

To the Mayor and Council,

Hello,

Please give my views adequate consideration. I am writing this appeal as a simple yet informative brief on the implementation of typically destructive Fire Guards. I hope you will regard my comments in a positive way.

Prior to the year 2000, I was regularly dispatched as a Wilderness / Urban Firefighter (Aka: WUFF!) for the federal government. At this time we battled both natural as well as devised, manmade burns surrounding Banff National Park. In other words: Initial Attack, Mountain Wildfire Technicians.

The point I want to express is that during an emergency - a controlled backburn may be the only recourse, and does make sense.

However, where off-season prescribed burns are concerned, I will hazard that this only amounts to a costly waste of resources. During 'mop-up' I often witnessed the horrific and cruel loss of wildlife such as racoon, porcupine and abandoned bear cubs.

I assert that the same human-power, and chopper time could better be employed to harvest the lumber without the addition of carcinogens into the atmosphere, or the risk of species extirpation.

Something to think about.

Sincerely

Brent Townsend



#314 175 Centennial Drive, Courtenay BC

V9N 7M4