

October 21, 2005

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RE: Environmental Screening of the Forest Development Plan for Quill Creek Bench

On October 14, 2005, the Fuel Abatement Technical Working Group (FATWG) reviewed the above noted project and we offer the following.

- 1) As a general comment, we are pleased to support the plan. We are also pleased with this plan being linked to current landscape level planning, and the Environmental Assessment process.
- 2) With respect to Quill Creek Bench development area, the FATWG recognized a number of key items to consider for the project and management of the area, namely:

- a) The Quill Creek Bench development area is an important area from a fuel reduction / hazard abatement standpoint for the security of the Village of Haines Junction. The area has extensive beetle affected conifer stands which increase the fire hazard. Based on fire behaviour predictions, a fire in this area would be driven by prevailing winds towards the community.

- b) Operations closest to the Town of Haines Junction should have the highest emphasis placed on fuel abatement (hazard reductions by means of fuel removal and stand conversion). The best long term fuel abatement option is stand conversion. Harvest planning to maximize solar heating of the soil will result in deciduous species regeneration. Partial cuts or designed patch cuts with aggressive fuel disposal and minimal overstory retention will foster stand conversion to deciduous.

- c) Schedule logging operations in a timely manner to reduce the risk or hazard to the community of Haines Junction. Efforts should be made to schedule operations close to Haines Junction first.

- 3) In terms of fuel abatement, operating unit 1 and both adjacent un-numbered operating units fall within the designated interface or landscape fuel abatement planning zones as defined by the FATWG. Fuel abatement activities will be proposed for these areas during the FATWG community planning process for Haines Junction.

The above noted comments and recommendations are strictly related to fire risk abatement and the protection of Haines Junction, and we recognize the need to take into account other values and interests.

If you require additional information or comments, please do not hesitate to call me at 456-3806

Yours truly,

Damien Burns & John Trotter
Fuel Abatement Technical Working Group