

NAKUSP AREA K WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION

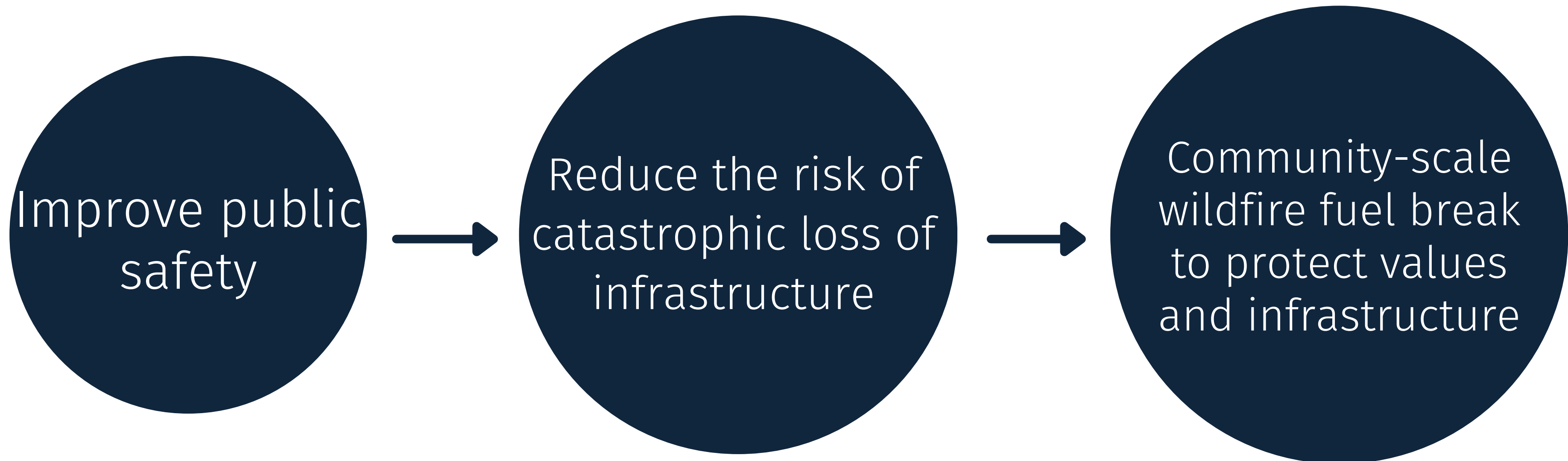
Firesmart Information Session 2023



Wildfire Risk Reduction Program Summary



The Goals



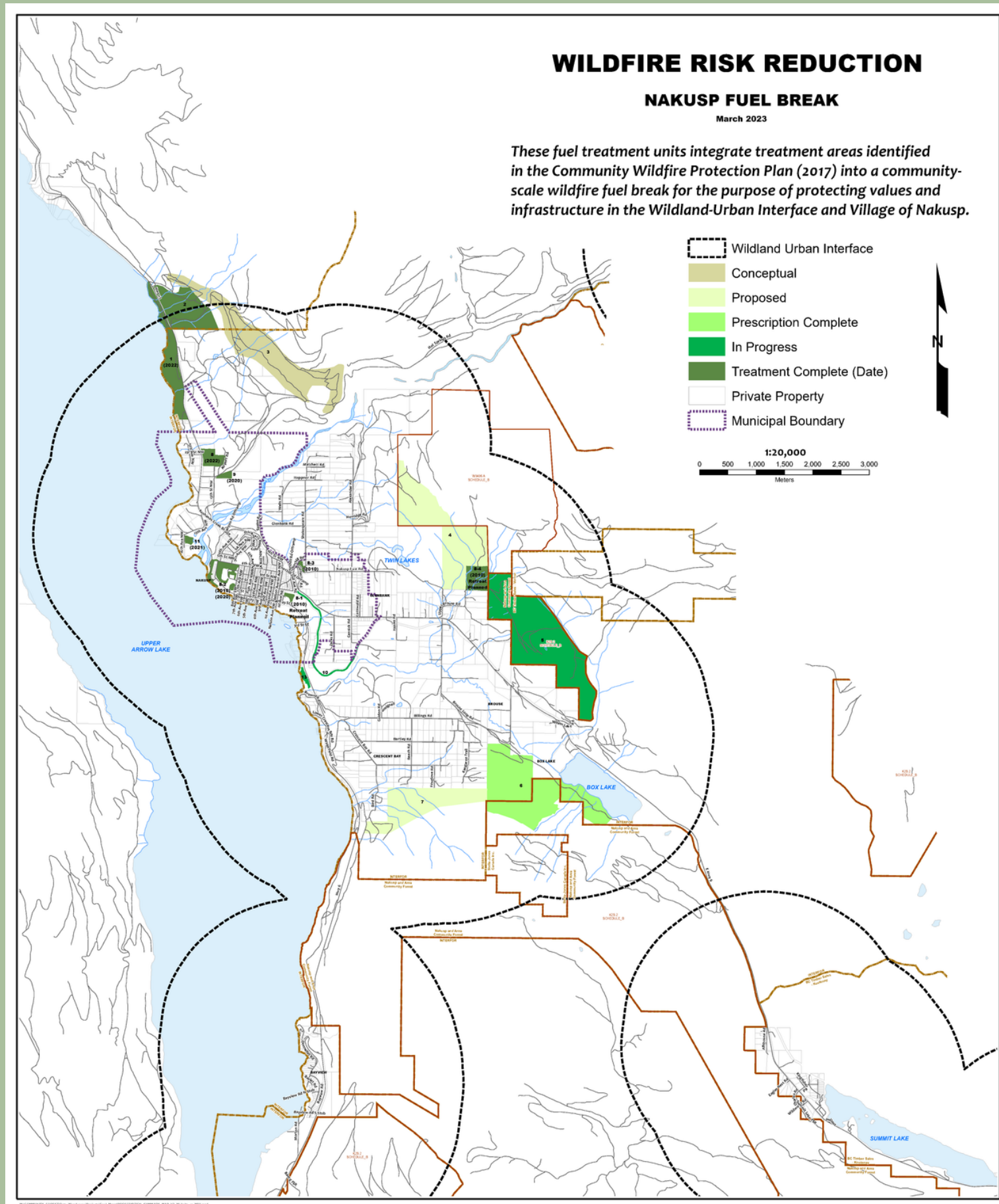
Collaborative Approach

Development of wildfire risk reduction work around Nakusp and Area K involves RDCK emergency management, Village of Nakusp, B.C. Wildfire Service, Ministry of Forests staff, and NACFOR.



Wildfire risk reduction is guided by the Nakusp Area K Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), and implemented by various organizations, including Village of Nakusp, Ministry of Forests, RDCK, FireSmart, NACFOR and Interfor.

Status of Nakusp Fuel Treatment Work



Treatment Units

Unit 1 (North Nakusp)

Unit 2 (North Nakusp)

Unit 5 (Upper Brouse/ Wensley Creek)

Unit 6 (Box Mtn/ Lower Brouse - prescription only)

Unit 8 (Airport Road)

Unit 9 (Hot Springs Road)

Unit 10 (Nakusp Rail Trail)

Unit 11 (Village Lagoon)

Unit 13 (Nakusp Cr)

Unit 8-1 (Hospital)

Unit 8-2 (Municipal Park/ Campground)

Unit 8-4 (Upper Brouse/Wensley Creek)



Before - heavy ground fuels



After - reduced ground fuels

Treatment Basics



Before - ladder fuels present



After - ladder fuels reduced

Treatment Basics



Before - Canopy closed



After - Canopy separation

Treatment Basics

Completed Fuel Treatments - Unit 1 (North Nakusp)

Before Treatment



Completed Fuel Treatments - Unit 8 (Airport Rd)

Before



After



Completed Fuel Treatments - Unit 9 (Hot Springs Rd)

Before



After



Completed Fuel Treatments - Unit 11 (Kuskanax Cr)

Before

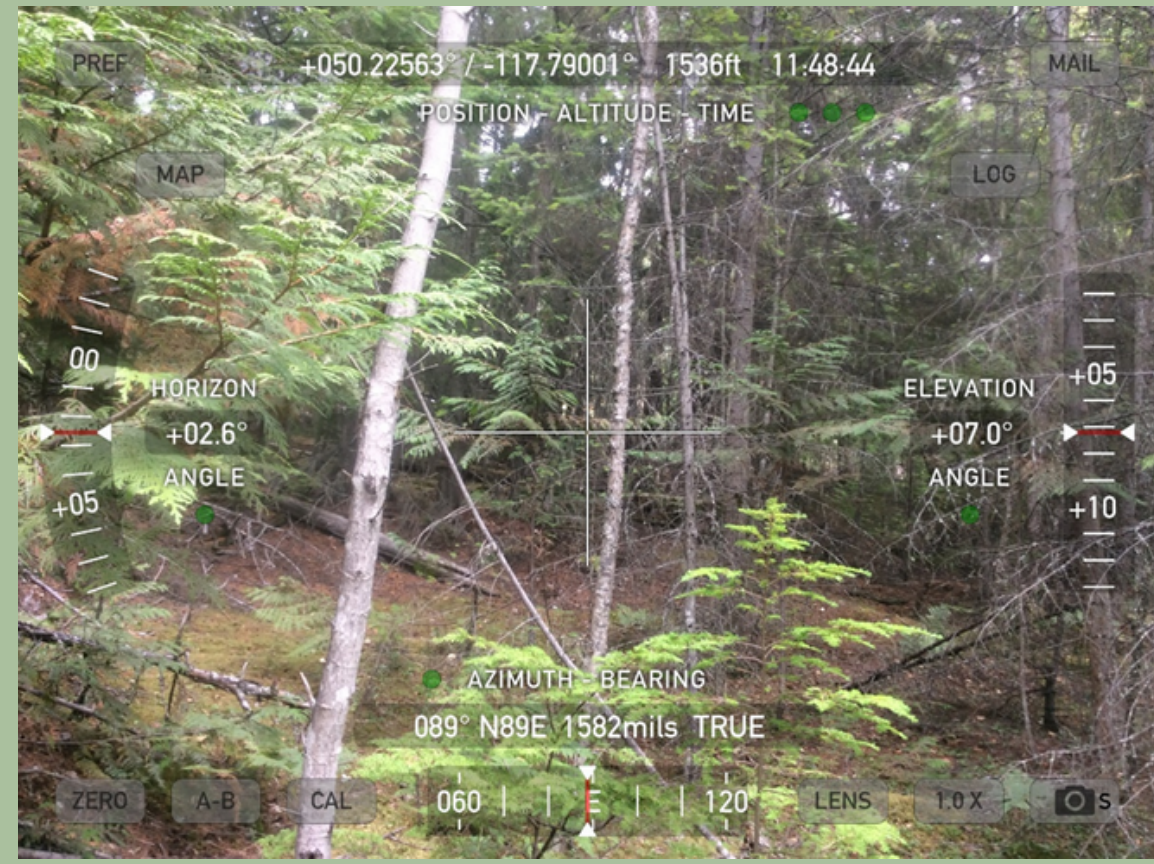
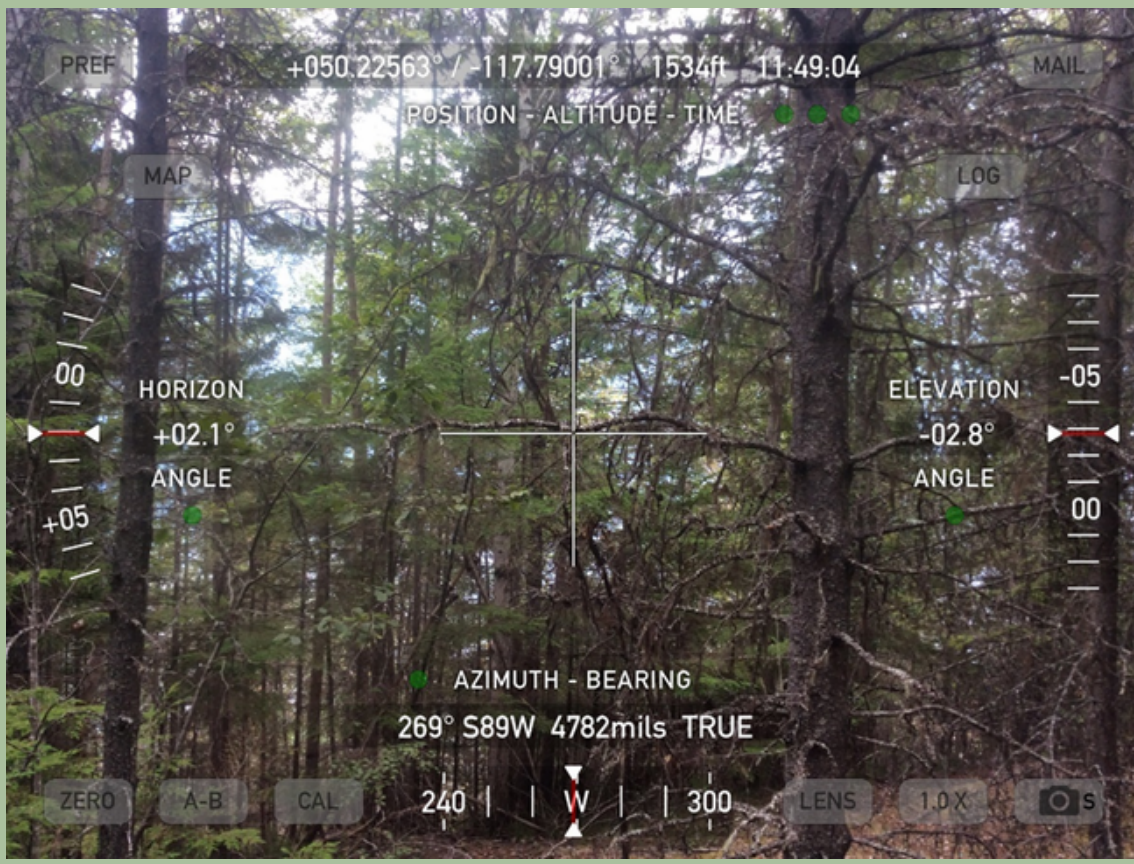


After



Completed Fuel Treatments - Unit 13 (Nakusp Creek)

Before



After



Completed Fuel Treatments - Unit 8-2 (Municipal Park/Campground)

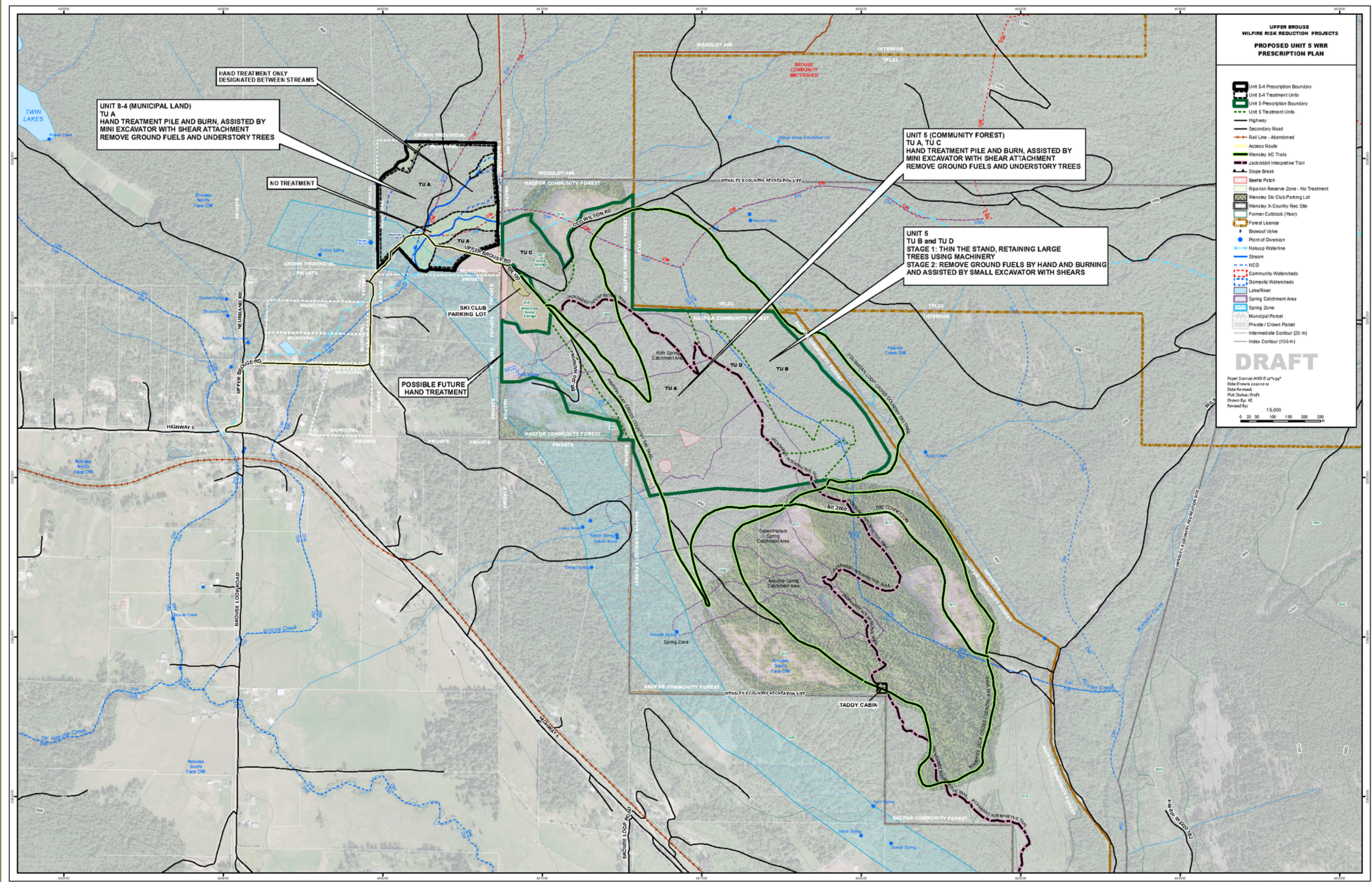
Before



After



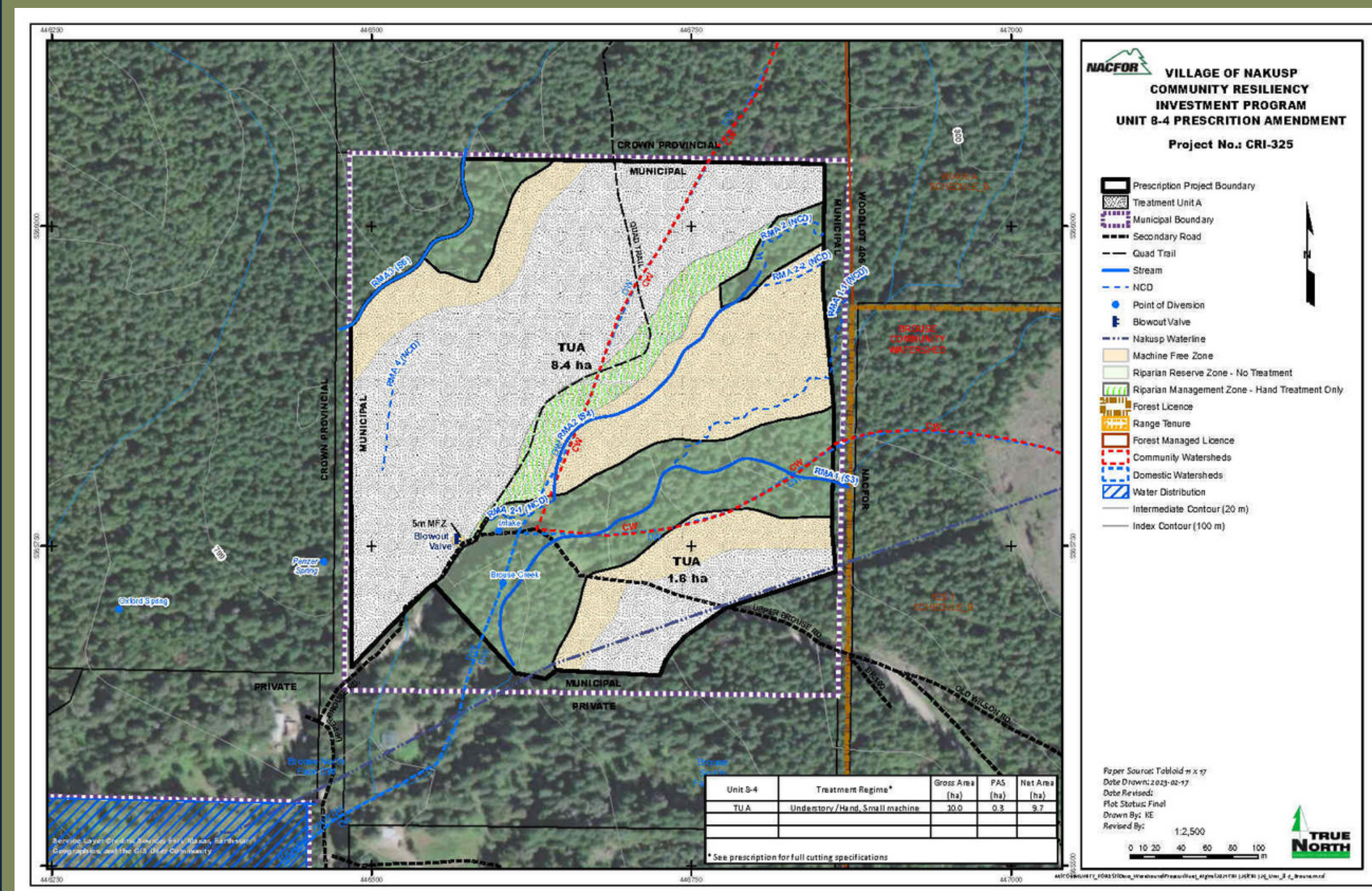
Wensley Creek



Current Fuel Treatments - Unit 8-4 (Upper Brouse/Wensley Creek)

Understory treatment - majority hand crew with select small machine outside of riparian areas

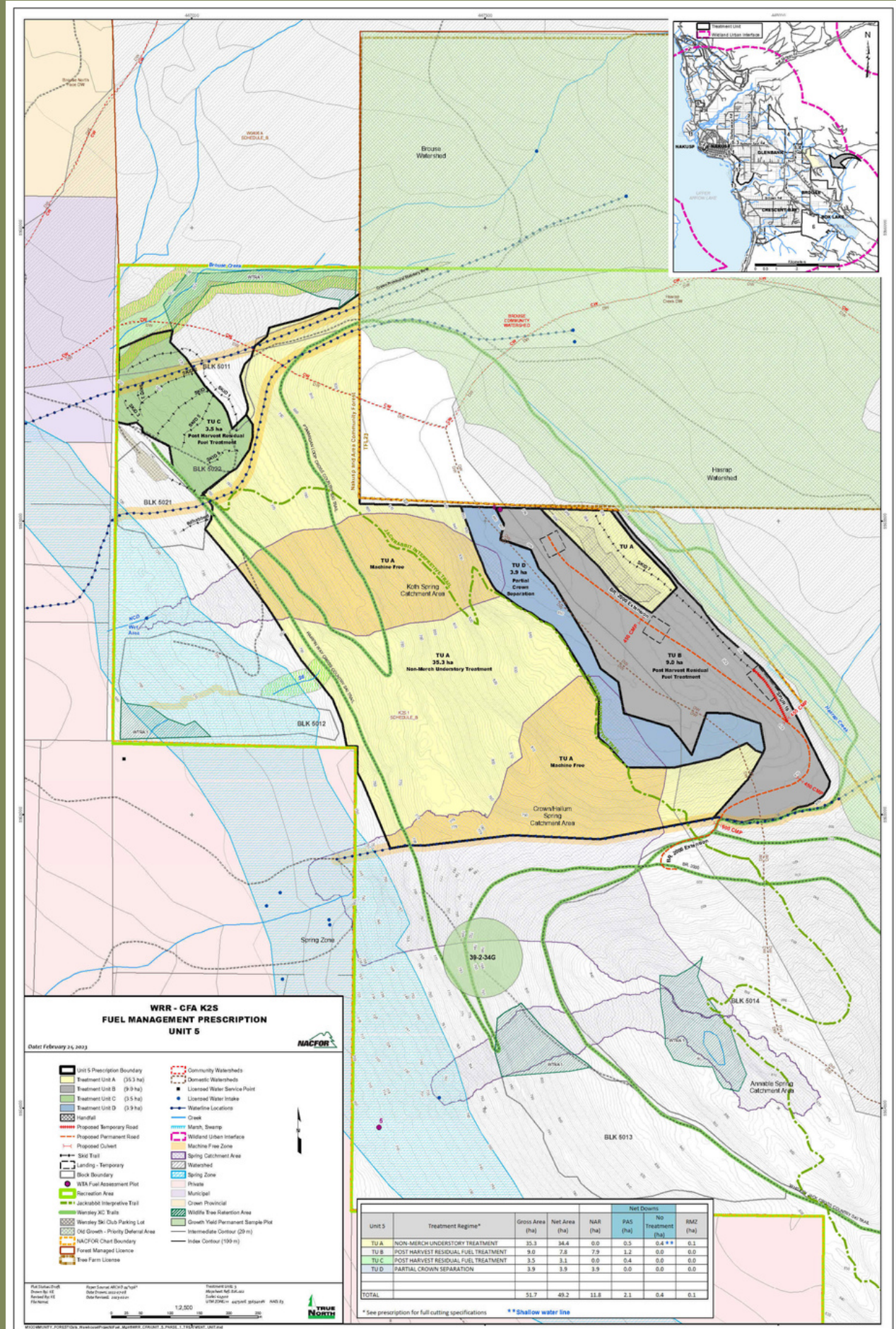
- 10 ha total, implementation planned for Spring/Fall 2023
- Upper Brouse Road, NW of Wensley Creek Cross Country Ski Area
- Previously treated by hand crews in 2008
- Municipally-owned land (Village of Nakusp)
- South boundary borders private property
- Within a Community Watershed: streams are protected by machine-free zones (hand crew treatment only) and areas of no treatment
- The Village of Nakusp water line runs through the treatment unit. The waterline will be hand-treated
- Prescription specifications:
 - Reduce surface fuel loading
 - Reduce ladder fuels and increase crown-base height
 - Retain 650 to 1050 coniferous stems per hectare (3.1 to 3.9 m average spacing between trees)
 - Prioritize retention of healthy overstory stems >17.5 cm diameter
 - Cut understory coniferous trees \leq 17.5 cm diameter unless retention of smaller stems is necessary to achieve the targeted average spacing



Current Fuel Treatments - Unit 5 (Upper Brouse/Wensley Creek)

Understory and overstory treatment areas

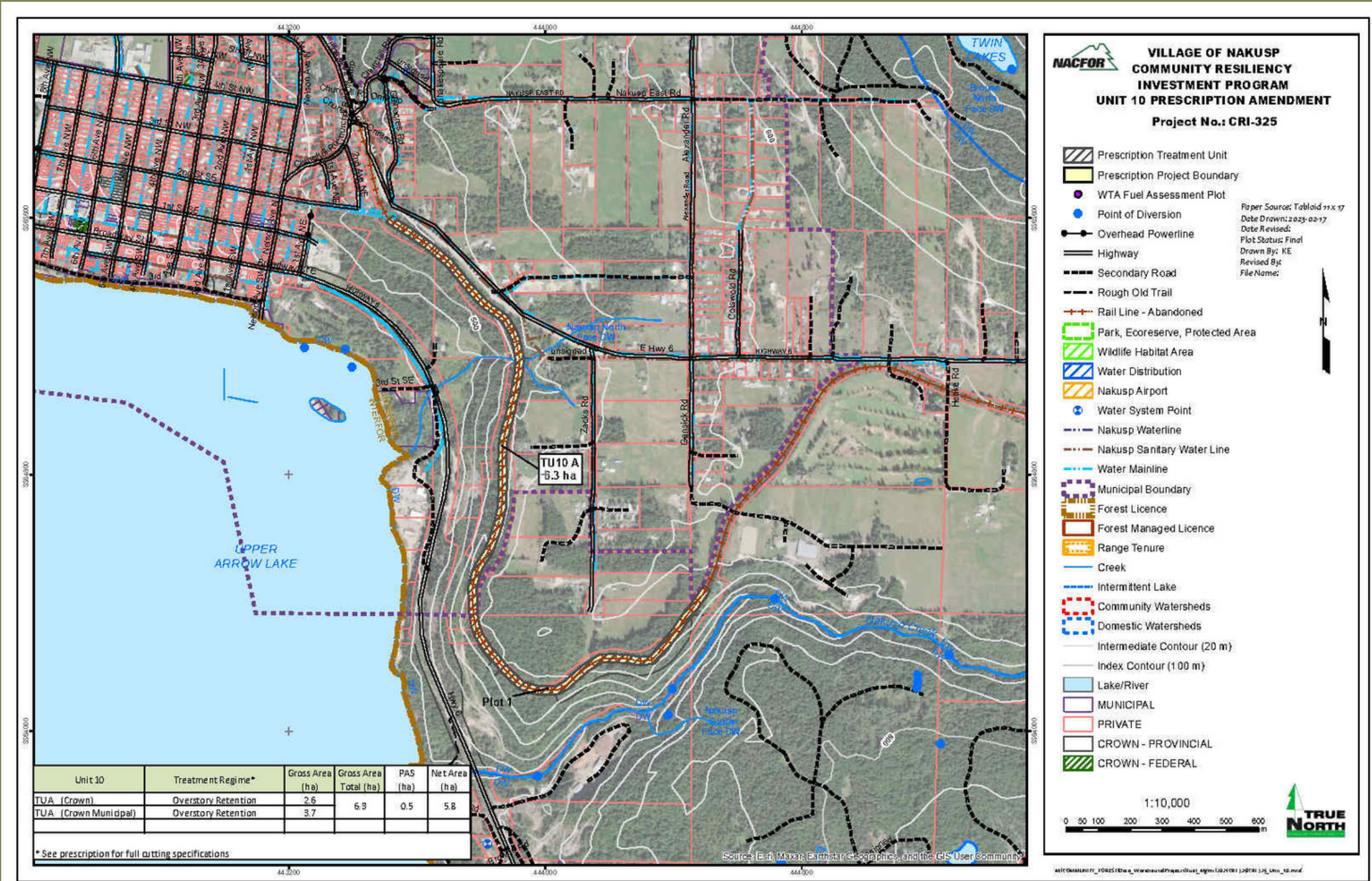
- 51.7 ha total: four treatment areas, implementation planned for Fall 2023 to Spring 2024
- Upper Brouse Road, overlapping with Wensley Creek Cross Country Ski Area
- Crown Provincial land, NACFOR community forest tenure, Wensley Cross Country Ski Club registered recreation area
- South boundary borders private property
- Within Community and Domestic Watersheds: streams, catchment areas, and waterlines are protected by machine-free zones (hand crew treatment only)
- Prescription specifications:
 - Reduce surface fuel loading
 - Reduce ladder fuels and increase crown-base height
 - TU A: Remove coniferous stems <17.5 cm diameter, retain 650-950 stems per hectare (3.2-3.9 m average spacing)
 - TU B: Post-harvest understory treatment and ground fuel clean-up, retain 100-200 stems per hectare (7.6-10.7 m average spacing)
 - TU C: Remove coniferous stems <17.5 cm diameter, retain 500-750 stems per hectare (3.7-4.5 m average spacing)
 - TU D: Remove coniferous stems <12.5 cm diameter, retain 400-600 stems per hectare (4.1-5.0 m average spacing)



Current Fuel Treatments - Unit 10 (Nakusp Rail Trail)

Understory treatment to improve emergency access

- 6.3 ha total, implementation planned for Spring or Fall 2023, pending contractor availability
- Nakusp & Slocan Rail Trail, Hwy 6 to Gensick Rd
- Crown Provincial Land, partially within Village boundary
- Private property borders the entire treatment unit
- Prescription specifications:
 - Reduce surface fuel loading
 - Reduce ladder fuels, prune remaining stems
 - Increase cleared right-of-way width to 6 m by removing understory to improve emergency access
 - Retain all live, healthy stems ≥ 17.5 cm diameter
 - Thin remaining coniferous stems to an average spacing of 4 m within 10 m of the cleared right-of-way
 - Prioritize larger, healthy stems for retention in the following species order: Douglas-fir, Western larch, White pine, Western red cedar, Western hemlock



Current Fuel Treatments - Unit 8-1 (Hospital)

Understory treatment and blowdown clean-up to protect critical infrastructure

- 1.1 ha total: three treatment units, implementation planned for Spring 2023
- Surrounds Arrow Lakes Hospital
- Crown Provincial land, Interior Health Authority
- Private property borders the entire treatment unit
- To address air quality in the vicinity of the hospital, chipping fuel and spreading it or hauling it away is preferred over piling and burning of fuel
- Prescription specifications:
 - Reduce surface fuel loading
 - Reduce ladder fuels, prune remaining stems
 - TU A: Remove blowdown, remove coniferous stems <15.0 cm diameter, retain 500-750 stems per hectare
 - TU B: Remove coniferous stems <15.0 cm diameter, retain 800-1000 stems per hectare
 - TU C: Remove coniferous stems <12.5 cm diameter, retain 800-1000 stems per hectare
 - Chip and spread fuel, remove fuel from site by truck, or pile and burn fuel

