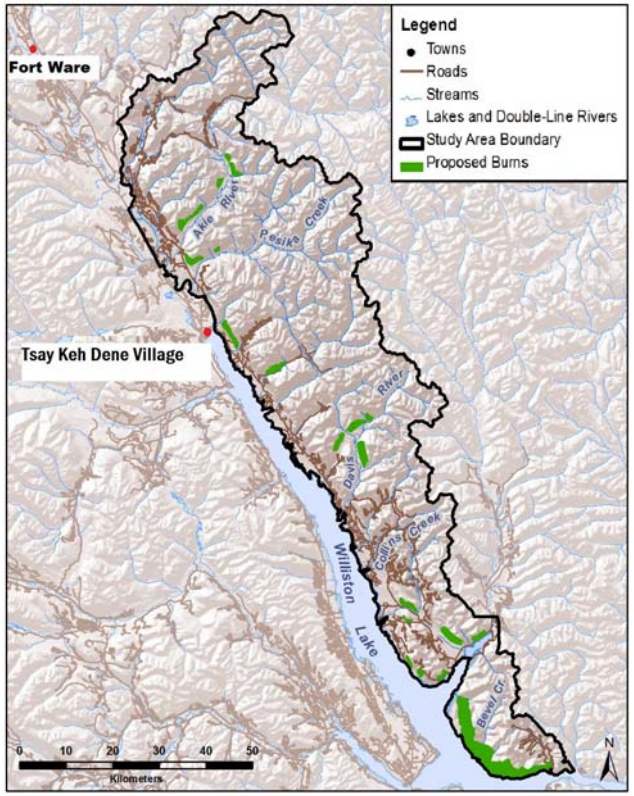
Project Area

Approximately 5,000 to 9,000 ha of forest will be burned within an area east of the Williston Reservoir in north-central British Columbia. The burn sites are predominantly aspen leading on steep, southern aspects. These conditions ensure that burning activities do not conflict commercial timber values. Prior to implementing a burn, aerial reconnaissance is completed to ensure all values have been considered and mitigations are in place to offset any potential negative impacts that burning may have.



Location of proposed prescribed burns in the Ospika area

Thank You!

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HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The FWCP in the Peace Region is a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., First nations and public stakeholders.

This project is a partnership between Finlay River Outfitters Ltd, Tsay Keh Dene Land and Resources Department and the Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC.

Finlay River Outfitters

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Prescribed Burning

Enhancing Habitat for Ungulates in the Williston Regional Area

Why Use Prescribed Burning?

Fire has always played a role in shaping the landscape in the Williston area of northern BC; either as a natural disturbance agent (wildfire) or as a management tool (prescribed burns). The use of prescribed burns to enhance wildlife habitat has been used for centuries, first by the First Nations, then by pioneers, and more recently, by wildlife managers.

Wildlife, such as moose, rely on early seral stages for food, and wildfire control has reduced the natural possibilities to

create this habitat. Moose habitat has also been reduced by the creation of the WAC Bennett Dam and Williston Lake. Timber harvesting has created early seral forests, but not in a manner that mimics fire in time or space.

Habitat enhancement through prescribed burning will compensate for these historic losses of early-seral habitats.

Project Activities

The prescribed burn project is much more than just burning. It also includes significant monitoring activities, both before and after burning, to help us understand the impact of burning on both vegetation and ungulate species. Response of vegetation (herbaceous, shrub and trees) and ungulate use (by counting pellet groups) are compared between burn plots and control plots. The information helps us learn how to implement prescribed burns in a cost-efficient and effective way.

Progress to Date

The first prescribed burn was implemented in the spring of 2014. The result was a patchy mosaic of burned and un-burned forest.

By the fall of 2014, a healthy blanket of aspen and grass regeneration had already developed.

Full post-burn monitoring is scheduled for the summer of 2015 to help us understand the benefits these changes may have had on ungulate species.