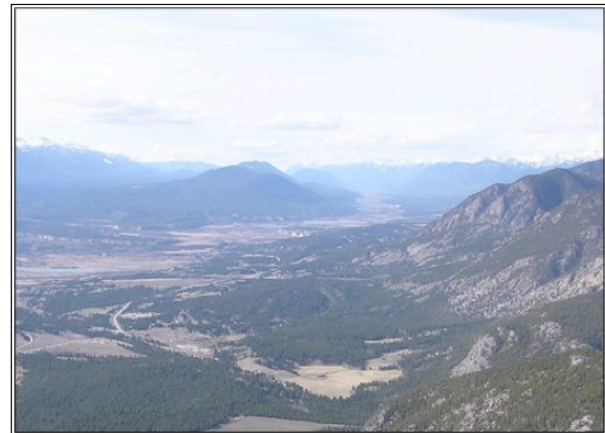


5. Vegetation and social response to ecosystem restoration at Radium Hot Springs, BC

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A multi-objective ecosystem restoration project was initiated near Radium Hot Springs in 2002. The Redstreak Restoration Project involved restoration treatments of thinning and subsequent burning aimed at restoring open forest/grassland vegetation types. To date over 250 hectares of closed forest have been treated. We report on the treatment process, vegetation response and social response. Vegetation monitoring has occurred at several time steps through the process. The general trajectory for key native species including a suite of bunchgrass species indicates a positive response. After initial increases associated with treatment non-native vegetation response appears to be static. Social response has also been generally positive with key challenges around smoke management. We will consider how results to date will affect the setting of future restoration objectives for the site.



Valley bottom in 1906 and 2004, showing increase in forest.

Biographical notes

Rick works as a Fire/Vegetation Specialist for the Lake Louise, Yoho, and Kootenay Field Unit. Rick is responsible for fire and vegetation management including wildfire suppression, prescribed fire, forest insect and disease, and invasive vegetation programs. He has worked for the Parks Canada Agency in resource conservation since 1990 based in Jasper National Park and the Western Canada Service Centre in Calgary. Rick is active in the broader fire management program serving in Parks Canada's organization as a Type I Incident Commander. Rick is currently working towards a Master's of Science at the University of Victoria with a focus on establishing a better understanding of mixed severity fire in Kootenay National Park.