

# DÁKEYI UKAANATHI`JÈ COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

All of you watch over our country with your heart: Restoring Forest Ecosystems

Kluane National Park and Reserve

## Alder Creek Prescribed Fire Overview

After careful preparation and planning the Alder Creek prescribed fire went ahead on September 11, 2024, with two test fires ignited in the burn unit. After observing the fire behaviour from these test fires operational staff opted to cease further ignition due to less-than-optimal results. We would like to thank Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN), Yukon Wildland Fire Management (WFM) and, the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) for all your work on the Alder Creek prescribed fire! Together we have taken an important step towards putting fire back on the landscape in a safe and controlled way.



Alder Creek Prescribed Fire operational team.

## Prescribed Fire Operation

An incident management team convened in Dakwākāda (Haines Junction) on Monday, September 9. The team consisted of Parks Canada, CAFN and Yukon Wildland Fire Management members. Over the week, local fire crews prepared the Alder Creek prescribed fire site by laying hose, wetting down areas, clearing brush and setting up pumps.



YWFM pumper truck wetting down adjacent fuel.



Parks Canada Plans Section Chief addressing the incident team.

The ignition was started by a heli-torch, assisted by ground crews with drip torches. One helicopter was used for ignition with another on stand-by. Lookouts were stationed above the site to observe any spread. After the test fires, the site was monitored for hot spots. Monitoring is done by physically checking the area and through drone imagery that uses infrared imaging to highlight hot zones.



## GO/NO GO Checklist

Strict conditions must be met before any prescribed fire takes place. The prescribed fire plan describes the range of acceptable conditions needed before ignition occurs. This includes:

- wind speed
- barriers to fire spread
- resources needed before, during, and after the burn (including personnel)
- fuel type in surrounding area



Ground crews closely monitor test fire results.

### Next Steps

The primary objectives of the Alder Creek prescribed fire were to gain an understanding of fire behaviour in forests affected by the spruce bark beetle to address the park's fire deficit and, to build local capacity in the fire management program. Completing this project is a priority in the coming years as an important first step to advance the fire management program in Kluane NPR and contribute to greater landscape and ecological objectives.

During the winter, Parks Canada staff will continue to work with Champagne and Aishihik, and Kluane First Nations to investigate potential future prescribed fire sites.

The collaborative work putting fire on the ground has set a precedent for prescribed fire in Kluane National Park and Reserve. Continued use of prescribed fire helps with ecosystem restoration and promotes long-term health in the boreal forest.



Wildland firefighters use drip torches to build intensity.



Canadian Forest Service technicians pre burn monitoring.

**We want to hear from you! Please contact us with any thoughts, concerns or questions!**

Email: [kluaneinfo@pc.gc.ca](mailto:kluaneinfo@pc.gc.ca)

Phone: 867-634-5134