

July 13, 2022

Summer 2022 Project for Remediation of November 30 to December 1, 2021 Windstorm Damage to SBR Forests

Update

Owners will have noticed that there has been no activity in cleaning up the devastation in the “Bone Yard”/ Fisher Creek area since Saturday morning when site access and staging areas were created.

The Board intends to continue the clean-up in the Bone Yard by instructing the removal of all the debris caused by the storms and other climatic events so as to be able to begin the remediation process as quickly as possible. This means that the removal of downed and "hanging" trees will begin today and will last for several days. Hanging trees are trees which would be downed but for being held up by standing trees and they are always in danger of falling because they have been uprooted.

There will be no further cutting down of trees in this early part of the project and, as planned, none will take place in the next stages without independent assessment of the health of the trees and their likelihood of being blown down in the next, inevitable, wind storm.

Why was the Project Initiated?

As set out in the Notice circulated on Monday, this is part of a FireSmart/storm debris clean-up project that is to start with the Bone Yard and move progressively to each of the storm devastated areas of Square Butte Ranch.

The Board recognizes that having such devastation throughout the ranch impacts on appearance, recreational and enjoyment on the Ranch and impacts on property values. Moreover our By Laws require that Board address any situation like this one that presents a risk to the Ranch itself.

This project was originally intended to last throughout the summer and early fall with full clean up and remediation by October. Although there was never any plan to harvest healthy trees as part of the project, it was recognized from the outset that it would be necessary to open one or more staging area as part of the process of clean up and remediation. The Board understands and appreciates that owners are not in favour of cutting trees at the ranch and has instructed our loggers that no further trees are to be cut at this clean up stage of the project. This will restrict access to some of the devastated areas of the ranch and therefore prolong the clean up and remediation process.

Tour the Bone Yard

To help you understand the devastation and the process we are going through to address it and keep the ranch fire safe we invite you to tour the Bone Yard. The most informative way to do this will be to tour it with Gary Bennett to get a sense of what is happening. Give Gary a call through the Office to arrange a tour.

Understanding the Storm Devastation

Whether you choose to take a tour or not, there will be pictures of the devastated areas posted in the Barn as well as maps identifying the areas. The Board invites you to walk or ride through these areas to get a sense of the devastation and the related fire risk. By doing this you will get a feel of the impact this has had and why this project is so important for all owners.

Replanting (Silviculture)

The Board has been asked to comment on the replanting of the wind devastation, access and staging areas. Replanting will take place in the Spring following the Fall clean-up Stage as part of it. The completed and remediated Fall 2022 portions of the project will be ready for replanting in Spring 2023 and advice will be obtained as to the best trees for our area.

Regular Updates

As mentioned, this will be a progressive process where one area will be cleared and remediated before the Board will approve the clean up and remediation of the

additional areas. This way the owners can see the progress first hand. The Board will provide regular updates to owners on the progress and expected timing of the project as we come to see it unfold.

For more background refer to the Notice distributed on Monday

To reiterate, while the project is underway there will be unavoidable disruption at the ranch, some of it significant. The storm damage our forests have suffered over the years will take time to clean up -- but clean up is an essential part of our proper stewardship of the lands.

