

Elements of a KNPS Fire Plan for the Park

1. Establish a fire guard along the western and southern edge of the Park by thinning the forest in the “open forest” polygons (vertical hatching on the map) to 50-100 largest stems/hectare and then burning the area every 5-20 years. Some of these areas would be inside the Park and other areas could be thinned outside the western boundary. This logging, because it requires very few leave trees, could be done under present economic conditions. If Provincial requirements to remove mistletoe infested larch interfere with attainment of leave tree targets they should be waived.

2. Remove the two dense, beetle infested stands of lodgepole pine which can be accessed from the edges of the Park with minimal or no road building. These are the areas around Duck Pond, and the polygon above the St. Mary’s road at the western boundary of the Park (Type # 2 in Tembec’s Cruise Map).

It may also be possible to remove the pine from a portion of the #4 type polygon by the Swan Sub gravel pit, but that would have to be further assessed.

If agreed to by Provincial biologists it might also be practical to remove the tongue of lodgepole pine in the Williamson Sapsucker Wildlife Management Area. If this cannot be done without retaining standing dead wildlife trees, then it should not be.

Since the proportion of pine in these polygons is high, removing the pine will result in a residual stand density close to the 75 large stems/hectare that Tembec proposes and so could be done under present economic conditions. If Provincial requirements to remove mistletoe infested larch interfere with attainment of leave tree targets they should

3. Using a combination of volunteer and paid labour, remove ladder fuels, ground fuels and regen from a number of priority areas in the Park. These might include the hillside above lower Blarchmont and the 3 ridges west of that hillside. Promote the expansion of aspen stands where ecologically possible. Use of Nature Park Society and community volunteers should be considered part of the City’s 25% contribution under the Community Wildfire Protection Program which will entitle the community to a 75% contribution from the Province to hire more workers.

4. Require the developers of Forest Crowne to include effective fireguards between the housing development and the Park boundary.

5. Maintain existing fire access routes in the Nature Park and look for opportunities to improve them. Improvements might include:

1. Leaving a permanent access road in the open forest polygon in the southwest corner of the Park after logging is complete.

2. Improving existing and creating new turnaround points for fire fighters within the Park.

3. Constructing a new access route through the proposed neighbourhood above Trickle Creek Golf Course to the Upper Army Road.

4. Widening some footpaths for emergency ATV access.

5. Other measures developed in consultation with the Protection Branch and Kimberley Fire Department.

6. At some point in the future when the forest sector economic situation improves and the Province is willing to provide support for cleanup and long term maintenance, thin other areas of the Park in a manner that respects ecological and community values.

7. Promoting Firesmart building and landscaping standards throughout town.