

Fall
2026



Okanagan, British Columbia

Welcome to the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) Forestry Newsletter.

We are proud to share the **Fall 2026 Forestry Newsletter**, featuring forestry work taking place across OIB territory through Nk'Mip Forestry, Siya Forestry, and our forestry partners.

This issue includes updates on **forest restoration, wildfire risk reduction, FireSmart work, invasive plant removal**, the **Osoyoos Forest Nursery**, and new forestry partnerships. We also share recent community events, learning, and stories about the people behind the work.

Explore this newsletter to learn more about the **projects underway across the territory**, the progress being made, and how OIB continues to build its role in forestry while creating opportunities for community members and caring for the land.

WHAT'S NEW?

A New Forest Nursery Opens



The Osoyoos Forest Nursery officially opened on the OIB Reserve land in Oliver this year. A partnership between the Osoyoos Indian Band and K&C Silviculture, the nursery will grow forest seedlings for reforestation across OIB territory and beyond, while creating local employment and training opportunities. **More inside...**

NK'MIP FORESTRY



OIB Forestry in 2026

A look at our forestry work throughout the OIB Lands.



Forestry work underway across OIB territory | photo Olam Films

OIB | 2026 FORESTRY BY THE NUMBERS

80+

HECTARCES ASSESSED
AND BEING TREATED FOR
WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION
ON THE OIB RESERVE

18.2M

SEEDLINGS
ANNUAL CAPACITY AT THE
OSOYOOS FOREST NURSERY AT
FULL OPERATION

900,000+

TREES AND NATIVE PLANTS
PLANTED ACROSS OIB
TERRITORY IN 2026



WHERE THE WORK IS HAPPENING

OIB RESERVE	VASEUX-BIGHORN	ACROSS OIB TERRITORY	TREE FARM LICENCE 59
Protecting the community	Reducing wildfire risk	Restoring forests	Growing OIB’s role
FireSmart, fuel reduction, invasive plant removal, and the Osoyoos Forest Nursery.	Wildfire risk reduction near Green Lake Road.	Large-scale planting and local seed collection.	A new role in forest planning and management east of Oliver.

From community wildfire protection to forest restoration and long-term management, OIB forestry work is happening across the territory.

“A lot of our elders are really happy that we’re doing this, that forestry’s making that next step. If you take something from the land, you want to give something back.”

VERN LOUIE • Head of Operations, Osoyoos Indian Band

PROJECT: Large-Scale Planting Through the 2 Billion Trees Program

Restoring wildfire-affected areas with trees and native plants

Local seeds.
Local forests.
Long-term restoration.



Did You Know?

More than 900,000 trees and native plants were planted across OIB territory in 2026 through Canada’s 2 Billion Trees Program.

Project: Forest Restoration and Planting

Focus: Wildfire restoration, native species, wildlife habitat, and local seed collection

Nk'Mip Forestry is carrying out large-scale planting to help restore areas affected by wildfire and other disturbances across OIB territory. The work includes planting a mix of trees, shrubs, and native plants selected for local conditions and the needs of each site. Local seed collection is also an important part of the project, with species including trembling aspen and ponderosa pine being collected within OIB territory and grown for future planting. The work supports forest renewal and wildlife habitat while also creating opportunities through seed collection, nursery work, planting, and monitoring.

PROJECT: Wildfire Risk Reduction at Vaseux-Bighorn National Wildlife Area



Did You Know?

Reducing dense trees, brush, and other forest fuels can help lower the potential intensity of wildfire and improve conditions for crews responding to a fire.

Location: Vaseux-Bighorn National Wildlife Area near Green Lake Road

Focus: Fuel reduction, forest health, and protection of ecological and cultural values

Nk'Mip Forestry continues wildfire risk reduction work near Green Lake Road within the Vaseux-Bighorn National Wildlife Area. Crews are working to **reduce excess forest fuels** while taking into account the wildlife and cultural and environmental values that make the area important.

The work requires careful planning, particularly in areas with challenging terrain, and is aimed at reducing the potential for severe wildfire while helping maintain healthier forest conditions over the long term.



Grand Opening of the Osoyoos Forest Nursery

At full operational capacity, the Osoyoos Forest Nursery (OFN) can grow approx. **18.2 million seedlings** each year.

Project: Osoyoos Forest Nursery

Partners: Osoyoos Indian Band and K&C Silviculture Ltd.

Location: OIB Reserve Land near Oliver, B.C.

Site: 26 acres **Growing Space:** 18,000 sq. ft. of greenhouse space and 500,000 sq. ft. outdoor space

The OFN officially celebrated its grand opening, bringing together **OIB Elders, community members, project partners, and guests** for a ceremony and tours of the new facility. The nursery will grow forest seedlings for reforestation projects across OIB territory as well as the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. Along with increasing local seedling production, the partnership creates **employment, training, and skills development opportunities** while giving OIB a greater role in forest renewal.



"The Government of Canada is proud to support initiatives that bring together action on the environment and community development. The Osoyoos Forest Nursery will help grow the next generation of forests here in B.C., while creating meaningful jobs and training opportunities for the local community." - Hon. Stephen Fuhr, Member of Parliament | Secretary of State (Defence Procurement).



“Working as a forester for the OIB is a source of inspiration. I care deeply about supporting the people and land I work with and am continually learning from OIB values - responsibility, balance, and long-term thinking that guide land management. It is a privilege to be taught by a community whose stewardship is rooted in knowledge, culture, and care for future generations.”

DAN MACMASTER • Forestry Manager, NK'Mip Forestry

PROJECT: Reducing Wildfire Risk on the OIB Reserve

Planning and treating priority areas close to homes and community infrastructure

Reducing forest fuels in priority areas close to the community.



Did You Know?

More than 80 hectares on the OIB Reserve are being treated for wildfire risk reduction

Focus: Pruning, thinning, brush management, and fuel reduction

Through the **Community Resilience Initiative**, wildfire risk reduction planning is underway across forested areas of the OIB Reserve. Wildfire Threat Assessment plots have been completed to better understand **fuel buildup**, **forest conditions** and **terrain** that can influence how a wildfire behaves.

Through Siya Forestry, a treatment plan has been developed for the area, with the first phase focusing on approximately **24 hectares near homes, infrastructure and other community values**. The work is one part of OIB's broader approach to improving **community safety and wildfire preparedness**.



PROJECT: FireSmart Work Around OIB Homes

Practical FireSmart work around homes can help reduce wildfire risk.



Did You Know?

Numerous homes and buildings on the Reserve continue to be assessed and treated through FireSmart efforts

Program: Sustainable Forestry Initiatives (SFI) FireSmart
Focus: Home Ignition Zone Assessments + hand treatments
Progress: All but two assessed units have been treated

Through the SFI FireSmart program, Home Ignition Zone Assessments have been completed at Band-owned homes, duplexes, and micro homes to identify wildfire hazards around each property.

Crews have since completed hand treatments at most of the assessed units. The work has included limbing trees, removing pine needles and other surface fuels, and clearing vegetation close to buildings.

These practical steps help reduce the amount of material around homes that could contribute to fire spread and are part of OIB's broader wildfire preparedness work.



Forestry Business Partnerships Day

Did You Know?

The event brought together community members, students, and forestry businesses.

Focus: Employment, training, and business opportunities

Participants: OIB community members, students, contractors and forestry organizations

The OIB welcomed community members, students, contractors, and forestry organizations to its annual **Forestry Business Partnerships Day**.

The event brought the community together to learn more about forestry work happening across OIB territory, connect with businesses in the sector, and explore employment, training, and future business opportunities. Students from Senpaq'cin Elementary School helped open the day, adding a special community connection to an event focused on building relationships and creating opportunities in forestry.



"Forestry is about much more than managing forests. It is about good stewardship, building relationships, creating opportunities for OIB members, and making sure the community has a strong voice in how the land is cared for now and for future generations." - Dan Macmaster, Forestry Manager, Nk'Mip Forestry.



PROJECT: Managing Invasive Plants on the OIB Reserve

Did You Know?

Crews have removed approximately 40 bags of puncturevine this season.

Focus Areas: Ecological resilience, jobs, environmental enhancements, safety

Core Values: Protecting water, wildlife and culturally significant areas, biodiversity.

Puncturevine has been the main focus of invasive plant work this season. The OIB forestry crew, working alongside three students, removed approximately 40 garbage bags of puncturevine from areas across the OIB Reserve.

Crews have also worked with the OIB maintenance team to remove Siberian elm from Band-owned sites. A small trial involving approximately 10 to 12 young elm trees is also being monitored to see how well the treatment prevents the trees from growing back.

Shared governance
guides sustainable
forest management.



OSOYOOS INDIAN BAND AND GORMAN GROUP FORMALIZE FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP



OIB now manages the TFL with Gorman and makes all decisions on the tenure.

The OIB and the Gorman Group, through Similkameen Forest Products Ltd. (SFP), have signed a new partnership agreement for the planning and management of TFL 59, located east of Oliver in the OIB's backyard.

- Through Nk'Mip Forestry, OIB will now be involved from the beginning of the forest planning process. Nk'Mip will lead the planning of proposed harvesting areas in partnership with SFP, with plans considering culturally important sites, traditional-use areas, wildlife habitat, water quality, forest health, and wildfire resilience.
- The agreement also creates opportunities for OIB members to gain hands-on experience through cultural assessments, fieldwork, and monitoring, while building the skills needed to take on more responsibility in the future.
- The partnership will create jobs, training opportunities and longer-term revenue for OIB.

Our mission is to strengthen the economic benefits, social decision-making, and environmental health & resilience for the Osoyoos Indian Band through our Forestry operations.

OUR FORESTRY GOALS

Cultivate Economic Empowerment

Strengthen our Community

Empower Through Awareness

Open Channels of Communication

Environmental Stewardship for Generations



Nk'Mip Forestry and Siya Forestry crews at Grizzly commercial thinning project site.

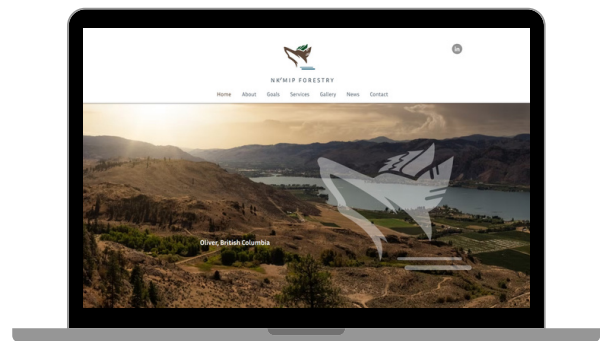
BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS

We work with companies and individuals who believe in sustainable forest management without sacrificing ecological values for future generations.

We believe in hard work, steady employment, economic viability, and collaboration while maintaining the environmental integrity the land deserves.

We invite you to talk with us - please contact us.

READ ALL THE LATEST NEWS AT
nkmpforestry.ca/news



CONTACT



NK'MIP FORESTRY

For more on OIB Forestry work and stories, we invite you to visit Nk'Mip Forestry's website or social channels!

Visit Nk'Mip Forestry
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