

## **BACK 40 FIRESMART OPERATIONS – Phase 4 Information Update for Residents**

Dear MD of Bighorn and Waiparous Residents,

During the winter months of January, February, and March 2021, FireSmart activities will be performed in the Back 40 area adjacent to the Summer Village of Waiparous. The following activities will take place:

- Standing live conifer will have branches trimmed up to 2 m.
- Due to the high intensity fire created while burning, all black spruce and ground juniper will be mulched (this is a very small component of the overall stand).
- Mulch a high percentage of the understory unless there is no overstory (field calls will be made for these areas during operations).
- The heavy down-and-dead component will be mulched.
- Overall spacing will be completed to realize an average 3 to 6 metre crown-spacing between conifers. We will also space the conifer in clumps as well as individual stems to add to diversity to the overall stand composition. Clumping will help alleviate blowdown after treatment for the shallow rooting white spruce while maintaining nesting opportunities and other wildlife habitat.
- Along Unit 9 (map below), beside the acreages, a 2-metre crown-spacing will be used as discussed during last summer's Open House in Waiparous. This will aid in reducing the line-of-sight into the Back 40 from the bordering residents.
- All identified wildlife trees will be protected.
- The standing healthy coniferous component of the unit will be maintained.
- All deciduous trees will be maintained unless deemed to be a safety hazard.

### **Latest Contract News**

In early January, pre-selected contractors will be invited to bid. Contractors must attend the mandatory field visit to discuss the scope of work. The MD of Bighorn will announce the selected contractor prior to operational start up, with CCI Inc. acting as the Supervising Contractor for the project.

### **Activities in the Back 40**

Depending on weather and site conditions work will start mid to late January 2020. Operations are expected to be completed during Feb or early March 2020. There will be no work done on Sundays. To ensure the Safety of all the public and operations personnel, **access to the areas of operations** is restricted. Signage will be provided at all Back 40 entrances and respective areas of operations. Please do not approach the operating machines for any reason. Firewood is expected to be minimal, though will be available for residents post FireSmart Operations with a TM66 application.

### **Back 40 Public Information Session**







After the FireSmart work is completed a public information session will be held at the Waiparous Community Services Building. This event will be organized together with the SVW FireSmart Committee. Refer to the "Ghost/Waiparous Back40 FireSmart Plan": <http://mdbighorn.ca/174/Ghost-River-Subdivision>



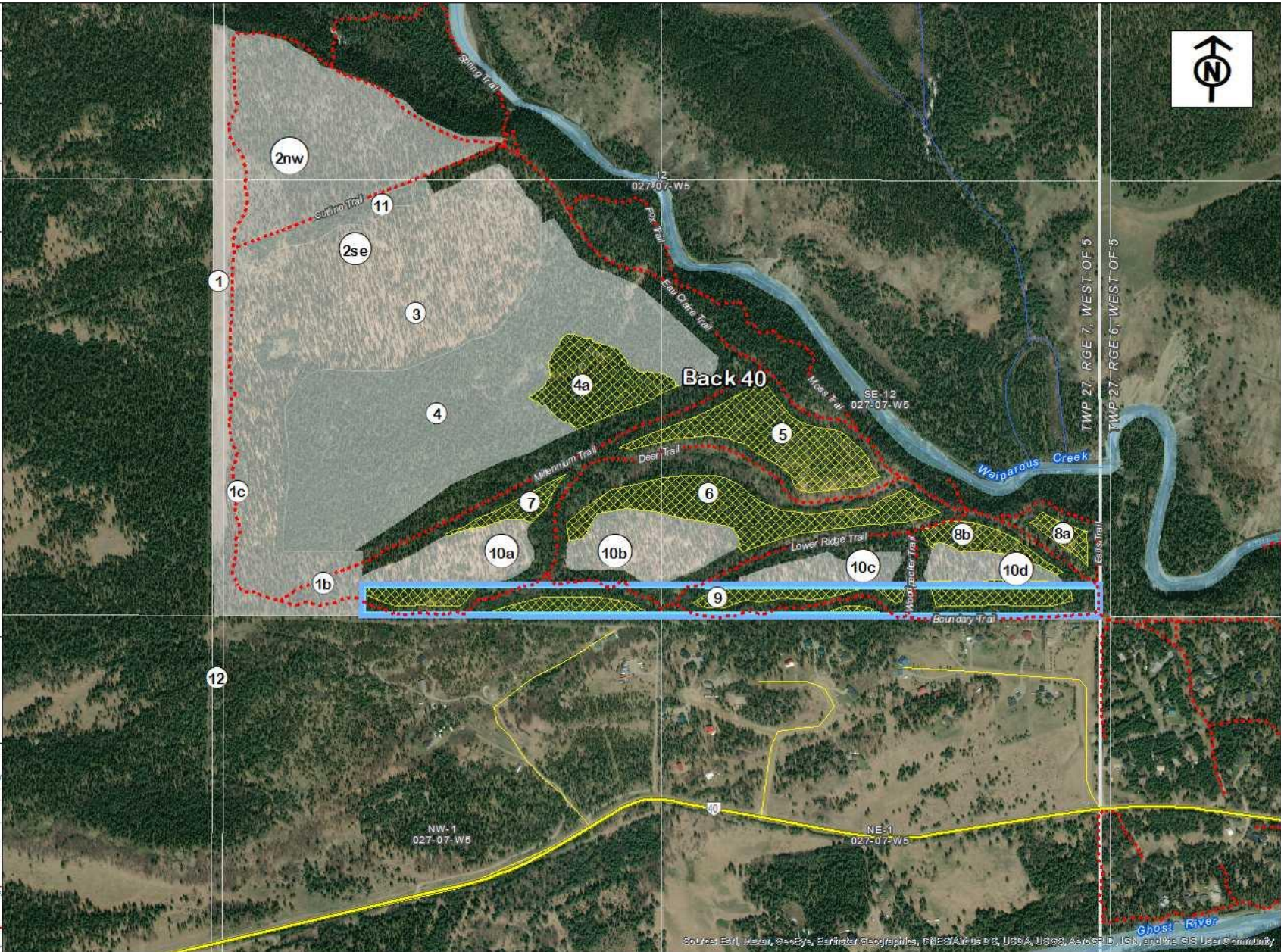
M.D. of Bighorn No. 8  
 Summer Village of Waiparous  
 Ghost/Waiparous Trails  
 System FireSmart Phase IV

Back 40 FireSmart  
 2020/2021

1:6,500  
 0 200  
 Meters

-  Proposed Unit Phase IV
-  Treatment Completed
-  Aesthetic Buffer
-  Recreation Trails
-  Highways
-  Roads

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N  
 Projection: Transverse Mercator  
 Datum: North American 1983  
 Project No.: 20596  
 File: 2019-Back40\_56022020\_phase 4



Source: Earthstar, Google, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus D3, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community