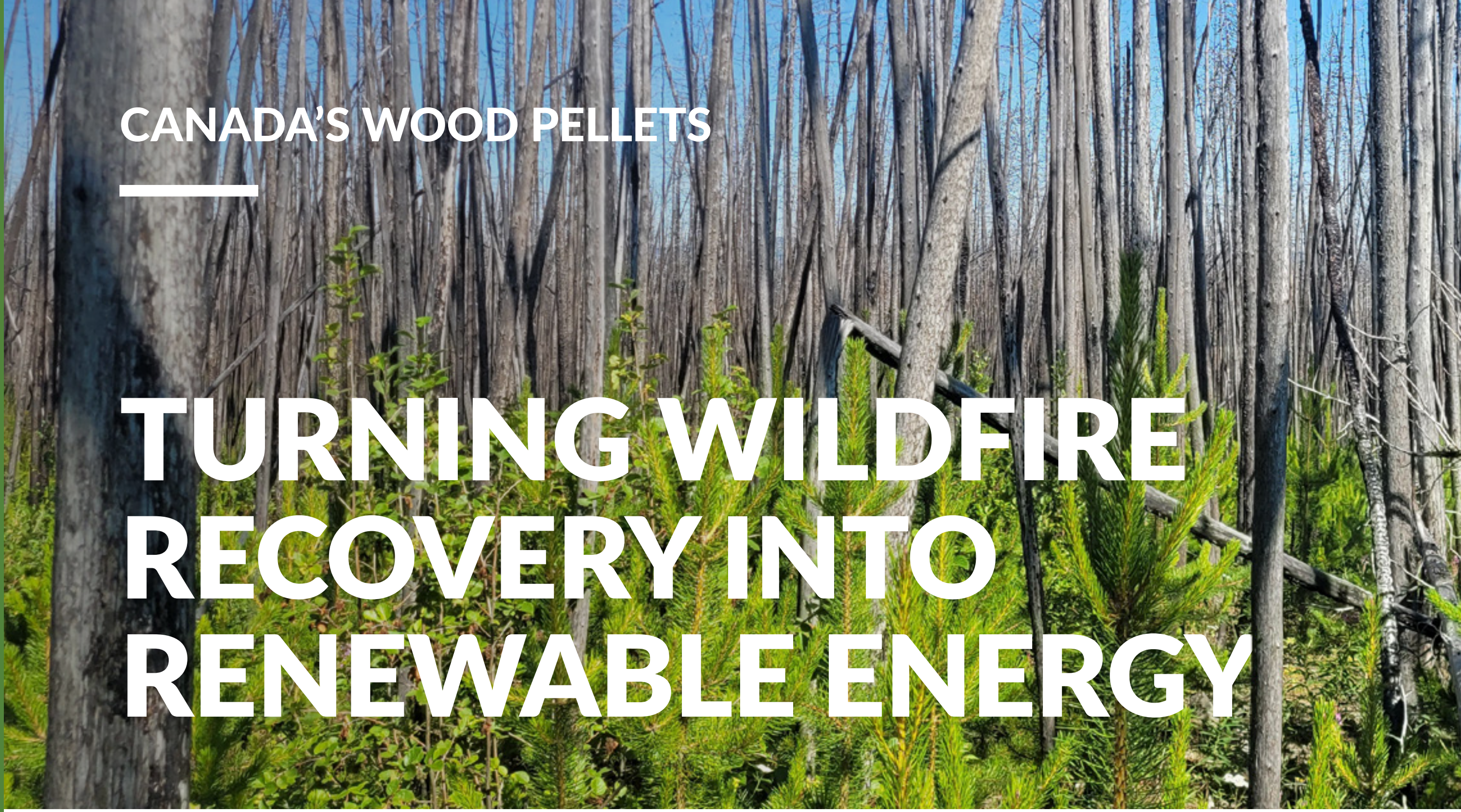

CANADA'S WOOD PELLETS

TURNING WILDFIRE RECOVERY INTO RENEWABLE ENERGY

All photos supplied by Central Chilcotin Rehabilitation Ltd.

Regeneration is at the heart of Canada's approach to sustainable forest management. Every area that is harvested or disturbed—whether by fire, insects, or harvesting—must regenerate naturally or through reforestation, so forests remain healthy, productive and continue storing carbon. The same principle guides Canada's wood pellet industry, where pellets are made entirely from forestry and manufacturing residuals—wood once considered waste—to produce renewable, low-carbon energy for the world.

Today, new innovations are extending those same principles to wildfire-damaged forests on a massive scale—recovering burned wood, restoring ecosystems and creating renewable energy. In British Columbia's central interior, Central Chilcotin Rehabilitation Ltd. (CCR) is leading this effort.

> CCR is an indigenous-owned company with a focus on forest rehabilitation through reforestation, wildlife habitat restoration and the enhanced utilization of wood fibre.

By salvaging damaged trees, CCR reduces future fire risk, restores forest health, creates local employment and provides renewable feedstock for pulp and pellet production.

RECOVERING VALUE AND REDUCING RISK

The scale and intensity of recent wildfires in British Columbia is unprecedented. In the 2017 wildfire season, a series of blazes across the central interior of the province merged to form the Plateau Complex fire, which ultimately burned more than 540,000 hectares. Across much of this landscape, the remaining trees are small and heavily charred—

The 2017 Plateau Complex fire burned more than 540,000 hectares.

too damaged for sawmills, yet dense enough to fuel another fire if left standing. CCR saw a different future. By salvaging and processing the dead fibre before it deteriorates, the company protects regenerating seedlings and restores the landscape to a healthier, more resilient condition.

CAREFUL PLANNING, REAL RESULTS

CCR began developing its approach after the 2017 Elephant Hill fire, testing small-scale salvage and rehabilitation to understand how to recover fire-damaged forests responsibly. From the outset, CCR emphasized careful planning, mapping, and environmental protection—identifying sensitive areas, protecting wildlife habitat and ensuring natural regeneration could thrive after operations.

Those lessons led to a refined model now used near Palmer Lake, where CCR recovers small, burned trees that would otherwise be left to decay. The fibre is turned into pulp chips and wood pellets—an example of cascading use, where every part of the tree is put to work. The project is expected to continue for about ten years, supporting local jobs and providing a steady supply of renewable fibre.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS

CCR's approach delivers wide-ranging benefits. Ecologically, it prevents reburns, protects wildlife habitat and accelerates large-scale natural regeneration allowing new forests to grow and capture more carbon over time. Economically, it supports community employment and regional businesses while supplying renewable, low-carbon energy to global pellet markets. Even eight years after the fire, CCR has shown that fibre recovery remains possible when handled carefully, transforming material once considered waste into products that advance a low-carbon, circular economy.

PARTNERSHIPS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

CCR's success is built on collaboration. Government partnerships have helped offset the high upfront costs of planning and environmental protection, while industry partnerships provide the scale and markets needed to make the work viable. Together, these efforts are turning wildfire-damaged forests into renewed landscapes—supporting jobs, reducing wildfire risk, cutting carbon emissions and supplying renewable fibre for wood pellets that help power a low-carbon future.