Wildfire Risk Reduction

Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District

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Land and Resource Coordinator

DOS Land & Resource Team

Project Funding Sources

Forest Enhancement Society of BC

- BC Government funding of 250 projects for $235 million
  - Wildfire risk reduction
  - Reforestation
  - Forest rehabilitation
  - Wildlife habitat restoration
  - FireSmart program

Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR)

- BC Government funding of 25 million/year for 3 years
  - $15 million/year mechanical and manual treatments
  - $10 million/year prescribed burning treatments (includes mechanical and manual site treatments to setup a prescribed burn)
- BC Wildfire Service reviews all projects and sets provincial priorities based on level of risk to communities and high value assets.

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Project Goals

Protecting Human Life, Communities & Critical Infrastructure

The Safety of First Responders

- Providing safe working conditions for firefighters to increase their chance of success

Increasing Forest Resiliency

- Reducing fire severity to limit soil damage, increase forest survivability and minimize rehab needs
- Restoring the natural cycle of fire-maintained grassland and dry forest

Partnering with First Nations

- Working towards all projects partnering with First Nations. Incorporation of First Nations values and traditions in each treatment.

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Project Development

Wildfire Risk Reduction Projects with a focus on the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and strategically at the landscape level.

WUI – 2.7 km buffer of areas with a structure density of 25 or more.

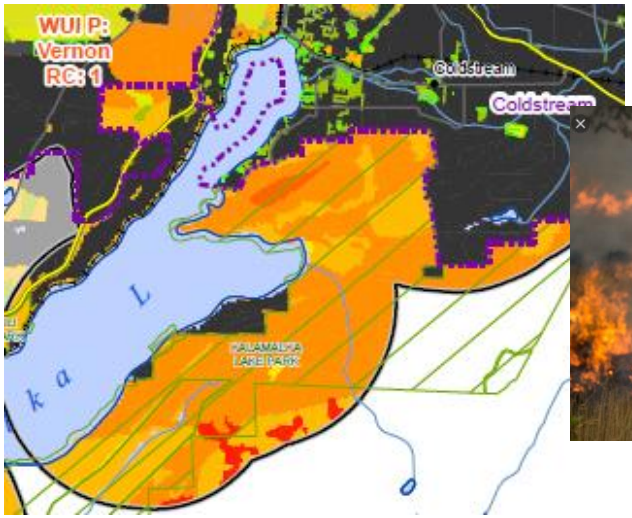

*Photo credit: Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

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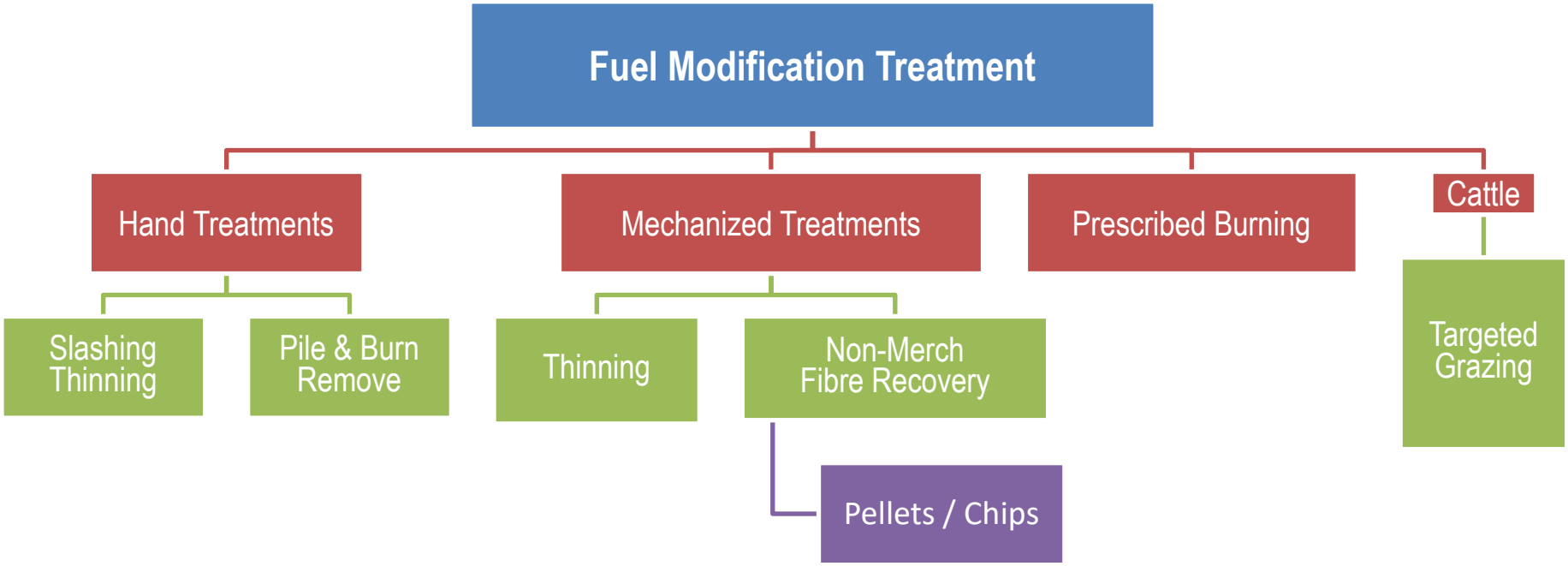
Treatment Methodology



Can often involve a combination of all of the above

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Treatment Methodology

Principle	Effect	Advantage	Concerns
Reduce Surface Fuels	Reduces potential flame length	Control Fires Easier & Safely	Surface disturbance less with prescribed fire than with other techniques
Increase Height to Live Crown	Requires longer flame length to initiate torching	Less Torching	Opens understory; may allow surface wind to increase
Decrease Crown Density	Makes tree-to-tree crown fire less probable	Reduces Crown Fire Potential	Surface wind may increase, and surface fuels may be drier
Keep Big Trees; Fire-Resistant Species	Less mortality for same fire intensity	Restoring Historic Structure	Less economical; may keep trees at risk of insect attack

Adapted from Julius Huhs – from Agee, 2002 and Hessburg and Agee, 2003

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Recreation as a Value

- Working with Recreation Officers and stakeholders
- Ensuring recreation experience and access is retained
- Do not open to motorize access

- Best Practices for Fuel Management Prescriptions and Implementation:
  - Fell CWD parallel to trails and slopes
  - Retain all deciduous for aid in screening
  - Trails not be modified
  - Signage and/or traffic control will be required to keep personnel out of active work areas
  - Keep Trail open when not an active work site

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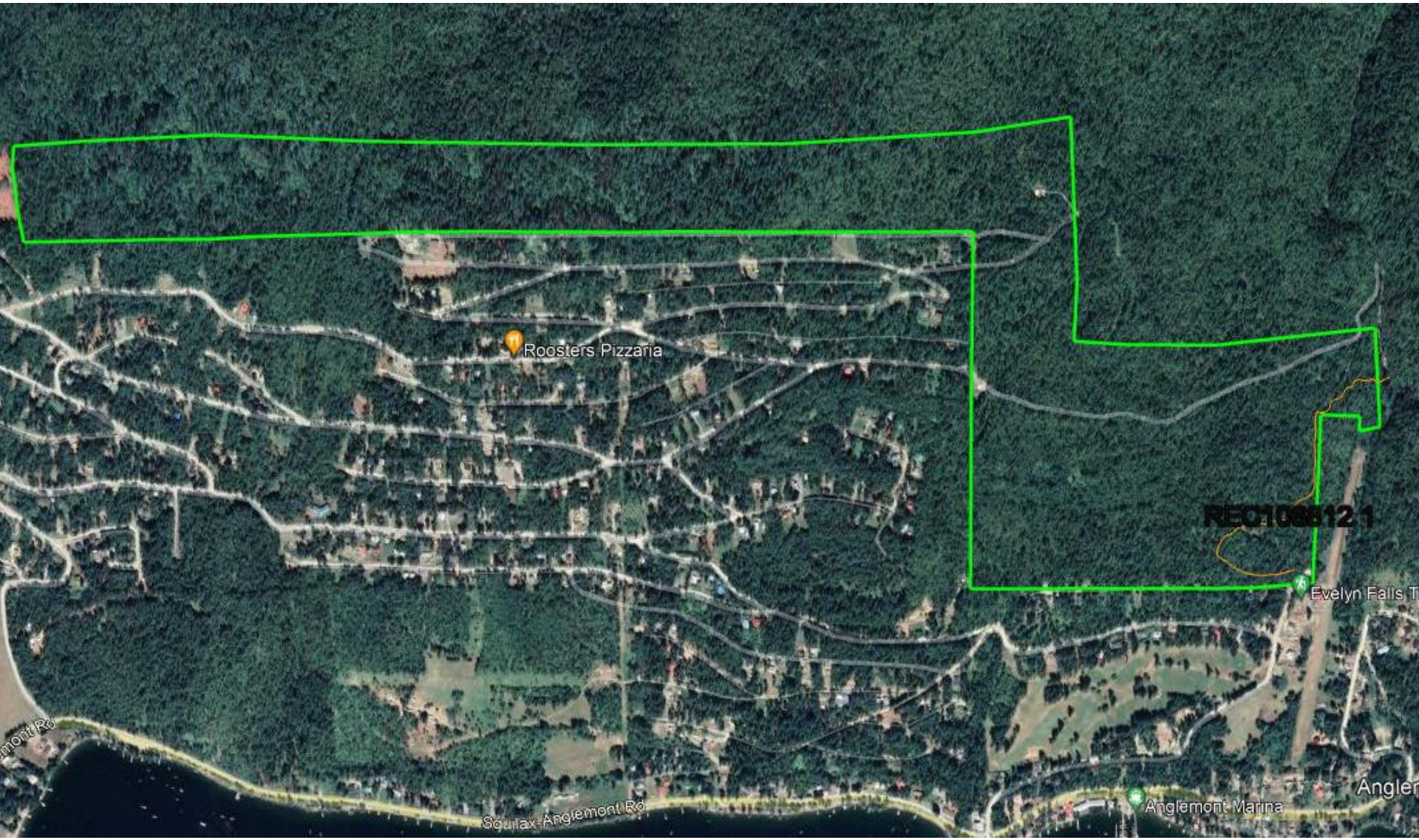
Anglemont Wildfire Risk Reduction Project



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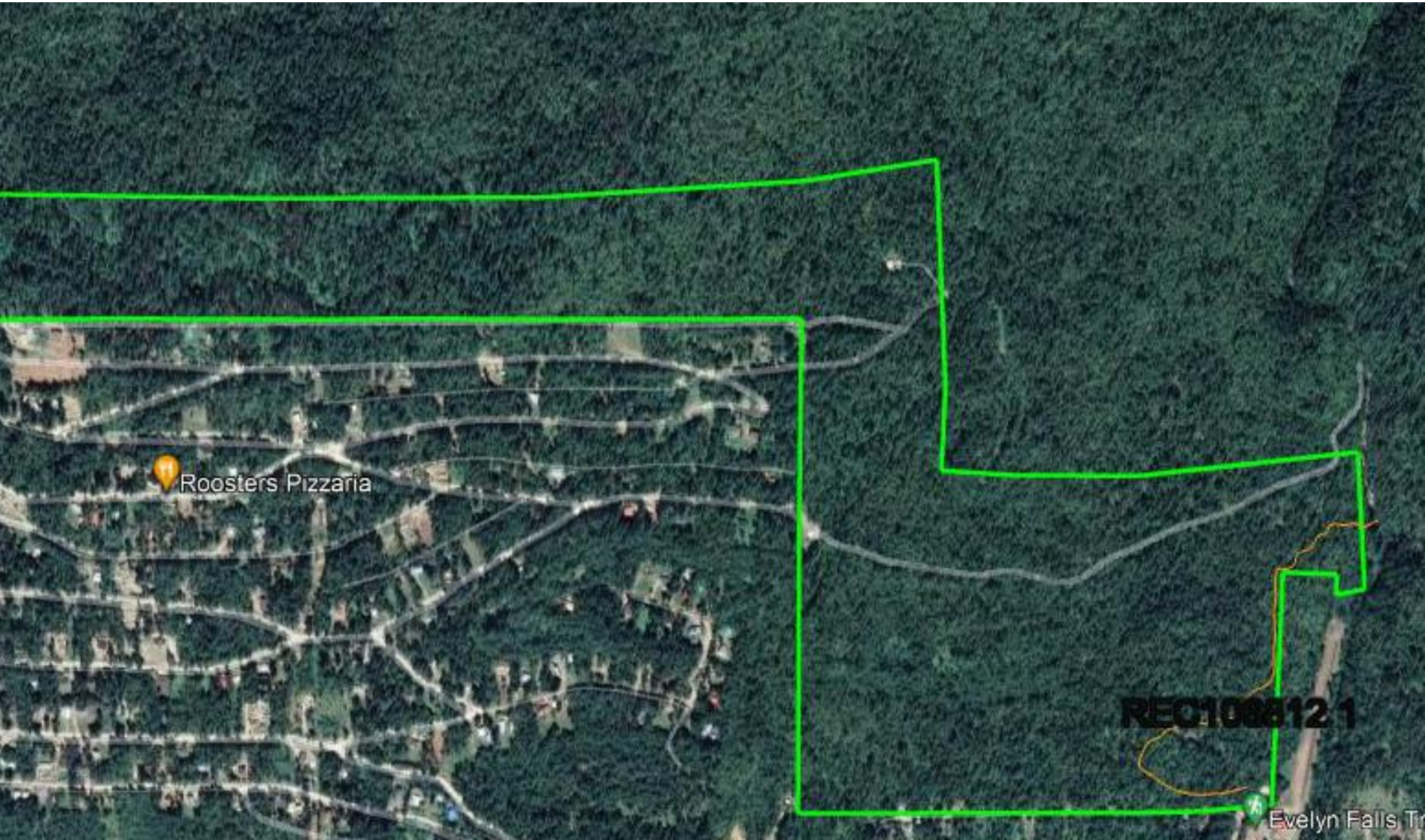
Anglemont Wildfire Risk Reduction Project



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Treatment Example

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Questions