



Public Notice:

The Creston Community Forest invites you to comment on proposed development: CFA K3D Cutting Permit 35 Block 7 as a part of our wildfire risk reduction program.

The Forest Operations Map (FOM) is available for a 30-day public review and comment online at: fom.nrs.gov.bc.ca/public/projects from between May 16 – June 15, 2024.

Maps can also be viewed and comments submitted in-person Monday to Thursday from 8:30 am – 4:30pm by appointment at the Creston Community Forest Office in the Visitors Centre: 121 Northwest Blvd, Creston and on our website www.crestoncommunityforest.com/projects.

Please submit comments in writing on the FOM website, via email to infoshare@crestoncf.com or mail to Box 551 Creston, BC, V0B 1G0.

If you have any questions, please call **250-402-0070**.

May 7, 2024

RE: Wildfire Risk Reduction Project on Mt Thompson

Dear Creston Valley Community:

Creston Community Forest (CCF) is proposing Cutting Permit (CP) 35 on Mt Thompson. The proposed area is part of CCF's ongoing effort to implement landscape level wildfire risk reduction treatments in the Creston Valley, concurrently addressing forest health issues. The proposed area consists of one block accessed by Mt. Thompson Forest Service Road. Please see the attached map depicting the specific locations of the proposed development.

For context, CCF is a not-for-profit organization that operates a small area-based tenure under Community Forest Agreement K3D. CCF has been in operation since 1997, guided by a ten-member Board of Directors. Our mission follows the ecosystem-based management concept focused on reducing wildfire risk, managing recreational sites, offering forestry education, and supporting local employment in the forest industry.

The objective of this project is to minimize the potential for large wildfires close to the community of Creston by:

- Increasing the distance between tree canopies to reduce the continuity of fuels to reduce the intensity and severity of possible crown wildfires;
- Reducing the amount of surface and ladder fuels to reduce likelihood of surface to crown fire initiation;
- Creating a landscape level fuel break between densely forested areas and the built environment;
- Reducing the risk of trees striking the powerline; and
- Improving access for emergency fire protection services.

A partial-cut harvest system will retain 40% of the current forest cover focusing on deciduous, veteran, and fire and drought adapted species. This aims to encourage a diversity of natural regeneration for ungulate browse, pollinators, pathogen resilience, and genetic and structural diversity. The goal is to leave a more resilient ecosystem which is vital as we continue to experience significantly hotter, drier, and longer summers, which will continue to increase the risk of wildfires.

A watershed assessment was completed in the past to assess the impact of harvesting on the hydrology of Sullivan Creek Community Watershed. Given the low area within the community watershed (2.2 hectares), as well as the level of mature tree retention (40% evenly distributed stems), no new roads or altering drainage patterns, and the forested areas located downslope of the project area, the development presents insignificant increases in risks to Sullivan Creek. To further mitigate potential impacts CCF commits to fully rehabilitating all new skid trails, retaining higher levels of stems on either side of creeks within the project area, and stopping work during heavy runoff events.

Best Regards,



Angela French, RFT
Planning and Development Supervisor

