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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2021FLNRO0021-000589  
April 1, 2021

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development  
BC Wildfire Service

### **Province provides \$5 million to reduce wildfire risks in community forests**

VICTORIA – The B.C. government is investing over \$5 million to help Community Forest Agreement holders complete wildfire risk reduction projects as part of the Province’s economic recovery plan to create jobs and help communities deal with the impacts of COVID-19.

“It’s a priority for our government to do everything we can to keep people safe from the threat of wildfires,” said Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. “This money will help recipients reduce those risks and also support local employment opportunities.”

The BC Community Forest Association will distribute more than \$5 million to 15 holders of community forest agreements around B.C. to fund 44 Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) projects. The CLWRR funding stream is part of the Community Resiliency Investment program administered by the BC Wildfire Service. It supports wildfire risk reduction treatments on provincial Crown land near communities, around critical infrastructure and in areas facing a higher wildfire risk.

StrongerBC: BC’s Economic Recovery Plan provides employment and economic opportunities to support a wide range of projects throughout the province. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is responsible for economic recovery programs worth more than \$100 million. This investment in wildfire risk reduction in community forests is one component of that overall recovery strategy.

“Our StrongerBC plan is designed to help people, communities and businesses in every corner of the province get back on track,” said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation. “This community forests program has multiple benefits, such as creating jobs, protecting Crown timberland and making communities safer from the threat of wildfires.”

Community forest agreement holders are represented by the BC Community Forest Association and are important partners in managing forested land near communities. They play a key role in fuel management treatments, advocate for their communities, and provide expertise and local knowledge to successfully implement fuel management projects.

#### **Quotes:**

#### **Roly Russell, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development –**

“Community forests make significant contributions to diversifying rural economies across the province. These 44 projects help support resiliency and autonomy in our rural communities, while simultaneously helping protect us from the risks of future wildfires.”

**Jennifer Rice, Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness –**

“This is a wonderful example of how cross-government efforts can help reduce wildfire risk and make our communities safer. This funding supports emergency preparedness, and recognizes that mitigation projects are key to improving the resilience of people across British Columbia in the event of disasters, including wildfires.”

**Jennifer Gunter, executive director of the BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA) –**

“Community forests are leaders in wildfire risk reduction. This new partnership between the BCCFA and the BC Wildfire Service will further their efforts to make our forests and communities more resilient.”

**Learn More:**

StrongerBC: BC’s Economic Recovery Plan: <https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/>

Community Resiliency Investment program:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/funding-for-wildfire-prevention/crip>

BC Community Forest Association: <https://bccfa.ca/>

A backgrounder follows.

**Contacts:**

Ministry of Forests, Lands,  
Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development  
Media Relations  
250 213-8172

Jennifer Gunter  
Executive Director  
BC Community Forest Association  
250 384-4110

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## BACKGROUND

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### **Province invests in wildfire risk reduction for community forests**

The B.C. government has provided \$5,008,792 to the BC Community Forest Association to fund 44 projects that will reduce wildfire risks and support local jobs, as part of the provincial economic recovery plan.

Risk reduction activities vary, depending on the project, but they may include: thinning trees; cutting back underbrush and low branches (ladder fuels); conducting prescribed burns to remove flammable material; developing operational plans to reduce wildfire risks; or developing treatment prescriptions to identify how to reduce wildfire risks in a particular area.

The funding will be distributed as follows (grouped by fire centre):

#### **\$1,479,824 within the Cariboo Fire Centre:**

- \$486,374 to Esk'etmc Community Forest for three operational treatment projects and one prescribed fire project (covering about 293.5 hectares)
- \$589,200 to Eniyud Community Forest Ltd. for one treatment prescription development and two operational treatment projects (about 174 hectares)
- \$404,250 to Williams Lake Community Forest Limited Partnership for one operational treatment (about 70 hectares)

#### **\$1,527,673 within the Kamloops Fire Centre:**

- \$409,023 to Logan Lake Community Forest Corporation for two prescription development projects and one operational treatment (about 251 hectares)
- \$85,096 to Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society for a prescription development project near the community of Barriere (about 275 hectares)
- \$667,004 to Monashee Community Forest LLP for three prescription development projects and two operational treatments near Lumby (about 77.4 hectares)
- \$366,550 to Vermilion Forks Community Forest Corporation for one prescription development project and one operational treatment between Princeton and Tulameen (about 200 hectares)

#### **\$1,178,600 within the Northwest Fire Centre:**

- \$420,000 to Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd. for two operational treatment projects and one prescribed fire project (about 150 hectares)
- \$663,600 to Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation for three prescription development projects and two operational treatments near Hudson Bay Mountain and Seymour Ridge (about 270 hectares)

- \$95,000 to Terrace Community Forest LLP for risk reduction tactical planning near Terrace and Kitimat

**\$822,695 within the Southeast Fire Centre:**

- \$204,620 to Creston Valley Forest Corporation for one prescription development project, one operational treatment and one prescribed fire project (about 57.6 hectares)
- \$184,070 to Harrop-Procter Community Co-operative for one prescription development project and four operational treatments (about 107.1 hectares)
- \$260,505 to Kaslo and District Community Forest Society for a combination of three prescription development projects, with one of those projects also incorporating an operational treatment (about 145 hectares)
- \$25,000 to Nakusp and Area Community Forest prescription development (about 185.7 hectares)
- \$148,500 to Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative for one prescription development project, two operational treatments and one prescribed fire project (about 193.2 hectares)

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