



File: 97250-20/23057

November 9, 2023

Dear Gun Lake and Gold Bridge communities,

Re: Sharing information about a new complaint investigation - Downton Lake wildfire control

The Forest Practices Board wants to inform the Gun Lake and Gold Bridge communities of a complaint investigation we are undertaking in your community.

The Forest Practices Board is B.C.'s independent watchdog for sound forest and range practices, reporting its findings and recommendations directly to the public and government. The Board investigates public complaints about forest and range practices on public lands and the appropriateness of government enforcement. It can also make recommendations for improvement to practices and legislation.

This complaint investigation is about BC Wildfire Service's use of planned ignitions on the Downton Lake wildfire in August 2023. The complainants, three Gun Lake residents, believe the planned ignitions were inappropriate considering the circumstances and led to the destruction of more than 40 homes on the west side of Gun Lake.

If you want to learn more about this complaint or our work, we would be happy to call you or arrange a meeting. You can learn more about our [complaint investigation process here](#).

Please visit our [website](#) for further information on our complaint investigation process. You can also find more [information](#) about what we are working on.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 250-213-4731 or matthias.splittgerber@bcfpb.ca.

Thank you,

Matthias Splittgerber RPF
Manager of Audits and Investigations
Forest Practices Board