



## GENERAL ADVISORY NOTICE

### UNBC Beetle-kill and Danger-Tree Removal Operations:

#### Active Worksites and Road Access Modifications

February 14<sup>th</sup> to March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011

UNBC is situated in a beautiful natural setting, surrounded by forest. The health and vitality of these campus forests are an important part of the natural campus environment. In 2010, UNBC and the Aleza Lake Research Forest Society (ALRF) forestry staff inspected the condition, health, and safety of these “interface” forests and forested greenbelts on UNBC property, surrounding the Prince George campus.

The natural forests around the campus are in good health overall, but there are a few areas of concern, and some maintenance treatments have been prescribed to improve forest health and resistance to fire, and to enhance the safety of the UNBC community using these forests. The 3 main areas of concern were identified by UNBC are:

- Patches of standing beetle-killed pine trees;
- Accumulations of standing dead trees and treefalls in several areas due to past natural disturbances, including beetle-kill, and nearby human developments. And;
- A number of “danger trees” (both live and dead trees, with unstable tops, stems, or roots) which are a safety hazard to pedestrians and vehicles, especially under windy or extreme weather conditions.

UNBC is concerned that these conditions, if left unaddressed, would be an increasing hazard to public safety (due to falling trees, tops, or limbs), and would increase the loading of dry woody fuels and related forest-fire hazards. Such hazards could escalate dramatically during or after high-intensity or extreme weather events.

The ALRF and UNBC have identified and mapped 6 forest areas adjacent to the UNBC campus that require urgent attention to remedy these problems. Five of these sites are located within the “inner campus” and will be treated in Winter 2011. The remaining largest site is located on UNBC property south of University Way, and will be treated in Summer 2011.

Sites will be treated by small-scale selective logging and small patch cutting to remove the identified dead, defective, or dangerous trees from the stands, while leaving healthy green trees intact. Harvesting and forest treatments will be undertaken by an experienced local company. Larger tree boles will be chipped for bio-energy, while minor slash and branches will be shredded and dispersed on the forest floor, to decompose naturally on site.

UNBC forest treatment activities will start approximately **February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011**, with completion scheduled **March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. Chipping operations may continue shortly after March 4th. Minor adjustments in timing and location of the treatments may be required depending on weather and road conditions.

A map of treatment work sites is attached.

UNBC/ALRF will provide further information in the next few weeks to update you on the location of forest treatment operations, safety advisories, and access restrictions in certain locations that will be required from time to time. Please contact us if you have any questions.

**Please respect the traffic control persons and drive cautiously at all times within work areas.** Our goal is to complete the treatments as effectively and safely as possible.

For further information, please contact:

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