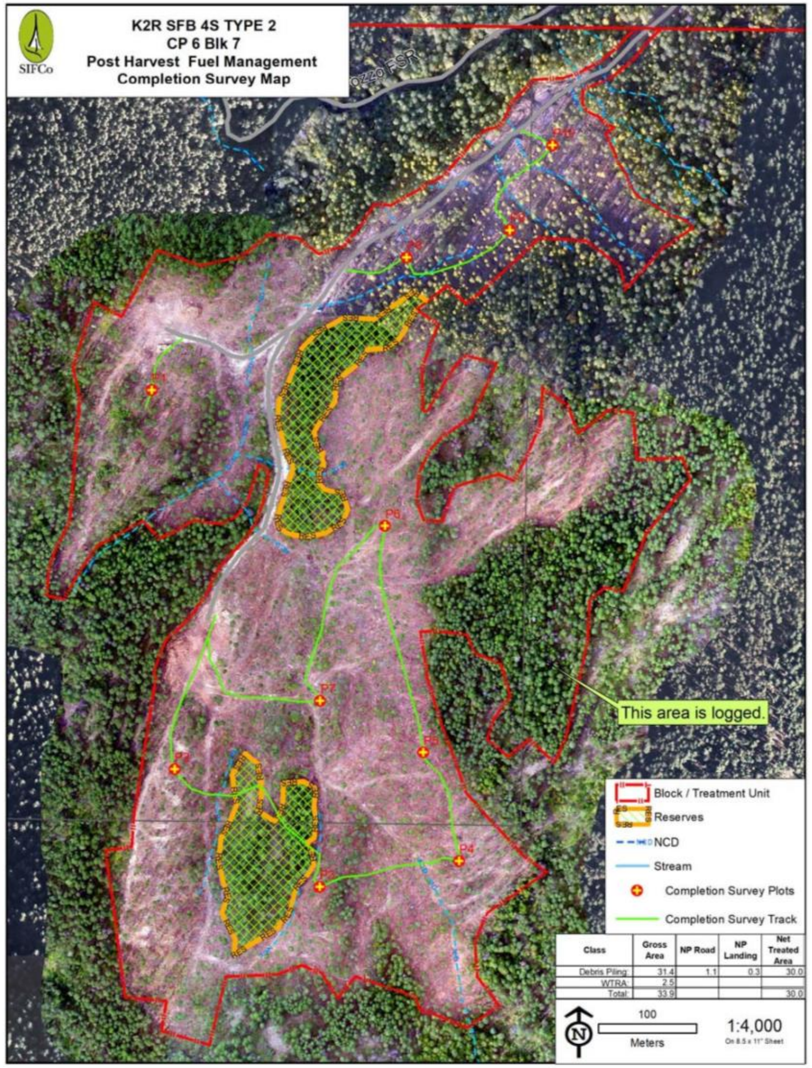
Site Visit with BCCFA Recipient
BCCFA Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Program

Report date: January 24, 2025
Site visit: October 10, 2024
Photos by Rachael Bone

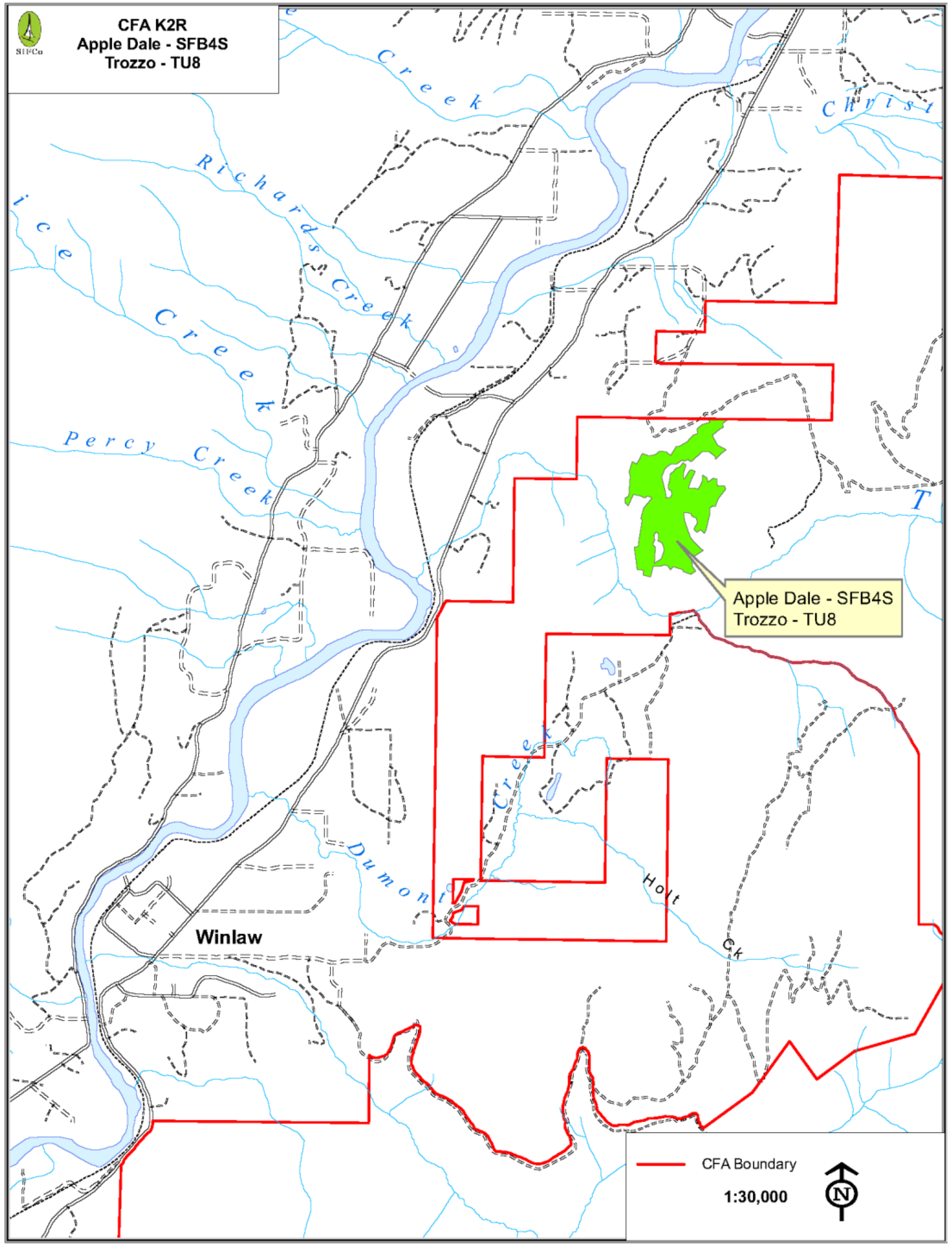
Key information

Recipient	Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCO)
Main contact	Stephan Martineau, General Manager, Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative
Responsible FC	Southeast Fire Centre
District manager	Charlene Strelaeff
Site visit date	October 10, 2024
Site location	Apple Dale - Trozzo FSR
In attendance	Nino Ramadani (PwC), Laura Wilimovsky (PwC), Jinhan Xie (PwC), Stephan Martineau (SIFCo), Carly Dow (BCCFA), Susan Mulkey (BCCFA), Erik Leslie (BCCFA), Fons Raedschelders (BCWS), Kailee Woodbeck (BCWS). Project was also visited by Nino Ramadani (PwC) in 2022.
Investment schedule	SO0000017
Project plan	TX0000041
Authorizations	Community Forest Agreement K2R; Cutting Permit 6 BLK 7
Estimated total person days	Total of 157 person days
Comments	The project is located at Appledale in the lower Trozzo Creek drainage, to the east of the Slocan River. All treatment units are within Community Forest Agreement K2R, held by SIFCo. The project targets at establishing a fire-resistant forest with reduced forest density and fuel load.

Field maps



Class	Gross Area	NP Road	NP Landing	Net Treated Area
Debris Piling:	31.4	1.1	0.3	30.0
WTRA:	2.5			
Total:	33.9			30.0



Our observations related to the implementation of the project

Higher level planning

HLP for Apple Dale - SFB4S - Trozzo – TU8 Fuel Management Project included:

- Strategic Fuel Management Plan

Forest License Holder:

- Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo)

The project is part of a larger Management Area that SIFCo calls its Landscape Level Strategic Fuel Management Plan.

The Plan provides guidance to create strategic fuel breaks based on major fire path locations, vegetation types, terrain, professional experiences, and land ownership.

It addresses forest management strategies with regards to climate change adaptation and ecosystem resiliency improvements. It suggests management interventions such as harvesting and thinning to reduce forest density and mitigate wildfire risks.

Primary objectives of the fuels management activities:

- Proactively modify forest density, structure, composition and functions to reduce wildfire negative impacts.
- Create fire breaks to interrupt fire movement paths.
- Prevent fires growing into landscape-scale fires, moving from crown forest land to private and municipal lands.

Specs included:

- Total 30 hectares of Type 2 post-harvest fuel treatment in CFA K2R CP6 BLK 7
- Retain min.10 logs/ha Coarse Woody Debris >5m length and >20cm diameter; and all CWD >40cm diameter
- Reduce fine surface fuels <7cm diameter to approx. 7.5 tonnes/ha
- Pruning to min. 2.5m or 1/3 of total height, whichever is less
- Coniferous <17.5cm DBH and >1.3m tall: thinned to a target density of 500-700 stems/ha
- Conifer regenerations <17.5cm DBH retained for structural diversity

BCCFA provided funding for Mechanical Piling, post-harvest clean up. This is a Type 2 post-harvest fuel treat that SIFCO utilizes for WRR treatments.

- Local contractor completed the work. Contracted labour cost for mechanical piling = $948.00/ha
- In house labour (manual pruning/piling/burning) = $1,800.58/ha
- Administration cost = $201.34/ha
- Overall cost = $2,950/ha

- The treated area was a part of a larger fuel management area, which connected with a prescribed burned and Type 1 treatment areas. Wildfire started during the implementation of this project, but the fire did not interact with the project area. There may be opportunities to assess the effectiveness of the fuel treatment, if wildfire burns into the treatment block in the future.
- The Wildfire Tour that occurred on Oct 10, 2024 highlights the requirement for WRR projects in the Slocan Valley. Several other treatment units interfaced with wildfires from the 2024 fire season.

Overall project impression

Project Goal: Implementing Type 2 post harvesting fuel treatments in Appledale to create an open forest with large fire-resistant trees and to mitigate wildfire risk to Slocan Community Forest and private lands.

This treatment supported the Slocan Integral Community Cooperative's objectives of their multi-year Landscape Level Strategic Fuel Management area.

- The total treatment cost at $2,850/ha which includes mechanical and manual labour is within the range for post-harvest treatments types such as this.
- SIFCO is a leader in this type of work. Their Landscape Level plan was informed by wildfire models, historic knowledge of wildfire activity in the area, and local expertise in managing the community forest.
- There is evidence that these Type 2 post-harvest treatments can be effective at preventing the spread/initiation of a wildfire from a lightning strike as was shown through the interactions of wildfires in the 2024 fire season.
- Yearly wildfire activity in the region highlights the need for additional WRR initiatives in the Slocan Valley.
- SIFCo's Landscape Level Approach to Wildfire Risk Reduction through the implementation of treatments such as this is an effective strategy to establish continuity in fuel breaks and treatments in the area.

Field pictures

Mechanical Piling with excavator

Aerial view of mechanical piling of post-harvest fuel load with excavator

Field pictures

Manual piling and burning

Field pictures

Pile burning

CWD at 30 pieces/ha. Typical levels of CWS throughout the unit.

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