

Dam Brushing 2021: Snare & Bluefish Hydro

Dam brushing resumed in 2021 with work being completed at Snare and Bluefish. Brushing took place from October 15th to 29th, beginning with work to remove downstream trees from Bluefish before proceeding to work on dams at Snare. We had a good crew led by Kris Vaculchik from ACE Vegetation and NWT workers from the community of Ndilo. The brushing crew consisted of:

Kris Vaculchik (ACE)
Leon Tsetta (ACE)
Leo Betsina (ACE)
Fred Carlson (ACE)
David Sangris (ACE)
Kelvin Sangris (ACE)
Jamie Tennant (NTPC)
Mitchell Touesnard (NTPC)

The Cascades PC Dyke and Falls Side Dam 2 have large brush piles which have been added to over the years which will need to be burned at some point over the next couple of winters. Many of the dams and dykes have large stumps or coppices which can be damaging to the dam structure and allow for quick regrowth of vegetation. It is planned to pursue a herbicide application permit for NTPC dams over winter with the Vegetation Maintenance Coordinator and Environmental Licensing Specialist. Direct applications of herbicides to roots/stumps of vegetation is a common practice on dams elsewhere in Canada and should lead to slower regrowth and reduction of damaging root systems.

Next year a smaller brushing project may be required to address some of the Forks dykes, Rapids side dams 5B and 4B and possibly Nonacho, though this will be assessed in the spring. Going forward this work will be planned with the Vegetation Maintenance Coordinator and Manager, Plant Operations to include other brushing needs at the three hydro sites.

Brushing work was completed at the following dams this year:

Rapids Dam & Camp
Falls Main Dam
Falls Side Dam 1
Falls Side Dam 2
Cascades Power Canal Dyke & House
Forks Strutt Dam
Forks North Dyke
Bluefish Dam & Camp

The following photos show before and after conditions for the dams completed over the course of this project:

Rapids Dam Before (July) & After:



Falls Main Dam Upstream Before (July) & After:



Falls Main Dam Crest Before & After:



Falls Main Dam Downstream Before (July) & After:



Falls Side Dam 1 Before (July) & After:



Falls Side Dam 2 Before (July) & After:



Cascades Before (July) & After:



Strutt Dam Before (July) & After:



Forks North Dyke Before & After:



Bluefish Before (July) & After:



Vegetation Conditions at NTPC Dam Sites Fall 2021:

Rapids:

Main Dam – **Good Condition**
Side Dam 5B – **Poor Condition**
Side Dam 4B – **Poor Condition**
Side Dam 9B – **Good Condition**

Falls:

Main Dam – **Good Condition**
Side Dam 1 – **Good Condition**
Side Dam 2 – **Good Condition**

Cascades:

PC Dyke – **Good Condition**

Forks:

Strutt Dam – **Good Condition**
North Dyke – **Good Condition**
Dyke 1 – **Fair Condition**
Dyke 2 – **Fair Condition**
Dyke 3 – **Fair Condition**
Forks Dam – **Fair Condition**

Bluefish:

Bluefish Dam – **Good Condition**
Duncan Dam – **Good Condition**

Taltson:

Twin Gorges – **Good Condition**
North Valley – **Good Condition**
Nonacho – **Fair Condition**