

Why do we plant aspen trees in fuel breaks?



Fire behavior benefits:

- Aspen trees hold a lot of moisture, making them resistant to burning.
- Fire in aspen forests is likely to be less intense and stay in the forest understory.

Ecosystem benefits:

- Young aspen trees are vital food sources for moose, black bears, beavers, porcupines, ruffed grouse, and various rodents.
- Cavity nesting birds rely on aspen trees for critical habitat.
- Aspen grow back quickly after fire by suckering from a shared root system, self-maintaining a fire-resistant forest.

Human benefits:

- Aspen forests provide safer conditions for firefighters due to reduced fire behavior.
- Aspen leaves help remove air pollutants and produce oxygen.
- Aspen leaves are a beautiful golden colour in the fall!

Did you know?

Aspen trees grow back first after wildfires in the boreal forest, so planting them in a cleared fuel break mimics natural processes!

More information on fuels management in the Yukon:

yukon.ca/en/emergencies-and-safety/wildfires/learn-how-we-reduce-wildfire-risk


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