

Fuel Management and Thinning/Spacing in the Cariboo-Chilcotin



B.A. Blackwell & Associates Ltd.



Background

1. Fuel Management

- Filmon Report after the 2003 wildfires
- Significant fire threat to lives and property in the interface throughout BC Interior
- UBCM funding for fuel management prescriptions, project supervision, some treatments





Background

2. Repressed Pine

- High area in the Chilcotin of very dense, repressed pine that can respond to thinning
- Treatment need located in region of good skills and high unemployment

Proposal

- WSCA initiated proposal development after last years conference.
- Awarded in May 2010
- Delivery by B.A. Blackwell & Associates from North Vancouver and Williams Lake offices



WSCA Program

- Originally \$1.010 million for fuel management through CAF – increased to \$1.530 million
- \$750K for thinning repressed pine and spacing Douglas-fir through JOP
- Includes WSCA training component with two courses (operating powersaws, driving resource roads), which workers have appreciated



Fuel Management Projects

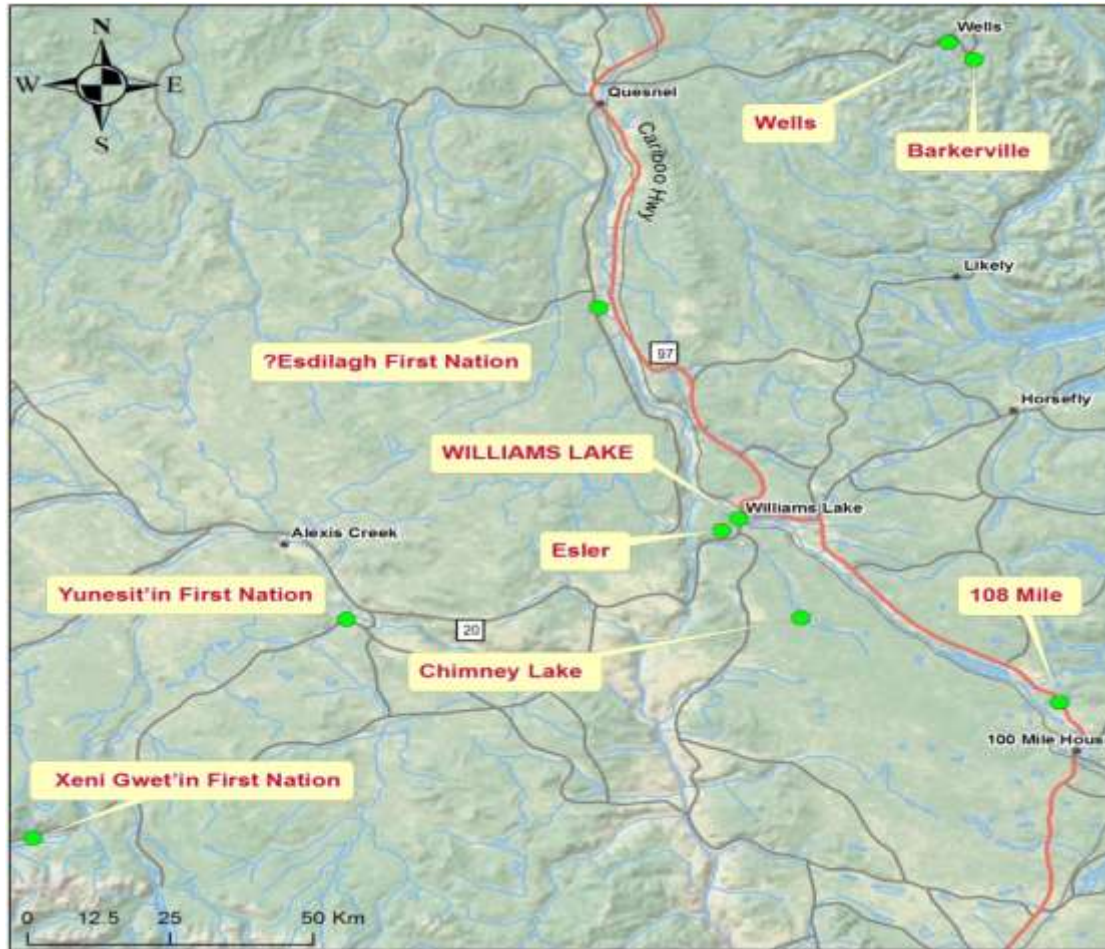
- 3 First Nations reserves (Alexandria, Stone, Xeni-Gwet'in) from FNESS priorities
- 4 communities (Wells, Williams Lake, Chimney Lake, 108 Mile) from interface fire committee recommendations and local priorities
- Competitive process to select contractors for community projects



Fuel Management Projects

- WSCA contractors involved
- Treatment costs/ha are relatively low for BC
- Expanded to increase fuel mgmt work and add new projects (rec sites, reg. district airports)
- ~ 221 ha will be treated by March 15

Fuel Management Projects



Fuel Management Projects



Feb 2011

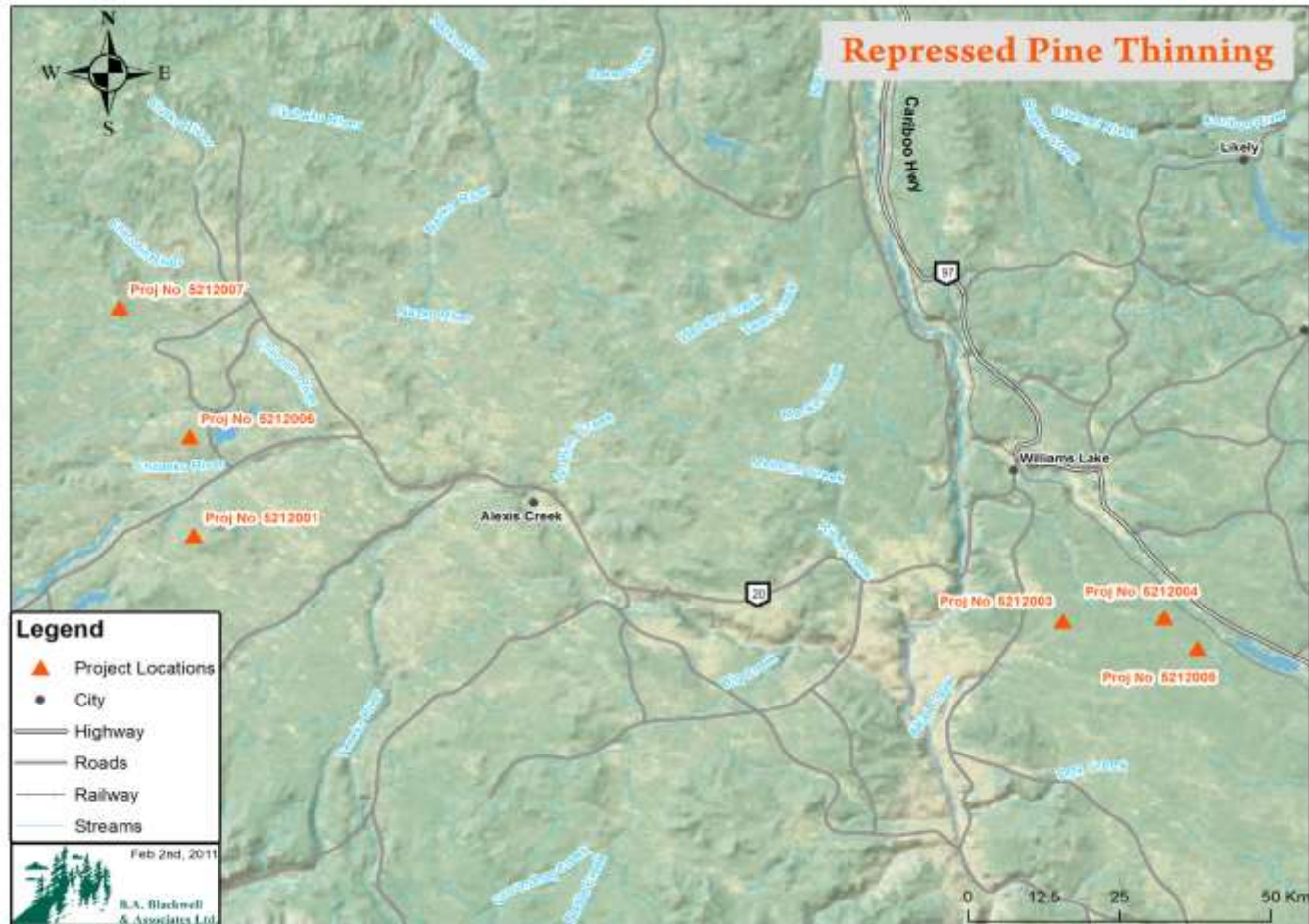
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Thinning/Spacing Projects

- 8 projects in Chilcotin and south of Williams Lake
- Douglas-fir stands ready for spacing were included for suitability and to employ local crews
- High First Nations involvement
- ~ 540 ha total

Thinning/Spacing Projects



Thinning/Spacing Projects





WSCA Contractor:

“... [the program has] really has provided excellent opportunity for a lot of local people. ... The whole crew has taken the job creation aspect of these projects very seriously and the mentorship and teamwork that has resulted is impressive. Our ability to provide training subsidies and PPE has empowered a lot of people, and we have at least one person on the crew who has had a total change of lifestyle as a result of the opportunities afforded him by this program, and the opportunity to work with the peer group that he is now working with. It has been great to see, and worth the effort.”

What's Next

- CAF and JOP funding will end March 2011
- Fuel management funding through UBCM has also been frozen and there is uncertainty about future funding
- The WSCA has demonstrated that is capable of successfully sponsoring these types of programs and this provides credibility for securing future funding as it becomes available.
- Credibility within the communities is also high both with FN and local government.

Key Participants



Western Economic
Diversification
Canada

Diversification de
l'économie de
l'Ouest Canada



Questions?

