

BGO's 2022 Tenure in Trees Program Plants Roots in

Nazko, British Columbia, Canada

In 2017, nearly 20 separate fires merged near Nazko, British Columbia and resulted in a larger wildfire centered on the Chilcotin Plateau. The fire spanned over a combined area of more than 545,000 hectares, making it the largest fire in B.C.'s recorded history, roughly the same size as Prince Edward Island.



This project will focus on reforesting areas burned during BC's 2017 Plateau wildfire and is also part of the government's 2 Billion Tree program. A total of 1.5 million trees will be planted during the reforestation of this area and will provide wildlife habitat, hydrological benefits, and help to absorb carbon from the air.

Planting trees in areas that have been severely burned by wildfires expedites the return of forest cover and will provide both food sources, and shelter from the elements and predators to the vast wildlife in the area. This specific area is home to numerous wildlife species such as black and grizzly bears, wolves, mule deer, moose, as well as many small mammals and birds. The local community near Nazko, BC also relies heavily on hunting and trapping as an important resource and will significantly benefit from having a larger wildlife population supported by these restored forest habitats.

This reforestation project will also mitigate the risk of flooding as well as climate change in the future. By having trees planted in this area it will help to prevent the chance of flooding where there would have been overland runoff associated with the burnt forest floors. The new trees will also provide a buffering effect on the hydrological cycle. In addition, wildfires turn forested areas from carbon sinks into carbon sources. By planting trees it will help to return these areas to carbon sinks faster than if left to regenerate naturally.



During the reforestation of this project, a variety of trees will be planted including: Douglas- fir, Lodgepole Pine, Hybrid Spruce and Western Larch. **#TeamBGO** has contributed 3,000 trees to this project and we are excited to see how the reforestation brings back wildlife and community to the area near Nazko, BC.