

East Barriere Lake Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) Project

Public Update Handout | May 2026



RW4 after winter harvesting. Piling, additional cleanup, and road rehabilitation are still planned.

Before and after: Type 1 hand treatment

Hand treatments reduce surface and ladder fuels while retaining larger overstory trees and key forest structure where practicable.



Before treatment

Dense surface and ladder fuels can contribute to higher fire intensity and limit ground crew access.



After treatment

Reduced ladder and surface fuels can improve access and reduce the likelihood of fire moving into the canopy.

Type 1 treatment

- Removes ladder and surface fuels.
- Retains live trees >12.5 cm DBH where practicable.
- Retains deciduous trees, shrubs, wildlife trees, and riparian buffers where appropriate.

Right-of-way fuel breaks

- Creates wider fuel breaks along selected powerline/roadside areas.
- Uses harvesting equipment and follow-up piling to reduce fuels.
- Temporary roads and landings are to be rehabilitated and grass seeded.

What to expect next

- Short-term visual impacts are expected, especially in RW areas.
- Piling, burning, road rehabilitation, drainage maintenance, and seeding remain part of completion work.
- Burning will only proceed when conditions allow.

Project purpose

To reduce wildfire risk to cabins, the East Barriere Lake Forest Service Road evacuation route, and the powerline corridor by reducing surface, ladder, and crown fuels in priority areas.

Current status

RW4 Section from 7.0 - 8.2km: harvest complete

- Harvested in January 2026 from about 7.0 to 8.2 km.
- Mechanical piling planned shortly, including some clearing of residuals within the unit along the Lower John Road.
- Piles are planned for fall 2026 burning when conditions allow.

Type 1 / Hand treatments

- 40 ha completed in fall 2025 between 0 and 5 km.
- 18 additional ha are now in progress for 2026.
- Earlier thinning/pruning should help fuels dry through summer.

Next work

- Harvesting of remaining RW areas (RW4 = 8.5 - 10km, RW3 = 6 - 6.4km, and RW2 = 4.3 - 4.6km) is planned for fall/winter 2026.
- Future cabin-area hand treatments (TU3, TU4) depend on funding and FSR upgrade plans.

Why the RW areas look more open

- The RW treatment is a blunt but effective fuel break: removing most fuels makes it more useful during a wildfire.
- More retention would look better short term, but would reduce the effectiveness of the fuel break.
- Retention is also limited by root disease and windthrow risk in some areas.

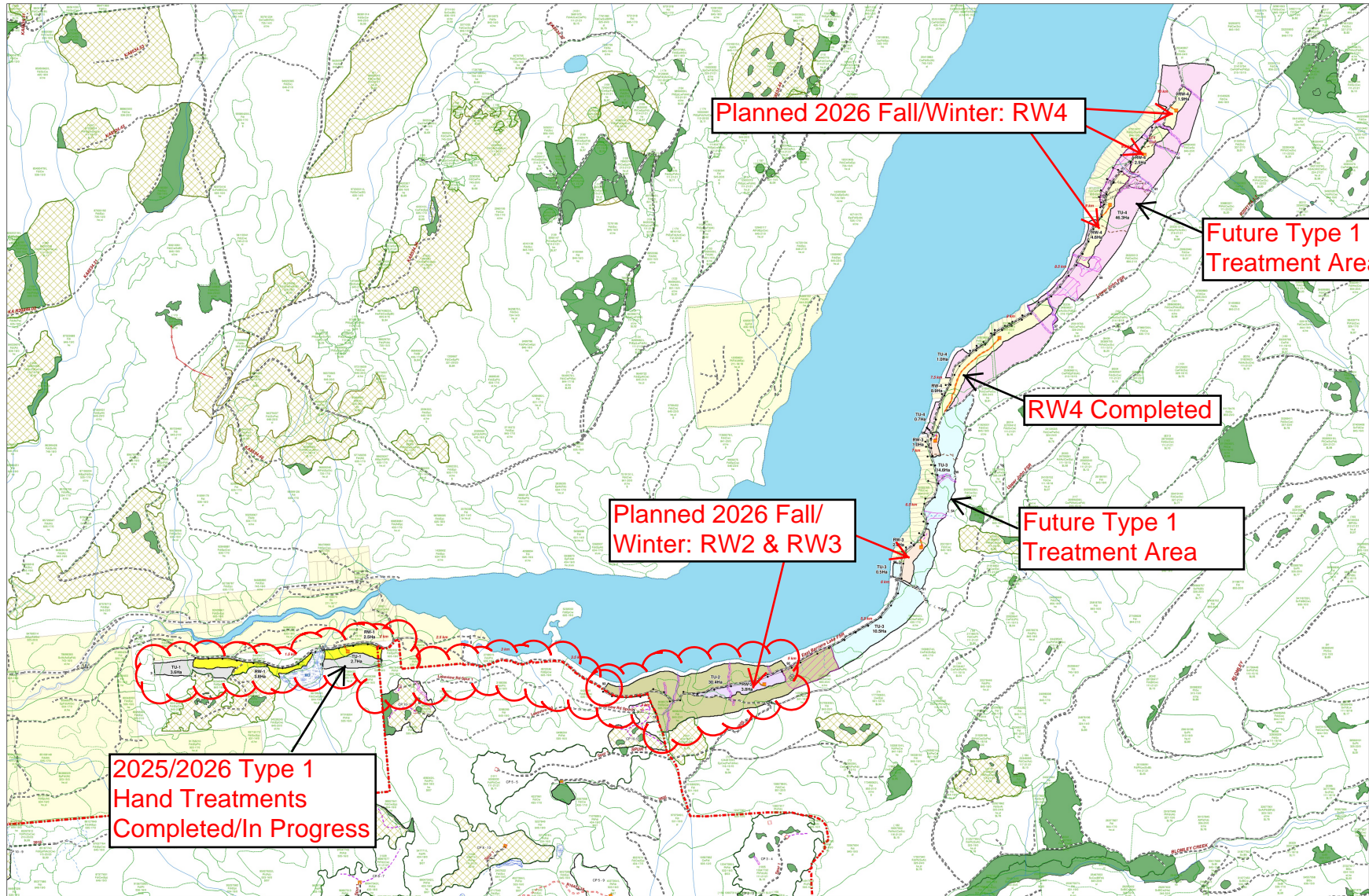
Important context

- This is not a profit-motivated harvest; it is being led by LNTCFS as part of a WRR project.
- Any incidental revenue helps offset planning and implementation costs, including the more expensive hand treatments.
- The Thompson Rivers Forest District is aware of and supportive of this WRR project.

Questions? LNTCFSociety@telus.net | 250-672-1941 | www.LNTCFS.org

Project area overview map

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Map notes

- TU = Type 1 hand-treatment areas; RW = right-of-way fuel-break areas.

Questions?

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