



Forest Enhancement  
Society of British Columbia



WATER SUPPLY  
ASSOCIATION OF B.C.

## Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. to Share Wildfire Risk Project Details at Water Supply Association of B.C. Conference

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PENTICTON, B.C.:** The Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. (FESBC) has been invited to present at the Water Supply Association of B.C.'s (WSABC) annual conference to speak about their partnership project focused on reducing wildfire risk in Peachland. In this collaborative project, local First Nations Penticton Indian Band and Okanagan Nation Alliance, Gorman Bros Ltd., the Provincial government, and FESBC worked together to develop solutions to benefit and protect all citizens, wildlife habitat, ecosystem functioning, and cultural values of the land.

The project successfully married timber harvesting with cultural-ecological restoration at a landscape level.

"This was an excellent collaborative project," said Dave Conly, RPF, FESBC Operations Manager. "Overall, the number of trees was reduced from 350 trees per hectare to 75, 2,400 cubic metres of pulp fibre was recovered, and 7,000 cubic metres of merchantable timber was harvested. The effort will help restore the forest ecosystem functions associated with low intensity stand maintaining fire regime, and contribute to a fuel break to protect Summerland, Peachland, and rural development from wildfire risk."

Bob Hrasko, administrator for the Black Mountain Irrigation District, and WSABC chairman, heard about the success of this collaborative project and invited the project partners to present at the annual conference on the afternoon of November 8.

"When good stuff like this happens, we want to make sure the membership knows about it," said Hrasko. "The linkage between water supply and water quality to the land is very important and beneficial to the water utilities. Reducing wildfire risk through controlled burns and better management is better for overall water quality than having an out-of-control wildfire."

The WSABC is an organization of water utilities established in 1923 that looks after the water supply interests of 55 water utilities in the southern interior of B.C., including the City of Kelowna which services 60,000 people.

Hrasko said there are a lot more partnerships being formed to tackle tough issues than there used to be. "It's good to see so many partnerships. The issues are more complex than ever."

Conference attendees will include WSABC members, consultants, related utility manufacturers, and tradespeople. WSABC sponsors student attendees and hosts regional workshops throughout the year. More information about WSABC and the conference is available at [www.wsabc.ca](http://www.wsabc.ca)

### **For more information on the WSABC conference and association, contact:**

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### **For more information on the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C.:**

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