



# FIRE & VEGETATION MANAGEMENT



Information Bulletin

Banff, Yoho & Kootenay National Parks

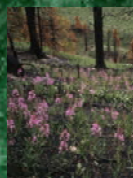
No. 4 November 2007

## *This Issue:*

### Winter Operations

- *Banff/Lake Louise*
- *Yoho*
- *Kootenay*

### Prescribed Burn Updates



### Information

#### Park Websites:

[www.pc.gc.ca/banff](http://www.pc.gc.ca/banff)  
[www.pc.gc.ca/yoho](http://www.pc.gc.ca/yoho)  
[www.pc.gc.ca/kootenay](http://www.pc.gc.ca/kootenay)

#### Information Centres

*Banff* (403) 762-1550  
*Lake Louise* (403) 522-3833  
*Yoho* (250) 343-6783  
*Kootenay* (250) 347-9615

## Winter 07/08 Fire Management – Facility Protection and Fuel Reduction

Now that the cooler weather has set in, the prescribed burn season has come to an end, and fire crews are starting fuel management and facility protection work for the winter season. Locations are indicated on a map on the next page.



**In Banff/Lake Louise:** The season began with cleanup of slash piles along the base of Mt. Rundle and in the Middle Springs area of the **Town of Banff**, and will continue with winter burning operations once there is snow on the ground. Towards the Banff East Gate, crews are continuing work on the **Carrot Creek** fire guard.

Parks Canada crews have completed the first stage of forest thinning around **Moraine Lake Lodge**. The remainder of the project plus **Saskatchewan Crossing FireSmart** forest thinning have been rescheduled for 2008.

**In Yoho:** In September, Parks Canada crews thinned the forest around **Twin Falls Chalet** in Yoho National Park.

Approximately half of the trees growing within 100 metres of the national historic site were removed. Forest thinning followed FireSmart guidelines designed to help protect these important heritage buildings from wildfire. **(Continued on next page)**



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**In Yoho:** In October fire crews burned slash piles from the FireSmart project at **Emerald Lake** and **Field**. The remainder of slash burning for both projects has been rescheduled to 2008.

**In Kootenay:** This fall, forest restoration thinning begins on **Redstreak Slopes** immediately above the community of Radium Hot Springs. The work is part of a multi-year, multi-agency project to restore important open forest and grassland ecosystems in the area. Thinning will also help protect the community from wildfire.

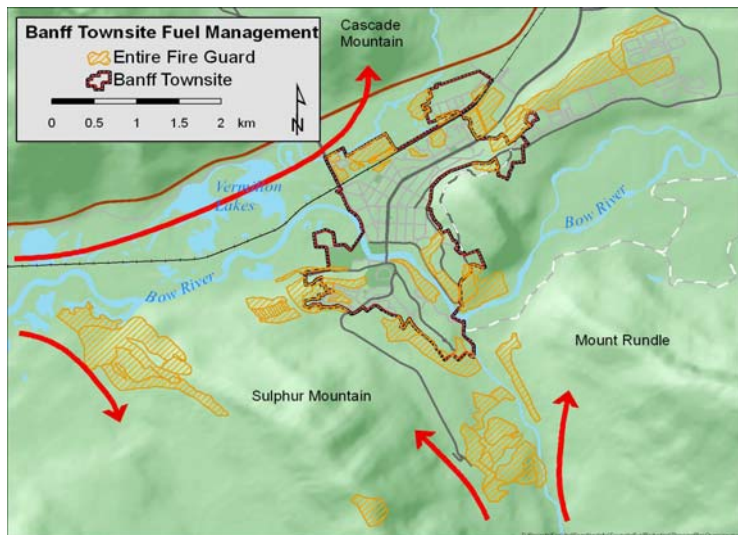
This winter, crews will begin clearing and burning a 100 hectare fireguard in preparation for a future prescribed fire on **Mitchell Ridge** opposite the Kootenay Valley viewpoint.

*Check park websites (listed on previous page) for more details on these projects.*



## Winter Facility Protection around the Town of Banff

### 1 - What will the town's firebreak look like?



Parks Canada is working in conjunction with the Town of Banff to reduce roughly 450 hectares of forest fuels near the townsite in order to safeguard against wildfire. Arrows on the map indicate how the fireguard will protect the town – fire travelling **west** along the Bow Valley would be directed **north** up Cascade Mountain, or **south** up Sulphur Mountain. Fire from the **south**, along the Spray River Valley, would be directed **East** and **West**, up Mt. Rundle and Sulphur Mountain, respectively.



## Winter Facility Protection in the Town of Banff

### WHY?

Historical records have given Parks Canada fire management staff a good understanding of where and how often wildfires would spread through the area that is now the Town of Banff.



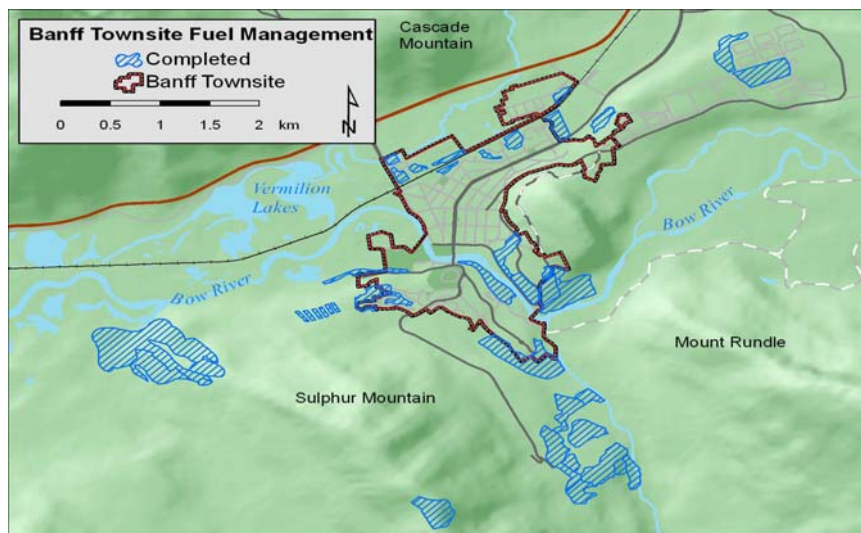
After a wildfire in Banff, c. 1900

Staff have used this data, along with climate models, to predict how a wildfire would move through this area, and how best to defend against it.



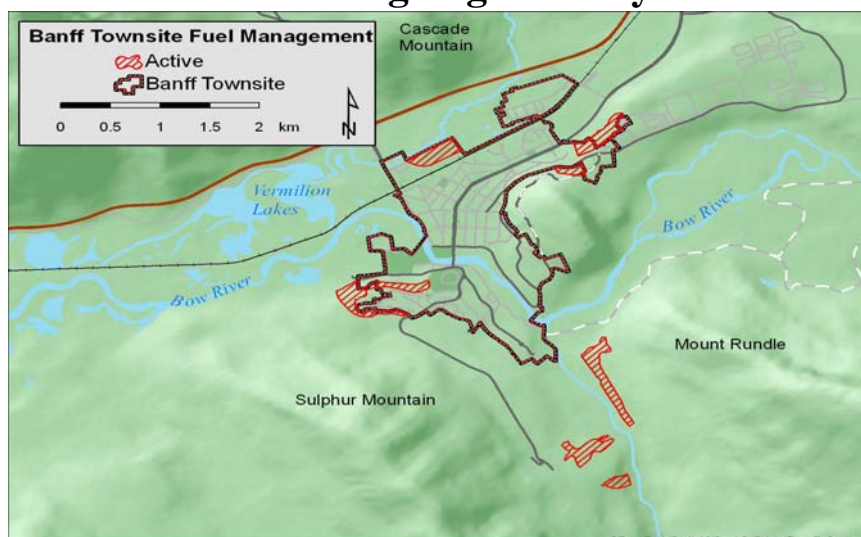
Facility protection work will help safeguard the Town of Banff in the event of a wildfire. The maps in this newsletter show: 1 - an illustration of the large scale plan and how this is expected to direct a fire away from the town, 2 - an update on work that has been completed to date, and 3 - work that is planned for this year

### 2 - What's been done up to now?



So far, Parks Canada and the Town of Banff have treated roughly 235 hectares of forest around the Banff townsite, in order to reduce susceptibility to wildfire.

### 3 - What's going on this year?



This year, crews are treating 56 hectares in the following places: the base of Mt. Rundle and Sulphur Mountain along the Spray River valley, the base of Sulphur Mountain in the Middle Springs Wildlife Corridor, the base of Tunnel Mountain near Buffalo Mountain Lodge, and an area near the Banff Recreation Centre.



## Spring/Fall Prescribed Burn Results

### Ya Ha Tinda/Hat Mountain Prescribed Fire

Total area of burn unit: 1200 hectares  
Total area burned in 2007: 100 hectares  
Other agencies involved: Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD)

### Mount Nestor Prescribed Fire

Total area of burn unit: 1426 hectares  
Total area burned in 2007: 60 hectares  
Other agencies involved: ASRD

### Upper North Saskatchewan Prescribed Fire

Total area of burn unit: 7900 hectares  
Total area burned in 2007: fireguard burning completed, remainder rescheduled for spring 2008  
Other agencies involved: ASRD, Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture

### Dormer Prescribed Fire

Total area of burn unit: 1200 hectares  
Total area burned this spring: 350 hectares

### Baker Creek Prescribed Fire

Total area of burn unit: 800 hectares  
Total area burned in 2007: some fireguard burning was completed, remainder rescheduled for spring 2008

### Split Peak Prescribed Fire

Total area of burn unit: 950 hectares  
Total area burned in 2007: 750 hectares

### Mount King Prescribed Fire

Total area of burn unit: 1900 hectares  
Total area burned in 2007: rescheduled to 2008



Dormer



Mt. Nestor



Split Peak

For more information, contact one of these fire information officers:

In Banff:  
Sean Nardella  
403-762-1447



In LLYK\*:  
Sharon Morgan  
250-347-6174



In LLYK\*:  
Marla Oliver  
250-347-6174



\*LLYK: Lake Louise  
Yoho and Kootenay