



Regional District of Central Kootenay
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Open Meeting Agenda

Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024
Time: 9:00 am
Location: Hybrid Model - In-person and Remote

Directors will have the opportunity to participate in the meeting electronically. Proceedings are open to the public.

Pages

1. WEBEX REMOTE MEETING INFO

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

Meeting Time:

9:00 a.m. PST

10:00 a.m. MST

Join by Video:

<https://nelsonho.webex.com/nelsonho/j.php?MTID=mae5594f6ac386f8f05d3c4041f284837>

Join by Phone:

+1-604-449-3026 Canada Toll (Vancouver)

Meeting Number (access code): 2773 062 9039

Meeting Password: JZmHWgaf453 (59649423 from phones)

In-Person Location:

202 Lakeside Drive - Boardroom
Nelson, BC

2. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

2.1 TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

2.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION:

(ALL VOTE)

The agenda for the January 18, 2024 Regular Open Board meeting be adopted as circulated with the addition of the addendum.

2.3 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

14 - 43

RECOMMENDATION:

(ALL VOTE)

The minutes from the December 14, 2023 Regular Open Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

2.4 INTRODUCTIONS

CAO Horn will introduce Joann Concepcion, Payroll Specialist, replacing Durga Merupati who has moved into the Payroll System Analyst position.

2.5 DELEGATION

2.5.1 Community Futures Central Kootenay and West Kootenay Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP)

Andrea Wilkey, Executive Director

Erin Rooney, West Kootenay RNIP Coordinator

The presentation for Community Futures Central Kootenay and West Kootenay RNIP will be received in the addenda package.

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

3.1 Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee: minutes December 12, 2023

44 - 52

Staff has requested an amendment to Resolution 716/23 as per UBCM's request.

RECOMMENDATION:

(PO WGT)

That the resolution 716/23 being:

That the Board direct staff to submit a funding application to UBCM Community to Community (C2C) for Kootenay Lake Partnership 2024 strategic planning;

be amended to read the following:

That the Board ratify the funding application to the UBCM Community to Community (C2C) Program for the Kootenay Lake Partnership 2024 strategic planning; AND FURTHER, the RDCK is willing to provide overall grant management and supports all proposed activities within the C2C grant application for Kootenay Lake Partnership 2024 strategic planning with less than 10 hours of staff time to come from Planning and Land Use Service S104.

- 3.2 The email dated November 9, 2023 from Jennyce Hoffman, Heritage BC, seeking sponsorship for the 2024 Annual Heritage Conference in Nelson, BC.** 53 - 62

RECOMMENDATION:
(ALL VOTE WGT)

That the Board sponsor in the amount of \$5,000 to the Heritage BC's 2024 Annual Conference being held May 1 to 3, 2024 in Nelson, BC being paid from General Administration Service S100.

4. COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS

4.1 FOR INFORMATION

- 4.1.1 Area B Advisory Planning Commission: minutes November 28, 2023** 63 - 68
Staff received the recommendation to support the Development Variance Permit application.
- 4.1.2 Riondel Commission: minutes November 7, 2023** 69 - 72
- 4.1.3 Salmo and Area G Recreation Commission No. 7: minutes November 27, 2023** 73 - 75
Staff has received the recommendation to have a reserve fund setup for Salmo Valley Youth and Community Services S218 in the 2024 draft budget.
- 4.1.4 North Kootenay Lake Services Committee:** 76 - 80
Staff has received the recommendations for the proposed 2024 draft budgets for the Kaslo and Area D Library Service, Jaws of Life, Fire Service and for the Emergency Services update.
- 4.1.5 Riondel Commission: minutes December 5, 2023** 81 - 85
Staff received the recommendations for the appointments to the Riondel Commission, the letters to the ministries and the 2024 Recreation Facilities draft budget. The members were appointed at the December 14, 2024 Board meeting.
- 4.1.6 Castlegar and District Community Complex Recreation Commission: minutes December 5, 2023** 86 - 90

Staff received the recommendations to review the lease for the Pass Creek Regional Park, the agreement between RDCK and the Castlegar Hockey Society, and the public engagement for the Glade Regional Park upgrades.

4.1.7 Creston Valley Services Committee: minutes December 7, 2023 91 - 95
Staff has received the recommendations regarding the Traditional Use Study Park Priority Report.

4.1.8 Area J Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission: minutes January 3, 2024 96 - 98
Staff received the recommendation to support the Development Variance Permit Application to Sutco Contracting Ltd.

4.1.9 West Resource Recovery Committee: minutes January 4, 2024 99 - 101

4.1.10 Area A Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission: minutes January 4, 2024 102 - 104

4.2 WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

4.2.1 Kaslo and Area D Economic Development Commission: minutes December 11, 2023 105 - 111
Staff has received the recommendations for funding the Imagine Kootenay program in the 2024 draft budget and the letters of support from the Kaslo and Area D Economic Development Commission.

RECOMMENDATION:
(ALL VOTE WGT)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve Director Hewat be reimbursed for travel expenses and paid a stipend for the September 26, 2023 Imagine Kootenay Steering Committee meeting held in Nelson, BC to be paid from Kaslo and Area D Economic Development Commission Service S109.

4.2.2 Nakusp and Area K Recreation Commission No. 4: minutes January 10, 2024 112 - 115

RECOMMENDATION:
(PO WGT)

That the Board approve the payment of the following grant from the Recreation Commission No. 4 – Area K and Village of Nakusp (\$228) 2024 budget:

West Kootenay Football Club \$6,000

- 4.2.3 Creston Valley Services Committee: minutes January 11, 2024**
The minutes from the Creston Valley Services Committee meeting held January 11, 2024 will be received in the addenda package.

4.3 MEMBERSHIP

4.3.1 Area A Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission

RECOMMENDATION:
(ALL VOTE)

That the Board appoint the following individual to the Area A Advisory Planning Commission for a term to end December 31, 2026:

Julie March

4.3.2 Portion of Area E - Procter/Harrop/Balfour/Queens Bay Recreation Commission No. 10

RECOMMENDATION:
(ALL VOTE)

That the Board send a letter to the following outgoing members of the Portion of Area E - Procter/Harrop/Balfour/Queens Bay Recreation Commission No. 10 thanking them for their service:

Bill Macpherson
Kim Palfenier
Jenny Hide
Ellen Schmidt
Janet Scholtz

4.3.3 Sunshine Bay Regional Park (Area E)

RECOMMENDATION:
(ALL VOTE)

That the Board appoint the following individuals to the Sunshine Bay Regional Park (Area E) for a term to end December 31, 2024:

Ken Foot
Ruth Prosser
Elaine Beaulac
Lorie Dosenberger
Jennifer Dehnel
Rich Newton
Alexandria McCulloch

4.3.4 Grandview Water Service Community Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION:
(ALL VOTE)

That the Board send a letter to outgoing member Mike Orton thanking him for his service to the Grandview Water Service Community Advisory Committee.

4.3.5 Area J Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission

RECOMMENDATION:
(ALL VOTE)

That the Board send a letter to outgoing member Jeff Grant thanking him for his service with the Area J Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission.

4.4 DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Each Director will be given the opportunity to provide a brief summary of the work they have been doing within their communities.

4.4.1	Director Jackman: CBRAC/RCC	116
4.4.2	Director Vandenberghe: December Activities	117
4.4.3	Directors Graham, Newell, Popoff: Letter of Support - RCMP Nelson Detachment Organizational Structure	118
4.4.4	Director Davidoff: Letter of Support - USCC Children's Orchard Childcare Centre	119 - 120
4.4.5	Director McLaren-Caux: December Activities	121 - 122

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1	The request for funding support dated December 14, 2023 from Andrea Wilkey, Community Futures, for the West Kootenay Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot.	123 - 125
5.2	The letter dated January 2, 2024 from Bob Kitching, Creston Valley Regional Airport Society, seeking a letter of support for their BC Air Access Program application.	126

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1	The letter dated December 1, 2023 from Jay Chalke, Ombudsperson, providing the RDCK the Ombudsperson Quarterly Report from July 1 - September 30, 2023.	127 - 136
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6.2	The letter dated November 28, 2023 from Trish Mandewo, UBCM, informing the RDCK of the second Community Works Fund payment for fiscal 2023/2024 will occur in December 2023.	137
6.3	The letter dated December 14, 2023 from Honourable Ravi Kahlon, Ministry of Housing, informing the RDCK of the new legislation to support local government housing initiatives.	138 - 143
6.4	The End of the Year Report from Honourable Janet Austin the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.	144 - 149
6.5	The letter dated December 21, 2023 from Bindi Sawchuk, Ministry of Housing, informing the RDCK that funds in the amount of \$279,143 will be provide to the organization for housing initiatives.	150 - 151
7.	FOR INFORMATION: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE The Accounts Payable Summary for December 2023 in the amount of \$2,707,517 has been received for information.	152 - 170
8.	BYLAWS	
8.1	Bylaw 2872: Zoning Amendment (Hallam and Pejski) The Board Report dated December 22, 2023 from Zachari Giacomazzo, Planner, seeking Board give third reading to RDCK Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2872, has been received.	171 - 199
<p><u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> (ALL VOTE)</p> <p>1. That Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2872, 2022 being a bylaw to amend the Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Bylaw No. 1675, 2004 is hereby given THIRD reading, as amended by content.</p> <p><u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> (ALL VOTE)</p> <p>2. That the consideration of adoption BE REFERRED for Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2872, 2022 to the February 15, 2024 Board Meeting.</p>		
9.	NEW BUSINESS	
9.1	DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY	
9.1.1	Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans (Area D, E, F and I) The Board Report dated December 20, 2023 from Nora Hannon, Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Senior Advisor, seeking Board	200 - 738

approval of the updated Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans (CWRPs) for Electoral Areas D, E, F and I, has been received.

RECOMMENDATION:
(PO WGT)

That the Board approve and adopt the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans for Electoral Areas D,E,F and I.

9.1.2 2024 Wildfire Mitigation and FireSmart Program

739 - 743

The Board Report dated December 20, 2023 from Nora Hannon, Disaster Mitigation and Adaption Senior Advisor, providing the Board an update on the 2024 Wildfire Mitigation and FireSmart Program, has been received.

RECOMMENDATION:
(ALL VOTE WGT)

That the Board direct staff to apply to the 2024 and 2025 UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program intake to coordinate and manage grant funding within the RDCK in order to operate the Wildfire Mitigation and FireSmart Program in 2024; AND FURTHER, if successful, the Board authorizes the Corporate Officer to sign the necessary documents to complete the grant agreement with UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program to manage and administer the funds.

9.1.3 Award: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Pathways Study

744 - 752

The Board Report dated January 3, 2024 from Shari Imada, Senior Energy Specialist, providing the Board with an update on the status of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Pathway Study, has been received.

RECOMMENDATION:
(ALL VOTE WGT)

That the Board direct staff to negotiate with the proponent, Building Energy Solutions Ltd. to achieve highest value to the RDCK, which meets all the required scope of work to deliver a GHG Emissions Reduction Pathway Study for RDCK-owned facilities as described in the issued Request for Proposals; AND FURTHER, that the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the necessary documents, following negotiations, to award the GHG Emissions Reduction Pathway Study contract to Building Energy Solutions Ltd. to the maximum value of \$225,000 with funds to be paid from Service A108 Development Services.

9.2 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

9.2.1 Travel Allowance for RDCK Directors and Employees

753 - 779

The Board Report dated January 2, 2024 from Yev Malloff, General Manager of IT and Economic Development & Chief Financial Officer, providing the Board with further information regarding travel allowances, including meals and mileage allowance, has been received.

RECOMMENDATION:
(ALL VOTE)

That the Board direct staff to prepare a bylaw to amend RDCK Directors and Alternate Directors Remuneration Bylaw 2710, 2021 to update the meal allowances and mileage rates to match the BC Provincial Government Employee Group II rates as per the Board report dated January 2, 2024 Travel Allowance for RDCK Directors and Employees authored by Yev Malloff.

- 9.2.2 2024 Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG)** 780
- The 2024 AKBLG Convention first call for resolutions deadline is February 16, 2024.

9.3 FIRE SERVICES

- 9.3.1 Service Agreement Extension: Canyon Lister, Wynndel, Electoral Areas B and C, and Arrow Creek** 781 - 788
- The Board Report dated December 21, 2023 from Nora Hannon, Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Senior Advisor, seeking Board approval for the Canyon Lister, Wynndel, Electoral Areas B and C and the Arrow Creek Fire Protection Service Area contract extensions with the Town of Creston, has been received.

RECOMMENDATION:
(ALL VOTE WGT)

That the Board enter into one year contract extensions from January 1st to December 31st 2024 with the Town of Creston for the Canyon Lister Fire Protection Services Agreement, the Wynndel Lakeview Fire Protection Services Agreement, the Electoral Areas B and C and the area defined as "Arrow Creek Fire Protection Service Area" Fire Protection and Assistance Response Agreement and the Amendment to Canyon Lister Fire Hall Lease Agreement, and authorize the Board Chair and Corporate Officer to execute these agreements.

9.4 GRANTS

- 9.4.1 Discretionary** 789 - 803

RECOMMENDATION:
(ALL VOTE)

Discretionary grants out of the funds available for the following Electoral Areas/Member Municipalities be approved as designated:

AREA A

Valley Community Services Society	Better at Home East Shore	\$4000
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Community Futures Central Kootenay	Climate Resilient Kootenay Business	\$800
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Kootenay Region - Skate Canada BC/YT Section	Kootenay Region Figure Skating Championships	\$400
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South Kootenay Lake ArtConnect Society	CBT Non-Profit Advisory Program	\$900
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AREA B

Kootenay Region - Skate Canada BC/YT Section	Kootenay Region Figure Skating Championships	\$600
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Canyon Community Association	Community Celebration Spud Night	\$999
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Wildsight Creston Valley	Wildlife Friendly Fencing Mailer	\$1000
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AREA E

LVR Grad Committee 2024	LVR Graduation 2024	\$1000
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AREA F

LVR Grad Committee 2024	LVR Graduation 2024	\$1500
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AREA G

Darelyn Stuart	Cleaning up the pondy	\$169.20
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Community Futures Central Kootenay	Climate Resilient Kootenay Business	\$700
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AREA I

Glade Community Hall	Pie Bingo Fundraiser	\$400
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Stanley Humphries	Stanley Humphries	\$3000
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Secondary School	Graduation Awards	
<u>AREA J</u>		
West Kootenay Regional Arts Council	Bent on Art Queer and Trans Arts Festival	\$300
Stanley Humphries Secondary School	Graduation 2023 Scholarship/Bursary Program	\$3000

9.4.2 Community Development

804 - 821

RECOMMENDATION:
(ALL VOTE)

Community Development grants out of the funds available for the following Electoral Areas/Member Municipalities be approved as designated:

<u>AREA B</u>		
Community Futures Central Kootenay	Climate Resilient Kootenay Business	\$1,000
<u>AREA D</u>		
Okanagan Nation Alliance	Fish in Schools	\$1,500
<u>AREA F</u>		
Okanagan Nation Alliance	Fish in Schools	\$1,250
<u>AREA G</u>		
Salmo & District Chamber of Commerce	Douglas fir protection in the Salmo Valley	\$5,000
<u>AREA H</u>		
Slocan Lake Arts Council	Matching Funds Grant in Aid	\$3,000
Okanagan Nation Alliance	Fish in Schools	\$1,500
<u>AREA I</u>		
Community Futures Central Kootenay	Climate Resilient Kootenay Business	\$700
Stanley Humphries	Stanley Humphries	\$3,000

Secondary School	Graduation Awards	
Okanagan Nation Alliance	Fish in Schools	\$1,250
<u>AREA J</u>		
Okanagan Nation Alliance	Fish in Schools	\$1,250
<u>AREA K</u>		
Bayview Residents Association	Fire Caddy - Insurance and Building Costs	\$2,000
Nakusp Secondary School	Cultural Trip - Cirque du Soleil - CORTEO	\$2,000
Kinship Connection Society	KCC Energy Upgrades Project	\$3,000
Nakusp Elementary	Ski Program	\$10,000
Nakusp Rail Society	Roofing of the Milk Wagon Shelter	\$575
The Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department Society	Fire Fighter Gala	\$1,500
Nakusp Fire Brigade	Fitness Equipment	\$2,500
<u>CRESTON</u>		
Town of Creston	Accessory Dwelling Units	\$10,000

9.5 CHAIR/CAO REPORTS

The Chair and CAO will provide a verbal report to the Board.

10. RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Rural Affairs Committee meeting held January 17, 2024 will be received in the addenda package.

11. DIRECTORS' MOTIONS

11.1 Director Graham: Recording Board Meetings

RECOMMENDATION:

(ALL VOTE)

That the Board direct staff to record the Regular Open Board meetings beginning in March 2024 using the WebEx tool until such time as other technology can be implemented to record the open Board meetings.

12. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair will call for questions from the public and members of the media at 11:45 a.m.

13. IN CAMERA

13.1 RESOLUTION - MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

The Open meeting will be adjourned after In Camera without reconvening back into the open session unless there is business that needs to be addressed.

RECOMMENDATION:

(ALL VOTE)

In the opinion of the Board - and in accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter* - the public interest so requires that persons other than DIRECTORS, ALTERNATE DIRECTORS, DELEGATIONS AND STAFF be excluded from the meeting; AND FURTHER, in accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, the meeting is to be closed on the bases identified in the following subsections:

- (c) labour relations or other employee relations;
- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality;
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;
- (n) the consideration of whether a council meeting should be closed under a provision of this subsection or subsection (2);

13.2 RESOLUTION - RECESS OF OPEN MEETING

RECOMMENDATION:

(ALL VOTE)

The Open Meeting be recessed at _____ a.m./ p.m. in order to conduct the *In Camera* Board meeting and reconvened at _____ a.m./p.m.

14. MATTERS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

15. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

(ALL VOTE)

That the meeting adjourn at ____ p.m.



**Regional District of Central Kootenay
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Open Meeting Minutes**

The **twelfth** meeting of the Board of the Regional District of Central Kootenay in 2023 was held on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. through a hybrid meeting model.

Quorum was maintained throughout the meeting.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

PRESENT:

Chair A. Watson	Electoral Area D	In-Person
Director G. Jackman	Electoral Area A	In-Person
Director R. Tierney	Electoral Area B	In-Person
Director K. Vandenberghe	Electoral Area C	In-Person
Director J. Smienk	Electoral Area E	In-Person
Director T. Newell	Electoral Area F	In-Person
Director H. Cunningham	Electoral Area G	In-Person
Director W. Popoff	Electoral Area H	In-Person
Director A. Davidoff	Electoral Area I	
Director H. Hanegraaf	Electoral Area J	In-Person
Director T. Weatherhead	Electoral Area K	In-Person
Director M. McFaddin	City of Castlegar	In-Person
Director A. Deboon	Town of Creston	In-Person
Director S. Hewat	Village of Kaslo	In-Person
Director A. McLaren-Caux	Village of Nakusp	In-Person
Director K. Page	City of Nelson	In-Person
Director L. Casley	Village of New Denver	
Director D. Lockwood	Village of Salmo	In-Person
Director C. Ferguson	Village of Silverton	In-Person
Director J. Lunn	Village of Slocan	In-Person

ABSENT DIRECTOR

Director C. Graham	Electoral Area E
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GUEST

Alternate Director D. Dumas	Town of Creston
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STAFF PRESENT

S. Horn	Chief Administrative Officer
M. Morrison	Manager of Corporate Administration/ Corporate Officer
A. Lund	Deputy Corporate Officer
Y. Malloff	Chief Financial Officer
U. Wolf	General Manager of Environmental Services
J. Chirico	General Manager of Community Services
S. Sudan	General Manager of Development and Community Sustainability Services
D. Séguin	Manager of Community Sustainability Services
D. Lau	Information Technology Manager
N. Wight	Planning Manager
T. Davison	Regional Manager – Recreation & Client Services
H. Smith	Finance Manager

A. Evenson	Project Manager
G. Hume	Deputy Regional Fire Chief
T. Service	Fire Chief – North Shore Fire Hall
P. Marshall Smith	Sustainability Planner
Marie-Pierre Hamelin	Contracts and Insurance Coordinator
C. Hopkyns	Corporate Administration Coordinator
S. Worden	Records & Information Management Coordinator
S. Nedham	Development Technician
T. Johnston	Environmental Techologist
A. Hamilton	Environmental Projects Lead
J. Richichi	Facility Operator - NDCC
D. Elliott	Communications Coordinator

1. WEBEX REMOTE MEETING INFO

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

Meeting Time:

9:00 a.m. PST

10:00 a.m. MST

Join by Video:

<https://nelsonho.webex.com/nelsonho/j.php?MTID=ma0656be5edb2061ec098bfde43b74b6e>

Join by Phone:

+1-604-449-3026 Canada Toll (Vancouver)

Meeting Number (access code): 2773 990 0611

Meeting Password: jEdbf2fmY34

In-Person Location:

202 Lakeside Drive - Boardroom

Nelson, BC

2. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

2.1 TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

2.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

709/23

The agenda for the December 14, 2023 Regular Open Board meeting be adopted with the following:

- inclusion of Item 3.6.8 Former Director Leah Main - FCM;
- Item 4.2 Letter from Thompson-Nicola Regional District regarding the proposed Emergency and Disaster Management Act;
- Item 5.4 Letter from Ministry of Housing thanking the RDCK for meeting at the 2023 UBCM Convention; and
- with the addition of the addendum

before circulation.

Carried

2.3 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

710/23

The minutes from the November 16, 2023 Regular Open Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried

3. COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS

3.1 FOR INFORMATION

Committee/Commission Reports for information have been received as follows:

3.1.1 Area B Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission: minutes September 26, 2023

3.1.2 Board of Variance: minutes October 12, 2023

Staff has received the recommendations for the Board of Variance applications.

3.1.3 Area J Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission: minutes November 1, 2023

Staff has received the recommendation to support the Development Variance Permit application.

Director Hanegraaf request the title for the Area J Advisory Planning Commission meeting held November 1, 2023 the title be updated to read "Area J" instead of "Area G".

3.1.4 Area A Economic Development Commission: minutes November 3, 2023

Director Jackman requested at the November 16, 2023 Board meeting the minutes be received at the December 14, 2023 meeting with the revisions.

3.1.5 Sunshine Bay Regional Park Commission: minutes November 9, 2023

3.1.6 Sanca Park Water Services Community Advisory Committee: Discussion Notes November 20, 2023

3.1.7 South Slocan Water Services Community Advisory Committee: Discussion Notes November 20, 2023

3.1.8 Woodbury Village Water Services Community Advisory Committee: Discussion Notes November 21, 2023

3.1.9 Winlaw Regional and Nature Park Commission: minutes November 22, 2023

3.1.10 Ymir Commission of Management: minutes November 23, 2023

Staff has received the recommendation to increase Water User Fee and Water Frontage Tax of the draft 2024 Financial Plan.

3.1.11 Edgewood Water Services Community Advisory Committee: Discussion Notes November 23, 2023

3.1.12 East Resource Recovery Committee: minutes November 27, 2023

3.1.13 Area I Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission: minutes November 27, 2023

Staff received the recommendation for the Land Use Bylaw Amendment Application.

**3.1.14 Nakusp and Area K Joint Service Commission Meeting: Draft minutes
November 27, 2023**

**3.1.15 Riondel Water and Drainage Services Community Advisory Committee:
Discussion Notes November 28, 2023**

3.1.16 West Resource Recovery Committee: minutes November 28, 2023

**3.1.17 Balfour Water Services Community Advisory Committee: Discussion Notes
November 30, 2023**

**3.1.18 Grandview Properties Water Service Community Advisory Committee:
Discussion Notes November 30, 2023**

**3.1.19 Arrow Creek Water Treatment and Supply Commission: minutes December 1,
2023**

**3.1.20 Erickson Water Services Community Advisory Committee: Discussion Notes
December 4, 2023**

3.2 WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

3.2.1 Nelson and District Recreation Commission No. 5: minutes November 29, 2023
Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

711/23

That the Board approve a Service Agreement between the Regional District of Central Kootenay and the City of Nelson for Bylaw enforcement to enforce the City of Nelson two (2) hour parking zone in the Nelson & District Community Complex Parking Lot at approximately 7.5 hours/week at a cost of \$22,540 for a one year period dated to begin December 1, 2023 with funds to be paid from Recreation Facility - Nelson and Area F and Defined E Service S226.

Carried

3.2.2 Central Resource Recovery Committee: minutes November 29, 2023
Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

712/23

The Board approve an amendment to the 2023 Financial Plan for Service S187 Central Resource Recovery to increase Short Term Borrowing Principal by \$288,688 for the HB Loan No. 0035-0029, Board Resolution No. 428/22 and reduce Contribution to Reserves by \$288,688.

Carried

3.2.3 Water Services Committee: minutes December 6, 2023
Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

713/23

That the Board refer the matter of providing additional staff to support non-RDCK owned water and wastewater systems to post Board's decision of the moratorium.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

714/23 That the Board direct staff to include \$57,000 in Capital Infrastructure Charges in the Queens Bay Resort Phase 3 development agreement.

Carried

3.2.4 Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee: minutes December 12, 2023

Staff has received the recommendation to include the annual grant allocations into the draft 2024 financial plan.

Sangita Sudan provided a verbal update on the UBCM Community to Community (C2C) for Kootenay Lake Partnership 2024 strategic planning application.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

715/23 That the Board submit a Letter of Support for Elk Root Conservation's application to Investment Agriculture Foundation for food storage and distribution infrastructure; AND FURTHER, that this letter recognizes the regional effort to establish food hubs across the RDCK.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

716/23 That the Board direct staff to submit a funding application to UBCM Community to Community (C2C) for Kootenay Lake Partnership 2024 strategic planning.

Carried

3.2.5 Joint Resource Recovery Committee: minutes December 13, 2023

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

717/23 That the Resource Recovery Facilities Regulatory Bylaw No. 2937, 2023, to amend Regional District of Central Kootenay Resource Recovery Facilities Regulatory Bylaw No. 2905, 2023 be read a FIRST, SECOND and THIRD time by content.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

718/23 That the Regional District of Central Kootenay Resource Recovery Facilities Regulatory Amendment Bylaw No. 2937, 2023 be ADOPTED and the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the same.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

719/23 That the Board accept the proposed 2024 Scope of Work submitted by SRK Consulting (Canada) Inc. for Engineer-of-Record tasks and engineering support at the HB Mine Tailings Facility in the amount of up to \$228,117 not including GST;

AND FURTHER that the Board Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the necessary documents;

AND FURTHER that the Board direct staff to include the funds in the 2024-2028 Financial Plan for Service S187.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

720/23

The Board direct staff to re-evaluate the no scavenging/salvage policy, including the safety and potential liability concerns, and how to mitigate them to identify areas of opportunity for residents to access waste goods that they desire to repurpose;

AND FURTHER that a report be brought back to the Joint Resource Recovery Committee in 2024;

AND FURTHER that Local Government Climate Action Plan (LGCAP) funds be accessed for support.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

721/23

The Board direct staff to investigate the feasibility to create an Eco-Depot for Area D and Kaslo.

Carried

3.3 MEMBERSHIP

3.3.1 Area D Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

722/23

That the Board send a letter to outgoing member Allan Hobden thanking him for his service to the Area D Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission.

Carried

3.3.2 Area H, New Denver and Silverton Recreation Commission No. 6

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

723/23

That the recommendation from the Village of New Denver appointing Councillor Casey Law to the Area H, New Denver and Silverton Recreation Commission No. 6 and Councillor Colin Moss as the alternate be ratified.

Carried

3.3.3 Erickson Water Services Community Advisory Committee

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

724/23

That the Board appoint the following individuals to the Erickson Water Services Community Advisory Committee for a term to end December 31, 2026:

Mathilde Armour (Area B)
Mark Harringa (Area B)

Carried

3.3.4 Kaslo and Area D Economic Development Commission

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

725/23

That the Board appoint the following individual to the Kaslo and Area D Economic Development Commission for a term to end December 31, 2025:

Donna Cormie (Area D)

Carried

3.3.5 Riondel Commission

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

726/23

That the Board appoint the following individuals to the Riondel Commission for a term to end December 31, 2025:

Gerald Panio
Nils Anderson
Tom Wilkinson
Donna Lavigne
Andrew Cop

Carried

3.3.6 Rosebery Parklands and Trails Commission

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

727/23

That the Board appoint the following individuals to the Rosebery Parklands and Trails Commission for a term to end December 31, 2025:

Rod Reitmeir (Area H)
Scott Kipkie (Area H)

Carried

3.3.7 Slokan Valley South Regional Parks Recreation Commission No. 8

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

728/23

That the Board appoint the following individual to the Slokan Valley South Regional Parks Recreation Commission No. 8 for a term to end December 31, 2025:

Phillip Chernenkoff (Area H)

Carried

3.3.8 Winlaw Regional and Natural Park Commission

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

729/23

That the Board appoint the following individuals to the Winlaw Regional and Natural Park Commission for a term to end December 31, 2025:

Victoria Carleton (Area H)
JoAnne Chatten (Area H)
Helen Sebelius (Area H)

Carried

3.3.9 Woodbury Village Water Services Community Advisory Committee

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

730/23

That the Board appoint the following individuals to the Woodbury Village Water Services Community Advisory Committee for a term to end December 31, 2026:

Richard Nellis
Barney Gilmore
Allan Hobden
Ken Chambers
Brian Nadwidny

Carried

3.3.10 Nakusp Appointments

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

731/23

That the recommendation from the Village of Nakusp appointing Councillor Knooihuizen to the Nakusp and Area K Recreation Commission No. 4 and Councillor Hough as the Alternate be ratified.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

732/23

That the recommendation from the Village of Nakusp appointing Mayor Zeleznik to the Joint Resource Recovery Committee and Councillor McLaren-Caux as the Alternate be ratified.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

733/23

That the recommendation from the Village of Nakusp appointing Mayor Zeleznik to the West Resource Recovery Committee and Councillor McLaren-Caux as the Alternate be ratified.

Carried

3.3.11 Silverton Appointments

The appointments from the Village of Silverton will be received December 14, 2023 due to the Council meeting being held December 13, 2023.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

734/23

That the recommendation from the Village of Silverton appointing Councillor Leah Main as the Director and Councillor Clarence denBok as the Alternate of the Regional District of Central Kootenay Board be ratified.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

735/23

That the recommendation from the Village of Silverton appointing Councillor Leah Main as the representative, Councillor Clarence denBok as the Alternate representative, and Peter Yakachuk as the community representative to the Recreation Commission No. 6 be ratified.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

736/23

That the recommendation from the Village of Silverton appointing Councillor Leah Main as the representative and Hank Hastings as the community representative to the Rosebery Parklands and Trails Commission be ratified.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

737/23

That the recommendation from the Village of Silverton appointing Councillor Leah Main as the representative and Barbara Fuhrer as the community representative to the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission be ratified.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

738/23

That the recommendation from the Village of Silverton appointing Councillor Leah Main as the representative and Councillor Clarence denBok as the Alternate representative to the Winlaw Regional and Nature Park Commission be ratified.

Carried

3.4 2024 APPOINTMENTS: EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

External Committee Appointments in Good Standing:

- Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG)
- Castlegar and District Public Library Board
- Central Kootenay Food Policy Council
- Creston Community Forest
- Creston Valley Tourism Society
- Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee
- Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee
- Economic Trust of the Southern Interior BC

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Kaslo and District Community Forest Society Board
- Kootenay Cannabis Council
- Municipal Finance Authority
- Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism
- Regional Agriculture Liaison Services Steering Committee
- Regional Invasive Species Working Group

3.4.1 Columbia Basin Trust

Director Hewat was nominated.

Chair Watson called a second and third time for nominations.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

739/23

That the Board forward the following nomination to Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) to be considered for the RDCK representative position on the CBT Board of Directors for a term to expire December 31, 2025:

Director S. Hewat

Carried

3.4.2 Highway No. 3 Mayors and Chairs Coalition

Director Vandenberghe was nominated.

Chair Watson called a second and third time for nominations.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

740/23

That the Board appoint the following Director to the Highway No. 3 Mayors and Chair Coalition with a term expiring December 31, 2026:

Director K. Vandenberghe

Carried

3.4.3 Municipal Insurance Association of BC: Voting Delegations

Director Davidoff and Page were nominated.

Chair Watson called a second and third time for nominations.

Director Davidoff removed his name as a nomination.

Director Tierney was nominated as the alternate.

Chair Watson called a second and third time.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

741/23

That the Board appoint the following Directors as the voting delegations for the Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia for the 2024 Annual General Meeting:

Director K. Page

Director R. Tierney (Alternate)
CAO S. Horn (Alternate)

Carried

3.4.4 Nelson Public Library

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

742/23

That the Board appoint the following person as the Electoral Area F representative to the Nelson Public Library Board for a term to end December 31, 2025:

Anni Holtby (Area F)

Carried

3.4.5 Selkirk College Regional Innovation Chair for Rural Economic Development (RDI)

Director McLaren-Caux was nominated.

Chair Watson called a second and third time for nominations.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

743/23

That the Board hereby appoint the following Director to the Selkirk College Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development - Regional Advisory Committee for a term to end December, 2024, with stipend and expenses to be paid from the General Administration Service S100:

Director A. McLaren-Caux

Carried

3.4.6 Southeastern BC Regional Connectivity Committee

Directors Popoff and Jackman were nominated.

Chair Watson called a second and third time for nominations.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

744/23

That the Board hereby appoint the following Directors to the Southern BC Regional Connectivity Committee for a term to end October 31, 2024, with stipend and expenses to be paid from the General Administration Service S100:

Director G. Jackman
Director W. Popoff

Carried

3.4.7 Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Treaty Advisory Committee

Directors DeBoon and Vandenberghe (Alternate) were nominated.

Chair Watson called a second and third time for nominations.

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

745/23

The Board appoints the following Directors to the Ktunaxa Treaty Advisory Committee with a term expiring December 31, 2024:

Director A. DeBoon
Director K. Vandenberghe (Alternate)

Carried

3.4.8 West Kootenay Transit Committee

Directors Lockwood, Popoff and Newell (Alternate) were nominated.

Chair Watson called a second and third time for nominations.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

746/23

The Board appoints the following Directors to the West Kootenay Transit Committee (excluding Directors for Electoral Area B and C and the Town of Creston) with the term to end December 31, 2024, with stipends and usual expenses to be paid from the Transit-Kootenay Lake West S239:

Director M. McFaddin
Director D. Lockwood
Director W. Popoff
Director T. Newell (Alternate)

Carried

3.4.9 Collector: Assessment Rolls

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

747/23

The Board hereby appoints Yev Malloff, Chief Financial Officer, as Collector for 2024 for the purpose of preparing and amending, as necessary, the following assessment rolls:

Lucas Road Water Parcel Tax
Voykin Street Lighting Parcel Tax
South Slocan Water Parcel Tax
Duhamel Creek Water Parcel Tax
McDonald Creek Water Parcel Tax
Balfour Water Parcel Tax
Burton Water Parcel Tax
Edgewood Water Parcel Tax
Fauquier Water Parcel Tax
West Robson Water Parcel Tax
Woodland Heights Water Parcel Tax
Woodbury Water Parcel Tax
Grandview Heights Water Parcel Tax
Sanca Park Water Frontage Tax
Riondel Water Frontage Tax
Ymir Water Frontage Tax
Rosebery Water Parcel Tax
Local Conservation Fund Service Parcel Tax (Areas A, D, E, F, H)

Carried

3.4.10 Parcel Tax Roll Review Panels

3.4.10.1 East

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

748/23

That the Board appoint the following Directors to the 2024 Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel to sit in Creston, BC with stipends and usual expenses to be paid from the General Administration Service S100:

Director Garry Jackman
Director Roger Tierney
Director Kelly Vandenberghe
Director Arnold DeBoon

Carried

3.4.10.2 West

Directors Hewat, Newell, Popoff, Cunningham and Weatherhead were nominated.

Director Weatherhead declined the nomination.

Chair Watson called a second and third time for nominations.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

749/23

That the Board appoint the following Directors to the 2024 Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel to sit in Nelson, BC with stipends and usual expenses to be paid from the General Administration Service S100:

Director S. Hewat
Director T. Newell
Director W. Popoff
Director H. Cunningham

Carried

3.4.11 Election Officials

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

750/23

The Board appoint Tom Dool as Chief Election Officer and Angela Lund as Deputy Chief Election Officer for the year 2024.

Carried

3.5 2024 CONFERENCES

3.5.1 Electoral Area Directors Forum: January 30-31, 2024

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

751/23

That the Board approves the following Directors as delegates to the 2024 Electoral Area Directors Forum held January 30-31, 2024 in Richmond, BC with stipends and expenses to be paid from the Rural Administration Service S101:

Director Garry Jackman
Director Roger Tierney
Director Kelly Vandenberghe
Director Aimee Watson
Director Cheryl Graham
Director Tom Newell
Director Hans Cunningham
Director Walter Popoff
Director Andy Davidoff
Director Henny Hanegraaf
Director Teresa Weatherhead

Carried

3.5.2 LGLA Forum: January 31 - February 2, 2024

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

752/23

That the Board approves the following Directors as delegates to the 2024 Local Government Leadership Academy Forum in Richmond, BC from January 31 - February 2, 2024 with stipends and expenses to be paid from the General Administration Service S100:

Director Garry Jackman
Director Roger Tierney
Director Kelly Vandenberghe
Director Aimee Watson
Director Cheryl Graham
Director Tom Newell
Director Hans Cunningham
Director Walter Popoff
Director Andy Davidoff
Director Henny Hanegraaf
Director Teresa Weatherhead
Director Maria McFaddin
Director Arnold DeBoon
Director Suzan Hewat
Director Aidan McLaren-Caux
Director Keith Page
Director Leonard Casley
Director Diana Lockwood
Director Leah Main
Director Jessica Lunn

Carried

3.5.3 Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

753/23

That the Board approves the following Directors as delegates to the 2024 Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments Convention from April 19-21, 2024 in Radium Hot Springs, BC with stipends and expenses to be paid from the Rural Administration Service S101:

Director Garry Jackman
Director Roger Tierney
Director Kelly Vandenberghe
Director Aimee Watson
Director Cheryl Graham
Director Tom Newell
Director Hans Cunningham
Director Walter Popoff
Director Andy Davidoff
Director Henny Hanegraaf
Director Teresa Weatherhead

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

754/23

That the Board authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer or the Corporate Officer to attend the 2024 Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments Convention in Radium Hot Springs, BC from April 19-21, 2024 as a delegate with expenses to be paid from the Rural Administration Service S101.

Carried

3.5.4 Federations of Canadian Municipalities: June 6 - 9, 2024

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

755/23

That the Board approves the following Directors as delegates to the 2024 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference in Calgary, Alberta from June 6-9, 2024 with stipends and expenses to be paid from the General Administration Service S100:

Director Garry Jackman
Director Roger Tierney
Director Kelly Vandenberghe
Director Aimee Watson
Director Cheryl Graham
Director Tom Newell
Director Hans Cunningham
Director Walter Popoff
Director Andy Davidoff
Director Henny Hanegraaf
Director Teresa Weatherhead
Director Maria McFaddin
Director Arnold DeBoon
Director Suzan Hewat
Director Aidan McLaren-Caux
Director Keith Page
Director Leonard Casley
Director Diana Lockwood
Director Leah Main
Director Jessica Lunn

AND FURTHER, in event that a Director cannot attend the Alternate Director is not authorized to attend in their absence.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

756/23

That the Board authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer to attend the 2024 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference in Calgary, Alberta from June 6-9, 2024 as a delegate with expenses to be paid from the General Administration Service S100.

Carried

3.5.5 Union of BC Municipalities: September 16 - 20, 2024

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

757/23

That the Board approves the following Directors as delegates to the 2024 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Conference in Vancouver, BC from September 16-20, 2024 with stipends and expenses to be paid from the General Administration Service S100:

- Director Garry Jackman
- Director Roger Tierney
- Director Kelly Vandenberghe
- Director Aimee Watson
- Director Cheryl Graham
- Director Tom Newell
- Director Hans Cunningham
- Director Walter Popoff
- Director Andy Davidoff
- Director Henny Hanegraaf
- Director Teresa Weatherhead
- Director Maria McFaddin
- Director Arnold DeBoon
- Director Suzan Hewat
- Director Aidan McLaren-Caux
- Director Keith Page
- Director Leonard Casley
- Director Diana Lockwood
- Director Leah Main
- Director Jessica Lunn

AND FURTHER, that in event that a Director cannot attend, that the Alternate Director be approved to attend.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

758/23

That the Board authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer and the Corporate Officer to attend the Union of BC Municipalities convention in Vancouver, BC from September 16-20, 2024 with expenses to be paid from the General Administration Service S100.

Carried

3.6 DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- 3.6.1 Director Jackman: CBRAC/RCC
- 3.6.2 Director Vandenberghe: November Activities
- 3.6.3 Director Watson
 - 3.6.3.1 December 2023 Activities
 - 3.6.3.2 Letter of Support: Ainsworth Hall
- 3.6.4 Director Popoff: October and November Activities
- 3.6.5 Director Hanegraaf: November Activities
- 3.6.6 Director Hewat: FCM
- 3.6.7 Director McLaren-Caux: November Activities
- 3.6.8 Former Director Leah Main – FCM

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1 The email dated November 9, 2023 from Jennyce Hoffman, Heritage BC, seeking sponsorship for the 2024 Annual Heritage Conference in Nelson, BC.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

759/23

That the following recommendation **BE REFERRED** to the January 18, 2024 Board meeting:

That the Board sponsor in the amount of \$5,000 to the Heritage BC's 2024 Annual Conference being held May 1 to 3, 2024 in Nelson, BC being paid from General Administration Service S100.

Carried

ORDER OF THE AGENDA CHANGED

The Order of Business was changed to have Item 4.2 be considered with Item 8.2.1 to discuss the proposed Emergency and Disaster Management Act, with Item 5 Communications considered at this time.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- 5.1 The letter dated November 23, 2023 from Honourable Anne Kang, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, thanking the Directors for meeting with her at the 2023 UBCM Conference.
- 5.2 The email dated December 5, 2023 from the Building and Safety Standards Branch indicating the 2024 editions of the BC Building Code have been adopted.
- 5.3 The email dated December 4, 2023 from Tara Richards, Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, indicating the deadline for the Emergency Management regulations engagement has been extended to January 31, 2024.
- 5.4 The letter dated December 13, 2023 from Honourable Ravi Kahlon, Ministry of Housing, thanking the RDCK for meeting at the 2023 UBCM Convention.

6. FOR INFORMATION: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Accounts Payable Summary for November 2023 in the amount of \$3,629,422 has been received for information.

7. BYLAWS

7.1 Bylaw 2913: Tarrys and Pass Creek Fire Protection Service Loan Authorization (Frontline Fire Engines)

The official assent vote results for the Tarrys and Pass Creek Fire Protection Service Loan Authorization (Frontline Fire Engines) Bylaw No. 2913, 2023 has been received.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

760/23

That the Tarrys and Pass Creek Fire Protection Service Loan Authorization (Frontline Fire Engines) Bylaw No. 2913, 2023 be ADOPTED and the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the same.

Carried

7.2 Bylaw 2914: Slocan Valley Fire Protection Service Loan Authorization (Frontline Fire Engine)

The official assent vote results for the Slocan Valley Fire Protection Service Loan Authorization (Frontline Fire Engine) Bylaw No. 2914, 2023 has been received.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

761/23

That the Slocan Valley Fire Protection Service Loan Authorization (Frontline Fire Engine) Bylaw No. 2914, 2023 be ADOPTED and the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the same.

Carried

7.3 Bylaw 2917: North Shore Fire Protection Service Loan Authorization (Frontline Fire Engine)

The official assent vote results for the North Shore Fire Protection Service Loan Authorization (Frontline Fire Engine) Bylaw No. 2917, 2023 has been received.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

762/23

That the North Shore Fire Protection Service Loan Authorization (Frontline Fire Engine) Bylaw No. 2917, 2023 be ADOPTED and the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the same.

Carried

7.4 Bylaw 2920: North Shore (Area F) Fire Protection Local Service Establishment

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

763/23

That the North Shore (Area F) Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2920, 2023 be ADOPTED and the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the same.

Carried

**RECESSED/
RECONVENED**

The meeting recessed at 10:20 a.m. for a break and reconvened at 10:31 a.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 COMMUNITY SERVICES

8.1.1 Community Services Public Engagement Projects

The Board Report dated November 29, 2023 from Trisha Davison, Regional Manager - Recreation and Client Services, seeking Board approval to award the Community Services Public Engagement Project, has been received.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

764/23

That the Board award the project for the Community Services Public Engagement Projects to RC Strategies; and that the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the necessary documents to a maximum value of \$77,480 plus GST and disbursements; AND FURTHER, that the Board direct staff to fund the Community Services Public Engagement Projects from Nelson and District Community Facilities, Recreation and Leisure Service (S226) and the Castlegar and District Regional Facilities, Recreation, Parks and Leisure Service (S222).

Carried

8.2 DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

Item 4.2 was considered with Item 8.2.1.

4.2 The letter dated December 6, 2023 from Barbara Roden, Thompson-Nicola Regional District, regarding the update on the proposed Emergency and Disaster Management Act.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

765/23

That the Regional District of Central Kootenay Board send a letter to the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and the Premier of British Columbia, requesting more time to provide feedback to the Province on its new regulations for post-emergency financial assistance (often referred to as “disaster financial assistance” or “DFA”) and Regulations for Local Authorities related to the Emergency and Disaster Management Act, and that the letter also request that the Province provide supplemental funding to address the capacity and resourcing required to complete this work, and that the letter be copied to all 27 Regional Districts.

Carried

8.2.1 Emergency and Disaster Management Act

The Board Report dated November 29, 2023 from Dan Séguin, Manager of Community Sustainability, seeking Board approval for staff to review and update the Emergency Program Executive Committee’s Terms of Reference, has been received.

Moved and seconded,
MOTION ONLY

That the Board direct staff to review and update the Emergency Program Executive Committee’s Terms of Reference in preparation for the upcoming changes to provincial emergency and disaster management legislation; AND FURTHER, that Staff schedule a 3-hour Board workshop in January during which feedback will be drafted for the Province regarding the Regulations for Local Authorities, AND THAT expenses be paid from Service A101.

Director Jackman called for division of the question.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1 (DIVISION)

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

766/23

That the Board direct staff to review and update the Emergency Program Executive Committee's Terms of Reference in preparation for the upcoming changes to provincial emergency and disaster management legislation; AND FURTHER, that Staff schedule a 3-hour Board workshop in January during which feedback will be drafted for the Province regarding the Regulations for Local Authorities.

Carried

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2 (DIVISION)

Moved and seconded,

MOTION ONLY

That the Board approve expenses for the Emergency Services workshop held in January being paid from Emergency Consolidated Service A101.

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION

767/23

That the foregoing motion, being:

That the Board approve expenses for the Emergency Services workshop held in January being paid from Emergency Consolidated Service A101;

be amendment to add "stipend and" before expenses, thus reading:

*That the Board approve **stipend and** expenses for the Emergency Services workshop held in January being paid from Emergency Consolidated Service A101.*

Carried

Director Davidoff recorded opposed.

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

MAIN MOTION

768/23

That the Board approve stipend and expenses for the Emergency Services workshop held in January being paid from Emergency Consolidated Service A101.

Carried

Director Davidoff recorded opposed.

8.2.2 For Information: 2023 RDCK Community Ambassador Final Report

The Board Report dated November 13, 2023 from Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability Planner, providing the Board with the final report for the Community Ambassador program, has been received for information.

8.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

8.3.1 Policy 660-03-02: Water Quality Reports

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

769/23

That the Board rescind Policy No. 600-03-02 Water Quality Reports, effective immediately.

Carried

8.3.2 Service Agreement: Burton, Edgewood and Fauquier Water Systems - Operations and Maintenance

The Board Report date December 1, 2023 from Alex Divlakovski, Water Operations Manager, seeking Board approval to enter into a service agreement for the Burton, Edgewood and Fauquier Water Systems - Operations and Maintenance, has been received.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

770/23

That the Board direct staff to award the Services Agreement for the Burton, Edgewood & Fauquier Water Systems Operation and Maintenance to Dave's Plumbing Ltd., and that the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the necessary documents to a maximum value of \$97,541.92/annually plus GST; AND FURTHER, that the funds be paid from services S252 WATER UTILITY-DEF K-BURTON, S253 WATER UTILITY-DEF K-EDGEWOOD, and S254 WATER UTILITY-DEF K-FAUQUIER.

Carried

8.4 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

8.4.1 2023-2026 RDCK Strategic Plan

The draft 2023-2026 Regional District of Central Kootenay Strategic Plan prepared by Tracey Lorensen, has been received.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

771/23

That the Board adopt the 2023-2026 Regional District of Central Kootenay Strategic Plan.

Carried

8.4.2 2024 RDCK Meeting Calendar

The following amendments be made to the 2024 RDCK Meeting Calendar:

- add the Climate Action Workshop - January 24, 2024;
- add the Emergency and Disaster Management Act Workshop - January 25, 2024;
- add the West Resource Recovery Committee - January 4, 2024;
- add the West Transit Services Committee - January 9, 2024; and
- add the Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meetings.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

772/23

That the Board approve the 2024 RDCK meeting calendar as amended; AND FURTHER, that staff be directed to schedule budget meetings and RDCK Committee and Commission meetings as necessary.

Carried

ORDER OF THE AGENDA CHANGED The Order of Business was changed to address public time and Long Term Service Awards, with Item 11 Public Time and Item 12 Presentation of Long Term Service Awards considered at this time.

11. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public and members of the media at 11:45 a.m.

Members of the public ask questions regarding staffing and the Climate Action Plan.

12. PRESENTATION OF LONG TERM SERVICE AWARDS (LTSA)

The Board will recognize and thank the following staff members for their long service to the RDCK after Item 11 Public Time:

NAME	POSITION	DEPARTMENT	YRS SERVICE
Janet Matheson	Payroll Lead	Finance	35
Joseph Richichi	Facility Operator	Community Services	35
Kim Hayashi	Customer Service Rep 3	Community Services	35
Rachel Zdebiak	Landfill Attendant	Environmental Services	25
David Rowe	GIS Technician	Development Services	15
Thomas Lavis	Nelson Head Custodian (NDCC)	Community Services	15
Heather Zavagno	Contract Payment Coordinator	Finance	15
Evan Bjarnson	Water Technician - Erickson	Environmental Services	15
Stuart Horn	Chief Administrative Officer	Corporate Admin/Finance	10
Christine Hopkyns	Corporate Administration Coordinator	Corporate Admin	5
Shiree Worden	Records & Information Management Coordinator	Corporate Admin	5
Erik Chmara	System Support Technician	IT	5
Suzanne Nedham	Development Technician	Development Services	5
AJ Evenson	Project Manager	Environmental Services	5
Alayne Hamilton	Environmental Projects Lead	Environmental Services	5
Todd Johnston	Environmental Technologist	Environmental Services	5
Paris Marshall Smith	Sustainability Coordinator	Community Sustainability	5

DIRECTOR ABSENT Director DeBoon left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

RECESS/ RECONVENE The meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 1:02 pm.

ORDER OF THE AGENDA RESUMED Item 8.4.3 was considered at this time.

Chair Watson acknowledged Kirk Smith, Information Technology Technician, who has retired from the RDCK after 17 years.

8.4.3 RDCK Website Redesign

The Board Report dated November 29, 2023 from Dan Elliott, Communications Coordinator, seeking Board approval to go out to Request for Proposal for the RDCK website design, has been received.

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

773/23

That the Board direct staff to provide Atomic Crayon with formal notice of termination for the 2021 website development agreement with Atomic Crayon;

AND FURTHER, that \$70,000 (inclusive of \$28,000 from 2023 surplus) be included within the S100 General Administration 2024 Financial plan for completion of the RDCK website project, and that staff be directed to issue a Request for Proposal to procure a qualified contractor to complete the work.

Carried

8.4.4 Purchase Order, Best Value and Written Quotation Method Revisions

The Board Report dated November 20, 2023 from Marie-Pierre Hamelin, Contract and Procurement Coordinator, seeking Board approval to amend the Purchasing Policy, has been received.

Moved and seconded,
MOTION ONLY

That the Board adopt the amended Purchasing Policy No. 300-06-12 as per the Board Report dated November 20, 2023 from Marie-Pierre Hamelin, Contracts and Insurance Coordinator, to include the following changes:

- Increase the Purchase Order minimum and Best Value Method maximum thresholds from \$2,000 to \$5,000;
- Remove the restriction on repetitive purchases from the Purchasing Policy when using the Written Quotation Method and replace these with guidelines on repetitive purchases in the Written Quotation Method form;

AND FURTHER, include:

- A Request for Supplier Qualifications (RFSQ) be advertised annually to gather information about vendors throughout the RDCK in order to create a list that will be used for up to three years' worth of procurements.

Director Newell called for division of the question.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1 (Division)

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

774/23

That the Board adopt the amended Purchasing Policy No. 300-06-12 as per the Board Report dated November 20, 2023 from Marie-Pierre Hamelin, Contracts and Insurance Coordinator, to include the following changes:

- Increase the Purchase Order minimum and Best Value Method maximum thresholds from \$2,000 to \$5,000; and
- Remove the restriction on repetitive purchases from the Purchasing Policy when using the Written Quotation Method and replace these with guidelines on repetitive purchases in the Written Quotation Method form.

Carried

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2 (Division)

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

775/23

That the following recommendation **BE REFERRED** to staff for feedback:

That the Board include the following to Purchasing Policy No. 300-06-12:

- A Request for Supplier Qualifications (RFSQ) be advertised annually to gather information about vendors throughout the RDCK in order to create a list that will be used for up to three years' worth of procurements.

Carried

8.5 FIRE SERVICES

8.5.1 Municipal Finance Authority: Pass Creek Fire Department - Command Vehicle

The Board Report dated November 24, 2023 from Grant Hume, Deputy Regional Fire Chief, seeking Board approval to short-term borrow for a command vehicle at the Pass Creek Fire Department, has been received.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

776/23

That the Board of the Regional District Central Kootenay authorizes up to \$75,000 to be borrowed, under Section 403 of the Local Government Act, from the Municipal Finance Authority – equipment financing program, for the purpose of Command Vehicle; and that the loan be repaid within five (5) years from S137 Fire Protection-Area I (Tarrys, Pass Creek), with no rights of renewal.

Carried

8.5.2 Municipal Finance Authority: Riondel Fire Department - Exhaust Extraction System

The Board Report dated November 30, 2023 from Tristan Fehst, Deputy Regional Fire Chief, seeking Board approval to short-term borrow for a exhaust extraction system at the Riondel Fire Department, has been received.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

777/23

That the Board of the Regional District Central Kootenay authorizes up to \$60,000 to be borrowed, under Section 403 of the Local Government Act, from the Municipal Finance Authority – equipment financing program, for the purpose of funding the exhaust extraction system; and that the loan be repaid within five (5) years from S128 Fire Protection-Area A (Riondel), with no rights of renewal; AND FURTHER, that the 2023 Financial Plan for S128 Riondel Fire Protection be amended to increase Capital Expenditures to \$60,000 and increase Proceeds from Equipment Financing to \$60,000.

Carried

8.5.3 Municipal Finance Authority: Slocan Fire Department - Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

The Board Report dated November 24, 2023 from Grant Hume, Deputy Regional Fire Chief, seeking Board approval to short-term borrow for a Self Contained Breathing Apparatus at the Slocan Fire Department, has been received.

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

778/23

That the Board direct staff to proceed with the purchase of G1 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) from Rocky Mountain Phoenix and upgrade the compressor from Jordair in the amount of \$135,000 for Slocan / S142 Fire Protection-Areas H and I (Slocan Valley); AND FURTHER, that the Board of the Regional District Central Kootenay authorizes up to \$135,000 to be borrowed, under Section 403 of the Local Government Act, from the Municipal Finance Authority – equipment financing program, for the purpose of SCBA and Compressor upgrades; and that the loan be repaid within five (5) years from S142 Fire Protection-Areas H and I (Slocan Valley), with no rights of renewal.

Carried

8.5.4 For Information: Acting Slocan Fire Chief

In accordance with Regional District of Central Kootenay Volunteer Fire Service Regulation Bylaw No. 2769, 2023 Section 6 (3)(d), Deputy Regional Fire Chief Grant Hume has appoint Cliff Froehlich as the Acting Fire Chief of the Slocan Volunteer Fire Department.

8.5.5 For Information: North Shore Fire Chief

In accordance with Regional District of Central Kootenay Volunteer Fire Service Regulation Bylaw No. 2769, 2023 Section 6 (3)(d), Deputy Regional Fire Chief Tristan Fehst has appoint Thomas Service as the Fire Chief of the North Shore Volunteer Fire Department.

8.6 GRANTS

8.6.1 Discretionary

Director Smienk declared a conflict of interest due to his involvement with the Balfour & District Business & Historical Association and left the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

Moved and seconded,
 And Resolved:

779/23

Discretionary grants out of the funds available for the following Electoral Areas/Member Municipalities be approved as designated:

AREA A

South Kootenay Lake ArtConnect Society	Christmas Open House/Musical	\$500
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AREA B

Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services Society	Community Christmas Celebration	\$2,000
Kitchener Valley Recreation & Fire Protection Society	Chairs	\$1,000

AREA E

Balfour & District Business & Historical Association	Wheelhouse Storage	\$831.60
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AREA G

Salmo Community Resource Society	Christmas Hampers	\$500
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AREA I

Castlegar Minor Hockey Association	U7/U9 Annual Tournament	\$250
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AREA J

Ootischenia Fire Department Social Club	Ootischenia Fire Department Social Club	\$2,500
Castlegar Minor Hockey Association	U7/U9 Annual Tournament	\$500

Carried

Director Smienk joined the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

8.6.2 Community Development

Moved and seconded,
 And Resolved:

780/23

Community Development grants out of the funds available for the following Electoral Areas/Member Municipalities be approved as designated:

AREA B

Creston Valley Minor Hockey Association	100 Years of Ice Sports Legacy Project	\$5,000
Trails for Creston Valley Society	Kapapa Trail Enhancement Project	\$2,500

AREA D

Argenta Community Association	Argenta Yuletide Market	\$500
Jewett PAC	Cross country ski upgrade	\$500
Regional District of Central Kootenay	Glacier Creek Kiosk Signage	\$5,800
Regional District of Central Kootenay	Lardeau Regional Park Development	\$3,000

AREA E

Regional District of Central Kootenay	S279 - Recreation Commission #10	\$23,000
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AREA H

Krestova Doukhobor Community Society	Krestova Community Ice Rink	\$2,575
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AREA I

Tarrys Fire Department Social Club	4x Red & Black Waterproof Fire Rescue Jackets	\$2,000
Tarrys Fire Rescue Auxiliary	Childrens' Xmas Party	\$1,500

CRESTON

Town of Creston	Columbaria purchase	\$6,929
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SLOCAN

Village of Slocan	WE Graham Hamper	\$1,000
Village of Slocan	Halloween Hoot Public	\$1,000

SALMO

Village of Salmo	Washrooms - Lions Park	\$30,000
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Carried

8.7 CHAIR/CAO REPORTS

Chair Watson provided an update on the small water system work and the UBCM resolution for the Emergency and Disaster Management Act.

CAO Horn was elected the Chair of the Board for the Municipal Insurance Association for 2024.

9. RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

781/23 That the Community Works Fund application submitted by the Regional District of Central Kootenay for the project titled “North Shore Hall Paving Project” in the amount of \$100,000 be approved and that funds be disbursed from Community Works Funds allocated to Electoral Area F.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

782/23 That the Board APPROVE the issuance of Development Variance Permit V2305B to Cheryl Jonk and Henry Jonk for the property located at 3200 Phillips Road and legally described as LOT 4 DISTRICT LOT 12716 KOOTENAY DISTRICT PLAN 12570 (PID: 011-933-097) to vary Sections 24.4, 24.5 and 24.6 of Rural Creston Electoral Area ‘B’ Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw No. 2316, 2013 in order to permit:

- A Farm Residential Footprint of 4000 m2 whereas the bylaw permits a Farm Residential Footprint of 2500 m2 for a Single Family Dwelling with a Secondary Suite.
- A Farm Residential Footprint with a maximum depth of 398 metres from the front property line whereas the bylaw requires that the maximum depth of the Farm Residential Footprint shall not exceed 60 metres from the Front Lot Line.
- A dwelling with a maximum Gross Floor Area (GFA) of 371 m2 whereas the bylaw permits a maximum GFA of 300 m2.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

783/23 That the Board APPROVE the issuance of Development Variance Permit V2308G to Ymir Community Association for the property located at 7210 1st Avenue, Electoral Area G and legally described as LOT 3, BLOCK 18, DISTRICT LOT 1242, KOOTENAY DISTRICT PLAN 640 (PID: 007-570-520) and LOT 4, BLOCK 18, DISTRICT LOT 1242, KOOTENAY DISTRICT PLAN 640 (PID: 007- 570-538) to vary Section 29.5 of Electoral Area ‘G’ Land Use Bylaw No 2452, 2018 in order to permit a 0.2 metre setback from the northern interior lot line whereas the bylaw requires a 2.5 metre setback from an interior lot line.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

784/23 That Land Use Amendment Bylaw No. 2935, 2023 being a bylaw to amend the Electoral Area ‘G’ Land Use Bylaw No. 2452, 2018 is hereby given FIRST and SECOND reading by content and referred to a PUBLIC HEARING.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

- 785/23 That in accordance with Regional District of Central Kootenay Planning Procedures and Fees Bylaw No. 2457, 2015, Electoral Area 'G' Director Hans Cunningham is hereby delegated the authority to chair the Public Hearing on behalf of the Regional District Board.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

- 786/23 That the Board SUPPORT application A2310Hs for the purposes of subdivision in the Agricultural Land Reserve proposed by Ray Evin for the property located at 2849 Evin Road, Electoral Area 'H' and legally described as PARCEL 2 (SEE 27808I) DISTRICT LOT 8055 KOOTENAY DISTRICT EXCEPT PART INCLUDED IN PLANS 7734 AND NEP63201 (PID: 013--525-760) subject to a S.219 Restrictive Covenant being registered on the proposed parcels limiting the number of residential dwellings to only those that currently exist and that the existing residential footprint be limited to a 25% increase.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

- 787/23 That the Community Works Fund application submitted by the J.B. Fletcher Restoration Society for the project titled "J.B. Fletcher Store Building Sealing and Solar" in the amount of \$25,000 be approved and that funds be disbursed from Community Works Funds allocated to Electoral Area D.

Carried

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

- 788/23 That the Community Works Fund application submitted by the Kaslo Baseball and Softball Association for the project titled "Murray Pearson Memorial Field Renovations" in the amount of \$20,000 be approved and that funds be disbursed from Community Works Funds allocated to Electoral Area D.

Carried

10. DIRECTORS' MOTIONS

10.1 Director Popoff: Telecommunications Tower Siting

An example Telecommunications Tower Siting Policy from the Peace River Regional District, has been received for information.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

- 789/23 That the Board direct staff to prepare a policy on Telecommunications Tower Siting.

Carried

10.2 Director Davidoff: 2018 Using Community Halls for Child Care Feasibility Study

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

- 790/23 That the Board direct staff to contract with Selkirk College, City Spaces or another appropriate contractor to update the 2018 'Using Community Halls for Child Care' feasibility study and that the estimated \$5,000 cost of the project be covered through an Area I Community Development grant; AND FURTHER, that the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the necessary documents.

Carried

13. IN CAMERA

13.1 RESOLUTION - MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

The Open meeting will be adjourned after In Camera without reconvening back into the open session unless there is business that needs to be addressed.

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

- 791/23 In the opinion of the Board - and in accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter* - the public interest so requires that persons other than DIRECTORS, ALTERNATE DIRECTORS, DELEGATIONS AND STAFF be excluded from the meeting; AND FURTHER, in accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, the meeting is to be closed on the bases identified in the following subsections:

- (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality;
- (c) labour relations or other employee relations;
- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;
- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality;
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (n) the consideration of whether a council meeting should be closed under a provision of this subsection or subsection (2);

Carried

13.2 RESOLUTION - RECESS OF OPEN MEETING

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

- 792/23 The Open Meeting be recessed at 2:06 p.m. in order to conduct the *In Camera* Board meeting and reconvened at 2:58 p.m.

Carried

14. MATTERS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

No Items.

15. 2024 APPOINTMENTS: REGIONAL ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

- 793/23 That the Board appoint the following individuals to the Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee for a term to end December 31, 2025:

Alexis Folk
Dorothy Weller
Lloyd Popoff
Michael Kanigan
Nik Black
Samuel Dyck
Alisha Stubbs - Member-at-Large
Clayton McCann - Member-at-Large

Carried

16. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

794/23 That the meeting adjourn at 3:03 p.m.

Carried

Aimee Watson, RDCK Board Chair

Angela Lund, Deputy Corporate Officer



Regional District of Central Kootenay COMMUNITY SUSTAINABLE LIVING ADVISORY COMMITTEE Open Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
RDCK Hybrid Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair W. Popoff	Electoral Area H	In-person
Director G. Jackman	Electoral Area A	In-person
Director R. Tierney	Electoral Area B	In-Person
Director K. Vandenberghe	Electoral Area C	
Director A. Watson	Electoral Area D	
Director T. Newell	Electoral Area F	In-Person
Director H. Cunningham	Electoral Area G	
Director A. Davidoff	Electoral Area I	
Director H. Hanegraaf	Electoral Area J	
Director T. Weatherhead	Electoral Area K	In-person
Director C. Ferguson	Village of Silverton	In-person
Director S. Hewat	Village of Kaslo	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Director C. Graham	Electoral Area E
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STAFF PRESENT

Y. Malloff	CFO, General Manager of Finance IT, E.D.
S. Sudan	General Manager of Development and Community Sustainability Services
D. Sequin	Manager of Community Sustainability
P. Marshall-Smith	Sustainability Planner
S. Kindred	Administrative Assistant, Development & Community Sustainability Services

1. WEBEX REMOTE MEETING INFO

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

Meeting Time:

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

1:00 PM | (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada) | 2 hrs

Join by Video:

<https://nelsonho.webex.com/nelsonho/j.php?MTID=m5e4b374372d91726879efe4a6fdfbb42>

Join by Phone:

+1-604-449-3026,,27726215670## Canada Toll (Vancouver)

Meeting Number (access code): 2772 621 5670

Meeting Password: tUBwnncD922

In-Person Location:

RDCK Boardroom | 202 Lakeside Drive | Nelson, BC

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Popoff called the meeting to order at 1:27 p.m. due to technical issues.

3. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

The Agenda for the December 12, 2023 Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The October 17, 2023 Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee minutes, have been received.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 FOR INFORMATION: UPDATE ON SUSTAINABILITY SERVICE PROJECTS AND AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The Staff Report dated December 12, 2023 from Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability Planner, has been received.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 CSLAC 2024 FUNDING REQUESTS

The Committee Report dated November 20, 2023 from Paris Marshall smith, Sustainability Planner, has been received.

NOTE: The following documents from October's CSLAC Meeting are added for additional information:

- *2023-10-17 CSLAC Project Funding*
- *2022-11-10 Committee Report: Living Lakes Ground Water Monitoring*
 - *Att1: Evaluation for Project Initiation*
 - *Att2: Columbia Basin Groundwater Monitoring Program presentation*
- *2023-09-26 Committee Report: Elk Root Conservation Regenerative Educational Community Food Gardens*
 - *Att1: Evaluation for Project Initiation*
 - *Att2: Elk Root Conservation Project Overview*
- *2022-11-10 Committee Report: Kootenay Lake Watershed Monitoring Program*
 - *Att 1: Evaluation for Project Initiation*
 - *Att 2: Kootenay Lake Watershed Monitoring Program Overview*

Moved and seconded,

MOTION ONLY

That the Board direct staff to include payment from the annual grant allocation of \$25,000 in Community Sustainable Living Service S105, in the 2024 budget for the following projects:

1. Columbia Basin Groundwater Monitoring Program - Living Lakes: \$8,333
2. Kootenay Lake Watershed Monitoring Program (KLWMP) - Friends of Kootenay Lake: \$8,333
3. Regenerative Educational Community Food Garden - Elk Root Conservation: \$8,333

AND FURTHER, this funding is approved in principle and will not be provided until April 1, 2024 after budget approval.

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

AMENDMENT ONLY

That the foregoing motion being:

That the Board direct staff to include payment from the annual grant allocation of \$25,000 in Community Sustainable Living Service S105, in the 2024 budget for the following projects:

1. *Columbia Basin Groundwater Monitoring Program - Living Lakes: \$8,333*
2. *Kootenay Lake Watershed Monitoring Program (KLWMP) - Friends of Kootenay Lake: \$8,333*
3. *Regenerative Educational Community Food Garden - Elk Root Conservation: \$8,333*

AND FURTHER, this funding is approved in principle and will not be provided until April 1, 2024 after budget approval.

Be amended to include “placeholders in” replacing the words “payment from”; the addition of the word “draft” before 2024, and removing the entire AND FURTHER, thus reading:

*That the Board direct staff to include **placeholders in** the annual grant allocation of \$25,000 in Community Sustainable Living Service S105, in the **draft** 2024 budget for the following projects:*

1. *Columbia Basin Groundwater Monitoring Program - Living Lakes: \$8,333*
2. *Kootenay Lake Watershed Monitoring Program (KLWMP) - Friends of Kootenay Lake: \$8,333*
3. *Regenerative Educational Community Food Garden - Elk Root Conservation: \$8,333*

Carried

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

MAIN MOTION

That the Board direct staff to include placeholders in the annual grant allocation of \$25,000 in Community Sustainable Living Service S105, in the draft 2024 budget for the following projects:

1. Columbia Basin Groundwater Monitoring Program - Living Lakes: \$8,333
2. Kootenay Lake Watershed Monitoring Program (KLWMP) - Friends of Kootenay Lake: \$8,333
3. Regenerative Educational Community Food Garden - Elk Root Conservation: \$8,333

Carried

DIRECTOR ABSENT/PRESENT Director Davidoff left the meeting at 2:04 p.m. and Director Hanegraaf joined the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 FOR DISCUSSION: ELK ROOT CONSERVATION LETTER OF SUPPORT

Staff provided a verbal update.

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved that it be recommended to the Board:

That the Board submit a Letter of Support for Elk Root Conservation’s application to Investment Agriculture Foundation for food storage and distribution infrastructure.

AND FURTHER, that this application recognizes the regional effort to establish food hubs across the RDCK.

Carried

RECESS/RECONVENED The meeting recessed at 2:47 p.m. for a break and reconvened at 2:52 p.m.

8.2 FOR DISCUSSION: KOOTENAY LAKE PARTNERSHIP-UBCM FUNDING COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY (C2C) GRANT

Staff provided a verbal update.

Director Watson provided direction to staff to include the following recommendation on the Board addenda, “That the Board direct staff to submit a funding application to UBCM Community to Community (C2C) for Kootenay Lake Partnership 2024 strategic planning” and also attached the C2C application as information.

8.3 FOR DISCUSSION: CONFIRM 2024 CSLAC MEETING DATES

The Committee to confirm the following dates for 2024:

- February 13, 2024
- April 16, 2024
- June 11, 2024
- August 13, 2024
- October 15, 2024
- December 10, 2024

9. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public and members of the media at 3:05 p.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

The Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Carried

Approved by

Walter Popoff, Chair



December 13, 2023

Investment Agriculture Foundation

To Whom it May Concern:

RE: Elk Root Conservation Farm Society's (ERC) application to the Investment Agriculture Foundation's Food Storage, Distribution and Retail Program

On behalf of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) Board of Directors, I would like to express our support for Elk Root Conservation Farm Society's (ERC) application to the Investment Agriculture Foundation's Food Storage, Distribution and Retail Program.

Our ongoing commitment is evident through our support of various initiatives, such as the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council, the Kootenay Boundary Farms Advisors program, and our advocacy for the changes to meat inspection and licensing systems, all aimed at bolstering support for our local producers. However, it is clear that there remain challenges faced by numerous producers lacking sufficient infrastructure for processing and distributing food. Therefore, the RDCK continues to advocate for a regional network of food hubs to ensure equitable access for all producers and processors. The proposed project will significantly augment food storage, processing, and distribution capacity within the Slokan Valley. Accordingly, the RDCK supports this application as a critical step towards advancing the establishment of food hubs in our region.

We understand that ERC's envisioned food hub is not solely focused on enhancing local farmers' access across the region. It will also build partnerships with educational institutions and other organizations to address the needs of the most vulnerable. Additionally, we are encouraged by the prospect of providing space for individuals to reconnect with the land, acquire vital food-growing skills, and both produce and access nutrient dense foods.

In conclusion, the RDCK supports Elk Root Conservation Farm Society's (ERC) application to the Investment Agriculture Foundation's Food Storage, Distribution and Retail Program as an important step towards creating a more resilient and inclusive food systems within our region.

Sincerely,

Aimee Watson
Chair, RDCK Board

**Elk Root Conservation REGIONAL FOOD STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION HUB –
background material to accompany request for Letter of Support from RDCK Board**

Elk Root Conservation Regional Food Storage and Distribution Hub project description:

The **Elk Root Conservation** Regional Food Storage and Distribution Hub project aims to develop infrastructure and facilities to store locally grown food year round and distribute it throughout the region. This will include constructing Food Storage & Processing Facilities, and a Farm Gate Distribution & Retail Building complete with: i) varying levels of cold storage (refrigerated to frozen); ii) temperature and humidity regulated curing rooms; iii) storage rooms including racking, shelving and equipment such as pallet jack and/or fork lift; iv) work spaces with processing, preservation, and packaging machinery and equipment; and v) rural retail space. We plan to install electric upgrades to operate the storage, processing and distribution facilities. Included in this construction will be a solar-power energy system with back-up battery storage and/or generator. We want to ensure proper food storage and distribution in the events of severe weather including wind, snowstorms, wildfires, heat waves, etc. that frequently interrupts power supply to our rural area and can disrupt supply chains. We estimate the timeline for design, build permitting, and construction to be February 1, 2024 - November 30, 2025.

On the distribution side of our project, these facilities will also include EV charging stations and electric equipment charging stations. In addition, we will purchase 2 EV cargo vans. One van will be equipped with an electric refrigeration unit, insulation, and solar charging kit to ensure proper cold storage and transportation during extreme hot or cold weather. This will also provide us with additional off-grid cold storage and back-up battery capacity in the event of power disruption as outlined in the previous paragraph. The van will be primarily used to deliver food to individuals in our community who have barriers to transportation and accessibility, as well as to local retailers. In addition, we will be collecting produce from other local food producers and transporting it to the ERC Regional Food Storage & Distribution Hub, where it can then be processed and redistributed to people in need. We aim to acquire the vehicles by Spring 2024.

ERC Community Food Hub Project:

PARTNERS: (these are financial partners i.e. funders)

1. LFIF - Federal Government - confirmed
2. United Way - pending
3. CleanBC Go Electric Rebates - provincial government - confirmed
4. iMHZEV: Incentives for Medium- and Heavy-duty Zero-Emission Vehicles - federal government - confirmed
5. Elk Root Conservation Farm Society - confirmed
6. SC Carts - confirmed
7. Rad Bikes - electric bike sponsorship for delivery (just invited us to partner, exact sponsorship to be confirmed)

SUPPORTERS - RDCK in the only unconfirmed letter of support - all others have or have confirmed they are writing letters.

1. Local Government - Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK)
2. RDCK - Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee (CSLAC)
3. Central Kootenay Food Policy Council
4. Lower Columbia Initiatives Corporation
5. Kootenay Boundary & Farm Advisors (KBFA)
6. School District 8 (SD8)
7. Circle of Indigenous Nations Society (COINS)
8. Evergreen Market
9. The Kootenay Co-op
10. Linden Lane Farms

Angela Lund

To: Aimee Watson
Subject: RE: 2024 Heritage BC Conference

From: Jennyce Hoffman <jhoffman@heritagebc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 11:41 AM

To: Aimee Watson

Cc: Stuart J. Horn

Subject: 2024 Heritage BC Conference

CAUTION This email originated from outside the organization. Please proceed only if you trust the sender.

Good Morning Aimee & Stuart,

My name is Jennyce Hoffman and I am the Communications, Membership, & Development Coordinator with Heritage BC. We are excited to be hosting our 2024 Annual Heritage Conference in beautiful and historic Nelson, BC next year. I am reaching out to inquire about the Regional District of Central Kootenays support as a potential sponsor for our upcoming conference.

The conference will take place May 1 to 3, 2024 and this year's theme is Prioritizing People. Together with our host partners, Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery and Kootenay Lake Historical Society we'll explore how collaboration can empower communities to add their stories to a historical narrative, how inclusive heritage conservation can centre the human experience, and how prioritizing the needs of community can ensure a more authentic and sustainable heritage legacy. On top of exploring the rich history and heritage in Nelson, we're also planning two to three field trips, with one full-day trip traveling the Silvery Slocan Circle Route with multiple stops in the Slocan Valley, and another shorter half-day trip traveling to and from Castlegar.

Our conference will bring together heritage industry leaders, experts, and supporters from various sectors, providing a unique platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration. As the conference will be covering a wide range of topics it will be highly relevant and attractive to a diverse audience.

I have attached our Sponsorship Opportunities Booklet here and it can also be viewed on [Google Drive](#). I would be happy to discuss any of the available sponsorship opportunities and add-ons in more detail with you. Please let me know if you would like to meet via Zoom or have a call to discuss anything further.

We would be honored to have the Regional District of Central Kootenay as a sponsor for our annual conference. If you have any questions about sponsorship or would like to discuss any details of our planned conference, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. You can also find some information on our [website](#).

Thank you for all of your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

Jennyce Hoffman (she/her)

Communications, Membership & Development Coordinator

Heritage BC

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As an organization of provincial scope, Heritage BC recognizes that its members, and the local history and heritage they seek to preserve, occupy the lands and territories of B.C.'s Indigenous peoples. Heritage BC asks its members to reflect on the places where they reside and work, and to respect the diversity of cultures and experiences that form the richness of our provincial heritage. [Learn more about whose land you live on.](#)

2024
annual
heritage
conference

PRIORITIZING PEOPLE

May 1 - 3, 2024 | Nelson, BC

Sponsorship Opportunities

About Heritage BC

Heritage BC is a not-for-profit, member-based organization that supports all those in British Columbia who champion the preservation, conservation and stewardship of cultural heritage. We support heritage conservation across the province through education, training and skills development, and capacity building. We spread awareness, appreciation and respect for BC's diverse built and intangible traditions.

Support our Mission

Our work is dedicated to:

- Building a strong, focused, and impactful organization
- Increasing awareness and appreciation of heritage values that highlight the diversity of cultural heritage
- Collaborating with and maximizing capacities for communities, local governments and private sector organizations to create a dynamic future for heritage
- Providing exceptional service and comprehensive learning opportunities to help communities to build their heritage capacities
- Supporting increased awareness for reconciliation and Indigenous heritage across the province

About the 2024 Conference

Join us in learning about the benefits of putting people first in our heritage work. Explore how collaboration can empower communities to add their stories to a historical narrative, how inclusive heritage conservation can centre the human experience, and how prioritizing the needs of community can ensure a more authentic and sustainable heritage legacy. Together, we'll explore how putting people at the forefront leads to shared ownership and increased support for heritage.

Host Partners

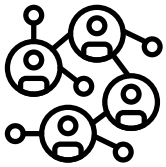


Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery



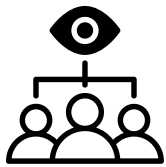
Kootenay Lake Historical Society

By Supporting Us, You Will



Increase your visibility and deepen relationships with British Columbia's heritage community. Our programs and resources draw hundreds of sector professionals, government officials, funders, and industry members from across BC and Canada.

Being part of our event is one of the best ways to network with peers, promote your brand, connect with sector leaders, and align yourself with a cause that matters.



Engage with speakers and panellists, and participate in important discussions about leveraging heritage as an agent for positive change in our communities.

Our Reach



5,900+

Social Media Followers

Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn



300+

Members



2,300+

Newsletter Subscribers



5,000+

Monthly Web Visitors

Attendee Profile:

At our 2023 conference in Chilliwack, BC we had around **118** attendees.

32% Heritage Professionals,
Architects, Engineers

25% Heritage or Municipal
Planners

23% Heritage Sites, Organizations,
Committees, Volunteers

17% University / College
Academics, Students

3% Government (Federal,
Provincial, Municipal)



Sponsorship Opportunities

Supporter Level

Benefits

- Sponsor included on Website Sponsor Page (name & links)
- Organization Name included in Conference & Heritage Update Newsletters
- Organization Name included in our general “Thank You” on Socials and in the Newsletter throughout and after conference
- Organization Name listed on slides during conference (Welcoming & Closing remarks, final slide of each session)
- Organization Name included in Program Booklet

\$300

This opportunity is perfect for smaller organizations or non-profits who want to show their support and align with Heritage BC’s mission and goals, but are unable to attend the conference or have a more conservative budget for support.

Sponsorship Opportunities Cont.

General Level 1

Benefits

- Sponsor Profile on Website Sponsor Page (logo, short write-up, links)
- Logo included on slides during Conference (welcoming & closing remarks of conference, final slide of each session)
- Logo included in Conference & Heritage Update Newsletters
- Logo included in our general “Thank You” on Socials and in the Newsletter throughout and after conference
- Verbal recognition at the conference during opening and closing remarks
- Access to Conference Delegate List before the Conference (opt-in)

\$600

General Level 2

Benefits

- All General Level 1 benefits, plus:
 - Sponsor Profile highlighted on social media (Instagram, Facebook, X)
 - Sponsor Profile highlighted in Heritage Update Newsletter
 - Registration for One Attendee

\$1,000



Add-On Opportunities

Add-Ons must be combined with either the General Level 1 or the General Level 2 Sponsorship.

Exhibit Booth (3 available)

- Opportunity to provide materials, display signage or banners, and speak with delegates during breaks and lunches

\$300

Sponsor a Session (multiple options available)

- Opportunity to make opening remarks during the session and/or include them in the slideshow
- Can display a banner or provide materials at the session
- Exclusive recognition (logo included in program guide, on social media, and verbal recognition)

\$500

Sponsor a Field Trip (3 available)

- Opportunity to make opening remarks during the Field Trip
- Can provide materials during the field trip
- Exclusive recognition (logo included in program guide, on social media, and verbal recognition)

\$550

Sponsor Lunch (2 available)

- Opportunity to incorporate a social networking activity or highlight your organization
- Can display a banner or provide materials at the event
- Opportunity to make opening remarks
- Exclusive recognition (logo included in program guide and verbal recognition)

\$550

Sponsor Breakfast (2 available)

- Opportunity to incorporate a social networking activity or highlight your organization
- Can display a banner or provide materials at the event
- Opportunity to make opening remarks
- Exclusive recognition (logo included in program guide and verbal recognition)

\$550



Add-On Opportunities Cont.

Add-Ons must be combined with either the General Level 1 or the General Level 2 Sponsorship.

Opening Evening (exclusive)

- Opportunity to make opening remarks
- Can display a banner or provide materials at the event
- Exclusive recognition (logo included in program guide, on social media, and verbal recognition)

\$700

Second Evening Event (exclusive)

- Opportunity to make opening remarks
- Can display a banner or provide materials at the event
- Exclusive recognition (logo included in program guide, on social media, and verbal recognition)

\$700

Final Evening + Heritage BC Awards Ceremony (exclusive)

- Opportunity to make opening remarks
- Can display a banner or provide materials at the event
- Exclusive recognition (logo included in program guide, on social media, and verbal recognition)

\$700

Looking for something else or a different opportunity?
Reach out and connect with us!

Jennyce Hoffman

Communications, Membership & Development Coordinator

Email: jhoffman@heritagebc.ca

Phone: 604-417-7243 (ext. 104)

Website: heritagebc.ca

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REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

**AREA B ADVISORY PLANNING AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

7:00PM MST

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote.

Join by Video:

<https://nelsonho.webex.com/nelsonho/j.php?MTID=mb6d241ccaf365fb89cc3f49db8754935>

Join by Phone: 604-449-3026

Meeting Number (access code): 2771 448 2720

Meeting Password: s3nF4SFVTg2 (73634738 from phones)

In-Person Location: Creston & District Community Complex - Erickson Room - 312 19th Avenue North, Creston, BC

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Wade Brunham	Electoral Area B, Chair
Commissioner Daryl Bjarnason	Electoral Area B
Commissioner Miriam Chatwin	Electoral Area B
Commissioner Jerry Bauer	Electoral Area B
Commissioner Lon Main	Electoral Area B
Commissioner Adam Mjolsness	Electoral Area B
Commissioner Karen Kraan	Electoral Area B
Commissioner Randy Meyer	Electoral Area B
Commissioner Jon Delcaro	Electoral Area B

DIRECTORS

Roger Tierney	Electoral Area B, Director
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STAFF

Sadie Chezenko	Planning Technician
Zachari Giacomazzo	Planner 1

Mark Crowe

Parks Planner

PUBLIC

Henry Jonk

Applicant

Henry Jonk’s Daughter

Public

Andy

Public

Kelly Vandenberghe

Electoral Area C, Director

9 out of 11 voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brunham called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the unceded traditional territory of the Ktunaxa Nation and the Yaqaan Nuʔkiy People.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the Agenda for the Tuesday, November 28, 2023 Electoral Area B Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission meeting, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That Director Vandenberghe have freedom of the floor.

Carried

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The September 26th, 2023 Electoral Area B Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission minutes, have been received noting errors in commissioners’ numbers (not affecting quorum) and spelling.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Development Variance Permit Application - Jonk

The Referral Package dated October 24, 2023 from Planner Zachari Giacomazzo, has been received.

The following was discussed:

- Chair Brunham introduced the application

- Commissioners Lillico and Meyer, as well as Director Tierney conducted a site visit noting the nature of the site including that the development is planned away from the best agricultural land with the exception of the road which is unavoidable
- Commissioners discussed the siting variances considered:
 - Commissioners agreed that the siting of the dwelling was appropriate due to the topography and agricultural potential of the parcel
 - Commissioner highlighted the unusual situation of the site due to historical subdivision
- Commissioners discussed the size of the residence proposed:
 - Planner Giacomazzo clarified that the Gross Floor Area (GFA) being proposed was 371 square meters (sqm) or 3993 square feet and not 349sqm
 - Applicant Jonk highlighted that GFA includes multiple floors and does not represent the building footprint
 - Commissioner asked if the test for a Development Variance Permit (DVP) required hardship
 - Planning Technician Chezenko clarified that hardship was not required for DVP's to be issued
 - Planning Technician Chezenko clarified that Local government zoning applies to the entire lot, while Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) zoning only applies to the portions of the parcel within the ALR
 - Commissioner expressed concern with increased size noting the future economic impact of the proposed larger dwelling
 - Commissioner asked the applicant what would be involved to lower the total floor area to be compliant with the bylaw
 - Applicant noted the following:
 - That in his opinion, a 371 sqm dwelling was not very large
 - That the main floor would have to be reduced and become very small
 - That they would have to remove the loft
 - That reducing the size overall would be difficult
- The applicant gave brief overview of the proposal
 - The applicant indicated that he could not get easement across another property to use for access
 - Applicant indicated that he would consider farming grapes in the future
- The commissioners chose to consider the three variances under one motion
- The three commissioners who did not support the variance indicated that they had no problem with the siting, only with the size of the dwelling proposed.

Moved and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the Area B Advisory Planning Commission **SUPPORT** the Development Variance Permit Application to Cheryl and Henry Jonk for the property located 3200 Phillips Road, Lister and legally described as LOT 4 DISTRICT LOT 12716 KOOTENAY DISTRICT PLAN 12570.

Carried

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Parks in Electoral Area B

Parks Planner Mark Crowe was present to answer questions regarding parks planning in the area.

- Parks Planner Crowe introduced himself to the commission and gave an overview of historical parks development and parks policy in the area
 - He said that historically there hadn't been parks development in this area due to there not being a willingness to tax to grow the parks system
 - He indicated that current taxation was now around \$100,000 for the regional parks service (for comparison, Nelson region's taxation is \$1,000,000)
 - He indicated that there was a time when there was a regional parks service in the Creston Valley (Municipality, and Electoral Areas A, B and C)
 - This was disbanded between 2011
 - Area A established its own parks service separate from that of Area B, Area C and the Town of Creston. They were previously all in a service together.
 - Additionally, he indicated that in 2008, the Regional Board changed their parkland dedication policy which resulted in less parkland acquisition than what is possible under the Local Government Act
 - He noted that this policy is currently being revisited by the Regional Board
 - He highlighted the findings of the Traditional Use Study
 - Indicated that five potential park locations were looked at from the perspective of Ktunaxa and Yaqaṇ Nuʔkiy cultural values
 - These locations were Martel beach, Crawford Creek, West Creston ferry landing, Goat River South and Powerline beach
 - Report indicated that Martel beach would not be appropriate for Regional Park development
 - Commissioner noted that Martel Beach has good potential with regards to accessibility
 - Commissioner noted concern with current operation of this site and future potential if site services like garbage and toilets were removed
 - Commissioner questioned whether this was in fact a wildlife corridor
 - West Creston Ferry Landing and Goat river South were identified as good locations
 - Both are in the ALR
 - Passive, nature based parks can be pursued subject to ALC regulation while intensive parks would need ALC approval

- Staff are putting forward a proposal to prioritize these two areas for development at the Shared Services Committee Meeting on December 07, 2023
- Commissioners discussed the following:
 - Community trail groups have done work on parks
 - Community groups have run into issues with other agencies including the diking authority and Ministry of Environment in the past
 - Questioned what needs to happen in order to get parks and asked if it could be sped up in any way
 - Parks Planner Crowe indicated the following:
 - Acquisition is the difficult aspect – the RDCK does not own the West Creston Ferry Landing or Goat River South locations
 - The other steps are less prohibitive, which include concept plans, public engagement, agency review, management plan development and implementation
 - The Shared Services Committee needs to allocate funds to get the process moving
 - Commissioner noted that Crawford Creek and Powerline Beach are not convenient locations for residents to swim
 - Commissioner raised the concern that access to Goat mountain and Mount Thompson is restricted and limited by private land ownership
 - Local organizations could develop trails if they had public access to these areas
 - Indicated that acquisition to create these access points could be a priority
 - Parks Planner Crowe acknowledged that the situation was challenging due to the historical development and regulations as well as the natural conditions of the Creston Valley
 - He indicated that having a reserve of funds for acquisition would allow this to be more likely if the appropriate lands became available for purchase
 - Currently, there is not enough money to do this kind of acquisition which could change if there was a political appetite for it
- Electoral Area C Director Vandenberghe indicated that himself and Director Tierney were supportive of parks development and would be supporting this work at the upcoming Shared Services Committee meeting

6.2 APHC Meetings

- The following was discussed:
 - The technology at this meeting was poor, which prevented providing good access for remote attendance

- If WebEx does not work consistently, there needs to be a back up connection option (teams, zoom etc...)
- The Erickson Room at the CDCC is loud and the Sunshine Room may be quieter
- The next agenda should include an item to elect a Vice Chair

7. PUBLIC TIME

No questions.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next Electoral Area B Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission Meeting is cancelled as it falls on December 28, 2023 when the RDCK offices are closed. Therefore, the next scheduled meeting is January 30th, 2023 at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Electoral Area B Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission meeting be adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Carried

Approved by
Wade Brunham, Chair



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

**RIONDEL COMMISSION
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

**7:00 PM
November 7, 2023**

IN-PERSON MEETING LOCATION FOR HYBRID MEETING MODEL

The following location has been determined to hold the in-person meetings for Riondel Commission of Management:

Location Name: Riondel Community Centre, Commission Office, Room #6
Location Address: 1511 Eastman Ave., Riondel BC

The facility listed above will be able to accommodate the remote requirements for the meeting.

Meeting Link:

<https://nelsonho.webex.com/nelsonho/j.php?MTID=m379e54c5c213884ee461a71aa5228417>

Toll Free number: 1-604-449-3026 Canada Toll (Vancouver)

Meeting Number (access code): 2770 495 0160

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Commissioner G. Panio	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner N. Anderson	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner J. Donald	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner G. Jackman	Director – Electoral Area A	In-person

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner T. Wilkinson sent his regrets.

STAFF

Roberta Van Steinburg, Administrative Support

4 out of 5 voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Panio called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Agenda for the November 7, 2023 Riondel Commission meeting, be adopted.

Carried

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The October 3, 2023 Riondel Commission minutes, have been received.

5. DELEGATE

No Delegation.

6. PUBLIC TIME

No public in attendance.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Ferry Service Letter

Chair Panio prepared a 2nd draft of the Ferry Service support letter which was sent to the Commissioners via email. There were no further comments from the Commissioners.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

Chair Panio is writing a letter to the Ministry of Transportation, this letter will be reviewed by the Commission at the December 5, 2023 meeting.

Carried

7.2 Cell Service Letter

Chair Panio reported this item is still outstanding. This is tabled to the next meeting.

7.3 Playground Cleanup

Commissioner Anderson provided an update on the playground cleanup. A young resident has worked a couple of weekends pulling weeds and removing debris from the playground. It is recommended that the Commission look to have some funds allocated in next fiscal year's budget to be able to hire casual or student workers. Chair Panio will discuss this with Joe Chirico for the proper protocols to action this.

7.4 New Riondel Town Sign

Commissioner Anderson reported he has not done any further investigation on the town sign. Chair Panio has been in discussion with Leah Kleinhans, manager of the Creston Valley-Kootenay Lake Economic Action Partnership (EAP) regarding gateway signage.

7.5 Rental Rate Discussion

Chair Panio provided an update regarding the Community Centre rental rates. Chair Panio will review the RDCK Recreation Fee Guide in determining the new fee schedule for the Community Centre. The revised Community Centre rental fee schedule will allow for considerable flexibility in rental rates depending upon the user groups involved.

7.6 Water & Drainage Advisory Board

Chair Panio reported that 3 residents have stepped forward to become members of the Water & Drainage Advisory Board. The first meeting date is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 1, 2023.

7.7 Radon Tester

Chair Panio provided an update regarding radon testers. The Commission was provided information from the RDCK regarding the Donna Schmidt Lung Cancer Prevention Society. The Society is providing free radon tester to Libraries. Chair Panio will contact the Society to see if the Reading Centre qualifies and if so to request a couple of detectors for loan out to residents to test their homes. Chair Panio will also check with the Lung Association.

7.8 Call for Commissioners

Chair Panio provided the Commission with a verbal update. It was noted there was a resident who has come forward with interest. Nothing formal has been received to date.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Condition of Riondel Road

Commissioner Anderson provided a verbal update. It was noted that there are many area highways and byways that have been paved recently, but not the Riondel road. The Riondel road has needed to be resurfaced for the last 4 years. Commissioner Anderson will send a follow up letter to the new area Ministry of Transportation Rep, Gundula Brigl.

8.2 Slash burning in Riondel

Commissioner Anderson provided the Commission with a verbal update regarding slash burning in Riondel. Chair Panio will draft a poster to spread awareness in the community regarding slash burning and the affects it has on neighbours and most importantly the air quality in town. The following were also noted:

- Wood stove replacement incentive.
- Crawford Bay Transfer Station accepts yard waste every April and October at no charge.
- Residents can call the RAPP line to report polluters 1-877-952-RAPP (7277).

9. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

10. AREA A DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Jackman provided the Commission with a verbal report. The Province is making a lot of changes to the housing bylaws, but is unsure how it will roll out, especially in rural areas. In the

coming months there will be more information available. Any changes to the bylaws for housing will be announced by June 2024.

11. FINANCIAL REPORTS

No items.

12. PUBLIC TIME

No public.

13. NEXT MEETING

The following Riondel Commission meeting will be held on December 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Riondel Commission meeting be adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Carried

Approved:

Approved by:

Gerald Panio, Chair



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

**Salmo & Area G Recreation Commission No. 7
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

7:00 pm

Monday, November 27, 2023

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

Meeting Location

Held by remote meeting

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Director H. Cunningham	Area G
Director D. Lockwood	Village of Salmo
Commissioner M. MacDonald	Village of Salmo
Commissioner S. Chew	School District No. 8
Commissioner I. McInnes	Area G

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner M. Cain	Village of Salmo
Commissioner J. Leus	Area G

STAFF

Joe Chirico	General Manager, Community Services
Jenna Chapman	Community Meeting Coordinator

4 out of 7 voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lockwood called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the Agenda for the Monday, November 27, 2023 Salmo & Area G Recreation Commission meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The September 11, 2023 meeting did not reach Quorum. May 15, 2023 Recreation Commission No. 7 minutes have been received with a request to have the minutes revised to have the names of the Grant Applications removed from the minutes.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Salmo Recreation Programming Update

Joe Chirico, General Manager of Community Services provided the Commission with an overview of the Commission Report dated November 27, 2023 from Tia Wayling, Regional Programming Manager, regarding the Salmo & Area G Programming Update.

5.2 Salmo & District Community Complex Quarterly Update

Joe Chirico, General Manager of Community Services provided the Commission with a brief summary of the Commission Report dated November 27, 2023 regarding Salmo and District Community Complex Quarterly Update.

RECESS/ RECONVENE The meeting recessed at 7:30 p.m due to technical difficulties with WebEX and reconvened at 7:34p.m.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Salmo Pool Upgrades Status Report

Joe Chirico, General Manager of Community Services provided the Commission with a verbal report on the Salmo Pool Upgrades Status.

6.2 October 2023 Financial Reports for S218, S225 and S230

Joe Chirico, General Manager of Community Services provided an overview of the October 2023 financial reports for S218 Salmo Valley Youth & Community Centre-Salmo and Area G, S225 Swimming Pool- Salmo and Area G and S230 Recreation Commission NO. 7 – Salmo and Area G.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Salmo and Area G Recreation Commission No. 7 directs staff to have a reserve fund be setup for Salmo Valley Youth and Community Services - S218.

Carried

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Basketball Court Update

Commissioner Chew provided the Commission with a verbal update regarding the Basketball Court Update.

7.2 Salmo Pool Upgrade Review

Joe Chirico, General Manager of Community Services provided a discussion with Commissioners regarding the Salmo Pool Upgrade Review and how it will fit into 2023

projects as well as the entire scope of work required.

8. PUBLIC TIME

There were no members of the public present at this Commission Meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the Salmo Area G Recreation Commission meeting be adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Carried

Approved by

Chair, Diana Lockwood

RECOMMENDATION(S) TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. N/A

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE PROVIDED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND WILL BE CONSIDERED AT ITS APPROPRIATE MEETING AS STATED.

Future Salmo and Area G Recreation Commission

1. N/A



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

**NORTH KOOTENAY LAKE SERVICES COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

MONDAY, December 4, 2023

9:30 am

Location: Hybrid Model - In-person and Remote

Committee Members

Director Suzan Hewat

Director Aimee Watson

Village of Kaslo – Chair

Area D

Staff

Ian Dunlop

Stuart Horn

Joe Chirico

Cary Gaynor

Tristan Fehst

Nora Hannon

Christine Hopkyns

Chief Administrative Officer – Village of Kaslo

Chief Administrative Officer – RDCK

General Manager of Community Services

Regional Parks Manager

Regional Deputy Fire Chief and

Regional Fire Chief

Meeting Coordinator

Guests

Jimmie Holland

Kaslo South Water Supply Society

1. WEBEX REMOTE MEETING INFO

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

Join by Video:

<https://nelsonho.webex.com/nelsonho/j.php?MTID=m2f96456ba7089dd7f17ab097c407c6b4>

Join by Phone:

+1-604-449-3026 Canada Toll (Vancouver)

Meeting Number (access code): 2773 401 1055

Meeting Password: gcB44i9WDAU

In-Person Location: Village of Kaslo Council Chambers, 413 4th St, Kaslo, BC

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hewat called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

3. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Agenda for the December 4, 2023 North Kootenay Lake Services Committee meeting, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The February 6, 2023 North Kootenay Lake Services Committee minutes, has been received.

6. DELEGATES

6.1 Eva Kelemen, Kaslo & District Public Library Director and Anne Heard, President, presented on the 2024 Kaslo & Area D Library Service budget. Eva Kelemen provided an overview to the Committee regarding the 2024 -2028 operating budget for the library. She shared that their goal continues to focus on catching up to average funding per capita for BC public libraries to function optimally. Eva also reviewed the new library project progress report.

6.2 Glen Skobalski, Vice President of Kaslo Search and Rescue, presented on the 2024 Jaws of Life (Road Rescue) budget. Glen Skobalski provided an overview to the Committee regarding the 2024 Kaslo Road Rescue/ Jaws of Life budget projections for 2024. He also shared the call out numbers, reviewed staffing and provided an updated on the new building, which will be completed in 2025.

7. OLD BUSINESS

No items.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 BUDGET DISCUSSION

8.1.1 S194 – Kaslo & Area D Library Service

The 2024 S194 – Kaslo & Area D Library Service budget request has been received.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

THAT the North Kootenay Lake Services Committee accept the proposed budget for S194 – Kaslo & Area D Library Service proposed budget for \$124,595.00 in the draft 2024 budget.

Carried

8.1.2 S150 – Jaws of Life (Kaslo Road Rescue)

The 2024 S150 Jaws of Life (Kaslo Road Rescue) budget request has been received.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

THAT the North Kootenay Lake Services Committee accept the proposed budget for S150 – Jaws of Life (Kaslo Search & Rescue) for \$27,000.00 in the draft 2024 budget.

Carried

DIRECTION TO STAFF: The staff invite Kaslo Search and Rescue to the January 15, 2024 meeting to present the whole Kaslo Search and Rescue service budget to the Committee.

8.1.3 S221 - Regional Facilities, Recreation and Park Service

The S221 - Regional Facilities, Recreation and Park Service budget request has been received.

Joe Chirico, General Manager of Community Services and Cary Gaynor, Regional Parks and Trails Manager provided an overview of the 2024 Regional Facilities, Recreation and Park Service budget. They answered the Committee's questions regarding.

Staff will provide an updated 2024 Regional Facilities, Recreation and Park Service budget at the January 15, 2024 meeting.

DIRECTION TO STAFF: That staff bring a revised S221 - Regional Facilities, Recreation and Park Service proposed budget for 2024 back to the January 15, 2024 meeting for further consideration.

8.1.4 S280 - Fire Service

The S280 - Fire Service budget request has been received.

Tristan Fehst, Regional Deputy Fire Chief and Nora Hannon, Regional Fire Chief provided an overview of the 2024 Fire Services budget.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

THAT the North Kootenay Lake Services Committee accept the proposed budget for The S280 - Fire Service budget for \$479,144.00 in the draft 2024 budget.

Carried

8.2 FIRE SERVICES RECRUITMENT UPDATED

Director Watson requested an update regarding Fire Services recruitment. Tristan Fehst, Regional Deputy Fire Chief and Nora Hannon, Regional Fire Chief provided a brief overview regarding the recruitment Kaslo Fire Chief position and recruitment efforts for fire fighters.

DIRECTION TO STAFF: That staff provide an update on recruitment at the January 15, 2024 meeting.

8.3 EMERGENCY SERVICES BUDGET & PROGRAM UPDATE - LARDEAU EVENT

Director Watson requested an updated regarding Emergency Services budget & programs. Staff needed more time to prepare.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the Emergency Services Budget & Program Update - Lardeau Event item BE REFERRED to the January 15, 2024 North Kootenay Lake Services Committee meeting.

Carried

8.4 2024 RECREATION GRANTS

The Committee discussed scheduling a meeting with Community Services staff to discuss this item.

8.5 BACKROAD WATER & KASLO ANNEXATION

Director Watson requested a discussion regarding Backroad water & Kaslo annexation.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That Jimmie Holland have freedom of the floor.

Carried

Jimmie Holland, Kaslo South Water Supply Society, provided background to the Committee regarding the feasibility study looking at how to get water to the Backroad community. The Society is inquiring if the Village of Kaslo is open to continued exploration of a shared water supply.

The Committee had a discussion and asked Mr. Holland questions. Staff will work with the Society to see if the Village of Kaslo is open to exploring a shared water supply with the Backroad community and Kaslo South.

8.6 MCDONALD CREEK CONTRACT

Chair Hewat requested a discussion regarding the McDonald Creek contract.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the McDonald Creek Contract item **BE REFERRED** to the January 15, 2024 North Kootenay Lake Services Committee meeting.

Carried

8.7 VILLAGE OF KASLO & AREA D – SHARING BYLAWS

Chair Hewat requested a discussion regarding sharing of Bylaws adopted by the Village of Kaslo that may be of interest to Area D.

DIRECTION TO STAFF: That staff prepare a presentation regarding Village Of Kaslo & Area D – Sharing Bylaws for the January 15, 2024 meeting.

8.8 VILLAGE OF KASLO & AREA D – SHARING GRANTS/PROJECTS

Chair Hewat requested a discussion regarding sharing of Village of Kaslo grants/projects underway or proposed that may be of interest to Area D.

DIRECTION TO STAFF: That staff prepare a presentation regarding Village Of Kaslo & Area D – Sharing Grants/Projects for the January 15, 2024 meeting.

8.9 2024 NORTH KOOTENAY LAKE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the 2024 North Kootenay Lake Services Committee meeting dates be set as follows:

January 15, 2024;
February 26, 2024;
August 19, 2024;
October 21, 2024;
December 2, 2024.

Carried

9. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair will call for questions from the public at 12:01 a.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next North Kootenay Lake Services Committee meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The North Kootenay Lake Services Committee meeting be adjourned 12:02 p.m.

Carried

Digitally approved by

Director Suzan Hewat



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

RIONDEL COMMISSION OPEN MEETING MINUTES

7:00 PM

December 5, 2023

IN-PERSON MEETING LOCATION FOR HYBRID MEETING MODEL

The following location has been determined to hold the in-person meetings for Riondel Commission of Management:

Location Name: Riondel Community Centre, Commission Office, Room #6

Location Address: 1511 Eastman Ave., Riondel BC

The facility listed above will be able to accommodate the remote requirements for the meeting.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Commissioner G. Panio	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner N. Anderson	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner T. Wilkinson	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner J. Donald	Riondel	
Commissioner Wilkinson	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner G. Jackman	Director – Electoral Area A	In-person

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Panio called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Agenda for the December 5, 2023 Riondel Commission meeting, be adopted, with the addition of agenda items 8.9 Streetlight Notification, 8.10 Meeting with Joe Chirico, 8.11 Emergency Planning Update.

Carried

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The November 7, 2023 Riondel Commission minutes, have been received.

5. DELEGATE

There are no delegations scheduled for this Commission Meeting.

6. PUBLIC TIME

There was one Riondel Community Member in attendance.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Cell Service Letter

Chair Panio reviewed a draft Cell Service Letter addressed to Jeanne Hollis at the Ministry of Citizen Services.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the Board approve the Letter to the Ministry of Citizen Services regarding Cell Service in the Riondel area from Riondel Commission.

Carried

7.2 Water & Drainage Advisory Board

Chair Panio explained to the Commission that he would go in further detail of the November 28, 2023 meeting at the Riondel Commission Meeting in January. Commission Jackman stated there is a need for a public meeting to discuss drainage priorities in the town, potential taxation increases, and whether a ditching alternative to the current underground system should be considered. RDCK staff will set up this public meeting in the New Year.

7.3 Radon Tester

Chair Panio reported on the progress in acquiring a radon tester that can be loaned out through the Riondel Reading Centre to interested homeowners. Chair Panio will contact Commission Jackman about proceeding with this program, and will take responsibility, along with volunteer Donna Lavigne, for signing out and tracking radon detector loans.

7.4 Call for Commissioners

The Commission discussed the appointments of new Commission Memebbers as well as the renewal of existing memberships. There are still openings available for Commission members.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved that:

That the Board appoint the following individual(s) to the Riondel Commission for a term to end December 31, 2025.

Donna Lavigne	Riondel
Gerald Panio	Riondel
T. Wilkinson	Riondel
N. Anderson	Riondel

7.5 Condition of Riondel Road

Commissioner Anderson reviewed a draft of a letter to be sent to Ministry of Transportation Rep, Gundula Brigl.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the Board approve the Letter to the Ministry of Transportation regarding Riondel Road from the Riondel Commission.

Carried

7.6 Community Centre Renovations

Chair Panio reviewed progress on implementation of further improvements to the Riondel Community Centre, including a recent meeting with General Manager Joe Chirico and designs for a commercial kitchen.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Administrative Assistant Hiring

Commissioner Panio reported on progress towards hiring a new Administrative Assistant for the Commission. Three interviews were held for the position, one candidate was selected, and reference checks are currently being done to complete the hiring process.

8.2 Riondel Community Association

Chair Panio reported on the formation of this new Riondel Community Association. This association will take over the role previously held by the Riondel Seniors Association, with a broader mandate to reach out to all Riondel and East Shore residents to provide programming and activities.

8.3 Christmas Craft Fair

Chair Panio reported on the December 2, 2023 Christmas Craft Fair held in the Community Centre auditorium. Organizers reported that the Fair was a success, even with the snowfall that likely kept some people at home. The organizers gave the Commission the table fees of \$295 in lieu of rental for the auditorium.

8.4 Community Christmas Dinner

Chair Panio reviewed the Community Christmas Potluck Supper to be held on Saturday, December 9, at 5:30 p.m.

8.5 Water Testing Certification

Chair Panio reviewed certification levels of our Maintenance Staff. Maintenance Person Evan Salmon has now qualified for a Level I Small Water Systems Licence and will be able to assume wider responsibilities at our water treatment plant. Some work still needs involvement of other RDCK staff, as our plant is rated as a Level 2 system.

8.6 Danger Trees

Chair Panio will review residents' concerns regarding danger trees on RDCK and other properties in town. A main area of concern was the trail/park area that bisects Russell Avenue. Chair Panio had an RDCK map identifying this area as RDCK land, but Commissioner Jackman said that a provincial map did not have a property identifier. If this area is in fact Crown Land, funding for fire mitigation might be available. Further investigation is needed to ascertain land ownership.

8.7 Tip-It Bin Change

Chair Panio stated that a fourth Tip-It bin will be added for waste management in Riondel. Currently, with a two-week pickup period and increased use by residents, the three bins we have are being overfilled.

8.8 Riondel Curling Club

Commissioner Anderson to provide the Commission with a proposed motion for the Riondel Curling Club.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the Riondel Commission direct staff to add a fixed grant line to the 2024 S209 Recreational Facilities Budget of \$3000.00. The S209 Recreational Facilities Budget will be reviewed annually.

Carried

8.9 Streetlights

Chair Panio informed Commissioners that they should contact Wade Wensink of the Riondel Cable Society if they receive notice from residents of streetlights that need servicing.

8.10 Meeting with General Manager Joe Chirico

Chair Panio reported that Joe Chirico will meet with representatives of various user groups that rent rooms in the Riondel Community Centre to establish protocols for rental contract, invoicing, and insurance coverage. The meeting will be held in the Commission Office on Thursday, December 7th, at 1:30 p.m. Should General Manager Chirico be unable to attend in person, we will try to establish a remote phone-in connection.

8.11 Emergency Planning Report

Commissioner Wilkinson reported that he has had no success in getting a commitment from the Ministry of Transport to use the Kootenay Lake ferry as an emergency evacuation option for Riondel residents. MOTI indicated that other water vehicles should be enlisted for this purpose, but Commissioner Wilkinson indicated that there were insufficient boats in Riondel capable of such an evacuation, particularly in the event of rough waters on the lake. He is looking at a couple of private barge options.

Commissioner Wilkinson also indicated that MOTI is not willing to look at the possibility of a second road to provide access to and from Riondel in the event that the Riondel north road were cut off from Highway 3.

To date, the Riondel Emergency Planning Committee has received 68 responses to their questionnaire regarding emergency planning on the East Shore.

A question was raised as to whether there is currently a Fire Warden in the Riondel area. No one could identify anyone in this role.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence for this Commission Meeting.

10 AREA A DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Jackman reported on the need for the RDCK and local municipalities to deal with provincial changes to housing regulations and the effect of those changes on local by-laws regarding rental options. The provincial government is also insisting that local Community Planning, which affects land use, zoning and by-laws, be done every five years. This five-year timetable has not been adhered to in previous years, and many Community Plans need revision.

11 FINANCIAL REPORTS

No items.

12 PUBLIC TIME

A question was raised as to whether anything could be done to mitigate the impact of certain Riondel streetlights on nearby homeowners. There would be costs associated with adding hoods to certain lights, or with changing the type of lighting. Further information regarding costing might be solicited from RDCK staff person Tom Dool. Chair Panio indicated that Riondel residents saw the streetlights as important, judging by the regularity with which non-functioning lights were reported to the Commission.

13 NEXT MEETING

The following Riondel Commission meeting will be held on January 2, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

14 ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded, AND Resolved:

The Riondel Commission meeting be adjourned at 9:05 pm.

DIGITALLY APPROVED

Chair, Panio



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

**CASTLEGAR AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY
COMPLEX RECREATION COMMISSION
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

**Castlegar & District Community Complex – Columbia Room
2101 6 Avenue, Castlegar, BC**

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings remotely.

Join Remotely:

Please visit our website: <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/meta/events/events-list/meetings/castlegar-and-district-recreation-commission-9.html>

Join by Phone: 1-604-449-3026 Canada Toll Free

Meeting Number (access code): 2770 084 3222

Meeting Password: nPsp8H2VSM4

In-Person Location: Castlegar & District Community Complex – Columbia Room
2101 6 Avenue, Castlegar, BC

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commissioner M. McFaddin	City of Castlegar
Commissioner B. Bogle	City of Castlegar
Commissioner S. Heaton-Sherstobitoff	City of Castlegar
Commissioner A. Davidoff	Electoral Area I
Commissioner H. Hanegraaf	Electoral Area J

STAFF

Joe Chirico	General Manager of Community Services
Craig Stanley	Regional Manager – Operations and Asset Management
Trisha Davison	Regional Manager – Recreation and Client Services
Cary Gaynor	Regional Parks Manager
Pearl Anderson	Meeting Coordinator

5 out of 5 voting Commission members were present – quorum was met.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Heaton-Sherstobitoff called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

COMMISSIONER PRESENT: Commissioner Davidoff joined the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the Agenda for the December 5, 2023 Castlegar and District Community Complex Recreation Commission meeting be adopted, as circulated.

There was a conversation regarding Commission members receiving agenda packages. Going forth in the new year, a new process for agendas and minutes will start.

Carried

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The November 7, 2023 Castlegar and District Community Complex Recreation Commission minutes, have been received.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 PASS CREEK REGIONAL PARK EXHIBITION SOCIETY

The letter dated November 29, 2023 from Nikki Watson, on behalf of Donna Smith - President of Pass Creek Regional Exhibition Society, to formally advise that the Pass Creek Regional Exhibition Society can no longer continue a lease with the RDCK for the Exhibition Grounds, has been received.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That staff be directed to review the matter regarding the lease for the Pass Creek Regional Park and report back to a Castlegar & District Community Complex Recreation Commission meeting in the first quarter of 2024.

Carried

5.2 CASTLEGAR HOCKEY SOCIETY FACILITY LETTER

The letter dated December 7, 2021 from Theresa OELKE, Secretary with the Castlegar Hockey Society, has been received.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That staff be directed to bring a report to the Castlegar & District Community Complex Recreation Commission recommending that the agreement between the RDCK and the Castlegar Hockey Society for the Castlegar Rebels be amended to include a liquor licence for the Castlegar & District Recreation Complex; AND FURTHER, that the fee for the facility liquor licence be included in the 2024 financial plan.

Carried

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 GLADE REGIONAL PARK UPGRADES

The Commission Report dated November 23, 2023 from Cary Gaynor, Regional Parks and Manager, regarding the Glade Regional Park Upgrades, has been received.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That staff be directed to proceed to community engagement with the community of Glade for the Glade Regional Park Upgrades design; AND FURTHER, that Cary Gaynor coordinates and delivers the Glade Community Engagement prior to the meetings with Area I communities with regard to “Reimagining Recreation” public consultation process.

Carried

6.2 SENIORS CENTRE LEASE

The Commission report dated November 23, 2023 from Craig Stanley, Regional Manager, Operations & Asset Manager, presenting an update on the status of the Seniors Centre lease, has been received for information.

6.3 COMMUNITY SERVICES PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS (SCPEP)

The verbal report presented by Trisha Davison, Regional Manager Recreation & Client Services, regarding Community Services Public Engagement Projects (SCPEP), has been received for information.

6.4 PIONEER ARENA EVENT

The Commission report dated, November 30, 2023 from Trisha Davison, Regional Manager – Recreation & Client Services, presenting information related to the planning of a community event to honour the Pioneer Arena before the facility closure at the end of the 2023/2024 ice season, has been received for information.

6.5 REGIONAL AQUAFIT REPORT

The Commission Report dated, December 1, 2023 from Craig Stanley, Regional Manager, Operations & Asset Management regarding Regional Aquafit, has been received for information.

6.6 FINANCIAL FORECAST S222 & S227

The Financial Forecast Report dated, December 1, 2023 from Craig Stanley, Regional Manager, Operations & Asset Management regarding the Financial Forecast for S222 and S227, has been received for information.

7. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public at 5:44 p.m.

8. PROPOSED 2024 MEETING DATES

Following are the proposed 2024 Castlegar & District Community Complex Recreation Commission meeting dates:

DATE	TIME P.M	HYBRID MEETING LOCATION
January 9	4:00 p.m.	Castlegar & District Community Complex
February 6	4:00 p.m.	Castlegar & District Community Complex
March 5	4:00 p.m.	Castlegar & District Community Complex
April 9	4:00 p.m.	Castlegar & District Community Complex
May 7	4:00 p.m.	Castlegar & District Community Complex
June 11	4:00 p.m.	Castlegar & District Community Complex
August 6	4:00 p.m.	Castlegar & District Community Complex
September 10	4:00 p.m.	Castlegar & District Community Complex
October 1	4:00 p.m.	Castlegar & District Community Complex
November 5	4:00 p.m.	Castlegar & District Community Complex
December 3	4:00 p.m.	Castlegar & District Community Complex

The amended 2024 Castlegar & District Community Complex Recreation Commission meeting dates have been received and staff will send out calendar invites for each meeting.

9. IN CAMERA

9.1 MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

MOVED and seconded,
 AND Resolved:

In the opinion of the Commission - and, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter – the public interest so requires that persons other than COMMISSIONERS, ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS, DELEGATIONS AND STAFF be excluded from the meeting;

AND FURTHER, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter, the meeting is to be closed on the basis(es) identified in the following Subsections:

90. (1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:
- (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality;
 - (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a

municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

Carried

9.2 RECESS OF OPEN MEETING

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the Open Meeting be recessed at 5:50 p.m. in order to conduct the Closed In Camera meeting.

Carried

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Castlegar and District Community Complex Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and Seconded,
And Resolved:

That the Castlegar and District Community Complex Recreation Commission meeting be adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Carried

Digitally approved,

S. Heaton-Sherstobitoff, Chair



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

**CRESTON VALLEY SERVICES COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

9:00 a.m. MST

Thursday, December 7, 2023

**Creston & District Community Complex – Creston Erickson Room
312 19th Avenue North, Creston, BC**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Committee Member A. DeBoon	Town of Creston
Committee Member G. Jackman	Electoral Area A
Committee Member R. Tierney	Electoral Area B
Committee Member K. Vandenberghe	Electoral Area C

RDCK STAFF PRESENT

S. Horn	Chief Administrative Officer – RDCK
Y. Malloff	Chief Financial Officer – RDCK
J. Chirico	General Manager of Community Services
C. Stanley	Regional Manager – Operations and Asset Management
J. Dupuis	Bylaw Enforcement Supervisor
M. Crowe	Park Planner
K. Shyjak	Meeting Coordinator

CRESTON STAFF PRESENT

M. Moore	Chief Administrative Officer – Creston
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GUESTS PRESENT

Debby Johnson	Board Director – Wildsight Creston Valley Project Lead – Creston Valley Rod and Gun Club Committee
Melanie Joy	Chair – Creston Valley Chamber of Commerce

4 out of _4_ voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.

Webex Remote Meeting Info:

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote.

Join by Video:

<https://nelsonho.webex.com/nelsonho/j.php?MTID=mc26cd58b105d652d53180d6a28e14802>

Join by Phone:

+1-604-449-3026 Canada Toll (Vancouver)

Meeting Number (access code): 2773 163 7980

Meeting Password: cPpa36GQjM2

In-Person Location: Creston & District Community Complex - Creston Erickson Room
312 19th Avenue North, Creston, BC

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair DeBoon called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m.

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded,
And Resolved:

The Agenda for the December 7, 2023 Creston Valley Services Committee meeting, be adopted with the inclusion of the following:

- Item 6.3 – Housing and Agricultural Land Reserve

before circulation.

Carried

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The November 2, 2023 Creston Valley Services Committee (CVSC) minutes, have been received.

5. DELEGATE(S)

5.1 Creston Valley Chamber of Commerce

Melanie Joy, President, Creston Valley Chamber of Commerce, provided the Committee with a verbal presentation in regards to the Creston Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Board members, their 2023 Business Walk Report and their 2024 Strategic Plan.

Melanie Joy answered the Committee's questions.

5.2 Wildsight Creston Valley and Creston Valley Rod and Gun Club

Debby Johnson, Board Director, Wildsight Creston Valley and Project Lead, Creston Valley Rod and Gun Club provided the Committee with a verbal presentation in regards to informing and educating the community of the dangers of certain types of fencing for wildlife through a mailed brochure to the residents in Area A, B and C.

Debby Johnson answered the Committee's questions.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Creston Grain Elevators

Director Vandenberghe provided information around the recent financial contributions to one or both of the grain elevators.

The Committee discussed the Creston Grain Elevators and how to proceed with obtaining additional information with regards to a point of contact, funding, and a move forward plan for the white grain elevator.

Michael Moore, Chief Administration Officer Creston, to reach out to the Columbia Basin Trust President and invite them or a team member to join a CVSC meeting in 2024 to answer Elected Official questions.

6.2 2024 Meeting Schedule

Proposed 2024 Creston Valley Services Committee meeting dates with a start time of 9:00 a.m.:

- Thursday January 11, 2024
- Thursday February 8, 2024 *moved one week ahead due to LOS/LGLA Forums
- Thursday March 7, 2024
- Thursday April 4, 2024
- Thursday May 2, 2024
- Thursday May 30, 2024 *moved one week earlier due to FCM convention on June 6
- Thursday July 4, 2024
- Thursday August 1, 2024
- Thursday September 5, 2024
- Thursday October 3, 2024
- Thursday November 7, 2024
- Thursday December 5, 2024

Carried

6.3 Housing and Agricultural Land Reserve

The Committee discussed the lack of housing in Creston and the surrounding communities, the barriers around the Agriculture Land Reserves (ALR) regulations and rules, and how the barriers are affecting health care professionals from moving to Creston. The Committee discussed a move forward plan to all attend a Planning Workshop in early 2024 with Rural Directors as a starting point for this discussion.

**RECESS/
RECONVENE** The meeting recessed at 10:50 a.m. for a break and reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Traditional Use Study (TUS) Park Priority Report

Mark Crowe, Park Planner, provided the Committee with The Ktunaxa RDCK Traditional Use Study (TUS) Prioritization Report dated November 23, 2023.

The Committee discussed the methods presented, the pros and cons for the five locations under consideration and funding considerations. Staff answered the Committee's questions.

MOVED and Seconded,
And Resolved:

That the Committee directs staff to continue to work towards Regional Park development activities at Kyanukxu ᖅa·kinmituk (Goat River South) and Kayaqaniskuwal (West Creston Ferry Landing) as the top priorities for potential Regional Park development in 2024.

Carried

MOVED and Seconded,
And Resolved:

That the Committee includes consideration of funding park investigation, reserves for land acquisition and funding for related assessments, studies and approvals in the Draft 2024 Financial Plan for the possible park locations at Kyanukxu ᖅa·kinmituk (Goat River South) and Kayaqaniskuwal (West Creston Ferry Landing).

Carried

MOVED and Seconded,
And Resolved:

That the Committee includes consideration in the Draft 2024 Financial Plan for funding up to \$8,000 from Area A Economic Development Commission in order to close the boat ramp and restoring the natural beach with boulders replaced at ᖅsanca (Martell Beach), subject to this this work to be completed by other parties, and being completed to the satisfaction of Ktunaxa Nation Council and Yaqaᑎ Nukiy.

Carried

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Review Action Items List

The Committee reviewed the action items list from the November 2, 2023 Creston Valley Services Committee meeting.

9. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public at 11:53 a.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Creston Valley Services Committee meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and Seconded,

And Resolved:

The Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Carried

Approved by

Arnold DeBoon, Chair



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

**AREA J ADVISORY PLANNING AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

6:00PM

Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote.

Join by Video:

<https://nelsonho.webex.com/nelsonho/j.php?MTID=mf17823284efed25088d62a09e1c75d03>

Join by Phone:

+1-604-449-3026 Canada Toll (Vancouver)

Meeting Number (access code): 2770 934 0977

Meeting Password: RTm35A3xbiR (78635239 from phones)

In-Person Location: Castlegar & District Community Complex – 2101 6 Ave, Castlegar, BC V1N 3B2

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Audrey Repin

Electoral Area J, Chair

Commissioner Ian Winsor

Electoral Area J

Commissioner Wally Penner

Electoral Area J

DIRECTORS

Henny Hanegraaf - absent

Electoral Area J, Director

STAFF

Laura Christie

Planning Technician

PUBLIC

Louis Bouchard

Applicant

Tony Maida

Applicant

Deb Randall

3 out of 3 voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Repin called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded,

AND Resolved:

The Agenda for the January 3rd, 2024 Electoral Area J Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission meeting, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The November 1st, 2023 Electoral Area J Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission minutes, have been received.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Development Variance Permit Application – Sutco Contracting Ltd

The Referral Package dated November 15, 2023 from Planner Zachari Giacomazzo, has been received.

-Applicant described the planned works, including proposed dust control measures and where trees will be planted. He explained that the Ministry of Transportation requires that water run-off be managed on-site.

-Commissioners Penner and Winsor acknowledge that the area is already dusty, both commissioners comment that the works could be an improvement to what currently exists at the site.

-All commissioners agree that Old Mill Rd is in poor shape. Commissioners discuss the need to improve Old Mill Rd, noting that this could be a future discussion with the Ministry of Transportation.

MOVED and seconded,

AND Resolved:

That the Area J Advisory Planning Commission SUPPORT the Development Variance Permit Application to Sutco Contracting Ltd. for the property located 25 Old Mill Road, Raspberry, BC and legally described as LOT 3 DISTRICT LOT 237 KOOTENAY DISTRICT PLAN EPP71075

Carried

6. PUBLIC TIME

No questions from public.

7. NEXT MEETING

Commissioner Penner indicated that he will not be available for first few Wednesday evenings in February. Staff will look into scheduling the next Electoral Area J Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission Meeting for Wednesday, February 21st, 2024. Staff will inform the Commission if this date works. The meetings will continue to be held at the Castlegar District Community Complex (CDCC).

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Electoral Area J Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Carried

Approved by
Audrey Repin, Chair



West Resource Recovery Committee Open Meeting **MINUTES**

A West Resource Recovery Committee meeting was held on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 1:00 pm (PST) / 2:00 pm (MST) through a hybrid model.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT	Director W. Popoff Director A. Davidoff Director H. Hanegraaf Director T. Weatherhead Director M. McFadden Director T. Zeleznik Director L. Main Alt. Director E. Buller Director L. Casley	Area H (Chair) Area I Area J Area K City of Castlegar Village of Nakusp Village of Silverton Village of Slocan Village of New Denver	In-Person
GUEST DIRECTORS	Director G. Jackman Director T. Newell	Chair East Resource Recovery Committee Chair Central Resource Recovery Committee	
DELEGATION	Julia Greenlaw	Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley	
STAFF PRESENT	S.Horn Y. Malloff U. Wolf A. Wilson S. Eckman	Chief Administrative Officer General Manager of Finance, IT, ED General Manager of Environmental Services Resource Recovery Manager Meeting Coordinator	In-Person In-Person In-Person

1. **WEBEX REMOTE MEETING INFO**

Join by Meeting Link:

<https://nelsonho.webex.com/nelsonho/j.php?MTID=m0c71eb08b70adeb107e1a0bb4a4911ea>

Meeting Number (access code): 2770 198 0004

Meeting Password: 6Js3w38dbSw (65739383 from phones)

Join by Phone:

+1-604-449-3026 Canada Toll (Vancouver)

In-Person Location:

Board Room, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC

2. CALL TO ORDER

General Manager Wolf called the West Resource Recovery Committee meeting to order at 1:00 pm PST.

3. ELECTION OF 2024 COMMITTEE CHAIR

3.1 Call for Nominations (3 Times)

General Manager Wolf called for nominations the first time.

General Manager Wolf called for further nominations the second and third time.

3.2 Opportunity for Candidates to Address the Committee

No address.

3.3 Vote By Secret Ballot

No vote.

3.4 Declaration of Elected or Acclaimed 2024 West Resource Recovery Committee Chair

General Manager Wolf declared Director Popoff being acclaimed as Chair of the West Resource Recovery Committee for 2024.

Carried

3.5 Destroy Ballots

No ballots.

4. CHAIR'S ADDRESS

Chair Popoff thanked the Committee for their support.

RECESS Meeting recessed for a break from 1:04 pm to 1:06 pm.

5. COMMENCEMENT OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING

Director Popoff, West Resource Recovery Committee Chair assumed the chair.

5.1 Traditional Lands Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

5.2 Freedom of the Floor

Moved and Seconded,
And Resolved:

That East Resource Recovery Committee Chair Director Jackman and Central Resource Recovery Committee Chair Director Newell have freedom of the floor.

Carried

5.3 Adoption of the Agenda

Moved and Seconded,
And Resolved:

The Agenda for the January 4, 2024 West Resource Recovery Committee meeting be

adopted as circulated.

Carried

5.4 Receipt of Minutes

The November 28, 2023 West Resource Recovery Committee Minutes, have been received.

6. DELEGATION: HEALTHY COMMUNITY SOCIETY OF THE NORTH SLOCAN VALLEY

The December 16, 2023 letter from the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley requesting funds to assist with building a new curing area and installing electrified fence sections at their New Denver facility, has been received.

Julia Greenlaw from the Healthy Community Society of the North Slocan Valley (HCSNSV) was in attendance to present an update on the HCSNSV's Organic Waste Diversion Project and request funding for 2024 for their curing pad capital project.

DIRECTOR PRESENT Director Zeleznik joined the meeting at 1:23 pm PST.

7. DRAFT 2024-2028 FINANCIAL PLANS

The following Draft Financial Plans, have been received:

- a. Service S188: West Resource Recovery
- b. Service A118: Recycling Program - West Subregion
- c. Service A120: Organics Program - Central & West Subregions

RECESS Meeting recessed for a break from 3:03 pm to 3:11 pm.

8. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public and members of the media at 3:48 pm PST / 4:48 pm MST.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and Seconded,
And resolved that:

The January 4, 2024 West Resource Recovery Committee meeting adjourn at 3:49 pm PST / 4:49 pm MST.

Carried

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Approved by:
Walter Popoff, Chair

January 4, 2024 meeting



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

**AREA A ADVISORY PLANNING AND HERITAGE
COMMISSION
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

**2:30PM PST (3:30 MST)
January 04, 2024
Remote Meeting**

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote.

Join by Video:

<https://nelsonho.webex.com/nelsonho/j.php?MTID=m4eaa167a60c3edea19f48762b51dd81b>

Join by Phone: 604-449-3026

Meeting Number (access code): 2774 998 0703

Meeting Password: isC5Nqm32FM (47256763 from phones)

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Shawn Ryks	Electoral Area A
Commissioner Branca Lewandowski	Electoral Area A
Commissioner Michella Moss	Electoral Area A

DIRECTORS

Gary Jackman	Electoral Area A, Director
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STAFF

Sadie Chezenko	Planning Technician
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PUBLIC

Julie March

3 out of 4 voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Director Jackman called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m PST

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Deferred to next meeting

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Agenda for the January 04, 2024 Electoral Area A Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission meeting, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The June 08, 2023 Electoral Area A Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission minutes, have been received.

6. New Business

6.1 Kootenay Lake Timber Supply Area

The commission discussed the following:

- What the annual allowable cut is and how is it determined
- Enforcement and staff retention
- Under harvesting and overharvesting
- The use of the professional reliance model
- Environmental impacts
- Impacts on water sources
- Private land logging and Crown land logging
- Glyphosate and spraying

6.2 Provincial Legislative Changes: Housing and Short-Term Rentals

The commission discussed the following:

- Official Community Plan (OCP)s in the RDCK and updates
- OCPs for individual/multiple electoral areas
- Commissioners requested a presentation on OCPs in the future

6.3 Kootenay Lake Development Permit Area Review

The commission discussed the following:

- How enforcement is done
- How effective enforcement is
- Notion of balancing environmental protection and property development
- Interconnection with the proposals for a wildfire development permit area

6.4 Future Meetings

The commission discussed where future hybrid meetings could be held noting that the location must be open and easily accessible to the public, have cell service, Wi-Fi and audiovisual equipment. The commission determined that meetings should alternate between the Boswell Memorial Hall (12374 Boswell Rd, Boswell) and the Gray Creek Hall (15047 Hwy 3A, Gray Creek). The commission also noted the desire to change the meeting time from 3:30 MST (2:30PST) to 2:00pm MST (1:00 PST).

7. PUBLIC TIME

No questions.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next Electoral Area A Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission Meeting is scheduled for February 01, 2024 at 2:00pm MST (1:00pm PST).

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Electoral Area A Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission meeting be adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Carried

Approved by

Acting Chair Garry Jackman



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

**Kaslo and Area D Economic Development
Commission S109
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

1:00 p.m.

Monday, December 11, 2023

Village of Kaslo Council Chambers

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote.

Join by Video:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84838839557>

Meeting ID: 848 3883 9557

One tap mobile

+16475580588,,84838839557# Canada

+17789072071,,84838839557# Canada

Join by Phone:

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Meeting Number (access code): 848 3883 9557

Meeting Password: 848 3883 9557

In-Person Location: 413 4th St, Kaslo BC – City Hall

Commissioner Hewat	Village of Kaslo
Commissioner Lang	Village of Kaslo
Commissioner Davie	Village of Kaslo
Commissioner Nay	Village of Kaslo
Commissioner Watson	Area D
Commissioner Jones	Area D

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Brown	Area D
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STAFF

Yev Maloff CFO, RDCK
Catherine Allaway CO, Village of Kaslo

6 out of 7 voting Commission members were present – quorum was met.

GUESTS

Donna Cormie

1. ELECTION OF ACTING CHAIR

CO Allaway called for nominations for acting Chair.
Commissioner Watson nominated Commissioner Hewat
Commissioner Hewat accepted the nomination.

As there were no other nominations, Commissioner Hewat was elected by acclamation to the role of Acting Chair.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Hewat called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

3. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Agenda for the December 11, 2023 Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission S109 meeting, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The October 16, 2023 Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission S109 minutes have been received.

6. DELEGATE – Nil

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Imagine Kootenay Steering Committee Update

Commissioner Hewat gave a verbal update on the Imagine Kootenay Steering Committee.

7.2 REDIP Grant Application

Commissioner Jones gave a verbal update on the REDIP grant application.

7.3 Creston EcoDepot Committee Report

Commissioner Watson gave a verbal update about a possible EcoDepot in Kaslo/Area D.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 2024 Budget

- Imagine Kootenay
- RDCK
- Village Of Kaslo

Moved and seconded,
AND Resolved that it be recommended to the Board:

That \$2,500 in funding for the Imagine Kootenay program be included in the draft budget for 2024.

Carried

8.2 Commission Stipend

Moved and seconded,
AND Resolved that it be recommended to the Board:

That Commissioner Hewat be reimbursed for travel expenses and paid a stipend for the September 26th, 2023 Imagine Kootenay Steering Committee meeting held in Nelson, BC.

Carried

8.3 Open House Meeting Date

The Commission discussed holding an open house in 2024.

8.4 2024 Meeting Calendar

Moved and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the 2024 meeting schedule be adopted as follows:

January 15
February 12
April 8
June 10
August 12
October 21
December 9

Carried

8.5 Letter of Support Village of Kaslo

Moved and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the Commission approves the letter of support for the Village of Kaslo's REDIP application.

Carried

9. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public at 2:03 p.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission S109 meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded,

AND Resolved:

The Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission S109 meeting be adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Carried

Approved by:

Chair Hewat

RECOMMENDATION(S) TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. *That \$2,500 in funding for the Imagine Kootenay program be included in the draft budget for 2024.*
2. *That Commissioner Hewat be reimbursed for travel expenses and paid a stipend for the September 26th, 2023 Imagine Kootenay Steering Committee meeting held in Nelson, BC.*
3. *That the 2024 meeting schedule be adopted as follows:*
 - January 15*
 - February 12*
 - April 8*
 - June 10*
 - August 12*
 - October 21*
 - December 9*



Economic Development Commission
Kaslo and Area D

File No. 01/0520/30

October 26, 2023

Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program
ruraldevelopment@gov.bc.ca

To Whom it May Concern:

RE: Village of Kaslo Grant Application – REDIP Application

The Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission supports and endorses the application the Village of Kaslo is submitting to the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program to further the upgrades at the Kemball Memorial Building.

The Kemball Memorial Building is over 100 years old and is a heritage landmark in Kaslo. Originally a provincial courthouse, the building is now used as office space and houses over a dozen different businesses in the community. It also boasts a shared community coworking office where all are welcome to come and utilize the space.

We share the Village's vision to see this building be transformed to a hub of local innovation and entrepreneurship through the Kaslo Rural Innovation Centre Project.

As with all old buildings, time has taken its toll, and the building is in dire need of upgrades and repairs. The Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission recognizes the importance of the Kemball Memorial Building to the local community and supports continued investment to modernize. We urge you to positively consider funding this project by the Village of Kaslo.

Sincerely,

Matthew Brown
Chair, Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission



Economic Development Commission
Kaslo and Area D

File No. 01/0520/30

October 26, 2023

Columbia Basin Trust
Community Readiness Program
readiness@ourtrust.org

To Whom it May Concern:

RE: Village of Kaslo Grant Application – Community Readiness Program

The Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission supports and endorses the application the Village of Kaslo is submitting to the Columbia Basin Trust to further the upgrades at the Kaslo & District Arena.

The Kaslo & District Arena is the largest public structure in the area and can be used during emergency situations in a variety of ways, including as a gathering space or emergency shelter, with washrooms and kitchens. Ensuring that there are adequate facilities in the unfortunate event of a public emergency contributes to a sense of community well-being and reduces the strain on emergency personnel. In addition to being a valuable resource in dire situations, the arena's indoor ice and curling rinks are popular community amenities that provide programming opportunities for residents of all ages and contribute to the quality of life in Kaslo. The facility is also used for special events and functions throughout the year and is an essential part of the community fabric.

The Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission recognizes the importance of the Kaslo & District Arena to the local community and supports continued investment in facility. We urge you to positively consider funding this project by the Village of Kaslo.

Sincerely,

Matthew Brown
Chair, Kaslo & Area D Economic Development Commission



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

**RECREATION COMMISSION NO. 4 – AREA K AND
VILLAGE OF NAKUSP
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

**6:00 p.m.
January 10, 2024**

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Director T. Weatherhead	Area K
Director A. McLaren-Caux	Village of Nakusp
Commissioner C. Hanet	Village of Nakusp
Commissioner T. Knooihuizen	Village of Nakusp

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner M. Scott	Area K
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STAFF

Joe Chirico	General Manager - Community Services
Trisha Davison	Regional Manager – Recreation and Client Services
Cavan Gates	Village of Nakusp - Director of Operations
Ava Durrell	Village of Nakusp - Recreation Clerk
Pearl Anderson	Meeting Coordinator

4 out of 5 voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Joe Chirico, General Manager of Community Services, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (3 Times)

Director Weatherhead nominated Commissioner Hanet.

DECLARATION OF ELECTED OR ACCLAIMED CHAIR

There being no further nominations, Joe Chirico, General Manager of Community Services, ratified the appointed Commissioner Hanet as Chair of the Recreation Commission No. 4- area K and Village of Nakusp for 2024.

Commissioner Hanet assumed the Chair.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hanet called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the Agenda for the January 10, 2024 Recreation Commission No. 4 meeting, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The June 21, 2023 Recreation Commission No. 4 minutes have been received.

5. DELEGATE

5.1 There were no Delegates scheduled for this Commission Meeting.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 S228 Draft 2024 Budget

The 2024 Draft Financial Plan for service S228 Recreation Commission No. 4- Area K and Village of Nakusp has been received.

The following was discussed:

- Review of the 2023 grant allocations – all grant funds were not allocated
- Grant funds available for carry over to 2024 accumulated surplus in the amount of approximately \$28,000
- Funds budgeted for salaries and travel are for swimming lesson instructors
- Advertising funds budgeted are for Commission members advertisements
- Music in the Park continuing in 2024 – budget funding will be required
- Use of 2024 program budget funds for possible consultation/public engagement/survey/official plan to help guide future decisions
- Official plans should include documentation and plans for going forward

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 2024 Grant Application – West Kootenay Football Club

The Operational Project Grant application dated December 12, 2023 from West Kootenay Football Club, re: BC Soccer Insurance Covering Nakusp and Area, has been received.

MOVED and seconded,
 AND Resolved that it be recommended to the Board:

That the Board approve the payment of the following grant from the Recreation Commission No. 4 – Area K and Village of Nakusp (\$228) 2024 budget:

West Kootenay Football Club \$6000.00

Carried

7.2 2024 Proposed Recreation Commission No. 4 – Area k and Village of Nakusp Meeting Dates
 The proposed meeting dates have been approved by the Commission.

February 21, 2024	6:00 p.m.	Emergency Services Building 300 – 8 th Ave NW, Nakusp BC
April 3, 2024	6:00 p.m.	Emergency Services Building 300 – 8 th Ave NW, Nakusp BC
June 19, 2024	6:00 pm	Emergency Services Building 300 – 8 th Ave NW, Nakusp BC
October 9, 2024	6:00 pm	Emergency Services Building 300 – 8 th Ave NW, Nakusp BC

8. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public at 7:20 p.m.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next Recreation Commission No. 4 – Area K and Village of Nakusp meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded,
 AND Resolved:

That the Recreation Commission N. 4 – Area K and Village of Nakusp meeting be adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Carried

DIGITALLY APPROVED

C. Hanet, Chair

RECOMMENDATION(S) TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. That the Board approve the payment of the following grant from the Recreation Commission No. 4 – Area K and Village of Nakusp (\$228) 2024 budget:

West Kootenay Football Club \$6000.00

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE PROVIDED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND WILL BE CONSIDERED AT ITS APPROPRIATE MEETING AS STATED.

Future Recreation Commission No. 4 – Area K and Village of Nakusp Meetings

1. 2024 Recreation Commission No. 4 – Area K and Village of Nakusp Meetings

February 21, 2024	6:00 p.m.	Emergency Services Building 300 – 8 th Ave NW, Nakusp BC
April 3, 2024	6:00 p.m.	Emergency Services Building 300 – 8 th Ave NW, Nakusp BC
June 19, 2024	6:00 pm	Emergency Services Building 300 – 8 th Ave NW, Nakusp BC
October 9, 2024	6:00 pm	Emergency Services Building 300 – 8 th Ave NW, Nakusp BC



Director's Report

Garry Jackman – Area A Wynndel/
East Shore Kootenay Lake

Report Date: January 8, 2024

Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee (CBRAC)

No new CBRAC meetings since November 7th. The most recent press release on the negotiations can be found at <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023EMLI0040-001605>.

For general information go to <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/columbiarivertreaty/info-sessions/>.

Regional Connectivity Committee (RCC)

Final design and planning for phased construction continues for the implementation of the \$82M project under the Universal Broadband fund to provide fiber to the home to residences in eligible communities across the basin while also further strengthening the network backbone.

I could not attend the December 14th meeting due to the conflict with the RDCK Board meeting.

For more information

info@rdck.bc.ca | 250.352.6665 | 1.800.268.7325 (BC) | or visit rdck.ca



Director's Report

Kelly Vandenberghe – Area C

Report Date: January 4, 2024

December Activity

- Arrow Creek water treatment & supply commission
- [Planning services work plan discussion](#)
- Erikson water services advisory committee

- U18 provincial host and legacy project committee
- Water Services committee
- Creston Valley Health Working group
- Goat River Residents association
- Creston Valley Services Committee
- [Economic Action Partnership \(EAP\)](#)
- Community Service Access & Inclusion committee
- Community Sustainable Living Advisory committee
- Rural Affairs committee
- Joint Resource Recovery committee
- RDCK Board meeting
- [Creston Community Forest](#)

Highlights

- U18 provincial host 2024
- Economic Action Partnership

- Creston Valley Health Working group

Regular RDCK committee meetings agendas available through RDCK website/Events Calendar

<https://www.rdck.ca/EN/meta/events/events-calendar.html#d=9&m=0&y=2024&v=month>

Denotes no stipend or mileage (travel) reimbursement.

[External Committee meeting w/ stipend & mileage](#)

For more information

info@rdck.bc.ca | 250.352.6665 | 1.800.268.7325 (BC) | or visit rdck.ca



Tom Newell
Director of Electoral Area F

November 15, 2023

Dear Mr. Lewis <mailto:SGPSPB@gov.bc.ca>.

RE: RCMP Nelson Detachment Organizational Structure

We are writing this letter to you with the intention of communicating to the Province our satisfaction with the current organizational structure of the Kootenay Boundary Regional Detachments. The de-regionalized organizational structure, which has now been in place for 4 years at the Nelson RCMP Detachment, is working very well for us. We are very satisfied with the level of communication that we have been receiving from the Nelson RCMP Detachment Commander, Corporal Derek Pitt. It is a relationship between the Detachment and the Local Government that allows for direct communication with excellent response times for us.

In closing, we want to reiterate our satisfaction with the Nelson Detachment and the organizational structure that is supporting this current strong relationship with Local Government. We would like to see the de-regionalized organizational structure at Nelson Detachment become permanent.

Sincerely,

Tom Newell
Director Area F

Cheryl Graham
Director Area E

Walter Popoff
Director Area H



Regional District of Central Kootenay

Andy Davidoff

Director of Electoral Area I
1657 Highway 3A
Castlegar, BC V1N 4N5

Phone: (250) 304-8233

Web: www.rdck.ca

Email: adavidoff@rdck.bc.ca

Fax: (250) 352-9300

December 22, 2023

Ministry of Education and Child Care
ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund
PO Box 9788 Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria BC V8W 9S5

Via Email: CCCF@gov.bc.ca

RE: USCC Children's Orchard Childcare Centre ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund Application Letter of Support

To Whom it may Concern,

I am pleased to support the USCC Children's Orchard Childcare Centre ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund Application proposal to provide much needed childcare spaces in our Nelson, Castlegar and Trail, BC corridor.

As the RDCK Director for Electoral Area I, I initiated a feasibility study for utilizing our five Area I community halls for childcare purposes which was completed by the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI) in 2018 and which identified the aforesaid corridor as a "**childcare desert**" and summarized the need as follows, at page 14 of the report:

*"With a 29% coverage rate for the West Kootenays, this is considered a **childcare desert** – an area that is without adequate access to childcare, irrespective of fees, where three or more children may be in competition for one childcare space. In Castlegar and Nelson the coverage rate is 43% and 47%, respectively. The coverage rate for BC is 37%, with generally better coverage in the larger urban centres. Lower coverage rates can be attributed to several factors including a lack of licensed care, parents staying home with their kids or family members who help, using unlicensed care, or not using childcare because it is not affordable, and other voluntary or involuntary causes. Irrespective of the reasons, these coverage rates show there is not enough childcare for the number of children in these areas."*

Some of the daycares in this corridor have up to three-year waitlists and there is a report of one daycare with a waitlist of three hundred children.

The USCC Children's Orchard Childcare Centre has successfully operated a provincially licensed preschool at the Brilliant Cultural Centre, which is one of the five community halls in Area I mentioned above, for 45 years and has the proven capacity, expertise, and resources to operate the 40-space centre proposed in its application.



I fully support this application and will partner with the applicant in any capacity that is possible to bring this much-needed daycare to fruition at this safe and pristine, rural setting in Brilliant, BC.

Sincerely,

Andy Davidoff
Director, Area I
Regional District of Central Kootenay

cc: USCC Children's Orchard Childcare Team
Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance
Brittney Anderson, MLA
Regional District of Central Kootenay



Director's Report

Aidan McLaren-Caux – Village of Nakusp

Report Date: January 18th, 2023

Reporting on activities from December 4th, 2023 to January 8th, 2024.

Director's Activities

Nakusp Village Council

- Dec. 11th, attended in-person regular council meeting.

Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG)

- Upcoming board meeting, January 16th.

Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) as municipal director

- Dec. 14th, attended in-person **Board Meeting** in Nelson
 - Agenda for the meeting can be found here:
<https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/government/meetings-agendas-minutes.html>
 - See Board Highlights for general information

RDCK Appointments

- **Central Kootenay Food Policy Council (CKPFC)**
 - <https://ckfoodpolicy.ca/>
- **Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee (CRTLGC)**
 - <https://www.crtlgc.ca/>
 - *Reminder that committee topics are confidential, as they pertain to international treaty negotiations. The Province of BC and the Government of Canada periodically release statements regarding the progress of the discussions between Canada and the United States.*
 - Dec. 11th, attended online meeting.
 - Dec. 15th, attended online meeting.
- **Regional Innovation Chair in Regional Economic Development Regional Advisory Committee (RIC-RED-RAC)**
 - Oct. 5th, attended in-person strategic planning session in Castlegar
 - Purpose: to identify and prioritize topic areas to guide and focus the efforts of the Regional Innovation Chair for the next 3 years

For more information

info@rdck.bc.ca | 250.352.6665 | 1.800.268.7325 (BC) | or visit rdck.ca

- Notes to be added to upcoming report.
- Upcoming meeting, Jan. 15th, to review notes from strategic planning.



TO: RDCK Directors
FROM: Andrea Wilkey
DATE: December 14, 2023
SUBJECT: West Kootenay Rural & Northern Immigration Pilot – Request for Support

Purpose:

1. On behalf of the [West Kootenay Rural & Northern Immigration Pilot](#) (RNIP), we are requesting RDCK support for capacity to implement the pilot should the pilot be extended after August 2024. The total funding request is close to \$20,000 over 3-calendar years and is contingent on RNIP being extended and REDIP funding being approved.

Background

2. Attracting labour to the West Kootenay Region is recognized by local government, economic development practitioners, and employers as a community economic development priority.
3. The [Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot](#) helps smaller rural and northern communities attract and retain skilled foreign workers to meet their economic development and labour market needs. The West Kootenay region is one of 11 communities selected by Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to be a pilot region for the RNIP and one of 2 participating communities located in BC. The pilot launched in our region in May 2020 and will end in August 2024.
4. The pilot initially included the West Kootenay communities of Nelson, Castlegar, Trail and Rossland and surrounding areas. In 2022, thanks to advocacy from our region, [the pilot region](#) was expanded to include all of the RDCK and most of the RDKB.
5. Community Futures Central Kootenay (CFCK) holds an MOU with IRCC identifying CFCK as the community partner responsible for administering the pilot in the West Kootenay. The community partner is responsible for securing funding to implement the pilot. No financial resources are provided by IRCC. Since 2019 the pilot has been funded through a variety of sources secured by CFCK, including Province of BC, ETSI-BC, and PacifiCan totaling over \$700,000 so far.

RNIP Impact in the RDCK:

6. The impact of RNIP in the West Kootenay is substantial. A delegation request has been submitted to provide a presentation to the RDCK Board in February to share more information on RNIP impacts. A brief summary of program impacts is included below.
7. Employers: since the pilot's launch in June 2020 to December 2023, 159 RDCK employers have used the pilot to hire at least one person. Note: Ainsworth, Balfour, Bonnington, Castlegar, Crescent Valley, Nelson, Salmo, Slocan City, South Slocan and Thrums have been part of the pilot since it launched. In November 2022, the pilot boundaries expanded to include Creston, Kaslo, Nakusp and surrounding areas.

- a) Jun 2020-Dec 2023: 154 employers from the original boundary region used the pilot.
 - b) Nov 2022-Dec 2023: 5 employers from Creston, Kaslo, Nakusp and areas used the pilot.
8. Skilled Workers: from Jun 2020-Dec 2023, 399 people filled jobs in the RDCK.
- a) Jun 2020-Dec 2023: in the original region, 393 skilled workers filled jobs.
 - b) Nov 2022-Dec 2023: in Creston, Kaslo, Nakusp and surrounding, 6 skilled workers filled jobs.
9. Retention Rates: in July 2022, all West Kootenay RNIP candidates who had received their Canadian Permanent Residence by that date were sent a survey to collect retention data. Of respondents, 90% still lived in the region and 81% worked for their original employer.

Update:

10. In late September 2023, IRCC [announced](#) that they “will seek to make the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP) a permanent program including assessing options to expand it to more communities, with particular attention to the needs of Francophone communities”.
11. CFCK is taking steps to secure funding should the pilot be extended or become a permanent program. We collaborated with Community Futures Shuswap to submit a [Rural Economic Diversification and Innovation Program](#) (REDIP) application to the Province of BC on behalf of the West Kootenay RNIP and North Okanagan Shuswap RNIP communities for \$631,200. This represents 80% of the cost to implement RNIP in BC from September 2024 to March 2026 (the duration during which REDIP funds can be used). Another 10% of project implementation costs (\$78,900) have been committed as in-kind contributions from Settlement Service Providers and Steering Committee members.
12. We need to secure the remaining 10% (\$78,900) of RNIP project implementation costs. To do so we are approaching the four regional districts that benefit from RNIP which in the West Kootenay region includes the RDCK and the RDKB.

Fund Request:

13. CFCK requests that the RDCK commit to providing the funding contributions as outlined below to support the implementation of RNIP in the RDCK from September 2024 to March 2026.

Regional District of Central Kootenay Contribution*	
Sep-Dec 2024	\$4,000
Jan-Dec 2025	\$12,725
Jan-Mar 2026	\$3,000
Total	\$19,725

Please note, the Regional Districts of Kootenay Boundary, North Okanagan and Columbia Shuswap are being approached with the same funding request for the same contribution amounts.

14. Should RNIP not be continued then this funding would not be required. Should REDIP funding not be approved, the specific funding amounts above would not be required. However, we could continue discussions to see if Regional District funding could be used as seed funding for other funding opportunities. REDIP funding decisions will be announced in March 2024.

Next Steps:

15. If the RDCK Board is in support of the request provided above, we ask that the RDCK provide a letter of support with confirmation of funding as soon as possible. This letter would be provided to the BC Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development & Innovation to demonstrate that the additional 10% matching funding required has been confirmed, thereby strengthening the competitiveness of the funding application.

Attachment: Draft Letter of Support



January 2, 2024

Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590
202 Lakeside Drive
Nelson BC V1L 5R4

Attn: Aimee Watson, Board Chair

Re: Letter of Support - BCAAP Grant Application

Creston Valley Regional Airport Society has applied for a BCAAP Grant for a Standby Generator Plant at the Creston Valley Regional Airport.

Provision of a Standby Generator at the Creston Valley Regional Airport supports the directive by the Province of BC that all communities should work together to have an emergency awareness plan in place.

Supplying power in the event of a commercial power outage will allow the airport to function with all services being available.

We are asking for a Letter of Support from the Regional District of Central Kootenay council. We will include this with the application.

Thanking you for your support.

Clear Skies,

Bob Kitching, President
Creston Valley Regional Airport Society

1993 D Airport Road
Creston, B.C. V0B 1G2

Email: crestonairport@gmail.com
Phone: 250-428-2733



OMBUDSPERSON
BRITISH COLUMBIA

December 1, 2023

Aimee Watson
Chair
Regional District of Central Kootenay
202 Lakeside Drive
PO Box 590
NELSON BC V1L5R4

Dear Aimee Watson,

RE: Office of the Ombudsperson Quarterly Report: July 1 - September 30, 2023

This package of documents details the complaint files the Office of the Ombudsperson closed for Regional District of Central Kootenay between July 1 and September 30, 2023. Though no action is required on your part, we hope that you will find this information useful and share it within your organization.

These reports provide information about the complaint files we closed regarding your organization within the last quarter, including both files we investigated and files we closed without investigation. Files currently open with the office are not included in these reports.

Enclosed you will find detailed reports containing the following:

- A one-page report listing the number of files closed and the category under which they were closed. The categories we use to close files are based on the sections of the *Ombudsperson Act*, which gives the Ombudsperson the authority to investigate complaints from the public regarding authorities under our jurisdiction. A more detailed description of our closing categories is available on our website at: <https://bcombudsperson.ca/assets/media/QR-Glossary.pdf>.
- If applicable: Copies of closing summaries written about the complaint files we investigated. These summaries provide an overview of the complaint received, our investigation and the outcome. Our office produces closing summaries for investigated files only, and not for enquiries or those complaints we chose not to investigate.
- If applicable: A summary of the topics identified in the complaint files closed during the quarter. We track general complaint topics for all complaints we receive, and when applicable, we include authority-specific and/or sector-specific topics for your organization and/or sector. Our office tracks the topics of complaints we investigate and those we close without investigation, but not for enquiries. Because complaints to our office are confidential, we do not share complaint topic information if we received too few complaints to preserve the complainants' anonymity.



If your organization received too few complaints to produce a summary of complaint topics but you would like further information about the complaints our office received about your organization, our Public Authority Consultation and Training (PACT) Team can provide further details upon request.

If you have questions about our quarterly reports or notice any inaccuracies in the data provided, or if you would like to sign up for our mailing list to be notified of educational opportunities provided by our Public Authority Consultation and Training Team, please contact us at 250-508-2950 or consult@bcombudsperson.ca.

Yours sincerely,

Jay Chalke
Ombudsperson
Province of British Columbia

Enclosures



Type of complaint closure for Authority: Regional District of Central Kootenay	# closed
<p>Enquiries – Many people who contact us are not calling to make a complaint, but are seeking information or advice. These contacts are classified as <i>Enquiries</i> to distinguish them from <i>Complaints</i>, which are requests that our office conduct an investigation.</p>	1
<p>Complaints with No Investigation – Our office does not investigate every complaint it receives. First, we determine whether we have authority to investigate the complaint under the <i>Ombudsperson Act</i>. We also have discretion to decline to investigate for other reasons specified in the <i>Ombudsperson Act</i>.</p>	3
<p>Early Resolution Investigations – Early Resolution investigations provide an expedited process for dealing with complaints when it appears that an opportunity exists for the authority to take immediate action to resolve the issue. Typical issues that are addressed through Early Resolution include timeliness, communication, and opportunities for internal review.</p>	0
<p>Complaint Investigations – When we investigate a complaint we may conclude with a determination that a complaint is not substantiated, or with a negotiated settlement of the complaint, or with public findings and recommendations. We may also exercise discretion to cease investigation for a number of other reasons specified in the <i>Ombudsperson Act</i>.</p>	1
Reason for closing an Investigation	
Pre-empted by existing statutory right of appeal, objection or review.	0
Investigation ceased with no formal findings under the <i>Ombudsperson Act</i> .	
More than one year between event and complaint	0
Insufficient personal interest	0
Available remedy	0
Frivolous/vexatious/trivial matter	0
Can consider without further investigation	0
No benefit to complainant or person aggrieved	0
Complaint abandoned	0
Complaint withdrawn	0



Complaint settled in consultation with the authority – When an investigation leads us to conclude that action is required to resolve the complaint, we try to achieve that resolution by obtaining the voluntary agreement of the authority to settle the complaint. This allows matters to be resolved fairly for the complainant and authority without requiring a formal finding of maladministration.	1
Complaint substantiated with formal findings under the <i>Ombudsperson Act</i> .	0
Complaint not substantiated under the <i>Ombudsperson Act</i> .	0
Ombudsperson Initiated Investigations – The Ombudsperson has the authority to initiate investigations independently from our process for responding to complaints from the public. These investigations may be ceased at the discretion of the Ombudsperson or concluded with formal findings and recommendations.	0



The *Ombudsman Act* requires that investigations be conducted in private. Ombudsman investigation documents are not available through the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and may be subject to rules preventing their use in court and tribunal proceedings. **Please contact the Office of the Ombudsman before disclosing this document, or any responses, to any third parties.**

Closing Summary Index

Closing summaries are provided for all investigated files closed in each quarter. Identifying information is removed from the closing summary itself to allow for broader distribution within your organization for quality improvement purposes without disclosing personal information. The table below provides an index of these investigated files and lists the file number, closing date and authority contact involved. Files closed under our Early Resolution Program are also identified. This identifying information is provided separately to assist you in following up on individual files with involved staff as needed.

File Number	Authority	Authority Contact	ER file
23-001173 / 001	Regional District of Central Kootenay	Mike Morrison	



Closing Summary

Authority:	Regional District of Central Kootenay
File Number:	23-001173 / 001
Closing Date:	02-Aug-2023
Closing Status:	<i>Complaint settled under s.14 (s.13(i))</i>
General Complaint Topics:	Communication, Disagreement with Decision or Outcome, Process or Procedure
Authority-specific Complaint Topics:	All Local Government / Services (incl. Garbage, Sewer, Water)
Closing Summary:	The complainant contacted us concerned about the District's decision to restrict their access to the Nakusp landfill for one-year, effective April 2019, and for one-year, effective July 2022. They provided copies of the District's decision letters as well as their communications with staff concerning their complaints. While the responses provided more information about the District's decisions, the complainant maintains that the processes followed for making the decisions were unfair. In addition, they stated that the length of the restrictions was too severe and had a negative impact on their business.

Our office investigated whether the District followed a reasonable process for making its decisions to restrict the complainant's access to the Nakusp landfill.

All members of the public have a right to access a public authority's services and facilities. However, these rights must be balanced with the public authority's ability to ensure its staff are not subjected to behaviour that is violent, abusive, or threatening. Decisions to restrict a person's access should be considered a last resort. Barring exceptional circumstances, the person should be given a warning that access may be restricted. In addition, limitations should be the most minimal needed to address the behaviour.

With respect to the District's decision of April 2019, we were satisfied that the District had authority and grounds to consider putting restrictions in place. However, because a peace bond was in place that appeared to address the District's safety concerns regarding the complainant and a District contractor, it was unclear to us whether a complete service restriction was the most reasonable and measured way to address the District's legal obligations to ensure a safe workplace. That said, the



District's decision to modify the restriction and provide the complainant with a schedule to access the facility was an appropriate way to address the concerns they raised about the total ban.

In reviewing the District's decision of July 2022, we were again satisfied that it had authority and grounds to restrict the complainant's access. While the decision to put service restrictions in place was not unreasonable, the District did not provide the complainant with written warnings about its ongoing concerns related to the complainant's behaviour prior to its decision. Because of this, it was unclear whether a one-year restriction was an appropriate length of time, particularly when the restriction was as long as the one put in place following what the District described as a much more serious incident in April 2019.

The information we obtained indicated that the District's decisions to put restrictions in place were not unreasonable. However, the District did not identify evidence to support the processes it followed for determining the length and scope of the restrictions. This is because it was unclear why a shorter period for the restrictions was not considered, or why an access schedule was not established at the time of its decision in April 2019.

Absent this information, and because the District does not have a policy regarding service restrictions, the decisions on the length of the service restrictions appeared arbitrary.

In response to the concerns we raised about the length and scope of the restrictions, the District informed us that managers are guided by the District's Prevention of Violence in the Workplace Program document. Our review of the document showed it sets out the District's legal obligations to maintain a safe workplace and defines improper activity or behavior and workplace violence. While it provides the process by which the District will assess and respond to such concerns, the document does not appear to be publicly available and is focused internally on management's responsibility to ensure staff are safe.

During our investigation, we raised our concerns regarding service restrictions with the General Manager of Environmental Services, the Manager of Corporate Policy, and the Manager of Human Resources. The district advised that it did not have a current bylaw or policy framework governing service restrictions. However, the Manager of Corporate Policy informed us that the District was in the process of having the Board consider adopting a respectful behaviour bylaw. Our review of the draft bylaw indicated that it is publicly focused and intended to address disputes between District staff and the public. It also provides procedures for managers to follow when imposing service restrictions.

We asked whether the Manager of Corporate Policy would ensure that the District, in good faith, recommend to the Board that it develop a policy document for managers to support service restriction decisions to ensure that they are made in an administratively and procedurally fair, consistent, and transparent manner. In making this proposal, we provided a copy of our office's Complaints Handling Guide as a reference for the required considerations, processes, and communication for these decisions. The



Manager of Corporate Policy agreed to our proposal and committed to bringing the administrative unfairness concerns identified in this case forward to the Board for its consideration of the respectful behaviour bylaw. The Manager's commitment to do so was sufficient to resolve the concerns identified through our investigation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, loopy initial followed by a trailing line.



The tables below summarize the complaint topics we are tracking for your sector and/or authority and the number of times this topic was identified in the files (investigated and non-investigated complaints) that were closed in the most recent quarter.

If you would like more information on the types of complaints we receive, please contact our Public Authority Consultation and Training Team: email us at consult@bcombudsperson.ca or call us at 250-508-2950.

Sector-Specific Complaint Topics – All Local Government

Business Licensing	2	1%
Bylaw Enforcement	49	28%
Council Member Conduct (incl. Conflict of Interest)	20	11%
Fees/Charges (incl. Taxes)	20	11%
Official Community Plan/Zoning/Development	39	22%
Open Meetings	7	4%
Other	19	11%
Response to Damages Claim	3	2%
Services (incl. Garbage, Sewer, Water)	16	9%

General Complaint Topics – All Local Government

Accessibility	8	4%
Administrative Error	9	4%
Communication	41	18%
Delay	17	7%
Disagreement with Decision or Outcome	68	30%
Discrimination	2	1%
Employment or Labour Relations	1	0%
Other	8	4%
Process or Procedure	54	24%
Review or Appeal Process	4	2%



Treatment by Staff	16	7%
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November 28, 2023

Chair Aimee Watson and Board
Central Kootenay Regional District
Box 590
Nelson, BC V1L 5R4

Dear Chair Aimee Watson and Board:

**RE: CANADA COMMUNITY-BUILDING FUND: SECOND COMMUNITY WORKS FUND
PAYMENT FOR 2023/2024**

I am pleased to advise that UBCM is in the process of distributing the second Community Works Fund (CWF) payment for fiscal 2023/2024. An electronic transfer of \$737,867.15 is expected to occur in December 2023. This payment is made in accordance with the payment schedule set out in your CWF Agreement with UBCM (see section 4 of your Agreement).

This payment marks the final CWF disbursement of the current 10-year Canada Community-Building Fund agreement. Spanning from 2014 to 2024, this agreement has successfully allocated over \$1.25 billion in CWF funding to local governments in British Columbia. Looking ahead, UBCM anticipates the implementation of a new agreement in April 2024. Information on a renewed program will be communicated in the following months.

CWF is made available to eligible local governments by the Government of Canada pursuant to the Administrative Agreement. Funding under the program may be directed to local priorities that fall within one of the eligible project categories.

Further details regarding use of CWF and project eligibility are outlined in your CWF Agreement and details on the Canada Community-Building Fund can be found on our [website](#).

For further information, please contact Canada Community-Building Fund Program Services by e-mail at ccbf@ubcm.ca or by phone at 250-356-5134.

Sincerely,



Councillor Trish Mandewo
UBCM President

PC: Yev Malloff, Chief Financial Officer



VIA EMAIL

Ref. 63442

December 14, 2023

Chair Aimee Watson
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Email: awatson@rdck.bc.ca

RE: New legislation to support local government housing initiatives

Dear Chair Aimee Watson:

As you are aware, last week, the Province passed three bills that change the way local governments plan for new housing in their communities: Bills 44, 46, and 47, along with Bill 35, which regulates short-term rentals. While the legislation establishes the framework for the new rules, many of the details that describe how these changes will work on the ground are set out in regulation, and site standards and expectations around development are laid out in provincial policy manuals.

We have prioritized releasing the regulations and policy manuals to help local governments meet the June 30, 2024 requirements for small-scale multi-unit housing and transit-oriented development areas (TOD areas). Last week, the regulations and policy manuals for those requirements were released and are posted online here: [Local government housing initiatives - Province of British Columbia](#).

The regulation for small-scale multi-unit housing sets out the minimum number of dwelling units by parcel size and proximity to frequent transit, prescribes the frequency of transit bus stops, and establishes the minimum population threshold for legislation to apply to certain communities. It also includes an exemption to the legislation for hazardous conditions.

.../2

Office of the
Minister of Housing

Website:
www.gov.bc.ca/housing

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9074 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E9
Phone: 236 478-3970

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4
Email: HOUS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The policy manual supports local governments to implement the zoning bylaw amendments required under the legislation. It establishes provincial expectations for implementation of the requirements, which must be considered when preparing, amending, or adopting a zoning bylaw to permit the use and density required by the small-scale multi-unit housing legislation. Further information will be provided in January about the criteria and process for extensions.

The regulations for TOD Areas designate the 52 TOD Areas that are now in effect by regulation (see attachment 1) and the full list of TOD Areas that must be designated by June 30, 2024 (see attachment 2). They also bring the provisions of Bill 47 into effect and set out the details for those provisions, such as the minimum allowable density (see attachment 3) and the applicable distance from transit stations. Bill 47 allows the Province to designate TOD Areas by order if a local government does not or designates incorrectly.

The TOD manual establishes provincial expectations for municipalities to implement the requirements, such as when designating TOD Areas by bylaw, making zoning decisions, and updating parking bylaws.

The regulations for the *Short-Term Rental Accommodation Act* (STRAA) set out where the principal residence requirement applies, exemptions, and how local governments and entities can opt-in or out of the requirement. The policy guidance provides information about how the STRAA, and related amendments to the *Local Government Act*, *Community Charter*, and *Vancouver Charter* apply to local governments, including local government bylaws related to short-term rentals. Last week, the regulations and policy guidance were released and are posted online here: [Policy guidance for local governments](#).

Early in the new year, we will be releasing regulations and a policy manual for updating Housing Needs Reports and policy guidance for implementing the new development finance tools [expanded Development Cost Charges (Levies) and Amenity Contribution Costs Charges.]

In my previous letter, I mentioned that we are exploring policy options and additional tools for facilitating the delivery of affordable housing, including the potential for inclusionary zoning and other tools to support a range of outcomes. I look forward to being able to share more in 2024 on these initiatives.

I appreciate how much work is in front of your local government to meet the requirements. The Ministry is committed to supporting your team in this work. We will be notifying you later this month of the amount your local government will receive from the \$51 million funding to support planning and capacity to meet these new requirements. Ministry staff will also be in touch with your administration about a webinar series for local government staff leading the work to implement the changes.

Sincerely,



Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Housing

Attachments

pc: The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
The Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Teri Collins, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing
Kaye Krishna, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Okenge Yuma Morisho, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Bindi Sawchuk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing
Kevin Volk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Stuart Horn, Chief Administrative Officer, Regional District of Central Kootenay
(shorn@rdck.bc.ca)

Links:

- Local Government Housing Initiatives webpage with links to Bill 44 and 47 Housing Statute Regulations and the Provincial policy manuals for small-scale multi-unit housing and Transit-Oriented Development Areas:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/local-governments-and-housing/housing-initiatives>
- Bill 35 Policy Guidance for Local Governments: [Policy guidance for local governments.](#)

Attachment 1: Transit-Oriented Development Areas Designated by Regulation (In effect)

Burnaby

- Brentwood Town Centre Station
- Burquitlam Station*
- Joyce – Collingwood Station*
- Lougheed Town Centre Station
- Metrotown Station
- Patterson Station
- Rupert Station*
- Sperling – Burnaby Lake Station

Chilliwack

- Downtown Chilliwack Exchange

Coquitlam

- Burquitlam Station
- Coquitlam Central Station
- Inlet Centre Station*
- Lafarge Lake – Douglas Station
- Lincoln Station
- Lougheed Town Centre Station*
- Moody Centre Station*

Kamloops

- Lansdowne Exchange
- North Shore Exchange

Kelowna

- Okanagan College Exchange
- Rutland Exchange

Maple Ridge

- Port Haney Station

Mission

- Mission City Station

New Westminster

- Columbia Station
- New Westminster Station

North Vancouver (District)

- Phibbs Exchange

Port Coquitlam

- Coquitlam Central Station*
- Lincoln Station*

Port Moody

- Inlet Centre Station
- Moody Centre Station

Richmond

- Aberdeen Station
- Bridgeport Station
- Capstan Station
- Lansdowne Station
- Marine Drive Station*
- Richmond – Brighthouse Station

Saanich

- Uptown Exchange

Surrey

- 152nd Street Station
- 160th Street Station
- 166th Street Station
- 184th Street Station
- 190th Street Station
- Columbia Station*

Vancouver

- 29th Avenue Station
- Arbutus Station
- Bridgeport Station*
- Broadway – City Hall Station
- Great Northern Way – Emily Carr Station
- Joyce – Collingwood Station
- King Edward Station
- Langara – 49th Avenue Station
- Marine Drive Station
- Mount Pleasant Station
- Nanaimo Station
- Oak – VGH Station
- Oakridge – 41st Avenue Station
- Olympic Village Station
- Renfrew Station
- Rupert Station
- South Granville Station
- Stadium – Chinatown Station
- VCC – Clark Station
- Waterfront Station

Victoria

- Legislature Exchange

*Overlap TOD Area from adjacent municipality

Attachment 2: TOD Areas that must be designated by June 30, 2024

140th Street Station	Haney Place Exchange	Patterson Station
152nd Street Station	Holdom Station	Peachtree Square Exchange
160th Street Station	Hospital Exchange	Penticton Plaza Exchange
166th Street Station	Inlet Centre Station	Phibbs Exchange
184th Street Station	Joyce – Collingwood Station	Pitt Meadows Station
190th Street Station	King Edward Station	Port Coquitlam Station
196th Street Station	King George Station	Port Haney Station
203rd Street Station	Kootenay Loop Exchange	Production Way – University Station
22nd Street Station	Lafarge Lake – Douglas Station	Renfrew Station
29th Avenue Station	Lake City Way Station	Richmond – Brighouse Station
Aberdeen Station	Langara – 49th Avenue Station	Royal Oak Exchange
Arbutus Station	Langford Exchange	Royal Oak Station
Bourquin Exchange	Langley Centre Exchange	Rupert Station
Braid Station	Lansdowne Exchange	Rutland Exchange
Brentwood Town Centre Station	Lansdowne Station	Sapperton Station
Bridgeport Station	Legislature Exchange	Scott Road Station
Broadway – City Hall Station	Lincoln Station	Scottsdale Exchange
Burquitlam Station	Lonsdale Quay Exchange	South Granville Station
Burrard Station	Lougheed Town Centre Station	Sperling – Burnaby Lake Station
Capilano University Exchange	Main Street – Science World Station	Stadium – Chinatown Station
Capstan Station	Maple Meadows Station	Surrey Central Station
Columbia Station	Marine Drive Station	TRU Exchange
Colwood Exchange	Metrotown Station	UNBC Exchange
Commercial – Broadway Station	Mission City Station	Uptown Exchange
Coquitlam Central Station	Moody Centre Station	UVic Exchange
Country Club Exchange	Mount Pleasant Station	Vancouver City Centre Station
Downtown Chilliwack Exchange	Nanaimo Station	VCC – Clark Station
Downtown Exchange	New Westminster Station	VGH Exchange
Dunbar Loop Exchange	Newton Exchange	Village Green Centre Exchange
Edmonds Station	North Shore Exchange	VIU Exchange
Gateway Station	Oak – VGH Station	Waterfront Station
Gilmore Station	Oakridge – 41st Avenue Station	Woodgrove Exchange
Gondola Exchange	Okanagan College Exchange	Yaletown – Roundhouse Station
Granville Station	Olympic Village Station	
Great Northern Way – Emily Carr Station	Orchard Park Exchange	
Guildford Mall Exchange		

Attachment 3: Distances, Transit Stations and Densities by Category

Municipality	Transit Hub Type	Prescribed Distance	Minimum Allowable Density (FAR)	Minimum Allowable Height (Storeys)
Burnaby	Sky Train/ Canada Line (Rapid Transit Stop)	200m or less	Up to 5.0	Up to 20
Delta				
Coquitlam				
Langley (City + Township)		200m - 400m	Up to 4.0	Up to 12
Maple Ridge				
North Vancouver (City + District)	Prescribed Bus Exchange or West Coast Express Station	400m - 800m	Up to 3.0	Up to 8
New Westminster				
Pitt Meadows				
Port Coquitlam		200m or less	Up to 4.0	Up to 12
Port Moody				
Richmond				
Surrey				
Vancouver		200m - 400m	Up to 3.0	Up to 8
Abbotsford	Prescribed Bus Exchange	200m or less	Up to 3.5	Up to 10
Chilliwack				
Colwood				
Kamloops				
Kelowna				
Langford				
Mission				
Nanaimo				
Prince George				
Saanich District				
Vernon				
Victoria				
View Royal		200m - 400m	Up to 2.5	Up to 6



The Honourable Janet Austin



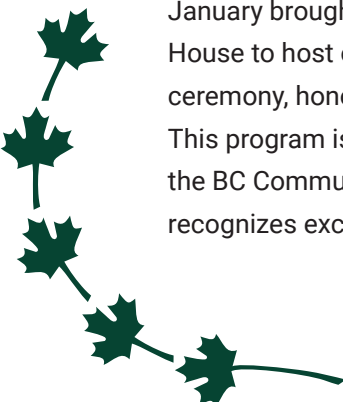
Above: British Columbia Reconciliation Award recipients receiving their ceremonial blankets

After a pandemic-driven pause of several years, His Honour and I were delighted to begin the year 2023 with the return of the annual New Years Day Levée. Accompanied by our beloved Vice Regal Canine Consort, MacDuff, we welcomed the Greater Victoria community to Government House to enjoy our festive décor and Chef prepared treats to embrace the New Year with good cheer and good will.

January brought the opportunity for Government House to host our first BC Reconciliation Awards ceremony, honoring [2021 and 2022 recipients](#). This program is undertaken in partnership with the BC Community Achievement Foundation and recognizes exceptional individuals and

organizations for leadership in advancing Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in BC. I was delighted to co-host the celebration with Chief Sophie Pierre of the Ktunaxa First Nation and was deeply moved by the examples of generosity, courage and healing that were honored with awards.

In March, I was pleased to co-host a Symposium for Women in Uniformed Service with Vice Admiral Angus Topshee, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy. We brought together 100 women from the Canadian Armed Forces for a two-day program, beginning with an opening celebration of International Women's Day at Government House. The program agenda featured inspirational





Above: Speaking at the Chinatown Autumn Gala

keynote speakers, including: BC Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry; Rear Admiral Josée Kurtz, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic and Joint Task Force Atlantic; Senator Rebecca Patterson; and Commanding Officer HMCS Vancouver, Commander Meghan Coates.

In April, we welcomed His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, as he travelled to Canada to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. It was inspiring to present awards to young people from across the country and to hear about their accomplishments. His

Royal Highness and I also visited the Odd Squad Productions Society, a charitable organization for youth empowerment run by serving and retired police officers and volunteers. Additionally, we met with local business and community leaders and hosted an intimate conversation with First Nations Leaders and youth delegates on youth priorities. His Royal Highness was delightful company and demonstrated his genuine interest in Canada and Canadians in all his interactions.

In honour of Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, I was pleased to launch the Lieutenant Governor's Journalism Fellowship, providing financial support for working journalists to undertake long-form projects on significant public interest topics. The first Fellowship was awarded in 2022 to Tye reporter, Francesca Fionda, enabling her to document the stories of those displaced by extreme weather. Her resulting ten-part series was published in April 2023 and generated considerable interest as well as a Jack Webster Award nomination. Ms. Fionda also joined me in panel discussions with Simon Fraser University and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), bringing further profile to her work.

[The 2023 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's BC Journalism Fellowship to Kim Bolan](#), a Vancouver Sun journalist whose courageous coverage of



Left: Touring South Okanagan communities



Right: His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh at Odd Squad Productions Society



Above: Marching in the Victoria Pride Parade alongside the UVIC Chair in Trans Studies

BC gang activity is legendary. Ms. Bolan will investigate the increasing international tentacles of BC-based organized crime groups and examine the effectiveness of Canada's efforts to tackle organized crime. I am most grateful to the Jack Webster Foundation for their support in developing criteria and adjudicating Fellowship applications. It was especially meaningful to me to address the audience at the 2023 Jack Webster Awards on the importance of a credible, independent media ecosystem to the health of our democracy.

The highlight of 2023 was surely [the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on May 6, 2023](#). This historic event was the first coronation of a Canadian Head of State and Monarch in seven decades. I was delighted to host a Coronation reception for our Patronage organizations and to open the Coronation Concert at Christchurch Cathedral, where we were treated to Handel's glorious Coronation Anthems.

The King's Coronation also gave us an opportunity to reflect on the constant presence of the Crown in the lives of Canadians, and the importance of our

constitutional monarchy as a stabilizing feature in the governance of our country that links us to the Commonwealth and to a tradition of parliamentary democracy, equality before the law and protection of our human rights.

Later in May, I embarked on an official community visit to the [South Okanagan Region](#), during which I opened the inaugural BC Indigenous Golf Championship as Official Patron, along with His Honour Stephen Point, BC's 28th Lieutenant Governor. I also met with members of the South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 227; learned about the splendid work of the South Okanagan Immigrant and Community Services Society; toured historic sites such as the 1870's vintage Grist Mill; and visited farms, vineyards and wineries, including Indigenous-owned Nk'Mip Cellars and regenerative viticulture leader, Covert Farms. Altogether, it was a wonderful tour and I shall always be grateful for the warm welcome extended by everyone we met.

On June 1st, I had the special privilege of hosting the first BC Legends Day, honoring the





Top: Serving guests at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre Back to School Picnic **Middle:** Visiting Covert Farms while touring the South Okanagan **Bottom:** Joining the band on stage at Music on the Lawn

accomplishments of 26 extraordinary British Columbians who have contributed to our Province in diverse and meaningful ways. The Legends project is the creation of Stuart McNish and Carole Taylor, whose own contributions to BC may also be described as legendary.

July was the perfect month for [Gardenfest](#), an outdoor coronation event inspired by His Majesty's Big Help Out, a celebration of volunteerism in the United Kingdom. Gardenfest featured live performances by the Victoria Conservatory of Music, Ballet Victoria, Pacific Opera Victoria and showcased the work of numerous community volunteer organizations. The South Malahat 4-H club was perhaps the most popular exhibit which featured adorable ducklings, babydoll sheep and a sweet little chicken named Janet!

In July, we also welcomed the surrounding community for three nights of "Music on the Lawn" featuring popular local bands and attracting diverse crowds of close to 1,000 each night.

Later in the summer, I attended the Annual Vice Regal Conference in Whitehorse and Carcross, along with the Governor General, Lieutenant Governors, and Territorial Commissioners from across Canada. Following the conference, I visited glorious Atlin on the BC Yukon border, where I met with local officials and enjoyed spectacular vistas and the warm hospitality of the community. The Taku River Tlingit First Nation welcomed me for a morning of "hands on" involvement in an inter-generational learning program and a delicious feast! I was honored, as well, to meet with Council and Elders and to learn about their innovative work in stewarding and protecting their traditional territory.

The 2023 UBCM Convention took place in Vancouver and attracted more than 2,000 delegates from local, regional, provincial and First Nations authorities. In my opening address, I took

the opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to local officials, Indigenous leaders and first responders for their splendid work in response to the worst fire season on record. The convention also enabled me to host a panel on Climate Adaptation, which brought together diverse voices for thoughtful and respectful discussion on this most challenging of topics.

The pandemic has given us a new appreciation for opportunities to gather and celebrate in person. For the Government House team, 2023 meant a return to pre-pandemic levels of activity and much “catching up” on awards and recognition events. Highlights of the Fall schedule included the investiture of 14 new members to the Order of BC; [the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Maritime Achievement](#); the Premier’s Education Awards; and 13 Long Service Award Dinners recognizing more than 2,000 of BC’s dedicated public servants.

Halloween was a most spooky affair, co-hosted with BC’s beloved Dr. Bonnie Henry, at which we welcomed young ghosts and goblins and their parents into the eerily-decorated entrance hall for some hospitality and to collect special treat bags. MacDuff was in his element, greeting our visitors with wagging tail and obvious enjoyment. He was also featured in “MacDuff and the Spectral Howl” a Government House ghost story documenting one of his many adventures.

Throughout the year, I had the privilege of speaking at many events and galas to honour the work of diverse organizations that contribute to the rich tapestry of BC community life; organizations like YWCA Metro Vancouver, Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland, Success, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Pacific Autism Family Network, Public Health Association of BC, BC Women’s Health Foundation, Inspire Health, BC Parks Foundation, Commonwealth Society, the Greater Vancouver



Top: Attending the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention, hosting a dialogue on how to create climate resilient communities through collaboration Bottom: Honorary patronages, the South Malahat 4-H club at Gardenfest





*Above: Recipients of the 2021 and 2022 British Columbia Reconciliation Award
Below: Raising the flag for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III*

Board of Trade and the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce.

I greatly enjoyed presenting the BC Community Achievement Awards, the Audain Art Prize, the Polygon Art Awards and Exemplary Service Medals for Police, Coast Guard, Emergency Health Services. Also on my agenda were outdoor celebrations like the Chinatown Spring Parade, the Vaisakhi Parade and the Victoria Pride Parade where I joined the UVIC Chair in Transgender Studies.

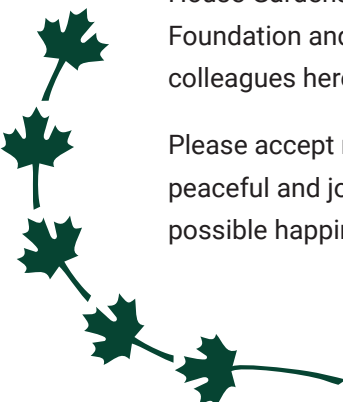
I am so very grateful to all those who sustain the work of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and who provide me with their personal support and encouragement: my Honorary Aides-de-Camp, all the volunteers with the Friends of Government House Gardens Society, the Government House Foundation and, of course, my wonderful colleagues here at Government House.

Please accept my heartfelt best wishes for a peaceful and joyous holiday season and for every possible happiness in the coming year.

With gratitude,



The Honourable Janet Austin
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia





VIA EMAIL

Ref: 63760

December 21, 2023

Stuart Horn
Chief Administrative Officer
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Email: shorn@rdck.bc.ca

Dear Stuart Horn:

I am writing to notify you of the funding allocation for the Regional District of Central Kootenay from the \$51 million capacity funding for local government implementation of the legislative changes to support housing initiatives, including small-scale multi-unit housing and proactive planning, development finance, and transit-oriented development.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay will receive \$279,143 by the end of January 2024.

The funding formula reflects the different legislative requirements for municipalities and regional districts, and that smaller communities may need more financial assistance because they have fewer resources.

The funding formula includes a base amount and a per-capita amount (based on BC Stats 2023 estimates).

- For municipalities, the base amount is \$150,000, and the per-capita amount is \$4.39.
- For regional districts, the base amount is \$80,000 and the per capita amount is \$5.80.

This funding is intended to support activities or projects local governments must undertake to meet the new legislative requirements. Examples include updates to an existing zoning bylaw, parking bylaw, Official Community Plan (OCP), Official Development Plan (ODP), Development Cost Charge (DCC) bylaw, Development Cost Levy (DCL) or

.../2

Housing Needs Report (HNR), as well as the development of a new zoning bylaw, OCP, ODP, DCC, DCL or new amenity cost charge (ACC) bylaw. This funding can also be used to hire staff and/or consultants in support of these activities. More specific information on eligible projects, eligible project costs as well as the reporting requirements will be provided in the funding guidelines when the funding is distributed.

If you have any questions regarding the legislative changes or funding program, please contact Ministry of Housing staff at PLUM@gov.bc.ca or 250-387-3394.

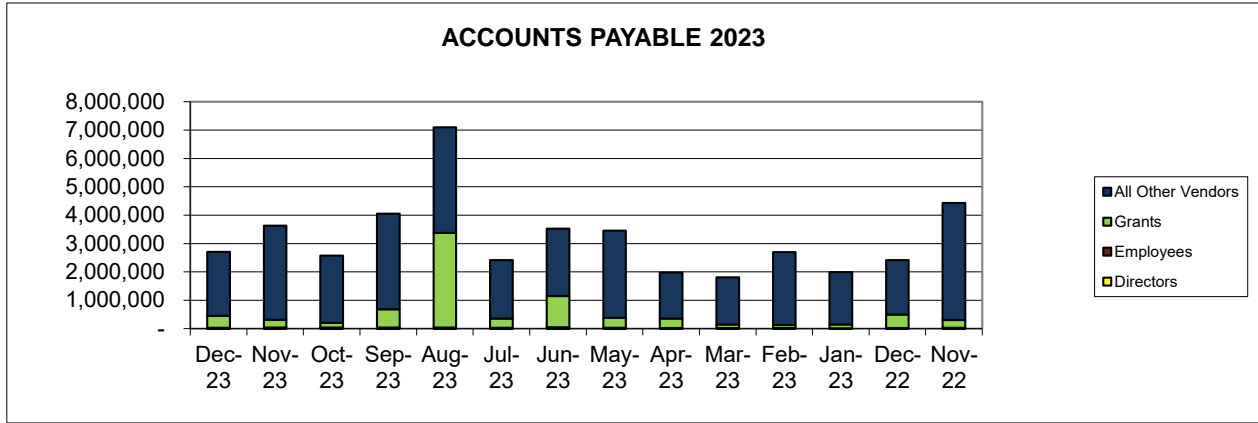
Yours truly,



Bindi Sawchuk
Assistant Deputy Minister
Housing and Land Use Policy Division
Ministry of Housing

- pc: Teri Collins, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing
Tracy Campbell, Executive Financial Officer, Ministry of Housing
Kaye Krishna, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Okenge Yuma Morisho, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Kevin Volk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Jessica Brooks, Executive Director, Ministry of Housing
Rebecca Penz, Director, Ministry of Housing

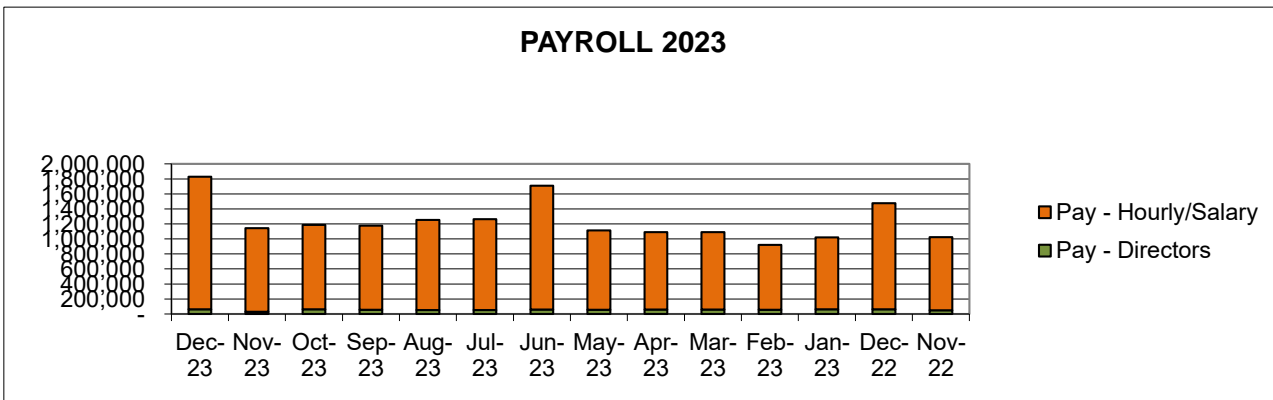
Financial Expenditure Report for December 2023



	Number of Payments	Value	% of Total
	960	\$2,707,517	
Top 80% of payments by value	86	2,168,103	80%
Remaining 20% of payments by value	874	539,414	20%
Total		\$2,707,517	100%

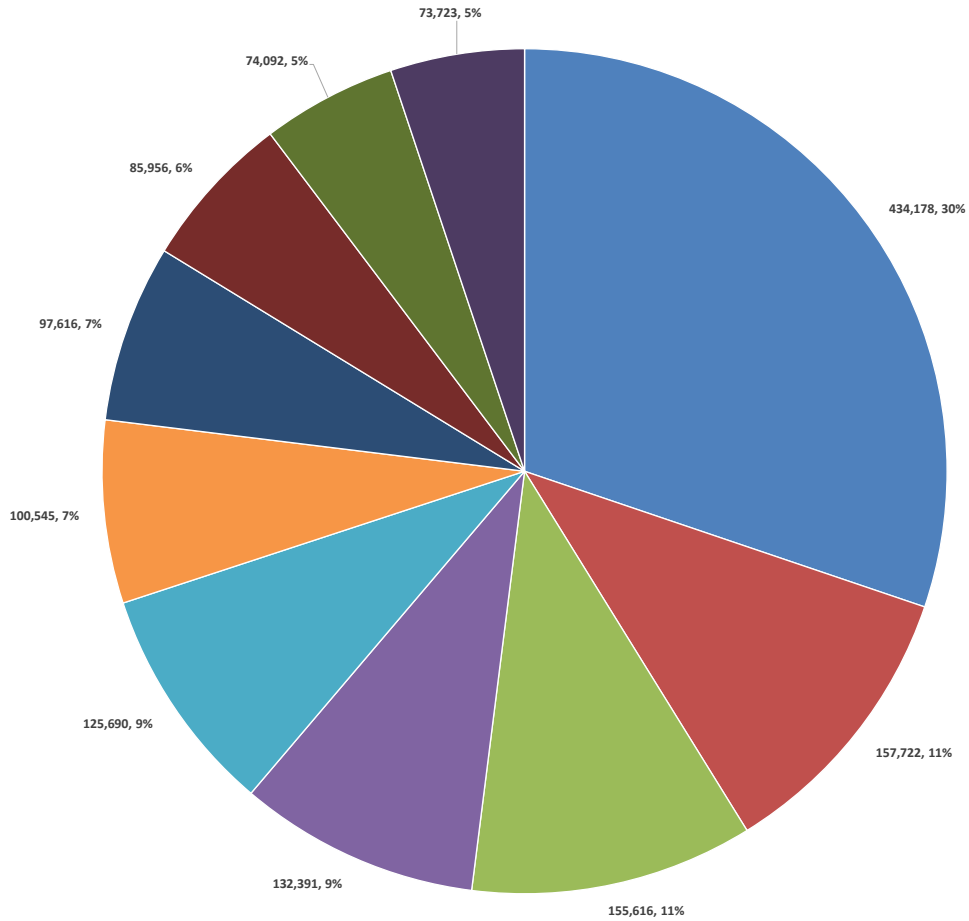
	Number of Payments	Value	% of Total
	960	\$2,707,517	
Payments to Directors	39	5,963	0.2%
Payments to Employees	80	26,283	1.0%
Subtotal		32,246	1.2%
Discretionary and Community Development Grants	37	421,814	15.6%
Other Vendors	804	2,253,458	83.2%
Subtotal		2,675,271	98.8%
Total		\$2,707,517	100%

Payment Method	Direct Deposit	% of Total	Cheques	% of Total
	837	87%	123	13%



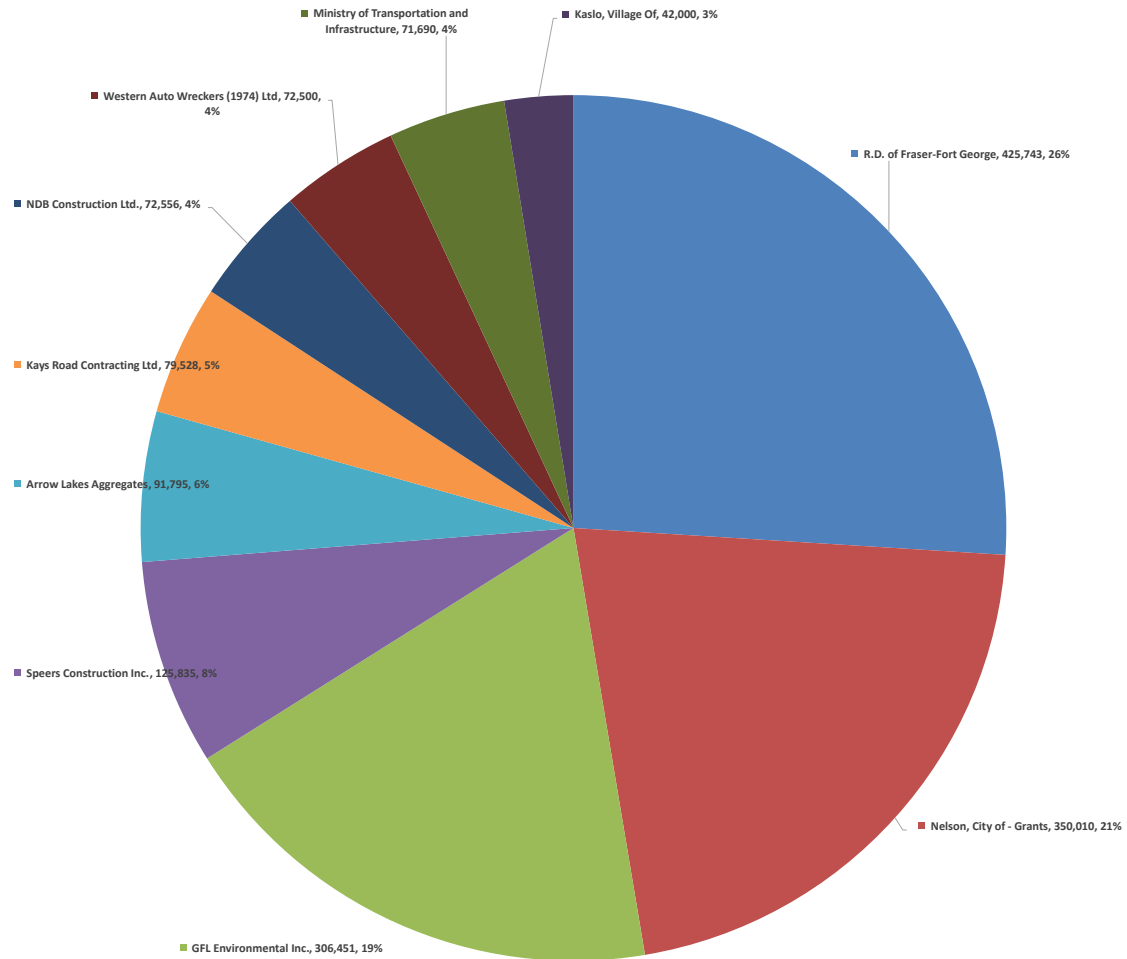
	Number of Payments	Value	% of Total
		\$1,826,924	100%
Directors		63,262	3.5%
Hourly/Salary		1,763,662	96.5%

Top 10 Services by Amount Spent



- Emergency Communications 911
- Rural Administration
- Refuse Disposal (West Subregion)-Castlegar, New Denver, Slocan and Area H, I, J, and K
- Refuse Disposal (Central Subregion)-Nelson, Kaslo, Salmo and Areas D, E, F, and G
- Water Utility-Area K (Fauquier)
- Refuse Disposal (East Subregion)-Creston and Areas A, B and C
- Fire Protection-Area J (Ootischenia)
- Recreation Facility-Nelson and Areas F and Defined E
- Arena (Castlegar Complex)-Castlegar and Areas I and J
- Recycling Program - Central Subregion

Top 10 Vendors by Value



- R.D. of Fraser-Fort George
- GFL Environmental Inc.
- Arrow Lakes Aggregates
- NDB Construction Ltd.
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Nelson, City of - Grants
- Speers Construction Inc.
- Kays Road Contracting Ltd
- Western Auto Wreckers (1974) Ltd
- Kaslo, Village Of

Accounts Payable Top 80% of Payments for December 2023

Top 80% of payments by value	Number of Payments		Value
	86	\$	2,168,103
1022117 Alberta Ltd.	3	\$	26,999.96
Andrew Colgan Electrical Service	1	\$	5,933.25
Arrow Lakes Aggregates	2	\$	91,794.82
Brandt Tractor Ltd. (Castlegar)	1	\$	5,503.85
BWS Enterprise Ltd	1	\$	9,852.39
CanGas Propane Inc.	1	\$	5,435.35
Cathro Consulting Ltd	1	\$	4,843.59
Central Kootenay Garbage Club Inc.	1	\$	9,817.50
Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society	2	\$	15,996.34
CentralSquare Canada Software Inc.	1	\$	20,712.72
Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation	1	\$	4,860.80
Creston Valley Minor Hockey Association	1	\$	5,000.00
Custom Dozing Ltd	1	\$	6,300.00
CW Heavy Duty LTD	2	\$	15,997.03
Escribe Solutions	1	\$	13,510.93
Firestorm Enterprises Ltd	1	\$	36,750.00
FortisBC - Electricity	1	\$	8,886.86
Fortisbc - Natural Gas	2	\$	27,880.32
GFL Environmental Inc.	19	\$	306,451.24
GHD Limited	2	\$	23,462.94
Guillevin International Inc	1	\$	5,517.40
I.T. Blueprint Solutions Consulting Inc.	1	\$	6,963.49
Insight Canada Inc.	1	\$	4,853.48
Kabatoff Sand & Gravel Ltd	1	\$	11,242.88
Kaslo, Village Of	1	\$	42,000.00
Kays Road Contracting Ltd	1	\$	79,527.98
Little h Design Works	1	\$	6,534.68
Martech Electrical Systems Ltd	1	\$	5,928.46
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	2	\$	71,689.98
Morrow Bioscience Ltd	1	\$	13,763.40
Mountain Bin Service Ltd.	1	\$	7,854.02
NDB Construction Ltd.	1	\$	72,555.96
Nelson Hydro	1	\$	38,212.67
Nelson Leafs Hockey Society	1	\$	5,811.75
Nelson Soccer Association	1	\$	5,000.00
Nelson, City of	1	\$	350,010.00
Paragon Micro Canada	1	\$	9,155.84
R.D. of Fraser-Fort George	1	\$	425,742.62
Salmo, Village of	1	\$	11,700.00
Service, Thomas W	1	\$	5,000.00
Sk Electronics Ltd	1	\$	5,927.88
Slocan Volunteer Fire Department Social Club	1	\$	5,000.00
SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.	1	\$	8,810.24
Speers Construction Inc.	2	\$	125,835.36
Steeves and Associates	1	\$	5,302.50
Stephen Regulatory Specialists Ltd. DBA: Stephen Enginee	2	\$	19,263.13
Sundry Vendor	4	\$	31,313.04
Telus Communications Inc	1	\$	6,280.47
The Adventure Hotel	1	\$	5,048.81
Trican Filtration Group Inc.	1	\$	7,101.68
Valhalla Concepts Ltd.	1	\$	31,500.00
Valhalla Refrigeration Ltd	1	\$	5,181.32
Western Auto Wreckers (1974) Ltd	1	\$	72,499.98
WEX Canada Ltd.	1	\$	4,601.71
Ymir Community Association	1	\$	9,382.00

Accounts Payable Bottom 20% of Payments for December 2023

Remaining 20% of payments by value	Number of Payments 874	\$	Value 539,414
1022117 Alberta Ltd.	1	\$	777.00
1400142 BC Ltd.	1	\$	1,514.17
1426051 BC Ltd DBA: Simon's Garage Door Services	1	\$	466.20
1583343 Ontario Inc. O/A Swiss Print International	2	\$	5,104.74
ACE Courier Services	2	\$	60.50
Activity Base	3	\$	352.80
Air Liquide Canada Inc	7	\$	981.71
Alberta Fire Chiefs Association	1	\$	841.55
All Around Septic Services Ltd	1	\$	1,443.75
All Elements Industries Ltd.	1	\$	241.50
ALS Canada Ltd.	9	\$	7,002.77
Anderson, Pearl	1	\$	61.28
Andrew Sheret Ltd	8	\$	9,664.71
Aquam Inc	1	\$	490.67
Argenta Community Association	1	\$	500.00
Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS)	1	\$	2,210.30
Arrow Mountain Carwash & Mini Storage Ltd	1	\$	3,150.00
Associated Fire Safety Equipment	3	\$	1,780.66
AstroGraphic Industries Ltd	1	\$	307.09
Balfour & Area Business & Historical Association	1	\$	831.60
Balfour Harrop Rescue Society	1	\$	1,500.00
Balfour Recreation Commission	1	\$	1,013.39
BC Hydro & Power Authority	1	\$	2,446.70
BC Municipal Safety Association	2	\$	1,740.90
Bears Furniture and Appliances	1	\$	1,459.90
Beavers, Amanda	1	\$	228.07
Big Cranium Design	1	\$	645.85
Black Press Group Ltd	2	\$	488.20
Bluebell Publishing	1	\$	84.00
Bogle, Brian Douglas	1	\$	67.24
Boudreau, Vanessa	1	\$	111.09
Bourgeois, Jesse	1	\$	350.00
Brenntag Canada Inc	1	\$	1,941.63
Brenton Industries Ltd	1	\$	1,260.00
British Columbia Association of Optometrists DBA: BCDO - E	1	\$	437.12
British Columbia Recreation & Parks Association	1	\$	1,870.25
Brouwer, Wayne	3	\$	872.50
Burch, Melanie	1	\$	76.16
Burgess, Morgan	1	\$	75.00
Burton Community Association	1	\$	490.28
Burton Internet Society	1	\$	39.20
C.A. Fischer Lumber Co. Ltd.	7	\$	788.67
Camp Koolaree Society	1	\$	1,380.10
Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety	2	\$	59.85
Canadian Linen & Uniform	4	\$	384.71
Canadian Safety Supplies	1	\$	678.20
CanGas Propane Inc.	8	\$	12,977.61
Carey McIver & Associates Ltd.	1	\$	1,004.07
Caron, Jeremy	1	\$	8.21
Cascade Lock & Safe	1	\$	157.50
Castlegar & District Minor Hockey Association	2	\$	750.00
CDW Canada Corp	2	\$	310.72
Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society	1	\$	4,021.50
Chadwick, Ashley	1	\$	5.50
Champion Commercial Products Inc	1	\$	459.78
Chef's Choice Authentic Street Food	1	\$	1,008.00
Chezenko, Sadie	1	\$	70.00
Christie, Laura	1	\$	35.00
Cintas Canada Ltd Location 889	1	\$	153.05
Clarke, Ryan	1	\$	140.08
Coghlan, Kailen	1	\$	258.75
Columbia Wireless Inc	5	\$	408.80
Comfort Welding Ltd	5	\$	754.49
Connect Hearing	1	\$	132.30

Remaining 20% of payments by value	Number of Payments		Value
	874	\$	539,414
Contini, Nia	1	\$	251.52
Cover Architectural Collaborative Inc.	1	\$	2,328.38
Cowan's Office Supplies	32	\$	5,532.67
Cranbrook Water Conditioning Ltd.	3	\$	145.38
Crawford Bay Store	3	\$	280.38
Creston & District Community Complex	1	\$	948.00
Creston Card & Stationery	5	\$	458.96
Creston Valley Chamber Of Commerce	1	\$	2,651.25
Creston Valley Society for Therapeutic Horsemanship	1	\$	971.75
Creston, Town Of	1	\$	887.63
Croft, James	2	\$	219.99
Cunningham, Hans	3	\$	132.60
Daoust, Charmaine	1	\$	90.00
Dave's Plumbing Ltd	3	\$	6,343.76
DeBoon, Arnold Frank	2	\$	401.26
Desirable Futures	1	\$	31.25
Dewar, Janna	1	\$	75.00
Dye, Cindy	1	\$	150.00
Dye, Shane	1	\$	579.25
East Shore Internet Society	2	\$	129.92
EcoLogic Consultants Ltd.	1	\$	422.10
Edgewood Community Club	2	\$	1,089.00
EECOL Electric Corp.	1	\$	1,589.73
Emco Corporation	2	\$	1,942.71
Enercon Water Treatment Ltd	2	\$	1,669.87
Environmental Operators Certification Program	2	\$	261.45
Eric Etelamaki Holdings	2	\$	1,155.00
Ernies Used Auto Parts	1	\$	224.00
Evans, Jillian	1	\$	78.74
Evenson, AJ	1	\$	1,023.67
Evoke Buildings Engineering Inc.	1	\$	3,884.59
Expresslane Deliveries	1	\$	377.50
Fastenal Canada, LTD	1	\$	41.02
Federated Co-Operatives Ltd	4	\$	1,787.66
Fehr, Carol	1	\$	279.34
Fergusson, Daniella	1	\$	1,312.50
Fields Forward	1	\$	640.00
FortisBC - Electricity	37	\$	20,461.84
Foster, Noah	1	\$	40.12
Four Star Communications Inc	1	\$	115.50
Froehlich, Clifford	1	\$	95.20
Frozen Solutions Inc. dba Frozen Refrigeration	1	\$	3,950.63
G and W Lawncare	1	\$	90.00
Gain, Thomas Scott	1	\$	735.00
Geo H Hewitt Co Ltd	1	\$	103.83
GFL Environmental Inc.	34	\$	74,756.81
Giacomazzo, Zachari	1	\$	35.00
Gilbert Parts Depot	12	\$	2,241.15
Global Sport Resources Ltd.	1	\$	118.13
Goat Mountain Enterprises Ltd	2	\$	2,465.40
Gordon, Graham R	1	\$	1,158.88
Gracie's Kennels Ltd.	1	\$	1,087.50
Gray Creek Store	2	\$	44.40
Gregg Distributors LP	1	\$	242.75
Groenhuysen, Rene	1	\$	25.00
Habljak, Julia	1	\$	90.00
Hadikin, Sam	1	\$	200.00
Hall Printing	3	\$	1,004.18
Hanegraaf, Henny (Henrica)	1	\$	59.24
Hewat, Suzan	3	\$	1,185.26
Hewgill, Mathew	1	\$	125.00
Hicks, Josef P	1	\$	687.70
Highland Consulting Ltd	2	\$	5,242.65
Hills, Erika	1	\$	150.00
Hipperson Hardware	1	\$	27.29
Hitchon, William DBA: 5th Gear	1	\$	2,600.00
HomePlus Products	1	\$	147.94
Hopkyns, Christine	1	\$	64.01
Hopkyns, John (Chris)	2	\$	122.40

Remaining 20% of payments by value	Number of Payments		Value
	874	\$	539,414
Hufty's Leasing Ltd	1	\$	547.66
HuskyPro	1	\$	1,942.23
Hywood Truck & Equipment Ltd	5	\$	766.21
I.T. Blueprint Solutions Consulting Inc.	1	\$	1,038.13
Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc.	1	\$	936.78
Infosat Communications	1	\$	234.15
Inland Allcare	14	\$	7,623.68
Inland Kenworth (Castlegar)	1	\$	1,641.83
Inonoaklin Recreation Commission	1	\$	2,134.00
Insight Canada Inc.	3	\$	728.07
Interior Health Authority - Environmental Health	1	\$	147.00
Iron Mountain	1	\$	397.21
Jackman, Garry	3	\$	294.99
Jakubow Enterprises Ltd o/a Canadian Tire Castlegar (492)	11	\$	1,107.13
Jennifer Wickwire	1	\$	200.00
Justice Institute Of Bc	1	\$	447.48
Kal Tire (Nelson)	3	\$	5,026.95
Kaslo Building Maintenance	1	\$	609.00
Kaslo Building Supplies	1	\$	44.79
Kaslo Front Street Market	2	\$	549.18
Kaslo Home Hardware	1	\$	80.74
Kaslo Infonet Society	2	\$	237.00
Kaslo Volunteer Fire Fighters Association	1	\$	1,500.00
Kaslo, Village Of	1	\$	65.46
Kathy Gordon's Cleaning Services	6	\$	955.50
Kelly, Patrick	1	\$	47.60
Kelly's Maintenance and Services	1	\$	2,625.00
Kelowna, City of	1	\$	1,096.00
Kennlyn Enterprises	3	\$	1,948.47
Keyserlingk, Martin	1	\$	691.95
Kindred, Shelly	1	\$	170.06
Kitchener Valley Recreation & Fire Protection Society	2	\$	2,000.00
Kokanee Fire & Safety Ltd.	1	\$	1,508.10
Kone Inc	3	\$	2,717.90
Kootenay Carshare Cooperative	1	\$	672.76
Kootenay Glass & Mirror Ltd	1	\$	309.75
Kootenay Industrial Supply Ltd	7	\$	755.57
Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation	1	\$	717.00
Kootenay Valley Water & Spas	2	\$	44.75
Koots Konstruktion	1	\$	1,575.00
Krestova Doukhobor Community Society	1	\$	2,575.00
Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family Services Society	1	\$	2,000.00
LCL Enterprises	1	\$	1,105.21
Lectric Ave Electronics	2	\$	156.77
Leggat, Jessie	1	\$	257.04
Levine Electric Ltd.	1	\$	841.35
Levine, Jesse	2	\$	284.96
LexisNexis Canada Inc.	1	\$	786.45
Lidstone & Company	1	\$	704.48
Lifesaving Society (Burnaby)	5	\$	3,799.80
Little h Design Works	1	\$	866.25
Liv North Inc.	2	\$	1,284.85
Lockwood, Diana LD	2	\$	113.88
Lo-Cost Propane	1	\$	1,772.33
Loewen, Trevor	1	\$	100.00
Lordco Parts Ltd	4	\$	179.19
Lunn, Jessica	3	\$	1,442.89
MacRae, Robert	1	\$	976.72
Mad Dog Electrical and Construction	1	\$	2,357.45
Maglio, Benjamin	2	\$	88.31
Main, Leah	1	\$	384.50
Malekow, Pamela	1	\$	138.72
Marr, Kevin	1	\$	397.80
Marshall, Charity	1	\$	791.52
Marshall, Jay T	1	\$	1,100.00
Martech Electrical Systems Ltd	1	\$	557.24
Martin & Levesque Inc	1	\$	559.67
Masewich, Tyler	1	\$	44.88
Masse Environmental Consultants Ltd.	5	\$	6,583.26

Remaining 20% of payments by value	Number of Payments		Value
	874	\$	539,414
Mathes, Loren	1	\$	93.84
Mayday Electric Ltd	2	\$	725.33
McCuaig, Stuart	1	\$	93.84
McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd	1	\$	3,255.00
McFaddin, Maria June	1	\$	66.74
McLaren-Caux, Aiden(Kenneth)	1	\$	199.24
Merupati, Durga	1	\$	239.09
Micah's Plumbing & Heating Ltd.	3	\$	1,151.46
Mid Town Motors	1	\$	24.59
Mike Jones Enterprises Ltd	1	\$	378.00
Mills Bros Construction Ltd	2	\$	3,589.60
Minister of Finance	1	\$	56.23
Minister Of Finance - Product Distribution Centre	5	\$	1,243.68
Mitchell Supply Ltd	2	\$	35.69
Morissette, Taila	1	\$	335.00
Mountain Bin Service Ltd.	1	\$	2,005.50
MPE Engineering Ltd.	1	\$	2,844.45
MyZone Media Inc.	1	\$	104.96
Nakusp & Area Development Board	1	\$	1,500.00
Nakusp Ski Club Association	1	\$	2,501.10
Nanaimo, City of	16	\$	6,583.50
Napa Auto Parts (Nelson)	4	\$	126.79
Navigata Communications Ltd. dba ThinkTel	1	\$	17.31
Nedham, Suzanne	1	\$	88.00
Nelson Building Centre Ltd	24	\$	1,674.72
Nelson Farmers Supply Ltd	1	\$	22.05
Nelson Hydro	8	\$	4,789.17
Nelson Toyota	3	\$	1,145.42
Nelson, City Of	3	\$	4,347.05
New Denver, Village Of	1	\$	817.62
Newell, Thomas	4	\$	76.36
North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society	1	\$	500.00
North Pine Garage Doors Ltd.	1	\$	514.50
Northtown Rental & Sales	1	\$	24.58
Nymeyer, Gina	1	\$	571.20
Ootischenia Fire Department Social Club	1	\$	2,500.00
Orkin Canada Corporation	1	\$	196.75
Panko, Bridget	1	\$	262.50
Parents Advisory Council (PAC) - Jewett School	1	\$	500.00
Pass Creek Fire Dept Social Club	1	\$	2,000.00
Pass Creek Volunteer Fire Responders	1	\$	500.00
Passmore Laboratory Ltd	7	\$	1,150.00
Pennywise	4	\$	1,515.62
Peyton, Claire DBA: Upstream Environmental Consulting	2	\$	2,674.42
Phoenix Designs & Apparel	1	\$	118.74
Pitney Bowes	3	\$	1,303.41
Planning Institute Of Bc	1	\$	633.00
Popoff, Walter A	4	\$	168.64
Prestige Lakeside Resort	3	\$	2,795.59
Purolator Inc	2	\$	275.64
Pyramid Building Supplies	3	\$	243.28
RC Strategies Inc.	1	\$	3,213.00
Receiver General	2	\$	811.38
Reliance Office Services Ltd	1	\$	2,415.00
Rfs Canada	3	\$	2,701.62
Richardson, Allan K	1	\$	500.00
Right Touch Auto Detailing, The	3	\$	1,429.12
Riondel Cable Society	2	\$	80.00
Riondel Volunteer Fire Dept Social Club	1	\$	3,000.00
Rivenwell, Quinn	1	\$	474.14
Riverside Farm	5	\$	6,083.97
Roadpost Inc. T46274	2	\$	378.49
Robot Spider Clothing and Screenworks	1	\$	818.62
Rocky Mountain Agencies	3	\$	5,870.53
Rocky Mountain Phoenix	6	\$	6,738.25
Rokform Solutions	1	\$	2,191.38
Rose, Cameron	2	\$	129.93
Rutherglen, Cohen	1	\$	300.90
Rye, Kristine	1	\$	150.00

Remaining 20% of payments by value	Number of Payments		Value	
	874	\$		539,414
Salmo Community Resource Society	1	\$		500.00
Salmo Valley Swimming Pool Society	1	\$		1,131.60
Salmo Valley Youth & Community Centre	1	\$		866.67
Scott, Corey	1	\$		96.60
Service, Thomas W	1	\$		118.40
Sfj Inc	1	\$		3,464.24
Shapovalov, Shannon	1	\$		175.00
Shaw Buisness A division of Shaw Telecom G.P.	1	\$		1,171.09
Shaw Cable	19	\$		2,816.47
Siminoff, Daniel	1	\$		271.95
Sk Electronics Ltd	16	\$		3,470.43
Slocan & District Technical Rescue Society	1	\$		3,300.00
Slocan Park Community Hall Society	2	\$		954.75
Slocan Park Repair	1	\$		56.00
Slocan Valley Home Hardware	2	\$		73.65
Slocan Valley Threads Guild Society	1	\$		25.00
Slocan, Village of	2	\$		2,000.00
SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.	2	\$		1,643.83
Smienk, Johannes	2	\$		21.00
Smokey Creek Salvage	1	\$		964.18
SNT Geotechnical Ltd.	1	\$		1,659.78
Snyder, Nikko	1	\$		108.80
South Kootenay Lake Art Connect Society	1	\$		500.00
Southam, John W	4	\$		1,265.00
Speedpro Signs	1	\$		216.85
Spencer, Monica	3	\$		3,998.85
SRK Consulting (Canada) Inc.	1	\$		1,102.51
Sterling Backcheck Canada Corp.	1	\$		186.35
Stewart Mcdannold Stuart	1	\$		960.96
Strong Data Inc.	1	\$		1,372.00
Summit Truck & Equipment Repair	1	\$		877.71
Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada	2	\$		1,211.07
Sundry Vendor	29	\$		18,610.89
Sykes Audio Visual Holdings Inc.	1	\$		948.08
Szabo, Paul	1	\$		150.00
Taghum Shell (1997)	21	\$		1,742.42
Tarrys Fire Department Social Club	1	\$		2,000.00
Tarrys Fire Rescue Auxilliary	1	\$		1,500.00
Technical Safety BC	1	\$		52.00
Telus Communications Inc	4	\$		1,913.75
Telus Communications Inc. Mascon by Telus	4	\$		291.20
Tetra Tech Canada Inc.	1	\$		1,478.93
The Trainer's Box	1	\$		480.00
ThinkTel	1	\$		326.62
Thor Mechanical Ltd.	1	\$		124.73
Thrift, Patrick	1	\$		721.13
Tierney, Roger Bruce	2	\$		366.12
Tip-it Waste Solutions Kootenay	2	\$		194.25
Traczyk, Lynn M	1	\$		110.00
Trails for Creston Valley Society	1	\$		2,500.00
Tremlock Properties Ltd	2	\$		2,355.94
Troy Life & Fire Safety Ltd	1	\$		3,258.15
Tu-Dor Lock & Safe Ltd	5	\$		185.78
Tutsch, Cassidy C	1	\$		90.00
Twin Rivers Controls Ltd	2	\$		1,886.41
Uline Canada Corporation	1	\$		955.56
Valhalla Refrigeration Ltd	1	\$		4,361.14
Valley Voice Ltd	4	\$		733.81
Van Houtte Coffee Services	1	\$		181.93
Van Kam Freightways Ltd	6	\$		2,530.35
Vandenberghe, Kelly	2	\$		347.20
Vista Radio Ltd	4	\$		1,612.80
Vitalaire Canada Inc	1	\$		68.91
W.H. Excavating	3	\$		1,673.45
Wade Technologies Ltd	4	\$		5,867.45
Waste Management	10	\$		5,069.64
Watson, Aimee	3	\$		433.40
Weatherhead, Teresa A	1	\$		201.96
Wesco Distribution-Canada Inc	2	\$		254.89

Remaining 20% of payments by value	Number of Payments		Value
	874	\$	
Wetter, Jesse	1	\$	75.00
WFR Wholesale Fire & Rescue Ltd	10	\$	8,178.85
Wheeler, Tracy	2	\$	129.20
Whitford, Millicent KS	1	\$	75.00
Wilkinson, James	1	\$	962.60
Wolseley Waterworks Branch	2	\$	5,658.60
Wood Wyant Inc	3	\$	4,411.67
Wood, Roy	1	\$	204.75
Wylee Works Inc.	1	\$	630.00
Xplore Inc.	1	\$	117.04
Yahk-Kingsgate Recreation Society	1	\$	1,300.00
Yellow Pages Group	1	\$	0.52
Zone West Enterprises Ltd	1	\$	472.42

Employees and Directors December 2023

Directors	Number of Payments		Value
	39		5,963
Bogle, Brian Douglas	1	\$	67.24
Cunningham, Hans	3	\$	132.60
DeBoon, Arnold Frank	2	\$	401.26
Hanegraaf, Henny (Henrica)	1	\$	59.24
Hewat, Suzan	3	\$	1,185.26
Jackman, Garry	3	\$	294.99
Lockwood, Diana LD	2	\$	113.88
Lunn, Jessica	3	\$	1,442.89
Main, Leah	1	\$	384.50
McFaddin, Maria June	1	\$	66.74
McLaren-Caux, Aiden(Kenneth)	1	\$	199.24
Newell, Thomas	4	\$	76.36
Popoff, Walter A	4	\$	168.64
Smienk, Johannes	2	\$	21.00
Tierney, Roger Bruce	2	\$	366.12
Vandenberghe, Kelly	2	\$	347.20
Watson, Aimee	3	\$	433.40
Weatherhead, Teresa A	1	\$	201.96

Employees	Number of Payments		Value
	80	\$	26,283
Anderson, Pearl	1	\$	61.28
Beavers, Amanda	1	\$	228.07
Boudreau, Vanessa	1	\$	111.09
Bourgeois, Jesse	1	\$	350.00
Burch, Melanie	1	\$	76.16
Burgess, Morgan	1	\$	75.00
Caron, Jeremy	1	\$	8.21
Chadwick, Ashley	1	\$	5.50
Chezenko, Sadie	1	\$	70.00
Christie, Laura	1	\$	35.00
Clarke, Ryan	1	\$	140.08
Coghlán, Kailen	1	\$	258.75
Contini, Nia	1	\$	251.52
Croft, James	2	\$	219.99
Daoust, Charmaine	1	\$	90.00
Dewar, Janna	1	\$	75.00
Dye, Cindy	1	\$	150.00
Dye, Shane	1	\$	579.25
Evans, Jillian	1	\$	78.74
Evenson, AJ	1	\$	1,023.67
Fehr, Carol	1	\$	279.34
Foster, Noah	1	\$	40.12
Froehlich, Clifford	1	\$	95.20
Giacomazzo, Zachari	1	\$	35.00
Gordon, Graham R	1	\$	1,158.88
Groenhuysen, Rene	1	\$	25.00
Habljak, Julia	1	\$	90.00
Hicks, Josef P	1	\$	687.70
Hills, Erika	1	\$	150.00
Hopkyns, Christine	1	\$	64.01
Hopkyns, John (Chris)	2	\$	122.40
Kelly, Patrick	1	\$	47.60
Kindred, Shelly	1	\$	170.06
Leggat, Jessie	1	\$	257.04
Levine, Jesse	2	\$	284.96
Loewen, Trevor	1	\$	100.00
Maglio, Benjamin	2	\$	88.31
Malekow, Pamela	1	\$	138.72
Marr, Kevin	1	\$	397.80
Marshall, Charity	1	\$	791.52
Marshall, Jay T	1	\$	1,100.00
Masewich, Tyler	1	\$	44.88
Mathes, Loren	1	\$	93.84
McCuaig, Stuart	1	\$	93.84
Merupati, Durga	1	\$	239.09
Morissette, Taila	1	\$	335.00
Nedham, Suzanne	1	\$	88.00
Nymeyer, Gina	1	\$	571.20
Richardson, Allan K	1	\$	500.00
Rivenwell, Quinn	1	\$	474.14
Rose, Cameron	2	\$	129.93
Rye, Kristine	1	\$	150.00

Employees	Number of Payments		Value
	80	\$	
Scott, Corey	1	\$	96.60
Service, Thomas W	2	\$	5,118.40
Shapovalov, Shannon	1	\$	175.00
Siminoff, Daniel	1	\$	271.95
Snyder, Nikko	1	\$	108.80
Southam, John W	4	\$	1,265.00
Spencer, Monica	3	\$	3,998.85
Szabo, Paul	1	\$	150.00
Thrift, Patrick	1	\$	721.13
Traczyk, Lynn M	1	\$	110.00
Tutsch, Cassidy C	1	\$	90.00
Wetter, Jesse	1	\$	75.00
Wheeler, Tracy	2	\$	129.20
Whitford, Millicent KS	1	\$	75.00
Wilkinson, James	1	\$	962.60
Wood, Roy	1	\$	204.75

Accounts Payable for December 2023 Breakdown by Type of Payment

Discretionary, Community Development, and Other Grants	Number of Payments		\$	421,814
	37			
Argenta Community Association	1		\$ 500.00	
Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS)	1		\$ 2,210.30	
Balfour & Area Business & Historical Association	1		\$ 831.60	
Balfour Harrop Rescue Society	1		\$ 1,500.00	
Burton Community Association	1		\$ 490.28	
Camp Koolaree Society	1		\$ 1,380.10	
Castlegar & District Minor Hockey Association	2		\$ 750.00	
Creston Valley Minor Hockey Association	1		\$ 5,000.00	
Creston Valley Society for Therapeutic Horsemanship	1		\$ 971.75	
Edgewood Community Club	2		\$ 1,089.00	
Fields Forward	1		\$ 640.00	
Inonoaklin Recreation Commission	1		\$ 2,134.00	
Kitchener Valley Recreation & Fire Protection Society	2		\$ 2,000.00	
Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation	1		\$ 717.00	
Krestova Doukhobor Community Society	1		\$ 2,575.00	
Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family Services Society	1		\$ 2,000.00	
Nakusp & Area Development Board	1		\$ 1,500.00	
Nakusp Ski Club Association	1		\$ 2,501.10	
Nelson Soccer Association	1		\$ 5,000.00	
Nelson, City of	1		\$ 350,010.00	
North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society	1		\$ 500.00	
Ootischenia Fire Department Social Club	1		\$ 2,500.00	
Parents Advisory Council (PAC) - Jewett School	1		\$ 500.00	
Salmo Community Resource Society	1		\$ 500.00	
Salmo Valley Swimming Pool Society	1		\$ 1,131.60	
Salmo, Village of	1		\$ 11,700.00	
Slocan & District Technical Rescue Society	1		\$ 3,300.00	
Slocan, Village of	2		\$ 2,000.00	
South Kootenay Lake Art Connect Society	1		\$ 500.00	
Tarrys Fire Department Social Club	1		\$ 2,000.00	
Tarrys Fire Rescue Auxilliary	1		\$ 1,500.00	
Trails for Creston Valley Society	1		\$ 2,500.00	
Ymir Community Association	1		\$ 9,382.00	

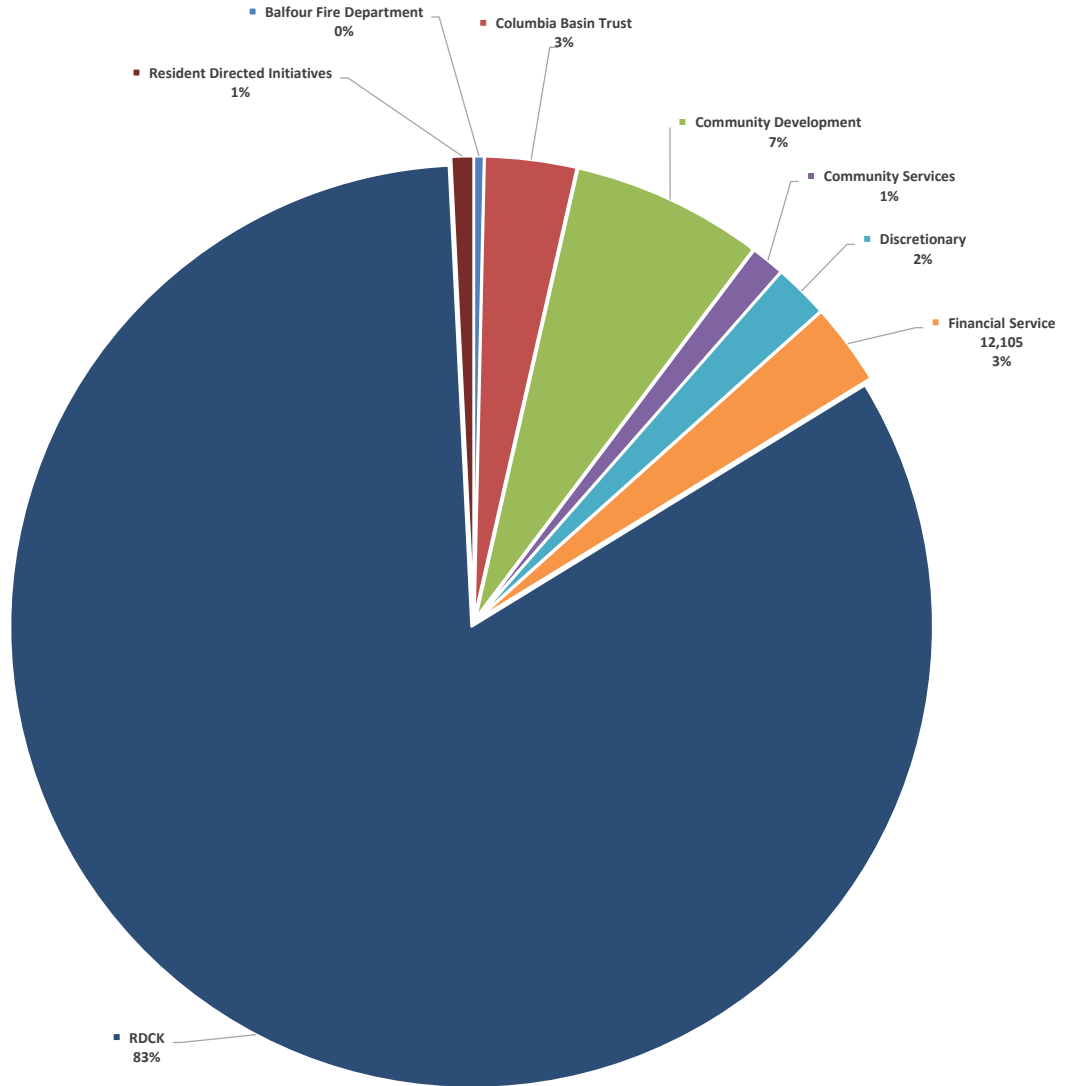
Accounts Payable for December 2023 Breakdown by Type of Payment

All Other Vendors	Number of Payments		Value	
	804	\$		2,253,458
1022117 Alberta Ltd.	4	\$		27,776.96
1400142 BC Ltd.	1	\$		1,514.17
1426051 BC Ltd DBA: Simon's Garage Door Services	1	\$		466.20
1583343 Ontario Inc. O/A Swiss Print International	2	\$		5,104.74
ACE Courier Services	2	\$		60.50
Activity Base	3	\$		352.80
Air Liquide Canada Inc	7	\$		981.71
Alberta Fire Chiefs Association	1	\$		841.55
All Around Septic Services Ltd	1	\$		1,443.75
All Elements Industries Ltd.	1	\$		241.50
ALS Canada Ltd.	9	\$		7,002.77
Andrew Colgan Electrical Service	1	\$		5,933.25
Andrew Sheret Ltd	8	\$		9,664.71
Aquam Inc	1	\$		490.67
Arrow Lakes Aggregates	2	\$		91,794.82
Arrow Mountain Carwash & Mini Storage Ltd	1	\$		3,150.00
Associated Fire Safety Equipment	3	\$		1,780.66
AstroGraphic Industries Ltd	1	\$		307.09
Balfour Recreation Commission	1	\$		1,013.39
BC Hydro & Power Authority	1	\$		2,446.70
BC Municipal Safety Association	2	\$		1,740.90
Bears Furniture and Appliances	1	\$		1,459.90
Big Cranium Design	1	\$		645.85
Black Press Group Ltd	2	\$		488.20
Bluebell Publishing	1	\$		84.00
Brandt Tractor Ltd. (Castlegar)	1	\$		5,503.85
Brenntag Canada Inc	1	\$		1,941.63
Brenton Industries Ltd	1	\$		1,260.00
British Columbia Association of Optometrists DBA: BCDO - EYESAFE	1	\$		437.12
British Columbia Recreation & Parks Association	1	\$		1,870.25
Brouwer, Wayne	3	\$		872.50
Burton Internet Society	1	\$		39.20
BWS Enterprise Ltd	1	\$		9,852.39
C.A. Fischer Lumber Co. Ltd.	7	\$		788.67
Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety	2	\$		59.85
Canadian Linen & Uniform	4	\$		384.71
Canadian Safety Supplies	1	\$		678.20
CanGas Propane Inc.	9	\$		18,412.96
Carey McIver & Associates Ltd.	1	\$		1,004.07
Cascade Lock & Safe	1	\$		157.50
Cathro Consulting Ltd	1	\$		4,843.59
CDW Canada Corp	2	\$		310.72
Central Kootenay Garbage Club Inc.	1	\$		9,817.50
Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society	3	\$		20,017.84
CentralSquare Canada Software Inc.	1	\$		20,712.72
Champion Commercial Products Inc	1	\$		459.78
Chef's Choice Authentic Street Food	1	\$		1,008.00
Cintas Canada Ltd Location 889	1	\$		153.05
Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation	1	\$		4,860.80
Columbia Wireless Inc	5	\$		408.80
Comfort Welding Ltd	5	\$		754.49
Connect Hearing	1	\$		132.30
Cover Architectural Collaborative Inc.	1	\$		2,328.38
Cowan's Office Supplies	32	\$		5,532.67
Cranbrook Water Conditioning Ltd.	3	\$		145.38
Crawford Bay Store	3	\$		280.38
Creston & District Community Complex	1	\$		948.00
Creston Card & Stationery	5	\$		458.96
Creston Valley Chamber Of Commerce	1	\$		2,651.25
Creston, Town Of	1	\$		887.63
Custom Dozing Ltd	1	\$		6,300.00
CW Heavy Duty LTD	2	\$		15,997.03
Dave's Plumbing Ltd	3	\$		6,343.76
Desirable Futures	1	\$		31.25
East Shore Internet Society	2	\$		129.92
EcoLogic Consultants Ltd.	1	\$		422.10
EECOL Electric Corp.	1	\$		1,589.73
Emco Corporation	2	\$		1,942.71
Enercon Water Treatment Ltd	2	\$		1,669.87
Environmental Operators Certification Program	2	\$		261.45
Eric Etelamaki Holdings	2	\$		1,155.00
Ernies Used Auto Parts	1	\$		224.00
Escribe Solutions	1	\$		13,510.93
Evoke Buildings Engineering Inc.	1	\$		3,884.59
Expresslane Deliveries	1	\$		377.50
Fastenal Canada, LTD	1	\$		41.02
Federated Co-Operatives Ltd	4	\$		1,787.66
Fergusson, Daniella	1	\$		1,312.50
Firestorm Enterprises Ltd	1	\$		36,750.00
FortisBC - Electricity	38	\$		29,348.70
Fortisbc - Natural Gas	2	\$		27,880.32
Four Star Communications Inc	1	\$		115.50
Frozen Solutions Inc. dba Frozen Refrigeration	1	\$		3,950.63
G and W Lawncare	1	\$		90.00
Gain, Thomas Scott	1	\$		735.00
Geo H Hewitt Co Ltd	1	\$		103.83
GFL Environmental Inc.	53	\$		381,208.05
GHD Limited	2	\$		23,462.94
Gilbert Parts Depot	12	\$		2,241.15
Global Sport Resources Ltd.	1	\$		118.13

All Other Vendors	Number of Payments		Value
	804	\$	
			2,253,458
Goat Mountain Enterprises Ltd	2	\$	2,465.40
Gracie's Kennels Ltd.	1	\$	1,087.50
Gray Creek Store	2	\$	44.40
Gregg Distributors LP	1	\$	242.75
Guillevin International Inc	1	\$	5,517.40
Hadikin, Sam	1	\$	200.00
Hall Printing	3	\$	1,004.18
Hewgill, Mathew	1	\$	125.00
Highland Consulting Ltd	2	\$	5,242.65
Hipperson Hardware	1	\$	27.29
Hitchon, William DBA: 5th Gear	1	\$	2,600.00
HomePlus Products	1	\$	147.94
Huffy's Leasing Ltd	1	\$	547.66
HuskyPro	1	\$	1,942.23
Hywood Truck & Equipment Ltd	5	\$	766.21
I.T. Blueprint Solutions Consulting Inc.	2	\$	8,001.62
Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc.	1	\$	936.78
Infosat Communications	1	\$	234.15
Inland Allcare	14	\$	7,623.68
Inland Kenworth (Castlegar)	1	\$	1,641.83
Insight Canada Inc.	4	\$	5,581.55
Interior Health Authority - Environmental Health	1	\$	147.00
Iron Mountain	1	\$	397.21
Jakubow Enterprises Ltd o/a Canadian Tire Castlegar (492)	11	\$	1,107.13
Jennifer Wickwire	1	\$	200.00
Justice Institute Of Bc	1	\$	447.48
Kabatoff Sand & Gravel Ltd	1	\$	11,242.88
Kal Tire (Nelson)	3	\$	5,026.95
Kaslo Building Maintenance	1	\$	609.00
Kaslo Building Supplies	1	\$	44.79
Kaslo Front Street Market	2	\$	549.18
Kaslo Home Hardware	1	\$	80.74
Kaslo Infonet Society	2	\$	237.00
Kaslo Volunteer Fire Fighters Association	1	\$	1,500.00
Kaslo, Village Of	2	\$	42,065.46
Kathy Gordon's Cleaning Services	6	\$	955.50
Kays Road Contracting Ltd	1	\$	79,527.98
Kelly's Maintenance and Services	1	\$	2,625.00
Kelowna, City of	1	\$	1,096.00
Kennlyn Enterprises	3	\$	1,948.47
Keyserlingk, Martin	1	\$	691.95
Kokanee Fire & Safety Ltd.	1	\$	1,508.10
Kone Inc	3	\$	2,717.90
Kootenay Carshare Cooperative	1	\$	672.76
Kootenay Glass & Mirror Ltd	1	\$	309.75
Kootenay Industrial Supply Ltd	7	\$	755.57
Kootenay Valley Water & Spas	2	\$	44.75
Koots Konstruktion	1	\$	1,575.00
LCL Enterprises	1	\$	1,105.21
Lectric Ave Electronics	2	\$	156.77
Levine Electric Ltd.	1	\$	841.35
LexisNexis Canada Inc.	1	\$	786.45
Lidstone & Company	1	\$	704.48
Lifesaving Society (Burnaby)	5	\$	3,799.80
Little h Design Works	2	\$	7,400.93
Liv North Inc.	2	\$	1,284.85
Lo-Cost Propane	1	\$	1,772.33
Lordco Parts Ltd	4	\$	179.19
MacRae, Robert	1	\$	976.72
Mad Dog Electrical and Construction	1	\$	2,357.45
Martech Electrical Systems Ltd	2	\$	6,485.70
Martin & Levesque Inc	1	\$	559.67
Masse Environmental Consultants Ltd.	5	\$	6,583.26
Mayday Electric Ltd	2	\$	725.33
McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd	1	\$	3,255.00
Micah's Plumbing & Heating Ltd.	3	\$	1,151.46
Mid Town Motors	1	\$	24.59
Mike Jones Enterprises Ltd	1	\$	378.00
Mills Bros Construction Ltd	2	\$	3,589.60
Minister of Finance	1	\$	56.23
Minister Of Finance - Product Distribution Centre	5	\$	1,243.68
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	2	\$	71,689.98
Mitchell Supply Ltd	2	\$	35.69
Morrow Bioscience Ltd	1	\$	13,763.40
Mountain Bin Service Ltd.	2	\$	9,859.52
MPE Engineering Ltd.	1	\$	2,844.45
MyZone Media Inc.	1	\$	104.96
Nanaimo, City of	16	\$	6,583.50
Napa Auto Parts (Nelson)	4	\$	126.79
Navigata Communications Ltd. dba ThinkTel	1	\$	17.31
NDB Construction Ltd.	1	\$	72,555.96
Nelson Building Centre Ltd	24	\$	1,674.72
Nelson Farmers Supply Ltd	1	\$	22.05
Nelson Hydro	9	\$	43,001.84
Nelson Leafs Hockey Society	1	\$	5,811.75
Nelson Toyota	3	\$	1,145.42
Nelson, City Of	3	\$	4,347.05
New Denver, Village Of	1	\$	817.62
North Pine Garage Doors Ltd.	1	\$	514.50
Northtown Rental & Sales	1	\$	24.58
Orkin Canada Corporation	1	\$	196.75
Panko, Bridget	1	\$	262.50
Paragon Micro Canada	1	\$	9,155.84
Pass Creek Fire Dept Social Club	1	\$	2,000.00
Pass Creek Volunteer Fire Responders	1	\$	500.00

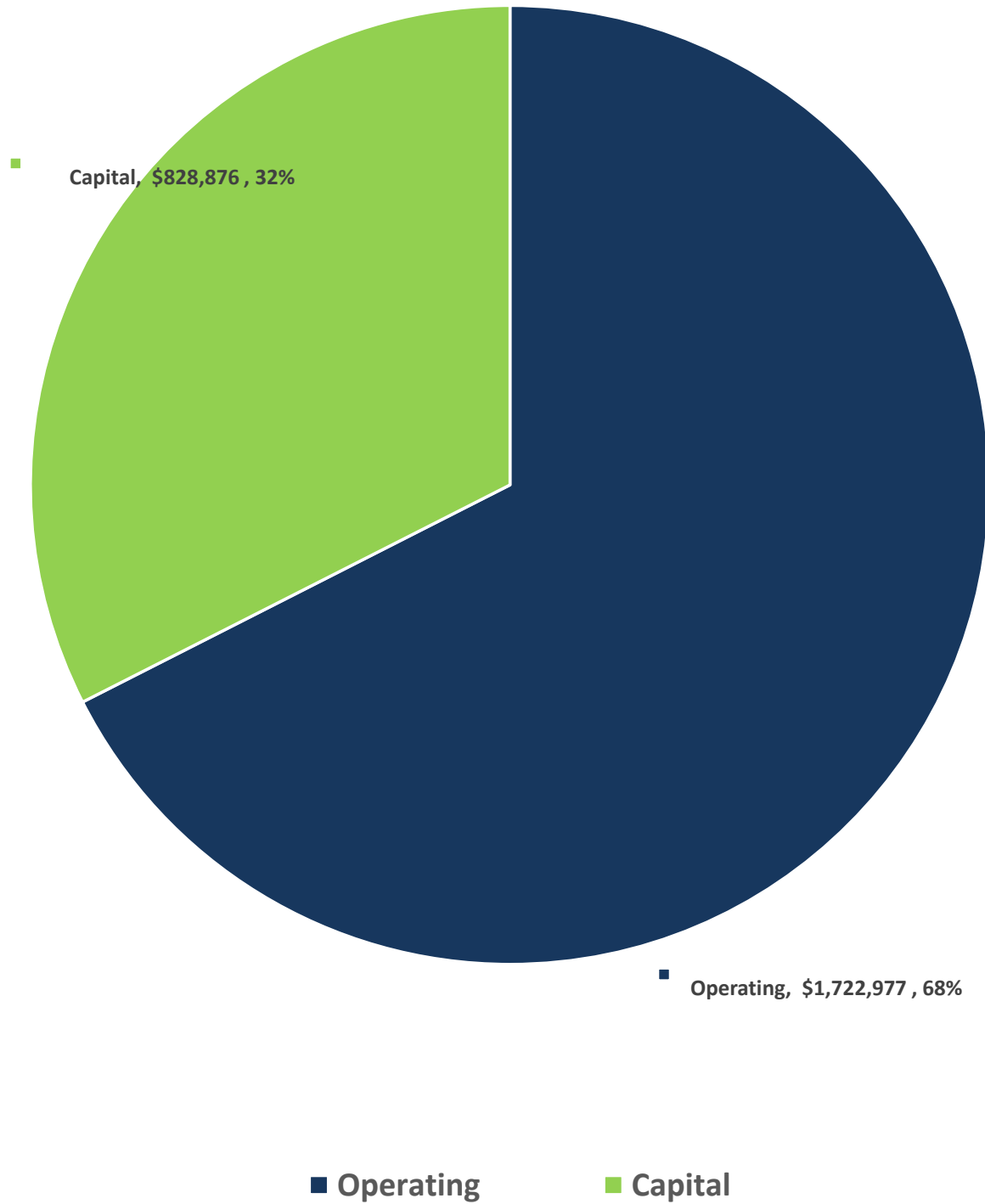
All Other Vendors	Number of Payments		Value
	804	\$	
			2,253,458
Passmore Laboratory Ltd	7	\$	1,150.00
Pennywise	4	\$	1,515.62
Peyton, Claire DBA: Upstream Environmental Consulting	2	\$	2,674.42
Phoenix Designs & Apparel	1	\$	118.74
Pitney Bowes	3	\$	1,303.41
Planning Institute Of Bc	1	\$	633.00
Prestige Lakeside Resort	3	\$	2,795.59
Purolator Inc	2	\$	275.64
Pyramid Building Supplies	3	\$	243.28
R.D. of Fraser-Fort George	1	\$	425,742.62
RC Strategies Inc.	1	\$	3,213.00
Receiver General	2	\$	811.38
Reliance Office Services Ltd	1	\$	2,415.00
Rfs Canada	3	\$	2,701.62
Right Touch Auto Detailing, The	3	\$	1,429.12
Riondel Cable Society	2	\$	80.00
Riondel Volunteer Fire Dept Social Club	1	\$	3,000.00
Riverside Farm	5	\$	6,083.97
Roadpost Inc. T46274	2	\$	378.49
Robot Spider Clothing and Screenworks	1	\$	818.62
Rocky Mountain Agencies	3	\$	5,870.53
Rocky Mountain Phoenix	6	\$	6,738.25
Rokform Solutions	1	\$	2,191.38
Rutherglen, Cohen	1	\$	300.90
Salmo Valley Youth & Community Centre	1	\$	866.67
Sfj Inc	1	\$	3,464.24
Shaw Buisness A division of Shaw Telecom G.P.	1	\$	1,171.09
Shaw Cable	19	\$	2,816.47
Sk Electronics Ltd	17	\$	9,398.31
Slocan Park Community Hall Society	2	\$	954.75
Slocan Park Repair	1	\$	56.00
Slocan Valley Home Hardware	2	\$	73.65
Slocan Valley Threads Guild Society	1	\$	25.00
Slocan Volunteer Fire Department Social Club	1	\$	5,000.00
SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.	3	\$	10,454.07
Smokey Creek Salvage	1	\$	964.18
SNT Geotechnical Ltd.	1	\$	1,659.78
Speedpro Signs	1	\$	216.85
Speers Construction Inc.	2	\$	125,835.36
SRK Consulting (Canada) Inc.	1	\$	1,102.51
Steeves and Associates	1	\$	5,302.50
Stephen Regulatory Specialists Ltd. DBA: Stephen Engineering Assoc.	2	\$	19,263.13
Sterling Backcheck Canada Corp.	1	\$	186.35
Stewart Mcdannold Stuart	1	\$	960.96
Strong Data Inc.	1	\$	1,372.00
Summit Truck & Equipment Repair	1	\$	877.71
Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada	2	\$	1,211.07
Sundry Vendor	33	\$	49,923.93
Sykes Audio Visual Holdings Inc.	1	\$	948.08
Taghum Shell (1997)	21	\$	1,742.42
Technical Safety BC	1	\$	52.00
Telus Communications Inc	5	\$	8,194.22
Telus Communications Inc. Mascon by Telus	4	\$	291.20
Tetra Tech Canada Inc.	1	\$	1,478.93
The Adventure Hotel	1	\$	5,048.81
The Trainer's Box	1	\$	480.00
ThinkTel	1	\$	326.62
Thor Mechanical Ltd.	1	\$	124.73
Tip-it Waste Solutions Kootenay	2	\$	194.25
Tremlock Properties Ltd	2	\$	2,355.94
Trican Filtration Group Inc.	1	\$	7,101.68
Troy Life & Fire Safety Ltd	1	\$	3,258.15
Tu-Dor Lock & Safe Ltd	5	\$	185.78
Twin Rivers Controls Ltd	2	\$	1,886.41
Uline Canada Corporation	1	\$	955.56
Valhalla Concepts Ltd.	1	\$	31,500.00
Valhalla Refrigeration Ltd	2	\$	9,542.46
Valley Voice Ltd	4	\$	733.81
Van Houtte Coffee Services	1	\$	181.93
Van Kam Freightways Ltd	6	\$	2,530.35
Vista Radio Ltd	4	\$	1,612.80
Vitalaire Canada Inc	1	\$	68.91
W.H. Excavating	3	\$	1,673.45
Wade Technologies Ltd	4	\$	5,867.45
Waste Management	10	\$	5,069.64
Wesco Distribution-Canada Inc	2	\$	254.89
Western Auto Wreckers (1974) Ltd	1	\$	72,499.98
WEX Canada Ltd.	1	\$	4,601.71
WFR Wholesale Fire & Rescue Ltd	10	\$	8,178.85
Wolseley Waterworks Branch	2	\$	5,658.60
Wood Wyant Inc	3	\$	4,411.67
Wylee Works Inc.	1	\$	630.00
Xplore Inc.	1	\$	117.04
Yahk-Kingsgate Recreation Society	1	\$	1,300.00
Yellow Pages Group	1	\$	0.52
Zone West Enterprises Ltd	1	\$	472.42

Grants by Type

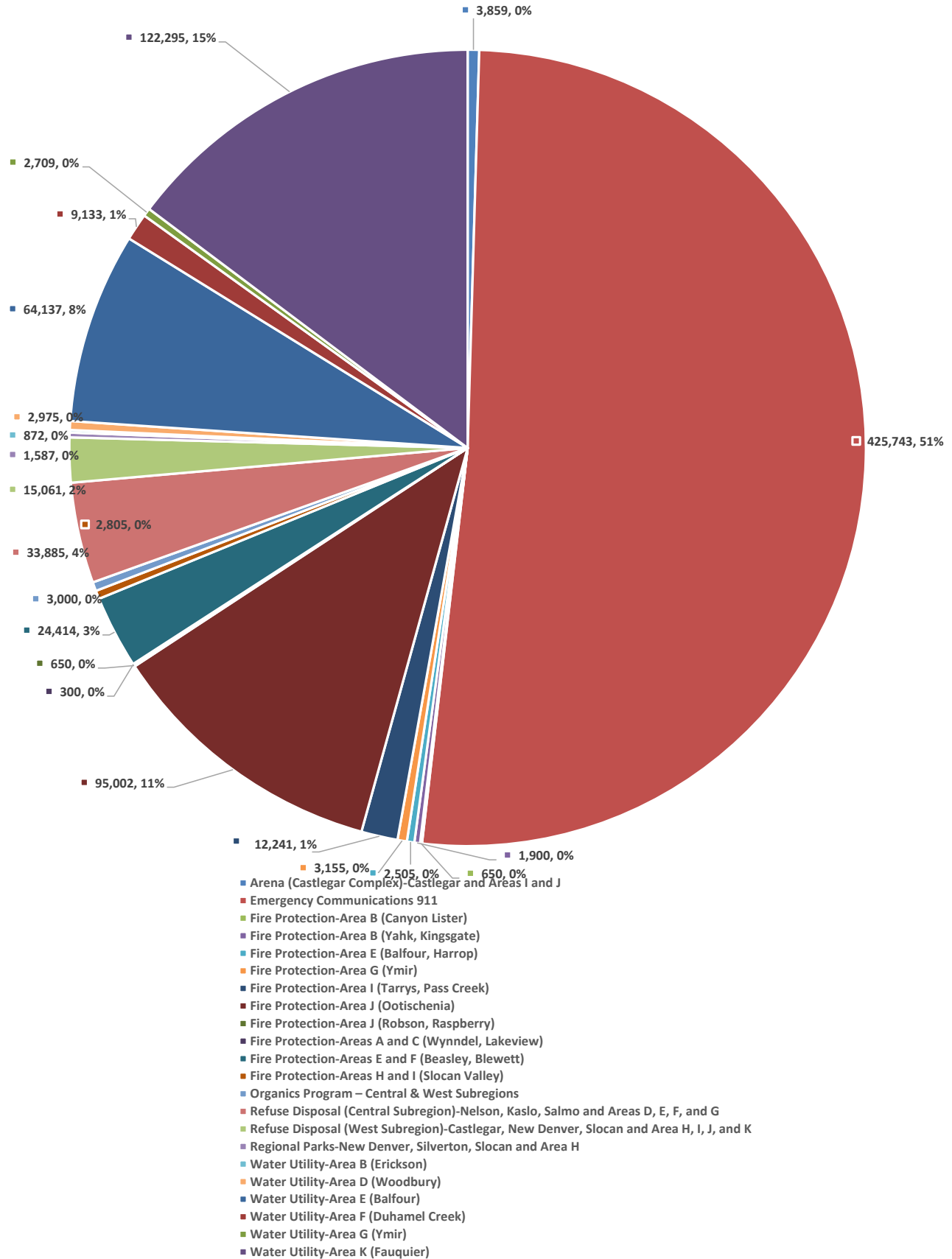


- Balfour Fire Department
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Community Development
- Community Services
- Discretionary
- Financial Service
- RDCK
- Resident Directed Initiatives

December 2023 Capital VS Operating Expenditures



December 2023 Capital by Service





Board Report

Date of Report: December 22, 2023
Date & Type of Meeting: January 18, 2024, Board Meeting
Author: Zachari Giacomazzo, Planner
Subject: BYLAW AMENDMENT
File: Z2210J – Pejski
Electoral Area/Municipality J

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the public hearing minutes for a proposed amendment to RDCK Zoning Bylaw No. 1675, 2004. The subject property is located at 5383 Allendale Crescent in Electoral Area 'J'.

The Zoning Bylaw Amendment requested by this application is to facilitate the development of a Kennel as an accessory use on a property where the Zoning Bylaw currently prohibits the use of a Kennel.

Following the Board approval of first and second reading to the amending bylaws on October 19, 2023, a public hearing was held on December 6, 2023.

Staff recommend that Amending Bylaw No. 2872, 2022 being a bylaw to amend Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Bylaw No. 1675, 2004 be given THIRD reading, as amended by content and that adoption be considered at the February 15, 2024 Board Meeting.

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Property Owner: Christopher Ronald Hallam and Tara Renee Pejski

Property Location: 5383 Allendale Crescent

Legal Description: LOT 3 DISTRICT LOTS 4599 AND 14972 KOOTENAY DISTRICT PLAN 11552 (PID 012-727-253)

Property Size: 2 hectares (5 acres)

Current Zoning: Rural Residential (R3) in RDCK Zoning Bylaw No. 1675, 2004

Current Official Community Plan Designation: Rural Residential (RR) in Kootenay-Columbia Rivers Official Community Plan No. 1157, 1996

SURROUNDING LAND USES

North: Rural Resource (R4) (Crown Land)

East: Rural Residential (R3)

South: Suburban Residential (R1)

West: Rural Residential (R3)

Background and Site Context

The subject property is located approximately 13 km west of the City of Castlegar in Electoral Area 'J'. The property is 2 hectares in size and was created by a subdivision application in 1978. The lot has been improved with a one-family dwelling and uses accessory to a residential use (detached garage, gazebo, chicken coop). The lot is surrounded by 2 hectare residential lots to the east and west, and a large tract of Crown Land to the north.

DVP No Longer Required

A Development Variance Permit (DVP) Application to reduce the minimum required setback for a kennel building from 30 metres to 7.5 metres was required when the applicants were originally proposing to rezone the property from R3 to R4. Now that the proposal is to rezone the property to a site specific R3 zone and the R3 zone does not contain a regulation that specifies a minimum setback for a kennel, a DVP application is no longer required. Staff are proposing a revision to the DRAFT Bylaw that was previously presented at the October RAC and Board meetings in order to incorporate the 7.5 metre kennel setback into the draft amending bylaw. The intention is that the applicants are bound to the setback that was originally considered.

Land Use Bylaw Amendment Proposed

The proposal is to permit a "Kennel" as an accessory use on the subject property. This use must be in place in order to have more than four adult dogs on a property. The application was originally submitted to rezone the property from R3 to R4, which would have had the effect of permitting a kennel as a principal use with no restrictions on the number of dogs. At that time, referral responses received from neighbours expressed concerns related to noise, overall disturbance and the fact that there was no limit on the number of dogs that could be kept on the property. A public information meeting was hosted by the applicant to solicit additional feedback and they have since revised the proposal to seek a site-specific R3 zone that will allow a kennel as an accessory use with a maximum of 9 dogs to be kept at the kennel at any one time.

1. Amendment to Zoning Bylaw Specific to this lot

Amend Zoning from "Rural Residential (R3)" to "Rural Residential (R3) site specific" in order to permit a Kennel with a maximum of 9 dogs as an accessory use and to permit a setback for a kennel structure to be 7.5 metres from the interior lot line for this lot only.



Figure 1 - Location map of the subject property

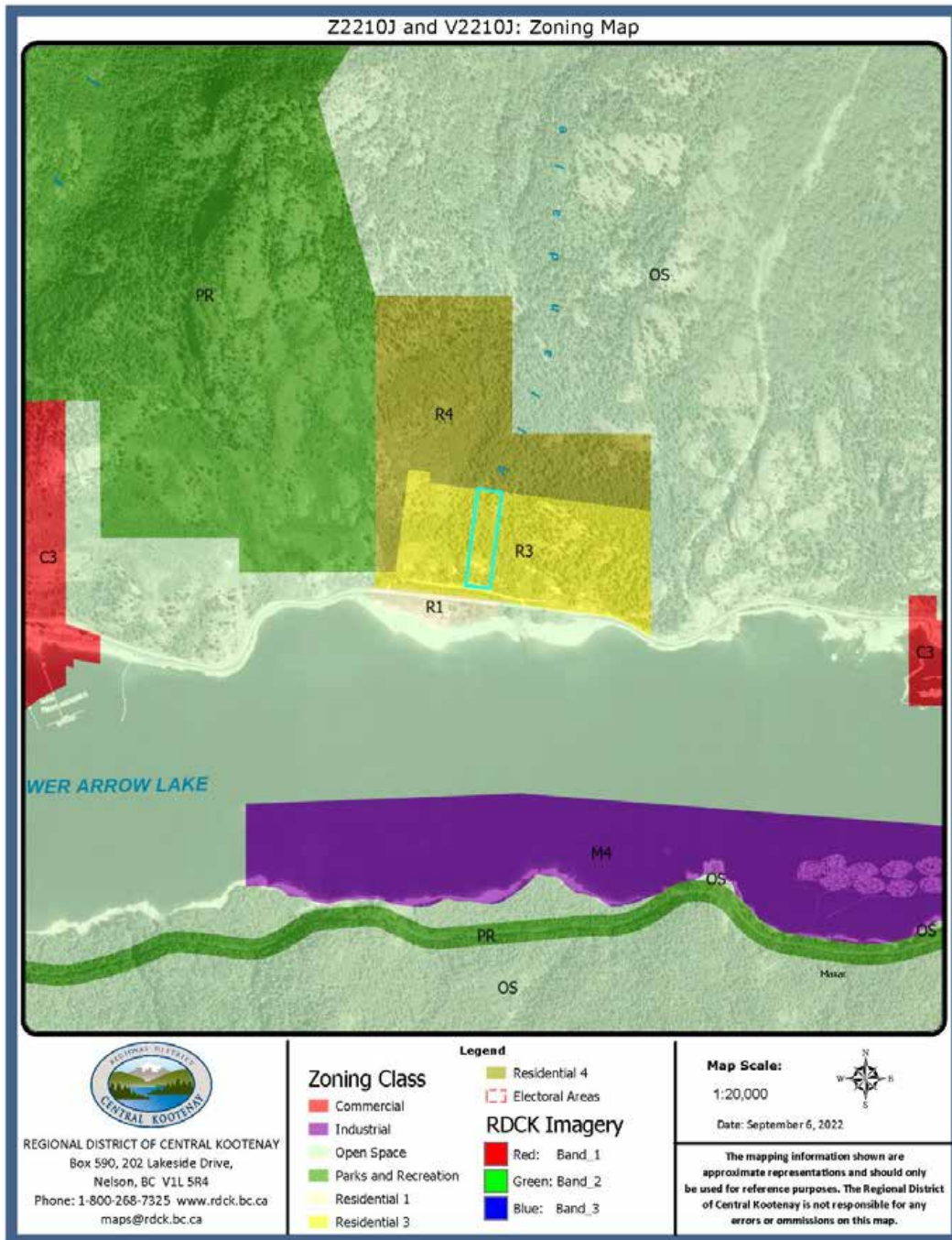


Figure 2 - Zoning map

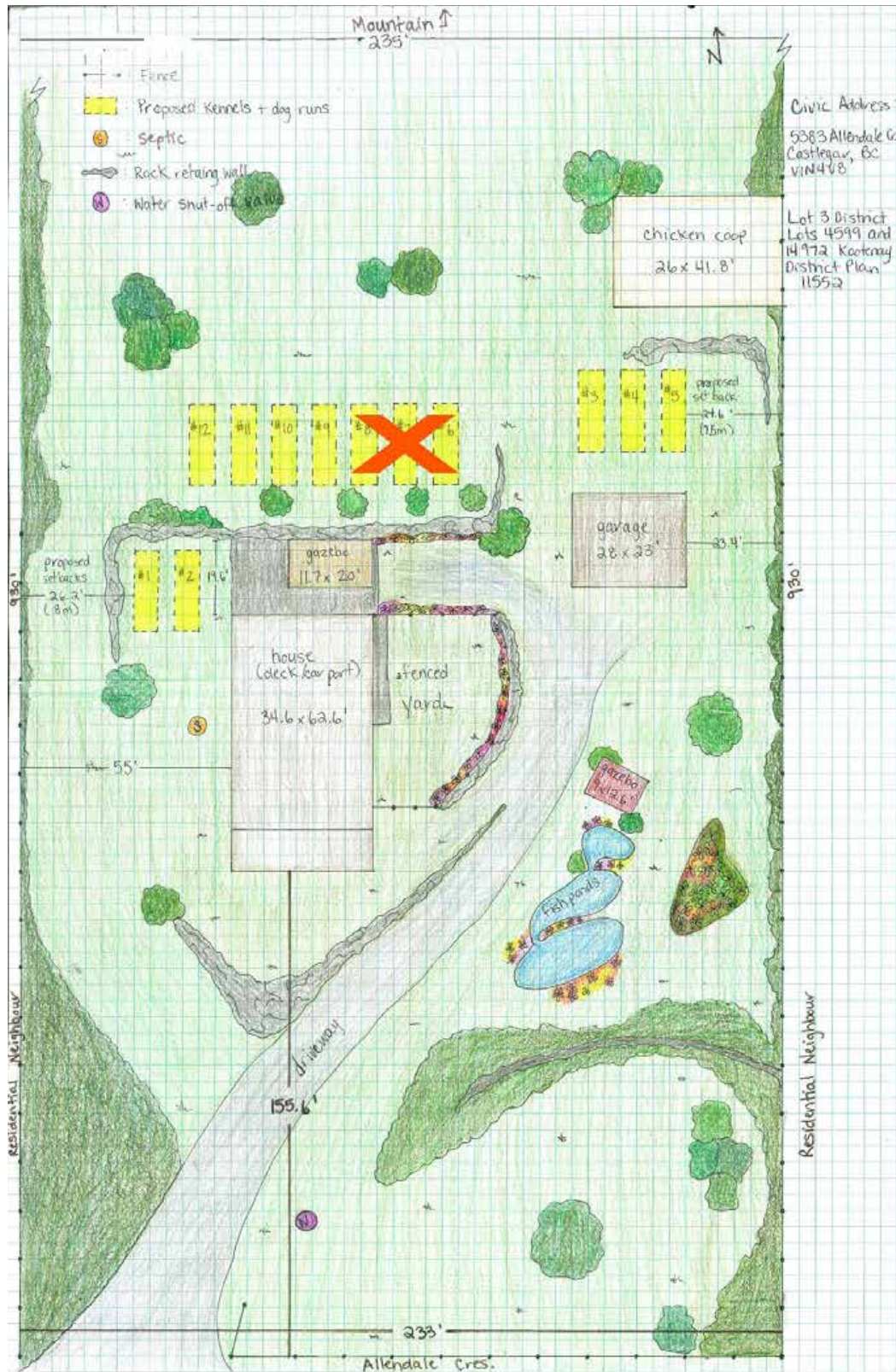


Figure 3 - Site Plan showing the location of the proposed kennel structures. Note that kennel structures #6-8 are no longer being propose.



Figure 4: Looking north to the proposed location of the first 3 kennel structures beyond the tree, adjacent to the rock retaining wall



Figure 5: Looking west to the proposed location of the first 3 kennel structures



Figure 6: Additional kennel structures may be located in the grassed area to the rear of the existing dwelling



Figure 7: Additional kennel structures may also be located in the foreground of the small red garden shed.

Planning Policy

Kootenay-Columbia Rivers Official Community Plan No. 1157, 1996

3.2.5 Rural Residential Policies (As shown on Schedule 'B' - Land Use Designations)

- 3.2.5.1 The principal use shall be residential or agricultural.
- 3.2.5.2 One dwelling unit shall be permitted per lot and one additional dwelling shall be permitted for every two (2) hectares of lot area over two (2) hectares.
- 3.2.5.3 The average lot size for subdivision of Rural Residential land shall be at least two (2) hectares.
- 3.2.5.4 Within this designation a number of different zones may be applied allowing differing levels of uses accessory to residential uses.
- 3.2.5.5 The clustering of development in either single detached or multi-residential dwellings subject to the maintenance of buffers on non-agricultural lands will be considered and encouraged by the Board of the Regional District.

SECTION 3: DETAILED ANALYSIS

3.1 Financial Considerations – Cost and Resource Allocations:

Included in Financial Plan: Yes No Financial Plan Amendment: Yes No
Debt Bylaw Required: Yes No Public/Gov't Approvals Required: Yes No

The application fee was paid in full pursuant to Planning Procedures and Fees Bylaw No. 2457, 2015.

3.2 Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws):

The proposal is for a kennel to be permitted as an accessory use. This means that it must remain secondary, incidental and accessory to the principal residential use. Only an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw is required as the OCP does not contain any policies or objectives related to Kennels.

3.3 Environmental Considerations

None anticipated.

3.4 Social Considerations:

A Notice of Public Hearing was mailed to a total of 15 households that included neighbouring residents and individuals who indicated they had an interest in the proposed zoning bylaw amendment. The Notice of Public Hearing was also advertised in the November 23rd and November 30th editions of the Castlegar News. Three (3) written submissions in opposition of the proposed amendment and 1 written submission in support of the application were received prior to the Public Hearing.

A written notice of the revised proposal was mailed to 14 neighbouring property owners on July 24, 2023. A total of seven (7) opposition letters were received. The written responses opposing the application have been included as Attachment "B". Seven (7) letters of support have been received and these responses are included as Attachment "C". The concerns raised by neighbours are mostly related to:

1. Noise from barking dogs
2. Disruption in quality of life
3. Disturbance of peace and tranquility

3.5 Economic Considerations:

The proposal to permit a kennel with a maximum of 9 dogs would make the business economically viable for the property owners.

3.6 Communication Considerations:

The application was sent to 14 neighbouring property owners, relevant government agencies and First Nations.

The following responses were received from government agencies and First Nations:

Ktunaxa National Council – Guardianship Referrals Administrator – Lands & Resources

The Ktunaxa has no concerns with this Bylaw.

Penticton Indian Band – Referrals Coordinator

The Penticton Indian Band issued their Conditional Approval of the application on September 28, 2023 subject to the following:

1. The proposed activity does not have deleterious lasting effect on the environment.
2. The proposed activity does not adversely impact syilx culture, resources, environment, or archaeology.
3. The PIB will continue to be meaningfully engaged.
4. The referrals fee of \$500.00 is paid.

RDCK Bylaw Enforcement Department – Bylaw Enforcement Officer

I have reviewed the proposal and the main concern would be the noise impact. As electoral area J is in the service area of the RDCK Noise Control Bylaw regulations, it is a concern even though noise mitigations measure may be used by the proponent. However, during the warmer and hotter months, ventilation is required for kenneled dog so it is anticipated noise (barking etc.) may not be sufficiently addressed.

The area in question is becoming increasingly populated, so this could increase the bylaw department's response to any noise complaints that may be received.

In closing, this is preliminary input and will require public/neighbor properties support as proposed.

Ministry of Forests – Archaeology Branch – Archaeology Information Administrator

If land-altering activities (e.g., home renovations, property redevelopment, landscaping, service installation) are planned on the subject property, a Provincial heritage permit is not required prior to commencement of those activities.

However, a Provincial heritage permit will be required if archaeological materials are exposed and/or impacted during land-altering activities. Unpermitted damage or alteration of a protected archaeological site is a contravention of the *Heritage Conservation Act* and requires that land-altering activities be halted until the contravention has been investigated and permit requirements have been established. This can result in significant project delays.

Therefore, the Archaeology Branch strongly recommends engaging an eligible consulting archaeologist prior to any land-altering activities. The archaeologist will review the proposed activities, verify archaeological records, and possibly conduct a walk-over and/or an archaeological impact assessment (AIA) of the project area to determine whether the proposed activities are likely to damage or alter any previously unidentified archaeological sites.

Please notify all individuals involved in land-altering activities (e.g., owners, developers, equipment operators) that if archaeological material is encountered during development, they **must stop all activities immediately** and contact the Archaeology Branch for direction at 250-953-3334.

Interior Health Authority – Team Leader, Health Community Development

An initial review has been completed and no health impacts associated with this proposal have been identified. As such, our interests are unaffected by this proposal.

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – District Technician

No concerns.

Electoral Area ‘J’ Advisory Planning and Heritage Commission (comments are from the approved minutes of August 2, 2023 meeting):

That the Area J Advisory Planning Commission SUPPORT the Zoning Bylaw Amendment to Tara Pejski for the property located at 5383 Allendale Crescent, Rural Castlegar and legally described as LOT 3 DISTRICT LOTS 4599 AND 14972 KOOTENAY DISTRICT PLAN 11552 (PID: 012-727-253) to rezone the property from Rural Residential (R3) to a site specific Rural Residential (R3) that will permit a Kennel with a maximum of 9 dogs.

That the Area J Advisory Planning Commission SUPPORT the Development Variance Permit to Tara Pejski for the property located at 5383 Allendale Crescent, Rural Castlegar and legally described as LOT 3 DISTRICT LOTS 4599 AND 14972 KOOTENAY DISTRICT PLAN 11552 (PID: 012-727-253) to permit a setback of 7.5 metres for a Kennel.

The following was discussed:

- *Commissioner expressed that main concern was and still is around neighbourhood / community and noise*
- *Applicant gave an overview of the application and explained what has changed since the initial application*
- *Applicant explains that there have not been any concerns or complaints from neighbours since the operations have been running with 2-3 dogs at a time*

FortisBC – Property Services

Land Rights Comments

- *There are no immediate concerns or requests for additional land rights, however there may be additional land rights requested stemming from changes to the existing FortisBC Electric (FBC(E)) services, if required.*

Operational & Design Comments

- *There are FortisBC Electric (FBC(E)) primary distribution facilities along Allendale Crescent*
- *All costs and land right requirements associated with changes to the existing servicing are the responsibility of the applicant.*
- *The applicant and/or property owner are responsible for maintaining safe limits of approach around all existing electrical facilities within and outside the property boundaries.*
- *For any changes to the existing service, the applicant must contact an FBC(E) designer as noted below for more details regarding design, servicing solutions, and land right requirements.*

BC Hydro – Property Coordinator

We have reviewed the application and we have no concerns with the proposed use.

3.7 Staffing/Departmental Workplace Considerations:

Should the Board choose to give the amending bylaw Third reading, adoption of the bylaw would then be considered at the February 15, 2024 Board Meeting.

3.8 Board Strategic Plan/Priorities Considerations:

Not applicable.

SECTION 4: OPTIONS

Planning Discussion

As noted earlier in this report, the purposed of the proposed bylaw amendment is to add a kennel with a maximum of 9 dogs as a permitted accessory use on the subject property. The property is currently zoned Rural Residential (R3) and is 2 hectares (5 acres) in size. It is located in a Rural Area of Electoral Area 'J' and is adjacent to similarly sized lots on Allendale Crescent. There are a number of smaller residential lots south of Broadwater Road and adjacent to Arrow Lake.

The application being considered is:

Amendment to Zoning Bylaw Specific to this lot: Amend Zoning from “Rural Residential (R3)” to “Rural Residential (R3) site specific” in order to permit a Kennel with a maximum of 9 dogs as an accessory use and to permit a setback for a kennel structure to be 7.5 metres from the interior lot line for this lot only.

The proposed kennel would permit a maximum of 9 dogs at any one time and would only be permitted as an accessory use to the principal residential use. This means that the kennel business would need to remain secondary or incidental to the residential use, and the property could not be used principally for a commercial kennel.

Throughout the referral period and Public Hearing process concerns were raised by neighbours related to the size of the property and the proximity of the proposed Kennel use to surrounding residential uses. Neighbouring land owners have indicated that they have significant concerns related to the impact of noise and the overall disturbance that the proposed kennel will have in their rural area.

Despite the concerns that have been raised by some of the neighbours, staff support this proposal for the following reasons:

- The applicant has made an effort to consider the concerns and feedback from surrounding residents and have revised their proposal to limit the maximum number of dogs to nine (9).
- If the application proceeds as submitted, the kennel will only be permitted as an accessory use. This means that the principal use of the property must remain as residential and the kennel must be related to and incidental to the residential use of the property.
- Over a period of approximately 8 months the proponent has cared for up to 3 dogs at her home and has demonstrated that potential noise and the overall impact of the proposed use can be managed without disturbing surrounding landowners.
- The size of the property is consistent with the requirements for kennel uses as permitted in the Rural Resource (R4) zone.

Public Hearing

A public hearing was held on December 6, 2023. Members of the public attended as did the applicant, and this is noted in the DRAFT public hearing minutes attached to this report. Written submissions received are noted in those minutes and attached to this report as Attachment 'B'. There were no verbal submissions made at the public hearing. The majority of the comments and concerns that were discussed at the Public Hearing were related to:

- The noise impact generated by the proposed use.
- The overall disturbance that may be caused by introducing a Kennel with up to 9 dogs on the subject property.
- The impact of the proposed kennel on neighbours' peace, tranquility and enjoyment of the use of their property.
- The finality of the approval of the proposed bylaw amendment and lack of recourse to "reel back" this approval.

Option 1

That Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2872, 2022 being a bylaw to amend the Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Bylaw No. 1675, 2004 is hereby given THIRD reading, as amended by content.

That the consideration of adoption BE REFERRED for Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2872, 2022 to the February 15, 2024 Board Meeting.

Option 2

That further consideration of Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2872, 2022 being a bylaw to amend the Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Bylaw No. 1675, 2004 BE REFERRED to the February 15, 2024 Board Meeting.

Option 3

That no further action be taken with respect to Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2872, 2022 being a bylaw to amend the Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Bylaw No. 1675, 2004.

SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

That Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2872, 2022 being a bylaw to amend the Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Bylaw No. 1675, 2004 is hereby given THIRD reading, as amended by content.

That the consideration of adoption BE REFERRED for Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2872, 2022 to the February 15, 2024 Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Zachari Giacomazzo, Planner

CONCURRENCE

Planning Manager – Nelson Wight

Approved

Manager of Development and Community Sustainability – Sangita Sudan

Approved

Chief Administrative Officer – Stuart Horn

Approved

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Amendment Bylaw No. 2872, 2022

Attachment B – Public Hearing Submissions

Attachment C – DRAFT Public Hearing Minutes (December 6, 2023)

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

Bylaw No. 2872, 2022

A Bylaw to amend RDCK Zoning Bylaw No. 1675, 2004

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient to amend the RDCK Zoning Bylaw No. 1675, 2004, and amendments thereto.

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, in open meeting assembled, HEREBY ENACTS as follows:

APPLICATION

1. That Schedule 'A' of Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Bylaw No. 1675, 2004 be amended by changing the Zoning Designation of LOT 3 DISTRICT LOTS 4599 AND 14972 KOOTENAY DISTRICT PLAN 11552 (PID 012-727-253) from Rural Residential (R3) to Rural Residential (R3) Site Specific as shown on Schedule 'A' which is attached hereto and forms part of this bylaw:

A. Division 1500, Rural Residential (R3) Permitted Uses by ADDING the following:

Site Specific – LOT 3 DISTRICT LOTS 4599 AND 14972 KOOTENAY DISTRICT PLAN 11552 (PID 012-727-253)

- Accessory Uses:
o Kennel

SUBJECT TO:

- 1. The kennel being limited to a maximum of nine (9) dogs, AND;
2. Kennel structures being a minimum of 7.5 metres from interior lot lines.

2. This Bylaw shall come into force and effect upon its adoption.

CITATION

3. This Bylaw may be cited as "Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2872, 2022."

READ A FIRST TIME this 18th day of October, 2023.

READ A SECOND TIME this 18th day of October, 2023.

WHEREAS A PUBLIC HEARING was held this 6th day of December , 2023.

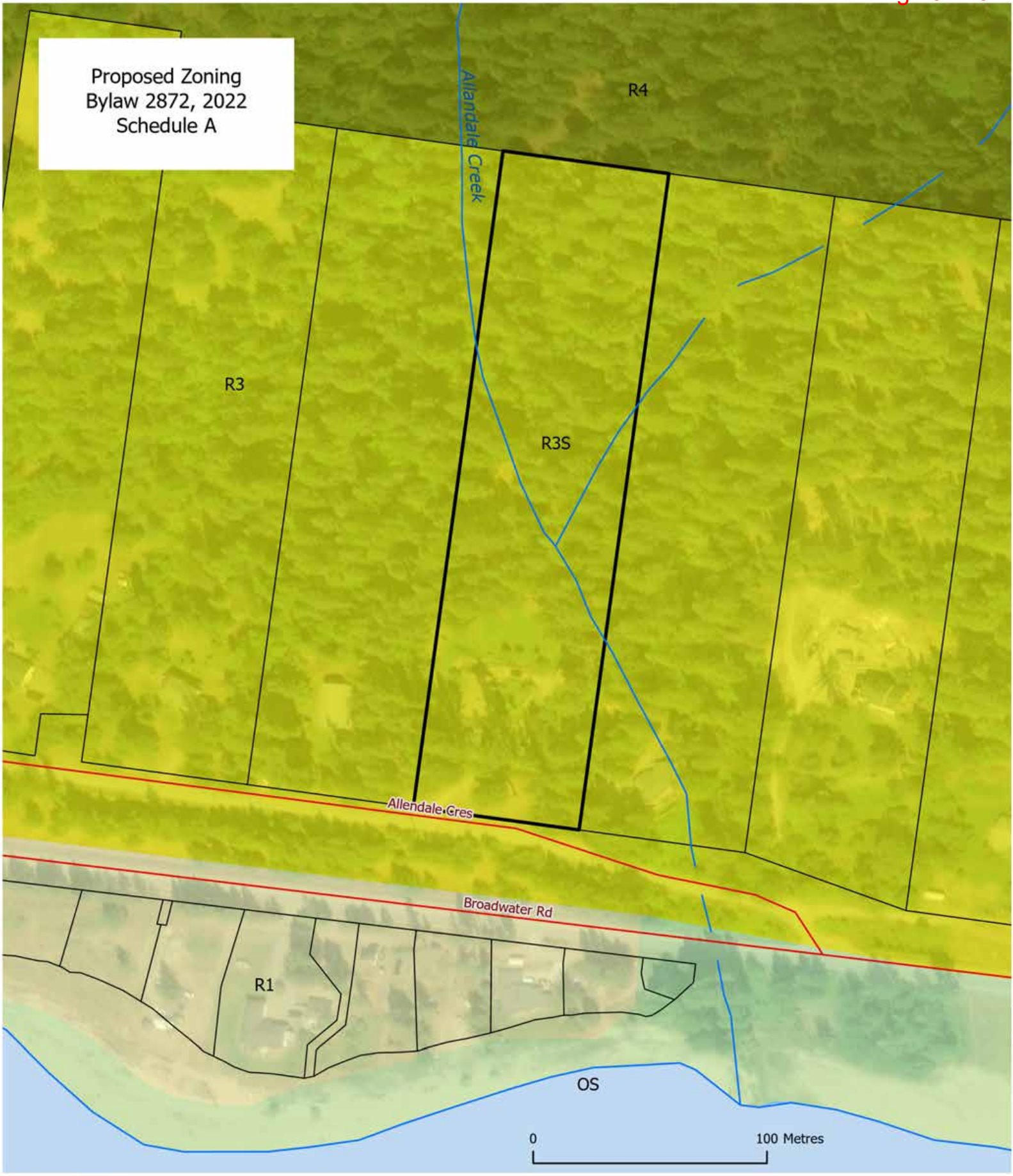
READ A THIRD TIME this [Date] day of [Month] , 20XX.

ADOPTED this [Date] day of [Month] , 20XX.

[Name of Board Chair], Board Chair

[Name of CO], Corporate Officer

Proposed Zoning
Bylaw 2872, 2022
Schedule A



- Subject Property
- Lot Lines
- Road
- Stream

- Zoning Class**
- Open Space
 - Residential 1
 - Residential 3
 - Residential 4

186

Scale: 1:2,069
 PCS: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
 Date: 9/22/2023
 The mapping information shown are approximate representations and should only be used for reference purposes.

Regional District Central Kootenay
Att. Zachari Giacomazzo
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive
Nelson, BC V1L 5R4

Castlegar November 30.2023

File Z2210J

To whom it may concern

We are writing to you with our objection towards the rezoning application for files Z2210J applicant Tara Pejski,.

We the family at 5375 Allendale Crescent are the direct neighbours to Tara Pejski and are strongly against the proposal to add a dog kennel to our quiet and rural neighbourhood.

One of the reasons we moved to Allendale Crescent 17 years ago was due to the peacefulness the neighbourhood entails. Due to the location of our home and the mountainside acoustics the noise that would come from a proposed dog kennel would significantly disrupt the quietness of the neighbourhood and our daily lives.

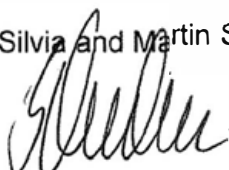
We have many wild animals within our neighbourhood which would easily trigger dogs and cause excessive noise throughout both the day and night especially for dogs who are in an unfamiliar environment.

As well, the traffic and noise associated with the dogs being picked up and dropped off on our small neighbourhood street.

We would ask you to please consider the excessive noise and disruption this proposed kennel would instill onto our quiet and peaceful neighbourhood. Please feel free to contact us if you need further clarification and please keep us updated on any public consultation meetings or important information regarding this proposed development.

Kind Regards,

Silvia and Martin Scheulin



From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: File: Z2210J and V2210J Tara Pejski
Date: November 8, 2023 4:32:24 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-ltqzsmn.png](#)
[Outlook-b1f5pvre.png](#)

CAUTION This email originated from outside the organization. Please proceed only if you trust the sender.

Hi Zachary

I'm very concerned and confused about your reply to Jeremy Lodge regarding the Pajeski case.

We have not been contacted about this.

We feel that the situation has not been handled appropriately at this point.

How is it possible that the case received reading and approval without the input from all of the affected parties

I and all the affected parties strongly disagree with the operation of a dog kennel in our area and I am quite sure all of the previous submissions stand .

Regards

Brian Allarie [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Did you like our service? [Please rate us on Google.](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 2:16 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: File: Z2210J and V2210J Tara Pejski

I am not sure to be honest.

I don't know how they could approve this with all of our letters. That is classified as a public hearing in my opinion if everyone submitted their letters.

Thanks

On Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 1:59 PM Brian Allarie [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Jeremy

Do we need to resend all the emails that we have previously sent?

Brian

Brian Allarie | [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
 To: [REDACTED]
 Subject: File: Z2210J and V2210J Tara Pejski
 Date: August 3, 2023 1:43:15 PM

CAUTION This email originated from outside the organization. Please proceed only if you trust the sender.

Good afternoon Zachari,

My name is Jeremy Lodge and I own the property located at 5386 Broadwater rd. Zachari, I would like to thank you for keeping myself and neighbours up to date on the application as well as Tara for inviting us all over to discuss her business plan and the communities concern. I understand the change in the application to have a site variance to allow for a maximum of 9 dogs within 7.5meters of a setback. For the time that I have been out at my property, I did witness dogs barking and the echo through the valley and water was extremely noticeable. I purchased my property due to the natural beauty, ruralness, and zoning requirements. This email is to comment on my **Disapproval of this Re-Zoning and Variance**.

The reasons for my disapproval are as follows

- The location of the property is not appropriate for this type of business, hence why it is currently zoned Rural Residential R3.
- The property is too narrow for this business and will disrupt the quality of life of their neighbours with the 30 meter distance from the neighbours
- The property is too narrow for this business and will disrupt the quality of life of their neighbours with the variance to 7.5 meters from their property line.
- The property is not large enough to facilitate this type of business;
- Rural Residential Zone R3 properties are not to be used for dog kennels. People bought their properties expecting this quality of life.
- Disruption in quality of life
- Potential Stress

Allowing a dog kennel at 5383 Allendale would be disruptive in multiple aspects. Firstly, Tara Pejski's property (5383 Allendale) is located in a valley with mountains on both sides and a lake in the middle. This mountainous terrain allows sound waves to be "funneled" and therefore concentrated and intensified. The sound waves will travel extremely far distances when being located in such a valley as where I live. Additionally, dogs have a loud bark that is measured in decibels. A dog's bark can reach a decibel level of 115 db when in a kennel (Environmental Health and Safety, 2013 and Malone, 2022). A dog's bark can be louder than a factory due to its decibel rating (Odd news, 2004) . On a side note, British Columbia's Occupational Health and Safety requires hearing protection for any workers exposed to noise over 85 decibels. This shows how loud a dog's bark can be. As you could imagine, the multiple dogs barking up to 115 decibels while being located in a mountainous valley with a lake that carries the sound to extreme distances would be disruptive to myself, my neighbours and our quality of life. I work shift work that includes working between day shift/night shift and this would put a lot of stress on myself that could potentially put me at risk while working due to lack of sleep.

There are multiple bylaws and guidelines from other jurisdictions that discuss the minimum

setbacks and minimum sized lot to allow a dog kennel. Another good article describes how far a kennel must be from homes to resolve the noise impact that was written by Community & Environmental Defense Services. Here is a quote from their website. "Noise declines an average of six decibels for every doubling of distance. If the noise level is 100 dB at a distance of 50 feet from an outside dog run, then the level from an outside run with no noise abatement measures would be 81 dB at the outside of a home 400 feet away and 74 dB at 1,000 feet.". As you can tell, there have been multiple studies completed and this would have a direct impact on all neighbours.

For instance, the Niagara Escarpment Commission - Dog Kennel Guidelines says "A dog kennel shall not be established on any property that has less than a minimum lot size of 10.0 hectares (25.0 acres). as well as "A minimum setback distance of 150 m (492 ft) is required from all kennel- related facilities (including any outdoor runs or other areas to be used by the dogs) to the nearest dwelling located on a separate lot (<https://escarpment.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Dog-Kennel-Guidelines.pdf>). These articles, bylaws, and guidelines all indicate that a minimum of 400-500 feet is required from an adjacent lot to reduce the impact of noise to their neighbours.

I invite you to come to my property during the day and the night to test the decibel rating of a dog at 115 db and to hear how far the sound travels.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Jeremy Lodge

Resources:

Community & Environmental Defense Services. Dog Kennel's & Other K-9 Facilities.
<https://ceds.org/kennels/>

Environmental Health and Safety (2013) Inside a kennel: Chorus of barking dogs can reach 115 decibels
<https://www.ishn.com/articles/95001-inside-a-kennel-chorus-of-barking-dogs-can-reach-115-decibels>

Odd news (2004) Dog barks can be louder than a factory
https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2004/03/21/Dog-barks-can-be-louder-than-a-factory/32851079887846/

Malone Maureen (2022) Decibel Level of a Barking Dog
<https://www.cuteness.com/blog/content/decibel-level-of-a-barking-dog>

Zachari Giacomazzo

From: Elroy Switlishoff [REDACTED]
Sent: August 7, 2023 4:37 PM
To: Zachari Giacomazzo
Subject: RE: RDCK Files Z2210J and V2210J

CAUTION

This email originated from outside the organization. Please proceed only if you trust the sender.

Hi Zachari,

I received a letter the other day regarding the files referenced above with notice that the applicant submitted a revised application seeking a site-specific rezoning to allow a kennel with up to nine dogs, and a reduction in the setback from 30 meters to 7.5 meters. I am opposed to the site-specific rezoning request.

My children were visiting earlier this summer and staying in a tent on my property. They complained they were woken up by barking dogs at around 6:30-7 AM, and the barking appeared to be coming from the other side of Broadwater Road. The applicant's property is on the other side of Broadwater Road from mine.

I note also that several households in the surrounding area have dogs. I have observed that when dogs hear other dogs barking, especially unfamiliar dogs, they tend to bark in return. Of course, most responsible dog owners discourage their dogs from barking needlessly, but this may not be the case for dogs being lodged in a kennel. The likelihood of a chorus of barking dogs would increase dramatically with a kennel of nine random dogs, unfamiliar with each other, or with the other dogs in the neighbourhood.

Finally, I have observed a large number of people enjoying the beaches to the east ("Sandy Beach") and west of my property. It is quite common on sunny weekend in July and August to see 20, 30 and even 40 cars parked alongside Broadwater Road to get access to these beaches. These beaches have no official designation nor patrols or posted rules of any kind. As a result, these beaches attract dog owners that allow their dogs to run off leash. This is not good conduct, but with no posted rules or enforcement, there is nothing to prevent this conduct. Again, I have observed that barking dogs attract other dogs, and with the number of beach-goers' dogs running off leash, it is only a matter of time that an unleashed dog attempts to cross Broadwater Road and gets hit by traffic, endangering both the dog and the public. The speed limit in this area of Broadwater Road is 80 km/h, and drivers would have no time to react to a dog darting across the road from in between the congested parking situation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Elroy Switlishoff

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] (phone & fax)
 [REDACTED] (cell)

From: Zachari Giacomazzo [mailto:ZGiacomazzo@rdck.bc.ca]

Sent: July 21, 2023 2:03 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RDCK PlanningFile No.Z2210J
Date: November 30, 2023 8:25:28 PM

CAUTION This email originated from outside the organization. Please proceed only if you trust the sender.

Dear Mr. Giacomazzo, Planner RDCK

My name is Rosemary Enefer, and I am writing to express my full support for Tara Pejski's proposal for a nine-dog kennel at 5383 Allendale Crescent.

As a neighbour sharing a property line with Tara that the current kennels are located beside, I feel compelled to share my positive experiences with the current kennels. Despite their presence, there has been no increase in noise, and I am confident that the proposed expansion will maintain the peaceful atmosphere of our neighbourhood.

Our community is already pet-friendly, with five out of eight homes on Allendale Crescent having dogs, and some residents even keeping chickens. Various sounds, such as barking dogs, crowing roosters, and children's laughter, contribute to our neighbourhood charm. Tara's current kennel has seamlessly blended into this soundscape.

Tara Pejski is not only a responsible neighbour but also a kind and considerate individual. She has consistently kept me informed about her plans, actively seeking input from the neighbourhood, and addressing all questions and concerns. Tara's open communication and willingness to adapt her plans in response to community feedback demonstrates her commitment to maintaining positive relationships with her neighbors.

As the longest-standing resident in this neighbourhood, I have seen many changes, including the development of beachfront homes that have notably increased noise levels. Interestingly, no one sought our opinion on these changes. In contrast, Tara's proposal for a well-maintained kennel run by a responsible family represents a small change, and I believe that such a change would positively impact our community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support Tara Pejski's nine-dog kennel proposal and appreciate the opportunity to express my views on this matter.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Enefer
[REDACTED]



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REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 2872

A Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 2872, a proposed amendment to Zoning *Bylaw No. 1675, 2004*, was held on Wednesday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m. in-person and remotely via Webex (Hybrid Model) in Castlegar, BC. The Hearing commenced at 6:00 p.m. There were 5 members of the public in attendance including the applicants (2).

PRESENT

Henny Hanegraaf
Zachari Giacomazzo
Laura Christie

Chair of Public Hearing
Planner
Public Hearing Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Director Hanegraaf called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Director Hanegraaf introduced herself and the RDCK staff to the public.

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSAL

Zachari Giacomazzo gave an overview of the proposal.

PRESENTATION BY APPLICANT

The applicant made a presentation of the proposal.

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

The public asked questions which were answered by the Chair, Zachari Giacomazzo and the applicant.

Questions and concerns are summarized as follows:

Q: Concerned to hear that there is interest in the kennel service. Neighbour stated that 9 dogs is significantly more than the 3 dogs kenneled in the trial period. Stated that his visiting adult children

<p>were woken up by barking dogs across the road. Concerned that an increase from 3 to 9 would create a noise issue.</p> <p>What is the process to 'reel back' the number if there are issues? Concerned that once the application is approved that there is an onerous process to roll it back. Concerned that the onus of the situation (if there is one) is put on the neighbours if the kennel is an issue to neighbours. Agrees that the service is needed in the area but the area is not suitable, as noted by the original zoning.</p> <p>What is the process if neighbours want to reverse this decision?</p>
<p>A: The actions that neighbours could take would be limited to submitting complaints to the RDCK Bylaw enforcement department. Neighbours are not allowed to rezone a property that they do not own. It is always the property owners decision to rezone their property, their consent is needed if a rezoning application is submitted. There is no specific process if the neighbours wanted to reverse zoning bylaw amendment.</p>
<p>Supplemental Response: This disadvantages neighbouring residents and their quality of life.</p>
<p>Q: Would like to echo what the other guest said. Concern is noise and property values. Property wasn't zoned for this and he doesn't want to go down this path. Concern that the only recourse for this is noise complaint. If noise is an ongoing issue, would fines be used?</p>
<p>A: The bylaw department can issue fines if there are many complaints.</p>
<p>Q: Stated that he has other concerns that are outlined in his previously submitted letter. Resident is concerned about proximity of the proposed kennels to 'Sandy Beach'.</p>
<p>A: How people are behaving at 'Sandy Beach' should not be a reflection of this application. Sandy Beach and the application have anything to do with each other.</p>
<p>Supplemental Comment: The uncontrolled dogs (at Sandy Beach) are a triggering mechanism for the dogs in the kennel. The interaction between dogs in the two places are related. Until the issues at Sandy Beach are resolved, it has an impact on this application. False perception to think that the two are not related. Not having vision that the two are related, is not considering the impact of this application.</p>
<p>Planner: Asks one of the neighbours in attendance if he would like his referral response letter included as a written formal submission for this Public Hearing.</p>
<p>Applicant's Response to Questions:</p> <p>Applicant noted that through the night and into the morning, the dogs are inside.</p> <p>Applicant stated that she does not take the dogs in her care to 'sandy beach'.</p> <p>Applicant (stated that it is the owner's responsibility to deal with their own dogs (in ref to Sandy Beach).</p> <p>Applicant states that they share the concerns about the barking dogs and don't want a property with unnecessary, uncontrolled noise.</p>
<p>Planner reminded attendees that no new information can be submitted after this meeting. Stated that this is a good time to make comments as this is the final opportunity for submissions.</p>
<p>Q: Have all of the directors have read the submissions?</p>
<p>A: The submissions were attached to staff report that was presented to the Rural Affairs Committee and the Board, however staff cannot confirm whether or not all of the directors have read them.</p>

The Director thanked the applicants and public in attendance.

FORMAL SUBMISSIONS FOR OR AGAINST PROPOSED BYLAW No. 2872

Written Formal Submissions received prior to the Public Hearing are attached and form part of these minutes:

Silvia & Martin Scheulin	<p>We are writing to you with our objection towards the rezoning application for files Z2210J applicant Tara Pejski.</p> <p>We the family at 5375 Allendale Crescent are the direct neighbours to Tara Pejski and are strongly against the proposal to add a dog kennel to our quiet and rural neighbourhood.</p> <p>One of the reasons we moved to Allendale Crescent 17 years ago was due to the peacefulness the neighbourhood entails. Due to the location of our home and the mountainside acoustics the noise that would come from a proposed dog kennel would significantly disrupt the quietness of the neighbourhood and our daily lives. We have many wild animals within our neighbourhood which would easily trigger dogs and cause excessive noise throughout both the day and night especially for dogs who are in an unfamiliar environment.</p> <p>As well, the traffic and noise associated with the dogs being picked up and dropped off on our small neighbourhood street.</p> <p>We would ask you to please consider the excessive noise and disruption this proposed kennel would instill onto our quiet and peaceful neighbourhood. Please feel free to contact us if you need further clarification and please keep us updated on any public consultation meetings or important information regarding this proposed development.</p>
Jeremy Lodge	<p>My name is Jeremy Lodge and I own the property located at 5386 Broadwater rd.</p> <p>Zachari, I would like to thank you for keeping myself and neighbours up to date on the application as well as Tara for inviting us all over to discuss her business plan and the communities concern.</p> <p>I understand the change in the application to have a site variance to allow for a maximum of 9 dogs within 7.5meters of a setback. For the time that I have been out at my property, I did witness dogs barking and the echo through the valley and water was extremely noticeable. I purchased my property due to the natural beauty, ruralness, and zoning requirements. This email is to comment on my <u>Disapproval of this Re-Zoning and Variance.</u></p> <p>The reasons for my disapproval are as follows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The location of the property is not appropriate for this type of business, hence why it is currently zoned Rural Residential R3. 2. The property is too narrow for this business and will disrupt the quality of life of their neighbours with the 30 meter distance from the neighbours 3. The property is too narrow for this business and will disrupt the quality of life of their neighbours with the variance to 7.5 meters from their property line.

4. The property is not large enough to facilitate this type of business;
5. Rural Residential Zone R3 properties are not to be used for dog kennels. People bought their properties expecting this quality of life.
6. Disruption in quality of life
7. Potential Stress

Allowing a dog kennel at 5383 Allendale would be disruptive in multiple aspects. Firstly, Tara Pejski's property (5383 Allendale) is located in a valley with mountains on both sides and a lake in the middle. This mountainous terrain allows sound waves to be "funneled" and therefore concentrated and intensified. The sound waves will travel extremely far distances when being located in such a valley as where I live. Additionally, dogs have a loud bark that is measured in decibels. A dog's bark can reach a decibel level of 115 db when in a kennel (Environmental Health and Safety, 2013 and Malone, 2022). A dog's bark can be louder than a factory due to its decibel rating (Odd news, 2004) . On a side note, British Columbia's Occupational Health and Safety requires hearing protection for any workers exposed to noise over 85 decibels. This shows how loud a dog's bark can be. As you could imagine, the multiple dogs barking up to 115 decibels while being located in a mountainous valley with a lake that carries the sound to extreme distances would be disruptive to myself, my neighbours and our quality of life. I work shift work that includes working between day shift/night shift and this would put a lot of stress on myself that could potentially put me at risk while working due to lack of sleep.

There are multiple bylaws and guidelines from other jurisdictions that discuss the minimum setbacks and minimum sized lot to allow a dog kennel. Another good article describes how far a kennel must be from homes to resolve the noise impact that was written by Community & Environmental Defense Services. Here is a quote from their website. "Noise declines an average of six decibels for every doubling of distance. If the noise level is 100 dB at a distance of 50 feet from an outside dog run, then the level from an outside run with no noise abatement measures would be 81 dB at the outside of a home 400 feet away and 74 dB at 1,000 feet.". As you can tell, there have been multiple studies completed and this would have a direct impact on all neighbours.

For instance, the Niagara Escarpment Commission - Dog Kennel Guidelines says "A dog kennel shall not be established on any property that has less than a minimum lot size of 10.0 hectares (25.0 acres). as well as "A minimum setback distance of 150 m (492 ft) is required from all kennel-related facilities (including any outdoor runs or other areas to be used by the dogs) to the nearest dwelling located on a separate lot (<https://escarpment.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Dog-Kennel-Guidelines.pdf>). These articles, bylaws, and guidelines all indicate that a

	<p>minimum of 400-500 feet is required from an adjacent lot to reduce the impact of noise to their neighbours.</p> <p>I invite you to come to my property during the day and the night to test the decibel rating of a dog at 115 db and to hear how far the sound travels.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Elroy Switlishoff</p>	<p>I received a letter the other day regarding the files referenced above with notice that the applicant submitted a revised application seeking a site-specific rezoning to allow a kennel with up to nine dogs, and a reduction in the setback from 30 meters to 7.5 meters. I am opposed to the site-specific rezoning request.</p> <p>My children were visiting earlier this summer and staying in a tent on my property. They complained they were woken up by barking dogs at around 6:30-7 AM, and the barking appeared to be coming from the other side of Broadwater Road. The applicant's property is on the other side of Broadwater Road from mine.</p> <p>I note also that several households in the surrounding area have dogs. I have observed that when dogs hear other dogs barking, especially unfamiliar dogs, they tend to bark in return. Of course, most responsible dog owners discourage their dogs from barking needlessly, but this may not be the case for dogs being lodged in a kennel. The likelihood of a chorus of barking dogs would increase dramatically with a kennel of nine random dogs, unfamiliar with each other, or with the other dogs in the neighbourhood.</p> <p>Finally, I have observed a large number of people enjoying the beaches to the east ("Sandy Beach") and west of my property. It is quite common on sunny weekend in July and August to see 20, 30 and even 40 cars parked alongside Broadwater Road to get access to these beaches. These beaches have no official designation nor patrols or posted rules of any kind. As a result, these beaches attract dog owners that allow their dogs to run off leash. This is not good conduct, but with no posted rules or enforcement, there is nothing to prevent this conduct. Again, I have observed that barking dogs attract other dogs, and with the number of beach-goers' dogs running off leash, it is only a matter of time that an unleashed dog attempts to cross Broadwater Road and gets hit by traffic, endangering both the dog and the public. The speed limit in this area of Broadwater Road is 80 km/h, and drivers would have no time to react to a dog darting across the road from in between the congested parking situation.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>
<p>Brian Allarie</p>	<p>Hi Zachary</p> <p>I'm very concerned and confused about your reply to Jeremy Lodge regarding the Pajeski case. We have not been contacted about this. We feel that the situation has not been handled appropriately at this point.</p>

	<p>How is it possible that the case received reading and approval without the input from all of the affected parties? I and all the affected parties strongly disagree with the operation of a dog kennel in our area and I am quite sure all of the previous submissions stand .</p> <p>Regards</p>
Rosemary Enefer	<p>My name is Rosemary Enefer, and I am writing to express my full support for Tara Pejski's proposal for a nine-dog kennel at 5383 Allendale Crescent.</p> <p>As a neighbour sharing a property line with Tara that the current kennels are located beside, I feel compelled to share my positive experiences with the current kennels. Despite their presence, there has been no increase in noise, and I am confident that the proposed expansion will maintain the peaceful atmosphere of our neighbourhood.</p> <p>Our community is already pet-friendly, with five out of eight homes on Allendale Crescent having dogs, and some residents even keeping chickens. Various sounds, such as barking dogs, crowing roosters, and children's laughter, contribute to our neighbourhood charm. Tara's current kennel has seamlessly blended into this soundscape.</p> <p>Tara Pejski is not only a responsible neighbour but also a kind and considerate individual. She has consistently kept me informed about her plans, actively seeking input from the neighbourhood, and addressing all questions and concerns. Tara's open communication and willingness to adapt her plans in response to community feedback demonstrates her commitment to maintaining positive relationships with her neighbors.</p> <p>As the longest-standing resident in this neighbourhood, I have seen many changes, including the development of beachfront homes that have notably increased noise levels. Interestingly, no one sought our opinion on these changes. In contrast, Tara's proposal for a well-maintained kennel run by a responsible family represents a small change, and I believe that such a change would positively impact our community.</p> <p>In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support Tara Pejski's nine-dog kennel proposal and appreciate the opportunity to express my views on this matter.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my viewpoint.</p>

VERBAL and WRITTEN formal submissions received during the Public Hearing:

There were no formal submissions received during the Public Hearing.

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING

The hearing was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Henny Hanegraaf, Director
Electoral Area 'J'

Zachari Giacomazzo, Planner



Board Report

Date of Report: 12,20,2023
Date & Type of Meeting: 01,18,2024 Regular Open Board Meeting
Author: Nora Hannon, Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Senior Advisor
Subject: Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans Areas D E F and I
File: 14/7625
Electoral Area/Municipality: Areas D,E,F and I

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request Board approval of the updated Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans (CWRPs) for Electoral Areas D, E, F and I.

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans (CWRPs) provide communities with an in-depth analysis of the mitigation actions needed to improve their resiliency to wildfire. The updated CWRPs, previously known as Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) are required as a prerequisite for the 2024 UBCM Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Funding application.

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans (CWRP) assist local governments in identifying the risks of wildfire to their community as well as opportunities to reduce those risks. The purpose of a CWRP is to identify the wildfire risks within and surrounding a community, to describe the potential consequences if a wildfire was to impact the community, and to examine possible ways to reduce the wildfire risk.

It was identified for the 2023 UBCM CRI funding stream that the CWRPs for Electoral Areas D, E, F and I required updating, and conversion to the new provincial CWRP template.

CWRPs are an invaluable opportunity to proactively manage wildfire risk and increase community resilience to wildfire.

CWRPs are currently being developed at many jurisdictional and geographic scales, and are individually tailored to address the needs of different communities in response to their size, their capacity, and the unique threats that they face. Despite these differences, the goals of a CWRP remain the same and are founded in the seven FireSmart disciplines: Education, Legislation & Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-Training, Emergency Planning and Vegetation Management.

The contract for updating the plans was awarded to B.A. Blackwell & Associates Ltd. Blackwell is a consulting company who provides wildfire risk assessment and mitigation and prevention planning and implementation among many other services throughout the Province. Blackwell in partnership with Cathro Consulting Ltd. (Cathro) completed the majority of RDCKs past CWPPs in 2007-2008, 2016, and 2018-2019. The two companies partnered together to complete this update of the Area D, E, F and I plans.

Staff will be using the CRI allocation based funding to update additional electoral area CWPPs in 2024, and move these onto the CWRP template.

Next Steps

The spatial data collected during the CWRP updates will help inform landscape level fuel treatment planning, implementation, and funding. This data will support work initiated by the RDCK and by other agencies such as the BC Wildfire Service.

The recommendations in each CWRP support a broad range of initiatives from Fire Department interagency training, to FireSmart programs and wildfire related policy considerations for the RDCK Board.

Where applicable, and based on priority staff will review and implement recommendations or provide recommendations to the RDCK Board for approval.

SECTION 3: DETAILED ANALYSIS

3.1 Financial Considerations – Cost and Resource Allocations:

Included in Financial Plan:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Financial Plan Amendment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Debt Bylaw Required:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Public/Gov't Approvals Required:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

The funding for this project was provided through the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program.

3.2 Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws):

N/A

3.3 Environmental Considerations

These plans are intended to support ecosystem resiliency to wildfire.

3.4 Social Considerations:

These plans are intended to build community resiliency to wildfire

3.5 Economic Considerations:

By developing wildfire resiliency, communities will be better able facilitate business continuity in the event of wildfire.

3.6 Communication Considerations:

Development of these plans included stakeholder facilitation.

3.7 Staffing/Departmental Workplan Considerations:

This work was facilitated within the staff workplan.

3.8 Board Strategic Plan/Priorities Considerations:

Core Service Delivery

To adapt to our changing climate and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

SECTION 4: OPTIONS & PROS / CONS

Pros:

- By approving the CWRP Plans, the RDCK is able to proactively manage wildfire risk and increase community resilience to wildfire.
- By Approving the CWRP Plans the RDCK is eligible to apply for UBCM CRI funding for Electoral Areas D,E,F and I.

Cons:

- If not approved, the RDCK could not submit a 2024 application to UBCM’s Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Funding for Electoral Areas D,E,F and I.

SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board approve and adopt the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans for Electoral Areas D,E,F and I.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Hannon – Disaster Adaptation and Mitigation Senior Advisor

CONCURRENCE

Manager of Community Sustainability – Dan Séguin

Approved

CAO – Stuart Horn

Approved

GM Development and Community Sustainability – Sangita Sudan

Approved

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – CWRP Area D

Attachment B – CWRP Area E

Attachment C – CWRP Area F

Attachment D – CWRP Area I

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan



Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Area D

December 20, 2023

Submitted by:

B.A. Blackwell & Associates Ltd.
270 – 18 Gostick Place
North Vancouver, BC, V7M 3G3
Ph: 604-986-8346
Email: bablackwell@bablackwell.com



Submitted to:

Dan Seguin
Manager Community Sustainability
RDCK
Ph: 250-352-1530
Email: DSeguin@rdck.bc.ca



REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL SIGN AND SEAL

RPF PRINTED NAME	
Louis Orieux	RPF #5147
DATE SIGNED	
December 18, 2023	
I certify that the work described herein fulfills the standards expected of a member of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals and that I did personally supervise the work.	
Registered Professional Forester Signature and Seal	
	

Cover Photo: EA-D. Accessed from:
<https://listings.fairrealtykootenays.com/listing/Kaslo-BC/9487-Shutty-Bench-Road/2atxc>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank the following for their direct involvement with planning, reviewing, and contributing to Electoral Area D's Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP):

- Daniel Klein (BC Wildfire Service – Wildfire Prevention Officer)
- Garrett Fishlock (RDCK FireSmart Program Coordinator)
- Aimee Watson (RDCK Director for Area D)
- Nora Hannon (RDCK Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Senior Advisor)
- Dan Seguin (RDCK Manager Community Sustainability)

These individuals invested substantial time in meetings, answering questions, and reviewing and commenting on the contents of this Plan. While this list is incomplete, the authors would also like to thank the following individuals for their helpful information and guidance that they provided throughout the CWRP's development process: Jessie Lay (RDCK), the Lardeau Fire Prevention Association, the Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group, the Ainsworth Fire Prevention Society, the Woodbury FireSmart Committee, and the Lardeau Valley FireSmart and Resiliency Committee.

This report would not be possible without the Community Resiliency Investment Program and funding from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2023, B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. was retained by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) to assist Electoral Area D (EA-D) in developing a new Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP). A CWRP is both a localized risk assessment and an action plan to improve wildfire resiliency within EA-D's Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). This plan replaces the previous Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) completed for EA-D in 2016, accounting for changes that have occurred in the last seven years and taking advantage of the newest community wildfire planning framework in BC. The CWRP is founded on the application of the [seven FireSmart™ disciplines](#) (Education, Legislation and Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-training, Emergency Planning, and Vegetation Management).

EA-D has made full or partial progress with 13 of 34 of the 2016 CWPP recommendations. The recommendations addressed primarily related to delivering public FireSmart and wildfire education and prescribing and implementing proposed treatment units. As the Electoral Area's communities (and associated WUIs) are spread out over a significant distance along the western and eastern shores of northern Kootenay Lake and its many tributary creeks and rivers, southern Duncan Lake, lower Poplar Creek, and west of Kaslo along Highway 31A, community wildfire resiliency is strongly tied to the actions of the communities and their residents, the Provincial government, and the relevant stakeholders managing the timber harvest land base. Maintaining meetings of active Community FireSmart Resiliency Committees within EA-D, and developing new ones as other communities self-organize, will be essential to implementing this plan and achieving effective wildfire risk reduction throughout EA-D.

EA-D's WUI communities are all in a provincially defined Wildland Urban Interface polygon that has a Risk Class of "1", which reflects the highest wildfire risk rating. The Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis assigns a "High" or "Extreme" threat rating to much of the surrounding area. Fieldwork for this CWRP allowed for verified and updated fuel types and wildfire threat assessments to be combined with an office-based analysis to provide a local wildfire risk assessment for the communities. The local analysis determined that, for the assessable area, 43% of EA-D's eligible WUI is classified as a high or extreme fire behavior threat – mostly located on the middle and upper south or west facing slopes, largely reflecting steeper slopes on warmer and drier aspects with conifer-dominated fuel types. The analysis cannot be performed on private land, which covers approximately 30% of EA-D's WUI. This highlights the need to implement risk mitigation programs on private land if community resilience is to be achieved. Conditions on private land can often result in the fire hazard being much higher than in the forest adjacent if there is low compliance with FireSmart principles – which is an issue that was frequently observed through field work. It is important to recognize that in WUI fires, wildland fuels (trees, shrubs, branches, etc.) are not the only fuel available to the fire – houses and their exterior construction materials and landscaping vegetation, cars, barbeque propane tanks, and more (anything that is flammable or combustible) is available fuel.

Rural areas without fire services, or dependent upon small volunteer fire services, rely heavily on the coordination of local resources and the uptake of FireSmart initiatives to prepared for a wildfire event. It has been found that during extreme wildfire events, most home destruction has been a result of low-intensity surface fire flame exposures, usually ignited by flying embers (firebrands). Firebrands can be

transported long distances ahead of the wildfire (over two kilometres), across fire guards and fuel breaks, and accumulate in densities that can exceed 600 embers per square meter. Combustible materials found on the exterior of and surrounding homes (the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone) combine to provide fire pathways allowing spot surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames or smoldering fire into contact with structures.

Because ignitability of structures and landscaping vegetation is the main factor driving structure loss, the intensity and rate of spread of wildland fires beyond the community has not been found to necessarily correspond to loss potential. For example, FireSmart homes with low ignitability may survive high-intensity fires, whereas highly ignitable homes may be destroyed during lower intensity surface fire events. Increasing ignition resistance would reduce the number of homes simultaneously on fire; extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result in WUI fire disasters.¹ It is for this reason that the key to reducing WUI fire structure loss is to reduce structure ignitability. Mitigation responsibility must be centered on structure owners, with support from Local Government.

EA-D's WUI communities can be considered as largely intermix², with areas/neighbourhoods of interface.³ Wildfire poses a threat to the communities from either a human ignition (which can happen almost anywhere – forest trail, highway, backyard), or lightning ignition (most often, but not always, in the adjacent forests near high points of land), but also from a residential fire that then spreads into surrounding vegetation and landscaping. Because of the rural character, very remote or isolated location, and the observed low adherence to FireSmart residential vegetation management and exterior building materials for many structures within EA-D, an emphasis on FireSmart education and FireSmart residential risk reduction policies is made within this Plan. Risk communication, education on the range of available activities, and prioritization of activities should help homeowners to feel empowered to complete simple risk reduction activities on their property. Additional emphasis is placed upon the Provincial government and local timber harvest land base stakeholders to manage potentially hazardous fuel conditions within EA-D communities' WUIs – either through fuel treatments recommended as part of this plan, or by using appropriately targeted harvesting and slash management practices.

A total of 44 recommendation and action items are presented in Table 1 within this Executive Summary and are more thoroughly discussed in their appropriate sections within this Plan. Ultimately, the recommendation and action items within this Plan should be considered as a toolbox of options to help reduce the wildfire risk and consequence to communities with EA-D. RDCK and EA-D will have to further prioritize implementation based on resources, strengths, constraints, and availability of funding, and regularly update the prioritization and course of actions as variables change over time.

¹ Calkin, D., J. Cohen, M. Finney, M. Thompson. 2014. *How risk management can prevent future wildfire disasters in the wildland-urban interface*. Proc Natl Acad Sci U.S.A. Jan 14; 111(2): 746-751. Accessed online 1 June, 2016 at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3896199/>.

² Homes and structures are largely situated within the vegetated/forested landscape.

³ Homes and structures are largely situated adjacent to vegetated/forested landscapes surrounding the community/neighbourhood.

This Plan was developed concurrently with CWRPs for adjacent RDCK Electoral Areas E, F, I, and the Village of Kaslo. As such, there are synergies between these plans that should be utilized and capitalized upon, such as similar/matching recommendations, adjacent or adjoining proposed fuel treatment units, and overlapping fire department response areas. Two proposed treatment units (KAS-1 and KAS-2 are within both Kaslo's and EA-D's WUIs – these PTUs will be proposed within both CWRPs.

Table 1: Electoral Area D’s Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
<i>Education - Section 5.2</i>							
<i>Residents</i>							
1	High	Continue to apply for funding and employ an EA-D FireSmart Coordinator/Mitigation Specialist.	To provide a continuous, local FireSmart program, delivered by local professionals with local knowledge and connections, to their community. Having a FireSmart Coordinator provides a lead person with dedicated time to coordinate, manage, and implement the program, especially as it grows.	RDCK	2 years	EA-D has its own FireSmart program being managed by a local FireSmart Coordinator.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
2	High	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators should plan regular meetings to discuss their successes, failures, and learnings. Consider adding, or having specific meetings with, FireSmart Community Neighbourhood Champions.	So that they can continue to improve the RDCK’s FireSmart program and tailor it to their respective communities. Adding in Community Champions will allow them to further support their EA’s communities, as well as get FireSmart messaging and opportunities back into the communities faster.	FireSmart Coordinators (RDCK)	ASAP and ongoing	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators are meeting more than once a year.	CRI FCFS funding as part of FireSmart Coordinator salaries.
3	High	Continue to promote FireSmart to EA-D residents at community events, public spaces, and through workshops using FireSmart branded material and printed manuals (Home and Landscaping) and/or a FireSmart Canada Community Preparedness Day. Show a united front by having local government, fire department members, and FireSmart coordinators at events together as much as possible.	Observed adherence and uptake of FireSmart principles on private property and many homes/structures in EA-D is lacking. Landscaping (conifer hedges), firewood and combustible materials storage, and external building materials are the biggest issues. FireSmart BC resources help present a unified message. Print resources are popular and easy to distribute. FireSmart branded tents, banners, and t-shirts can be purchased with CRI FCFS funding. Community FireSmart groups can apply for \$500 to fund their FireSmart Canada Community Preparedness Day events.	EA-D FireSmart Coordinator (RDCK)	Annually	Quantity of resources distributed/number of times used at events.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
4	High	Update RDCK’s FireSmart webpage with the most recent FireSmart graphics and language. Provide links to the current fire danger rating, or better yet, have that posted on the front of this page (making sure to keep it updated during the fire season).	To continue to provide to most recent and up to date FireSmart information, language, and principles to residents (and visitors).	RDCK			CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
5	High	Continue the FireSmart social media campaign, with updated FireSmart graphics and language, through various RDCK/EA-D social media platforms (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).	To promote FireSmart information to residents (and visitors). Include links to graphics, videos, pdf information/pamphlet downloads, etc.	EA-D / RDCK			CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
6	High	Continue to promote FireSmart in EA-D schools using the FireSmart Education Kit and other resources.	Great success has been made through BC schools with FireSmart outreach. Engaging with the community's younger population may increase uptake with all residents.	RDCK / School District 8	Annually	One FireSmart lesson delivered each year (minimum).	CRI FCFS; e.g. FireSmart Magnetic Board for \$1,710.
7	High	Continue to promote free FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments and/or Home Partners Program assessments to residents.	FireSmart Home Ignition zone and Home Partners Program assessments introduce residents to FireSmart, its principles, fire and wildfire risks associated with their home and property, and how they can be mitigated. These assessments are primarily an educational exercise, and can be funded completely through CRI FCFS. They are a requirement to qualify for the FireSmart rebate program (see Section 5.7).	EA-D / RDCK	2 years	FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments are being completed within EA-D.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
8	Moderate	Consider door-to-door knocks in neighbourhoods that have communication constraints to discuss wildfire risk and FireSmart principles that they can apply to their home and property.	Although wildfire can affect all areas of EA-D's WUI, some communities are more at risk due to risks/constraints not associated to wildfire – such as no cell service and low community turnouts at public FireSmart events. Door to door knocks by Fire Chiefs, fire department personnel, and FireSmart Coordinators have been successful in other communities.	RDCK / Kaslo and Area Fire Department / FireSmart Coordinator	2 years	Visits to homes in these WUI neighbourhoods from local government/ FireSmart/ fire department members (with FireSmart information left at their door) have started.	In-house personnel time. CRI FCFS for FireSmart materials.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
9	Moderate	Increase public awareness of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.	Increasing awareness of wildfire risk also increases community resiliency through household emergency planning, and support for FireSmart.	EA-D / RDCK	1 year from CWRP completion	Awareness by residents - consider a survey.	Staff time to update website, and media posts. Newspaper ads ~\$300 each.
<i>Visitors</i>							
10	High	Lobby BC Parks to install FireSmart educational signage at all BC Park camp and recreation sites within EA-D, starting at Kokanee Creek. RDCK should follow suit for all regional parks.	These signs provide both visitors and residents a quick snapshot of how their actions and activities can inadvertently increase wildfire and ignition risks, as well as introduces visitors to FireSmart – a message they can take home with them.	EA-D / RDCK / BC Parks	5 years (signs installed)	Wildfire risk signs at the highest traffic parks have signs.	Sign cost ~\$800 for purchase and installation per sign.
<i>Legislation, Planning and Development - Section 5.3</i>							
11	High	Upon the roll-out of the new BC Building Code in 2024, RDCK should review and assess what FireSmart principles are included and compare them to the draft Wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs). Update the draft DPAs as required. Initiate a process to implement the wildfire DPAs, if still required, to manage for risks not addressed in the new Code.	FireSmart construction and landscaping policies manage for wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa). Over time, resiliency will be built up at the interface and intermix areas.	EA-D / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon BC Building Code roll out	All new development complies with the policy.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
12	High	Update references to “fire risk” Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw (e.g., sections 14.8, and 14.10) to include referencing the Local Wildfire Risk Analysis developed as part of this plan, as it more accurately reflects current fire risk for EA-D’s WUI than currently available provincial data.	EA-D should look to the most recent and accurate wildfire risk analysis for its WUI to be used to determine areas of Moderate and High wildfire threat for reducing wildfire threat through community planning and development purposes.	EA-D / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon next OCP review and update	OCP update that includes FireSmart construction/dev development policies for single home and lot development and major renovations.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
13	High	Consider adopting a Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw to restrict flammable landscaping. Example: prohibit conifer vegetation in the Immediate Zone of a residence or structure (0-1.5 m) and prohibit the planting of new conifer vegetation in Priority Zone 1 (1.5-10 m). Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout the Township, especially on more densely populated streets. This can be an effective communication tool regardless of enforcement capacity.	Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout EA-D, especially on more densely populated streets. Landscaping vegetation can act as a wick, moving fire to homes/structures and throughout communities.	EA-D / RDCK (Consultant)	5 years	A Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw is in effect.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
14	High	Encourage and support privately owned community halls that act as community shelters, and private or community owned critical infrastructure, to complete FireSmart assessments and the implementation of identified risk reduction measures.	Protecting emergency shelters and community infrastructure is critical to wildfire response and recovery.	EA-D / RDCK (Local FireSmart Representative, FireSmart Coordinator; and/or Consultant)	Ongoing	Number of assessments completed and mitigation hours/investment	CRI FCFS: up to \$800 per assessment.
Cross Training & Fire Department Resources - Section 5.4							
Training							
15	High	Continue to support 'train-the-trainer' programs so that required courses (e.g., S-231, WSPP-115) can continue to be delivered in-house to Kaslo and Area Fire Department members, as well as to community groups and the public.	To continue providing an opportunity to expand in-house wildland specific training, and potentially train adjacent fire departments or community groups.	RDCK / EA-D / Kaslo and Area Fire Department	3 years	Number of fire response personnel with wildland training beyond SPP-WFF1 increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS funding is available for training. Columbia Basin Trust funding.
16	High	Continue to support FireSmart specific training to The Kaslo and Area Fire Department and community groups. Examples include: FireSmart 101, Local FireSmart Representative (LFR), and FireSmart Home Partners Mitigation Specialists.	To continue building an understanding and knowledge of FireSmart principles within fire response personnel and the community. To certify fire response members so they can implement various FireSmart assessments within the community.	RDCK / EA-D / Kaslo and Area Fire Department	3 years	Number of fire response personnel with FireSmart training increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS funding is available for training.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
17	High	The Kaslo and Area Fire Department and community organized fire response groups should continue seeking out (and being supported by RDCK/EA-D in doing so) opportunities to perform wildfire response and structure protection drills - using hydrants, standpipes, and natural water sources, <i>with</i> BCWS.	Fast and effective deployment of available Structure Protection Units (there is one housed at the Kaslo and Area Fire Department Fire Hall) and any additional equipment that the Kaslo and Area Fire Department or community groups have will be crucial in any interface fire scenario. Equipment compatibilities and/or differences between those available and what equipment BCWS uses should be identified and addressed ahead of time.	RDCK / EA-D / Kaslo and Area Fire Department / fire response community groups	Annually	A Drill is performed with BCWS and the Kaslo and Area Fire Department annually. A Drill is performed with BCWS and one community group once annually.	CRI FCFS funding is available for training.
<i>Water</i>							
18	High	Identify and map natural and artificial water sources useable for fire suppression across the entire regional district. Having a digital map would allow it to be uploaded into response vehicles' CAD systems, shared with BCWS response personnel, as well as included in the pre-planning of emergency community water delivery systems connecting major natural water sources with interface communities, to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. Include important details such as: estimated water volume and access point notes. Share this information to all mutual aid fire response partners, and update over time.	Most firefighting service in EA-D requires water shuttling. Wildfire fighting response almost always relies upon local water sources. This impacts EA-D's wildfire resilience. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers to fill bladders can be pre-planned, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps, and piping.	RDCK GIS department/ Kaslo and Area Fire Department (to aid in identification for their service area)/ fire response community groups (BCWS)	5 years and ongoing	A fire suppression water source plan and map are produced and shared.	CRI FCFS Community Water Delivery Assessment funding available for incremental staff hours or contract cost.
19	High	In coordination with Recommendation #17, create opportunities for BCWS to work with independent water systems to identify assets. Assist those communities in retrofitting their systems to be compatible, if required.	Reducing barriers to BCWS for accessing water sources in the WUI increases opportunities to fight WUI fires.	RDCK / FireSmart Coordinator (BCWS)	Annually	Communities with self-managed water systems are meeting with BCWS	RDCK/EA-D, BCWS, and community time.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
20	Moderate	The Kaslo and Area Fire Department should seek (or continue to uphold, if accredited already) Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation from Fire Underwriters Survey.	This accreditation certifies that the fire department can supply enough water to have some areas without fire hydrants within a certain distance of their structures qualify as having a fire hydrant within 300m of it (this can also potentially lower insurance rates for property owners within the EA-D fire response areas). Note: this does not increase the overall water supply already available under automatic and mutual aid agreements.	Kaslo and Area Fire Department / RDCK	5 years	Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation achieved by the Kaslo and Area Fire Department.	Fire department staff time as required (and RDCK budget for equipment upgrades and purchases, if needed).
<i>Equipment & Staff</i>							
21	High	In coordination with Recommendations #17 and #19, the Kaslo and Area Fire Department and community organized fire response groups should continue (or begin, if not done already) annual inspections by BCWS of their wildland firefighting equipment. Any gaps should be addressed, as required.	To ensure proper equipment is available to respond to interface wildfire events, and that equipment is compatible with BCWS's. CRI FCFS funding is available for incremental equipment purchases.	Kaslo and Area Fire Department / Community Response Organizations (RDCK; BCWS)	Annually	Annual inspection of wildland firefighting equipment from BCWS; gaps filled as practicable.	Fire department and RDCK staff time; CRI FCFS equipment funding up to cost maximums.
<i>Interagency Cooperation - Section 5.5</i>							
22	High	Continue to engage with the established Lardeau Valley FireSmart Resiliency Committee (LVFRC) to plan, implement, and coordinate FireSmart initiatives, including fuel management treatments.	To provide a platform for information sharing. All parties have indicated a willingness for collaboration, which will allow for greater management of wildfire risk both within and surrounding EA-D's WUI.	EA-D FireSmart Coordinator / LVFRC / RDCK	Ongoing	LVFRC meeting takes place at least once annually.	At least 8 hours per meeting to prepare, participate and debrief. CRI FCFS up to \$2,000 per meeting.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
23	High	As other communities self-organize for FireSmart initiatives, and even take up the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (see Recommendation #43), RDCK and EA-D should look to support their inclusion in a Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC), or develop new ones as required.	To further community involvement in FireSmart and wildfire risk reduction activities at the community level.	RDCK / EA-D FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Additions to existing CFRCs are made, as required, or new ones are established, as needed.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
24	High	Work with RDCK, LVFRC, and MOF to develop a fuel treatment/fuel break tracking system to spatially manage proposed and completed fuel management areas both within EA-D's WUI and outside it at the regional level.	It is imperative that all land managers know what adjacent or overlapping jurisdictions have identified as fuel breaks, so that time and money is not wasted reassessing or re-prescribing an area.	EA-D FireSmart Coordinator / LVFRC / RDCK	As soon as possible	A regional GIS tracking system is established, or a provincial one is developed that all land managers can access.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
25	High	Lobby forest land licensee/managers (e.g., BC Timber Sales, Woodlots, Kaslo and District Community Forest) to be aware of where their tenure overlaps EA-D's WUI and to develop and implement (or continue implementing) forest planning, harvesting, slash management, and reforestation plans that reduce wildfire behaviour in these areas.	Cutblock placement can break up the forest continuity across the landscape – with proper slash and reforestation management, they can remain as areas of low wildfire behaviour for many years. However, if not managed properly, they can increase wildfire behaviour. EA-D/RDCK elected officials and community members are, and have been, active in this already.	RDCK / EA-D / MOF / Forest Licensees and Managers / Local Government elected officials/ Community members	Ongoing	Forest licensees/managers are aware of their tenure overlaps with the WUI and are actively working towards forest management plans to reduce wildfire behaviour in those areas.	RDCK/EA-D staff, elected officials, community members, and stakeholders time for discussions.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
26	High	Lobby and work with the electrical power providers in and influencing the community's WUI, and MOTI for Provincial highways, to regularly maintain their right-of-way's vegetation.	Transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions - trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways. Highways can also provide excellent fuel breaks if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. If not, they can act as wicks moving fire along them, or ignition sources for fires from burning cars, cigarette butts, etc. Additionally, highways are a main access/egress route during an emergency – these routes should be kept at as low risk of state as possible.	RDCK / EA-D / Local Government elected officials (MOTI; Electrical Providers)	Yearly and ongoing	Right-of-way maintenance discussions are open and ongoing; right-of-ways are kept in low-risk states.	RDCK/EA-D staff, elected officials, and stakeholders for discussions.
Emergency Planning - Section 5.6							
27	High	Continue tabletop wildfire scenario tabletop exercises with emergency management, LVFRC partners, and organized community groups (such as the Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group). Yearly, pre-fire season is best. Move the “WUI fire” to a different area of EA-D’s WUI each time.	Tabletop exercises provide an opportunity to identify weak spots in a plan and collaborate.	RDCK (LVFRC; RCMP; BCWS)	5 years	Knowledge of 'pinch points' in an evacuation scenario and understanding of roles and responsibilities.	CRI FCFS Emergency Planning: up to \$2,000 per meeting. Possibly CRI / CEPF / Columbia Basin Trust

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
28	High	Discuss with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) possible means supporting/enforcing that private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment.	Access by emergency responders to the WUI is paramount towards both defending communities from WUI fire events, but also for aiding in fuel treatment practicability. This constraint is recognized in EA-F's Rural Community Official Plan in section 18.3.8 which, "Encourages that private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment."	RDCK (MOF; BCWS; MOTI)	5 years	Access roads through private land to the interface forest have been identified. Discussions on going. Possible updates to EA-D's Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw as has been done in EA-F's OCP.	RDCK/EA-D time for planning and discussions. CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 with estimated incremental staff hours or contract cost.
29	High	RDCK and EA-D should continue to promote the Voyent Alert! System to residents and visitors.	Clear, consistent, concise, and quick communication during an emergency event and evacuation are integral to the prevention of loss of life. A lack of this was identified as an issue during recent WUI fire disasters, such as that in Lahaina, Maui, USA and Fort McMurray, Alberta.	RDCK (FireSmart Coordinator)	Ongoing	Continued update of the Voyent Alert! System (can track downloads from app providers).	RDCK for promotion.
30	High	Continue to support the grid stability program in place, allowing for invest in back-up generators for any critical infrastructure that does not have one. Encourage private businesses that provide critical services, like gas stations and grocery stores, to follow suit.	Back-up generators for pumphouses, treatment plants, and community buildings (especially those designated as emergency shelters) would facilitate both emergency response (water supply for suppression) and rapid community return and recovery following a fire.	RDCK / EA-D (Private Industry)	ASAP	A budget and purchase plan for back-up generators is implemented, starting with the most critical infrastructure.	Grid stability program currently funded.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
31	High	Initiate a roof-top sprinkler program for residential properties. Investigate bulk orders from wildfire protection or irrigation companies or commercial gutter-mount kits. Consider sprinkler kits as an incentive to communities/neighbourhoods for FireSmart participation. This can be directly led by RDCK, or RDCK can offer support to community organizations to assist doing so.	Pre-installed rooftop sprinklers reduce the time and resources needed to set up a structural protection system in a community threatened by wildfire. Sprinkler installation could be paired with a free FireSmart Assessment.	RDCK / EA-D	3 years and ongoing	Establish an efficient and effective system. Track the number and location of sprinklers purchased and installed annually.	Bulk sprinklers \$40 - \$100 each; gutter mount kits ~\$100-200 for one home
32	High	Schedule regular updates of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan: target every 5 years.	A current and acceptable CWRP is required for funding under the CRI FCFS program. Update the wildfire threat for areas with completed fuel treatments and identify additional areas for treatment.	RDCK / EA-D	5 years – 2028 update	EA-D always has a current and acceptable CWRP.	~\$32,000; CRI FCFS funding
33	Moderate	Pre-plan emergency community water delivery systems to connect major natural water sources with interface communities/neighbourhoods to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. This can be supported by Recommendation #18. The Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group has been working on this since 2023 (see Section 5.4).	RDCK has many large natural water bodies and streams/creeks to draw from in the event of a wildfire. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers to fill bladders may be planned in advance, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps and piping.	RDCK / EA-D (BCWS)	5 Years	Assess community water delivery for each neighbourhood. Develop and test neighbourhood specific plans.	CRI: Assessment of Community Water Delivery Ability - incremental staff hours or contract cost

Vegetation Management - Section 5.7

Fuel Management Treatments

34	High	Develop fuel management prescriptions for the identified Potential Fuel Treatment Units (PTUs), starting with those identified as High priority. Continue with treatment implementation when possible.	To reduce wildfire threat and risk to interface and intermix communities within the WUI. Also, to provide FireSmart vegetation management examples to the public that can be implemented on their own properties. See "Rationale" column in Table 24 for more detailed treatment rationales.	EA-D (MOF; BCWS; applicable forest licensees; LVFRC)	5 years	Approved FMP(s) for identified High priority areas.	CRI FCFS funding available for prescription and treatments; ~\$425/hectare for a ~20 ha prescription.
35	High	Lobby Provincial Government (Ministry of Forests) and other potential funding organizations for grant funds to implement landscape level fuel treatment on private land.	Much of EA-D's communities' structures are surrounded by undeveloped, forested private land. Current funding streams for fuel reduction at the landscape level are targeted, and thus limited, to public land. However, the interface wildland does not stop at the public/private land border.	Local Government (Provincial Government)	5 years	Discussions initiated and ongoing	Time and cost dependant upon level of engagement required.

Residential FireSmart

36	High	In conjunction with provided home FireSmart Assessments (see Recommendation #7), continue offering a local rebate program to property owners that have completed a FireSmart home assessment (Home Ignition Zone assessment or Home Partners Program Mitigation assessment). RDCK, EA-D, and FireSmart coordinators should advertise that the amount eligible for rebate has increased to \$5000 for the CRI FCFS 2024 application program.	FireSmart home assessments encourage action in the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone of a community. Offer a rebate program (funded through CRI FCFS) to residents who have a pre- and post-work FireSmart assessment conducted. Focus on removal of conifer hedges and upgrading exterior structure materials.	RDCK / EA-D (FireSmart Coordinator)	Annually	Number of properties participating annually.	50% of costs per property up to \$5,000, plus 2 hours administration time per property (CRI FCFS).
37	High	Continue providing regional district-led options for the disposal of yard waste. Currently, this includes having tipping fees waived (May and October) for yard waste at RDCK transfer stations.	Yard waste burning restrictions limit options for debris disposal. Free debris disposal may be used as an incentive to participate in other FireSmart activities, like assessments or workshops.	RDCK	Annual	Regional District funded yard waste disposal continues.	CRI FCFS funding is available for tipping fee coverage.

38	High	Consider implementing a community chipper program. Education of FireSmart yard and landscaping principles, including chipping specifications, should be incorporated into the program.	To reduce fire and wildfire hazards on private property within the WUI, especially those long distances from RDCK landfills/transfer stations, and to promote FireSmart vegetation management knowledge and education. The intent is for landscaping/yard vegetation to be included, not farm or agriculture vegetation. This could assist with more uptake of residential FireSmart landscaping principles as the disposal method is brought to the resident, especially for those older and less mobile.	RDCK / EA-D	Annual (pre-fire season is best)	Number of properties who elect to have debris disposed.	CRI FCFS funding; ~\$100-150 per chipper crew hour.
39	Moderate	Consider releasing an annual RDCK FireSmart report to the public that tracks community-specific uptake in various FireSmart initiatives, as well as tracks fuel management at all scales.	As the program grows, reporting allows the RDCK FireSmart program to track challenges and successes, further promote the program, and tailor outreach methods to achieve the most uptake.	RDCK (FireSmart Coordinators)	Annual	An annual report is published.	Eligible for CRI funding – FireSmart staff time. Estimate 40-80 hours.
40	Moderate	Engage with local garden centers to implement the FireSmart BC Plant [Tagging] Program.	FireSmart BC introduced a plant tagging program in 2021 that has been implemented with great success by over 34 nurseries and garden centres to date. The Plant Program is an easy way to provide information at the point of purchase for homeowners and landscapers. See: https://firesmartbc.ca/landscaping-hub/plant-program/	Local Garden Centres (RDCK; EA-D; FireSmart Coordinator)	5 years	Local garden centres have been notified of the program.	Staff time for engagement (2-4 hours per garden centre).
<i>Community and Critical Infrastructure FireSmart</i>							
41	High	Support the implementation of recommended vegetation management recommendations from FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone Assessments (see Recommendation #14), when completed, on a priority basis.	To reduce fire behavior and risks to critical infrastructure most important to fire and wildfire fighting and post-wildfire recovery.	RDCK / EA-D	5 years	High priority critical infrastructure has had FireSmart vegetation management completed.	CRI FCFS funding up to \$53,500 per municipal infrastructure (vegetation management included).
42	High	Continue to develop interpretive signage to demonstrate pre- and post-fuel treatment forest stands conditions for treatments completed within or adjacent to communities.	Interpretive signage could include text explaining the purpose of the fuel management treatment, connection to the CWRP, and FireSmart practices residents nearby can take to reduce wildfire hazards around their yards and homes.	RDCK / EA-D	5 years	Signage installed during implementation phases.	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.

43	High	Continue to support and promote the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP) to communities within EA-D. Identify community champions to spearhead organization for those communities not already organized, and support those communities that have been recognized in the past to continue working towards being so.	There are many small communities throughout EA-D that, by working together, could reduce their community-scale wildfire risk easily and substantially. The program supports a small-scale approach for neighbourhoods consisting of 5-50 homes, with the intent to implement achievable FireSmart goals	RDCK / EA-D	Ongoing	Increase in number of recognized communities.	FireSmart Canada \$500; RDCK FireSmart Champion Grant up to \$3000
44	Moderate	As part of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP), apply to CRI FCFS for funding to develop Neighbourhood FireSmart Plans.	To help guide FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program communities and their community champions to complete wildfire risk reduction measures.	RDCK / EA-D	In line with FCNRP Community program uptake.	Communities working towards FCNRP status have a Neighbourhood Plan	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.

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FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS

AOI	Area of Interest
BC	British Columbia
BCWS	British Columbia Wildfire Service
BEC	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification
CFFDRS	Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System
CRI	Community Resiliency Investment
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
CWRP	Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan
DPA	Development Permit Area
EA-D	RDCK Electoral Area D
FBP	Fire Behavior Prediction System
FCFS	FireSmart Community Funding and Supports: Stream 1 of the UBCM CRI Program
HIZ	Home Ignition Zone
MOF	Ministry of Forests
MOTI	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
NDT	Natural Disturbance Type
PSTA	Provincial Strategic Threat Assessment
PTU	Proposed Treatment Unit
RDCK	Regional District of Central Kootenay
UBCM	Union of British Columbia Municipalities
WRR	Wildfire Risk Reduction: Stream 2 of the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program, administered by the Ministry of Forests
WTA	Wildfire Threat Assessment
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

In June 2023, B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. was retained by the Regional District Central Kootenay (RDCK) to assist Electoral Area D (EA-D) in developing a new Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP). A CWRP has its roots in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) framework, which was originally established in BC in response to the series of devastating wildfires in 2003. This plan replaces the previous 2016 EA-D CWPP. Recent wildfire disasters like those experienced in Oregon State (2020), Washington State (2014, 2015, 2020, 2023), Fort McMurray, Alberta (2016), BC (2017, 2018, 2021, 2023), and California (2017, 2018, 2020) continue to display the vulnerability of communities and the potential toll of wildfires on families, neighbourhoods, public health, and the economy of entire regions. These events, along with important advances in loss prevention programs, have spurred the need for greater consideration and due diligence concerning fire risk in the wildland-urban interface (WUI).⁴ CWRPs are an invaluable opportunity to proactively manage wildfire risk and increase community resilience to wildfire.

CWRPs are currently being developed at many jurisdictional and geographic scales, and are individually tailored to address the needs of different communities in response to their size, their capacity, and the unique threats that they face. Despite these differences, the goals of a CWRP remain the same and are founded in the seven FireSmart™ disciplines: Education, Legislation & Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-Training, Emergency Planning and Vegetation Management.

CWRPs are funded in BC by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) under the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) Program. As per funding requirements, this CWRP is completed according to the 2022 CRI template.

1.1 PLAN PURPOSE AND GOALS

This plan accounts for changes that have occurred since EA-D's last CWPP and takes advantage of the most recent community wildfire planning framework in BC. This CWRP identifies the interface wildfire risk within EA-D's WUI communities, and gives RDCK and the electoral area a current and accurate understanding of the threats to human life, infrastructure, and values at risk from wildfire. This CWRP is intended to serve as a framework to guide the implementation of specific actions and strategies to:

- Increase the efficacy of fire suppression and safety of emergency responders,
- Reduce potential impacts and losses to property and critical infrastructure from wildfire, and
- Reduce potential wildfire behavior and threat within the community.

To help guide and accomplish the above strategies, this CWRP will provide RDCK and EA-D with:

- An assessment of wildfire risk to the communities,

⁴ Wildland urban interface is defined as the presence of structures in locations in which conditions result in the potential for their ignition from flames and firebrands/embers of a wildland fire (National Fire Protection Association).

- An assessment of values at risk and potential consequences from wildfire,
- Maps of fuel types and recommended areas for fuel treatments,
- An assessment of emergency response capacity, and
- Options and strategies to reduce wildfire risk through the seven FireSmart disciplines.

1.2 PLAN DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

The CWRP development process consisted of five general phases:

- 1) Formation or confirmation/continuation of a Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee(s) (CFRC; Section 5.5). Consultation with CFRC(s) and information sharing with stakeholders and First Nations occurred throughout.
- 2) Review of relevant plans and legislation regarding emergency response and wildfire (Section 2).
- 3) Description of the community and identification of values at risk (Section 3).
- 4) Assessment of the local wildfire risk (Section 4).
- 5) Analysis and action plan for each of the seven FireSmart disciplines (Section 5).

The following next steps are a suggested route towards operationalizing the recommendations detailed in this CWRP:

1. RDCK, EA-D, and the CFRC(s) should continue to meet periodically, as needed to coordinate the fulfillment of this report's recommendations (consider annually or bi-annually, before or during the fire season – per Recommendation #22).
 - a. Meetings could include some or all of the parties identified in Section 5.5.
2. The next meeting could be held in Spring-2024. Consider identifying recommendations to allocate resources to, and pursue funding for, from the 2024 UBCM CRI funding intake at this time.
 - a. Consider meeting well in advance of the UBCM CRI application deadline (early October 2024), in order to discuss upcoming projects and align activities and initiatives where possible.
 - b. RDCK will apply for UBCM CRI funding and compile final reporting.
 - c. Continued meetings of CFRC(s) would be a suitable venue to identify if additional support is needed to fulfill the targeted recommendations.
 - i. Additional support might be required in order to coordinate activities that will bridge more than one funding year (i.e., prioritizing, prescribing and supervising implementation of vegetation management; coordinating plan and policy review) or that require more time and resources currently available to any one CFRC member (e.g., potentially some FireSmart education recommendations).
 - ii. Consultant support or a term contract salary could be incorporated into the UBCM CRI application accordingly.
3. In subsequent meetings, members from different agencies could share information about actions taken to fulfill recommendations.
 - a. Documentation of the status of CWRP recommendations could be compiled and maintained alongside these meetings.

SECTION 2: RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS AND LEGISLATION

Wildfires can affect all aspects of a community. As a result, there are many plans specific to or including EA-D that relate to this CWRP. This section reviews all relevant plans, policies, bylaws, guidelines, and provincial legislation to identify sections within that are relevant to community wildfire planning and response.

2.1 LINKAGES TO CWPPS/CWRPS

Regional District of Central Kootenay Area D and Kaslo Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update - 2016⁵

In 2016, B.A. Blackwell & Associates completed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan update for the Regional District of Central Kootenay Area D and Kaslo.

The scope of this plan was a two-kilometer buffer around all residences and critical infrastructure based on WUI density criteria. A tabularized review of the 2016 recommendations and their implementation status is presented in Appendix A. Overall, completed activities have primarily fallen within the FireSmart Education discipline, but some recommended fuel treatments have been prescribed and/or treated, and there is now an active Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee.

This Plan was developed concurrently with CWRPs for adjacent RDCK Electoral Areas E, F, I, and the Village of Kaslo. As such, there are synergies between these plans that should be utilized and capitalized upon, such as similar/matching recommendations, adjacent or adjoining proposed fuel treatment units, and overlapping fire department response areas.

2.2 LOCAL PLANS AND BYLAWS

The sections and policies of Electoral Area D's Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw listed in Table 2 are directly relevant to proactive wildfire resilience in EA-D. The Bylaw was reviewed as part of this CWRP to address any gaps or limitations that inadequately address fire hazards or risk mitigation. A major gap that was identified as it relates to wildfire is the lack of fire management policies (beyond "recommending") specific to single home/lot development or renovations.

⁵<https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Services/Emergency~Management/Documents/RDCK%20Area%20D%20and%20Kaslo%20CWPP%20January%208%202018%20Final%20Draft1.pdf>

Table 2: Summary of North Kootenay Lake Electoral Area D's Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw No. 2435, 2016 emergency and wildfire-related objectives and policies and their relationship to this CWRP.

Section [Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw No. 2435, 2016]	Policy Description / Relationship to CWRP
<p>7.11 General Residential Policies</p>	<p>The general regional board will assess and evaluate proposed residential development based on the following criteria, irrespective of land use designation:</p> <p>c. susceptibility to natural hazards including but not limited to flooding, slope, instability, or wildfire risk.</p> <p>- <i>Allows for wildfire risk to be managed.</i></p>
<p>9.0 Community services and administration</p>	<p>9.4: Work toward provision of essential services to all communities within Electoral Area D, such as fire service and emergency services where deemed feasible.</p> <p>- <i>Providing designated fire response to communities lowers their wildfire risk.</i></p> <p>9.5: Ensure that land use decisions accommodate emergency response through provision of adequate access to developments and facilities for fire protection services and emergency first response.</p> <p>- <i>Access (and egress) by first responders lowers wildfire risk and evacuation constraints.</i></p> <p>9.9: Supports the location and development of fire halls and community halls in the rural area as development requires and the needs of the community change.</p> <p>- <i>Community buildings should be constructed to FireSmart standards (see Section 5.3).</i></p> <p>9.15: Will consult with the local fire department(s) to determine needs for access to new developments and for the filling of tankers to support local fire service to unincorporated communities within the Plan area where appropriate.</p> <p>- <i>Water, and access to it, is the most important resource for wildfire and fire response (see Section 5.3).</i></p> <p>9.16: Will investigate the feasibility and costs associated with the expansion of essential services, such as fire protection and emergency services in all areas of Electoral Area D and will consult with residents and property owners regarding the options available for provision of such services.</p> <p>- <i>Providing designated fire response to communities lowers their wildfire risk.</i></p>
<p>11.0 Servicing and Transportation</p>	<p>11.5: Support that new development be subject to the requirements of adequate water supply for both domestic and fire protection purposes.</p> <p>- <i>Addresses water supply concerns for rural areas.</i></p>
<p>14.0 Hazard Lands and Fire Management</p>	<p>14.8: The regional board may request that developers undertake a fire hazard risk assessment at the time of submitting a subdivision application where the Province indicates that a property may be subject to a moderate or higher fire risk. The Regional Board may request the same assessment during a land use designation amendment or development permit process. The assessment will provide a recommended fire hazard mitigation strategy, and is recommended to include, but is not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporating fuel breaks adjacent to or on the residential subdivisions;

- establishing zones around potential structures and homes which are clear of debris, highly combustible material, or trees;
 - utilizing fireproofing techniques and fireproof materials in building design; requiring at minimum a fire rated roof;
 - designing roads that provide evacuation routes and facilitate movement of firefighting equipment;
 - ensuring all roads are appropriately named and signed;
 - ensuring availability of water supply facilities adequate for fire suppression;
 - ensuring the provision of access to local water sources, lakes and watercourses as part of access requirements; and
 - implementing setbacks, interfacing fire protection standards, and building material standards pursuant to the Provincial publications 'The Home Owners FireSmart Manual' and 'FireSmart: Protecting Your Community From Wildfire'.
- Develops communities of defensible space and safe access/egress during an emergency (and wildfire) event. Addressed in Section 5.3.*

14.9: Directs that where a fire hazard mitigation strategy has been prepared, that the developer enters into a restrictive covenant to ensure that the strategy is followed.
To continue existing, lowered wildfire risk into the future.

14.10: Encourages pro-active wildfire mitigation programs to reduce the risk of wildfires in Kootenay Lake and the Lardeau Valley to the moderate fire hazard risk as recommended by the Provincial 'FireSmart' program.
- Government support of wildfire risk reduction programs is paramount towards their implementation.

14.11: Supports protection of accesses to water sources such as hydrants, standpipes, lakes, and streams to remain free of obstructions for fire protection purposes.
Access to reliable, local water sources is paramount for first responder and BCWS firefighting effectiveness. Addressed in Section 5.4.

14.12: Encourages local volunteer fire departments to work with the RDCK to keep up to date with emergency preparedness and with the identification of increased risk as a result of natural or man-made events.
- Emergency preparedness plans and training reduce response risks to wildfire events (see Sections 5.4 and 5.6).

14.13: Encourages voluntary efforts to reduce fire risk to existing buildings and developments by residents and community members through educational materials and appropriate 'FireSmart' programs.
- Private property FireSmart Home Ignition Zone and structure risk reduction is the #1 avenue towards homes and structures surviving a wildfire event. Addressed in Section 5.3.

14.14: Supports the local acquisition, maintenance, and use of fire fighting equipment in remote communities where fire departments do not operate.
- To reduce wildfire risk to remote communities. See section 5.4.

14.15: Encourages the development of a community wildfire interface plan in recognition of the areas isolation and susceptibility to forest fire risk.
- Can be considered accomplished through this Plan.

18.0 Community Specific Policies	18.82: Shutty Bench: Encourages the establishment of view corridors where appropriate in conjunction with interface wildfire planning. - <i>Accomplishing multiple objectives can be facilitated through interagency cooperation (see Section 5.5)</i>
	18.92: Shroeder Creek: Encourages the development of a community wildfire interface plan in recognition of the area’s isolation and susceptibility to forest fire risk. - <i>Neighbourhood specific plans can be developed in conjunction with the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program and CRI FCFS funding. Addressed in Section 5.7.</i>
	18.135: Birchdale and Murphy Creek: Encourages the development of a community wildfire interface plan in recognition of the areas isolation and susceptibility to forest fire risk. - <i>Neighbourhood specific plans can be developed in conjunction with the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program and CRI FCFS funding. Addressed in Section 5.7.</i>
Development Permit Area #2: Industrial Development Permit (IDP) Area	Guidelines: 2.0 Development shall be in accordance with the following guidelines and considerations: d) susceptibility to natural hazards, including but not limited to flooding, slope instability, or wildfire risk - <i>Legislation and planning regulation are effective tools for proactively reducing wildfire risk. Addressed in Section 5.3.</i>

The local bylaws listed in Table 3 are directly relevant to proactive wildfire resilience in EA-D. These bylaws were reviewed as part of the CWRP to address any gaps or limitations that inadequately address fire hazards or risk mitigation.

Table 3: Other local bylaws relevant to the CWRP and wildfire resilience planning.

Bylaws	Section	Description and <i>Relation to CWRP</i>
Building Bylaw No. 2200 (2010)	18.4	Fire stopping components must be in place before insulation and exterior sheathing are installed. - <i>Addresses the need for fire protection in new construction to manage room-to-room and structure-to-structure fire transmission.</i> - <i>To manage wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa), FireSmart principles were developed to address this gap. Currently, to mandate exterior construction materials and landscaping beyond the BC Building Code and the building bylaw, a Development Permit Area can be implemented (see Section 5.3). Note: the BC Building Code is currently being updated, with roll out planned for late-2024, and may include FireSmart standards.</i>
Emergency Management Regulatory Use	5.1	Outlines administrative structure and roles of Emergency Program - <i>Provides structure and guidelines in times of emergency.</i>

Bylaws	Section	Description and <i>Relation to CWRP</i>
Bylaw No. 2210 (amended by Bylaw No. 2758 in 2021)		
	Amended Bylaw No. 2758	<p>Adds “mitigation” into the description of the Emergency Program and Emergency Management Plan</p> <p><i>- RDCK to develop, coordinate and manage emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. This would include from wildfires.</i></p> <p><i>- Note: On November 8, 2023, the Emergency and Disaster Management Act came into force, replacing the Emergency Program Act. The updated legislation shifts from focusing on emergency response to the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery. While some powers and duties under the Act are now in effect, others will be brought into force through regulation. As part of the phased implementation of the legislation, the Province is developing regulations that are anticipated to be introduced through 2025. Thus, this bylaw may need be amended or replaced accordingly.⁶</i></p>
Manufactured Home Parks Bylaw No. 1082 (1995)	8.8.3	<p>Fires shall be made only in stoves, incinerators, or other structures designed for that purpose.</p> <p><i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks in structures made largely from ignitable and combustible materials.</i></p>
	8.8.4	<p>If no approved fire hydrant is available to provide protection, a minimum of one (1) stagnant water supply at a minimum of 15,539 litres (6000 lgal) shall be provided on site in order to be accessed in case of emergency for fire protection purposes on properties serviced by Fire Protection.</p> <p><i>- Increases assurance of useful water supply systems in the event of a fire to responding fire departments.</i></p>
Parks Regulation – Consolidated Bylaw No. 2173	22	<p>No person shall start or maintain a fire in a park, except in facilities provided at a park for that purpose.</p> <p><i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
	24	<p>No person shall leave a fire in a park unattended.</p> <p><i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
	25	<p>No person shall burn any unsuitable materials including but not limited to organic yard waste, household waste, plastic, rubber, flammable or combustible liquid, or any treated lumber or construction debris, or toxic waste.</p>

⁶ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/emergency-management/legislation-and-regulations/modernizing-epa>

Bylaws	Section	Description and <i>Relation to CWRP</i>
		<p>- <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
	52	<p>No person shall possess or discharge Fireworks, firecrackers or explosive materials of any kind in a park, except for an event authorized by a park use permit.</p> <p>- <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
<p>Resource Recovery Facilities Regulatory Bylaw No. 2905</p>	8 (15)	<p>No person other than the Site Operator or Service Personnel or their representative shall start any fires at any Resource Recovery Facility.</p> <p>- <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
	4.1	<p>Jurisdiction of each Fire Department, and the powers granted to each Fire Department and its Fire Chief and Members under this Bylaw, is restricted to the boundaries of the Fire Department's particular Fire Protection Service Area as set out in its establishment bylaw. A Fire Department shall not respond to any Incident under this Bylaw outside of the boundaries of its Fire Protection Service Area except as specified in Section 4(2)(a) to (f) of this Bylaw.</p> <p>- <i>Outlines jurisdictional limits of fire departments, which may impact rural communities with no immediate fire service (see Section 5.6). The Kaslo and Area Fire Department primary service boundary extends from (in the north) Cowan Road in Shutty Bench, to (in the south) Fletcher Creek. This leaves approximately 70% of EA-D without fire service.</i></p>
<p>Volunteer Fire Service Regulation Bylaw No. 2769</p>	4.2	<p>Apparatus and Fire Department Equipment shall not be taken beyond the geographical limits of the jurisdiction for reasons other than repair, maintenance, or training unless: (a) a written agreement, approved by the Regional District, authorizes the supply of Members, Apparatus, Fire Department Equipment, Fire Protection Services and Associated Services to another jurisdiction; or (b) under the authority of the CAO, the Regional Fire Chief, or the Emergency Operations Center Director; or (c) in connection with a request for assistance by a the Office of the Fire Commissioner, or a Federal or Provincial emergency response Agency; or (d) in connection with an Incident near the boundaries of the Fire Service Protection Area which, if left untended, may threaten the Fire Service Protection Area or other such Service area; or (e) In the event of a Federal or Provincial State of Emergency; or (f) Under the provision of a bylaw for Associated Services.</p> <p>- <i>Outlines jurisdictional limits of fire departments, which may impact rural communities with no immediate fire service (see Section 5.6). See Kaslo and Area Fire Department service limits noted above.</i></p>
	9.4	<p>No person shall grow shrubs, hedges, plants or trees so as to obstruct the visibility or use of a fire hydrant, standpipe or sprinkler connection.</p> <p>- <i>Provides linkage to FireSmart activities and property preparedness.</i></p>

Bylaws	Section	Description and <i>Relation to CWRP</i>
	10.1	Where this bylaw applies within a municipality the Regional District is authorized to enforce municipal open burning regulations. <i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i>
	12.2	The Occupier of a Public Building in which any of the Alarm System, Fire Protection Equipment, or emergency power system is not operating must institute and maintain a Fire Watch until those systems or equipment are operational. <i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i>
Water Bylaw No. 2894	10.4.1	All fire hydrants and standpipes directly connected to Regional District Water Mains are the property of the Regional District. <i>- Outlines RDCK ownership and responsibility relating to water sources.</i>
	11.6.2 (f)	Notwithstanding the prohibitions in this Section, the Manager may authorize in writing the discharge of Regional District supplied water for the purposes of: training programs for fire fighters. <i>- Supports training opportunities for local fire fighters (see Section 5.4).</i> <i>- The only RDCK owned and operated water system is in Woodbury. The Macdonald Creek water system is owned by RDCK but is contracted to the Village of Kaslo.</i>

The local plans listed in Table 4 are directly relevant to proactive wildfire resilience in EA-D. These plans were reviewed as part of the CWRP to address any gaps or limitations that inadequately address fire hazards or risk mitigation.

Table 4: Plans and policies relevant to the CWRP and wildfire resilience.

Plan	Description and <i>Relationship to CWRP</i>
EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PLAN for the Regional District of Central Kootenay	Outlines structural and organizational requirements for coordinated response and recovery from emergencies in the RDCK, including: decision-making tools for evacuation or shelter in place; EOC levels and activation protocols; hazard and evacuation planning; fire planning including industrial, wildfire and structural fires; and, recovery planning. <i>Section 3.10 specifically deals with interface fires/wildfires, indicating that interface fires will be managed using unified command with the Ministry of Forests and local fire department(s) and other local fire departments, where applicable.</i>

2.3 HIGHER-LEVEL PLANS AND LEGISLATION

Table 5 lists higher-level plans and legislation that are relevant to wildfire planning and risk mitigation within EA-D and the surrounding area. These plans help guide where and how activities like resource extraction occur on the landscape, which can affect both wildfire threat and consequence. Depending on the location of any proposed fuel management treatments, fuel management prescriptions and prescribed / cultural burn plans may need to address these plans as they relate to on-the-ground restrictions and policies for forest modification.

Table 5: Description of higher-level plans and legislation and their relationship to the CWRP.

Plan/Legislation	Description and <i>Relationship to CWRP</i>
<p>FRPA – Government Action Regulations (GARs)</p>	<p>Multiple GARs are present within EA-D’s WUI. These should be considered and managed for appropriately, where present, at the site level through associated site level plans (e.g., Fuel Management Prescriptions). These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Non-legal Old Growth Management Areas</i> ➤ <i>Ungulate Winter Range partial-harvest</i> ➤ <i>Significant fish streams and rivers</i> ➤ <i>Community watersheds</i> ➤ <i>Regionally significant visual areas</i>
<p>BC Provincial Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation</p>	<p>The Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation came into effect in September 2019 and governs open burning relating to land clearing, forestry operations and silviculture, wildlife habitat enhancement, and community wildfire risk reduction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Communities in between and including Fletcher Creek and Shutty Bench, and communities on the east side of Kootenay Lake from Kaslo, are all within a High Smoke Sensitivity Zone; Ainsworth and communities north of Shutty Bench are all in a Medium Smoke Sensitivity Zone.</i> ➤ <i>All proposed treatment units within the Plan are within either High or Medium Smoke Sensitivity Zones.</i>
<p>Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan</p>	<p>The Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy was completed in 1997, and was discussed in the previous CWPP.</p> <p><i>Legal, spatially defined objectives for ‘Connectivity Corridors’, and ‘Water Intakes Used for Human Consumption’ apply within the AOI. A non-legal objective for fire-maintained ecosystem restoration also applies - however, this provision targets NDT4 ecosystems, which are not present in the AOI.</i></p>
<p>Selkirk Resource District Fire Management Plan</p>	<p>The Selkirk Resource District Kootenay Lake Fire Management Plan (FMP) (MFLNRORD, 2016) identifies values at risk on the landscape and prioritizes broad categories of values as ‘themes’ for categorizing response through the Resource Strategic Wildfire Allocation Protocol (RSWAP). The four themes are 1) Human Life and Safety, 2) Property and</p>

Plan/Legislation	Description and <i>Relationship to CWRP</i>
	<p>Critical Infrastructure, 3) High Environmental and Cultural Values, and 4) Other resource values (timber, rangelands, etc.).</p> <p><i>The organization of values is intended to provide the information needed to make appropriate fire response decisions in complex emergency situations. This CWRP identifies values within the Plan area with the intent of using this information to make appropriate fire response decisions.</i></p>
<p>BC Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation</p>	<p>The Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation define the legal responsibilities and obligations to which everyone in British Columbia is subject. When the BCWS places bans or restrictions in an area, the Wildfire Act and Regulation make them enforceable.⁷</p> <p><i>Its key goal is to specify responsibilities and obligations on fire use, wildfire prevention, wildfire control, and rehabilitation.⁷</i></p>
<p>Fire Chiefs' Association of BC and BC Wildfire Service MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES</p>	<p>Guides and facilitates the collaboration between the Province and fire departments or by outlining key information regarding resource requests, deployment and response procedures, remuneration guidelines, and other necessary details to effectively manage the partnership. The intent of this Agreement is to further improve the operating procedure, strengthening capacity while providing increased flexibility to share resources in British Columbia, with clear rules of engagement and reimbursement requirements.</p> <p><i>Mutual aid agreements exist between BCWS and RDCK fire services. RDCK fire departments (including the Kaslo and Area Fire Department) routinely work with BCWS in response to incidents within and outside of Fire Protection and Response Areas.</i></p>

⁷ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/about-bcws/governance/legislation-regulations>

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

This section defines the planning area for this CWRP and provides general demographic information about EA-D. An understanding of population trends, land use patterns, and values at risk can help effectively direct FireSmart outreach and risk mitigation activities.

3.1 WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE

The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is defined by FireSmart Canada as the zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. For the purpose of the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) program, the ‘eligible WUI’ is considered as the area one kilometer from a structure density class greater than six structures per square kilometer. BC Wildfire Service generates WUI Risk Class maps and associated spatial data to assist with initiatives related to wildfire risk reduction, including the FCFS program.⁸

Field work, GIS analysis, and the recommendations for this CWRP cover only this one kilometer ‘eligible WUI’ which is entirely within EA-D and includes the following identified communities (from north to south):

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| ➤ Poplar Creek | ➤ Cooper Creek | ➤ Schroeder Creek | ➤ Back Road |
| ➤ Duncan Island | ➤ Argenta | ➤ Milford Creek | ➤ Pineridge |
| ➤ Howser | ➤ Lardeau | ➤ Murphy Creek | ➤ Mirror Lake |
| ➤ Marblehead | ➤ Bulmer’s Point | ➤ Retallack | ➤ Pine Ridge |
| ➤ Hamill Creek | ➤ Johnsons Landing | ➤ Shutty Bench | ➤ Fletcher Creek |
| ➤ Meadow Creek | ➤ Birchdale | ➤ South Fork | ➤ Woodbury |
| | | ➤ Allen Subdivision | ➤ Ainsworth |

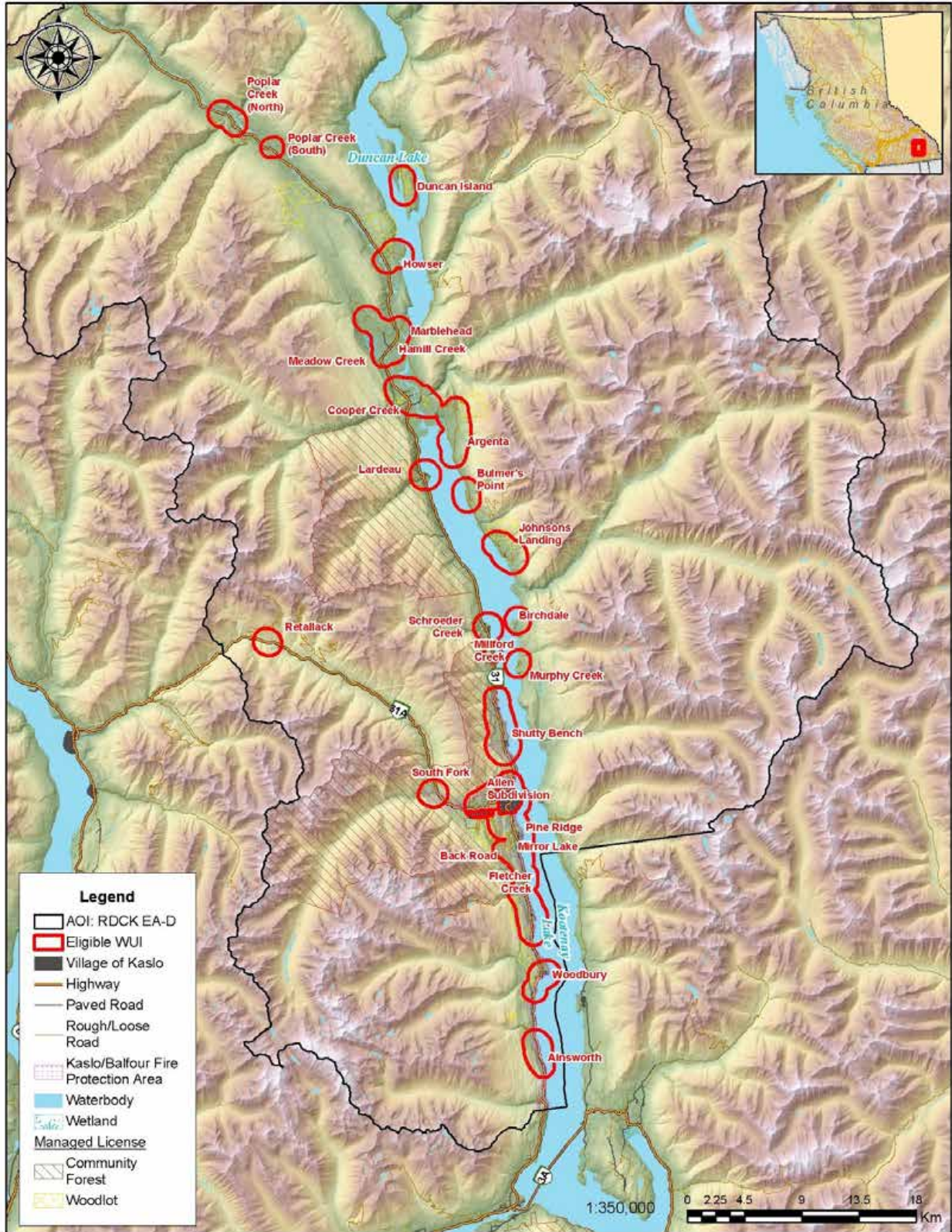
EA-D’s WUI areas cover a total of 15,234 hectares (which includes foreshore areas of lakeside communities) and includes residential, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and forested areas. Land use is guided by EA-D’s Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw as discussed in Section 0. As development occurs, it is possible that the WUI will change with it.

Map 1 shows an overview of the wildland urban interface (WUI) surrounding EA-D’s communities. The map shows the geographical breadth of the communities and the area this Plan covers – approximately 80 kilometres from Poplar Creek in the north to Ainsworth in the south. An approximate breakdown of land ownership type by area is listed in Table 6, and shown on Map 2 and Map 3. Just over one-quarter of EA-D’s WUI is private land (29%), while Crown provincial land makes up almost all the rest of the WUI’s ownership.

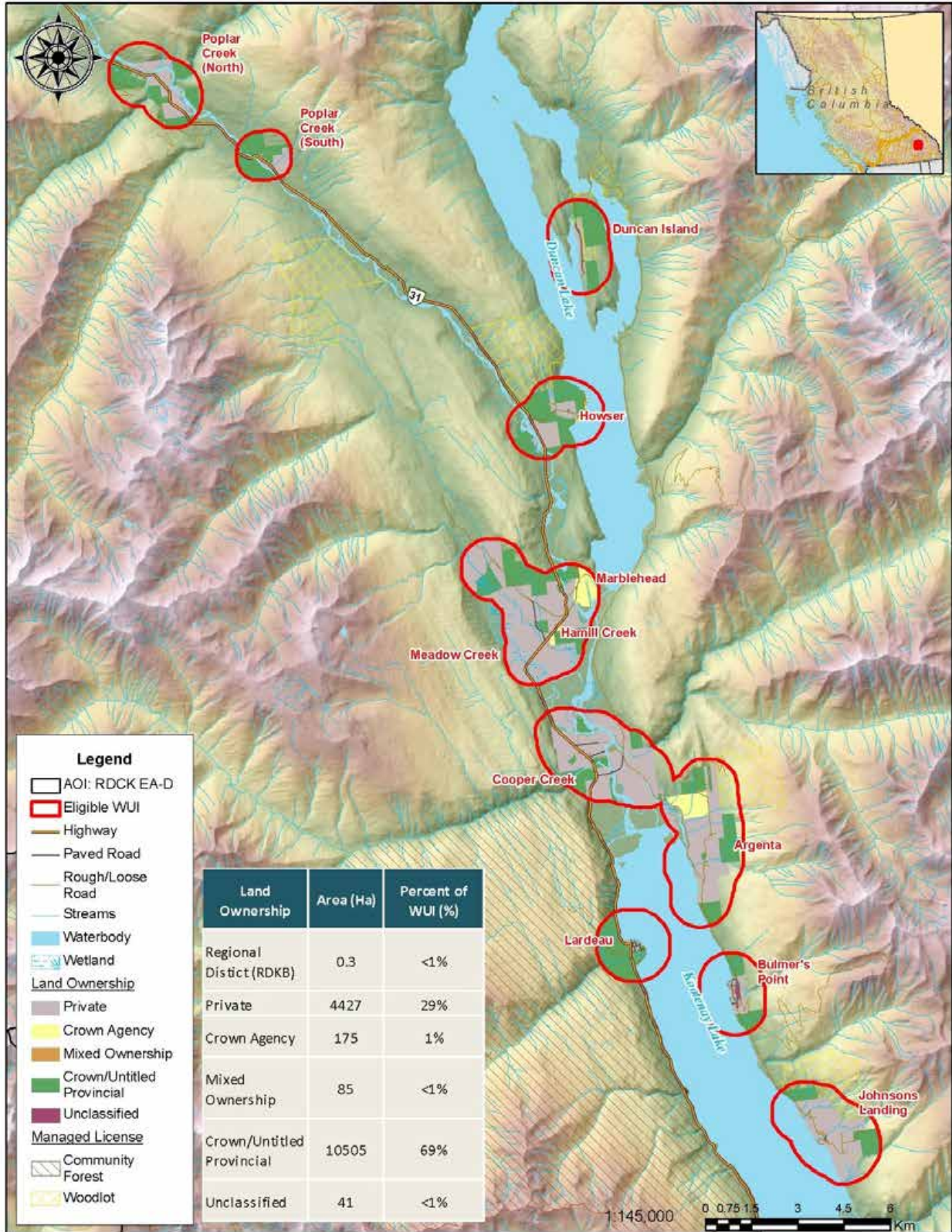
⁸ [Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class Maps - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/preparedness/wildfire/wildland-urban-interface-risk-class-maps)

Table 6: Land Ownership within the eligible WUI of Electoral Area D.

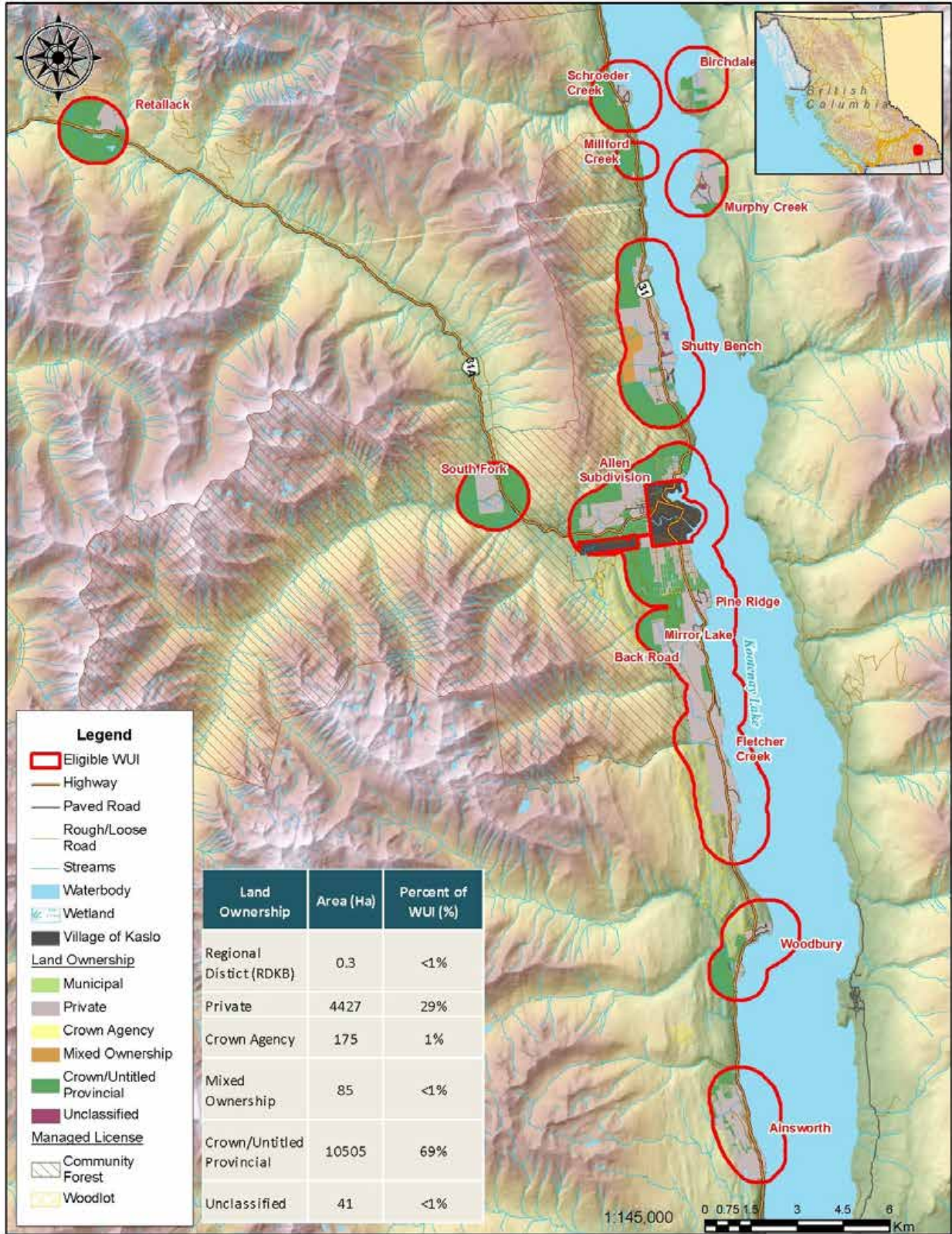
Land Ownership	Area (Ha)	Percent of WUI (%)
Regional District (RDKB)	0.3	<1%
Private	4,427	29%
Crown Agency	175	1%
Mixed Ownership	85	<1%
Crown/Untitled Provincial	10,505	69%
Unclassified	41	<1%
TOTAL	15,234	-



Map 1. Overview of RDCK Electoral Area D's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The 'eligible WUI' areas are the red outlined polygons.



Map 2: Overview of RDCK Electoral Area D's northern communities' WUI, with land ownership.



Map 3: Overview of RDCK Electoral Area D's southern communities' WUI, with land ownership.

3.2 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Encompassing the expansive northern terrain of the Kootenay and Duncan River basins, EA-D includes the communities on both sides of Kootenay Lake and in southern Duncan Lake, from Ainsworth in the south, to Poplar creek in the north. The picturesque landscapes have drawn homesteaders, back-to-the-land movements, and anyone looking to slow down and enjoy the mountain and lake views.⁹

Despite its numerous communities, EA-D has the smallest population of the 11 electoral areas in the RDCK, at approximately 1,462 people. A projected decline of 5% to 2025 will potentially decrease the population to 1,315 people (see Figure 1). However, the future senior population is projected to grow and increase the median age. Relevant socio-economic statistics on population, employment, housing, and education in EA-D are summarized in Table 7. They are not available for separate communities.

Table 7: Socio-economic statistics for RDCK Electoral Area D, as per the 2019 RDCK Community Profile Report. Bolded values will be discussed below as they have special relevance to the CWRP.

Metric in 2021 Census	Value
Population	
Total Population in 2021	1,462
Total Population in 2016	1,343
Population Density (people/km ²)	10.2
Population percentage change between 2016 to 2021	0.3
Number of people <14 years old	155
Number of people 15-64 years old	850
Number of people >65 years old	460
Median Age (years)	56 ¹⁰
Housing	
Total private dwellings	715
Private dwellings permanently occupied	715
Single detached house	625
Average Taxable Property Value	n/a
Average household size	2
Income and Employment	
Median Total Income of Households ¹¹	\$55,600
Employment Rate	46.3%
Unemployment Rate	15.1%
Education	
No certificate, diploma or degree	195
Secondary school or equivalent	370
Post-secondary	715

Most residents live in single-detached homes in rural communities, are between 15-64 years old, and have post-secondary education. Of the 715 total private dwellings, 100% are listed as permanently occupied.

⁹ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/government/board-of-directors/electoral-areas.html>

¹⁰ The median age for BC is 43.0.

¹¹ In 2015, pre-tax. BC median is \$69,995.

This indicates EA-D is a community dominated by permanent residents – this provides an opportunity for proactive FireSmart education as those being educated through an EA-D FireSmart program can keep and apply that education within the community itself.

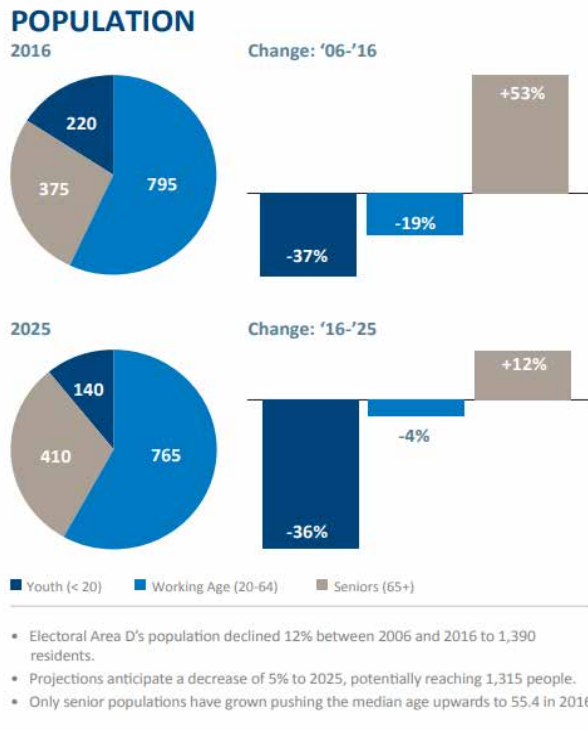


Figure 1: RDCK EA-D population change statistics - 2006-2016 and projected 2016-2026.

While the population is not high in EA-D compared to other electoral areas, growth in nearby municipalities increases wildfire risk within the RDCK. More summer visitors increase the likelihood of a human-caused wildfire (increased ignition potential), and the consequence of a wildfire (more people to evacuate). The RDCK is home to several tourism hotspots with a focus on outdoor recreation, camping, and boating, with EA-D boasting an exceptional selection of backcountry trails. Backcountry campers have been identified as a possible source of ignition in the area.

There are two fire services within EA-D. The Kaslo and Area Fire Department provides primary structural response to communities from Cowan Road (north end of Shutty Bench) to the Lease Lots (south of Fletcher Falls). Response only services are provided by contract to Woodbury and Ainsworth by both the Kaslo and Area Fire Department and the Balfour-Harrop Volunteer Fire Department

(one would respond). Despite many other communities having their own self-organized fire services, they are not considered served by a fire service according to the Fire Underwriters and are too far from the Kaslo and Area Fire Department fire hall to be served by the full service. Communities must be within a 13 km radius of the hall for them to be considered as such.

The Victorian Community Health Centre of Kaslo is the closest health centre for most residents in EA-D. It offers a variety of services in one location. The types of services delivered depend on patient needs and on whether comparable services are available nearby.¹² The Kootenay Lake Hospital, located in Nelson, is a Level 1 Community Hospital in the Kootenay Boundary health service area managed by Interior Health.¹³ The RDCK Emergency Program oversees the planning and implementation of emergency management in Area Health service.¹³

The following section gives a brief description of each community covered by this plan (from north to south) including number of residents and services provided. Each community and its associated 'WUI

¹² <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/locations/victorian-community-health-centre-of-kaslo>

¹³ https://www.interiorhealth.ca/search?type=All&search_api_fulltext=EA-D&f%5B0%5D=content_type%3Alocation

bubble' can be seen in Map 1 – Map 3 in the previous section. Representative pictures of each community can be seen in Appendix E.

Poplar Creek

This former mining community is found at the mouth of Poplar Creek on the southwest side of the Lardeau River. Poplar Creek is located on BC Highway 31, approximately 37 kms northwest of Lardeau (head of Kootenay Lake) and 16 kms southeast of Gerrard.¹⁴ At the height of local gold mining in 1903, Poplar Creek had 6 hotels, a stable, a laundry, and postal service.¹⁴ All earlier structures have since disappeared and the locality is now sparsely populated with only a few residences. There is no formal fire service in this area.

Duncan Island

Duncan Island is a remote, small community located on Duncan Lake, approximately 27 kms north of Argenta and 29 kms northeast of Lardeau. Water levels of the lake are impacted by the Duncan Dam, which was built in 1965 to control the flow of water from the Duncan River into Kootenay Lake.¹⁵ There is no formal fire service in this area.

Howser

Howser is located 21 kms north of Lardeau along Duncan Lake, accessible by Howser Station Road off Highway 31. The community is nestled between Howser Recreation Site to the north and Woodlot W1460 to the south. The Howser Recreation Site is managed by Recreation Sites and Trails BC, featuring campsites and a boat launch. Due to increasing popularity and the need for site supervision, a site host maintains the campground. Woodlot W1460 is owned and operated by Sinclair Forest Management Ltd.¹⁶ There is no formal fire service in this area. The Howser Water Users Association owns and operates a water service that has had recent upgrades, including back up power support.

Marblehead, Hamill Creek & Meadow Creek

Marblehead is a locality at the southern tip of Duncan Lake, close to the Duncan Dam, and just northeast of Hamill Creek and Meadow Creek. The Marblehead locale is best known for the Marblehead Quarry, which is a historical landmark located just north of the community. Hamill Creek and Meadow Creek are small communities of approximately 200 people. Services in the area include the Lardeau Valley Community Club, Lardeau Valley Museum, Jewett Elementary School, a general store, a gas station, and two local timber framing businesses. There is no formal fire service in this area.

¹⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poplar_Creek,_British_Columbia

¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duncan_Dam

¹⁶ https://woodlot.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020.05.05-WL_Within-BC_caribou_core_matrix_habitat_v20190904.pdf

Cooper Creek

Cooper Creek is situated at the northern end of Kootenay Lake, on the west side of Duncan River, about 4 kms north of Lardeau on Highway 31. Services include a gas station and convenience store. There is no formal fire service in this area.

Argenta

Argenta is a community of approximately 100 people located on the northeast side of Kootenay Lake, west of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy and Provincial Park. It is about 12 kms northeast of Lardeau, accessed via Duncan Lake Road and Argenta Johnsons Landing Road off Highway 31. Quakers settled in the town in 1952 and went on to found and operate the Argenta Friends School, a boarding school, from 1959 to 1982. In the 1960s, Argenta attracted anti-war protesters, draft dodgers, back-to-the-land residents, artists, and members of the counterculture. In 2022, Argenta was the site of a large protest to protect the inland rainforest from being logged by Cooper Creek Cedar.¹⁷ For decades, activists in Argenta and Johnsons Landing have fought to protect a 10 km stretch of forest along Kootenay Lake, and local groups formed include Mt. Willet Wilderness Forever.¹⁷ Argenta has a post office and a community hall, and an independent power system operated by the Argenta Power Corporation. There is no formal fire service in this area. The Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group obtains firefighting equipment, trains firefighters (for wildfires) as well as helps to prepare the community for evacuation in case of emergency.¹⁸

Bulmer's Pointe

Bulmer's Pointe is an approximately 40-hectare exclusive development community located between Argenta and Johnsons Landing on the east side of Kootenay Lake. Community development was aimed at recreational, retirement, and residential living, featuring 25 waterfront and eight wilderness lots, aesthetically pleasing architectural guidelines, low-impact natural area guidelines, year-round access, maintenance and an operator, and a communal garden. Fully serviced lots include water, sewer, electrical power provided privately.¹⁹ There is no formal fire service in this area, however the community has a private fire hydrant network and firefighting equipment on-site.

Lardeau

Lardeau is located along Highway 31, approximately 28 kms north of Kaslo. Lardeau is a former mining town and steamboat landing and is the gateway to the Lardeau Valley. Lardeau was primarily a working-class bedroom community 30 years ago, when 75% of the residents were working families and full-time residents. Lardeau has transitioned now to predominantly a village of holiday homes for retirees. There are approximately 63 properties with structures, only 23 of which are full-time homes. Most full-time residents are over 60 years. Lardeau is built on the alluvial fan of Davis Creek and is surrounded on three sides by water. The streets are laid out in an urban style grid pattern. Most properties are relatively small compared to the other EA-D communities. Lardeau is situated near the Davis Creek Provincial Park and

¹⁷ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/argenta-logging-protests-arrests-1.6460380>

¹⁸ <https://lardeauvalley.ca/information-and-articles/lardeau-valley-historical-society/community-organizations/>

¹⁹ <http://bulmerspointe.ca/community.php>

Lardeau Regional Park. The ‘green space’ area between Lardeau and Davis Creek, the Davis Creek Provincial campground, and the areas above the highway on both the north and south sides of Davis Creek, were treated for fire risk reduction in recent years. There is no formal fire service in this area. However, the Lardeau Fire Prevention Association actively spearheads local FireSmart activities and fire prevention education. In 2022/23, the Association received generous support from Columbia Basin Trust to develop and establish a Structure Sprinkler Protection Program. After much work and effort of its Board and community members, the vision was realized, establishing an operational Structure Protection Unit that can deploy Sprinkler Protection to each of the over 60 properties within the Community. Several years ago, among other wildfire mitigation activities, Lardeau had an RDCK FireSmart Assessment completed and several properties at that time had FireSmart assessments. In 2022/23 there was a significant increase of property owners having individual FireSmart assessments completed. This was in direct coordination of the local RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Specialist promoting this free service (as well as promotion from the Lardeau Sprinkler Team’s 65 property visits for sprinkler protection and FireSmart education). Lardeau has a long-established quality domestic water supply system. For wildfire purposes, water supply can be accessed along the north and east sides of Lardeau. Davis Creek has a reliable year-round water supply. There are a few residents who have their own pumps, sprinklers, and tanks for wildfire risk reduction purposes. A general concern is nuisance-type behaviours in the area – unattended campfires, backyard burning, ATV use in the green space, and discarded cigarette butts.²⁰ Lardeau is a FireSmart Neighbourhood recognized through the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program.

Johnsons Landing

Johnsons Landing is an unincorporated community of approximately 35 permanent residents located 10 kms southeast of Argenta on Argenta Johnsons Landing Road along the east shore of Kootenay Lake. The former steamboat landing community comprises scattered rural properties adjacent to the mouth of Gar Creek.²¹ The community consists of moderate-to-large properties, some of which are agricultural. Like Argenta, the back-to-the-land movement in the 1960s brought draft dodgers, artists, and other like-minded individuals to the area. In 2012, a landslide down Gar Creek killed four people, destroyed five houses and the road, and damaged much of the water supply infrastructure. A report from the regional government in 2013 determined the slide was caused by a late snow melt and heavy rain.²¹ There are zones of “high risk rating” for landslide associated from the past one. A small community hall serves local needs, and the Johnsons Landing Retreat Centre caters to visitors.²¹ Fry Creek Canyon offers hiking, which was the location of a 900 ha wildfire in 2022 resulting in a temporary area restriction to the recreational site.²² There is no formal fire service in this area. The Gar Creek Water Users Association owns and provides water servicing for the community. Johnsons Landing is a FireSmart Neighbourhood recognized through the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program.

²⁰ Lardeau community information largely provided by Marlene Johnston, a local resident.

²¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnsons_Landing,_British_Columbia

²² https://www.kelownanow.com/watercooler/news/news/Wildfire/Fry_Creek_wildfire_grows_to_500_hectares/

Birchdale

Birchdale is a small, remote community located south of Argenta and Johnsons Landing on the east shore of Kootenay Lake. The community is only accessible via boat, with the nearest launch point being Schroeder Creek, directly across the lake to the west. Birchdale is surrounded on three sides by the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. A handful of off-grid properties are found in Birchdale, the most prominent being the St John in the Wilderness Orthodox Sanctuary, a small community that features a traditional Orthodox Byzantine Chapel built of locally sourced stone. The community consists of approximately 15 people of a wide range of ages from children to elders. There is no formal fire service in this area, however the community does have extensive assets for fighting a wildfire (including pumps, hoses, and backup generators), allowing them to be prepared for community fire protection during the 2022 Fry Creek wildfire.

Schroeder Creek & Milford Creek

Schroeder Creek is located between Highway 31 and the west shore of Kootenay Lake, approximately 15 kms north of Kaslo and 14 kms southeast of Lardeau. The community consists of approximately 100 residents that are supported by a private water system and homeowners association. At the lakeshore is Schroeder Creek Resort, with a boat marina and a campground of 70 sites.²³ This popular tourist location includes an on-site store and laundry facility, as well as electrical RV sites. The WUI bubble at Milford Creek is located just south of Schroeder Creek on Highway 31. Milford Lake Recreation Site is located nearby, accessible via the Milford Lake forestry road. There is no formal fire service in these two areas.

Shutty Bench

Shutty Bench, located 6 kms north of Kaslo along Highway 31, is a small, rural community considered a suburb of Kaslo. Homes are located both upslope and downslope of the highway. In addition to residential properties, there are multiple resorts, guest houses, and vacation properties that cater to the tourist population. Fire protection service is provided by the Kaslo and Area Fire Department. There are several, multiple-user privately owned water service systems in the area.

South Fork

The small community of South Fork is located approximately 7 kms driving distance along Highway 31A at the junction with Keen Creek Road, west of Kaslo. The community features both residents and weekend/seasonal cabin owners. The Kaslo Nordic ski trails are adjacent, and are maintained and operated by the Kaslo Outdoor Recreation and Trails Society (KORTS). The trail system offers 12 kms of

²³ <https://schroedercreekresort.com/>

groomed Nordic trails and three cabins/warming huts. Fire protection service is provided by the Kaslo and Area Fire Department.

Retallack

Retallack is a small settlement located along Highway 31A approximately 37 kms northwest of Kaslo. The former mining town was once the second largest silver/lead/zinc operation in the British Empire, but after the mine closure in 1956 the community was reduced to a small collection of homes that border the highway.²⁴ In 1996, a group of locals was granted a tenure and Retallack Lodge was built, an 11,000 sq ft hand built timber luxury destination. Retallack is now renowned as a pro-skiing mecca and is frequently featured in numerous magazines and films throughout the world.²⁵ In 2011, Retallack was granted an exclusive commercial mountain biking tenure on trails dispersed over approximately 750,000 hectares in the West Kootenays.²⁶ In 2014, Retallack obtained authorization to create the world's largest heli-biking and backcountry mountain biking operating area. The new tenure amendment authorizes an additional 280% increase in the development of downhill singletrack, all-mountain / enduro, and freeride mountain biking trails within British Columbia's Selkirk and Purcell Mountains.²⁶ Presently, Retallack is continuing to develop an extensive network of trails. There is no formal fire service in this area.

Allen Subdivision, Pine Ridge, Mirror Lake & Back Road

Surrounding Kaslo are the communities of Allen Subdivision (northwest edge of Kaslo), Pine Ridge (immediately south of Kaslo), Mirror Lake (south of Pine Ridge), and Back Road (extending south of Kaslo along Back Road). Allen Subdivision can be considered a neighbourhood of Kaslo, and has water service through the MacDonald Creek water system, contracted to Kaslo from the RDCK. The Mirror Lake community is comprised of homes and properties upslope and downslope of Highway 31 and on the southern edges of the lake. The community also contains a popular campground and multiple vacation properties including B&Bs. Water service to the community is provided through the private Mirror Lake Water Users Community. Pine Ridge, just north of Mirror Lake and between the shores of Kootenay Lake and Highway 31, is a small residential subdivision. Water service to the community is provided through the private Pine Ridge Water Utility Society. Back Road encompasses the many properties and homes that line both sides of Back Road heading south of Kaslo, to the west of Highway 31. All these communities receive fire protection services from the Kaslo and Area Fire Department. Pine Ridge and Back Road have been FireSmart Neighbourhoods recognized through the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program.

Fletcher Creek

Fletcher Creek, located 10 kms south of Kaslo, contains several homes that are primarily situated between Highway 31 and the west shore of Kootenay Lake. It is frequented by tourists and locals alike, many of whom are attracted to the Fletcher Creek Falls Recreation Site. This site features an impressive waterfall, a day use beach, and camping sites. Water services in the community are provided and maintained by the

²⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retallack,_British_Columbia

²⁵ <https://www.retallack.com/about/history/>

²⁶ <https://www.retallack.com/about/history/>

Fletcher Creek Water Improvement District. Fire protection service is provided by the Kaslo and Area Fire Department.

Woodbury

Woodbury is a small settlement located 17 kms south of Kaslo and 4 kms north of Ainsworth. In the late 1800s, Woodbury Creek was the site of a mining boom.²⁷ Now all that remains, aside from a handful of derelict buildings on the side of the highway, is the route they took – Woodbury Creek Forest Service Road is the gateway to Kokanee Glacier Park and the Silverspray Cabin.²⁷ Woodbury is home to a resort and marina, as well as a local boat service shop. The resort is open year-round and provides a full-service campground including RV sites and cabins. Water service to the community is provided by the only RDCK owned and operated water system in EA-D (Woodbury Village). Fire response-only service is provided mutually by the Kaslo and Area Fire Department and the Balfour-Harrop Volunteer Fire Department. Woodbury was one of the first communities to be recognized under the FireSmart Canada Neighborhood Recognition Program as a FireSmart Neighbourhood and has an active FireSmart Committee.

Ainsworth Hot Springs

Ainsworth Hot Springs, previously called Ainsworth prior to 1963, is a small historic village with a population of approximately 100 people.^{28,29} The community is located 22 kms south of Kaslo and 48 kms northeast of Nelson. Founded on May 31, 1883, it is the oldest surviving community on Kootenay Lake, and was once a prosperous mining town and steamship wharf.²⁸ At present day, Ainsworth Hot Springs is best known for Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort and Cody Caves, making it a busy tourist destination year-round. Cody Caves Provincial Park, on the eastern slopes of the Selkirk Mountains, is a system of ancient limestone caves with an underground stream. The Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort is currently owned and operated by Yaqan Nukiy (Lower Kootenay Indian Band). The resort property is upslope of Highway 31 and includes hot spring pools, a natural cave, a restaurant, and hotel accommodations. Several other local businesses are aimed at supporting the tourism industry surrounding the hot springs, primarily by offering accommodation near the resort. Fire response-only service is provided by the Kaslo and Area Fire Department or the Balfour-Harrop Volunteer Fire Department. Fire mitigation efforts are further supported by the Ainsworth Fire Prevention Society.

3.3 VALUES AT RISK

Values at risk are the human, natural, or cultural resources that could be negatively impacted by wildfire. Protection of these values during a wildfire event is an important consideration for effective emergency response. Pre-identifying critical infrastructure and values at risk before an emergency event can ensure that essential services can be protected and/or restored quickly. Also, many activities that proactively assess and mitigate fire hazards around critical infrastructure and “Community Assets” are eligible for funding under the 2024 CRI FCFS Program Guide,³⁰ which is addressed through Recommendation 14

²⁷ https://gokootenays.com/wk_towns/ainsworth-woodbury/

²⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ainsworth_Hot_Springs

²⁹ <https://www.nelsonkootenaylake.com/plan/region/ainsworth>

³⁰ Funding applies to publicly owned structures (i.e., RDCK, BC Government) and the public land surrounding them.

(Section 5.3). Critical infrastructure includes buildings and structures that are essential to the health, safety, security, or economic wellbeing of the community and the effective functioning of government.

Table 8 lists critical infrastructure in EA-D’s WUI as identified by RDCK³¹ staff and the EA-D Area Director. This list should not be considered as whole and complete, but rather a starting point for what should be considered as critical infrastructure. This list should be amended as required to add/remove new/excluded or outdated infrastructure so all are available for Community Asset FireSmart activities. Water and electric systems are discussed in more detail in Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.2. Critical infrastructure FireSmart Assessments were outside of the scope of this plan. At the time of writing, FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments have been conducted on RDCK Fire Halls. Map 5 and Map 6 present a visual display of values at risk throughout the WUI.

Table 8: Critical Infrastructure within the EA-D and its WUI.

Map ID	Description	Community (if applicable)	Name
Government / Community			
D-11	Community Hall	Marblehead	Lardeau Valley Community Club
D-12	Community Hall	Johnson’s Landing	Johnson's Landing Hall
D-13	Community Hall	Argenta	Argenta Community Hall
D-14	Community Hall	Ainsworth	Ainsworth Hall
D-15	School	Marblehead	Jewett Elementary School
D-52	Community Complex	Kaslo and surrounding communities	Kaslo and Area Arena
D-54	Transfer Station	Marblehead	Marblehead Transfer Station (RDCK)
Utilities			
D-53	Water – Reservoir/ Pumphouse	Lardeau	n/a
D-55	Water - Dam	Marblehead	Duncan Dam (Reservoir)
D_E-56	Electrical or Generator	n/a	(Fortis BC)
D_E-57	Electrical or Generator	n/a	(Fortis BC)
D-78	Water - Pumphouse	Ainsworth	Intake
D-79	Water – Reservoir/Well/ Treatment	Ainsworth	Storage Tank and Water Treatment
D-80	Water – Treatment	Kaslo	Water Treatment
D-81	Water - Pumphouse	Woodbury	Pumphouse (RDCK)
D-82	Water – Reservoir/Well	Woodbury	Reservoir Tanks (RDCK)
D-83	Water – Treatment	Woodbury	Water Treatment (RDCK)
Emergency Response			
D-84	Health Centre/Hospital	Kaslo and EA-D communities	Victorian Community Health Centre of Kaslo
D-85	Fire Hall	Kaslo and EA-D Fire Response Area Communities	Kaslo and Area Fire Response Service

³¹ RDCK maintains a comprehensive database of critical infrastructure GIS point data that was provided as part of this Plan’s development.

3.3.1 ELECTRICAL POWER

A large fire has the potential to impact electrical service by causing disruption in network distribution through direct or indirect processes. Direct heat from flames or damage from fallen trees associated with a fire event may cause power outages. Residential and commercial power throughout EA-D is provided by a network of wood-pole distribution lines with some larger transmission line right-of-ways (largely following Highway 31). Transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions - trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways. A tree falling across a line can tear the line down and result in a downed line. A branch spanning two line conductors for a sufficient period of time may ignite the branch and also may produce high-energy, high-temperature arcs multiple feet in length. If the branch remains in contact and arcing, it can cause progressive damage that eventually breaks the line.

Overhead electrical distribution lines run throughout the electoral area, with servicing by both FortisBC and BC Hydro. Some communities, such as Argenta, have their own independent power systems. Instances were noted throughout EA-D’s communities where both the power providers and landowners have highly flammable vegetation and/or unmaintained conifer trees growing near power poles or distribution lines. It is important that RDCK lobby the electrical power providers in and influencing the communities’ WUIs to regularly maintain their right-of-way’s vegetation (see Recommendation #25 in Section 5.5).³²

Having secondary power sources for critical infrastructure is important to reduce community vulnerability in the event of an emergency, such as an interface wildfire, that cuts power for days, or even weeks. Additionally, most private and community wells would not be usable as they require electric pumps.³³ RDCK is currently in the process of rolling out a power grid stability program for back-up power support. It is recommended that RDCK reviews applicable critical infrastructure and invests in, or provides funding streams for communities to apply to acquire, back-up generators as required (see Recommendation #30 in Section 5.6). Currently, the landline phone system has back-up generators, all community halls have been upgraded with the necessary equipment for power outages, and some privately owned businesses have backup generators.

3.3.2 WATER AND SEWAGE

The RDCK operates water systems for Woodbury and Allen Subdivision (MacDonald Creek; also servicing Kaslo, contracted to Kaslo). However, there are many communities with community-operated water

³² One of the primary recommendations of the Lardeau Valley Power Feasibility study was for the utility companies to increase vegetative removal along power lines. It was noted by RDCK government that both BC Hydro FortisBC have increased vegetation maintenance of their right-of-ways since.

³³ For example, Lardeau requires power for electric well pumps and water storage tanks that provide water to critical firefighting capabilities at their fire hose water boxes and standpipes.

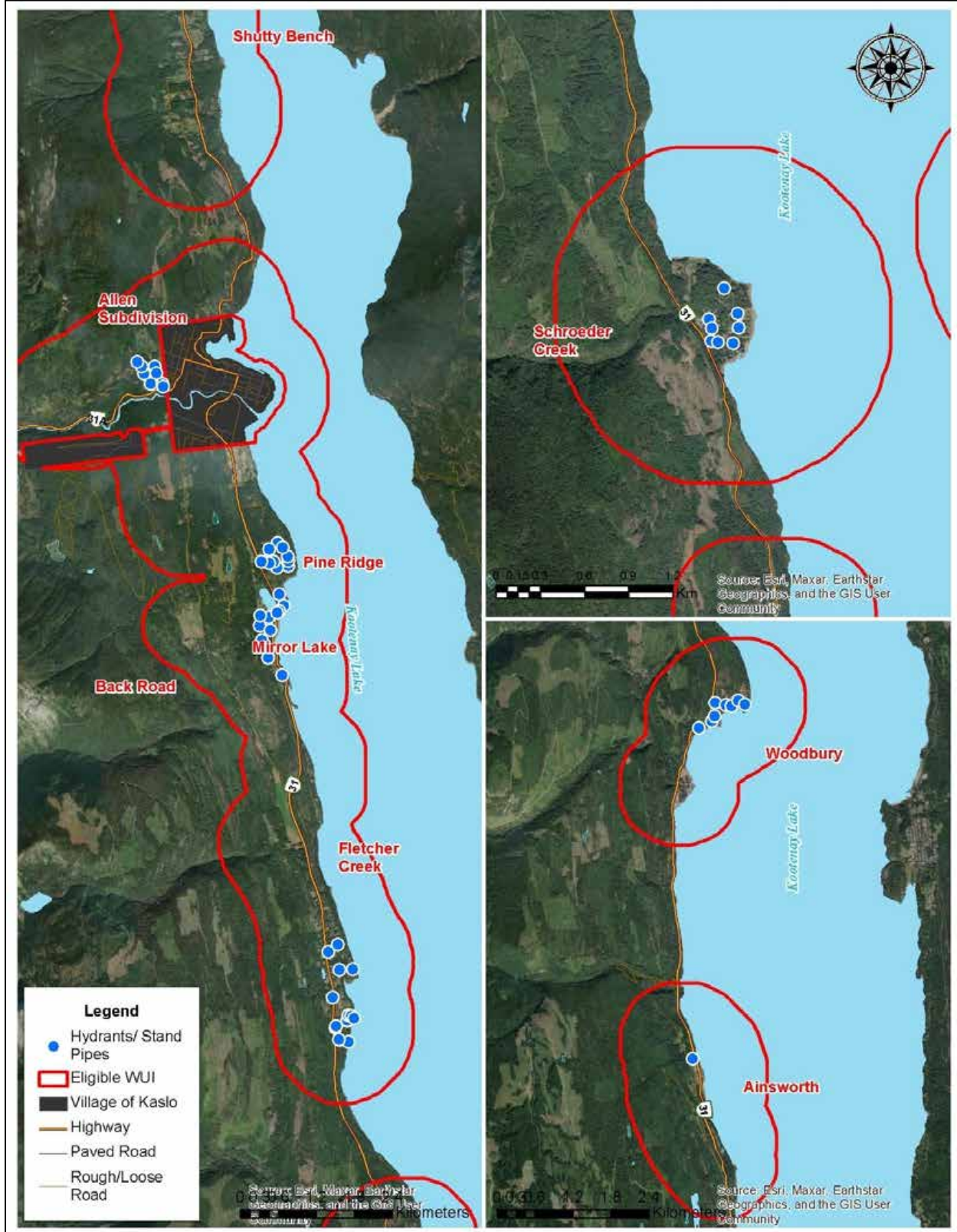
systems.³⁴ All other properties have individual wells or surface water intakes and private septic for sewage disposal.

Hydrants and standpipe locations within the WUI are shown below on Map 4, and are mostly located in Allen Subdivision, Mirror Lake, Fletcher Creek, Woodbury, Shroeder Creek Resort, Lardeau³⁵ (which has 16), and within the Village of Kaslo. The most reliable natural sources of year-round water for firefighting are Kootenay Lake, Duncan River, and Duncan Lake, and other sources (i.e., ponds, creeks, etc.) are plentiful throughout the WUI and contribute to water availability for firefighting (subject to accessibility constraints such as winter snow and ice). These are known, but not mapped. See Section 5.4 for recommendations related to fire department resources.

Local government noted that in summer 2023 water stress from drought was an issue for most, but not all, surface and well water systems. Many wells dried up and most streams were at 60% or less than average seasonal flow rates.

³⁴ Howser, Lardeau, Mirror Lake, Fletcher Creek Improvement District, Shroeder Creek, Loki Lease Lots, Ainsworth, Johnsons Landing (Gar Creek Water Users). From RDCK local government information gathering questionnaire.

³⁵ Standpipe locations in Lardeau were not included in the GIS data acquired with this data from RDCK.



Map 4: Hydrants and standpipes for communities in Electoral Area D (RDCK GIS data).

3.3.3 HAZARDOUS VALUES

Hazardous values are defined as values that pose a safety hazard to emergency responders and include large fuel / propane facilities, landfills, rail yards, storage facilities containing explosives, pipelines, etc. Anywhere combustible materials, explosive chemicals, or gas/oil are stored can be considered a hazardous value. Protecting hazardous values from fires is important to preventing interface fire disasters.

No hazardous values were identified within RDCK Electoral Area D's WUI, but it was noted in the 2023 RDCK Community Risk Assessment that hazardous materials are transported by truck throughout the area (Highways). Accidental ignitions on highway corridors and from associated maintenance equipment are a fire risk. Vegetation management practices along highways can exacerbate a fire hazard if deciduous and/or coniferous vegetation and cured grasses are being brushed and left in accumulations beside the road. This presents more of a concern where the vegetation on private properties adjacent to the highway corridor has a coniferous component or cured grass, which can support fast spreading fires. Recommendations associated with industry stakeholders are discussed in Section 5.5.

It is also very likely that both industrial and hobby farms store gas, oil, and/or fertilizer. Education and associated recommendations regarding FireSmart principles are discussed in Section 5.2.

3.3.4 CULTURAL VALUES

There are documented and registered historic and archeological sites within the WUI and a high potential for additional sites to be found given the long history of use by the Yaqan Nukiy (Lower Kootenay Band) of the Ktunaxa Nation and the Secwépemc First Nation. Known archeological sites are protected under the Heritage Conservation Act, which applies to both private and public lands.

EA-D, RDCK, and/or MOF should continue to consult with applicable First Nations, historical societies, and private landowners well before development and implementation of any proposed fuel prescriptions to allow for meaningful review and input, as well as collaborative opportunities – cultural burning by First Nations has a long documented and orally spoken history in the area. Archeological assessments may be required to ensure that known or unknown cultural resources are not inadvertently damaged or destroyed, and that First Nations strategies for land management in their traditional territory are complied with.

3.3.5 HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

There are multiple high environmental values throughout the RDCK. In EA-D, there is significant proximity to provincial parks and regional parks, including the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Provincial Park and Protected area. Additionally, EA-D's WUI has significant overlaps with species and ecosystems at risk identified through the B.C. Conservation Data Center and by the federal government (Table 9), as well as significant grizzly habitat. All fuel management prescriptions must identify and mitigate potential impacts to ecosystems or species at risk and may require rationales and/or mitigation measures for tree removal in some areas.

Since 2014, the Kootenay Lake Conservation Fund has been in effect in Electoral Areas A, D and E as an RDCK Service. The fund has provided grants totaling over ½ million dollars and raised an additional 2.45 million dollars in financial and in-kind support from other funders. In EA-D, the fund has several projects in place aimed at conserving valuable natural areas and restoring and preserving a healthy environment. These projects include water quantity monitoring, bat habitat conservation, grizzly bear co-existence solutions, western toad population monitoring, Kootenay Lake shoreline development guidance, and osprey nest monitoring.

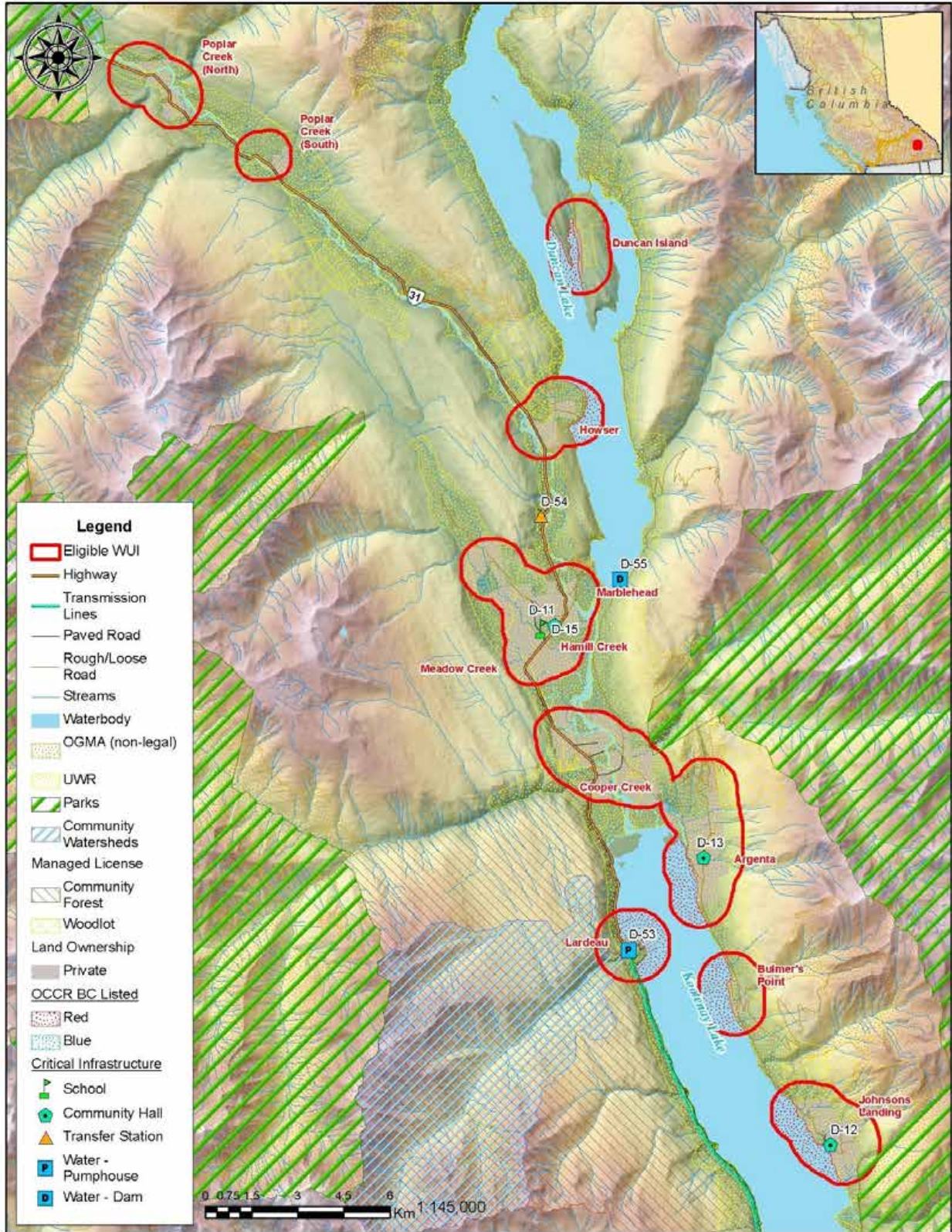
Table 9. Species and Ecosystems at Risk in the WUI – BC Conservation Data Center. *Denotes Critical Habitat for Federally Listed Species at Risk

Common Name	Scientific Name	Category	BC List	Habitat Type
White Sturgeon (Upper Kootenay River Population)	Acipenser transmontanus pop. 1	Vertebrate Animal	Red	Riverine: Big River; Moderate Gradient; Low Gradient; Pool Lacustrine: Deep Water
Banded Tigersnail	Anguispira kochi	Invertebrate Animal	Blue	Terrestrial: Woodland Mixed Riverine: Riparian
Painted Turtle - Intermountain - Rocky Mountain Population	Chrysemys picta pop. 2	Vertebrate Animal	Blue	Lacustrine: Shallow Water Palustrine: Herbaceous Wetland Terrestrial: Roadside
Wild Licorice	Glycyrrhiza lepidota	Vascular Plant	Blue	Lacustrine: Riparian
Western Skink	Plestiodon skiltonianus	Vertebrate Animal	Blue	Terrestrial: Rock/Outcrop, coarse talus/boulders, grassland/herbaceous, forest needleleaf
Lance-leaved Figwort	Scrophularia lanceolata	Vascular Plant	Blue	Terrestrial: Roadside

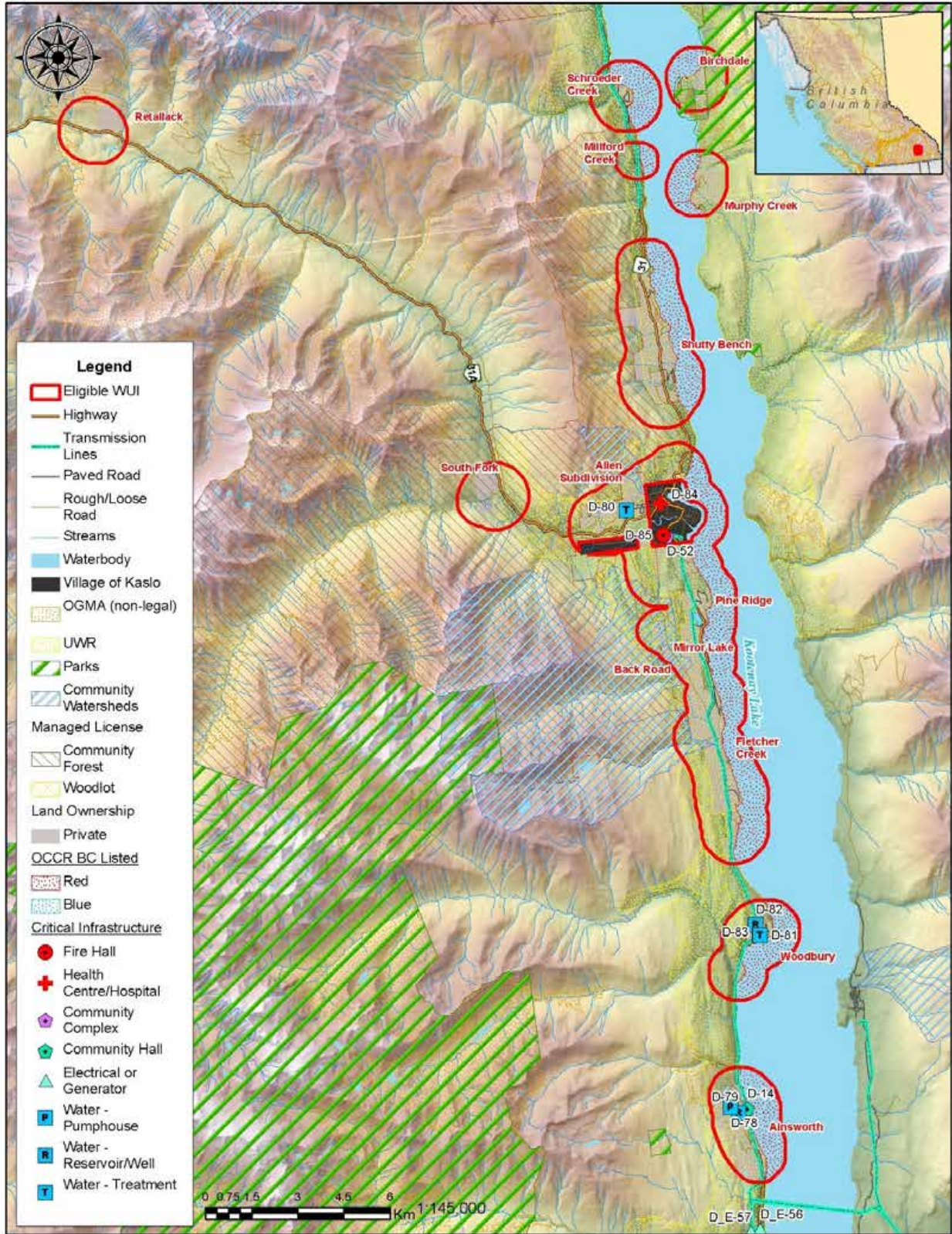
3.3.6 OTHER RESOURCE VALUES

There are multiple other important resource values associated with the land base, including forestry, agriculture (commercial and hobby farms), recreation, and tourism. Any fuel management within EA-D’s WUI should consider the impact on any of these additional values, and consult with appropriate land managers and organized recreation groups in the area.

BC Timber Sales (north of Kootenay Lake), the Kaslo and District Community Forest (west side of Kootenay Lake), woodlots, other volume-based licensees, and designated BC Recreation Sites all have significant tenure/operating/management overlaps with EA-D’s WUI. Forest activities can both increase and decrease wildfire risk in WUI areas. Any forestry activities within the WUI should consider the impact of wildfire risk to the community. Recommendations associated with industry stakeholders are discussed in Section 5.5.



Map 5: Values at Risk for RDCK Electoral Area D (north).



Map 6: Values at Risk for RDCK Electoral Area D (south).

SECTION 4: WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

This section summarizes the factors that contribute to local wildfire risk in EA-D. Section 4.1 discusses the wildfire environment in the WUI: focusing on topography, fuel, and weather. Section 4.2 discusses wildfire history in the area and wildfire response data from local fire crews. Section 4.3 uses updated fuel types combined with wildfire threat assessments and an office-based analysis to update the local wildfire risk for the eligible WUI.

The local wildfire risk assessment helps to identify the parts of the eligible WUI that are most vulnerable to wildfire. The CWRP risk assessment complements the broader scale Emergency Response and Recovery Plan for the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

The relationship between wildfire risk and wildfire threat is defined as follows:

$$\textit{Wildfire Risk} = \textit{Probability} \times \textit{Consequence}$$

Where:

Wildfire risk is defined as the potential losses incurred to human life and values at risk within a community in the event of a wildfire.

Probability is the threat of wildfire occurring in an area and is expressed by the ability of a wildfire to ignite and then consume fuel on the landscape. An area's *wildfire threat* is controlled primarily by:

- Topography: Slope and terrain features can influence rate of spread; aspect can affect pre-heating and other fuel properties
- Fuel: Amount, vertical and horizontal arrangement, type, and dryness
- Weather: Temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, precipitation

Consequences refer to the repercussions associated with fire occurrence in a given area. Higher consequences are associated with densely populated areas, presence of values at risk, etc.

4.1 WILDFIRE ENVIRONMENT

There are three environmental components that influence wildfire behavior: topography, weather, and fuel. These components are generally referred to as the 'fire behaviour triangle' (Figure 2); the ways in which they individually influence the wildfire environment of the area will be detailed below. Fuel is the only component of the fire triangle that can be reasonably managed through human intervention. It is important to recognize that in WUI fires, wildland fuels (trees, shrubs, branches, etc.) are not the only fuel available to the fire – houses and their exterior construction materials and landscaping vegetation, cars, barbeque propane tanks, and more (anything that is flammable or combustible) is available fuel.



Figure 2: Graphic display of the fire behaviour triangle, and a subset of characteristics within each component.³⁶

4.1.1 TOPOGRAPHY

Slope steepness influences the fire’s trajectory and rate of spread and slope position relates to the ability of a fire to gain momentum uphill. Other factors of topography that influence fire behaviour include aspect, elevation, and configuration of features on the landscape that can restrict (i.e., water bodies, rock outcrops) or drive (i.e., valleys, exposed ridges) the movement of a wildfire.

Most homes and structures in EA-D communities that are located along the shorelines of Kootenay Lake and Duncan Lake are situated along the lower slope adjacent to the lake shore. Often, these lower slopes are more subdued, but for some communities (or even just a part of them), the lower slopes can be quite steep. Other communities within the electoral area are in river valleys, with homes and structures situated in the lower valley area. Within the lower valley area, the homes and structures are most often located in either the flat floodplain, the adjacent raised and flat ancient floodplains or fluvial terraces, or the lower slope of the still adjacent valley slope. Thus, while most communities are generally located in the lower slope of their respective macro-topological features (which is naturally advantageous from a fire spread standpoint), topography presents a situationally specific risk to communities and neighbourhoods at the site level.

On a large scale, the broad Kootenay Lake/Duncan Lake/Duncan River Valley can funnel winds to drive a fire both up (north) and down (south) the valley. Additionally, main tributary rivers³⁷ and adjacent creek draws (often running up/down the valley slopes of the side drainages) provide additional convective features that can drive the up valley and upslope spread of fire.

Map 7 and Map 8 display the slope, by slope classes, for EA-D’s WUI. Table 10 shows the percent of the WUI by slope steepness class, with corresponding *fire behavior* implications. Just over one third (37%) of

³⁶ Graphic adopted from the Province of Alberta.

³⁷ E.g., Cedar Creek [Ainsworth]; Lendrum and Woodbury Creeks [Woodbury and Fletcher Creek]; Fletcher Creek [Fletcher Creek and South Kaslo]; Kaslo River [Retallack and Kaslo]; Schroeder Creek [Schroeder Creek], Fry Creek [Birchdale and Johnsons Landing]; and Lardeau River [Poplar Creek, Howser]

the WUI has slopes >30%, would experience accelerated rates of fire spread *uphill*. 65% of the WUI has slopes <30%, and would experience little slope-driven flame and fuel interaction.

Table 10. Slope Percentage and Fire Behaviour Implications.

Slope	Percent of Eligible WUI	Fire Behaviour Implications
<20%	54%	Very little flame and fuel interaction caused by slope, normal rate of spread.
21-30%	10%	Flame tilt begins to preheat fuel, increase rate of spread.
31-40%	10%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and begins to bathe flames into fuel, high rate of spread.
41-60%	16%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel, very high rate of spread.
>60%	11%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel well upslope, extreme rate of spread.

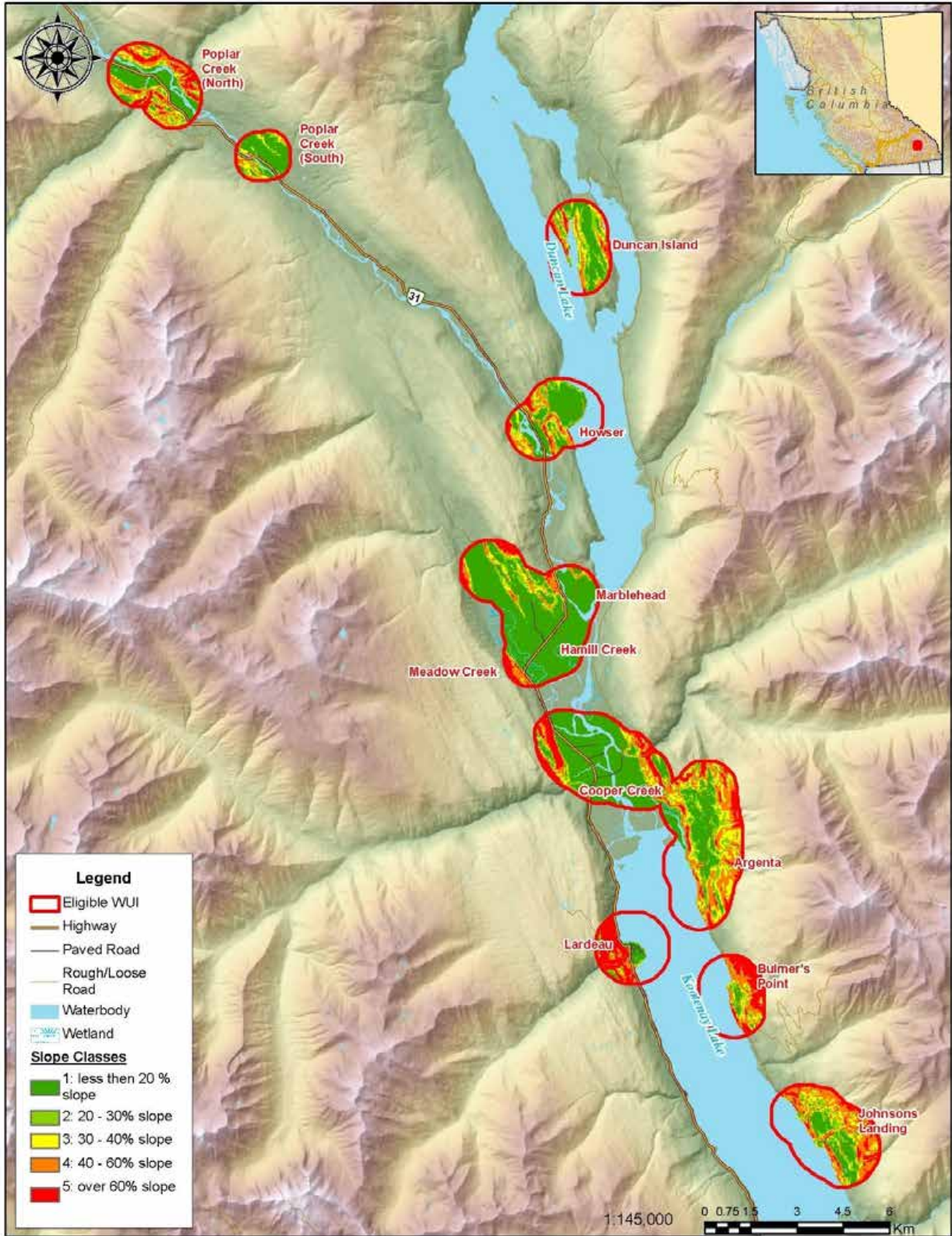
Slope-associated *fire risk* is dependent upon the slope position (location) of values, described below in Table 11. Values located in the middle and upper slopes are threatened by faster rates of fire spread due to the pre-heating of fuels from fire below and longer flame lengths reaching uphill. As discussed above, most of EA-D's communities are located at valley and slope bottoms, or on flat benches, so would not have increased fire behaviour risks influenced by topography alone.

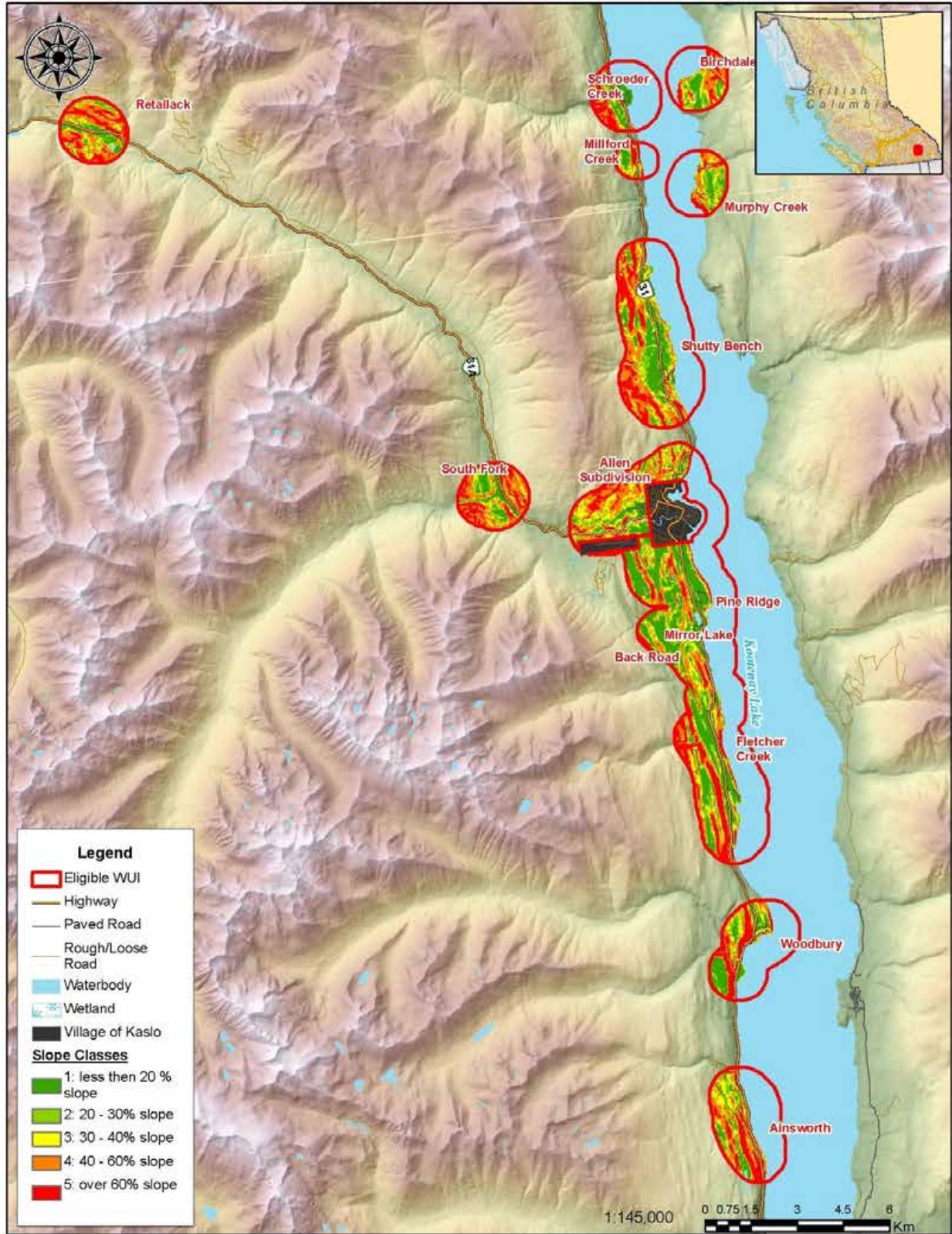
Table 11. Slope Position of Value and Fire Behaviour Implications.

Slope Position of Value	Fire Behaviour Implications
Bottom of Slope/ Valley Bottom	Impacted by normal rates of spread.
Mid Slope - Bench	Impacted by increase rates of spread. Position on a bench may reduce the preheating near the value. (Value is offset from the slope).
Mid Slope – Continuous	Impacted by fast rates of spread. No break in terrain features affected by preheating and flames bathing into the fuel ahead of the fire.
Upper 1/3 of slope	Impacted by extreme rates of spread. At risk to large continuous fire run, preheating and flames bathing into the fuel.

Communities and/or neighbourhoods that have an assessed increased fire behaviour risk from slope and slope position are:

- *Ainsworth*: Loon Lake Rd and Hanson Rd
- *Fletcher Creek, Back Road, Allen Subdivision*
- *South Fork*
- *Retallack*
- *Shutty Bench*: Koehle Rd, Cowan Rd
- *Argenta*: South end of Argenta-Johnsons Landing Rd, north end of Argenta
- *Duncan Island*





Map 8: Slope, by slope classes, for RDCK EA-D's southern communities' WUIs.

4.1.2 FUEL

The ecological context of wildfire and the role of fire in the local ecosystem under both current and historical conditions is an important basis for understanding the current and future wildfire threat to a community. Also, the type and amount of fuel available for a wildfire is a major driver of the fire's potential fire behaviour. Fuel is the only component of the fire triangle that can be realistically managed through human intervention. This section analyses and discusses available *wildland* vegetative fuels within EA-D's WUI.

The forested slopes both within and outside EA-D's WUI have experienced a significant amount of past, recent, and ongoing logging. Past logging, combined with historically suppressed wildfires throughout the 1900s, has resulted in a relatively continuous distribution of even-aged conifer stands. However, within EA-D's WUI, some of these forested stands have seen new logging that has begun breaking up the even-aged continuity, something that can reduce wildfire behaviour by forcing fire 'to the ground'. Importantly, management of reduced slash (harvest debris) in these WUI harvested areas is paramount towards further reducing their wildfire behaviour and potential risk to nearby neighbourhoods and adjacent communities.

The Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) System outlines sixteen fuel types based on characteristic fire behaviour under defined conditions.³⁸ BC Wildfire Service maintains a provincial fuel type layer that was confirmed and updated for this CWRP. It should be noted that mixed conifer stands³⁹ in the interior wet belt, of which EA-Ds WUI is within, are one of the specifically identified areas of uncertainty and knowledge gaps within the FBP system and are considered, at best, a poor match with any fuel type.⁴⁰ The FBP system was almost entirely developed for boreal and sub-boreal forest types, which do not occur within the study areas. Furthermore, fuel types depend heavily on Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) data, which is gathered and maintained to inform timber management objectives, not fire behaviour prediction. Although a subjective process, the most appropriate fuel type was assigned based on research, experience, and practical knowledge; this system has been successfully used within BC, with continual improvement and refinement, for 25 years.⁴¹ In some areas, aerial imagery is of low spatial resolution and/or ground access was impossible, making fuel type assessment difficult.

Table 12 lists the percentage of fuel types in EA-D's eligible WUI.⁴² The fuel types present that are considered most hazardous in terms of fire behaviour (almost all located in the forested slopes) are C-4, C-3, S-1, S-3, and O-1a/b (can include C-5 and C-7 under certain conditions). C-4 and C-3 fuel types can

³⁸ Forestry Canada Fire Danger Group. 1992. Development and Structure of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System: Information Report ST-X-3.

³⁹ Species such as western white pine and western larch growing in multi-story canopies, usually associated with Douglas-fir, redcedar, lodgepole pine, or other species.

⁴⁰ Natural Resources Canada. 2018. British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description. Daniel D.B. Perrakis, George Eade, and Dana Hicks

⁴¹ Perrakis, D, G. Eade and D. Hicks. 2018. Canadian Forest Service Pacific Forestry Centre. British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description

⁴² Larch produces very little persistent litter, so the D-1 fuel type likely overestimates fire spread potential of these stands. In mixed-species stands with other conifers, larch is considered to contribute to the deciduous portion of the stand; this is implemented using the M-1/M-2 fuel types. (Natural Resources Canada. British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description)

support passive and active crown fires, and under extreme wildfire conditions can exhibit some of the highest wildfire risk associated to fuel type. Extensive areas of S-1, S-3, O-1a/b, C-5, or C-7 can support a rapidly spreading surface fire capable of damage or destruction of property and jeopardizing human life, but the fire behaviour potential in these fuel types is recognized as highly variable dependent on the percentage of grass or slash that is cured and the wind speed. An M-1/2 fuel type can be considered hazardous depending on the proportion of conifers within the forest stand, and/or the amount of dead and downed material. D-1/2 stands (for EA-D, mostly located in riparian areas and flood plains (e.g., Duncan River riparian area in Cooper Creek) are dominated by deciduous species, and are generally considered the least hazardous forest type because of their higher moisture content and lack of flammable ladder fuels. The hazard of a D-1/2 stand can greatly increase if there is an accumulation of surface fuels, cured grasses, or flammable shrubs. Recent spring cross-over conditions⁴³ (called the ‘spring dip’) have allowed for destructive forest fires in deciduous-dominated stands. Detailed fuel type descriptions and their associated wildfire risk can be found in Appendix B-1: Fuel Typing Methodology.

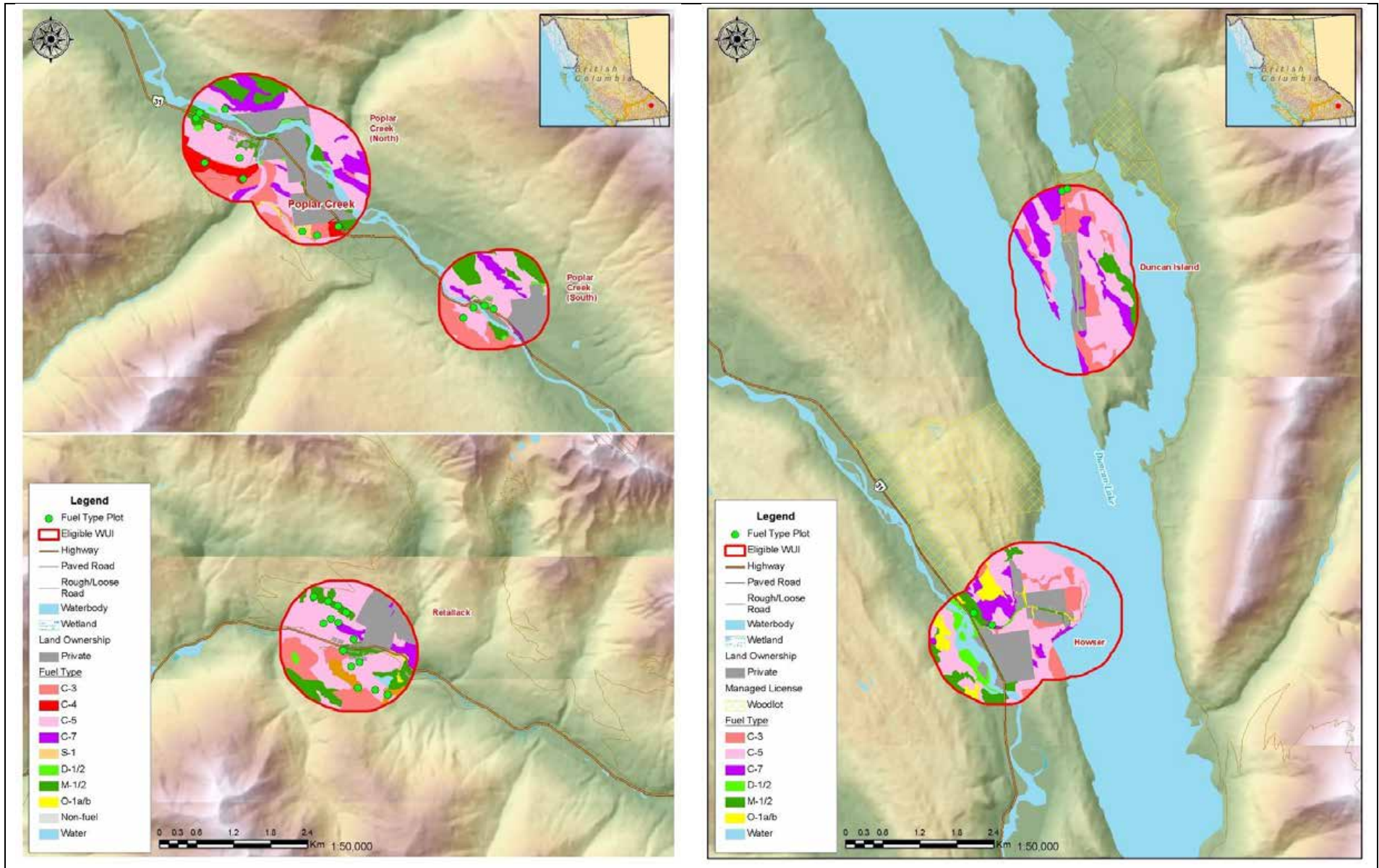
Table 12. Fuel types in EA-D’s Wildland Urban Interface

Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description within the WUI	Area (ha) of WUI	Percent (%) of assessable WUI area
C-3	Pole-sapling to mature even-aged conifer-dominated forest with moderate to high density and high crown closure (near or at horizontal continuity). Crowns separated from the forest floor in mature stands.	543	5%
C-4	Pole-sapling to mature (but stagnant in growth) very dense conifer-dominated forests (>10,000 sph). Some stands have a high number of dead standing or dead leaning/down from natural exclusion processes.	31	<1%
C-5	Low to moderate density, uneven-aged conifer-dominated forest, crown base heights mixed. Understory of discontinuous natural conifer ingress in openings and gaps, deciduous shrubs, and herbs.	2758	26%
C-7	Low-density, uneven-aged conifer-dominated forest, crowns separated from the ground, understory of discontinuous grasses and shrubs. Exposed bed rock and low surface fuel loading. Often located on south-facing slopes and throughout the ICHxw. Also used to type completed fuel treatments that have left a low-density conifer stand.	1011	9%
S-1	Conifer dominated slash as the result of harvesting practices on moderate to low slope grades. Slash is typically one to two seasons old, continuous, with no post-logging treatment applied. Tops and branches left on site result in moderate fuel load depths.	3	<1%
S-3	Conifer dominated slash as the result of harvesting practices on steeper slope grades. Slash is typically one to two seasons old,	17	<1%

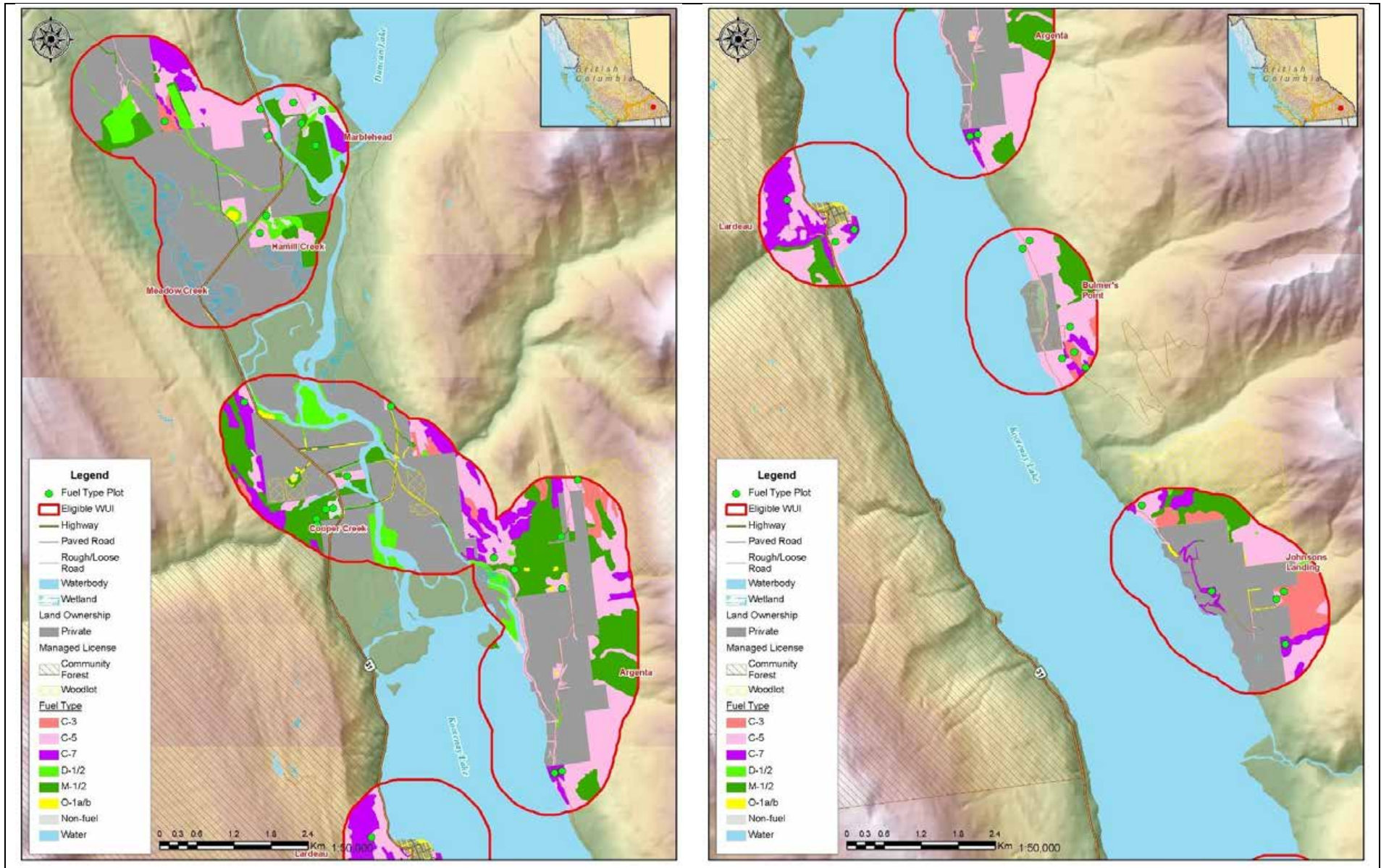
⁴³ Cross-over conditions refer to a point where air temperature drops below the relative humidity (e.g., 20°C/15% humidity), providing conditions for potentially severe fire behaviour.

Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description within the WUI	Area (ha) of WUI	Percent (%) of assessable WUI area
	continuous, with no post-logging treatment applied. Tops and branches left on site result in moderate fuel load depths.		
D-1/2	Deciduous stands/forest. Hazard increases with the amount of deadfall and/or establishment of a flammable shrub layer.	283	3%
M-1/2	Moderately well-stocked mixed stands of conifer and deciduous, low to moderate dead stems and down woody fuels. Often transition to become more conifer dominated as pioneer deciduous species die out if disturbance is excluded. Note: Western Larch is typed as a deciduous species for fuel typing and may be part or all of the deciduous component in this fuel type.	1706	16%
O-1a/b	Grassland fuels ('a' refers to matted grasses, 'b' refers to standing). Matted and standing grass that can cure; sparse or scattered shrubs, trees, and down woody debris. Cutblocks >2 seasons old that do not meet S-type descriptions, as well as young regenerating cutblocks that have not reached any horizontal continuity.	262	2%
Non-fuel	Areas with no available forest or grass fuels (e.g., roadways, gravel clearings, irrigated and/or mowed fields). These areas may (and often do) contain combustible materials, infrastructure, flammable landscaping, and homes.	60	1%
Water	-	4132	38%
Private Land	-	4427	n/a

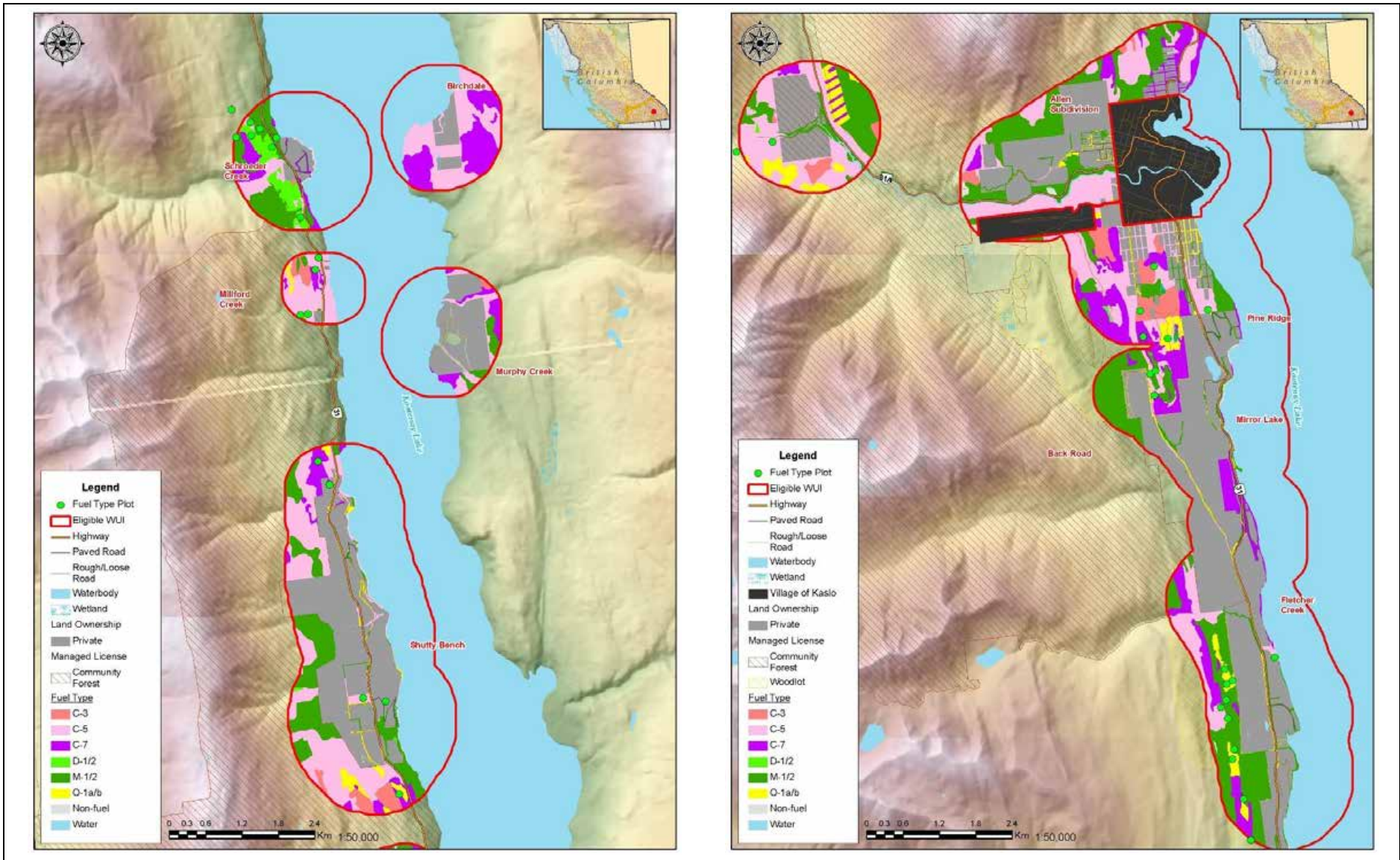
Map 9 - Map 12 below display the updated fuel types for the eligible WUI of communities in EA-D.



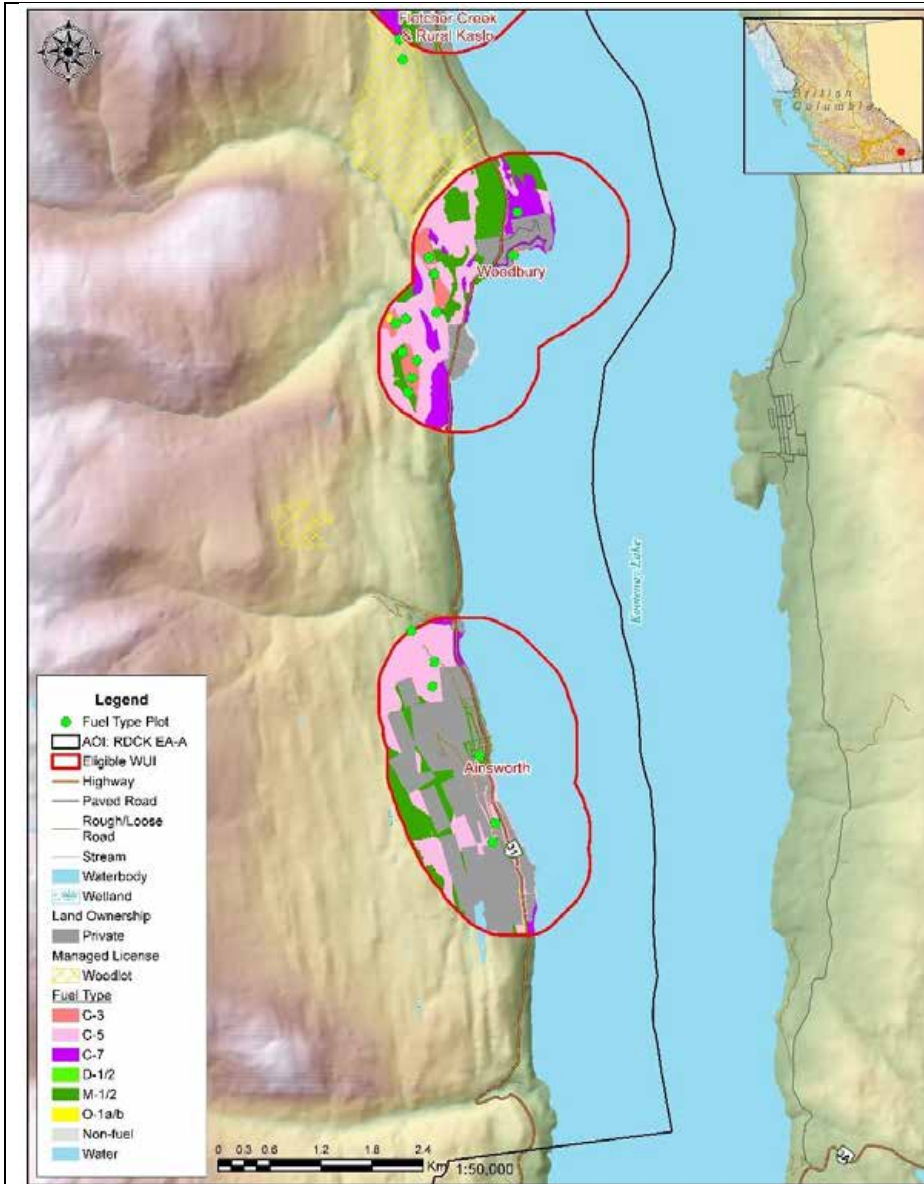
Map 9: Update fuel types - Poplar Creek, Retallack, Duncan Island, and Howser.



Map 10: Update fuel types - Marblehead, Meadow Creek, Cooper Creek, Argenta, Lardeau, Bulmer's Point, and Johnsons Landing.



Map 11: Update fuel types - Shroeder Creek, Birchdale, Milford Creek, Murphy Creek, Shutty Bench, Allen Subdivision, Pine Ridge, Mirror Lake, Back Road, South Fork, and Fletcher Creek.



Map 12: Update fuel types - Woodbury, Ainsworth



Pictures of some fuel types present within Electoral Area D's WUI

4.1.3 WEATHER

Most EA-D communities are located along the shores and adjacent slopes of northern Kootenay Lake, in the Duncan River and associated land between Kootenay Lake and Duncan Lake, and the shores and adjacent slopes southern Duncan Lake (Retallack being the main community outlier, located west of Kaslo in the Kaso River Valley). Fire season conditions are generally warm to hot (July and August daily temperature means average 18.4°C, with highs averaging 25.4°C) with some rainfall expected throughout (August averages the least rainfall with 44.4mm, while June averages the most with 76.9mm), with climate change projections trending toward even hotter summers and more pronounced droughts.⁴⁴ Local BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) staff working actively on wildfires in the Central Kootenays during 2023 commented that in this region, weather (i.e., relative humidity and wind), slope, and aspect are far more important factors in fire growth than fuel types.⁴⁵

Historical weather data can provide information on the number and distribution of days when EA-D's WUI communities and surrounding areas experience high fire danger conditions. 'High fire danger' is considered with a Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS) Danger Class rating of 4 (High) or 5 (Extreme). Average danger class data for EA-D can be determined from representative BCWS fire weather stations within the WUI: Goldhill (located on the west side of Lardeau River uphill from the valley facing east, at the north end of Kootenay Lake and at 800m elevation; and Powder Creek (located on the east side of Kootenay Lake across from Kaslo, facing west, at 1020 m elevation). Averages for the past 12 years are presented for each in Figure 3 and Figure 4 below.

Averaging the data from these two stations shows that, for the majority of EA-D's WUI, July and August have the greatest number of High and Extreme fire danger days, with July averaging 16.5 and August averaging 22. When combined, 63% of days in those two months exhibit High or Extreme fire danger. It is important to note that High and Extreme fire danger days are present throughout the entire fire season, from May to October, with EA-D's WUI.

⁴⁴ Environment and Climate Change Canada for Kaslo.

⁴⁵ From verbal conversations between the Plan's developers and wildfire crews encountered during field work for the Plan's development.

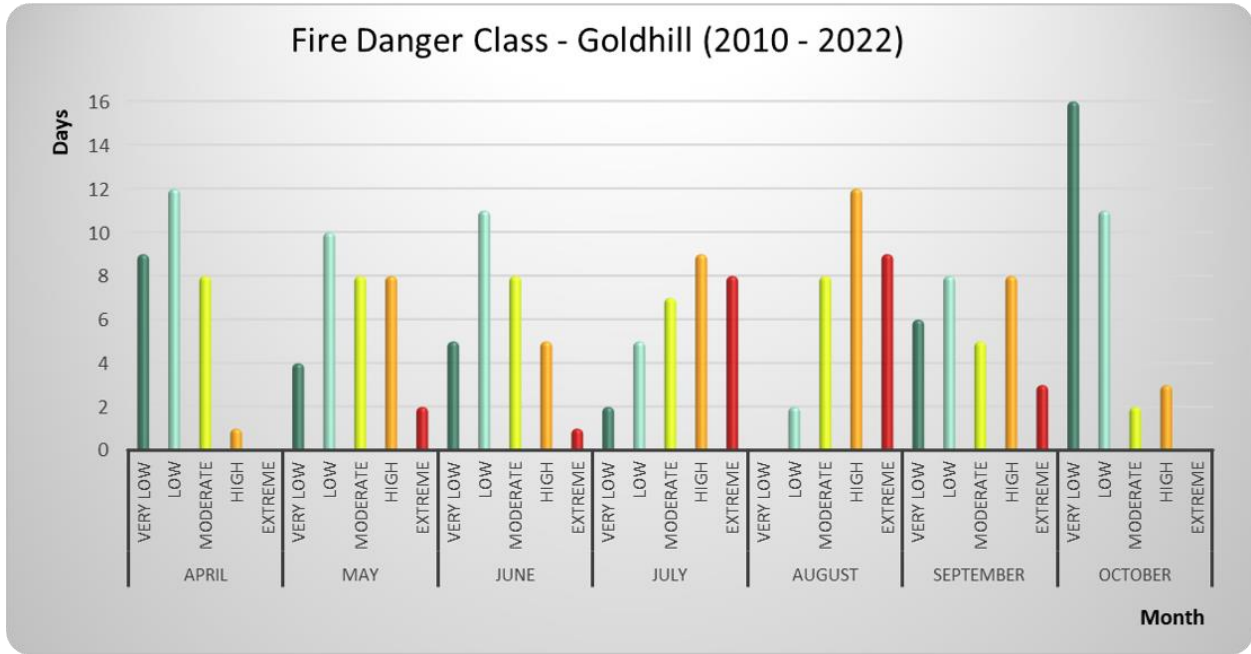


Figure 3: Average number of fire danger rating days by month for the Goldhill fire weather station.

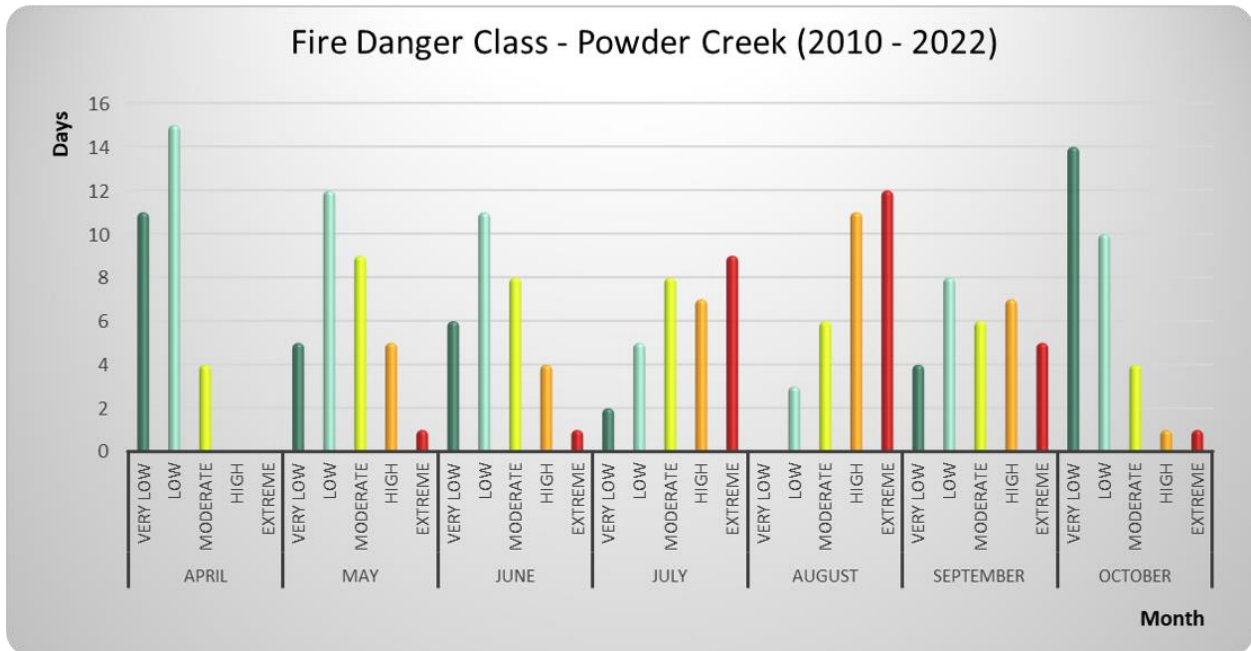


Figure 4: Average number of fire danger rating days by month for the Powder Creek fire weather station

Hourly wind speed and direction is also recorded at BCWS weather stations. Data is publicly available in the form of average Initial Spread Index (ISI) roses.⁴⁶ The ISI is a numeric rating of the expected rate of fire spread that combines the effects of wind speed and fine fuel moisture (which is controlled by temperature and relative humidity). ISI roses can be used to help plan the location of fuel treatments on the landscape to protect values at risk based on the predominant wind direction and frequency of higher ISI values. Wildfire that occurs upwind of a value poses a more significant threat to that value than one which occurs downwind.

Wind and ISI data assessed from both the Powder Creek (Figure 5) and Goldhill (Figure 6) fire weather stations during the fire season indicates that EA-D communities primarily experiences strong diurnal winds – up-valley (north along Kootenay and Duncan Lake; northeast/east up the Lardeau River) during the day, and down-valley (south along Kootenay and Duncan Lake; south down the Lardeau River) at night. As per the ISI roses, the highest ISI values (and thus associated with higher rates of fire spread) are during the highest temperature summer months, June - August.

The local BCWS Wildfire Prevention Officer noted that high elevation spruce/balsam stands [largely just uphill and outside EA-Ds WUI] tend to exhibit the most aggressive and volatile growth in the region. Middle elevation mixed stands of Douglas-fir, larch, and pine species [largely within the upper slopes of EA-D's WUI] can be volatile as well, however, typically less so than the higher spruce/balsam stands. Low elevation western red cedar/western hemlock stands [largely within the lower slopes of EA-D's WUI] exhibit the least volatility, unless certain fuel and weather conditions are met. Importantly, as fuel conditions dry out in the summer and combine with specific weather events (wind, low humidity, hotter temperatures), these fuel types can react with intensity and exhibit aggressive fire behavior. Echoing the sentiments of the firefighting ground crews encountered during Plan development field assessment work, winds are required to create volatility and fire growth in the fuel types in EA-D and are also required to push fire aggressively downslope towards communities.

⁴⁶<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/vegetation-and-fuel-management/fire-fuel-management/fuel-management>

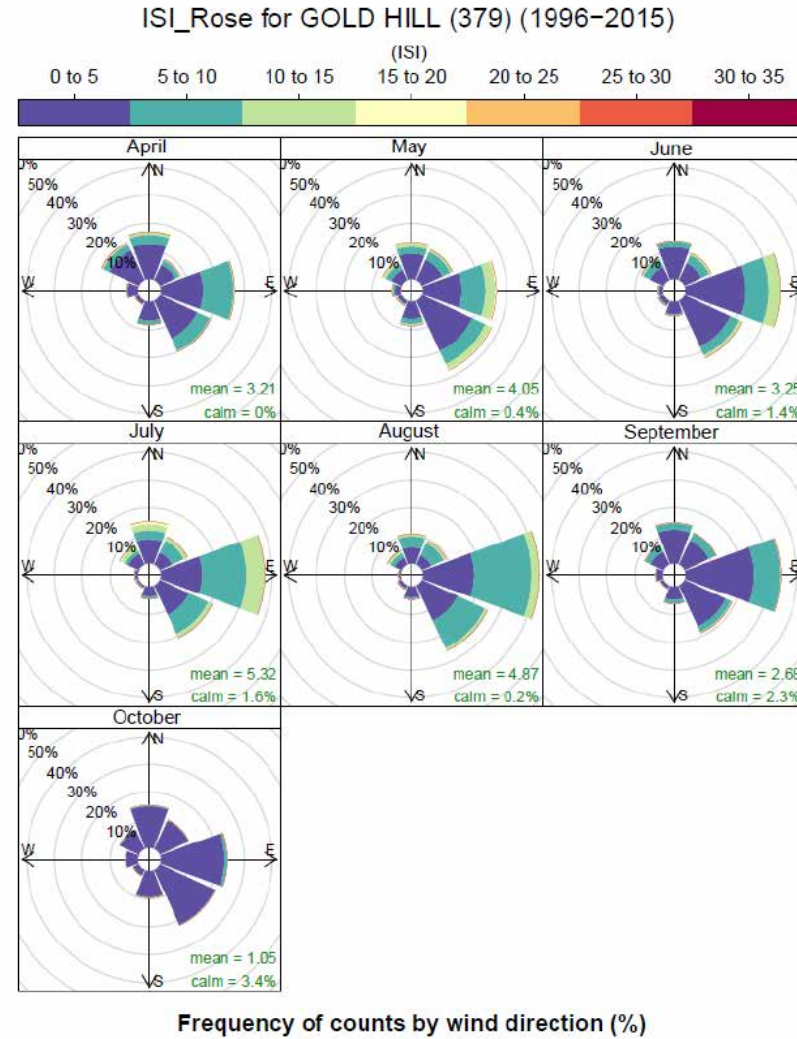
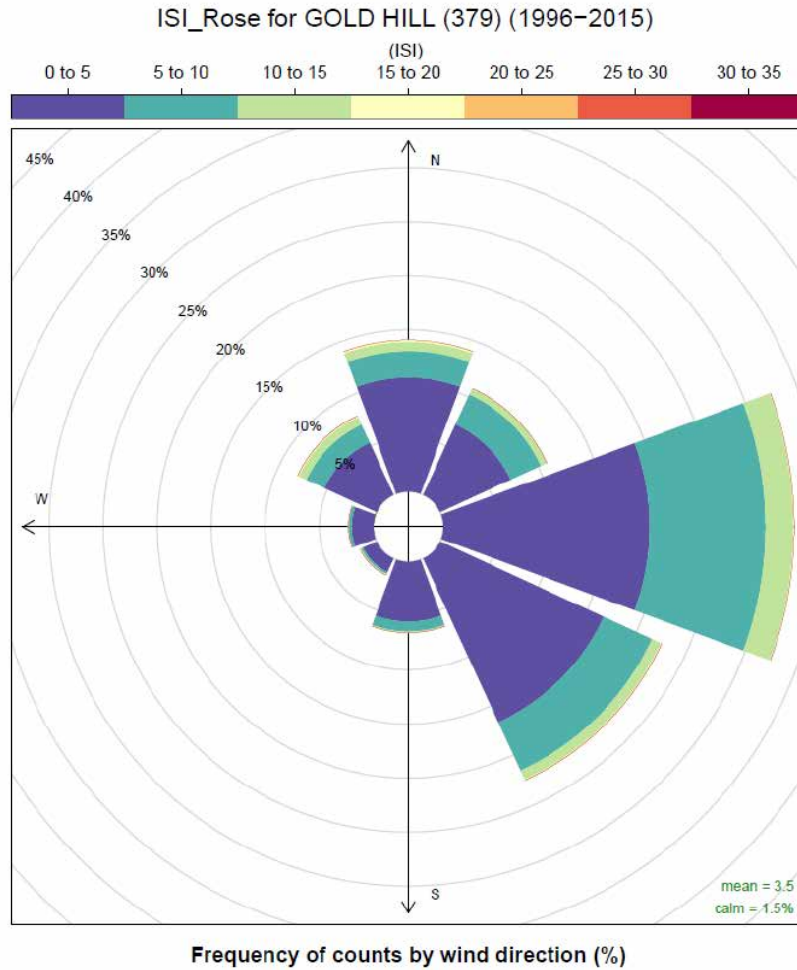


Figure 5. Daily and monthly average initial spread index rose for Akokli Creek fire weather station for the fire season (April – October)

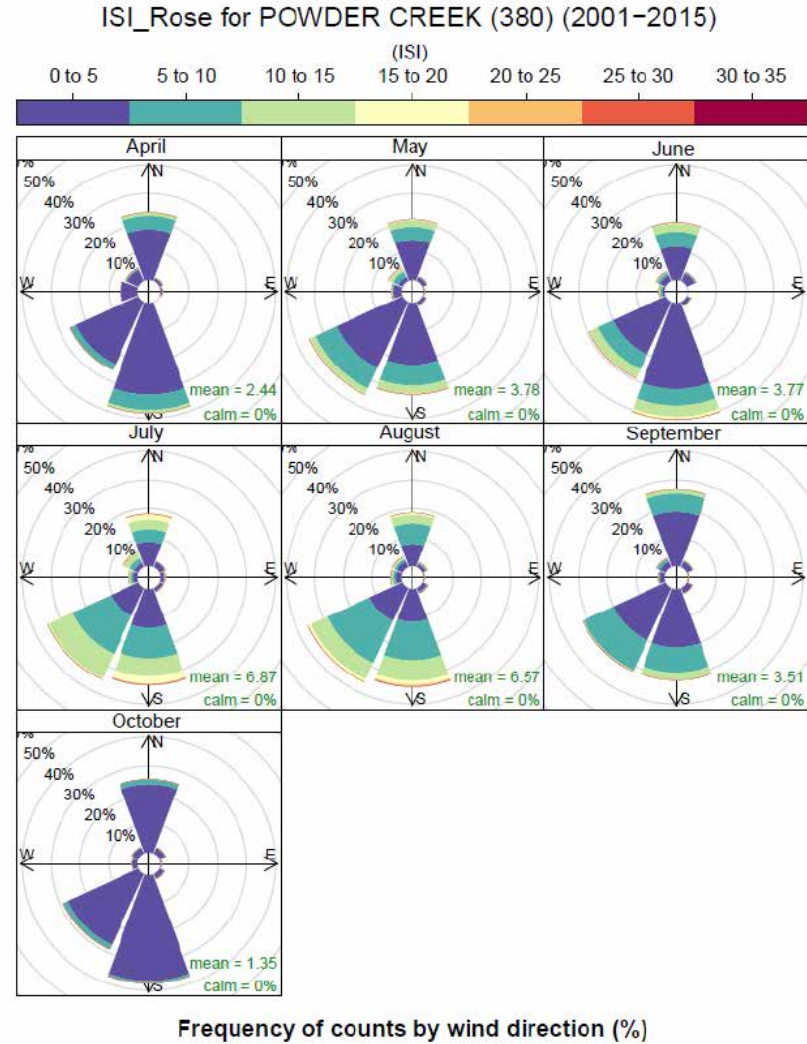
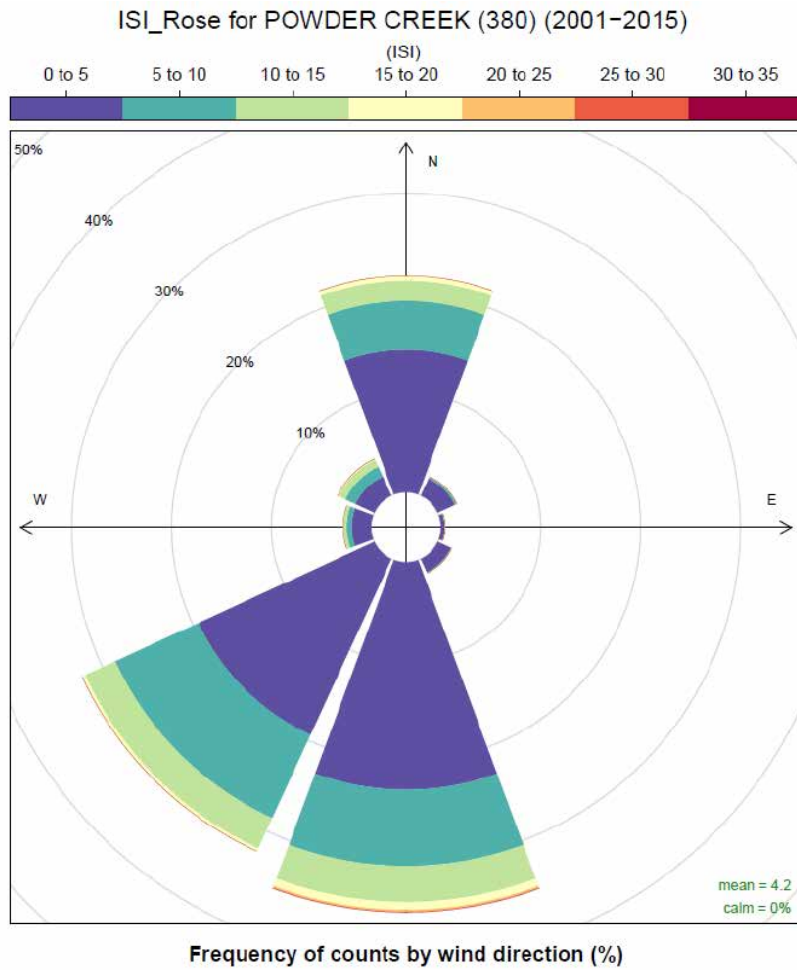


Figure 6: Daily and monthly average initial spread index rose for Powder Creek fire weather station for the fire season (April – October).

4.2 WILDFIRE HISTORY

4.2.1 HISTORIC FIRE REGIME

EA-D's WUI can be categorized using the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) system, which classifies the province into zones by vegetation, soils, and climate. Regional subzones are derived from relative precipitation and temperature.

Map 13 and Map 14, in Section 4.2.2 below, show the distribution of Biogeoclimatic zones and associated NDTs in EA-D's wildland-urban interface. Summarized in Table 13, EA-D's communities on the west side of Kootenay Lake from the north edge of Kaslo, and all communities north of Argenta, fall into the Interior Cedar Hemlock, Most Warm (ICHmw2) subzone. Forests in the (ICHmw2) are characterized by a natural disturbance regime of ecosystems with infrequent stand-initiating events (referred to as a Natural Disturbance Type [NDT] 2).⁴⁷ Historically, this resulted in stands with uneven-aged tendencies and multi-storied forest canopies resulting when undisturbed for significant periods of time. Wildfires tended to be moderate in size (20 to 1000 ha) with areas of unburned forest resulting from sheltering terrain features, higher site moisture, or chance.⁴⁷ Larger fires did occur after periods of extended drought. The mean return interval for fire was approximately 200 years, allowing for long periods of post-wildfire regeneration.⁴⁷

The east shore communities of Birchdale and Murphy Creek, and communities from Kaslo south, fall into the Interior Cedar Hemlock, Dry Warm (ICHdw1) subzone. Forests in the (ICHdw1) are characterized by a natural disturbance regime of ecosystems with frequent stand-initiating events (referred to as a Natural Disturbance Type [NDT] 3).⁴⁷ These ecosystems are characterized by frequent wildfires that range from small spot fires to conflagrations covering tens of thousands of hectares. This results in a landscape mosaic of stands of different ages with individual stands being even-aged.⁴⁷ Larger fires often occurred, and could grow to enormous sizes if no topographical-limiting features were present. The mean return interval for fire in the ICH NDT3 is approximately 150 years.⁴⁷

It is important to consider that BEC distributions will likely shift and/or change because of climate change.

Table 13. Natural Disturbance Types (NDTs) of EA-D's WUI.

Biogeoclimatic Zone	Natural Disturbance Type	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
ICHdw1: Interior Cedar -- Hemlock; Dry Warm; West Kootenay	NDT3	7828.1	51%
ICHmw2: Interior Cedar -- Hemlock; Moist Warm; Slokan	NDT2	7405.8	49%

⁴⁷ BC Biodiversity Guidebook. <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/documents/bib19715.pdf>

4.2.2 HISTORICAL WILDFIRE OCCURENCES

Historic wildfire perimeters, from 1912-2022, are displayed below on Map 13 and Map 14 for an area within five kilometres of EA-D communities’ WUIs. Overall, wildfires have occurred frequently since 1912, with lightning being the most common cause of those fires’ ignitions (81%; 125/154). Since 2000, there have been 30 fires recorded, of which 25 (83%) were caused by lightning, but only three of those fires crossed into EA-D communities’ WUIs. The largest fire recorded occurred in 1926 and was 5,786 ha; the second largest occurred in 1997 and was 4,920 ha. For all historic fires within five kilometres of EA-D communities’ WUIs, the average size was 382 ha.

BCWS fire ignition data (which records point ignitions that may or may not have developed into a wildfire with a recorded perimeter area) is only available from 1950 onwards. Looking at the same five-kilometre area surrounding EA-D communities’ WUIs, 807 out of 1,323 (61%) recorded ignitions have been from lightning. Of the 499 human-caused ignitions, 303 (70%) were recorded from 2000 onwards. This shows that although lightning is the dominant source for point ignitions historically, human ignitions have greatly increased in the last 23 years.

Figure 7 displays trends with fire ignitions since the 1950’s *within EA-D communities’ WUIs*. It is not surprising that, due to the much greater presence of people within the communities’ WUIs than outside of them, humans are the leading cause of ignitions. Mirroring the larger five-kilometre area surrounding, human ignitions have greatly increased since 2000.

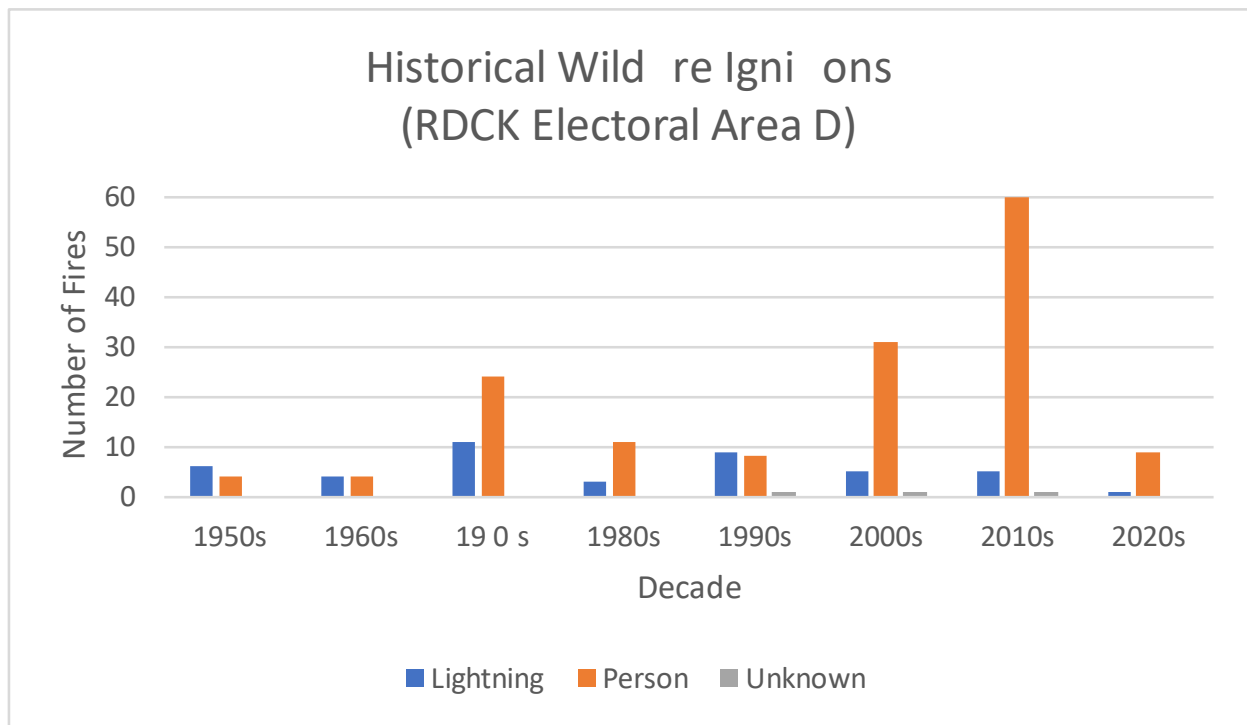
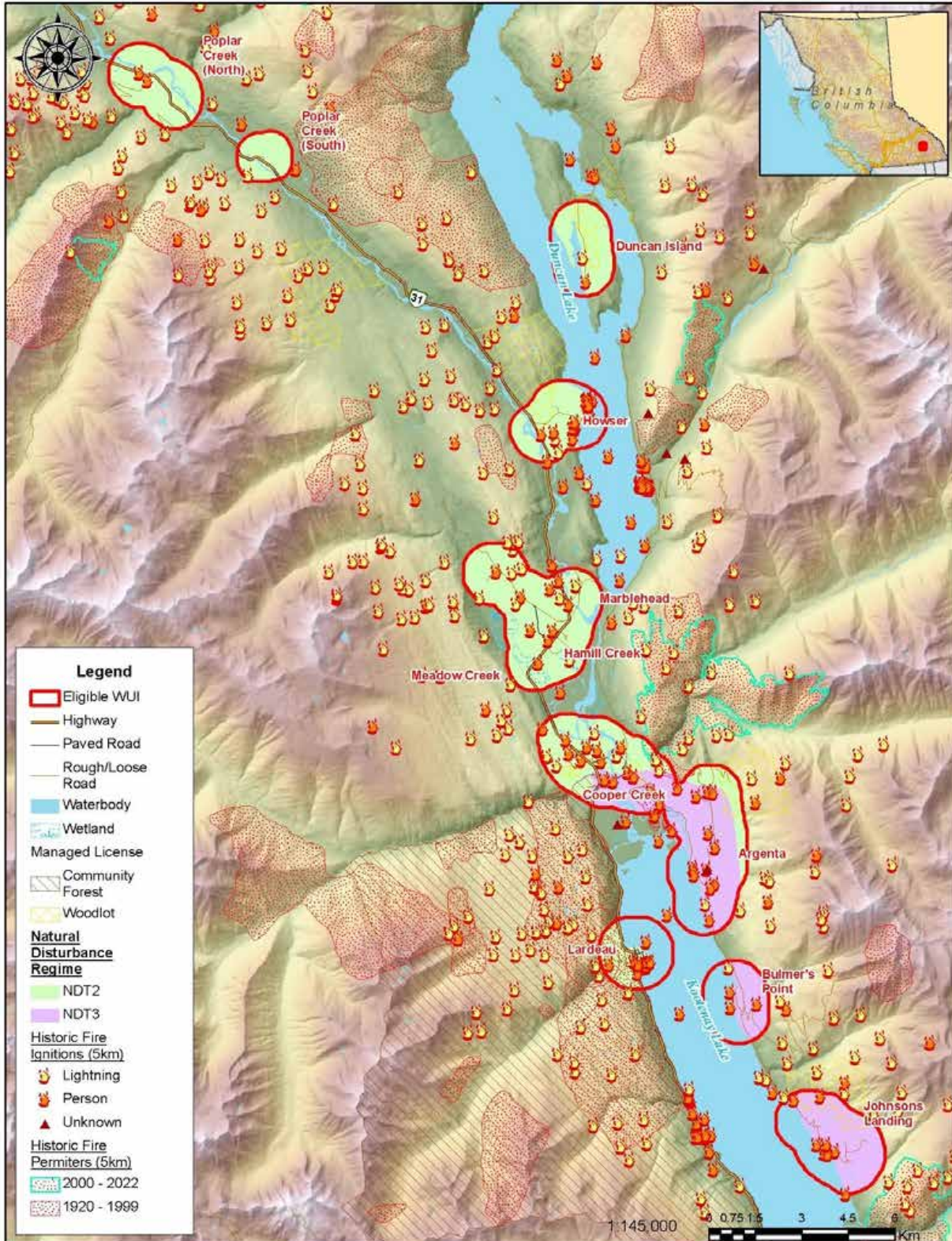
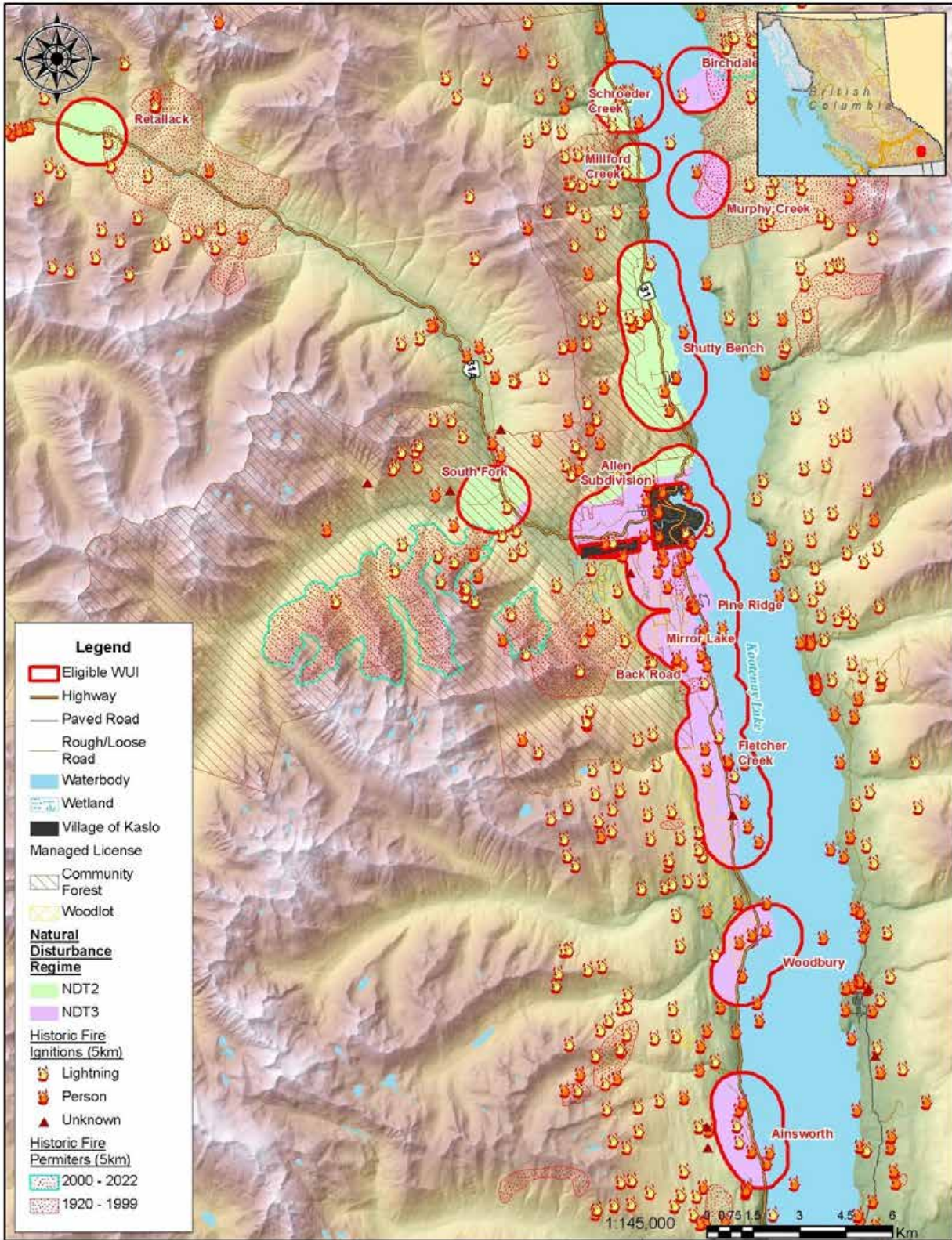


Figure 7: Summary of fire ignition data by cause within RDCK EA-D’s WUI (Data from the BC Wildfire Service).



Map 13: Natural disturbance regimes and historical fire ignitions and occurrences within 5 km of EA-D's northern communities' WUIs.



Map 14: Natural disturbance regimes and historical fire ignitions and occurrences within 5 km of EA-D's southern communities' WUIs.

4.3 LOCAL WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

There are two main components of this local risk assessment: the *wildfire behaviour threat class* (fuels, weather, and topography sub-components) and the *WUI risk class* (structural sub-component). The local wildfire threat assessment process includes several key steps as outlined in Appendix B: Local Wildfire Risk Process and summarized as follows:

- *Fuel type attribute assessment* – ground truthing/verification and updating as required to develop a local fuel type map (Appendix B-1: Fuel Typing Methodology).
- *Consideration of the proximity of fuel to the community* – recognizing that fuel closest to the community usually represents the highest hazard (Appendix B-4: Proximity of Fuel to the Community).
- *Analysis of predominant summer fire spread patterns* – using wind speed and wind direction during the peak burning period using ISI Rose(s) from BCWS weather station(s). Wind speed, wind direction, and fine fuel moisture condition influence wildfire trajectory and rate of spread.
- *Consideration of topography in relation to values* (Table 10 and Table 11) – slope percentage and slope position of the value are considered, where slope percentage influences the fire’s trajectory and rate of spread and slope position relates to the ability of a fire to gain momentum uphill.
- *Stratification of the WUI* – according to relative wildfire threat based on the above considerations, other local factors, and field assessment of priority wildfire risk areas.

Wildfire threat assessment field work in EA-D’s WUI was completed in August of 2023. Nearly 300 field stops (e.g., qualitative FireSmart notes, fuel type updates/verification, photograph documentation) were made across the WUI (see Appendix B-2: Wildfire Threat Assessment Plots and Map 15 - Map 18), including 30 Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) threat plots (see Appendix C: Wildfire Risk Assessment – Worksheets and Photos). WTA plots were completed in interface (i.e., abrupt change from forest to residential development) and intermix (i.e., where forest and structures are intermingled) areas of the WUI to support wildfire risk analyses and development of priority treatment areas, as well as in completed fuel treatment areas to quantify the reduction in site-level wildfire threat. Constraints such as limited accessibility into the WUI (e.g., access required through private property; no roads) limited field assessments for some areas.

It is important to note that the local WTA analysis does not apply to private land parcels nor any areas outside of the eligible WUI for this CWRP. As well, the threat assessments quantify threat as it relates to forest fuels, but do not include the ignition potential of residential landscaping, structures, or other infrastructure. Structure fires and structure-to-structure spread in a wildfire scenario are largely attributable to hazardous conditions in the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone of a structure (i.e., the area within 30m of the principal building and/or its attachments).

4.3.1 WILDFIRE THREAT CLASS ANALYSIS

Classes of the wildfire threat class analysis are as follows:

- Very Low: Waterbodies with no forest or grassland fuels, posing no wildfire threat;

- **Low:** Developed and undeveloped land that will not support significant wildfire spread;
- **Moderate:** Developed and undeveloped land that will support surface fires that can be both threatening and unthreatening to homes and structures;
- **High:** Landscapes or stands with continuous forested or grassland fuels that will support candling, intermittent crown fires, or continuous crown fires. These landscapes often contain steeper slopes, rough or broken terrain and/or south or west aspects. High polygons may include high indices of dead and downed conifers; and
- **Extreme:** Continuous forested land that will support intermittent or continuous crown fires.

The results of the wildfire threat class analysis are displayed on Map 15 - Map 18 and summarized in Table 14 below. The local threat analysis shows that, for the assessable area (i.e., not private land and removing foreshore water areas), 43% of EA-D's eligible WUI is classified as a high or extreme fire behavior threat – mostly located on the middle and upper south or west facing slopes, largely reflecting steeper slopes on warmer and drier aspects with conifer-dominated fuel types. Only 6% of the assessable WUI is classified as a low threat – almost all located in either riparian-associated flood plain areas and moisture receiving lower slopes (due to deciduous-dominated fuel types and low slope grades, or in areas of recently completed fuel treatments. Overall, private land totals 23% of EA-D's WUI – this area was not allocated fire threat data. Conditions on private land can often result in the fire hazard being much higher than in the forest adjacent if there is low compliance with FireSmart vegetation and structure principles – issues that were frequently observed throughout EA-D during field work.

Table 14: Wildfire threat summary for EA-D's eligible WUI

Wildfire Threat			
Threat Class	Hectares	% of WUI	% of Assessable Public Land (excluding water)
Extreme	925	6%	14%
High	1925	13%	29%
Moderate	3368	22%	51%
Low	427	3%	6%
Very Low/No Threat (Water)	4132	27%	-
No Data (Private Land)	4458	29%	-

4.3.2 WUI RISK CLASS ANALYSIS

WUI risk classes are quantified when the Wildfire Threat (the above) is assessed as high or extreme, potentially causing unacceptable wildfire risk when near communities and developments. WUI risk classes are described below:

- **Low:** The high or extreme threat is sufficiently distant from developments, having no direct impact of the community and is located over 2 km from structures;

- **Moderate:** The high or extreme threat is sufficiently distant from developments, having no direct impact of the community and is located 500m to 2 km distance from structures;
- **High:** The high or extreme threat has potential to directly impact a community or development and is located 200m to 500m from structures; and
- **Extreme:** The high or extreme threat has potential to directly impact a community or development and is located within 200m from structures.

Table 15 below (and displayed on Map 15 - Map 18) summarizes the risk class ratings within the EA-D's communities' WUIs. Of the 2,850 hectares assigned a High or Extreme wildfire threat class, 1,359 hectares (48%) have a high or extreme WUI risk. Overall, this represents 21% of the assessable land in EA-D's WUI. This analysis provides an initial step towards identifying priority areas/neighbourhoods for directing FireSmart education and vegetative/fuel management efforts, if practicable.

It is important to note that reducing the risk (i.e., performing wildland fuel management) in any of the High to Extreme WUI risk areas is unlikely to be a silver bullet in protecting communities and structures. In extreme wildfire scenarios, firebrands (embers) can travel many kilometers ahead of the active fire front, land in densities of up to 600/m², and ignite combustible building materials and landscaping vegetation. In combination with wildland fuel management, increasing the resilience of EA-D's WUI communities and interface/intermix neighbourhoods can only be efficiently achieved by performing residential-scale FireSmart activities on private land. The proposed fuel treatment units identified in Section 5.7 are not a comprehensive list of all areas that qualify for management; they were selected as the highest priority areas that are practicable to implement, present a high risk to their respective communities, and meet required funding program goals and requirements as either fuel breaks or fuel treatment areas.

Table 15: WUI risk class ratings within EA-D's WUI.

WUI Risk			
Risk Class	Hectares	% of WUI	% of Assessable Public Land
Extreme	300	2%	5%
High	1059	7%	16%
N/A (Moderate, Low, or Very Low fire threat)	7927	52%	-
No Data (Private Land)	4458	29%	-

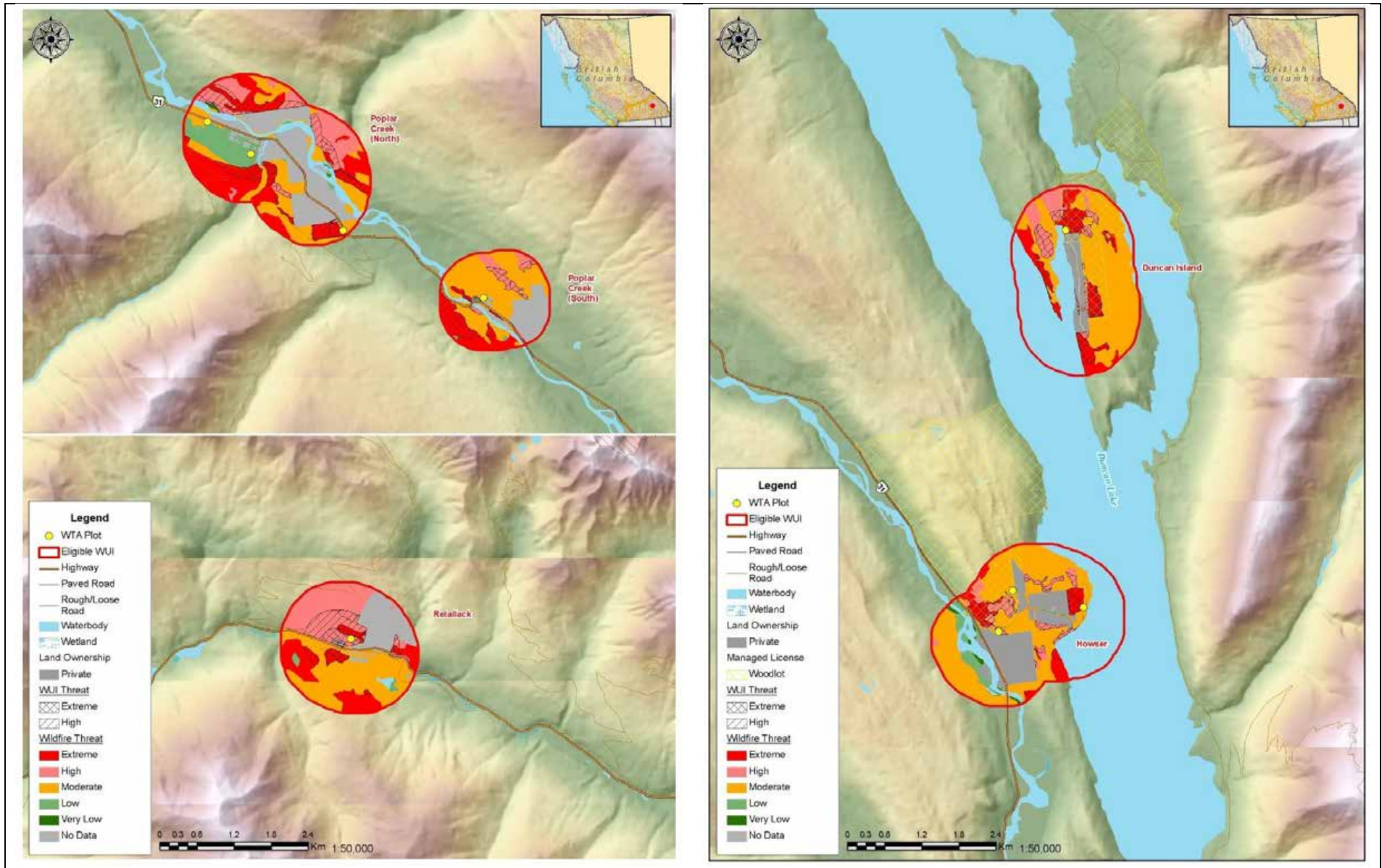
For detailed field data collection and spatial analysis methodology for the local threat assessment and classification, see Appendix B.

The Province of BC produces a Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA; updated in 2021) for all non-private land parcels in BC. This high-level assessment of relative wildfire threat throughout the province is largely based on data from the Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) that has not been ground truthed,

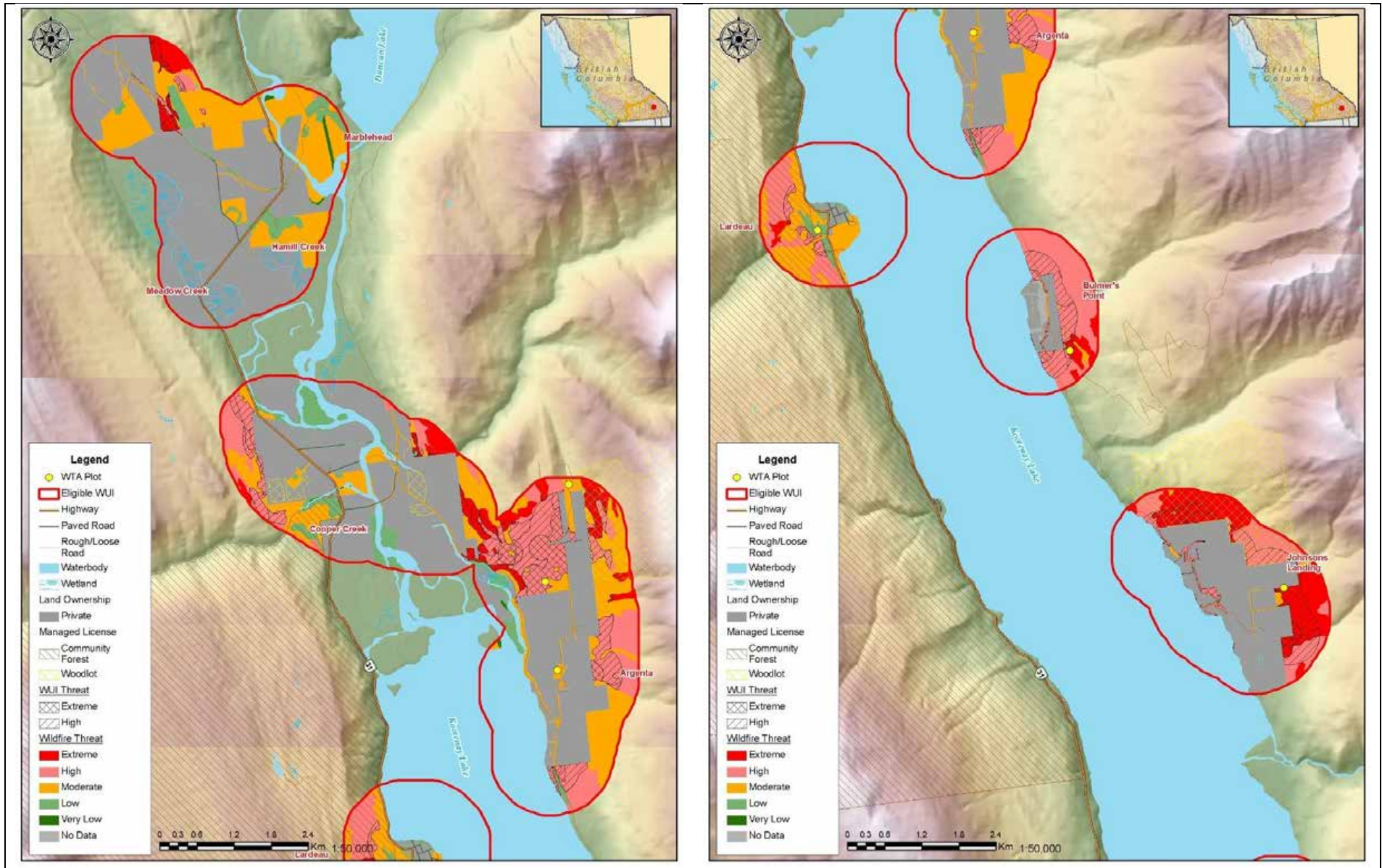
fire occurrence patterns, potential fire intensity, and spotting potential.⁴⁸ The PSTA ranks threat on a scale of 1 (lowest) through 10 (extreme). Complementing the above local wildfire risk analyses, the PSTA is a high-level, geographic information system (GIS) raster analysis that is suitable for wildfire threat information across the land base, while appropriate land management activities need to be determined at the local level using site-specific stand-level information.

Additionally, the Province has developed a WUI Risk Class Framework to prioritize risk reduction initiatives, categorizing WUI polygons by a risk class of 1 (highest) through 5 (lowest). It reflects the analysis of weighted PSTA threat components within the individual WUI risk class polygons. EA-D's WUI is categorized as being in a Risk Class of 1 – highest relative risk.

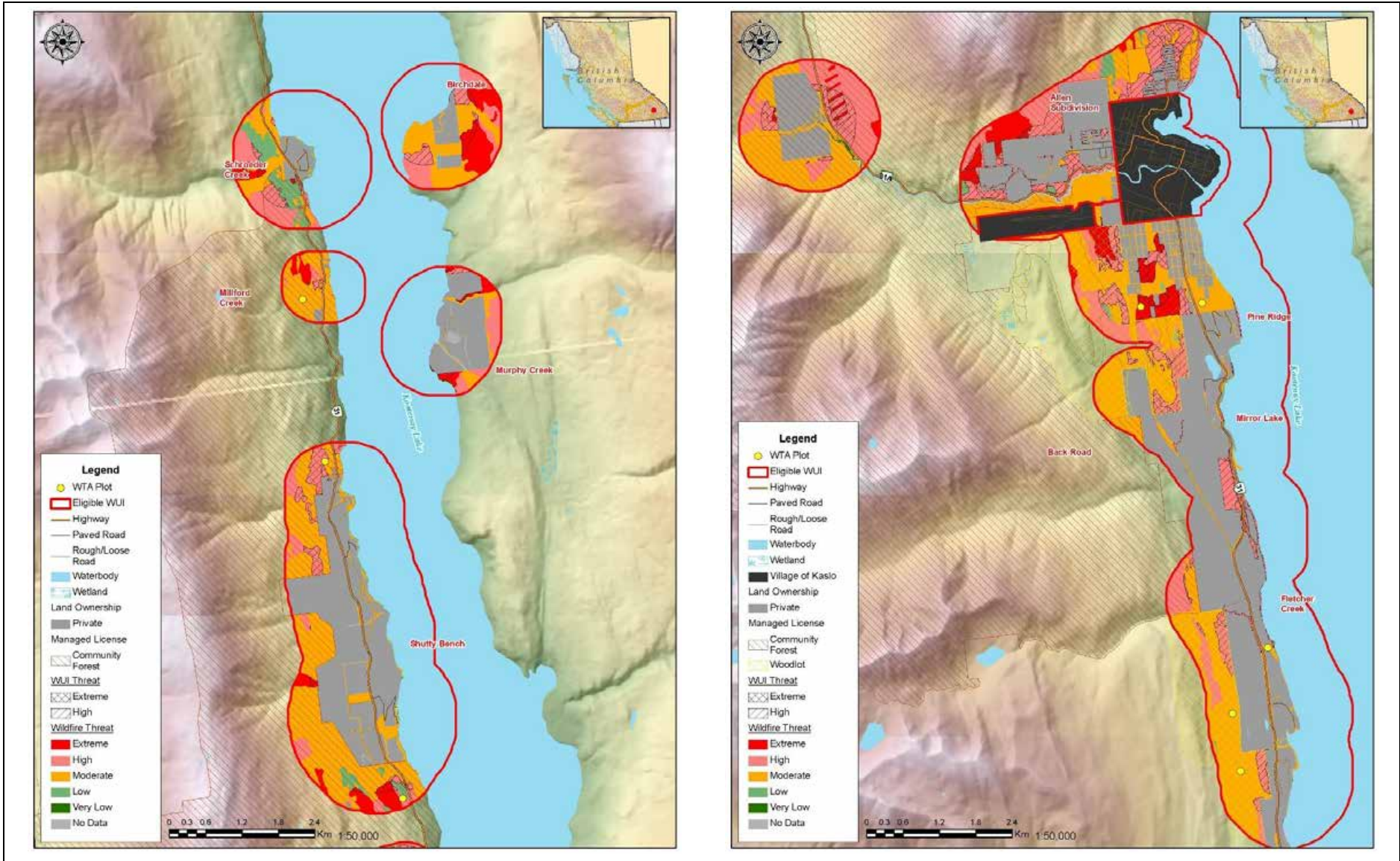
⁴⁸ MFLNRORD. (2017). Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis. Accessed from: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/fuels-management/provincial_strategic_threat_analysis_2017_update.pdf



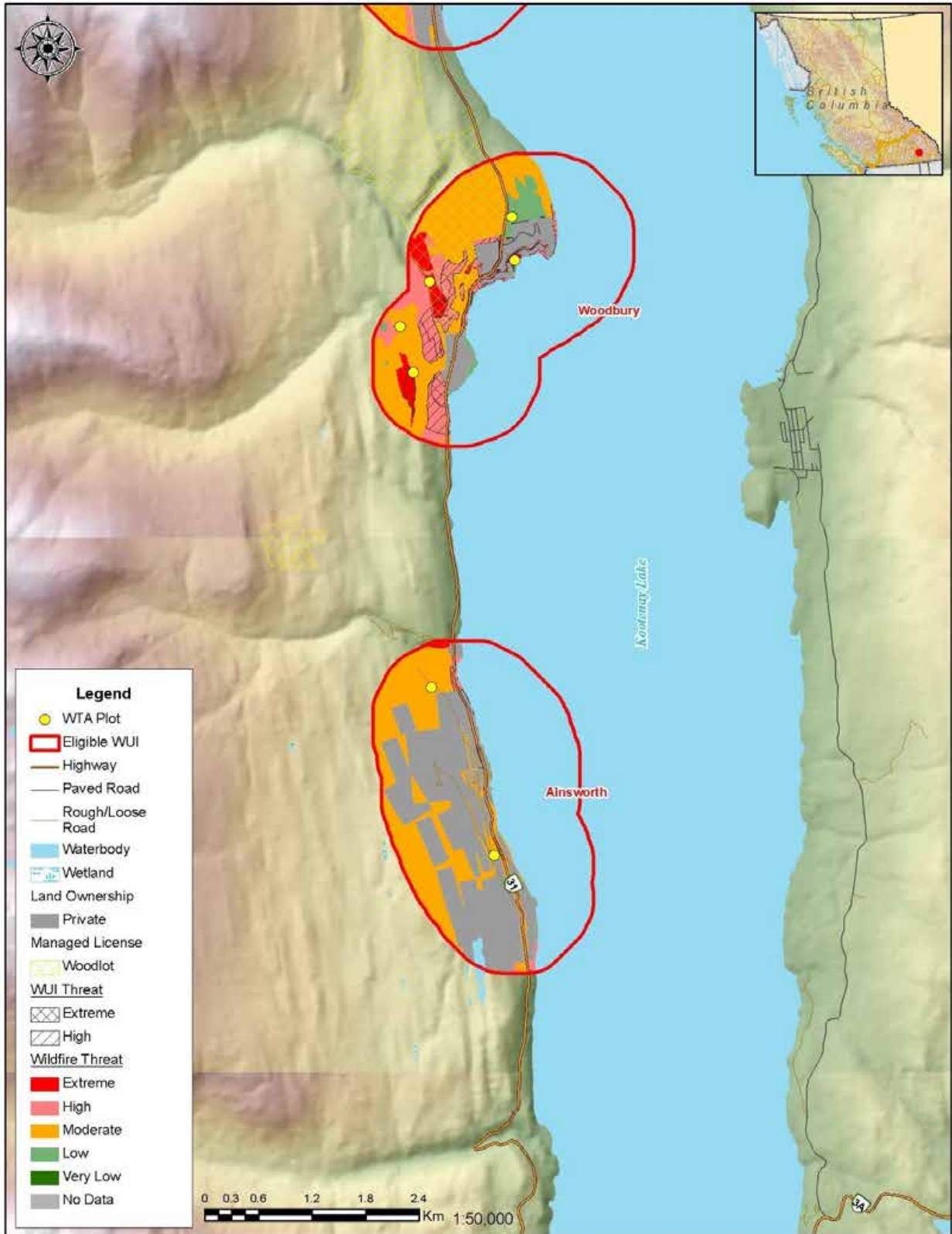
Map 15: Local wildfire threat assessment - Poplar Creek, Retallack, Duncan Island, and Howser.



Map 16: Local wildfire threat assessment - Marblehead, Meadow Creek, Cooper Creek, Argenta, Lardeau, Bulmer's Point, Johnsons Landing.



Map 17: Local wildfire threat assessment - Shroeder Creek, Birchdale, Milford Creek, Murphy Creek, Shuffy Bench, Allen Subdivision, South Fork, Pine Ridge, Back Road, Mirro Lake, and Fletcher Creek.



Map 18: Local wildfire threat assessment - Woodbury and Ainsworth

4.4 HAZARD, RISK, AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

The purpose of a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) is to help a community make risk-based choices to address vulnerabilities, mitigate hazards, and prepare for responding to and recovering from hazard events. The HRVA process assesses sources of potential harm, their likelihood of occurring, the severity of their possible impacts, and who or what is particularly exposed or vulnerable to these impacts.⁴⁹ An HRVA was not noted for EA-D, however, the Emergency Response and Recovery Plan for the Regional District of Central Kootenay includes a section on interface wildfire planning (3.10) with listed potential impacts. When an HRVA is completed or updated for EA-D (or RDCK as a whole), RDCK should look to the most recent CWRPs and reference their completed wildfire threat class analyses as well as recommendations.

⁴⁹ Government of BC. HRVA Example Report. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/local-government/hrva/hrva_forms-step_8-anytown_bc-sample_hrva_report.pdf

SECTION 5: FIRESMART PRINCIPLES

FireSmart™ is the leading program in Canada aimed at empowering the public and increasing neighbourhood resilience through wildfire mitigation measures. It has been formally adopted by almost all Canadian provinces and territories, including British Columbia in 2000. The FireSmart program covers a wide breadth of preventative measures, which are founded in the seven FireSmart disciplines: Education, Legislation and Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-Training, and Vegetation Management. These seven disciplines and the guiding principles behind FireSmart can be applied at a number of spatial scales, and are not restricted to any type of land ownership, forest type or property type. EA-D has an active FireSmart program that is well staffed and funded to complete residential education activities.

Since EA-D's 2016 CWPP was completed, 13 out of 34 recommendations have been wholly or partially implemented (previously detailed and discussed in Section 2.1). The recommendations addressed primarily related to delivering public FireSmart and wildfire education and prescribing and implementing proposed treatment units.

It has been found that during extreme wildfire events, most home destruction has been a result of low-intensity surface fire flame exposures, usually ignited by embers (firebrands). Firebrands can be transported long distances ahead of the wildfire, across fire guards and fuel breaks, and accumulate in densities that can exceed 600 embers per square meter. Combustible materials found on the exterior of and surrounding homes (the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone) combine to provide fire pathways allowing spot surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames or smoldering fire into contact with structures.

Because ignitability of structures and landscaping vegetation is the main factor driving structure loss, the intensity and rate of spread of wildland fires beyond the community has not been found to necessarily correspond to loss potential. For example, FireSmart homes with low ignitability may survive high-intensity fires, whereas highly ignitable homes may be destroyed during lower intensity surface fire events.⁵⁰ Increasing ignition resistance would reduce the number of homes simultaneously on fire; extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result in WUI fire disasters.⁵¹ Initial assessments of homes/structures damaged versus those not from the recent 2023 Kelowna-area wildfires provides strong evidence supporting these key points.⁵² It is for this reason that the key to reducing WUI fire structure loss is to reduce structure ignitability. Mitigation responsibility must be centered on structure owners. Risk communication, education on the range of available activities, and prioritization of activities should help homeowners to feel empowered to complete simple risk reduction activities on their property.

⁵⁰ Cohen, J. Preventing Disaster Home Ignitability in the Wildland-urban Interface. *Journal of Forestry*. p 15 - 21.

⁵¹ Calkin, D., J. Cohen, M. Finney, M. Thompson. 2014. *How risk management can prevent future wildfire disasters in the wildland-urban interface*. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U.S.A.* Jan 14; 111(2): 746-751. Accessed online 1 June, 2016 at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3896199/>.

⁵² Presentation by BCWS to the Wildland Fire and Fuels Community of Practice group via Forest Professionals of BC Webinar, November 2023.

5.1 COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

During CWRP development, FireSmart risk and resiliency factors for different communities throughout EA-D were noted (Table 16). This incorporates field observations, the local risk assessment, and information from local government meetings and consultation. As noted in Section 3.2, some communities have their own water systems, their own fire committees (or the like), and have wildland fire equipment and training (individual persons as well as organized community groups, such as the Lardeau Fire Prevention Association, the Ainsworth Fire Prevention Society, and the Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group). In addition to this, The Lardeau Valley FireSmart and Resiliency Committee is based in the Lardeau area and is aided by the Lardeau Valley LINKS Society, which is an organization that supports and connects the various residents of the Lardeau Valley. Woodbury also has an established and active FireSmart Committee.

Table 16: FireSmart vulnerability and resilience by neighbourhood.

Community	Vulnerability	Resilience (FireSmart notes)
Poplar Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - Remote location and accessibility. - Some older homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to Poplar Creek water source. - Bottom valley location with subdued slopes.
Duncan Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - Remote location and accessibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to Duncan Lake water source.
Howser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - Some older homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to Duncan Lake water source. - <i>Community water system.</i> - Generally subdued slopes. - Lower slope location.
Marblehead Meadow Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - Some older homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Lardeau Valley Community Club has two fire trailers and several trained members.</i> - Proximity to Lardeau River water source. - Majority of WUI has gentle slopes.
Cooper Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - Some older homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to Lardeau River water source. - Lower slope location and gentle slopes.
Argenta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - Some older homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping). - Upslope of Highway ignition source. - Remote location and accessibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group (equipment, training).</i> - <i>Work being done to map water resources and to train locals in fire suppression.</i> - Lower slope location.
Lardeau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - Some older homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping). - Upslope of Highway ignition source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Organized community water system.</i> - <i>Strong support of FireSmart in the community.</i> - <i>FCNRP FireSmart Neighbourhood (2022).</i> - <i>Lardeau Fire Prevention Association.</i> - <i>Structure protection program and dedicated structure protection unit with capacity to protect over 60 properties.</i>

Community	Vulnerability	Resilience <i>(FireSmart notes)</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Previous fuel treatments have been completed adjacent to the community. - Lower slope location.
Bulmer's Pointe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - Remote location and accessibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to Kootenay Lake water source. - <i>Organized community water system with fire hydrants.</i> - <i>Firefighting equipment on site.</i> - Lower slope location.
Johnsons Landing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - Remote location and accessibility. - Some older homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Community Hall has some wildfire equipment.</i> - <i>Some properties have done their own fuel management prescriptions.</i> - <i>Organized community water system.</i> - <i>Community chipping day in spring 2023.</i> - <i>FCNRP FireSmart Neighbourhood (active).</i> - Proximity to Kootenay Joe Creek, and Fry Creek water sources. - Lower slope location.
Birchdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - Remote location and accessibility. - Boat access only. - Limited power grid accessibility. - Some older homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to Kootenay Lake water source. - Lower slope location.
Schroeder Creek Milford Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - High traffic tourist area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shroeder Creek: <i>Organized community water system.</i> - Proximity to Kootenay Lake water source.
Shutty Bench	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - High traffic tourist area. - Some older homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Within the Kaslo and Area Fire Service.</i> - <i>Organized community water systems.</i> - Proximity to Kootenay Lake water source. - Lower slope location.
South Fork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High use recreation area. - Three ski huts may pose a fire ignition source or hazard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Within the Kaslo and Area Fire Service.</i> - Proximity to Keen Creek and Kaslo River water sources.
Retallack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - High traffic tourist area. - Some older homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping, abandoned buildings). - Remote location and accessibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Emergency infrastructure and procedures in place at Retallack Lodge.</i>
Allen Subdivision Back Road Pine Ridge Mirror Lake Fletcher Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - High traffic tourist area. - Some older homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Within the Kaslo and Area Fire Service.</i> - Mirror Lake, Pine Ridge, Fletcher Creek: <i>community water systems with hydrants and/or standpipes.</i> - Allen Subdivision: <i>Kaslo municipal water system with hydrants.</i> - Pine Ride: <i>FCNRP FireSmart Neighbourhood (active).</i>

Community	Vulnerability	Resilience (FireSmart notes)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Back Road: FCNRP FireSmart Neighbourhood (2017, 2018). - Proximity to Kootenay Lake water source.
Woodbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - High traffic tourist area. - Some older homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Response only fire service from the Kaslo and Area Fire Department or the Balfour-Harrop Volunteer Fire Department. - RDCK owned/operated water system. - FCNRP FireSmart Neighbourhood (active). - Woodbury FireSmart Committee - Proximity to Kootenay Lake water source. - Lower slope location.
Ainsworth Hot Springs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface. - High traffic tourist area. - Some older homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Response only fire service from the Kaslo and Area Fire Department or the Balfour-Harrop Volunteer Fire Department. - Ainsworth Fire Prevention Society. - Proximity to Kootenay Lake water source. - Lower slope location.

The sections to follow provide information on each FireSmart discipline as it relates to EA-D. An analysis of actions that have been implemented are noted, as well as any relevant gaps identified. Each section contains a table of recommended actions for RDCK to implement to address wildfire risk within EA-D’s communities. Most actions are fundable through the CRI FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program. Each recommendation includes a rationale, lead agency, timeline, and estimated resources to complete.

5.2 EDUCATION

Rural areas without fire services, or dependent upon small volunteer fire services, rely heavily on the coordination of local resources and the uptake of FireSmart initiatives to be prepared for a wildfire event. Public education and outreach play a critical role in helping a community prepare for and prevent a wildfire emergency. Awareness of wildfire risk is important, but this needs to be paired with an awareness of potential mitigation actions and available FireSmart programs for residents to implement on their properties and within the community. Participating in wildfire risk reduction and resiliency activities can also promote a sense of empowerment and shared responsibility at the home, street, neighbourhood, and municipal level. The education discipline often supports the successful implementation of many other FireSmart disciplines by building awareness and understanding within both residents and visitors.

EA-D (via the RDCK FireSmart program and its own FireSmart Coordinator/Mitigation Specialist) has been actively engaging the community with a FireSmart education program. This has led to EA-D having great

success in 2023 with homes completing FireSmart assessments.⁵³ Other FireSmart education activities that have been completed or are ongoing include:

- Distribution of FireSmart educational materials to residents,
- School FireSmart information days,
- Social media updates with FireSmart information and fire danger ratings,
- Community FireSmart workshops and presentations,
- Created FireSmart signage at completed community fuel treatments, and
- FireSmart Neighbourhood Community Champion roundtables.

There are currently seven FireSmart Coordinators across multiple RDCK electoral areas. As these positions were all recently created, there could be many initial lessons learned that could be shared between them. RDCK FireSmart coordinators should look to plan regular meetings amongst themselves to share these lessons, as well as success and failures so that the region, as a whole, is working together towards a more wildfire resilient future. Additionally, as FireSmart Neighbourhood Champions (as part of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program – see Section 5.7) are identified, consider including them in these meetings so that FireSmart information and programming opportunities are taken back into each community.

To continue furthering FireSmart education initiatives, Table 17 below details recommended actions that RDCK and EA-D can pursue. Because of the rural character and remote locations of many small communities within EA-D's WUI, the observed general lack of adherence to FireSmart construction materials and landscaping, and the understanding that homes, landscaping vegetation, and all other manner of flammable and combustible materials are considered fuel in the WUI wildfire triangle, a large emphasis should be placed by RDCK to continue upon its FireSmart education successes in EA-D, and to seek out new opportunities to engage with neighbourhoods or demographics not previously done or that have been difficult to so with to date. Not all activities/efforts will be successfully received by the public, but it is equally important to know what does not work as what does in getting the FireSmart message further into the community – then efforts can be refined and improved moving forwards. This includes tourists, of which there are many to EA-D's communities, recreation areas, and campsites, that may not be knowledgeable on FireSmart and the wildfire risks their actions may carry.

⁵³ Information from EA-D local government consultation meeting. Over 40 Home Partners Program assessments were completed in 2023 by August.

Table 17: Education recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Education - Section 5.2							
Residents							
1	High	Continue to apply for funding and employ an EA-D FireSmart Coordinator/Mitigation Specialist.	To provide a continuous, local FireSmart program, delivered by local professionals with local knowledge and connections, to their community. Having a FireSmart Coordinator provides a lead person with dedicated time to coordinate, manage, and implement the program, especially as it grows.	RDCK	2 years	EA-D has its own FireSmart program being managed by a local FireSmart Coordinator.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
2	High	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators should plan regular meetings to discuss their successes, failures, and learnings. Consider adding, or having specific meetings with, FireSmart Community Neighbourhood Champions.	So that they can continue to improve the RDCK's FireSmart program and tailor it to their respective communities. Adding in Community Champions will allow them to further support their EA's communities, as well as get FireSmart messaging and opportunities back into the communities faster.	FireSmart Coordinators (RDCK)	ASAP and ongoing	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators are meeting more than once a year.	CRI FCFS funding as part of FireSmart Coordinator salaries.
3	High	Continue to promote FireSmart to EA-D residents at community events, public spaces, and through workshops using FireSmart branded material and printed manuals (Home and Landscaping) and/or a FireSmart Canada Community Preparedness Day. Show a united front by having local government, fire department members, and FireSmart coordinators at events together as much as possible.	Observed adherence and uptake of FireSmart principles on private property and many homes/structures in EA-D is lacking. Landscaping (conifer hedges), firewood and combustible materials storage, and external building materials are the biggest issues. FireSmart BC resources help present a unified message. Print resources are popular and easy to distribute. FireSmart branded tents, banners, and t-shirts can be purchased with CRI FCFS funding. Community FireSmart groups can apply for \$500 to fund their FireSmart Canada Community Preparedness Day events.	EA-D FireSmart Coordinator (RDCK)	Annually	Quantity of resources distributed/number of times used at events.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
4	High	Update RDCK's FireSmart webpage with the most recent FireSmart graphics and language. Provide links to the current fire danger rating, or better yet, have that posted on the front of this page (making sure to keep it updated during the fire season).	To continue to provide to most recent and up to date FireSmart information, language, and principles to residents (and visitors).	RDCK	Annually	RDCK FireSmart webpage is showing current FireSmart information and graphics.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
5	High	Continue the FireSmart social media campaign, with updated FireSmart graphics and language, through various RDCK/EA-D social media platforms (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), including those from Volunteer Fire Departments.	To promote FireSmart information to residents (and visitors). Include links to graphics, videos, pdf information/pamphlet downloads, etc.	EA-D / RDCK	Annually	An organized FireSmart social media campaign is delivered throughout RDCK.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
6	High	Continue to promote FireSmart in EA-D schools using the FireSmart Education Kit and other resources.	Great success has been made through BC schools with FireSmart outreach. Engaging with the community's younger population may increase uptake with all residents.	RDCK / School District 8	Annually	One FireSmart lesson delivered each year (minimum).	CRI FCFS; e.g. FireSmart Magnetic Board for \$1,710.
7	High	Continue to promote free FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments and/or Home Partners Program assessments to residents.	FireSmart Home Ignition zone and Home Partners Program assessments introduce residents to FireSmart, its principles, fire and wildfire risks associated with their home and property, and how they can be mitigated. These assessments are primarily an educational exercise, and can be funded completely through CRI FCFS. They are a requirement to qualify for the FireSmart rebate program (see Section 5.7).	EA-D / RDCK	2 years	FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments are being completed within EA-D.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
8	Moderate	Consider door-to-door knocks in neighbourhoods that have communication constraints to discuss wildfire risk and FireSmart principles that they can apply to their home and property.	Although wildfire can affect all areas of EA-D's WUI, some communities are more at risk due to risks/constraints not associated to wildfire – such as no cell service and low community turnouts at public FireSmart events. Door to door knocks by Fire Chiefs, fire department personnel, and FireSmart Coordinators have been successful in other communities.	RDCK / Kaslo and Area Fire Department / FireSmart Coordinator	2 years	Visits to homes in these WUI neighbourhoods from local government/ FireSmart/ fire department members (with FireSmart information left at their door) have started.	In-house personnel time. CRI FCFS for FireSmart materials.
9	Moderate	Increase public awareness of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.	Increasing awareness of wildfire risk also increases community resiliency through household emergency planning, and support for FireSmart.	EA-D / RDCK	1 year from	Awareness by residents - consider a survey.	Staff time to update website, and media

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
					CWRP completion		posts. Newspaper ads ~\$300 each.
Visitors							
10	High	Lobby BC Parks to install FireSmart educational signage at all BC Park camp and recreation sites within EA-D, starting at Kokanee Creek. RDCK should follow suit for all regional parks.	These signs provide both visitors and residents a quick snapshot of how their actions and activities can inadvertently increase wildfire and ignition risks, as well as introduces visitors to FireSmart – a message they can take home with them.	EA-D / RDCK / BC Parks	5 years (signs installed)	Wildfire risk signs at the highest traffic parks have signs.	Sign cost ~\$800 for purchase and installation per sign.

5.3 LEGISLATION, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Legislation and planning regulation are effective tools for proactively reducing wildfire risk, although they can be less effective in large, rural regional districts like RDCK than in dense municipalities due to difficulties in enforcement. However, private property FireSmart Home Ignition Zone and structure risk reduction is the most effective avenue towards homes and structures surviving a wildfire event. One of the most powerful influences that legislation and planning can have on local wildfire risk is through wildfire hazard Development Permit Areas (DPAs).

Section 0 provided a comprehensive look at local plans and bylaws that are currently in place and relevant to wildfire resilience in EA-D. EA-D has embedded some FireSmart principles into its Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw, primarily focussing on subdivision requirements, supporting access to water for emergency responders, and supporting communities to further their wildfire risk reduction and community resiliency work. Currently, as stated in section 14.3 of the Bylaw, only voluntary efforts are encouraged to reduce fire risk to existing buildings and developments by residents.

One of the priorities for recommendations within this Plan is to manage fire risk to structures within their Home Ignition Zones (i.e., within 30m of the structure and the structure itself). As part of the 2022 Wildfire Development Permit Area Study, draft wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs) were developed for the RDCK but have not yet been implemented. The purpose of a wildfire DPA is to manage wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa), achieved through the application of FireSmart principles. The BC Building Code, which to date manages room-to-room and structure-to-structure fire transmission, is currently being updated, with roll out planned for late-2024, and may include FireSmart standards. RDCK should review and assess what FireSmart principles are included and compare them to the draft Wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs), update the draft DPAs as required, then initiate a process to implement the wildfire DPAs, if still required, to manage for risks not addressed in the new Code.

Additionally, it is recommended that the Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw update language referencing “fire risk” (e.g., sections 14.8, and 14.10) to refer to the Local Wildfire Risk Analysis developed as part of this plan, as it more accurately reflects current fire risk for EA-D’s WUI than currently available provincial data.

Recognizing the importance of safe critical infrastructure, especially those used as community shelters (of which all are privately owned/operated), RDCK should encourage that they have FireSmart assessments completed and support the implementation of identified risk reduction measures.

Recommended changes to planning and development for EA-D are detailed in Table 18.

Table 18: Legislation, planning and development recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Legislation, Planning and Development - Section 5.3							
11	High	Upon the roll-out of the new BC Building Code in 2024, RDCK should review and assess what FireSmart principles are included and compare them to the draft Wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs). Update the draft DPAs as required. Initiate a process to implement the wildfire DPAs, if still required, to manage for risks not addressed in the new Code.	FireSmart construction and landscaping policies manage for wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa). Over time, resiliency will be built up at the interface and intermix areas.	EA-D / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon BC Building Code roll out	All new development complies with the policy.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
12	High	Update references to “fire risk” Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw (e.g., sections 14.8, and 14.10) to include referencing the Local Wildfire Risk Analysis developed as part of this plan, as it more accurately reflects current fire risk for EA-D’s WUI than currently available provincial data.	EA-D should look to the most recent and accurate wildfire risk analysis for its WUI to be used to determine areas of Moderate and High wildfire threat for reducing wildfire threat through community planning and development purposes.	EA-D / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon next OCP review and update	OCP update that includes FireSmart construction/development policies for single home and lot development and major renovations.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
13	High	Consider adopting a Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw to restrict flammable landscaping. Example: prohibit conifer vegetation in the Immediate Zone of a residence or structure (0-1.5 m) and prohibit the planting of new conifer vegetation in Priority Zone 1 (1.5-10 m). Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout the Township, especially on more densely populated streets. This can be an effective communication tool regardless of enforcement capacity.	Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout EA-D, especially on more densely populated streets. Landscaping vegetation can act as a wick, moving fire to homes/structures and throughout communities.	EA-D / RDCK (Consultant)	5 years	A Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw is in effect.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
14	High	Encourage and support privately owned community halls that act as community shelters, and private or community owned critical infrastructure, to complete FireSmart assessments and the implementation of identified risk reduction measures.	Protecting emergency shelters and community infrastructure is critical to wildfire response and recovery.	EA-D / RDCK (Local FireSmart Representative, FireSmart Coordinator; and/or Consultant)	Ongoing	Number of assessments completed and mitigation hours/investment	CRI FCFS: up to \$800 per assessment.

5.4 CROSS-TRAINING AND FIRE DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

All staff and agency partners who are expected to participate in the development and implementation of this plan, or participate in a wildfire response and recovery, should be appropriately trained. This includes local government Emergency Management staff, other staff that could play a role in an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and applicable fire departments. Training opportunities include:

- Basic Wildland Fire Suppression and Safety
- Incident Command System⁵⁴
- FireSmart 101
- FireSmart Local FireSmart Representative (LFR)
- FireSmart Community Champion
- FireSmart Home Partners Wildfire Mitigation Specialist (WMS)
- Post-wildfire reclamation and recovery
- Post-wildfire structure damage assessment
- BC Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115)
- Train the trainer programs

Regular in-person cross-training between agencies is imperative for familiarization with each other's equipment and to address any incompatibilities. BCWS noted that there is [almost] annual cross-training conducted between its zone staff and the Kaslo and Area Fire Department.⁵⁵ Additionally, valuable training through experience can be acquired from being deployed to wildfires. Under the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC and BC Wildfire Service MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES, fire departments (including the Kaslo and Area Fire Department) routinely work with BCWS in response to incidents within and outside of Fire Protection and Response Areas.⁵⁶ The fire department should maintain a level of wildland-specific training and equipment.

For the many communities in EA-D not covered by a formal or contracted fire service, the Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw section 14.14 outlines government's support for the local acquisition, maintenance, and use of firefighting equipment in remote communities where fire departments do not operate. As noted in Section 3.2 and 5.1, some communities have self-organized fire response services. One such example is the Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group (AEPG), which has been conducting S100/S185 training annually since 2004 (which they also make available to surrounding communities in the Lardeau Valley). In 2023, 24 people completed or renewed S100/S185 training.⁵⁷ The AEPG also owns a large supply of fire suppression equipment that is regularly maintained and well organized for quick deployment.⁵⁷

Water is the most important resource for fighting wildland and structure fires. Woodbury and Allen Subdivision have hydrant systems managed by local government, and other communities (see Section

⁵⁴ RDCK Emergency Program staff are trained in ICS.

⁵⁵ Information gathered from BCWS questionnaire as part of the development of this Plan.

⁵⁶ As was the case in 2022 when the Kaslo and Area Fire Department supported BCWS on the Briggs Creek Fire in Keen Creek.

⁵⁷ Information gathered through questionnaire response by the Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group.

3.3.2 and Table 16) have community-operated water systems and various amounts of wildfire fighting equipment.^{58,59} The most reliable source of year-round water for firefighting are Kootenay Lake, Duncan River, and Duncan Lake (and many other creeks and ponds, subject to access constraints such as winter snow and ice). Natural water sources are a valuable source of water that can be used for wildfire fighting (especially during summer drought conditions). The larger water bodies have water available year-round – having these sources with access points available to firefighters is strategically important, as echoed in EA-D’s Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw section 14.11 which supports protection of accesses to water sources such as hydrants, standpipes, lakes, and streams to remain free of obstructions for fire protection purposes.

In 2020, the AEPG began a water mapping project (with assistance from a Selkirk College student), which received additional support in 2023 from Living Lakes. With a goal creating quick access to valuable information for fire response (local and BCWS), a focus has been on available water sources. Specifically:

- Over 30 locations have been GPS’d between Argenta and Johnsons Landing where a fire pump could be quickly set up, including photos and access information and detailed information about each site. Access routes to each of the sites that are not directly on a road were also mapped and GPS tracks are available, noting access restrictions (i.e., 4x4, quad, foot trail, etc.).
- Existing standpipes with fire hose fittings in Argenta were detailed in a similar fashion, noting water pressure and pipe sizes.
- A hydrologist has been able to apply existing data to project expected future creek volumes at different times of the year, incorporating variables such as projected climate change affects.

While these digital mapping products will not be circulated publicly, they will be compatible for use with Avenza and other standard mapping apps and can be made available to BCWS in the event of a serious incident.

Table 19 lists recommendations for RDCK and EA-D related to cross-training and fire department resources.

⁵⁸ Howser, Lardeau, Mirror Lake, Fletcher Creek Improvement District, Shroeder Creek, Lease Lots, Ainsworth, Johnsons Landing (Gar Creek Water Users). From RDCK local government information gathering questionnaire.

⁵⁹ Pine Ridge and Lardeau community has conducted training on how to run and maintain their water/standpipe system in a wildfire response scenario.

Table 19: Cross-training recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Cross Training & Fire Department Resources - Section 5.4							
Training							
15	High	Continue to support 'train-the-trainer' programs so that required courses (e.g., S-231, WSPP-115) can continue to be delivered in-house to Kaslo and Area Fire Department members, as well as to community groups and the public.	To continue providing an opportunity to expand in-house wildland specific training, and potentially train adjacent fire departments or community groups.	RDCK / EA-D / Kaslo and Area Fire Department	Annually	Number of fire response personnel with wildland training maintains or increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS funding is available for training. Columbia Basin Trust funding.
16	High	Continue to support FireSmart specific training to The Kaslo and Area Fire Department and community groups. Examples include: FireSmart 101, Local FireSmart Representative (LFR), and FireSmart Home Partners Mitigation Specialists.	To continue building an understanding and knowledge of FireSmart principles within fire response personnel and the community. To certify fire response members so they can implement various FireSmart assessments within the community.	RDCK / EA-D / Kaslo and Area Fire Department	3 years	Number of fire response personnel with FireSmart training increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS funding is available for training.
17	High	The Kaslo and Area Fire Department and community organized fire response groups should continue seeking out (and being supported by RDCK/EA-D in doing so) opportunities to perform wildfire response and structure protection drills - using hydrants, standpipes, and natural water sources, <i>with</i> BCWS.	Fast and effective deployment of available Structure Protection Units (there is one housed at the Kaslo and Area Fire Department Fire Hall) and any additional equipment that the Kaslo and Area Fire Department or community groups have will be crucial in any interface fire scenario. Equipment compatibilities and/or differences between those available and what equipment BCWS uses should be identified and addressed ahead of time.	RDCK / EA-D / Kaslo and Area Fire Department / fire response community groups	Annually	A Drill is performed with BCWS and the Kaslo and Area Fire Department annually. A Drill is performed with BCWS and one community group once annually.	CRI FCFS funding is available for training.

Water							
18	High	Identify and map natural and artificial water sources useable for fire suppression across the entire regional district. Having a digital map would allow it to be uploaded into response vehicles' CAD systems, shared with BCWS response personnel, as well as included in the pre-planning of emergency community water delivery systems connecting major natural water sources with interface communities, to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. Include important details such as: estimated water volume and access point notes. Share this information to all mutual aid fire response partners, and update over time.	Most firefighting service in EA-D requires water shuttling. Wildfire fighting response almost always relies upon local water sources. This impacts EA-D's wildfire resilience. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers to fill bladders can be pre-planned, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps, and piping.	RDCK GIS department/ Kaslo and Area Fire Department (to aid in identification for their service area)/ fire response community groups (BCWS)	5 years and ongoing	A fire suppression water source plan and map are produced and shared.	CRI FCFS Community Water Delivery Assessment funding available for incremental staff hours or contract cost.
19	High	In coordination with Recommendation #17, create opportunities for BCWS to work with independent water systems to identify assets. Assist those communities in retrofitting their systems to be compatible, if required.	Reducing barriers to BCWS for accessing water sources in the WUI increases opportunities to fight WUI fires.	RDCK / FireSmart Coordinator (BCWS)	Annually	Communities with self-managed water systems are meeting with BCWS	RDCK/EA-D, BCWS, and community time.
20	Moderate	The Kaslo and Area Fire Department should seek (or continue to uphold, if accredited already) Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation from Fire Underwriters Survey.	This accreditation certifies that the fire department can supply enough water to have some areas without fire hydrants within a certain distance of their structures qualify as having a fire hydrant within 300m of it (this can also potentially lower insurance rates for property owners within the EA-D fire response areas). Note: this does not increase the overall water supply already available under automatic and mutual aid agreements.	Kaslo and Area Fire Department / RDCK	5 years	Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation achieved by the Kaslo and Area Fire Department.	Fire department staff time as required (and RDCK budget for equipment upgrades and purchases, if needed).
Equipment and Staff							
21	High	In coordination with Recommendations #17 and #19, the Kaslo and Area Fire Department and community organized fire response groups should continue (or begin, if not done already) annual inspections by BCWS of their wildland firefighting equipment. Any gaps should be addressed, as required.	To ensure proper equipment is available to respond to interface wildfire events, and that equipment is compatible with BCWS's. CRI FCFS funding is available for incremental equipment purchases.	Kaslo and Area Fire Department / Community Response Organizations (RDCK; BCWS)	Annually	Annual inspection of wildland firefighting equipment from BCWS; gaps filled as practicable.	Fire department and RDCK staff time; CRI FCFS equipment funding up to cost maximums.

5.5 INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

The goal of interagency cooperation is to approach wildfire resilience through a collaborative, multi-agency approach. This increases the ability of local governments to plan and respond to emergencies effectively. Cooperation and communication are especially critical for EA-D as there are multiple jurisdictions side-by-side (e.g., City of Nelson, RDCK Electoral Areas E and F) and multiple land managers currently operating (e.g., Kaslo and District Community Forest, BCTS, woodlots, Columbia Basin Trust). Landscape-level fire resilience cannot effectively be achieved without planning for resilience across jurisdictional boundaries. Engagement can be formal or informal and can take place through existing communication channels or stand-alone committees.

The Lardeau Valley FireSmart and Resiliency Committee (LVFRC) is based in the Lardeau area and is aided by the Lardeau Valley LINKS Society, an organization that supports and connects the various residents of the Lardeau Valley. Woodbury also has an active FireSmart Committee. As other communities self-organize for FireSmart initiatives, and even take up the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (see Section 5.7), RDCK and EA-D should look to support their inclusion in an existing CRFC, or develop new ones as required.

Mutual aid agreements exist between BCWS and RDCK fire services. This is captured in the MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES between the Fire Chief's Association of BC and the BC Wildfire Service. The Kaslo and Area Fire Department Fire Chief participates in an annual Zone 4 Fire Chiefs meeting that includes BCWS representatives to ensure wildfire emergency pre-organization is in place, policy changes are discussed, and opportunities to improve mutual aid for fire response are capitalized on.⁶⁰

When planning and implementing forest harvesting and fuel management treatments in the community and in adjacent forest tenures, a high-level tracking and communication of fuel treatments needs to occur. It is imperative that all land managers know what adjacent or overlapping jurisdictions have identified as fuel breaks, so that time and money is not wasted reassessing or re-prescribing an area. As EA-D's WUI is extensive in area, RDCK should develop a process for spatially tracking and managing proposed and completed fuel management/fuel break units in the greater regional district area that all land managers can access. Although RESULTS⁶¹ is a powerful spatial tool to keep track of forest activities on the Provincial land base, it does not include activities on municipal and First Nations land. A separate spatial layer should be maintained by Ministry of Forests (MOF) as a public service using inputs from municipalities, First Nations, and forest licensees. Changes to the MOF Wildfire Risk Reduction program (which manages wildland fuel treatments on the Provincial land base) in the coming years may solve some of these problems.

⁶⁰ Information gathered from BCWS questionnaire as part of the development of this Plan.

⁶¹ Government application that tracks silviculture information by managing the submission of openings, disturbances, silviculture activities and obligation declarations as required by the Forest and Range Practices Act.

BC Timber Sales (throughout EA-D's WUI), the Kaslo and District Community Forest (KDCFS; west side of Kootenay Lake), and various woodlots and volume-based licensees have significant tenure within EA-D's WUI. Forest activities can both increase and decrease wildfire risk in WUI areas and BCWS stated that Category 3 industry burning has led to fire starts and continues to be a concern every spring. Forest harvesting practices such as strategic cutblock placement, reducing post-harvest slash, providing loads of firewood to the public, and implementing fire management stocking standards as part of reforestation efforts can reduce wildfire behaviour for harvested areas within the WUI. KDCFS is proactive in wildfire risk reduction planning and mitigation efforts both within its WUI overlap area as well as outside it on the greater landscape within its tenure, exemplified by the community forest implementing a landscape-level wildfire risk reduction plan. Potential synergies between that plan and this one should be reviewed and built upon.

Discussed in Section 3.3, transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions - trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways.⁶² Highways can also provide excellent fuel breaks if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. If not, they can act as wicks moving fire along them, or ignition sources for fires from burning cars, cigarette butts, etc. Additionally, highways are a main access/egress route during an emergency – these routes should be kept at as low risk of state as possible.

Table 20 details Interagency Cooperation recommendations for RDCK, EA-D, and local stakeholders.

⁶² Local government elected officials invested a significant amount of time addressing this through the Lardeau Valley Power Feasibility Assessment Process, and through ongoing power grid issues.

Table 20: Interagency cooperation recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Interagency Cooperation - Section 5.5							
22	High	Continue to engage with the established community FireSmart Committees (e.g., Lardeau Valley FireSmart Resiliency Committee (LVFRC), Woodbury FireSmart Committee (WFC)) to plan, implement, and coordinate FireSmart initiatives, including fuel management treatments.	To provide a platform for information sharing. All parties have indicated a willingness for collaboration, which will allow for greater management of wildfire risk both within and surrounding EA-D's WUI.	EA-D FireSmart Coordinator / LVFRC / WFC / RDCK	Ongoing	Committee meetings take place at least once annually.	At least 8 hours per meeting to prepare, participate and debrief. CRI FCFS up to \$2,000 per meeting.
23	High	As other communities self-organize for FireSmart initiatives, and even take up the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (see Recommendation #43), RDCK and EA-D should look to support their inclusion in a Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC), or develop new ones as required.	To further community involvement in FireSmart and wildfire risk reduction activities at the community level.	RDCK / EA-D FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Additions to existing CFRCs are made, as required, or new ones are established, as needed.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
24	High	Work with RDCK, LVFRC, WFC and MOF to develop a fuel treatment/fuel break tracking system to spatially manage proposed and completed fuel management areas both within EA-D's WUI and outside it at the regional level.	It is imperative that all land managers know what adjacent or overlapping jurisdictions have identified as fuel breaks, so that time and money is not wasted reassessing or re-prescribing an area.	EA-D FireSmart Coordinator / LVFRC / WFC / RDCK	As soon as possible	A regional GIS tracking system is established, or a provincial one is developed that all land managers can access.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
25	High	Lobby forest land licensee/managers (e.g., BC Timber Sales, Woodlots, Kaslo and District Community Forest) to be aware of where their tenure overlaps EA-D's WUI and to develop and implement (or continue implementing) forest planning, harvesting, slash management, and reforestation plans that reduce wildfire behaviour in these areas.	Cutblock placement can break up the forest continuity across the landscape – with proper slash and reforestation management, they can remain as areas of low wildfire behaviour for many years. However, if not managed properly, they can increase wildfire behaviour. EA-D/RDCK elected officials and community members are, and have been, active in this already.	RDCK / EA-D / MOF / Forest Licensees and Managers / Local Government elected officials/ Community members	Ongoing	Forest licensees/managers are aware of their tenure overlaps with the WUI and are actively working towards forest management plans to reduce wildfire behaviour in those areas.	RDCK/EA-D staff, elected officials, community members, and stakeholders time for discussions.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
26	High	Lobby and work with the electrical power providers in and influencing the community's WUI, and MOTI for Provincial highways, to regularly maintain their right-of-way's vegetation.	<p>Transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions - trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways.</p> <p>Highways can also provide excellent fuel breaks if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. If not, they can act as wicks moving fire along them, or ignition sources for fires from burning cars, cigarette butts, etc. Additionally, highways are a main access/egress route during an emergency – these routes should be kept at as low risk of state as possible.</p>	RDCK / EA-D / Local Government elected officials (MOTI; Electrical Providers)	Yearly and ongoing	Right-of-way maintenance discussions are open and ongoing; right-of-ways are kept in low-risk states.	RDCK/EA-D staff, elected officials, and stakeholders for discussions.

5.6 EMERGENCY PLANNING

Local government and community preparations for a wildfire emergency are very important. Plans, mutual aid agreements, resources, training, and emergency communications systems make for effective wildfire response. The RDCK Emergency Plan includes EA-D and the RDCK Emergency Program conducts tabletop exercises yearly with staff (and responds to emergencies involving evacuations almost yearly).

Clear, consistent, concise, and quick communication during an emergency event and evacuation are integral to the prevention of loss of life. The RDCK has upgraded to a new notification system for emergency alerts and water advisories powered by “Voyent Alert!”. Downloadable as an app to a smart phone, the user can receive a detailed map of the affected area. The system also supports text messaging, emails, or landline calls. RDCK and EA-D should promote this notification to residents as much as possible.

Portions of EA-D’s WUI is only accessible by roads through private property. This is a significant constraint to wildfire first responders as those road conditions are largely unknown. Access by emergency responders to the WUI is paramount towards both defending communities from WUI fire events, but also for aiding in fuel treatment practicability.

Additionally, it was noted during field assessments, and echoed in meetings with local government and first responders, that there is a pervasive lack of visible, reflective addresses for properties within EA-D. Addresses are one of the most common forms of providing first responders directions of where to respond to. This issue should be made aware to the public with examples and options of proper signage. Solutions for this are being put in place, as both the Village of Kaslo and LINKs for the Lardeau Valley have offered on-going signage programs, funded through Kaslo and EA-D.

A pre-incident plan is a compilation of essential fire management information needed to save valuable time during fire suppression operations. During a busy wildfire season, Provincial resources are often stretched thin, and any information that local governments can provide to BCWS crews is helpful. A pre-incident plan should be developed and tested using tabletop simulations, and if necessary, revised prior to every fire season. BCWS should be involved in this process to ensure that any mapping done as part of the pre-incident plan or Fire Management Planning process is not unnecessarily duplicated.

Figure 8 contains a checklist of discussion points and considerations during pre-incident plan development.



Figure 8. A pre-incident planning checklist that can be used to help develop a pre-incident wildfire suppression plan and associated maps.

EA-D, in conjunction with community FireSmart Committees and regional district partners, could also consider developing local daily action guidelines based on expected wildfire conditions. Table 21 below provides a template that can be tailored specifically to EA-D, outlining actions staff can take as fire danger levels change throughout the fire season.

Table 21: Example of a Wildfire Response Preparedness Condition Guide⁶³

FIRE DANGER LEVEL	ACTION GUIDELINES
LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Community staff on normal shifts.
MODERATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Community staff on normal shifts. Information gathering and dissemination through LVFRC.
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Community staff on normal shifts. Regional fire situation evaluated. Daily fire behavior advisory issued. Wildland fire-trained Municipal staff and EOC staff notified of Fire Danger Level. Establish weekly communications with LVFRC.
EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily fire behavior advisory issued. Regional fire situation evaluated. EOC staff considered for stand-by. Wildfire Incident Command Team members considered for stand-by/extended shifts. Designated Community staff: water tender and heavy machinery operators, arborists may be considered for stand-by/extended shifts. Consider initiating Natural Area closures to align with regional situation. Provide regular updates to media / Regional District staff on fire situation. Update public websites and EA-D/RDCK social media as new information changes.
FIRE(S) ONGOING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All conditions apply as for 'Extreme' (regardless of actual fire danger rating). Mobilize EOC support if evacuation is possible, or fire event requires additional support. Mobilize Wildfire Incident Command Team under the direction of the Fire Chief. Implement Evacuation Alerts and Orders based on fire behavior prediction and under the direction of the Fire Chief.

Emergency planning also includes the recovery from an emergency. As discussed in Section 3.3.1, having secondary power sources for critical infrastructure is important to reduce community vulnerability in the event of an emergency that cuts power for days, or even weeks.

Roof top and gutter-mounted sprinklers are a useful tool that can be easily stored and then set up, as needed, by individual homeowners (if they have the required water availability). BCWS can also link their water systems to them to support their firefighting efforts. Local Government and community organizations can spearhead the acquisition and planning of sprinklers and structure protection units (SPUs) themselves, moving the planning and organization off the individual homeowner and increasing community wildfire resiliency. Additionally, there can be cost savings in bulk orders. This was accomplished recently (2022/23) by the Lardeau Fire Prevention Association with support from Columbia

⁶³ From FireSmart Community Funding and Supports 2022 CWRP Supplemental Instruction Guide

Basin Trust. The Association has developed a Structure Sprinkler Protection Program with an operational SPU that can deploy sprinkler protection to each of the over 60 properties within the Community.

RDCK has two Type 2 SPUs which are regional assets, and firefighters from all 16 RDCK supported fire departments that can be deployed as needed. One SPU is (generally) stationed at the Kaslo and Area Fire Department Hall. It should be noted that under the interagency agreement, when the SPUs are needed, they are requested by the local authority for use within a fire protection area and by BCWS for use outside of the fire protection area. Regardless of the requestor, they are sourced by BCWS. The cost of deployment is reimbursed by the Province. BCWS may or may not opt to use local SPUs to be deployed to a fire.

Recommendations and action items that RDCK and EA-D can implement to continue productive and effective emergency planning are detailed below in Table 22.

Table 22: Emergency preparedness recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Emergency Planning - Section 5.6							
27	High	Continue tabletop wildfire scenario tabletop exercises with emergency management, community FireSmart Committees and partners, and organized community groups (such as the Lardeau Fire Prevention Association, the Ainsworth Fire Prevention Society, and the Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group). Yearly, pre-fire season is best. Move the “WUI fire” to a different area of EA-D’s WUI each time.	Tabletop exercises provide an opportunity to identify weak spots in a plan and collaborate.	RDCK (community FireSmart Committees; organized community response groups; RCMP; BCWS)	5 years	Knowledge of 'pinch points' in an evacuation scenario and understanding of roles and responsibilities.	CRI FCFS Emergency Planning: up to \$2,000 per meeting. Possibly CRI / CEPF / Columbia Basin Trust
28	High	Discuss with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) possible means supporting/enforcing that private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment.	Access by emergency responders to the WUI is paramount towards both defending communities from WUI fire events, but also for aiding in fuel treatment practicability. This constraint is recognized in EA-F’s Rural Community Official Plan in section 18.3.8 which, “Encourages that private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment.”	RDCK (MOF; BCWS; MOTI)	5 years	Access roads through private land to the interface forest have been identified. Discussions on going. Possible updates to EA-D’s Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw as has been done in EA-F’s OCP.	RDCK/EA-D time for planning and discussions. CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 with estimated incremental staff hours or contract cost.
29	High	RDCK and EA-D should continue to promote the Voyent Alert! System to residents and visitors.	Clear, consistent, concise, and quick communication during an emergency event and evacuation are integral to the prevention of loss of life. A lack of this was identified as an issue during recent WUI fire disasters, such as that in Lahaina, Maui, USA and Fort McMurray, Alberta.	RDCK (FireSmart Coordinator)	Ongoing	Continued update of the Voyent Alert! System (can track downloads from app providers).	RDCK for promotion.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
30	High	Continue to support the grid stability program in place, allowing for investment in back-up generators for any critical infrastructure that does not have one. Encourage private businesses that provide critical services, like gas stations and grocery stores, to follow suit.	Back-up generators for pumphouses, treatment plants, and community buildings (especially those designated as emergency shelters) would facilitate both emergency response (water supply for suppression) and rapid community return and recovery following a fire.	RDCK / EA-D (Private Industry)	ASAP	A budget and purchase plan for back-up generators is implemented, starting with the most critical infrastructure.	Grid stability program currently funded.
31	High	Initiate a roof-top sprinkler program for residential properties. Investigate bulk orders from wildfire protection or irrigation companies or commercial gutter-mount kits. Consider sprinkler kits as an incentive to communities/neighbourhoods for FireSmart participation. This can be directly led by RDCK, or RDCK can offer support to community organizations to assist doing so.	Pre-installed rooftop sprinklers reduce the time and resources needed to set up a structural protection system in a community threatened by wildfire. Sprinkler installation could be paired with a free FireSmart Assessment.	RDCK / EA-D	3 years and ongoing	Establish an efficient and effective system. Track the number and location of sprinklers purchased and installed annually.	Bulk sprinklers \$40 - \$100 each; gutter mount kits ~\$100-200 for one home
32	High	Schedule regular updates of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan: target every 5 years.	A current and acceptable CWRP is required for funding under the CRI FCFS program. Update the wildfire threat for areas with completed fuel treatments and identify additional areas for treatment.	RDCK / EA-D	5 years – 2028 update	EA-D always has a current and acceptable CWRP.	~\$32,000; CRI FCFS funding
33	Moderate	Pre-plan emergency community water delivery systems to connect major natural water sources with interface communities/neighbourhoods to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. This can be supported by Recommendation #18. The Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group has been working on this since 2023 (see Section 5.4).	RDCK has many large natural water bodies and streams/creeks to draw from in the event of a wildfire. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers to fill bladders may be planned in advance, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps and piping.	RDCK / EA-D (BCWS)	5 Years	Assess community water delivery for each neighbourhood. Develop and test neighbourhood specific plans.	CRI: Assessment of Community Water Delivery Ability - incremental staff hours or contract cost

5.7 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND OTHER FIRESMART ACTIVITIES

As discussed in Section 4.1, fuel is the only aspect of the fire behavior triangle that can be realistically modified to reduce wildfire threat. Fuel or vegetation management reduces potential wildfire intensity and ember, flame, and radiant heat exposure to people, structures, and other values through manipulation of both natural and cultivated vegetation within or adjacent to a community. A well-planned vegetation management strategy can greatly increase first responder safety, fire suppression effectiveness, and reduce damage to property and to values.

Vegetation management can largely be accomplished through two different activities:

1. **Residential-scale FireSmart landscaping:** The removal, reduction, or conversion of flammable [landscaping] plants to create more fire-resistant areas in the FireSmart Immediate, Intermediate, and Extended Zones (i.e., the area within 30m of a structure).



Figure 9: FireSmart Home Ignition Zone

2. **Fuel management treatments:** The manipulation or reduction of living or dead forest and grassland fuels to reduce the rate of spread and head fire intensity and enhance likelihood of successful suppression.

Fuel Management Units

Fuel management treatments may function as fuel breaks (linear features, at least 1 km in length) or polygon treatments for discrete areas. The intent of establishing fuel treatments is to modify fire behaviour and should be designed to keep surface fires on the ground to avoid the establishment of more dangerous and uncontrollable crown fires. Fuel treatments can also provide anchor points to fire-fighting crews for suppression activities,⁶⁴ yet the application of appropriate suppression tactics in a timely manner with sufficient resources is essential for fuel treatments to be effective – fuel treatments adjacent to a home or property should not be considered a “fire break”. Thus, to increase the efficacy of fuel treatments, FireSmart standards should be applied on nearby private properties to structures and vegetation to reduce the risk of structure ignition. Fuel treatment units will also require periodic maintenance (e.g., brushing, prescribed burning, surface fuel cleanup) to retain their effectiveness.

Implementing fuel management treatments often requires the successful collaboration of various land managers, as these treatment areas can span across multiple types of land ownership. Often, this is required for the fuel treatment to effectively connect areas of low hazard, or to be a cohesively effective area. A significant amount of public land within EA-D’s WUI is Crown provincial land under various area-based and volume-based forest licenses. Fuel management projects in community forests (area-based tenure) are currently funded and administered through the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC); those on municipal land are funded and administered through the CRI FCFS program; and those on Crown provincial land (not managed by an area-based tenure) are funded and administered through the BCWS Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) Program. As recommended in Section 5.5, EA-D will need to ensure good planning and collaboration with the Selkirk Resource District CLWRR team, area-based tenure holders, local government, community groups, and BCWS to achieve higher quality, more effective, and more efficient fuel treatments.

There are many historical (non-mapped) fuel treatment units (FTUs) completed within EA-D’s WUI, as well as tracked prescribed (but not treated) and treated FTUs from the FESBC, CLWRR, and CRI FCFS programs – these are shown on Map 19 – Map 31, in conjunction with the proposed fuel treatment units (PTUs) from this Plan.⁶⁵ PTUs within this Plan, discussed and described in Table 24, should be considered “in conjunction with” those already proposed and prescribed. Also, this Plan was developed concurrently with a CWRP for the Village of Kaslo. As such, there are synergies between these plans that should be utilized and capitalized upon, including adjacent or adjoining proposed fuel treatment units, and overlapping fire department response areas. Two proposed treatment units (KASLO-1 and KASLO-2 are within both Kaslo’s and EA-D’s WUIs – these PTUs will be proposed within both CWRPs. Kaslo’s WUI is also displayed on Map 29.

Priority level for prescription and treatment (High, Moderate, Low) of proposed PTUs is given to each and is based upon a combination of site-level risks that include, wildfire behaviour threat, strategic location,

⁶⁴ BC Wildfire Service. (2022). [2022 Fuel Management Prescription Guidance](#).

⁶⁵ CLWRR proposed and completed treatments include up to fiscal year-end 2021. CRI FCFS proposed and completed treatments includes up to year end 2022.

proximity to structures and critical infrastructure, location relative to dominant fire-season wind directions, and overall practicability of treatment implementation. The proposed FTUs identified in this Plan are not a comprehensive list of all areas that qualify for management; they were selected as the highest priority areas that are practicable to implement, present a high risk to their respective communities or a strategic opportunity, and meet required funding program goals and requirements as either fuel breaks or fuel treatment areas. Overall, increasing the resilience of EA-D's WUI communities can only be efficiently achieved by performing residential-scale FireSmart activities on private land.

Residential-scale FireSmart Landscaping

Several smaller, community centrally-located FTUs are proposed within this Plan with the additional intention of providing residents with FireSmart vegetation management demonstration projects – showing them what can be done on their properties to reduce similar wildfire risks. A major barrier to implementing FireSmart vegetation management on private property is if there is no easy disposal process for the created vegetative debris. RDCK managed transfer stations within and adjacent to EA-D (Kaslo and Balfour) accept yard and garden waste for payment – but, during the months of May and October there is no charge.⁶⁶ Unfortunately, for many residents in EA-D's northern communities, or those that are boat-access only, transporting material to Kaslo is too far. Thus, most residents likely rely upon at-home burn piles for garden and yard waste – education around the risks associated with this practice, and how to properly manage them, should be built into EA-D's FireSmart education program.

Other Residential-scale FireSmart Activities that RDCK/EA-D should apply through CRI FCFS and implement include:

➤ ***FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program***

The FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP) is a unique approach to collaboratively reduce a neighbourhood's risk to wildfire through education and events. It is run nationally through FireSmart Canada and facilitated locally by the RDCK. It is a grassroots, volunteer run program that is assisted by RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Specialists. It is a small-scale approach for neighbourhoods consisting of 5-50 homes, with the intent to implement achievable FireSmart goals (mitigation projects can be small and simple, or complex and extensive, ranging from individual owners doing around home clean-ups, to community hand treatments on common and private land near critical infrastructure). EA-D supports the FCNRP by recruiting communities to the program, offering a \$1350 grant to each community that achieves the neighborhood recognition status, and providing additional supporting funds (when available) for further implementation of the neighborhood recommendations. Communities within EA-D that have been recognized include: Lardeau (2022), Loki Lots (2018), Pine Ridge (ongoing since 2019), Johnsons Landing (ongoing since 2020), Woodbury (ongoing since 2018), and Back Road (2017, 2018).

⁶⁶ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/waste-recycling/household-hazardous-waste-round-up/yard-garden-waste-free-tipping.html>

➤ ***FireSmart Rebate Program***

To aid in residential-scale vegetation management and structure improvements, this program allows for residents that have had a completed FireSmart assessment (Home Ignition Zone or Home Partners Program) receive a rebate (using recorded expenses) for work completed to lower risk identified in their assessment. Starting in the 2024 CRI FCFS program, the eligible amount of rebate per property is now \$5000. EA-D has implemented the rebate program in previous years, and should continue to do so.

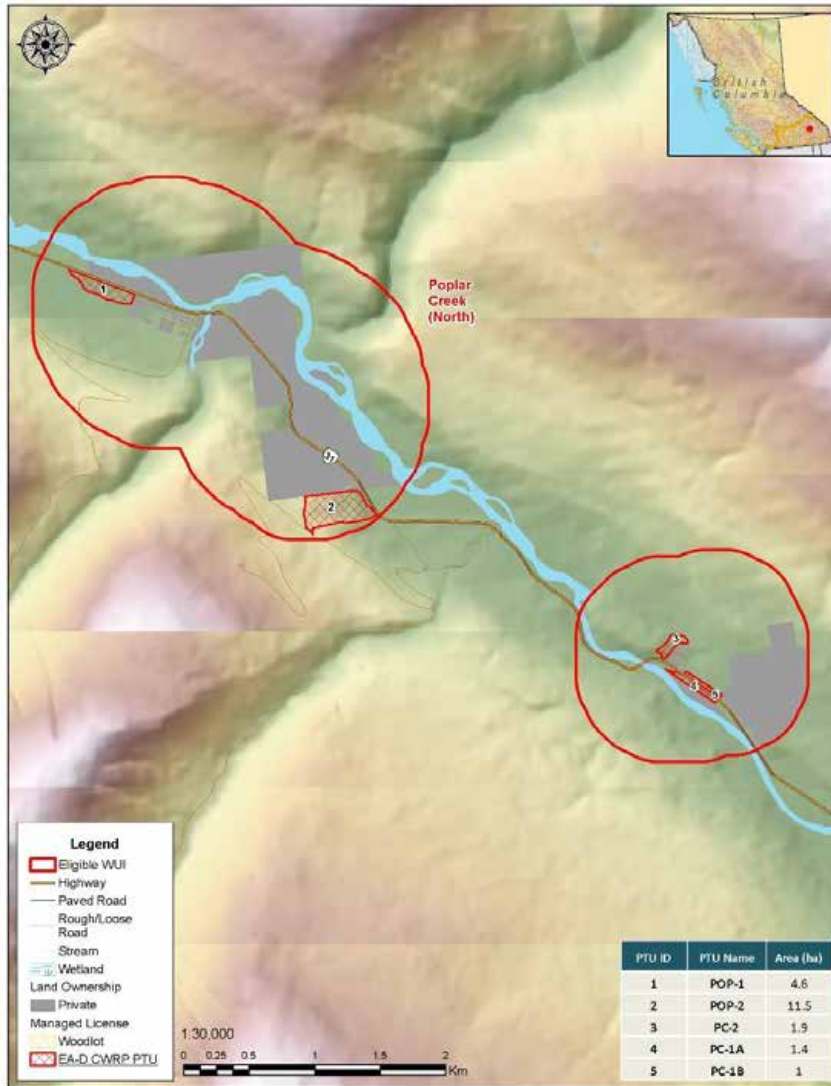
Associated vegetation management recommendations and action items are listed in Table 23.

Table 23: Vegetation management action items

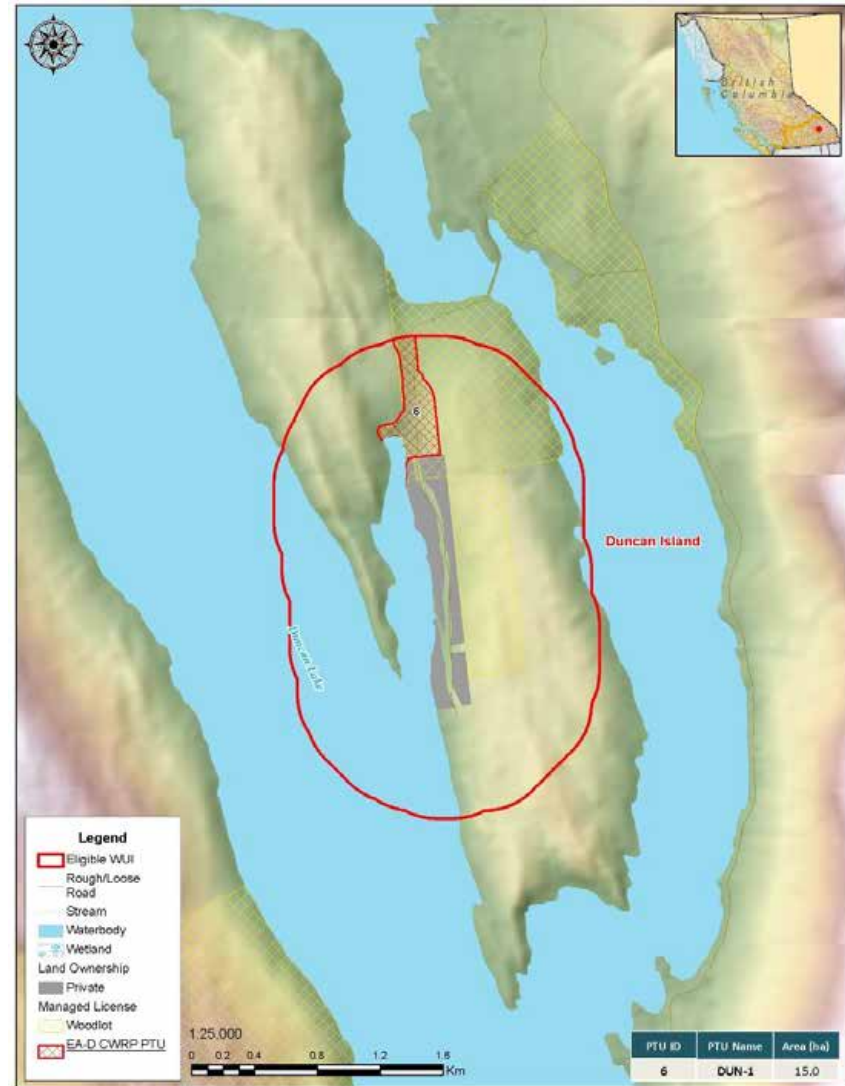
Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric Success for	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Vegetation Management - Section 5.7							
Fuel Management Treatments							
34	High	Develop fuel management prescriptions for the identified Potential Fuel Treatment Units (PTUs), starting with those identified as High priority. Continue with treatment implementation when possible.	To reduce wildfire threat and risk to interface and intermix communities within the WUI. Also, to provide FireSmart vegetation management examples to the public that can be implemented on their own properties. See "Rationale" column in Table 24 for more detailed treatment rationales.	EA-D (MOF; BCWS; applicable forest licensees; community FireSmart Committees)	5 years	Approved FMP(s) for identified High priority areas.	CRI FCFS funding available for prescription and treatments; ~\$425/hectare for a ~20 ha prescription.
35	High	Lobby Provincial Government (Ministry of Forests) and other potential funding organizations for grant funds to implement landscape level fuel treatment on private land.	Much of EA-D's communities' structures are surrounded by undeveloped, forested private land. Current funding streams for fuel reduction at the landscape level are targeted, and thus limited, to public land. However, the interface wildland does not stop at the public/private land border.	Local Government (Provincial Government)	5 years	Discussions initiated and ongoing	Time and cost dependant upon level of engagement required.
Residential FireSmart							
36	High	In conjunction with provided home FireSmart Assessments (see Recommendation #7), continue offering a local rebate program to property owners that have completed a FireSmart home assessment (Home Ignition Zone assessment or Home Partners Program Mitigation assessment). RDCK, EA-D, and FireSmart coordinators should advertise that the amount eligible for rebate has increased to \$5000 for the CRI FCFS 2024 application program.	FireSmart home assessments encourage action in the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone of a community. Offer a rebate program (funded through CRI FCFS) to residents who have a pre- and post-work FireSmart assessment conducted. Focus on removal of conifer hedges and upgrading exterior structure materials.	RDCK / EA-D (FireSmart Coordinator)	Annually	Number of properties participating annually.	50% of costs per property up to \$5,000, plus 2 hours administration time per property (CRI FCFS).
37	High	Continue providing regional district-led options for the disposal of yard waste. Currently, this includes having tipping fees waived (May and	Yard waste burning restrictions limit options for debris disposal. Free debris disposal may be used as an incentive to participate in other FireSmart activities, like assessments or workshops.	RDCK	Annual	Regional District funded yard waste	CRI FCFS funding is available for

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric Success	for	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)				
		October) for yard waste at RDCK transfer stations.				disposal continues.		tipping fee coverage.
38	High	Consider implementing a community chipper program. Education of FireSmart yard and landscaping principles, including chipping specifications, should be incorporated into the program.	To reduce fire and wildfire hazards on private property within the WUI, especially those long distances from RDCK landfills/transfer stations, and to promote FireSmart vegetation management knowledge and education. The intent is for landscaping/yard vegetation to be included, not farm or agriculture vegetation. This could assist with more uptake of residential FireSmart landscaping principles as the disposal method is brought to the resident, especially for those older and less mobile.	RDCK / EA-D	Annual (pre-fire season is best)	Number of properties who elect to have debris disposed.		CRI FCFS funding; ~\$100-150 per chipper crew hour.
39	Moderate	Consider releasing an annual RDCK FireSmart report to the public that tracks community-specific uptake in various FireSmart initiatives, as well as tracks fuel management at all scales.	As the program grows, reporting allows the RDCK FireSmart program to track challenges and successes, further promote the program, and tailor outreach methods to achieve the most uptake.	RDCK (FireSmart Coordinators)	Annual	An annual report is published.		Eligible for CRI funding – FireSmart staff time. Estimate 40-80 hours.
40	Moderate	Engage with local garden centers to implement the FireSmart BC Plant [Tagging] Program.	FireSmart BC introduced a plant tagging program in 2021 that has been implemented with great success by over 34 nurseries and garden centres to date. The Plant Program is an easy way to provide information at the point of purchase for homeowners and landscapers. See: https://firesmartbc.ca/landscaping-hub/plant-program/	Local Garden Centres (RDCK; EA-D; FireSmart Coordinator)	5 years	Local garden centres have been notified of the program.		Staff time for engagement (2-4 hours per garden centre).
Community and Critical Infrastructure FireSmart								
41	High	Support the implementation of recommended vegetation management recommendations from FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone Assessments (see Recommendation #14), when completed, on a priority basis.	To reduce fire behavior and risks to critical infrastructure most important to fire and wildfire fighting and post-wildfire recovery.	RDCK / EA-D	5 years	High priority critical infrastructure has had FireSmart vegetation management completed.		CRI FCFS funding up to \$53,500 per municipal infrastructure (vegetation management included).

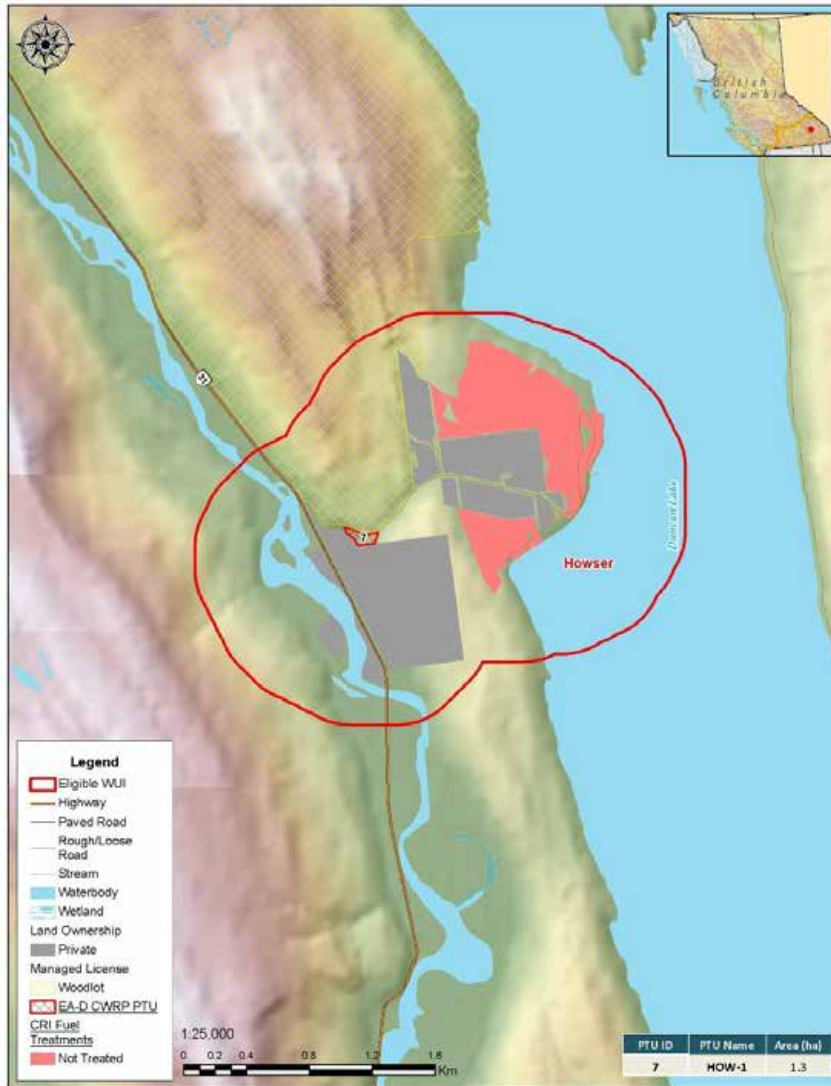
Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric Success for	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
42	High	Continue to develop interpretive signage to demonstrate pre- and post-fuel treatment forest stands conditions for treatments completed within or adjacent to communities.	Interpretive signage could include text explaining the purpose of the fuel management treatment, connection to the CWRP, and FireSmart practices residents nearby can take to reduce wildfire hazards around their yards and homes.	RDCK / EA-D	5 years	Signage installed during implementation phases.	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.
43	High	Continue to support and promote the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP) to communities within EA-D. Identify community champions to spearhead organization for those communities not already organized, and support those communities that have been recognized in the past to continue working towards being so.	There are many small communities throughout EA-D that, by working together, could reduce their community-scale wildfire risk easily and substantially. The program supports a small-scale approach for neighbourhoods consisting of 5-50 homes, with the intent to implement achievable FireSmart goals	RDCK / EA-D	Ongoing	Increase in number of recognized communities.	FireSmart Canada \$500; RDCK FireSmart Champion Grant up to \$3000
44	Moderate	As part of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP), apply to CRI FCFS for funding to develop Neighbourhood FireSmart Plans.	To help guide FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program communities and their community champions to complete wildfire risk reduction measures.	RDCK / EA-D	In line with FCNRP Community program uptake.	Communities working towards FCNRP status have a Neighbourhood Plan	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.



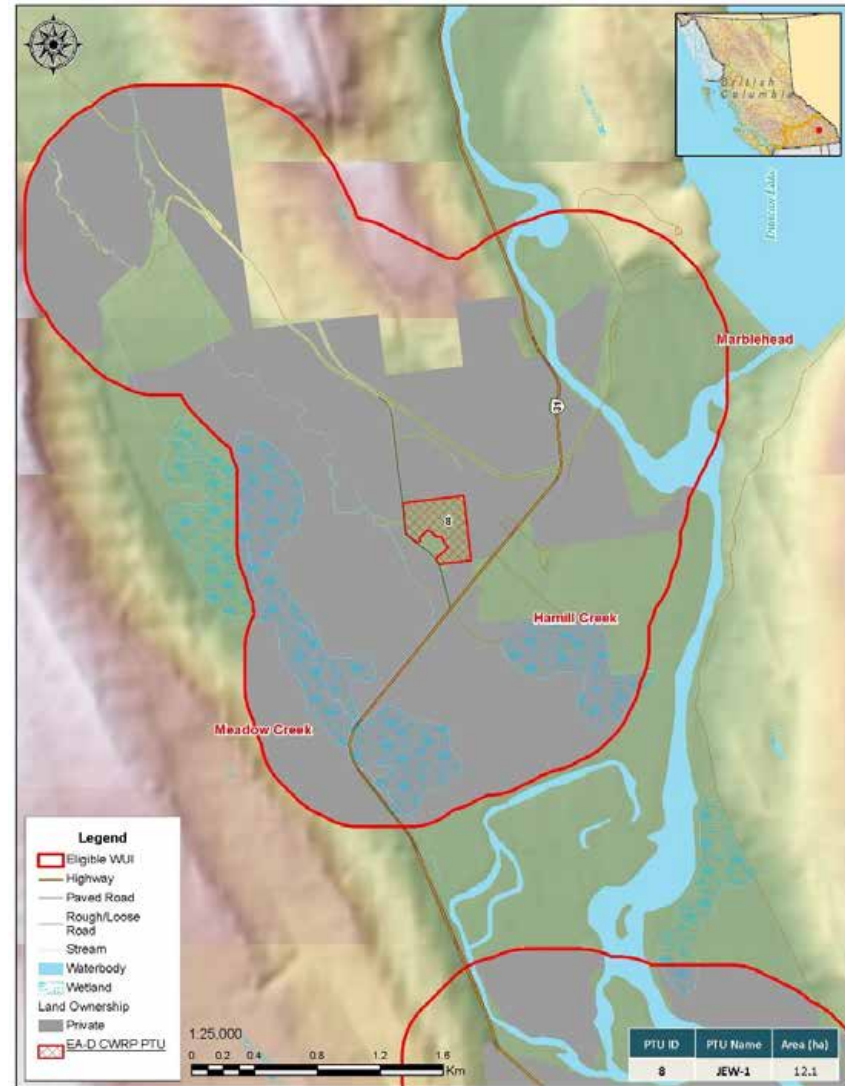
Map 19: Proposed Treatment Units in Poplar Creek.



Map 20: Proposed Treatment Units in Duncan Island.



Map 21: Proposed Treatment Units in Howser.



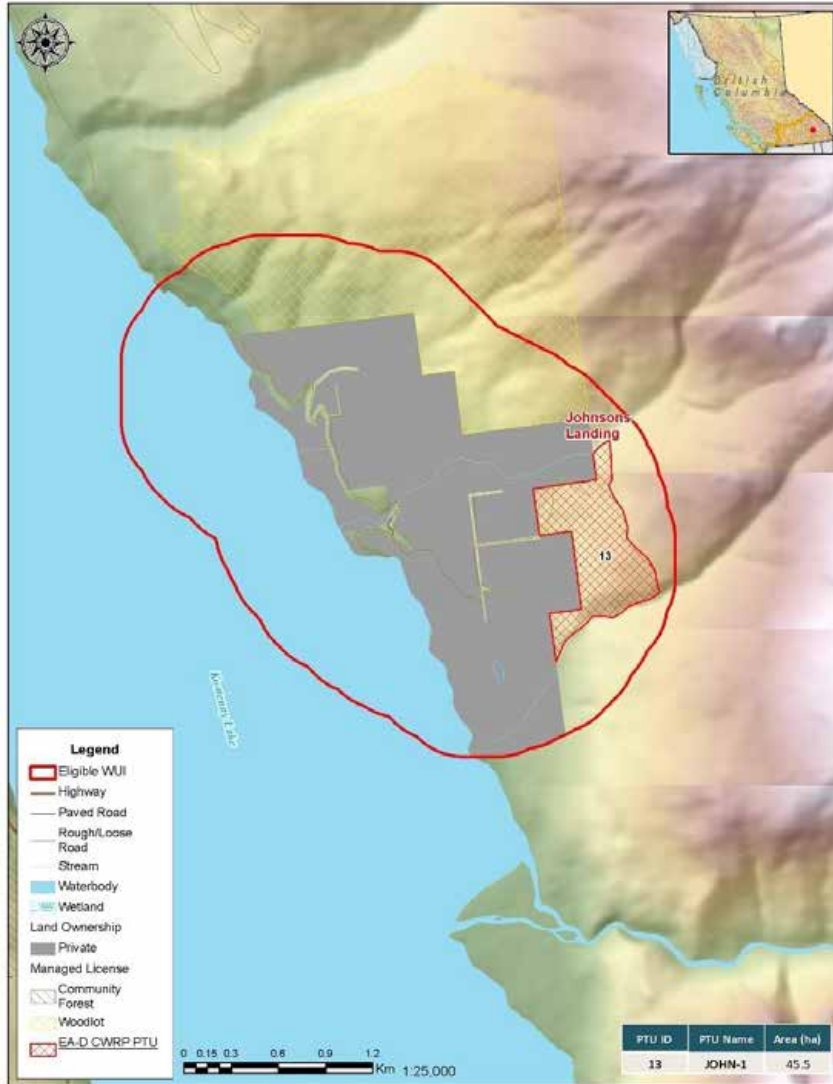
Map 22: Proposed Treatment Units in Meadow Creek.



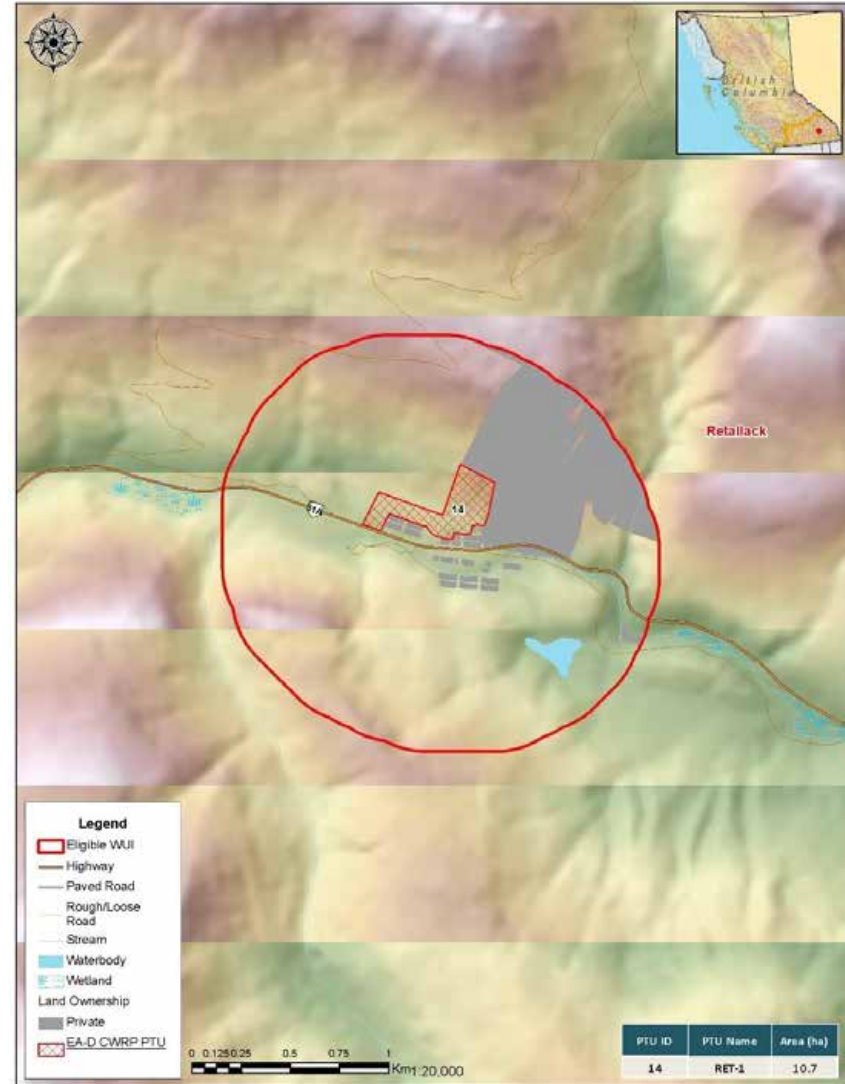
Map 23: Proposed Treatment Units in Argenta.



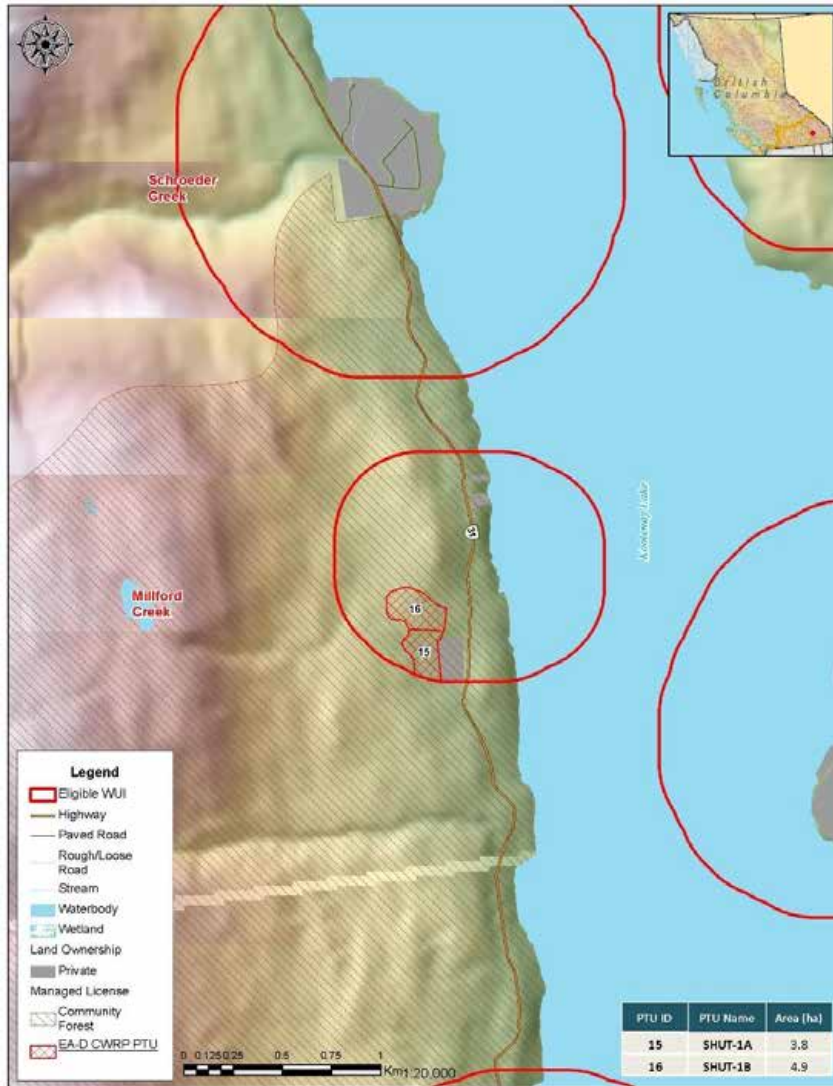
Map 24: Proposed Treatment Units in Bulmer's Point.



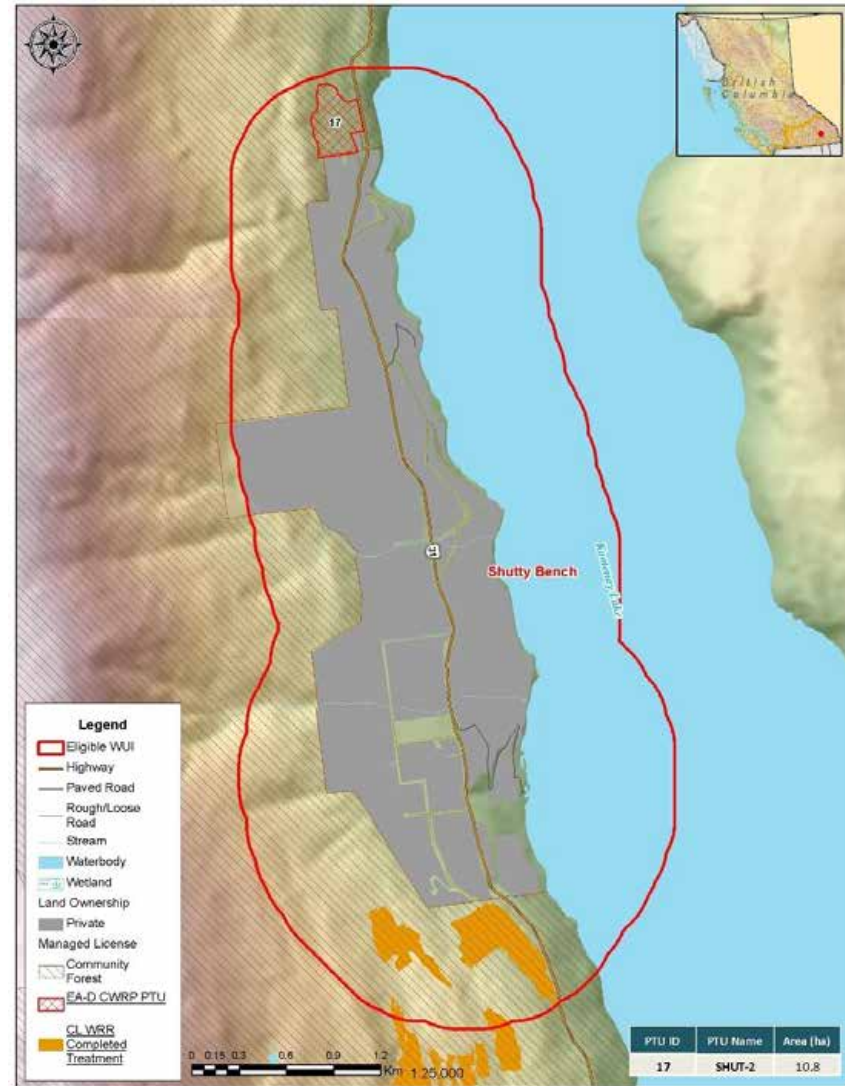
Map 25: Proposed Treatment Units in Johnsons Landing.



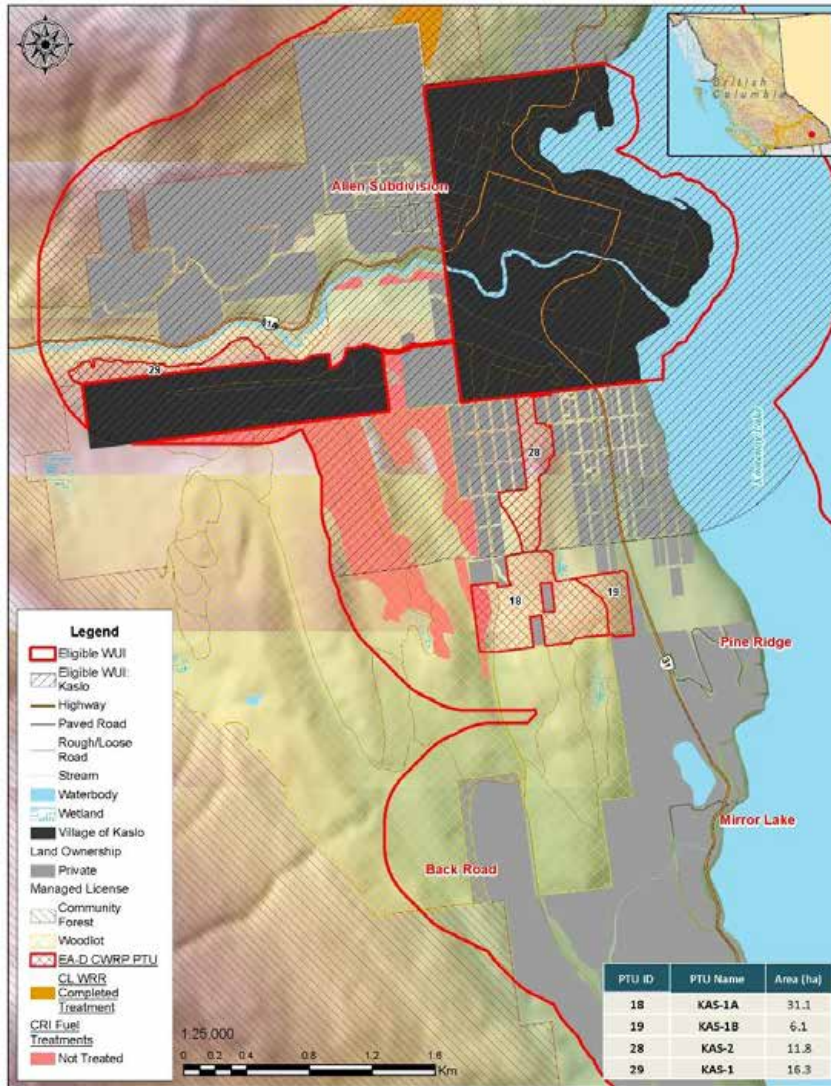
Map 26: Proposed Treatment Units in Retallack.



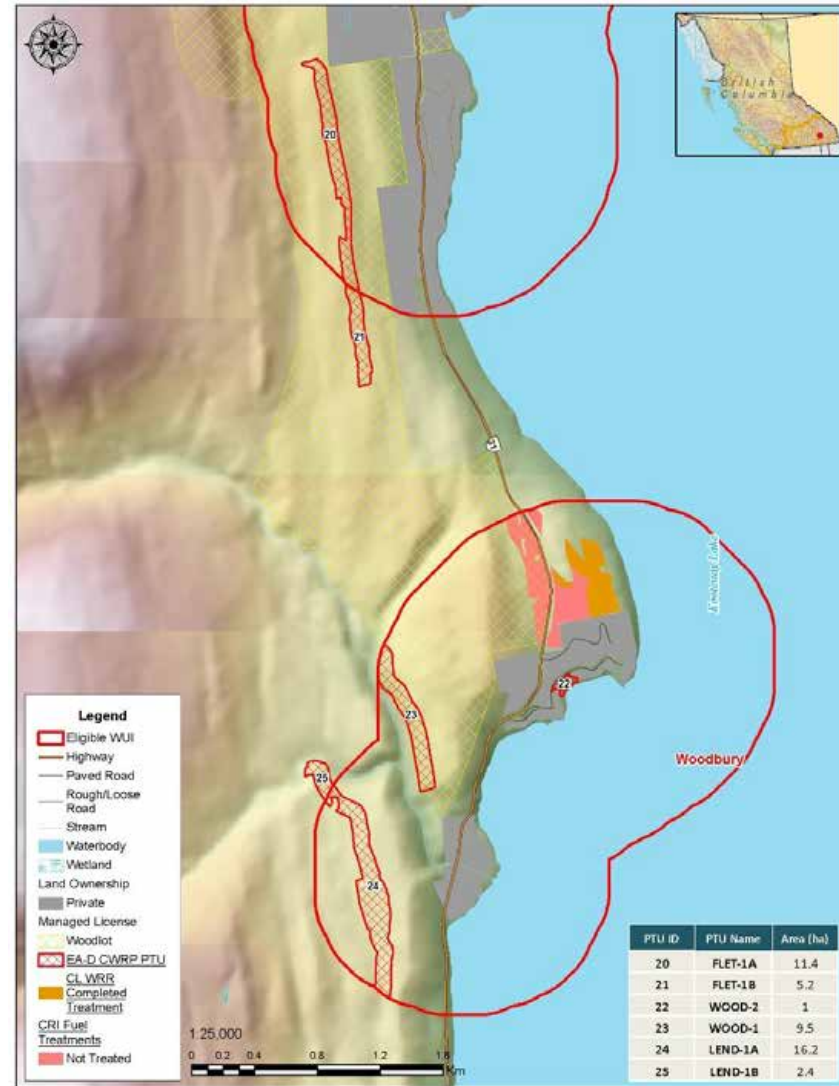
Map 27: Proposed Treatment Units in Milford Creek.



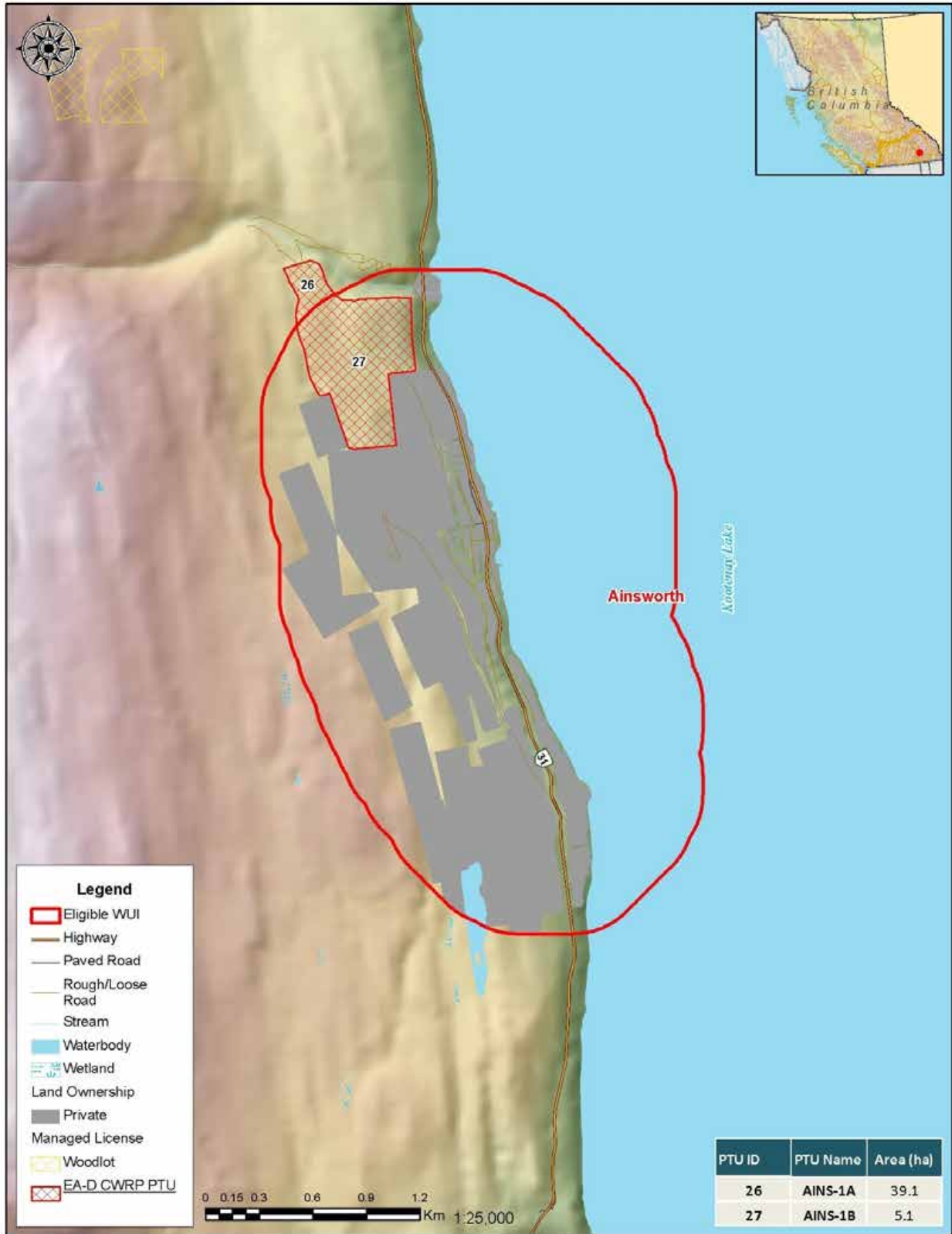
Map 28: Proposed Treatment Units in Shutty Bench.



Map 29: Proposed Treatment Units near Kaslo.



Map 30: Proposed Treatment Units in Fletcher Creek and Woodbury.



Map 31: Proposed Treatment Units in Ainsworth.

Table 24: Summary of Proposed Fuel Treatment Units (PTUs) for EA-D's WUI (ordered from north to south).

[Map ID] PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat			Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Mod	No Data ⁶⁷	
[1] POP-1	Poplar Creek	Low	4.6	Crown Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders highway 31 on north side and private property on east side.	0.0	1.2	-	Treat to improve access/egress safety for the community. This unit would also be a good FireSmart vegetation demonstration project for the community. Hazardous, mature C-5-type stand along the roadside. Understory composed of scattered L3 and L4 conifers, and many are suppressed and dead from a lack of sunlight. Overstory (L1) western red cedar have low lying branches (and thus a very low crown base height). Dense crown closure. Scattered fine fuels. Treatment would likely including thin from below of suppressed conifers, and pruning. WTA POP-2 (Moderate)
[2] POP-2	Poplar Creek	High	11.5	Crown Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders highway 31 on east side and private property on north side. Steep slopes.	11.1	0.4	-	Treat to reduce WUI fire behaviour and threat and to improve access/egress; windward side of dominant fire season winds for the community. Hazardous C-4-type immature stand, with steep slopes. Unit ties into a lower hazard M-1/2 fuel type adjacent to road and then the creek to the east, and to FSR to the west. Numerous dead and suppressed western hemlock (Hw) and a dense canopy have created continuous horizontal continuity. Opening the stand will promote the establishment of deciduous shrubs and herbs. Forest floor is composed of scattered needles and a deep organic layer. Treatment would likely including thin from below of suppressed conifers, and pruning. WTA POP-3 (High)
[3] PC-2	Poplar Creek	Low	1.9	Crown Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. In a local community watershed.	0.2	1.7	-	treat to protect homes from a fire from the NW (non-dominant fire season wind side) and local community watershed. This unit would also be a good FireSmart vegetation demonstration project for the community. C-5-type stand with Hw and minor western white pine (Pw) understory ingress. Some overstory (L1) stems undergoing self pruning and still have low lying dead ladder branches (with lichen). Low level of effort required

⁶⁷ Some identified PTUs are outside the eWUI. However, they are identified as part of a larger treatment unit as including them would make a practicable treatment area of the same forest and fuel type.

[Map ID] PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat			Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Mod	No Data ⁶⁷	
								for treatment, likely focusing on removal of understory (L3) Hw clumps and pruning low lying branches. Low amounts of surface fuel. Unit anchors to non-fuel sand pit on its southwest edge, and a FSR on its north edge. WTA CREEK-1 (Moderate)
[4] PC-1A	Poplar Creek	Low	1.4	Crown Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders highway 31 on north side and private property on south side.	0.9	0.5	-	Treat to improve access/egress safety for the community. C-5-type stand with C-3-type along road edge due to edge effect. C-5-type stand with Hw and minor western white pine (Pw) understory ingress. Some overstory (L1) stems undergoing self pruning and still have low lying dead ladder branches (with lichen). Low level of effort required for treatment, likely focusing on removal of understory (L3) Hw clumps, pruning low lying branches, and thinning of dense road edge conifers. Low amounts of surface fuel.
[5] PC-1B	Poplar Creek	Low	1.0	Crown Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders highway 31 on south side and private property on east and west sides.	0.0	1.0	-	Treat to improve access/egress safety of the only road (FSR) into the remote gated community. This unit would also be a good FireSmart vegetation demonstration project for the community. C-3-type stand characterized by nearly-continuous horizontal and patchy vertical fuel continuity (L3 crowns often abutting low lying L1/L2 branches). Occasional suppressed L3 and sub-merch (L1s) stems present. Treatment should likely focus on the reduction of crown continuity to decrease potential fire behaviour and thin from below understory conifers (while retaining healthy Yew and deciduous stems). Commercial thinning should be considered as merchantable stems are common and the unit overlaps with a woodlot. WTA DUN-1 (Moderate)
[6] DUN-1	Duncan Island	High	15.0	Crown Provincial land. Almost all in W0491. South edge borders private land.	14.3	0.7	-	Treat to improve access/egress safety of the only road into the eastern neighbourhood of the community. This unit would also be a good FireSmart vegetation demonstration project for the community. Mix of mature C-5 and C-3 fuel types. Treatment would likely focus on thin from below of understory conifers, pruning, and surface fuel reduction. WTA HOW-3
[7] HOW-1	Howser	Moderate	1.3	Untitled Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private land on its south side.	0.6	0.7	-	

[Map ID] PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat			Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Mod	No Data ⁶⁷	
[8] JEW-1	Meadow Creek	High	12.1	Crown Provincial land. Surrounds a school. Borders private land on its west, north, and east sides.	0.0	9.2	-	Treat to reduce wildfire risk surrounding an elementary school. This unit would also be a good FireSmart vegetation demonstration project for the community. C-5-type stand with some C-3 characteristics. Treatment would likely focus on thin from below of understory conifers, pruning, and surface fuel reduction
[9] ARG-2	Argenta	Moderate	21.3	Crown Agency land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private land on its south edge. Residential community members inhabit area with multiple dwellings, scattered gardening structures, and gardening plots.	13.7	7.6	-	Treat as a fuel-break type feature, reducing wildfire behaviour in the WUI and an intermix community. Mature M-1/2 (western larch) stand with C5 and C-3 characteristics (densely stocked in some locations). Intersecting water courses east to west in unit. Anchors on the east to mainline road, and to the west to a lower risk C7 and M-1/2 mixed stand. Road access throughout. Treatment would likely focus on thin from below of understory conifers, pruning, and surface fuel reduction. WTA ARG-2 (Moderate)
[10] ARG-1	Argenta	High	3.3	Crown Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private land on all sides. Surrounds a community hall (emergency critical infrastructure).	0.0	3.3	-	Treat to reduce wildfire risk surrounding critical community infrastructure. This unit would also be a good FireSmart vegetation demonstration project for the community. Mature C5 stand with patches of moderately-dense understory conifers. Generally high crown base heights of overstory (L1) trees. Low surface fuel. Approximately 40% of the area was previously treated, but that area requires retreatment. Treatment would likely focus on thin from below of understory conifers, pruning, and surface fuel reduction. WTA ARG-1 (Moderate)
[11] BULM-1A	Bulmer's Creek	High	10.9	Crown Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone.	8.2	2.7	-	Treat to reduce WUI fire behaviour and threat on the windward side of dominant fire season winds for the community. Targeting a second growth C-3-type stand with C-4-type along road edges (Salsbury FSR). The PTU is situated amongst adjacent C-7-type polygons, created from recent selective harvesting where the operator retained a high percentage of Douglas-fir (Fd) and western larch (Lw), then implemented prescribed fire post harvest. Thus, the overall area's wildfire threat has been lowered, but treating this island of high/extreme behaviour would create a continuous reduced fire threat area. Treatment

[Map ID] PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat			Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Mod	No Data ⁶⁷	
								would likely focus on thin from below of understory conifers, pruning, and surface fuel reduction. WTA SALS-1 (High)
[12] BULM-1B	Bulmer's Creek	High	5.0	<i>Outside eWUI.</i>	-	-	5.0	<i>Outside eWUI.</i> Treat to reduce wildfire threat associated with the continuing stand of BULM-1A. WTA SALS-1 (High)
[13] JOHN-1	Johnsons Landing	High	45.5	Crown Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private land on west and north sides. Borders provincial park on its south side. Steep slopes.	43.0	2.5	-	Treat to reduce WUI fire behaviour and threat on the windward side of dominant fire season winds for the community. C-3-type dominant young forest stand. Cw leading, with low crown base heights, a dense understory, and large amounts of surface fuel. Treatment should target surface fuel removal and thin from below understory removal. East corner of the PTU ties into Kootenay Joe Creek. WTA JOHN-1 (High)
[14] RET-1	Retallack	Moderate	10.7	Crown Provincial land. Partially borders highway 31 and private property on south side. Borders private property on east and north sides.	10.5	0.2	-	Treat to reduce WUI fire behaviour and threat directly interface of the remote valley community. A C-5-type mature stand with low surface fuel, patches of dense conifer ingress, low crown base height and patches of trembling aspen (At) intermixed. Treatment would focus on thinning from below of understory stems and pruning retained overstory (L1) conifers. Potential future prescribed burn possible. WTA RET-1 (Moderate)
[15] SHUT-1A	Milford Creek	High	3.8	Untitled Provincial land. Entirely in K3C Kaslo Community Forest. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private property on east side. Kaslo Community Forest block boundary layout ribbon in PTU.	0.0	3.8	-	Treat to reduce WUI fire behaviour and threat directly interface of community residences. Located 400 m west of highway 31 on "Branch 3" road permit forest road, at the north end of Shutty Bench. C-5-type dominant mature forest stand with some C-3/C-4 characteristics of ~4000 sph of understory stems. Treatment would focus on thinning from below of understory stems, pruning retained overstory (L1) conifers, and surface fuel reduction. Potential future prescribed burn possible. WTA SHUT-1 (High)

[Map ID] PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat			Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Mod	No Data ⁶⁷	
[16] SHUT-1B	Milford Creek	Moderate	4.9	Untitled Provincial land. Entirely in K3C Kaslo Community Forest. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone.	0.0	4.9	-	Treat to extend interface area of lower wildfire risk (but the focus should be on treating SHUT-1A first). Same stand continues into this adjacent polygon, but this area is further from the WUI of adjacent structures to the east.
[17] SHUT-2	Shutty Bench	High	10.8	Untitled Provincial land. Entirely in K3C Kaslo Community Forest. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Southern polygon area borders private property on south and east sides.	6.3	4.5	-	Treat to reduce WUI fire behaviour and threat directly interface of community residences and for safer access/egress along Highway 31. C-5-type dominant stand. North and south of existing cutblocks – would create a longer, more continuous zone of lowered wildfire behaviour across the west edge of the WUI. WTA SHUT-2
[29] KAS-1	Rural Kaslo	Moderate	16.3	Crown Provincial land. Overlaps with Town of Kaslo WUI. Borders municipal land (airport) on south edge. Slight overlaps with K3C Kaslo Community Forest.	0.0	16.3	-	Will also be proposed in the Town of Kaslo CWRP currently under development. Treat to reduce WUI fire behaviour and threat directly interface to both EA-D and Kaslo communities and critical infrastructure (airport).
[28] KAS-2	Rural Kaslo	High	11.8	Crown Provincial land. Overlaps with Town of Kaslo WUI. Borders private properties on most edges. Overlaps with K3C Kaslo Community Forest.	5.3	6.5	-	Will also be proposed in the Town of Kaslo CWRP currently under development. Treat to reduce WUI fire behaviour and threat directly interface to both EA-D and Kaslo communities. In conjunction with KAS-1A and 1B, treating these units would create a landscape-level fuel break on the windward side of dominant fire season winds (south to north).
[18] KAS-1A	Rural Kaslo	High	35.4	Crown Provincial land. West edge overlaps CRI proposed PTU. Borders W0494 on south and west edges. Private land parcels into north and south sides. West side overlaps existing proposed/prescribed PTU.	24.1	11.3	-	Treat to reduce WUI fire behaviour and threat directly adjacent to intermix homes and to create an east-west fire-break type feature on the downwind side of leading fire season winds, just upwind (south) of rural Kaslo and the community of Kaslo itself. Forest area directly east of this PTU and east of the highway was treated ~15 years ago. Mature C-3-type dominant stand with moderate surface fuel loading. Treatment would focus on thinning from below of understory conifers, pruning of retained overstory (L1) conifers, and a commercial thin targeting western hemlock (Hw) removal across all layers. WTA KASLO-1 (High)

[Map ID] PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat			Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Mod	No Data ⁶⁷	
[19] KAS-1B	Rural Kaslo	Low	7.8	Crown Provincial land. Steep slopes. Private land borders south and east sides.	7.2	0.6	-	Treat to extent an east-west fuel-break type feature on the lead fire season wind edge of rural Kaslo and the Kaslo community. Forest area directly east of this PTU and east of the highway was treated ~15 years ago. C-7 leading stand with steep, open rock features. Treatment could consider prescribed burn (especially after KAS-1A has been treated).
[20] FLET-1A	Fletcher Creek	High	11.4	Crown Provincial land. In W0438. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone.	0.0	11.4	-	Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI and to create a landscape-level fuel break across the west edge (“top”) of the community. Unique opportunity with the road built along a steep slope break that runs perpendicular to Highway 31 and the community. Mix of fuel types associated with differing ages/stages of harvesting and regeneration, that includes patches of C-3. WTA AINS-3 (High)
[21] FLET-1B	Fletcher Creek	Low	5.2	<i>Outside eWUI.</i> Crown Provincial land. In W0438. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone.	-	-	5.2	<i>Outside eWUI.</i> Treat to further continue the fire break feature along the forest road and with the associated stands of FLET-1A. This PTU does extend further south than community structures, which FLET-1A is closer situated to. WTA SALS-1 (High)
[22] WOOD-2	Woodbury	High	1.0	Crown Provincial land. Critical Infrastructure (water) on its north side. Borders private property on north and south sides.	1.0	0.0	-	Treat to reduce wildfire risk within the community and wildfire risk surrounding critical community water infrastructure. This unit would also be a good FireSmart vegetation demonstration project for the community. Young, even-aged Fd stand with low crown base heights and continuous horizontal continuity. Treatment should focus on thinning and pruning retained conifers. WTA WOOD-2 (Moderate)
[23] WOOD-1	Woodbury	High	9.5	Crown Provincial land. Almost entirely in W0438. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone.	9.4	0.1	-	Treat to reduce wildfire behaviour in the WUI, as well as to develop a landscape-level fuel break across the west edge (“top”) of the community. A young, even-aged stand dominated by M-1/2 (75% conifer) fuel type. Cw leading with low crown base heights. PTU is a 100m road-side buffer upslope to the east of Woodbury FSR. Treatment should focus on thinning conifers and pruning retained conifers. WTA WOOD-3 (Moderate)

[Map ID] PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat			Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Mod	No Data ⁶⁷	
[24] LEND-1A	Woodbury	High	16.2	Crown Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone.	9.6	6.4	-	Treat to reduce wildfire behaviour in the WUI, as well as to develop a landscape-level fuel break across the west edge (“top”) of the community in conjunction with WOOD-1. A mix of fuel types (C-3/C-5 dominant) and mature conifer species located along the Lendrum FSR. Treatment should focus on thinning from below, pruning of retained conifers, and surface fuel reduction. PTU extends to the east to a significant slope break, and to Lendrum Creek to the north. WTA LEND-1 (Moderate); LEND-2 (Moderate)
[25] LEND-1B	Woodbury	Moderate	2.4	<i>Outside eWUI.</i> Crown Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone.	-	-	2.4	<i>Outside eWUI.</i> Treat to further continue the fire break feature along the forest road and with the associated stands of LEND-1A. This PTU extends further north, overlapping with the south end of WOOD-1.
[26] AINS-1A	Ainsworth	High	39.1	Crown Provincial land. South portion overlaps Hansen Community Watershed. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private land on its southern end. Community graveyard located within.	0.0	39.1	-	Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI, within the community watershed, and adjacent to the north end of the community. Mature, C-5 dominant stand with patches of very dense conifer regeneration. Cw leading, with low crown base heights. Treatment should focus on thinning of understory conifers, pruning retained overstory (L1) conifers, and surface fuel removal. WTA AINS-1 (Moderate)
[27] AINS-1B	Ainsworth	High	5.1	<i>Outside eWUI.</i> Crown Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone.	-	-	5.1	<i>Outside eWUI.</i> Treat to further continue the reduced fire threat feature of AINS-1A along the top of the adjacent steep slope break on the east edge, and north to the creek valley.

SECTION 6: APPENDICES

6.1 APPENDIX A: REVIEW OF 2016 CWPP RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2016 CWPP Recommendations were reviewed and commented on by the electoral area Director. Comments were edited for clarity.

Item	2016 CWPP Recommendation	2023 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
Communication and Education		
Objective: To improve public understanding of fire risk and personal responsibility by increasing resident awareness of the wildfire threat in their community and to establish a sense of homeowner responsibility.		
1.	Establish / expand a school education program to engage youth in wildfire management. Consult ABCFP and BCWS (the zone) to facilitate and recruit volunteer teachers and experts to help with curriculum development and to be delivered in elementary and/or secondary schools. Educational programming can be done in conjunction with currently running programs on fire extinguisher training.	Yes. Some education has happened (although more is needed). It is being done by the school, but not under the authority of RDCK.
2.	Make summaries of this report and associated maps publicly available through webpage, social media, and public FireSmart meetings. Add fire threat spatial data to the interactive web-mapping tool to allow residents to find their property and the associated threat of wildfire.	CWRP is available on RDCK website.
3.	Participate in the National Wildfire Community Preparedness day, typically in May each year.	Yes, numerous FCNRP events happen throughout 2023.
4.	Expand door-to-door FireSmart assessment and/or Home Partner Program within the Area D and Kaslo interface in order to educate residents and to quantify the level of risk in the interface.	Yes, 140 HPP assessments completed so far in area D. [as of September, 2023]
Objective: To enhance the awareness of elected officials and stakeholders regarding the resources required to reduce fire risk.		

5.	Develop regional development permit standards and align local government bylaws.	<i>Nothing implemented yet; wildfire development permit area study completed in 2022.</i>
6.	Provide a group voice to the Building and Safety Standards Branch and other provincial entities.	<i>No communications I am aware of. RDCK staff and the Province have hired a provincial wildfire mitigation specialist.</i>
7.	Develop a coordinated approach to fuel management and hazard reduction within and adjacent to the Area D and Kaslo Study Area by coordinating with stakeholders including conservation organizations, communities, forest licensees, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and utility companies, to aid in the establishment of FireSmart activities and large, landscape-level fuel breaks or compliment current or proposed fuel treatment areas.	<i>Kaslo/Area D WRR committee and Lardeau Valley CFRC includes various groups like Kaslo Community Forests, MOF WRR, and BCWS representatives. Discussing various landscape level projects.</i>

Structure Protection and Planning

Objective: Enhance protection of critical infrastructure from wildfire

8.	Complete a fire flow / water vulnerability assessment for each water system and identify and map all alternative water sources (reservoirs, streams, lakes, etc.). Identify which areas may have insufficient or unreliable water supplies and provide recommendations to reduce vulnerability in Area D and Kaslo. Explore collaboration with other agencies including Columbia Basin Trust, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and Interior Health Authority.	<i>Water systems in RDCK are not all owned and operated by the RDCK. In Area D, only 2 of at least 100 are. Of those that are owned by the RDCK, Woodbury has had an IHA required water plan, to see it request from water services. For the other one, MacDonald Creek, it is contracted to the Village of Kaslo. They would have any information on assessments. For all others communities, water systems are independent and short of our water governance initiative, which is not specific to a water system, nor to Area D. There have not been water sustainability plans for any areas in the RDCK. As they require ministerial approval and lots of pre-work (and the RDCK has a significantly high number of watersheds), I do not anticipate that this recommendation would be achievable for all water systems in the near future.</i>
9.	Complete a vulnerability assessment of all critical infrastructure (not only RDCK and Village of Kaslo critical infrastructure) including water infrastructure in interface areas with FireSmart recommendations.	<i>HPP assessments have been completed on critical infrastructure like firehalls, but not on most water infrastructure.</i>

10.	Develop alternative, back-up water sources for fire protection, including determining the suitability of the MacDonald Creek water reservoir, and the establishment of standpipes as required.	<i>This is in the Village of Kaslo's workplan.</i>
11.	Complete a detailed review of back-up power source options for all critical infrastructure and upgrade as required.	<i>The Lardeau Valley Power Feasibility study made this recommendation, and within that region all halls have had various infrastructure upgrades for backup power and emergency needs. Would need to talk to the hall societies – LVCC, ACA and JLCA to get specifics. I do not know if Ainsworth Hall has done this. Also do not know if the Kaslo and Area Fire Hall has done this.</i>
12.	Complete more detailed hazard assessments and developing, in collaboration with other available government funding, response plans for stabilization and rehabilitation of burn areas in watersheds that are vulnerable to post-wildfire debris flows and floods.	<i>We have the steep creek and hazard assessment work. I believe the only one in Area D that has an up to date analysis is Cooper Creek. None were done based on previous fire history. I would suggest that the Briggs Creek fire, South Fork community, should have this work done as the closest fire to a community that could increase debris flows. Johnson Landing also needs an updated Geotech report but that debris flow was not due to fire.</i>

Objective: Encourage private homeowners to voluntarily adopt FireSmart principles on their properties.

13.	Support homeowners with professionals to provide the Home Partners Program or WUI Site and Structure Hazard Assessments for interface homes and provide information to homeowners on specific steps that they can take to reduce fire hazards on their property. Homeowners should not be charged for these assessments.	<i>Yes, 140 HPP assessments completed so far in area D. [as of September, 2023]</i>
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Local Government Policy

Objective: To reduce wildfire hazard on private land and increase FireSmart compliance.

14.	Complete OCP review and implement and / or strengthen zoning to expand reach of the existing.	<i>OCP review is in the cue with many other projects for our planning dept.</i>
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15.	<p>Develop Wildfire Hazard Development Permit (DP) Areas for major retrofits/ renovations or new builds (building permits), collecting bonds to be returned upon evidence of completing development and landscaping according to wildfire hazard assessment. Review District of North Vancouver and Kelowna DP processes, with particular attention to implementation, enforcement, affordability and associated liabilities. Explore proactive incentives, such as tax reductions and reduced building permit fees.</p>	<p><i>Nothing implemented yet, wildfire development permit area study completed in 2022.</i></p>
16.	<p>Obtain legal advice regarding the Building Act, specifically regarding the temporarily unrestricted matters and local government authority to set exterior building materials requirements. Use local government authority to mandate FireSmart construction materials beyond BC Building Code in wildfire hazard development permit area, as allowed.</p>	<p><i>Not complete.</i></p>
17.	<p>Develop a landscaping standard to be applied in interface / DP areas. The standard should list flammable non-compliant vegetation, non-flammable drought and pest resistant alternatives, and tips on landscape design to reduce maintenance, watering requirements, and reduce wildfire hazard. Include meeting landscaping standard as a requirement of Development Permit. Review District of North Vancouver and Kelowna DP processes, with particular attention to implementation, enforcement, affordability and associated liabilities. Explore proactive incentives, such as tax reductions and reduced building permit fees.</p>	<p><i>Not complete.</i></p>
18.	<p>Proactively enforce wildfire covenants requiring owners to maintain their properties hazard free on all properties in Development Permit areas. Enforcement will serve to minimize fuel risks on problematic private properties that have allowed hazardous accumulation of fuels and provide improved protection to adjacent lands.</p>	<p><i>Not complete.</i></p>

19.	Develop a landscaping standard to be applied in interface / DP areas to ensure that developers leave building set backs on private land so that there is a minimum of 10 m distance between buildings and forest interface.	<i>Not complete.</i>
20.	Consider developing an outdoor burning bylaw specifying requirements for and limitations to outdoor burning and, in conjunction with the Fire Chief, implement the bylaw at times of high fire danger when provincial bans are not in place. The bylaw should consider effective and efficient enforcement measures and powers.	<i>No comment.</i>
21.	Work with the Building and Safety Standards Branch to provide input into the Building Code revisions that would apply within the interface to prevent the spread of wildfire.	<i>Not complete</i>

Emergency Response and Planning

Objective: To improve structural and wildfire equipment and training available to RDCK Fire and Rescue.

22.	Conduct annual mutual aid training with MFLNRORD and BCWS including completion of a mock wildfire simulation in coordination with BCWS and safety training specific to wildland fire and risks inherent with natural areas. As part of the training, conduct annual reviews to ensure PPE and wildland equipment resources are complete, in working order, and the crews are well versed in their set-up and use. Wildfire training should be in compliance with Office of the Fire Commissioner standards.	<i>Well outside of our jurisdiction, especially when most of Area D does not have a fire service.</i>
23.	Ensure RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator act as liaison between the RDCK Collaborative Planning Group and the Emergency Preparedness Committee for Area D and Kaslo. Coordination and information sharing are crucial to the development of a community well prepared for wildfire.	<i>This is a good one to remind staff of; I have not seen the wildfire mitigation coordinator at our emergency preparedness committees.</i>

24.	Review and clarify SPU request procedures with RDCK fire Chiefs and ensure robust SPP115 training for fire fighters.	<i>I know we acquired several SPUs across the RD and then BCWS changed their process and does not call on us for use of them. Be good to check with Fire Chief Hannon about if and how they may be used. The only fire dept in Area D is a very limited geography and would not be available for a fire outside of its service boundaries. LINKs provides training every year for firefighting.</i>
25.	Develop Regional Service to fund additional SPUs and maintain existing SPUs.	<i>With the change to the call out use by BCWS, this is no longer a viable direction. Again, check in with Chief Hannon about why and what could be done to make it a viable one again.</i>
26.	Explore opportunities to collaborate with BCWS and within RDCK fire service to coordinate discount volumes of hose for interface fires, reducing costs and logistics to local fire departments	<i>I don't think this is done with BCWS. Within the RDCK, and fire service covered or not, our fire smart community champions have been acquiring a varying level of assets to be prepared. Lardeau and JLCA and Argenta have quite a bit with funding from CBT and Area D.</i>
27.	Explore opportunities to ensure a duty officer is in place in each Fire Protection Area to provide coverage for periods of high or extreme hazard.	<i>The EOC does not operate by fire protection area as that would leave a significant amount of the region uncovered. It is for the whole RD and I believe only when an emergency is activated.</i>
28.	Conduct fire preplan assessment for key interface areas in Kaslo and Area D. Other jurisdictions have completed assessments that prioritize fire department-specific variables, such as distance to hydrants, response time from nearest fire station, etc. to produce local risk ratings.	<i>Again, this would cover a small portion of Area D if the fire dept and service area is the metric. Distance to the fire hall is precisely what the regulations prescribe for where a service is limited, so that is automatic with the establishment of a service. Hydrants are not synonymous across the fire service area. Outside of it, I don't believe any communities have them.</i>

Emergency Response Evacuation and Access

Objective: To improve access and egress to neighbourhoods at risk and natural areas within RDCK.

29.	Develop a Total Access Plan to create, map and inventory trail and road network in natural areas for suppression planning, identification of areas with insufficient access and to aid in strategic planning. Fire threat mapping from this CWPP should be included. The plan should be updated every five years, or more regularly, as needed to incorporate additions or changes.	<i>I believe this would be such an incredible amount of work that it's not feasible. With 24 communities and each having different considerations, for Area D alone, that is 24 different plans.</i>
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30.	Require that all new interface developments have access for evacuation and sufficient capacity for emergency vehicles.	<i>Building code does prescribe access needs. Although if they do not go through the building permit process, we do not know they exist and can evade this easily. Zoning would be the other tool to regulate access</i>
31.	Facilitate completion of emergency planning zones for interface neighbourhoods with limited access	<i>Not done.</i>
Fuel Management		
Objective: Reduce wildfire threat on public lands through fuel management.		
32.	Proceed with detailed assessment, prescription development and treatment of hazardous fuel units identified in this CWPP. Collaboration with licensees may facilitate larger projects.	<i>We did have 5 prescriptions developed. I believe only 2-3 were implemented.</i>
33.	Prioritize Areas of Interest across Electoral Areas with updated CWPPs to ensure effective and objective treatment	<i>I would very much like to see the revised CWRP be used this way.</i>
Objective: Maintain treated areas under an acceptable level of wildfire fire threat (moderate).		
34.	As treatments are implemented, complete monitoring within 10 years of treatment (subject to site conditions) and maintenance every 15-20 years (subject to prescription and site conditions) on previously treated areas. Treated areas should be assessed by a Registered Professional Forester, specific to actions required in order to maintain treated areas in a moderate or lower hazard.	<i>We should be considering funding on this recommendation. As we do not have a wildfire mitigation service and have been predominantly relying on grants. Much of this work is subjective to what provincial funding is and the criteria on it.</i>

6.2 APPENDIX B: LOCAL WILDFIRE RISK PROCESS

Wildfire Risk Assessment plot worksheets are provided in Appendix C: Wildfire Risk Assessment – Worksheets and Photos, plot locations are summarized in Appendix B-2: , and the field data collection and spatial analysis methodology is detailed in Appendix B-2 and B-3.

6.2.1 APPENDIX B-1: FUEL TYPING METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

The Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) System outlines five major fuel groups and sixteen fuel types based on characteristic fire behaviour under defined conditions.⁶⁸ Fuel typing is recognized as a blend of art and science. Although a subjective process, the most appropriate fuel type was assigned based on research, experience, and practical knowledge; this system has been used within BC, with continual improvement and refinement, for 20 years.⁶⁹ It should be noted that there are significant limitations with the fuel typing system which should be recognized. Major limitations include: a fuel typing system designed to describe fuels which sometimes do not occur within the WUI, fuel types which cannot accurately capture the natural variability within a polygon, and limitations in the data used to create initial fuel types.⁶⁹ There are several implications of these limitations, which include: fuel typing further from the developed areas of the study has a lower confidence, generally; and, fuel typing should be used as a starting point for more detailed assessments and as an indicator of overall wildfire risk, not as an operational, or site-level, assessment. Forested ecosystems are dynamic and change over time: fuels accumulate, stands fill in with regeneration, and forest health outbreaks occur. Regular monitoring of fuel types and wildfire risk assessment should occur every 5 – 10 years to determine the need for threat assessment updates and the timing for their implementation.

Table 25 summarizes the fuel types observed in EA-D’s WUI by general fire behaviour (crown fire and spotting potential). These fuel types were used to guide the threat assessment.

Table 25. Fuel Type Categories and Crown Fire Spot Potential encountered within the WUI.

Fuel Type	FBP / CFDDRS Description	WUI Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Fuel Type – Crown Fire / Spotting Potential
C-3	Mature Jack or Lodgepole Pine	<i>Pole-sapling to mature even-aged conifer-dominated forest with moderate to high density and high crown closure (near or at horizontal continuity). Crowns separated from the forest floor in mature stands.</i>	Surface and crown fire, low to very high fire intensity and rate of spread.	High

⁶⁸Forestry Canada Fire Danger Group. 1992. Development and Structure of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System: Information Report ST-X-3.

⁶⁹ Perrakis, D.B., Eade G., and Hicks, D. 2018. Natural Resources Canada. Canadian Forest Service. *British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description* 2018 Version.

Fuel Type	FBP / CFDDRS Description	WUI Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Fuel Type – Crown Fire / Spotting Potential
C-4	Immature Jack or Lodgepole Pine (>10,000 sph)	<i>Pole-sapling to mature (but stagnant in growth) very dense conifer-dominated forests (>5,000 sph). Some stands have a high number of dead standing or dead leaning/down from natural exclusion processes.</i>	Surface and crown fire, low to very high fire intensity and rate of spread.	High
C-5	Red and White Pine	<i>Low to moderate density, uneven-aged conifer-dominated forest, crown base heights mixed. Understory of discontinuous natural conifer ingress in openings and gaps, deciduous shrubs, and herbs.</i>	Moderate potential for active crown fire in wind-driven conditions. Under drought conditions, fuel consumption and fire intensity can be higher due to dead woody fuels.	Moderate
C-7	Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir	<i>Low-density, uneven-aged conifer-dominated forest, crowns separated from the ground, understory of discontinuous grasses and shrubs. Exposed bed rock and low surface fuel loading.</i>	Surface fire spread, torching of individual trees, rarely crowning (usually limited to slopes > 30%), moderate to high intensity and rate of spread.	Moderate
O-1a/b	Grass	<i>Matted and standing grass that can cure; sparse or scattered shrubs, trees, and down woody debris. Cutblocks >2 seasons old that do not meet S-type descriptions, as well as young regenerating cutblocks that have not reached any horizontal continuity.</i>	Rapidly spreading, high-intensity surface fire when cured.	Low
M-1/2	Boreal mixedwood (leafless and green)	<i>Moderately well-stocked mixed stands of conifers and deciduous species, low to moderate dead, down woody fuels.</i>	Surface fire spread, torching of individual trees and intermittent crowning, (depending on slope and percent conifer).	<26% conifer (Very Low); 26-49% Conifer (Low); >50% Conifer (Moderate)
D-1/2	Aspen or birch (leafless and green)	<i>Deciduous stands.</i>	Always a surface fire, low to moderate rate of spread and fire intensity.	Low
S-1	Slash (jack / lodgepole pine, white spruce)	<i>Any conifer slash as the result of harvesting practices.</i>	Moderate to high rate of spread and high to very high intensity surface fire.	Low

Fuel Type	FBP / CFDRS Description	WUI Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Fuel Type – Crown Fire / Spotting Potential
N	N/A	<i>Non-fuel: irrigated/mowed agricultural fields, urban or developed areas void or nearly void of vegetation and forests.</i>	N/A	N/A
W	N/A	<i>Water</i>	N/A	N/A

6.2.2 APPENDIX B-2: WILDFIRE THREAT ASSESSMENT PLOTS

Table 26 displays a summary of all Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) plots completed during CWRP field work. The most recent 2020 WTA threat plot worksheets and methodology were used.⁷⁰ The plot forms and photos will be submitted as a separate document. The following ratings are applied to applicable point ranges:

- Wildfire Behaviour Threat Score (Southern Interior Mountains)
 - 0 – 47 Low
 - 48 – 65 Moderate
 - 66 – 79 High
 - 80 + Extreme

Table 26. Summary of WUI Threat Assessment Worksheets (2020).

WTA Plot	Geographic Location	Wildfire Threat Rating
AINS-1	Adjacent to Hanson Rd west of Balfour-Kaslo-Galena Bay Hwy	50 (Moderate)
AINS-2	Adjacent to North St. near Mountain Trek Health Reset Retreat	67 (High)
AINS-3	East side of unnamed forest road, another 1km north of AINS-4.	59 (Moderate)
AINS-4	1.7km north along an unnamed forest road from its junction with Fletcher FSR, in the south WUI area of Fletcher Creek, uphill and west of the community.	63 (High)
ARG-1	North of Argenta Community Hall	58 (Moderate)
ARG-2	East of Argenta Johnsons Landing Rd.	56 (Moderate)
ARG-3	North end of Argenta Road FSR (near the north extent of the WUI)	68 (High)
CREEK-1	Adjacent to Lake Creek Forest Service Rd.	48 (Moderate)
DUN-1	South of road section of Woodlot 491	56 (Moderate)
FLET-1	Adjacent to Balfour-Kaslo-Galena Bay Hwy near Fletcher Creek Falls Recreation Site	47 (Low)
HOW-1	In Howser Recreation Site adjacent to Howser Station Rd.	55 (Moderate)
HOW-2	Adjacent to Howser Ridge	61 (Moderate)
HOW-3	Off Balfour-Kaslo-Galena Bay Hwy adjacent to Howser Station Rd.	<i>Form error (n/a)</i>
JOHN-1	Adjacent to Kootenay Joe Creek	70 (High)
KASLO-1	South of Kaslo adjacent to Back Rd	66 (High)
KASLO-2	South of Kaslo adjacent to Balfour-Kaslo-Galena Bay Hwy	37 (Low)
LARD-1	West of Lardeau adjacent to Works Yard	44 (Low)

⁷⁰ MFLNRORD.2020 Wildfire Threat Assessment Guide and Worksheets

WTA Plot	Geographic Location	Wildfire Threat Rating
LEND-1	West of Woodbury Resort Marina adjacent to Cody Caves Forrest Rd.	56 (Moderate)
LEND-2	West of Woodbury Resort Marina adjacent to Cody Caves Forrest Rd.	56 (Moderate)
POP-1	South of Trout Lake Near Poplar Creek	43 (Low)
POP-2	South of Trout Lake Near Poplar Creek	55 (Moderate)
POP-3	South of Trout Lake Near Poplar Creek	67 (High)
RET-1	At the junction of Highway 31A and Forest Service Road	54 (Moderate)
SALS-1	Near junction between Argenta Johnson Landing Rd. and Salisbury Forest Service Road	67 (High)
SHUT-1	North of Cowan Rd near Milford Creek	74 (High)
SHUT-2	1. k m up Milford Creek FSR, in north of Shutty Bench's WUI.	<i>Form error (n/a)</i>
SHUT-3	North of Kaslo adjacent to Balfour-Kaslo-Galena Bay Hwy	31 (Low)
WOOD-1	North of Upper Woodbury Village Rd. off Balfour-Kaslo-Galena Bay Hwy	46 (Low)
WOOD-2	South of Woodbury Village Rd. off Balfour-Kaslo-Galena Bay Hwy	57 (Moderate)
WOOD-3	West of Woodbury Point	63 (Moderate)

6.2.3 APPENDIX B-3: FIRE RISK THREAT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

As part of the CWRP process, spatial data submissions are required to meet the defined standards in the Program and Application Guide. Proponents completing a CWRP can obtain open-source BC Wildfire datasets, including Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) datasets from the British Columbia Data Catalogue. Wildfire spatial datasets obtained through the BC Open Data Catalogue used in the development of the CWRP include, but are not limited to:

- PSTA Spotting Impact
- PSTA Fire Density
- PSTA Fire Threat Rating
- PSTA Lighting Fire Density
- PSTA Human Fire Density
- Head Fire Intensity
- WUI Human Interface Buffer (1436m buffer from structure point data)
- Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class
- Current Fire Polygons
- Current Fire Locations
- Historical Fire Perimeters
- Historical Fire Incident Locations
- Historical Fire Burn Severity

As part of the program, proponents completing a CWRP are provided with a supplementary PSTA dataset from BC Wildfire Services. This dataset includes:

- Fuel Type
- Structures
- Structure Density
- Eligible WUI (1 km buffer of structure density classes >6).

The required components for the spatial data submission are detailed in the Program and Application Guide Spatial Appendix – these include:

- AOI
- Proposed Treatment
- WUI (1 km buffer of structure density classes >6)

The provided PSTA data does not transfer directly into the geodatabase for submission, and several PSTA feature classes require extensive updating or correction. In addition, the Fire Threat determined in the PSTA is fundamentally different than the localized Fire Threat feature class that is included in the Local Fire Risk map required for project submission. The Fire Threat in the PSTA is based on provincial scale inputs - fire density; spotting impact; and head fire intensity, while the spatial submission Fire Threat is based on the components of the Wildland Urban Interface Threat Assessment Worksheet. For the scope of this project, completion of WUI Threat Assessment plots on the entire AOI is not possible, and therefore

an analytical model has been built to assume Fire Threat based on spatially explicit variables that correspond to the WUI Threat Assessment worksheet.

Field Data Collection

The primary goals of field data collection are to confirm or correct the provincial fuel type, complete WUI Threat Assessment Plots, and assess other features of interest to the development of the CWRP. This is accomplished by traversing as much of the AOI and surrounding Eligible WUI as possible (within time, budget and access constraints). Threat Assessment plots are completed on the 2020 form, and as per the Wildland Urban Interface Threat Assessment Guide.

For clarity, the final threat ratings for the AOI were determined through the completion of the following methodological steps:

1. Update fuel-typing using orthophotography provided by the client and field verification.
2. Update structural data using critical infrastructure information provided by the client, field visits to confirm structure additions or deletions, BC Assessment, and orthophotography
3. Complete field work to ground-truth fuel typing and threat ratings (completed 8 WUI threat plots on a variety of fuel types, aspects, and slopes and an additional 250 field stops with qualitative notes, fuel type verification, and/or photographs)
4. Threat assessment analysis using field data collected and rating results of WUI threat plots – see next section.

Spatial Analysis

The field data is used to correct the fuel type polygon attributes provided in the PSTA. This corrected fuel type layer is then used as part of the spatial analysis process. The other components are developed using spatial data (BEC zone, fire history zone) or spatial analysis (aspect, slope). A scoring system was developed to categorize resultant polygons as having relatively low, moderate, high or extreme Fire Threat, or Low, Moderate, High or Extreme WUI Threat. Table 27 below summarizes the components and scores to determine the Fire Behaviour Threat.

Table 27: Components of Fire Threat Analysis

Attribute	Indicator	Score
Fuel Type	C-1	35
	C-2	
	C-3	
	C-4	
	M-3/4, >50% dead fir	25
	C-6	
	M-1/2, >75% conifer	20
	C-7	
	M-3/4, <50% dead fir	15
	M-1/2, 50-75% conifer	
	M-1/2, 25-50% conifer	
	C-5	10
	O-1a/b	
	S-1	

	S-2	
	S-3	
	M-1/2, <25% conifer	5
	D-1/2	0
	W	0
	N	0
Weather - BEC Zone	AT, irrigated	1
	CWH, CDF, MH	3
	ICH, SBS, ESSF	7
	IDF, MS, SBPS, CWHsds1 & ds2, BWBS, SWB	10
	PP, BG	15
Historical Fire Occurrence Zone	G5, R1, R2, G6, V5, R9, V9, V3, R5, R8, V7	1
	G3, G8, R3, R4, V6, G1, G9, V8	5
	G7, C5, G4, C4, V1, C1, N6	8
	K1, K5, K3, C2, C3, N5, K6, N4, K7, N2	10
	N7, K4	15
Slope	<16	1
	16-29 (max N slopes)	5
	30-44	10
	45-54	12
	>55	15
Aspect (>15% slope)	North	0
	East	5
	<16% slope, all aspect	10
	West	12
	South	15

WUI Risk Classes and their associated summed scores:

Very Low	0
Low	0-35
Moderate	35-55
High	55-65
Extreme	>65

These attributes are summed to produce polygons with a final WUI Risk Score. To determine the Fire Threat score, only the distance to structures is used. Buffer distance classes are determined; <200m, 200m-500m and >500m) but only for polygons that had a 'high' or 'extreme' Fire Threat score from previous assessment. In order to determine WUI Risk; those aforementioned polygons within 200m are rated as 'extreme', within 500m are rated as 'high', within 2km are 'moderate', and distances over that are rated 'low'.

Limitations

There are obvious limitations in this method, most notably that not all components of the threat assessment worksheet are scalable to a GIS model, generalizing the Fire Behaviour Threat score. The WUI Risk Score is greatly simplified, as determining the position of structures on a slope, the type of development and the relative position are difficult in an automated GIS process. Structures are considered, but there is no consideration for structure type (also not included on threat assessment worksheet). This method uses the best available information to produce accurate and useable threat assessment across the study area in a format which is required by the UBCM FCFS program.

6.2.4 APPENDIX B-4: PROXIMITY OF FUEL TO THE COMMUNITY

Home and Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zones

Multiple studies have shown that the principal factors regarding home and structure loss to wildfire are the structure’s characteristics and immediate surroundings. The area that determines the ignition potential of a structure to wildfire is referred to as (for residences) the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) or (for critical infrastructure) the Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone (CIIZ).^{71,72} Both the HIZ and CIIZ include the structure itself and three concentric, progressively wider Priority Zones out to 30 m from the structure (Figure 10 below). More details on priority zones can be found in the FireSmart Manual.⁷³



⁷¹ Reinhardt, E., R. Keane, D. Calkin, J. Cohen. 2008. Objectives and considerations for wildland fuel treatment in forested ecosystems of the interior western United States. *Forest Ecology and Management* 256:1997 - 2006.

⁷² Cohen, J. Preventing Disaster Home Ignitability in the Wildland-urban Interface. *Journal of Forestry*. p 15 - 21.

⁷³ <https://firesmartcanada.ca/> and <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/firesmart>

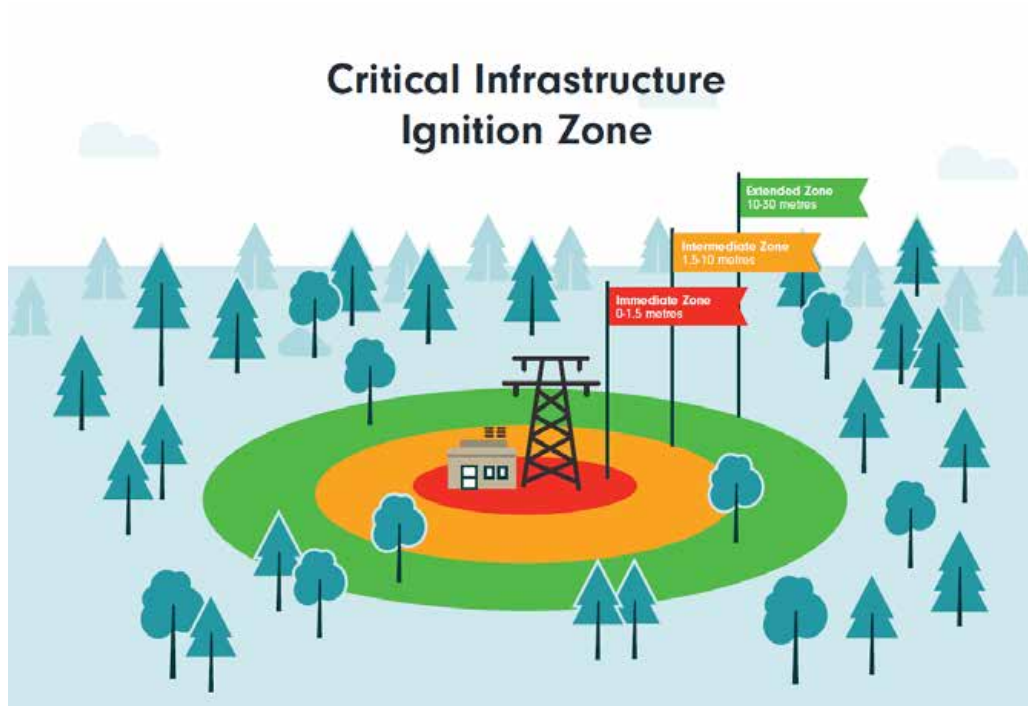


Figure 10: FireSmart Home and Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone (HIZ, CIIZ)

6.3 APPENDIX C: WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT – WORKSHEETS AND PHOTOS

Provided separately as PDF package.

6.4 APPENDIX D: MAPS

Provided separately as PDF package.

6.5 APPENDIX E: REPRESENTATIVE COMMUNITY PICTURES



Figure 11. Property for sale along Poplar Creek⁷⁴



Figure 12. Duncan Dam, located south of Duncan Island on Duncan Lake⁷⁵



Figure 13. Howser Recreation Site along Duncan Lake⁷⁶



Figure 14. Selkirk Snowcat Skiing operation in Meadow Creek.⁷⁷

⁷⁴ <https://www.realtor.ca/real-estate/25696003/dl-7837-highway-31-poplar-creek-kaslo-north-to-gerrard>

⁷⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duncan_Dam

⁷⁶ <http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/search/search-result.aspx?type=Site&site=REC2116>

⁷⁷ https://www.tripadvisor.ca/Attraction_Review-g8801244-d1583333-Reviews-Selkirk_Snowcat_Skiing-Meadow_Creek_British_Columbia.html



Figure 15. The Store at Cooper Creek.⁷⁸



Figure 16. The forests above Argenta on the east side of Kootenay Lake, looking south⁷⁹



Figure 17: Lardeau Regional Park⁸⁰



Figure 18: Aerial view of Bulmer's Pointe on the east shore of Kootenay Lake.⁸¹

⁷⁸ <https://lardeauvalley.ca/directory/lardeau-valley-service/>

⁷⁹ <https://www.mynelsonnow.com/49674/news/wildsight-calls-for-halt-to-argenta-face-logging/>

⁸⁰ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/parks/lardeau-regional-park.html>

⁸¹ <http://bulmerspointe.ca/photos.php>



Figure 19: Johnsons Landing landslide in 2012.⁸²



Figure 20: St John in the Wilderness Chapel property.⁸³



Figure 21: Schroeder Creek Resort boat marina.⁸⁴



Figure 22: Lakeside property in Shutty Bench.⁸⁵

⁸² <https://blogs.agu.org/landslideblog/2012/07/16/a-dramatic-video-of-a-secondary-failure-of-the-johnsons-landing-landslide-in-canada/>

⁸³ <https://newworldbyzantine.com/sacred/saint-john-in-the-wilderness-chapel/>

⁸⁴ <https://schroedercreekresort.com/>

⁸⁵ <https://listings.fairrealtykootenays.com/listing/Kaslo-BC/9487-Shutty-Bench-Road/2atxc>



Figure 23: Cross country ski trail in the Kaslo Nordic Ski Area.⁸⁶



Figure 24: Ski terrain near Retallack Lodge.⁸⁷



Figure 25: Fletcher Falls located in Fletcher Creek.⁸⁸



Figure 26: Woodbury Resort RV camping.⁸⁹

⁸⁶ <https://www.nelsonkootenaylake.com/listing/kaslo-nordic-ski-club>

⁸⁷ <https://www.nelsonkootenaylake.com/listing/retallack-lodge>

⁸⁸ <https://westkootenayhiking.ca/fletcher-falls/>

⁸⁹ <https://www.nelsonkootenaylake.com/listing/woodbury-resort-marina>



Figure 27: Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort overlooking Kootenay Lake.⁹⁰

⁹⁰ <https://www.nelsonkootenaylake.com/plan/region/ainsworth>
December 20, 2023

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan



Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Area E

December 20, 2023

Submitted by:

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REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL SIGN AND SEAL

RPF PRINTED NAME	
Louis Orieux	RPF #5147
DATE SIGNED	
December 18, 2023	
I certify that the work described herein fulfills the standards expected of a member of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals and that I did personally supervise the work.	
Registered Professional Forester Signature and Seal	
	

Cover Photo: Queens Bay. Accessed from:
Photo from: <https://westkootenayhiking.ca/morning-mountain-bike-trails/>

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- Cheryl Graham (RDCK Director for Area E)
- Nora Hannon (RDCK Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Senior Advisor)
- Dan Seguin (RDCK Manager Community Sustainability)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2023, B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. was retained by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) to assist Electoral Area E (EA-E) in developing a new Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP). A CWRP is both a localized risk assessment and an action plan to improve wildfire resiliency within EA-E's Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). This Plan replaces the previous Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) completed for EA-E in 2016, accounting for changes that have occurred in the last seven years and taking advantage of the newest community wildfire planning framework in BC. The CWRP is founded on the application of the [seven FireSmart™ disciplines](#) (Education, Legislation and Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-training, Emergency Planning, and Vegetation Management).

EA-E has made full or partial progress with 11 of 36 of the 2015 CWPP recommendations. The recommendations addressed primarily related to delivering public FireSmart and wildfire education and prescribing and implementing proposed treatment units. As the Electoral Area's communities (and associated WUI) are spread out over a significant distance along the northern and western shores of the West Arm of Kootenay Lake, community wildfire resiliency is strongly tied to the actions of the communities and their residents, the Provincial government, and the relevant stakeholders managing the timber harvest land base. Communities and their respective servicing fire departments adjacent to the City of Nelson should look to join meetings of the Nelson Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee; eastern electoral area communities should get Local Government support to establish their own Committees, especially as they self-organize for FireSmart Initiatives. Community and Local Government led interagency cooperation will be essential to implementing this plan and achieving effective wildfire risk reduction throughout EA-E.

EA-E's WUI communities are all in a provincially defined Wildland Urban Interface polygon that has a Risk Class of "1", which reflects the highest wildfire risk rating. The Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis assigns a "High" or "Extreme" threat rating to much of the surrounding area. Fieldwork for this CWRP allowed for verified and updated fuel types and wildfire threat assessments to be combined with an office-based analysis to provide a local wildfire risk assessment for the communities. The local analysis determined that, for the assessable area, 41% of EA-E's WUI is classified as a High or Extreme fire behavior threat – mostly located on the middle and upper slopes on the north side of Kootenay Lake, largely reflecting steeper slopes on southerly aspects with conifer-dominated fuel types. The analysis cannot be performed on private land, which covers approximately 45% of EA-E's WUI. This highlights the need to implement risk mitigation programs on private land if community resilience is to be achieved. Conditions on private land can often result in the fire hazard being much higher than in the forest adjacent if there is low compliance with FireSmart principles – which is an issue that was frequently observed through field work. It is important to recognize that in WUI fires, wildland fuels (trees, shrubs, branches, etc.) are not the only fuel available to the fire – houses and their exterior construction materials and landscaping vegetation, cars, barbeque propane tanks, and more (anything that is flammable or combustible) is available fuel.

Rural areas without fire services, or dependent upon small volunteer fire services, rely heavily on the coordination of local resources and the uptake of FireSmart initiatives to be prepared for a wildfire event.

It has been found that during extreme wildfire events, most home destruction has been a result of low-intensity surface fire flame exposures, usually ignited by flying embers (firebrands). Firebrands can be transported long distances ahead of the wildfire, across fire guards and fuel breaks, and accumulate in densities that can exceed 600 embers per square meter. Combustible materials found on the exterior of and surrounding homes (the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone) combine to provide fire pathways allowing spot surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames or smoldering fire into contact with structures.

Because ignitability of structures and landscaping vegetation is the main factor driving structure loss, the intensity and rate of spread of wildland fires beyond the community has not been found to necessarily correspond to loss potential. For example, FireSmart homes with low ignitability may survive high-intensity fires, whereas highly ignitable homes may be destroyed during lower intensity surface fire events. Increasing ignition resistance would reduce the number of homes simultaneously on fire; extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result in WUI fire disasters.¹ It is for this reason that the key to reducing WUI fire structure loss is to reduce structure ignitability. Mitigation responsibility must be centered on structure owners, with support from Local Government.

EA-E's WUI communities can be considered as largely intermix², with areas/neighbourhoods of interface³. Wildfire poses a threat to the communities from either a human ignition (which can happen almost anywhere – forest trail, highway, backyard), or lightning ignition (most often in the adjacent forests near higher points of land), but also from a residential fire that then spreads into surrounding vegetation and landscaping. Because of the rural character, remote or isolated locations, and the observed low adherence to FireSmart residential vegetation management and exterior building materials for many structures within EA-E, an emphasis on FireSmart education and FireSmart residential risk reduction policies is made within this Plan. Risk communication, education on the range of available activities, and prioritization of activities should help homeowners to feel empowered to complete simple risk reduction activities on their property. Additional emphasis is placed upon the Provincial government and local timber harvest land base stakeholders to manage potentially hazardous fuel conditions within EA-E's WUI – either through fuel treatments recommended as part of this plan, or by using appropriately targeted harvesting and slash management practices.

A total of 46 recommendation and action items are presented in Table 1 within this Executive Summary and are more thoroughly discussed in their appropriate sections within this Plan. Ultimately, the recommendation and action items within this Plan should be considered as a toolbox of options to help reduce the wildfire risk and consequence to communities with EA-E. RDCK and EA-E will have to further

¹ Calkin, D., J. Cohen, M. Finney, M. Thompson. 2014. *How risk management can prevent future wildfire disasters in the wildland-urban interface*. Proc Natl Acad Sci U.S.A. Jan 14; 111(2): 746-751. Accessed online 1 June, 2016 at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3896199/>.

² Homes and structures are largely situated within the vegetated/forested landscape.

³ Homes and structures are largely situated adjacent to vegetated/forested landscapes surrounding the community/neighbourhood.

prioritize implementation based on resources, strengths, constraints, and availability of funding, and regularly update the prioritization and course of actions as variables change over time.

This Plan was developed concurrently with CWRPs for adjacent RDCK Electoral Areas D, F, I, and the Village of Kaslo. As such, there are synergies between these plans that should be utilized and capitalized upon, such as similar/matching recommendations, adjacent or adjoining proposed fuel treatment units, and overlapping fire department response areas.

Table 1: EA-E’s Community Wildfire Resiliency Action Plan

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
<i>Education - Section 5.2</i>							
<i>Residents</i>							
1	High	Continue to apply for funding and employ an EA-E FireSmart Coordinator/Mitigation Specialist.	To provide a continuous, local FireSmart program, delivered by local professionals with local knowledge and connections, to their community. Having a FireSmart Coordinator will provide a lead person with dedicated time to coordinate, manage, and implement the program, especially as it grows.	RDCK	2 years	EA-E has its own FireSmart program being managed by a local FireSmart Coordinator.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
2	High	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators should plan regular meetings to discuss their successes, failures, and learnings. Consider adding, or having specific meetings with, FireSmart Community Neighbourhood Champions.	So that they can continue to improve the RDCK’s FireSmart program and tailor it to their respective communities. Adding in Community Champions will allow them to further support their EA’s communities, as well as get FireSmart messaging and opportunities back into the communities faster.	FireSmart Coordinators (RDCK)	ASAP and ongoing	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators are meeting more than once a year.	CRI FCFS funding as part of FireSmart Coordinator salaries.
3	High	Continue to promote FireSmart to EA-E residents at community events, public spaces, and through workshops using FireSmart branded material and printed manuals (Home and Landscaping) and/or a FireSmart Canada Community Preparedness Day. Show a united front by having local government, fire department members, and FireSmart coordinators at events together as much as possible.	Observed adherence and uptake of FireSmart principles on private property and many homes/structures in EA-E is lacking. Landscaping (conifer hedges), firewood and combustible materials storage, and external building materials are the biggest issues. FireSmart BC resources help present a unified message. Print resources are popular and easy to distribute. FireSmart branded tents, banners, and t-shirts can be purchased with CRI FCFS funding.	EA-E / RDCK	Annually	Quantity of resources distributed/number of times used at events.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
4	High	Update RDCK’s FireSmart webpage with the most recent FireSmart graphics and language. Provide links to the current fire danger rating, or better yet, have that posted on the front of this page (making sure to keep it updated during the fire season).	To continue to provide to most recent and up to date FireSmart information, language, and principles to residents (and visitors).	RDCK	Annually	RDCK FireSmart webpage is showing current FireSmart information and graphics.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
5	High	Continue the FireSmart social media campaign, with updated FireSmart graphics and language, through various RDCK/EA-E social media platforms (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), including those from Volunteer Fire Departments.	To promote FireSmart information to residents (and visitors). Include links to graphics, videos, pdf information/pamphlet downloads, etc.	EA-E / RDCK	Annually	An organized FireSmart social media campaign is delivered throughout RDCK.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
6	High	Continue to promote FireSmart in EA-E schools using the FireSmart Education Kit and other resources.	Great success has been made through BC schools with FireSmart outreach. Engaging with the community's younger population may increase uptake with all residents.	RDCK / School District 8	Annually	One FireSmart lesson delivered each year (minimum).	CRI FCFS; e.g. FireSmart Magnetic Board for \$1,710.
7	High	Continue to promote free FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments and/or Home Partners Program assessments to residents.	FireSmart Home Ignition zone and Home Partners Program assessments introduce residents to FireSmart, its principles, fire and wildfire risks associated with their home and property, and how they can be mitigated. These assessments are primarily an educational exercise, and can be funded completely through CRI FCFS. They are a requirement to qualify for the FireSmart rebate program (see Section 5.7).	EA-E / RDCK	2 years	FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments are being completed within EA-E.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
8	Moderate	Consider door-to-door knocks in neighbourhoods that have communication constraints to discuss wildfire risk and FireSmart principles that they can apply to their home and property.	Although wildfire can affect all areas of EA-E's WUI, some communities are more at risk due to risks/constraints not associated to wildfire – such as no cell service and low community turnouts at public FireSmart events. Door to door knocks by Fire Chiefs, fire department personnel, and FireSmart Coordinators have been successful in other communities.	RDCK / EA-E fire departments / FireSmart Coordinators	2 years	Visits to homes in these WUI neighbourhoods from local government/ FireSmart/ fire department members (with FireSmart information left at their door) have started.	In-house personnel time. CRI FCFS for FireSmart materials.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
9	Moderate	Increase public awareness of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.	Increasing awareness of wildfire risk also increases community resiliency through household emergency planning, and support for FireSmart.	EA-E / RDCK	1 year from CWRP completion	Awareness by residents - consider a survey.	Staff time to update website, and media posts. Newspaper ads ~\$300 each.
<i>Visitors</i>							
10	High	Lobby BC Parks to install FireSmart educational signage at all BC Park camp and recreation sites within EA-E, starting at Kokanee Creek. RDCK should follow suit for all regional parks.	These signs provide both visitors and residents a quick snapshot of how their actions and activities can inadvertently increase wildfire and ignition risks, as well as introduces visitors to FireSmart – a message they can take home with them.	EA-E / RDCK / BC Parks	5 years (signs installed)	Wildfire risk signs at the highest traffic parks have signs.	Sign cost ~\$800 for purchase and installation per sign.
<i>Legislation, Planning and Development - Section 5.3</i>							
11	High	Upon the roll-out of the new BC Building Code in 2024, RDCK should review and assess what FireSmart principles are included and compare them to the draft Wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs). Update the draft DPAs as required. Initiate a process to implement the wildfire DPAs, if still required, to manage for risks not addressed in the new Code.	FireSmart construction and landscaping policies manage for wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa). Over time, resiliency will be built up at the interface and intermix areas.	EA-E / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon BC Building Code roll out	All new development complies with the policy.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
12	High	Update references to “fire risk” in EA-E’s OCP (e.g., sections 13.1 and 13.6) to include referencing the Local Wildfire Risk Analysis developed as part of this plan, as it more accurately reflects current fire risk for EA-E’s WUI than currently available provincial data.	EA-E should look to the most recent and accurate wildfire risk analysis for its WUI to be used to determine areas of Moderate and High wildfire threat for reducing wildfire threat through community planning and development purposes.	EA-E / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon next OCP review and update	OCP update that includes FireSmart construction/dev development policies for single home and lot development and major renovations.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
13	High	Consider adopting a Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw to restrict flammable landscaping. Example: prohibit conifer vegetation in the Immediate Zone of a residence or structure (0-1.5 m) and prohibit the planting of new conifer vegetation in Priority Zone 1 (1.5-10 m). Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout the Township, especially on more densely populated streets. This can be an effective communication tool regardless of enforcement capacity.	Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout EA-E, especially on more densely populated streets. Landscaping vegetation can act as a wick, moving fire to homes/structures and throughout communities.	EA-E / RDCK (Consultant)	5 years	A Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw is in effect.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost
14	High	Continue to conduct FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments for public works and community/ government buildings. Conduct FireSmart mitigation as soon as possible (vegetation management, material upgrades). Set a priority sequence for assessment based on wildfire response and post-wildfire recovery. Encourage and support privately owned community halls that act as community shelters, and private or community owned critical infrastructure, to do the same.	Protecting water systems, emergency shelters, and community infrastructure is critical to wildfire response and recovery. Assessments have already been completed for EA-E fire halls.	EA-E / RDCK (Local FireSmart Representatives ; FireSmart Coordinator; and/or Consultant)	Ongoing	Number of assessments completed and mitigation hours/investment	CRI FCFS: up to \$800 per assessment and up to \$50,000 for mitigation per structure (publicly owned only)
Cross Training & Fire Department Resources - Section 5.4							
Training							
15	High	Continue to support 'train-the-trainer' programs so that required courses (e.g., S-231, WSPP-115) can continue to be delivered in-house to EA-E fire department members.	To continue providing an opportunity to expand in-house wildland specific training, and potentially train adjacent fire departments or community groups.	RDCK / EA-E / EA-E fire departments	Annually	Number of fire response personnel with wildland training maintains or increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS funding is available for training. Columbia Basin Trust funding.
16	High	Support FireSmart specific training to EA-E fire departments. Examples include: FireSmart 101, Local FireSmart Representative (LFR), and FireSmart Home Partners Mitigation Specialists.	To continue building an understanding and knowledge of FireSmart principles within fire response personnel and the community. To certify fire response members so they can implement various FireSmart assessments within the community.	RDCK / EA-E / EA-E fire departments	3 years	Number of fire response personnel with FireSmart training increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS funding is available for training.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
17	High	EA-E fire departments should continue seeking out (and being supported by RDCK/EA-E in doing so) opportunities to perform wildfire response and structure protection drills - using hydrants, standpipes, and natural water sources, <i>with</i> BCWS.	Fast and effective deployment of available Structure Protection Units (two are owned by RDCK) and any additional equipment that the fire departments have will be crucial in any interface fire scenario. Equipment compatibilities and/or differences between those available and what equipment BCWS uses should be identified and addressed ahead of time.	RDCK / EA-E / EA-E fire departments	Annually	A Drill is performed with BCWS and one EA-E fire department annually.	Staff time as required.
<i>Water</i>							
18	High	Identify and map natural and artificial water sources useable for fire suppression across the entire regional district. Having a digital map would allow it to be uploaded into response vehicles' CAD systems, shared with BCWS response personnel, as well as included in the pre-planning of emergency community water delivery systems connecting major natural water sources with interface communities, to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. Include important details such as: estimated water volume and access point notes. Share this information to all mutual aid fire response partners, and update over time.	Most firefighting service in EA-E requires water shuttling. Wildfire fighting response almost always relies upon local water sources. This impacts EA-E's wildfire resilience. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers to fill bladders can be pre-planned, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps, and piping.	RDCK GIS department/ EA-E fire departments (to aid in identification for their service areas or share data already acquired) (BCWS)	5 years and ongoing	A fire suppression water source plan and map are produced and shared.	CRI FCFS Community Water Delivery Assessment funding available for incremental staff hours or contract cost.
19	High	In coordination with recommendation #18, create opportunities for BCWS to work with independent water systems to identify assets. Assist those communities in retrofitting their systems to be compatible, if required.	Reducing barriers to BCWS for accessing water sources in the WUI increases opportunities to fight WUI fires.	RDCK / FireSmart Coordinator (BCWS)	Annually	Communities with self-managed water systems are meeting with BCWS	RDCK/EA-E, BCWS, and community time.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
20	Moderate	EA-E fire departments should seek (or continue to uphold, if accredited already) Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation from Fire Underwriters Survey.	This accreditation certifies that the fire department can supply enough water to have some areas without fire hydrants within a certain distance of their structures qualify as having a fire hydrant within 300m of it (this can also potentially lower insurance rates for property owners within the EA-E fire response areas). Note: this does not increase the overall water supply already available under automatic and mutual aid agreements.	EA-E fire departments/ RDCK	5 years	Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation achieved by EA-E fire departments.	Fire department staff time as required (and RDCK budget for equipment upgrades and purchases, if needed).
<i>Equipment & Staff</i>							
21	High	In coordination with Recommendations #17 and #18, the EA-E fire departments should continue (or begin, if not done already) annual inspections by BCWS of their wildland firefighting equipment. Any gaps should be addressed, as required.	To ensure proper equipment is available to respond to interface wildfire events, and that equipment is compatible with BCWS's. CRI FCFS funding is available for incremental equipment purchases.	EA-E fire departments (RDCK; BCWS)	Annually	Annual inspection of wildland firefighting equipment from BCWS; gaps filled as practicable.	Fire department and RDCK staff time; CRI FCFS equipment funding up to cost maximums.
<i>Interagency Cooperation - Section 5.5</i>							
22	High	Continue to engage with the established local Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC) to plan, implement, and coordinate FireSmart initiatives, including fuel management treatments. Look to include EA-E volunteer fire department Fire Chiefs.	To provide a platform for information sharing. All parties have indicated a willingness for collaboration, which will allow for greater management of wildfire risk both within and surrounding EA-E's WUI.	Nelson CFRC	Ongoing	CFRC FireSmart meeting takes place at least once annually.	At least 8 hours per meeting to prepare, participate and debrief. CRI FCFS up to \$2,000 per meeting.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
23	High	As communities self-organize for FireSmart initiatives, and even take up the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (see Recommendation #45), RDCK and EA-E should look to support their inclusion in a Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC), or develop local sub-committees, as required.	To further community involvement in FireSmart and wildfire risk reduction activities at the community level.	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Additions to existing CFRCs are made, as required, or new ones are established, as needed.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
24	High	Work with RDCK, CFRC members, and MOF to develop a fuel treatment/fuel break tracking system to spatially manage proposed and completed fuel management areas both within EA-E's WUI and outside it at the regional level.	It is imperative that all land managers know what adjacent or overlapping jurisdictions have identified as fuel breaks, so that time and money is not wasted reassessing or re-prescribing an area.	Nelson CFRC / MOF / RDCK	As soon as possible	A regional GIS tracking system is established, or a provincial one is developed that CFRC members can access.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
25	High	Lobby forest land licensee/managers (e.g., BC Timber Sales, Woodlots, Harrop-Proctor Community Forest) to be aware of where their tenure overlaps EA-E's WUI and to develop and implement (or continue implementing) forest planning, harvesting, slash management, and reforestation plans that reduce wildfire behaviour in these areas.	Cutblock placement can break up the forest continuity across the landscape – with proper slash and reforestation management, they can remain as areas of low wildfire behaviour for many years. However, if not managed properly, they can increase wildfire behaviour.	RDCK / EA-E / MOF / Forest Licensees and Managers / Local Government elected officials/ Community members	Ongoing	Forest licensees/managers are aware of their tenure overlaps with the WUI and are actively working towards forest management plans to reduce wildfire behaviour in those areas.	RDCK/EA-E staff time for discussions.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
26	High	Lobby and work with the electrical power providers in and influencing the community’s WUI, MOTI for Provincial highways, and rail line owners/operators to regularly maintain their right-of-way’s vegetation.	Transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions - trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways. Highways can also provide excellent fuel breaks if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. If not, they can act as wicks moving fire along them, or ignition sources for fires from burning cars, cigarette butts, sparks, etc. Additionally, highways are a main access/egress route during an emergency – these routes should be kept at as low risk of state as possible.	RDCK / EA-E (MOTI; Local Government elected officials Electrical Providers; Rail line operators)	Yearly and ongoing	Right-of-way maintenance discussions are open and ongoing; right-of-ways are kept in low-risk states.	RDCK/EA-E staff time for discussions.
Emergency Planning - Section 5.6							
27	High	Continue tabletop wildfire scenario tabletop exercises with emergency management and CFRC partners. Yearly, pre-fire season is best. Move the “WUI fire” to a different area of EA-E’s WUI each time.	Tabletop exercises provide an opportunity to identify weak spots in a plan and collaborate.	RDCK (Nelson CFRC; RCMP; BCWS)	5 years	Knowledge of 'pinch points' in an evacuation scenario and understanding of roles and responsibilities.	CRI FCFS Emergency Planning: up to \$2,000 per meeting. Possibly CRI / CEPF / Columbia Basin Trust

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
28	High	<p>Consider updating EA-E's OCP with guidelines stating private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment.</p> <p>Discuss with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) possible means supporting/enforcing that private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment.</p>	<p>Access by emergency responders to the WUI is paramount towards both defending communities from WUI fire events, but also for aiding in fuel treatment practicability.</p> <p>This constraint is recognized in EA-F's Rural Community Official Plan in section 18.3.8 which, "Encourages that private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment."</p>	RDCK (MOF; BCWS; Local Fire Response Area Departments)	5 years	OCP updated as required and access roads through private land to the interface forest are maintained.	RDCK/EA-E time for planning and discussions. CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 with estimated incremental staff hours or contract cost.
29	High	RDCK and EA-E should continue to promote the Voyent Alert! System to residents and visitors.	Clear, consistent, concise, and quick communication during an emergency event and evacuation are integral to the prevention of loss of life. A lack of this was identified as an issue during recent WUI fire disasters, such as that in Lahaina, Maui, USA and Fort McMurray, Alberta.	RDCK (FireSmart Coordinator)	Ongoing	Continued update of the Voyent Alert! System (can track downloads from app providers).	RDCK for promotion.
30	High	RDCK should have appropriate signage designating shoreline access routes for secondary boat egress for those communities that rely on ferry or private boat for access/egress (e.g., Harrop and Procter).	To expedite egress during an emergency evacuation in areas already significantly constrained.	RDCK / EA-E	5 years	All public shoreline access/egress routes are marked (a series of signs from main roads to access points is best).	RDCK. Cost/time dependent on number of access points and signs required.
31	High	Invest in back-up generators for any critical infrastructure that does not have one. Encourage private businesses that provide critical services, like gas stations and grocery stores, to follow suit.	Back-up generators for pumphouses, treatment plants, and community buildings (especially those designated as emergency shelters) would facilitate both emergency response (water supply for suppression) and rapid community return and recovery following a fire.	RDCK / EA-E (Private Industry)	ASAP	A budget and purchase plan for back-up generators is implemented, starting with the most critical infrastructure.	Cost varies - ~\$10,000

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
32	High	Initiate a roof-top sprinkler program for residential properties. Investigate bulk orders from wildfire protection or irrigation companies or commercial gutter-mount kits. Consider sprinkler kits as an incentive to communities/neighbourhoods for FireSmart participation. Discuss with local Fire Departments and BCWS what mounting/sprinkler types are best. This can be directly led by RDCK, or RDCK can offer support to local fire departments and community organizations to assist doing so.	Rooftop sprinklers reduce the time and resources needed to set up a structural protection system in a community threatened by wildfire. Sprinkler installation/acquirement could be paired with a free FireSmart Assessment.	RDCK / EA-E (EA-E fire departments; BCWS)	3 years and ongoing	Establish an efficient and effective system. Track the number and location of sprinklers purchased and installed annually.	Bulk sprinklers \$40 - \$100 each; gutter mount kits ~\$100-200 for one home
33	High	Schedule regular updates of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan: target every 5 years.	A current and acceptable CWRP is required for funding under the CRI FCFS program. Update the wildfire threat for areas with completed fuel treatments and identify additional areas for treatment.	RDCK / EA-E	5 years – 2028 update	EA-E always has a current and acceptable CWRP.	~\$32,000; CRI FCFS funding
34	Moderate	Pre-plan emergency community water delivery systems to connect major natural water sources with interface communities/neighbourhoods to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. This can be supported by Recommendation #18. The Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group has been working on this since 2023 (see Section 5.4).	RDCK has many large natural water bodies and streams/creeks to draw from in the event of a wildfire. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers to fill bladders may be planned in advance, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps and piping.	RDCK / EA-E (BCWS)	5 Years	Assess community water delivery for each neighbourhood. Develop and test neighbourhood specific plans.	CRI: Assessment of Community Water Delivery Ability - incremental staff hours or contract cost
35	Moderate	Promote the installation of visible and reflective addresses in EA-E Consider and explore how to regulate addressing across the District. Note: RDCK has requested a program to support standardized address signage, but stated that if building permits are not applied for then there is no street address. There are no regulations on addressing.	To allow for faster and more direct response to specific properties by first responders during an emergency.	EA-E / RDCK	5 years	Majority of properties have reflective, visible addresses.	Promotion campaign; consider providing discounted signs. 40-60 hours and \$40-60 per sign

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
<i>Vegetation Management - Section 5.7</i>							
<i>Fuel Management Treatments</i>							
36	High	Develop fuel management prescriptions for the identified Potential Fuel Treatment Units (PTUs), starting with those identified as High priority. Continue with treatment implementation when possible.	To reduce wildfire threat and risk to interface and intermix communities within the WUI. Also, to provide FireSmart vegetation management examples to the public that can be implemented on their own properties. See “Rationale” column in Table 24 for more detailed treatment rationales.	EA-E / MOF / BCWS	5 years	Approved FMP(s) for identified High priority areas.	CRI FCFS funding available for prescription and treatments; ~\$425/hectare for a ~20 ha prescription
37	High	Lobby Provincial Government (Ministry of Forests) and other potential funding organizations for grant funds to implement landscape level fuel treatment on private land.	Much of EA-E’s communities’ structures are surrounded by undeveloped, forested private land. Current funding streams for fuel reduction at the landscape level are targeted, and thus limited, to public land. However, the interface wildland does not stop at the public/private land border.	Local Government (Provincial Government)	5 years	Discussions initiated and ongoing	Time and cost dependant upon level of engagement required.
<i>Residential FireSmart</i>							
38	High	In conjunction with provided home FireSmart Assessments (see Recommendation #7) Continue offering a local rebate program to property owners that have completed a FireSmart home assessment (Home Ignition Zone assessment or Home Partners Program Mitigation assessment). RDCK, EA-E, and FireSmart coordinators should advertise that the amount eligible for rebate has increased to \$5000 for the CRI FCFS 2024 application program.	FireSmart home assessments encourage action in the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone of a community. Offer a rebate program (funded through CRI FCFS) to residents who have a pre- and post-work FireSmart assessment conducted. Focus on removal of conifer hedges and upgrading exterior structure materials.	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	Annually	Number of properties participating annually.	50% of costs per property up to \$5,000, plus 2 hours administration time per property (CRI FCFS).
39	High	Continue providing regional district-led options for the disposal of yard waste. Currently, this includes having tipping fees waived (May and October) for yard waste at the RDCK transfer stations.	Yard waste burning restrictions limit options for debris disposal. Free debris disposal may be used as an incentive to participate in other FireSmart activities, like assessments or workshops.	RDCK	Annual	Municipally funded yard waste disposal continues.	CRI FCFS funding is available for tipping fee coverage.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
40	High	Consider implementing a community chipper program. Education of FireSmart yard and landscaping principles, including chipping specifications, should be incorporated into the program.	To reduce fire and wildfire hazards on private property within the WUI, especially those long distances from RDCK landfills/transfer stations, and to promote FireSmart vegetation management knowledge and education. The intent is for landscaping/yard vegetation to be included, not farm or agriculture vegetation. This could assist with more uptake of residential FireSmart landscaping principles as the disposal method is brought to the resident, especially for those older and less mobile.	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	Annual (pre-fire season is best)	Number of properties who elect to have debris disposed.	CRI FCFS funding; ~\$100-150 per chipper crew hour.
41	Moderate	Consider releasing an annual RDCK FireSmart report to the public that tracks community-specific uptake in various FireSmart initiatives, as well as tracks fuel management at all scales.	As the program grows, reporting allows the RDCK FireSmart program to track challenges and successes, further promote the program, and tailor outreach methods to achieve the most uptake.	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	Annual	An annual report is published.	Eligible for CRI funding – FireSmart staff time. Estimate 40-80 hours.
42	Moderate	Engage with local garden centers to implement the FireSmart BC Plant [Tagging] Program.	FireSmart BC introduced a plant tagging program in 2021 that has been implemented with great success by over 34 nurseries and garden centres to date. The Plant Program is an easy way to provide information at the point of purchase for homeowners and landscapers. See: https://firesmartbc.ca/landscaping-hub/plant-program/	Local Garden Centres (RDCK; EA-E FireSmart Coordinator)	5 years	Local garden centres have been notified of the program.	Staff time for engagement (2-4 hours per garden centre).
<i>Community and Critical Infrastructure FireSmart</i>							
43	High	Implement recommended vegetation management recommendations from FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone Assessments (see Recommendation #14), when completed, on a priority basis.	To reduce fire behavior and risks to critical infrastructure most important to fire and wildfire fighting and post-wildfire recovery.	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	5 years	High priority critical infrastructure has had FireSmart vegetation management completed.	CRI FCFS funding up to \$53,500 per municipal infrastructure (vegetation management included).

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
44	High	As part of fuel treatment implementation, RDCK/EA-E should develop interpretive signage to demonstrate pre- and post-fuel treatment forest stands conditions.	Interpretive signage could include text explaining the purpose of the fuel management treatment, connection to the CWRP, and FireSmart practices residents nearby can take to reduce wildfire hazards around their yards and homes.	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	5 years	Signage installed during implementation phases.	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.
45	High	Continue to support and promote the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program to communities within EA-E. Identify community champions to spearhead organization for those communities not already organized, and support those communities that have been recognized in the past to continue working towards being so.	There are many small communities throughout EA-E that, by working together, could reduce their community-scale wildfire risk easily and substantially. The program supports a small-scale approach for neighbourhoods consisting of 5-50 homes, with the intent to implement achievable FireSmart goals	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Increase in number of recognized communities.	FireSmart Canada \$500; RDCK FireSmart Champion Grant up to \$3000
46	Moderate	As part of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP), apply to CRI FCFS for funding to develop Neighbourhood FireSmart Plans.	To help guide FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program communities and their community champions to complete wildfire risk reduction measures.	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	In line with FCNRP Community program uptake.	Communities working towards FCNRP status have a Neighbourhood Plan	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.

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FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS

AOI	Area of Interest
BC	British Columbia
BCWS	British Columbia Wildfire Service
BEC	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification
CFFDRS	Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System
CRI	Community Resiliency Investment
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
CWRP	Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan
DPA	Development Permit Area
EA-E	RDCK Electoral Area E
FBP	Fire Behavior Prediction System
FCFS	FireSmart Community Funding and Supports: Stream 1 of the UBCM CRI Program
HIZ	Home Ignition Zone
MOF	Ministry of Forests
MOTI	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
NDT	Natural Disturbance Type
PSTA	Provincial Strategic Threat Assessment
PTU	Proposed Treatment Unit
RDCK	Regional District of Central Kootenay
UBCM	Union of British Columbia Municipalities
WRR	Wildfire Risk Reduction: Stream 2 of the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program, administered by the Ministry of Forests
WTA	Wildfire Threat Assessment
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

In June 2023, B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. was retained by the Regional District Central Kootenay (RDCK) to assist Electoral Area E (EA-E) in developing a new Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP). A CWRP has its roots in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) framework, which was originally established in BC in response to the series of devastating wildfires in 2003. This plan replaces the previous 2015 EA-E CWPP. Recent wildfire disasters like those experienced in Oregon State (2020), Washington State (2014, 2015, 2020, 2023), Fort McMurray, Alberta (2016), BC (2017, 2018, 2021, 2023), and California (2017, 2018, 2020) continue to display the vulnerability of communities and the potential toll of wildfires on families, neighbourhoods, public health, and the economy of entire regions. These events, along with important advances in loss prevention programs, have spurred the need for greater consideration and due diligence concerning fire risk in the wildland-urban interface (WUI).⁴ CWRPs are an invaluable opportunity to proactively manage wildfire risk and increase community resilience to wildfire.

CWRPs are currently being developed at many jurisdictional and geographic scales, and are individually tailored to address the needs of different communities in response to their size, their capacity, and the unique threats that they face. Despite these differences, the goals of a CWRP remain the same and are founded in the seven FireSmart™ disciplines: Education, Legislation & Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-Training, Emergency Planning and Vegetation Management.

CWRPs are funded in BC by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) under the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) Program. As per funding requirements, this CWRP is completed according to the 2022 CRI template.

1.1 PLAN PURPOSE AND GOALS

This plan accounts for changes that have occurred since EA-E's last CWPP and takes advantage of the most recent community wildfire planning framework in BC. This CWRP identifies the interface wildfire risk within EA-E's WUI communities, and gives the Town a current and accurate understanding of the threats to human life, infrastructure, and values at risk from wildfire. This CWRP is intended to serve as a framework to guide the implementation of specific actions and strategies to:

- Increase the efficacy of fire suppression and safety of emergency responders,
- Reduce potential impacts and losses to property and critical infrastructure from wildfire, and
- Reduce potential wildfire behavior and threat within the community.

To help guide and accomplish the above strategies, this CWRP will provide RDCK and EA-E with:

- An assessment of wildfire risk to the communities,
- An assessment of values at risk and potential consequences from wildfire,

⁴ Wildland urban interface is defined as the presence of structures in locations in which conditions result in the potential for their ignition from flames and firebrands/embers of a wildland fire (National Fire Protection Association).

- Maps of fuel types and recommended areas for fuel treatments,
- An assessment of emergency response capacity, and
- Options and strategies to reduce wildfire risk through the seven FireSmart disciplines.

1.2 PLAN DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

The CWRP development process consisted of five general phases:

- 1) Formation or confirmation/continuation of the Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee(s) (CFRC – see Section 5.5). Consultation with the CFRC(s) and information sharing with stakeholders and First Nations occurred throughout.
- 2) Review of relevant plans and legislation regarding emergency response and wildfire (Section 2).
- 3) Description of the community and identification of values at risk (Section 3).
- 4) Assessment of the local wildfire risk (Section 4).
- 5) Analysis and action plan for each of the seven FireSmart disciplines (Section 5).

The following next steps are a suggested route towards operationalizing the recommendations detailed in this CWRP:

1. RDCK, EA-E, and CFRC(s) should continue to meet periodically, as needed to coordinate the fulfillment of this report’s recommendations (consider annually or bi-annually, before or during the fire season – per Recommendation #22).
 - a. Meetings could include some or all of the parties identified in Section 5.5.
2. The next meeting could be held in Spring-2024. Consider identifying recommendations to allocate resources to, and pursue funding for, from the 2024 UBCM CRI funding intake at this time.
 - a. Consider meeting well in advance of the UBCM CRI application deadline (early October 2024), in order to discuss upcoming projects and align activities and initiatives where possible.
 - b. RDCK will apply for UBCM CRI funding and compile final reporting.
 - c. Continued meetings of the CFRC(s) would be a suitable venue to identify if additional support is needed to fulfill the targeted recommendations.
 - i. Additional support might be required in order to coordinate activities that will bridge more than one funding year (i.e., prioritizing, prescribing and supervising implementation of vegetation management; coordinating plan and policy review) or that require more time and resources currently available to any one CFRC member (e.g., potentially some FireSmart education recommendations).
 - ii. Consultant support or a term contract salary could be incorporated into the UBCM CRI application accordingly.
3. In subsequent meetings, members from different agencies could share information about actions taken to fulfill recommendations.

Documentation of the status of CWRP recommendations could be compiled and maintained alongside these meetings.

SECTION 2: RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS AND LEGISLATION

Wildfires can affect all aspects of a community. As a result, there are many plans specific to or including EA-E that relate to this CWRP. This section reviews all relevant plans, policies, bylaws, guidelines, and provincial legislation to identify sections within that are relevant to community wildfire planning and response.

2.1 LINKAGES TO CWPPS/CWRPS

Regional District of Central Kootenay Area E Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update - 2015⁵

In 2015, B.A. Blackwell & Associates completed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan update for the Regional District of Central Kootenay Area E. The scope of this plan was a two-kilometer buffer around all residences and critical infrastructure based on WUI density criteria. A tabularized review of the 2016 recommendations and their implementation status is presented in Appendix A. Overall, completed activities have primarily fallen within the FireSmart Education discipline, but some recommended fuel treatments have been prescribed and/or treated, and there is now an active Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee.

Listed below are jurisdictions adjacent EA-E that have been involved in community wildfire planning. *Strategic opportunities exist between these plans and should be considered.*

- *RDCK Electoral Area D CWRP 2023* – concurrently in development.⁶
- *RDCK Electoral Area F CWRP 2023* – concurrently in development.⁶
- *City of Nelson CWRP 2022* – recently completed.⁶

2.2 LOCAL PLANS AND BYLAWS

The sections and policies of Electoral Area E’s Rural Official Community Plan (OCP) listed in Table 2 are directly relevant to proactive wildfire resilience in EA-E. The OCP was reviewed as part of this CWRP to address any gaps or limitations that inadequately address fire hazards or risk mitigation. A major gap that was identified in the EA-E’s OCP as it relates to wildfire is the lack of fire management policies (beyond “recommending”) specific to single home/lot development or renovations.

⁵<https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Services/Emergency~Management/Documents/RDCK%20Area%20E%20CWPP%20FINAL%2013122016.pdf>

⁶ By B.A. Blackwell & Associates Ltd and Cathro Consulting Ltd.

Table 2: Summary of Electoral Area E’s Rural Official Community Plan emergency and wildfire-related objectives and policies and their relationship to this CWRP.

Section [EA-E Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2260, 2013 ⁷]	Policy Description / Relationship to CWRP
<p>7.1 General Residential Policies</p>	<p>The general regional board will assess and evaluate proposed residential development based on the following criteria, irrespective of land use designation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ susceptibility to natural hazards including but not limited to flooding, slope instability, or wildfire risk. <p><i>Embedding FireSmart subdivision principles into development design is paramount to lowering wildfire and emergency evacuation risks in neighbourhoods. Addressed in Section 5.3.</i></p>
<p>8.0 Community services and administration</p>	<p>8.5: Objective: To ensure that land use decisions accommodate emergency response through provision of adequate access to developments and facilities for fire protection services and emergency first response.</p> <p>8.8: Policy: Will consult with the local fire department(s) to determine needs for access to new developments and for the filling of tankers to support local fire service to unincorporated communities within the Plan area where appropriate.</p> <p><i>Embedding FireSmart subdivision principles into development design is paramount to lowering wildfire and emergency evacuation risks in neighbourhoods. Addressed in Section 5.3.</i></p>
<p>10.0 Infrastructure and Transportation</p>	<p>10.5: Objective: To support that new development be subject to the requirements of adequate water supply for both domestic and fire protection purposes.</p> <p>10.12: Policy: Encourages the identification and maintenance of public access points to the Kootenay River and the West Arm of Kootenay Lake to facilitate emergency egress via water in the event of forest fire, spills, slides and other disasters, most particularly in constricted areas such as Harrop and Procter where few opportunities exist for egress via roads and highway.</p> <p><i>Having a constrained primary evacuation route is a major risk for ferry and private boat access only communities. Having shoreline public evacuation points mapped, signed, and maintained is important for secondary access/egress. Addressed in Section 5.6..</i></p>

⁷ https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Government/Bylaws/Land~Use-Planning/2260-E_OCP_Consolidated_2751.pdf

**13.0 Hazard Lands and
Fire Management**

13.1: Fire Management Policies:

The regional board may request that the Regional Subdivision Approving Authority require the developer to undertake a fire hazard risk assessment at the time of submitting a subdivision application where the Province indicates that a property may be subject to a moderate or high fire risk. The Regional Board may request the same assessment during a land use designation amendment or development permit process. The assessment will provide a recommended fire hazard mitigation strategy, that will be submitted to both the RDCK and the Province, and is recommended to include, but is not limited to the following:

- A. incorporating fuel breaks adjacent to or on the residential subdivision;
- B. establishing zones around potential structures and homes which are clear of debris, highly combustible material, or trees;
- C. utilizing fireproofing techniques and fireproof materials in building design, requiring at a minimum a fire rated roof;
- D. designing roads that provide evacuation routes and facilitate movement of fire fighting equipment;
- E. ensuring all roads are named and signed;
- F. ensuring availability of water supply facilities adequate for fire suppression;
- G. ensuring the provision of access to local water sources, lakes and watercourses as part of access requirements;
- H. implementing setbacks, interface fire protection standards, and building material standards pursuant to the Provincial publications The Home Owners Fire Smart Manual and Fire Smart: Protecting Your Community From Wildfire.

Develops communities of defensible space and safe access/egress during an emergency (and wildfire) event. Addressed in Section 5.3.

13.2: Directs the Regional Subdivision Approving Authority to require that where a fire hazard mitigation strategy has been prepared the developer enter into a restrictive covenant to ensure the strategy is followed.

To continue existing, lowered wildfire risk into the future. Addressed in Section 5.3.

13.3: Supports protection of accesses to water sources such as hydrants, standpipes, lakes, and streams to remain free of obstructions for fire protection purposes.

Access to reliable, local water sources is paramount for first responder and BCWS firefighting effectiveness. Addressed in Section 5.4.

13.4: Encourages local volunteer fire departments to work with the RDCK to keep up to date with emergency preparedness and with the identification of increased risk as a result of natural or man-made events.

Further inter-agency cooperation (see Section 5.4) and wildfire emergency preparedness (see Section 5.6).

	<p>13.5 Encourages voluntary efforts to reduce fire risk to existing buildings and developments by residents and community members through educational materials and appropriate Fire Smart programs.</p> <p><i>Private property FireSmart Home Ignition Zone and structure risk reduction is the #1 avenue towards homes and structures surviving a wildfire event. Addressed in Section 5.3.</i></p> <p>13.6: Supports the development and implementation of Interface Fire Management Plans and associated adjacent forest management strategies in areas of high to moderate wildfire risk.</p> <p><i>Lowers wildfire behaviour in the riskiest (interface) community areas. Also addressed in Section 5.3.</i></p> <p>13.7: Will evaluate opportunities to assist in Interface Fire Fuel Reduction treatments.</p> <p><i>Can be accomplished through prescription development and treatment of Potential Treatment Units within this Plan (see Section 5.7).</i></p>
<p>17.0 Community Specific Policies</p>	<p>Queen’s Bay: 17.5: Encourages RDCK to support the development and implementation of a community wildfire interface plan.</p> <p><i>Can be considered accomplished through this Plan.</i></p> <p>Bealby Point/Svoboda Road: 17.62: Recognizes the importance of the area for wildfire interface management for the community and City of Nelson.</p> <p><i>Can be accomplished through prescription development and treatment of Potential Treatment Units within this Plan and those already completed (see Section 5.7), as well as those proposed in the City of Nelson’s 2022 CWRP.</i></p>

The local bylaws listed in Table 3 are directly relevant to proactive wildfire resilience in EA-E. These bylaws were reviewed as part of the CWRP to address any gaps or limitations that inadequately address fire hazards or risk mitigation.

Table 3: Summary of local bylaws and their relationship to the CWRP.

Bylaws	Section	Description and <i>Relation to CWRP</i>
<p>Building Bylaw No. 2200 (2010)</p>	<p>18.4</p>	<p>Fire stopping components must be in place before insulation and exterior sheathing are installed.</p> <p><i>- Addresses the need for fire protection in new construction to manage room-to-room and structure-to-structure fire transmission.</i></p> <p><i>- To manage wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa), FireSmart principles were developed to address this gap. Currently, to mandate exterior construction materials and landscaping beyond the BC Building</i></p>

Bylaws	Section	Description and <i>Relation to CWRP</i>
		<i>Code and the building bylaw, a Development Permit Area can be implemented (see Section 5.3). Note: the BC Building Code is currently being updated, with roll out planned for late-2024, and may include FireSmart standards.</i>
Emergency Management Regulatory Use Bylaw No. 2210 (amended by Bylaw No. 2758 in 2021)	5.1	Outlines administrative structure and roles of Emergency Program <i>- Provides structure and guidelines in times of emergency.</i>
	Amended Bylaw No. 2758	Adds “mitigation” into the description of the Emergency Program and Emergency Management Plan <i>- RDCK to develop, coordinate and manage emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. This would include from wildfires.</i>
Manufactured Home Parks Bylaw No. 1082 (1995)	8.8.3	Fires shall be made only in stoves, incinerators, or other structures designed for that purpose. <i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks in structures made largely from ignitable and combustible materials.</i>
	8.8.4	If no approved fire hydrant is available to provide protection, a minimum of one (1) stagnant water supply at a minimum of 15,539 litres (6000 lgal) shall be provided on site in order to be accessed in case of emergency for fire protection purposes on properties serviced by Fire Protection. <i>- Increases assurance of useful water supply systems in the event of a fire to responding fire departments.</i>
Parks Regulation – Consolidated Bylaw No. 2173	22	No person shall start or maintain a fire in a park, except in facilities provided at a park for that purpose. <i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i>
	24	No person shall leave a fire in a park unattended. <i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i>
	25	No person shall burn any unsuitable materials including but not limited to organic yard waste, household waste, plastic, rubber, flammable or combustible liquid, or any treated lumber or construction debris, or toxic waste. <i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i>
	52	No person shall possess or discharge Fireworks, firecrackers or explosive materials of any kind in a park, except for an event authorized by a park use permit. <i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i>

Bylaws	Section	Description and <i>Relation to CWRP</i>
Resource Recovery Facilities Regulatory Bylaw No. 2905	8 (15)	<p>No person other than the Site Operator or Service Personnel or their representative shall start any fires at any Resource Recovery Facility.</p> <p><i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
Volunteer Fire Service Regulation Bylaw No. 2769	4.1	<p>Jurisdiction of each Fire Department, and the powers granted to each Fire Department and its Fire Chief and Members under this Bylaw, is restricted to the boundaries of the Fire Department's particular Fire Protection Service Area as set out in its establishment bylaw. A Fire Department shall not respond to any Incident under this Bylaw outside of the boundaries of its Fire Protection Service Area except as specified in Section 4(2)(a) to (f) of this Bylaw.</p> <p><i>- Outlines jurisdictional limits of fire departments, which may impact rural communities with no immediate fire service (see Section 5.6).</i></p>
	4.2	<p>Apparatus and Fire Department Equipment shall not be taken beyond the geographical limits of the jurisdiction for reasons other than repair, maintenance, or training unless: (a) a written agreement, approved by the Regional District, authorizes the supply of Members, Apparatus, Fire Department Equipment, Fire Protection Services and Associated Services to another jurisdiction; or (b) under the authority of the CAO, the Regional Fire Chief, or the Emergency Operations Center Director; or (c) in connection with a request for assistance by a the Office of the Fire Commissioner, or a Federal or Provincial emergency response Agency; or (d) in connection with an Incident near the boundaries of the Fire Service Protection Area which, if left untended, may threaten the Fire Service Protection Area or other such Service area; or (e) In the event of a Federal or Provincial State of Emergency; or (f) Under the provision of a bylaw for Associated Services.</p> <p><i>- Outlines jurisdictional limits of fire departments, which may impact rural communities with no immediate fire service (see Section 5.6).</i></p>
	9.4	<p>No person shall grow shrubs, hedges, plants or trees so as to obstruct the visibility or use of a fire hydrant, standpipe or sprinkler connection.</p> <p><i>- Provides linkage to FireSmart activities and property preparedness.</i></p>
	10.1	<p>Where this bylaw applies within a municipality the Regional District is authorized to enforce municipal open burning regulations.</p> <p><i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
	12.2	<p>The Occupier of a Public Building in which any of the Alarm System, Fire Protection Equipment, or emergency power system is not operating must institute and maintain a Fire Watch until those systems or equipment are operational.</p> <p><i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>

Bylaws	Section	Description and <i>Relation to CWRP</i>
Water Bylaw No. 2894	10.4.1	All fire hydrants and standpipes directly connected to Regional District Water Mains are the property of the Regional District. - <i>Outlines RDCK ownership and responsibility relating to water sources.</i>
	11.6.2 (f)	Notwithstanding the prohibitions in this Section, the Manager may authorize in writing the discharge of Regional District supplied water for the purposes of: training programs for fire fighters. - <i>Supports training opportunities for local fire fighters (see Section 5.4).</i>

The local plans listed in Table 4 are directly relevant to proactive wildfire resilience in EA-E. These plans were reviewed as part of the CWRP to address any gaps or limitations that inadequately address fire hazards or risk mitigation.

Table 4: Summary of local plans that are directly relevant to the CWRP.

Plan	Description and <i>Relationship to CWRP</i>
EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PLAN for the Regional District of Central Kootenay	Outlines structural and organizational requirements for coordinated response and recovery from emergencies in the RDCK, including: decision-making tools for evacuation or shelter in place; EOC levels and activation protocols; hazard and evacuation planning; fire planning including industrial, wildfire and structural fires; and, recovery planning. <i>Section 3.10 specifically deals with interface fires/wildfires, indicating that interface fires will be managed using unified command with the Ministry of Forests and local fire department(s) and other local fire departments, where applicable.</i>
West Arm Provincial Park Fire Management Plan (2016)	This Fire Management Plan comprehensively analyzes social and environmental values at risk within West Arm Provincial Park, <i>discusses the potential impacts to those values as a result of a wildfire burning through the park, and recommends management strategies and locations of fuel management treatments to mitigate the risk of adverse impacts.</i>
City of Nelson Water Master Plan Update (2017)	This plan provides an update to the City of Nelson’s Water Master Plan developed in 2007, summarizing infrastructure upgrades to date, and makes recommendations for the allocation of resources in the future. The plan includes a ‘Source Evaluation’, an analysis which includes characteristics of source watersheds and associated risks to them. Water contamination from forest fire is identified as a ‘loss of source scenario.’ The Source Evaluation analysis also includes the effect of climate change on the watershed yield. <i>Discussion of available fire flow is an additional component of this report. The report notes that there are some areas, including at the CPR track line near the airport, where available fire flow is less than the acceptable specifications in the City of Nelson zoning bylaw.</i>

Plan	Description and <i>Relationship to CWRP</i>
<p>City of Nelson</p> <p>Source Water Protection Plan (2021)</p>	<p>The Source Water Protection Plan is part of a “multi-barrier approach to drinking water protection.” The development of this plan was mandated as a condition of the City of Nelson’s operating permit by the Interior Health Authority.</p> <p>Plan findings relevant to this report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The main issues and possible impacts to source water quality were identified and include wildfire, forest health impacts, and climate change. ➤ A “Phase 1 Source Assessment” identified the following key hazards to water quality, and rated the risk associated with them as “<i>Very High</i>”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Changes in watershed hydrology associated with forest health changes.” ○ “Sedimentation and hydrology effects associated with wildfire and with wildfire fighting efforts.” ○ “Potential loss of control /access or damage at the intake due to wildfire.” <p><i>Recommendations made in the Source Water Protection Plan, relevant to this report include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ “Implement the high priority recommendations of the CWPP, including maintaining the Interface Working Group to coordinate risk reduction efforts” ➤ “Continue to implement fuel mitigation projects to mitigate fire risk around sensitive infrastructure.”
<p>Nelson Hydro</p> <p>Vegetation Management Best Practices (2021)</p>	<p>This plan identifies vegetation management procedures and best practices to protect the public, infrastructure, and values adjacent to Nelson Hydro transmission distribution lines.</p> <p>The plan identifies wildfire as an important consideration for vegetation management planning in the Nelson Hydro operating area, noting that within the drier ecosystems of this area, there is a possibility of frequent recurrence of fire.</p> <p><i>Debris disposal specifications are identified, in order to prevent hazardous accumulations of woody debris after manual and mechanical vegetation treatments. A monitoring program is proposed in order to ensure debris disposal specifications are adhered to.</i></p>

2.3 HIGHER-LEVEL PLANS AND LEGISLATION

Table 5 lists higher-level plans and legislation that are relevant to wildfire planning and risk mitigation within EA-E and the surrounding area. These plans help guide where and how activities like resource extraction occur on the landscape, which can affect both wildfire threat and consequence. Depending on the location of any proposed fuel management treatment units from this Plan, fuel management prescriptions and prescribed / cultural burn plans may need to address these plans as they relate to on-the-ground restrictions and policies for forest modification.

Table 5: Description of higher-level plans and legislation and their relationship to the CWRP.

Plan/Legislation	Description and <i>Relationship to CWRP</i>
<p>FRPA – Government Action Regulations (GARs)</p>	<p>Multiple GARs are present within EA-E’s WUI. These should be considered and managed for appropriately, where present, at the site level through associated site level plans (e.g., Fuel Management Prescriptions). These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Non-legal Old Growth Management Areas</i> ➤ <i>Ungulate Winter Range partial-harvest</i> ➤ <i>Significant fish streams and rivers</i> ➤ <i>Community watersheds</i> ➤ <i>Regionally significant visual areas</i>
<p>BC Provincial Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation</p>	<p>The Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation came into effect in September 2019 and governs open burning relating to land clearing, forestry operations and silviculture, wildlife habitat enhancement, and community wildfire risk reduction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>The entire wildland-urban interface of EA-E is within a High Smoke Sensitivity Zone.</i> ➤ <i>All proposed treatment units are within the High Smoke Sensitivity Zone.</i>
<p>Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan</p>	<p>The Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy was completed in 1997, and was discussed in the previous CWPP.</p> <p><i>Legal, spatially defined objectives for ‘Connectivity Corridors’, and ‘Water Intakes Used for Human Consumption’ apply within the AOI. A non-legal objective for fire-maintained ecosystem restoration also applies - this provision targets NDT4 ecosystems, which constitute 18% of EA-E’s WUI.</i></p>
<p>Selkirk Resource District Fire Management Plan</p>	<p>The Selkirk Resource District Kootenay Lake Fire Management Plan (FMP) (MFLNRORD, 2016) identifies values at risk on the landscape and prioritizes broad categories of values as ‘themes’ for categorizing response through the Resource Strategic Wildfire Allocation Protocol (RSWAP). The four themes are 1) Human Life and Safety, 2) Property and Critical Infrastructure, 3) High Environmental and Cultural Values, and 4) Other resource values (timber, rangelands, etc.).</p> <p><i>The organization of values is intended to provide the information needed to make appropriate fire response decisions in complex emergency situations. This CWRP identifies values within the Plan area with the intent of using this information to make appropriate fire response decisions.</i></p>
<p>BC Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation</p>	<p>The Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation define the legal responsibilities and obligations to which everyone in British Columbia is subject. When</p>

Plan/Legislation	Description and <i>Relationship to CWRP</i>
	<p>the BCWS places bans or restrictions in an area, the Wildfire Act and Regulation make them enforceable.⁸</p> <p><i>Its key goal is to specify responsibilities and obligations on fire use, wildfire prevention, wildfire control, and rehabilitation.⁸</i></p>
<p>Fire Chiefs’ Association of BC and BC Wildfire Service MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES</p>	<p>Guides and facilitates the collaboration between the Province and fire departments or by outlining key information regarding resource requests, deployment and response procedures, remuneration guidelines, and other necessary details to effectively manage the partnership. The intent of this Agreement is to further improve the operating procedure, strengthening capacity while providing increased flexibility to share resources in British Columbia, with clear rules of engagement and reimbursement requirements.</p> <p><i>Mutual aid agreements exist between BCWS and RDCK fire services. RDCK fire departments (including those in EA-E) routinely work with BCWS in response to incidents within and outside of Fire Protection and Response Areas.</i></p>

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

This section defines the planning area for this CWRP and provides general demographic information about EA-E. An understanding of population trends, land use patterns, and values at risk can help effectively direct FireSmart outreach and risk mitigation activities.

3.1 WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE

The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is defined by FireSmart Canada as the zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. For the purpose of the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) program, the ‘eligible WUI’ is considered as the area one kilometer from a structure density class greater than six structures per square kilometer. BC Wildfire Service generates WUI Risk Class maps and associated spatial data to assist with initiatives related to wildfire risk reduction, including the FCFS program.⁹

Field work, GIS analysis, and the recommendations for this CWRP cover only this one kilometer ‘eligible WUI’ which is entirely within EA-E and covers a total of 12,013 hectares (which includes foreshore areas of Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River, as well as the periphery of Nelson) and includes residential,

⁸ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/about-bcws/governance/legislation-regulations>

⁹ [Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class Maps - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

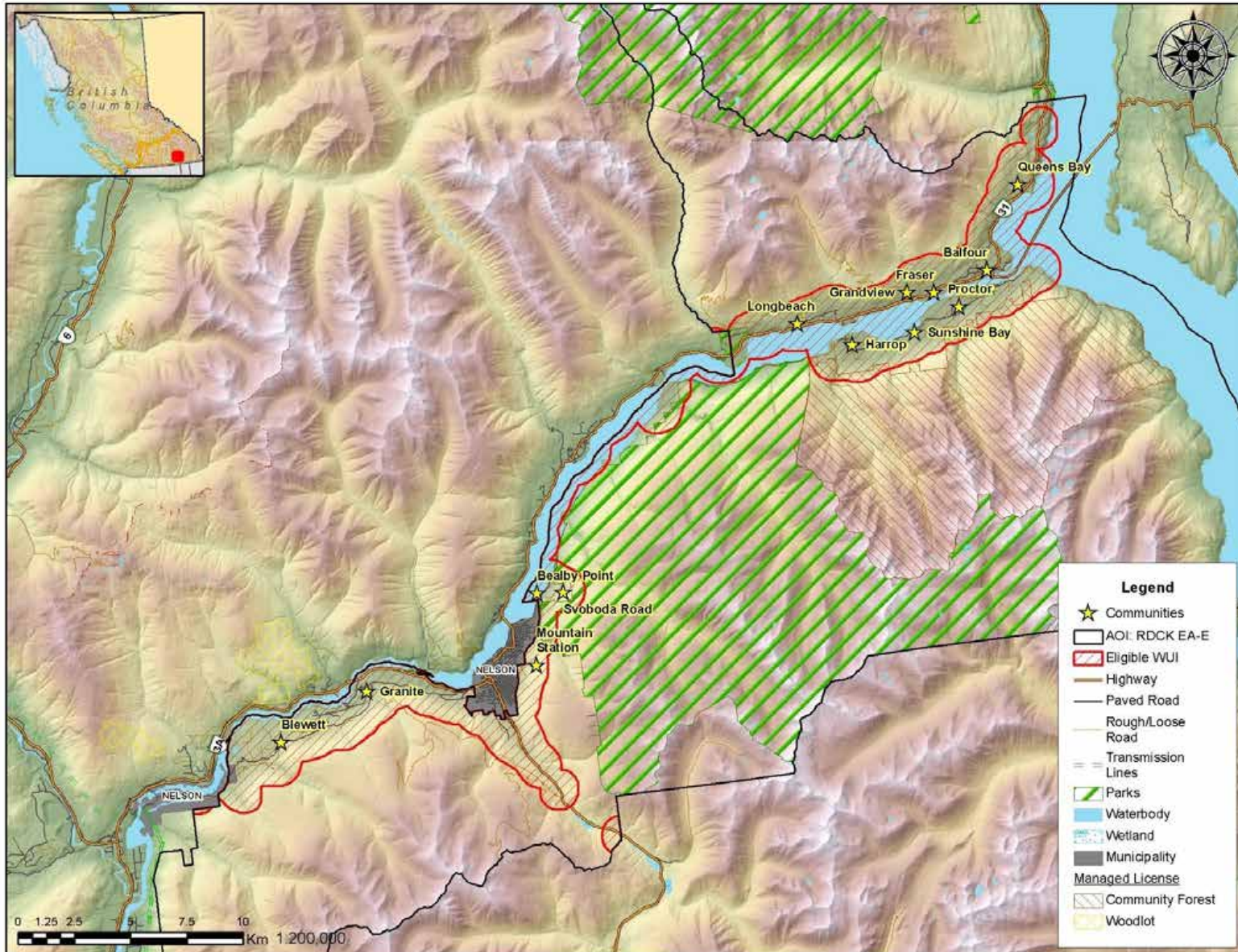
industrial, agricultural, recreational, and forested areas. Land use is guided by EA-E’s Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw as discussed in Section 7. Importantly, as outward development occurs from the existing footprint, it is possible that the WUI will change with it.

Map 1 shows an overview of EA-E’s WUI and the communities within. The map shows the geographical breadth of the communities and the area this Plan covers – approximately 50 kilometres from Queens Bay in the northeast to Blewett in the southwest. Successful wildfire resilience efforts will need to be applied to all communities. An approximate breakdown of land ownership type by area is listed in Table 6, and shown on Map 2 and Map 3. Nearly half (45%¹⁰) of EA-E’s WUI is private land, while RDCK municipal and Crown provincial land make up almost all the rest of the WUI’s ownership.

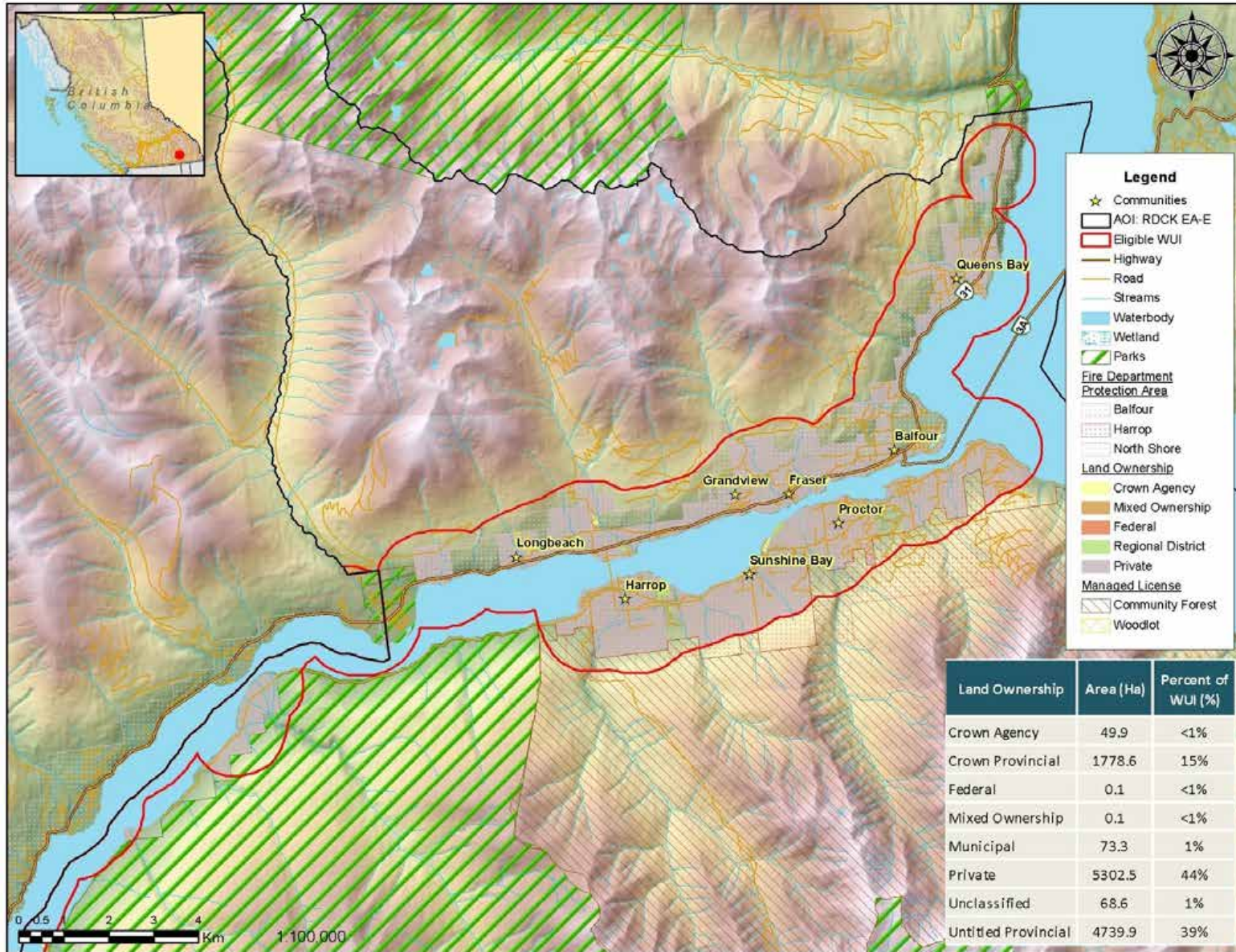
Table 6: Land Ownership within EA-E’s WUI.

Land Ownership	Area (Ha)	Percent of WUI (%)
Crown Agency	50	<1%
Crown Provincial	1779	15%
Federal	0	<1%
Mixed Ownership	0	<1%
Municipal	73	1%
Private	5303	44%
Unclassified	69	1%
Untitled Provincial	4740	39%
Total	12013	-

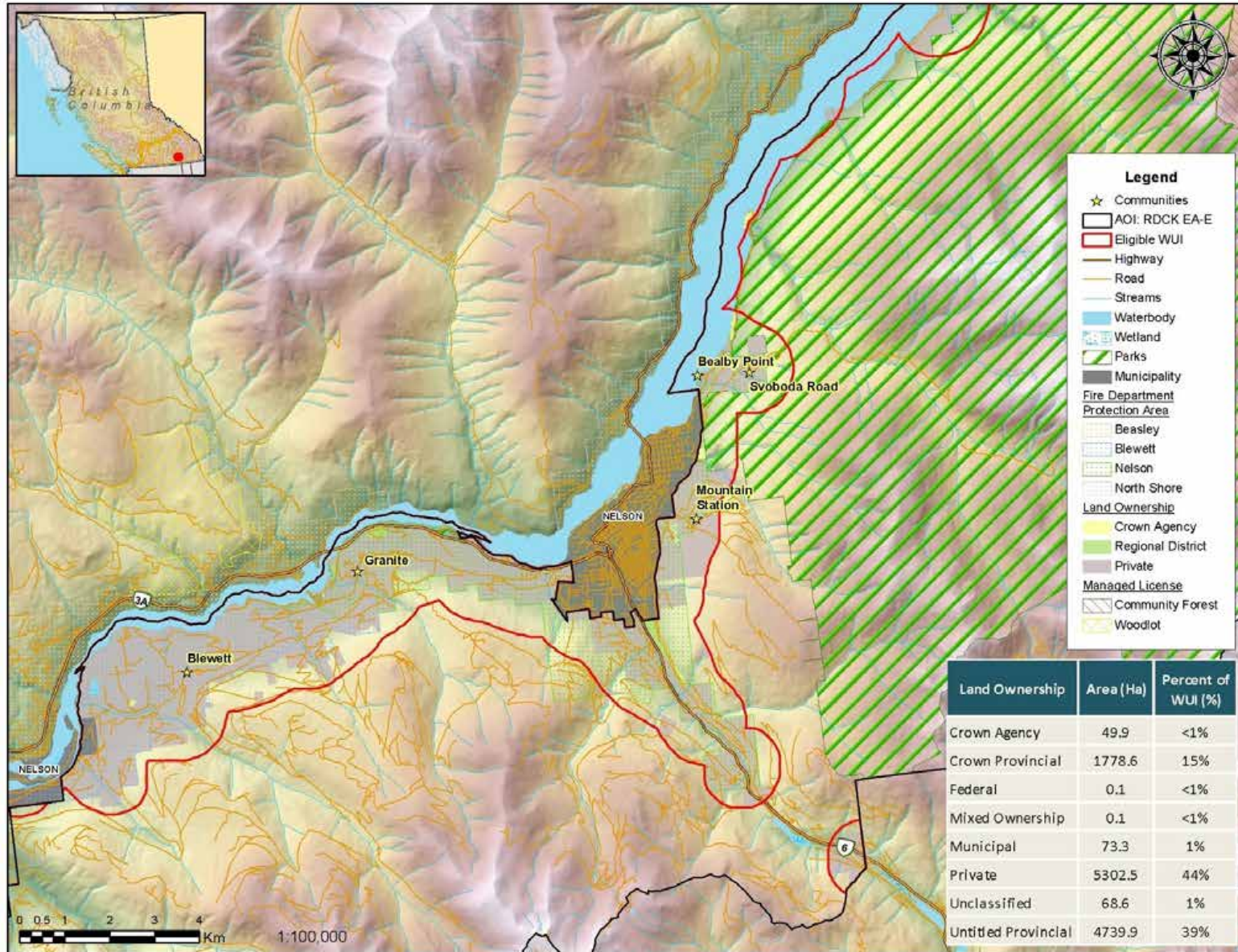
¹⁰ Private land total area equals Private Land plus Unclassified (strata land).



Map 1. Overview of RDCK Electoral Area E's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The 'eligible WUI' is the red diagonally lined polygon.



Map 2: Overview of RDCK Electoral Area E's eastern communities' WUI, with land ownership.



Map 3: Overview of RDCK Electoral Area E's western communities' WUI, with land ownership.

3.2 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Electoral Area E is adjacent to the West Arm of Kootenay Lake within the RDCK and includes the communities of (from northeast to southwest) Queens Bay, Balfour, Harrop, Procter, Longbeach, rural Nelson as far south as Cottonwood Lake, and Blewett (including Taghum Beach). Home to several former sternwheeler landings, the area continues the tradition with the longest free ferry ride in the world, connecting the community of Balfour to Kootenay Bay on the east shore of the lake.¹¹

At approximately 3,897 residents, EA-E is the fourth most populous of the 11 Electoral Areas in the RDCK. There has been a slow but steady growth over the years, with a 1% increase from 2006 to 2016, and projected growth of 2% to 2025, potentially reaching 3,995 people (see Figure 1). Senior growth will potentially increase the median age to 53.7.¹² Relevant socio-economic statistics on population, employment, housing, and education in EA-E are summarized in Table 7. They are not available for separate communities.

Table 7: Socio-economic statistics for RDCK Electoral Area E, as per the 2019 RDCK Community Profile Report. Bolded values will be discussed below as they have special relevance to the CWRP.

Metric in 2021 Census	Value
Population	
Total Population in 2021	3,897
Total Population in 2016	3,772
Population Density (people/km ²)	4.8
Population percentage change between 2016 to 2021	3.3
Number of people <14 years old	485
Number of people 15-64 years old	2,360
Number of people >65 years old	1,055
Median Age (years)	51.2 ¹³
Housing	
Total private dwellings	1,800
Private dwellings permanently occupied	1,800
Single detached house	1,580
Average Taxable Property Value	n/a
Average household size	2.2
Income and Employment	
Median Total Income of Households ¹⁴	\$70,500
Employment Rate	54.4%
Unemployment Rate	8.2%
Education	
No certificate, diploma or degree	425
Secondary school or equivalent	975
Post-secondary	2,000

¹¹ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/government/board-of-directors/electoral-areas.html>

¹² https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Government/Documents/13_Electoral_Area_E_Community_Summary.pdf

¹³ The median age for BC is 43.0.

¹⁴ In 2015, pre-tax. BC median is \$69,995.

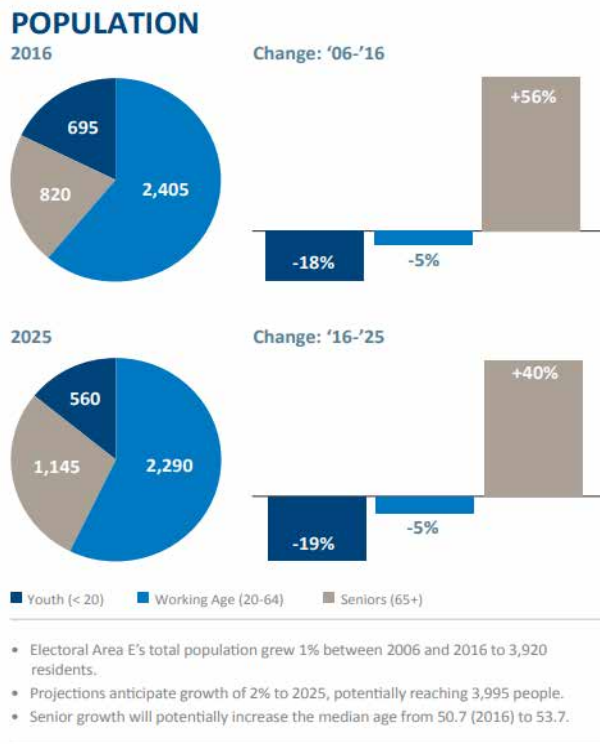


Figure 1: RDCK EA-E population change statistics - 2006-2016 and projected 2016-2026.

- Electoral Area E's total population grew 1% between 2006 and 2016 to 3,920 residents.
- Projections anticipate growth of 2% to 2025, potentially reaching 3,995 people.
- Senior growth will potentially increase the median age from 50.7 (2016) to 53.7.

As shown in Table 7, most residents live in single-detached homes in rural communities. Some communities may have both full time and seasonal residents, so population is likely to be higher in the summer. However, the data indicates the majority of homes are permanently occupied – this provides an opportunity for a proactive FireSmart education program as those being educated can keep and apply that education within the community itself.

Population growth in EA-E and nearby municipalities increases wildfire risk within the RDCK. More summer visitors increase the likelihood of a human-caused wildfire (increased ignition potential), and the consequence of a wildfire (more people to evacuate). The RDCK is home to several tourism hotspots with a focus on outdoor recreation, camping, and boating.

Fire protection services are provided throughout defined portions of EA-E (except private boat access properties) by the Balfour-Harrop, Nelson, and Blewett volunteer fire departments (also displayed on Map 2 and Map 3).

Further, North Shore and Beasley volunteer fire departments provide mutual aid services to the departments servicing EA-E. The Kootenay Lake Hospital, located in Nelson, is a Level 1 Community Hospital in the Kootenay Boundary health service area managed by Interior Health.¹⁵ The RDCK Emergency Program oversees the planning and implementation of emergency management in Area E.

The following section gives a brief description of some of the main communities covered by this plan, including number of residents and services provided. Each community can be seen in Map 1 – Map 3 in the previous section.

Queens Bay

Queens Bay is located on the west shore of Kootenay Lake, off Highway 31, approximately 38 kilometres northeast of Nelson. In 2015, Queens Bay was one of the first BC communities and the first in the Kootenays to be awarded with the FireSmart designation for local wildfire protection efforts.¹⁶ The community is characterized by moderate to large sized lots, including some resort properties. The upper portion of the neighbourhood is often referred to as the Queens Bay townsite. These properties serve as

¹⁵ https://www.interiorhealth.ca/search?type=All&search_api_fulltext=EA-E&f%5B0%5D=content_type%3Alocation

¹⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queens_Bay

weekend retreats or as a bedroom community for Nelson. Fire protection services are provided by the nearby Balfour Harrop Volunteer Fire Department.

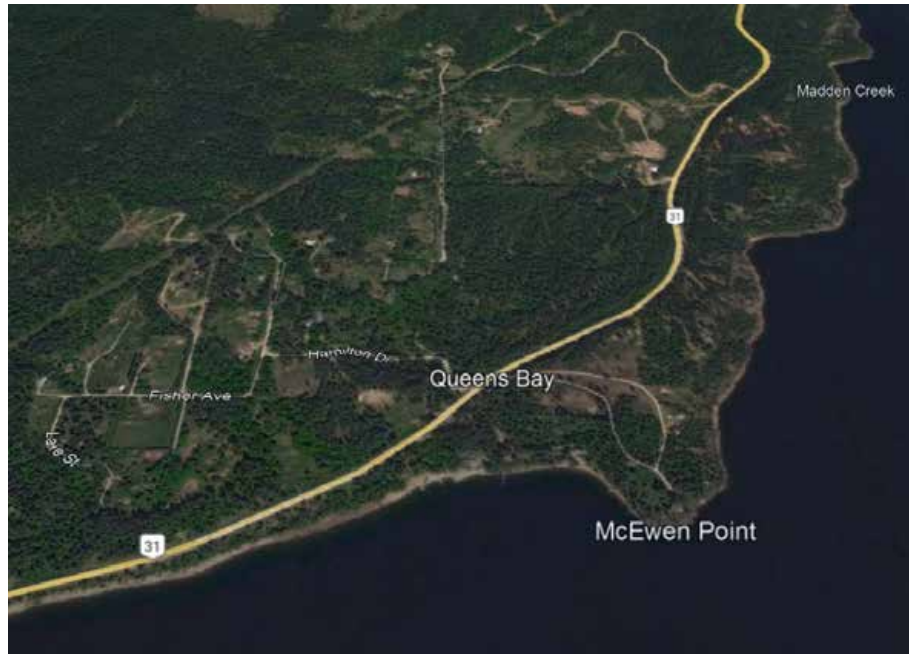


Figure 2. Google Earth screen-capture of Queens Bay, looking north¹⁷

Balfour

Balfour is a community of approximately 500 residents located on Highway 3A just south of Queens Bay, 33 kilometres northeast of Nelson, on the north shore of West Arm of Kootenay Lake. The Kootenay Lake Ferry terminal is located in Balfour, which has become the commercial centre for the community comprising of a bakery, pub, marina restaurant, gas station and two retail stores. The community also has a post office, golf course and recreation centre, and auto mechanic shop. Many of the residential lots are located along the lake shore, with some of the community extending uphill on the east-facing slope above the highway. Fire protection services are provided by the Balfour Harrop Volunteer Fire Department, with one fire hall in Balfour. The RDCK operates a water system in the community, with Kootenay Lake acting as the water source. The water system has 265 active connections, includes a water treatment plant, and supports a fire hydrant network.¹⁸

¹⁷ Screen-capture image from Google Earth

¹⁸ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/water/rdck-water-systems/balfour-water-system.html>



Figure 3. Balfour Golf Course looking over Kootenay Lake¹⁹

Harrop-Procter, and Sunshine Bay

Harrop and Procter are two communities on the south shore of West Arm of Kootenay Lake which are often combined in reference due to their proximity and mutual community services. Sunshine Bay is located in between the two. Approximately 570 people live within these communities, primarily on rural lots or within the small townsite of Procter. The communities are accessible only via a cable ferry landing at Harrop. The cable ferry crossing is located off Highway 3A, 27 kms northeast of Nelson and 7 kms west of Balfour. There is a general store with a gas pump, bakery, two community halls, a fire hall, and a ferry dry dock construction wharf located at Sunshine Bay Regional Park. The community of Harrop is just east of West Arm Provincial Park, which spans the remaining length of lake shoreline all the way west to the municipal boundary of Nelson. The Harrop-Procter Community Co-operative is a community-run organization that owns and operates the Harrop Procter Community Forest, as well as the local sawmill, Harrop Procter Forest Products. Forestry is an important economic driver in these communities, with emphasis on wildfire mitigation activities, managing for climate change and watersheds, and maintaining focus on locally sourced lumber. The Community Forest tenure is approximately 11,000 ha in size. The PRT Harrop nursery is also located in Harrop, which grows all the commercial tree species found in Canada and western USA, as well as standard seedlings.²⁰ In 2018, the Harrop Creek fire burned over 2,000 ha in the community forest tenure nearby and resulted in an increased effort to manage wildfire risk, including establishing fuel breaks and conducting fuel treatments. A CP Rail line also runs through the community, adjacent to the shore of Kootenay Lake. Fire

¹⁹ <https://www.nelsonkootenaylake.com/plan/region/balfour>

²⁰ <https://www.prt.com/contact/nursery-locations-canada/prt-harrop>

protection services are provided by the Balfour Harrop Volunteer Fire Department, which has two fire halls – one in Balfour and one along Harrop-Procter Highway.



Figure 4. Example of fuel treatment area in Harrop Procter Community Forest²¹

Longbeach & West Arm Communities

Along the West Arm there are several small communities including Grandview, Redfish, and Longbeach. Longbeach is a small rural residential area located along Highway 3A on the north shore of West Arm of Kootenay Lake, across from Harrop. It is approximately 24 kms northeast of Nelson and 9 kms west of Balfour. Longbeach is just east of Kokanee Creek Provincial Park, which is a popular camping and hiking destination. The Redfish area is primarily rural residential and includes the Redfish Elementary School and the cable ferry landing for residents traveling to Harrop Procter. Grandview is a residential community located between Balfour and Longbeach, uphill of Highway 3A, and includes Grandview Properties, a recent subdivision. At full build-out, it is anticipated to have 78 lots.²² The subdivision is serviced by a RDCK water system, supporting seven fire hydrants.²² Fire protection services to West Arm communities are provided by the nearby Balfour Harrop Volunteer Fire Department.

²¹ Photo from <https://www.fesbc.ca/small-rural-communities-in-b-c-are-making-big-gains-to-mitigate-climate-change/>

²² <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/water/rdck-water-systems/grandview-properties.html>



Figure 5. Waterfront property located in Longbeach.²³

Bealby Point & Svoboda Road

Located on the eastern lakeshore just north of the Fairview neighbourhood in Nelson, Bealby Point is a small residential community accessed via Bealby Point Road. Upslope of Bealby Point is the small residential community of Svoboda Road (accessed by Svoboda Road). The communities are surrounded by West Arm Provincial Park where there have also been recently completed fuel treatments.

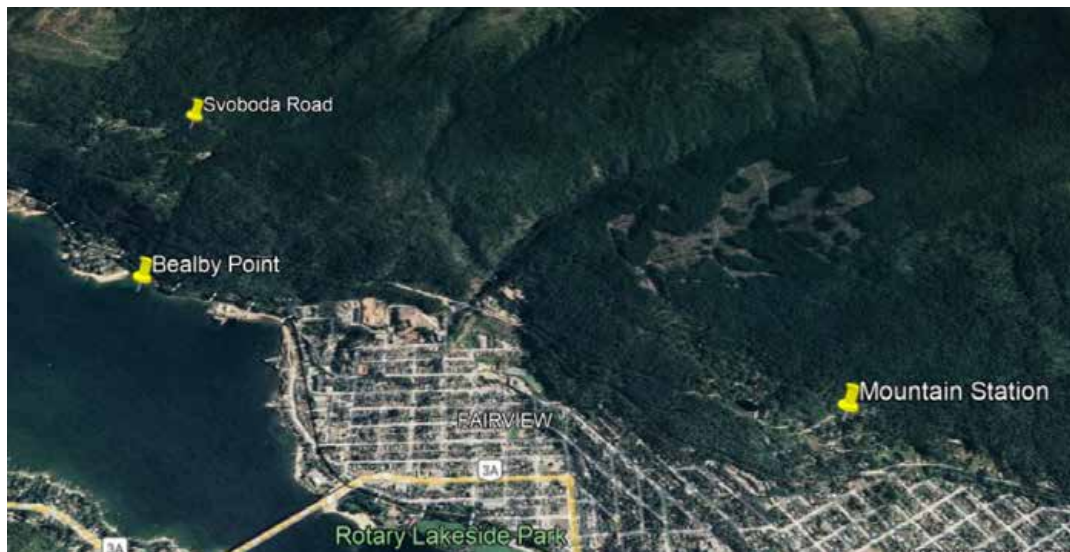


Figure 6: Google Earth screen-capture showing Bealby Point, Svoboda Road, and Mountain Station (looking east).

²³ <https://www.kootenayproperties.com/Properties.php/Details/339>

Mountain Station

Mountain Station is a small community located upslope on the east edge of Nelson. Properties are embedded in the forest, accessed by Mountain Station Road. The closest downhill riding to Nelson, Mountain Station Trails has a tightly packed nucleus of trails that are accessible from the Rail Trail, parking lots that provide easy access at the top of Gore Street, or on Svoboda Road.²⁴ Fire response services are provided by Nelson Fire Rescue.

Granite, Blewett & Taghum Beach

Granite is a rural-residential community on the western edge of Nelson, located above Highway 3A. The forested hills upslope, south of the community are part of the active timber harvest land base with varying ages and sizes of cutblocks. Blewett, further west of Granite, is a small community located approximately 4 kms west of Nelson and consists of rural properties and farms. It is situated along the south shore of Kootenay River, across from the community of Taghum. Several services are available in the area including an elementary school, a large garden centre and an auto mechanic shop. Within the Blewett area is Taghum Beach Regional Park, which is a very popular beach and day-use area that is 4.5 ha in size.²⁵ Another park, Morning Mountain Regional Park, is accessed via Blewett Ski Hill Road and has a total area of 20.6 hectares, providing access to a broader network of trails beyond the regional park. The park is designated as a multiple purpose regional park and includes cycling, hiking, nature appreciation, snowshoeing, and tobogganing.²⁶ Fire protection services are provided by Blewett Volunteer Fire Department and Nelson Fire Rescue.



Figure 6. Viewpoint from Morning Mountain Regional Park in Blewett²⁷

²⁴ <https://www.nelsonkootenaylake.com/listing/mountain-station-trails>

²⁵ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/parks/taghum-beach-regional-park.html>

²⁶ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/parks/morning-mountain-regional-park.html>

²⁷ <https://westkootenayhiking.ca/morning-mountain-bike-trails/>

3.3 VALUES AT RISK

Values at risk are the human, natural, or cultural resources that could be negatively impacted by wildfire. Protection of these values during a wildfire event is an important consideration for effective emergency response. Pre-identifying critical infrastructure and values at risk before an emergency event can ensure that essential services can be protected and/or restored quickly. Also, many activities that proactively assess and mitigate fire hazards around critical infrastructure and “Community Assets” are eligible for funding under the 2024 CRI FCFS Program Guide, which is addressed through Recommendation 14 (Section 5.3). Critical infrastructure includes buildings and structures that are essential to the health, safety, security, or economic wellbeing of the community and the effective functioning of government.

Table 8 lists critical infrastructure in EA-E’s WUI as identified by the RDCK,²⁸ through consultation with EA-E staff, and outlined in the 2023 RDCK Community Risk Assessment. This list should not be considered as whole and complete, but rather a starting point for what should be considered as critical infrastructure. This list should be amended as required to add or remove new or excluded/outdated infrastructure so all are available for Community Asset FireSmart activities. The assets owned/operated by the RDCK are the RDCK Corporate Offices (Primary Emergency Operations Center), the Fire Halls, the Grandview and Balfour water systems, and transfer stations. Water and electric systems are discussed in more detail in Sections 3.3.1 and 0. Critical infrastructure FireSmart Assessments were outside the scope of this plan. At the time of writing, FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments have been completed only on local fire halls. Map 4 and Map 5 present a visual display of values at risk throughout the eligible WUI.

Table 8: Critical Infrastructure within EA-E and its WUI.

Map ID	Description	Community (if applicable)	Name
Government / Community			
E-16	Community Hall	Balfour	Balfour Senior Hall
E-17	Community Hall	Procter	Procter Community Hall
E-18	Community Hall	Harrop	Harrop Community Hall
E-19	Community Hall	Balfour	Balfour Community Hall
E-60	Community Hall	Queens Bay	Queens Bay Residents Association
E-20	School	Balfour	Redfish Elementary School
E-21	School	Blewett	Blewett Elementary School
E-59	School	Nelson	Nelson Area Waldorf School (private)
E-62	Transfer Station	Blewett	Grohman Transfer Station
E-63	Transfer Station	Balfour	Balfour Transfer Station
Utilities			
E-84	Electrical or Generator	Balfour	125 kw GENERATOR
E-85	Electrical or Generator	Balfour	60kw GENERATOR
D_E-56	Electrical or Generator	Queens Bay	Electrical Power System
D_E-57	Electrical or Generator	Queens Bay	Electrical Power System
E-86	Water - Pumphouse	Balfour	Pumphouse

²⁸ RDCK maintains a comprehensive database of critical infrastructure GIS point data and was provided as part of this Plan’s development.

Map ID	Description	Community (if applicable)	Name
E-87	Water - Reservoir/Well	Balfour	Reservoir (Steel)
E-88	Water - Treatment	Balfour	Water Treatment Plant
E-89	Water - Pumphouse	Grandview	Booster Station
E-90	Electrical or Generator	Grandview	Electric Control Shed
E-91	Water - Pumphouse	Grandview	Pump House
E-92	Water - Reservoir/Well	Grandview	Reservoir
E-93	Water - Reservoir/Well	Grandview	Reservoir
E-94	Water - Treatment	Grandview	Water Treatment Building
E-95	Water - Reservoir/Well	Grandview	Wet Well
Emergency Response			
E-22	Fire Hall	Blewett	Blewett Fire Department
E-23	Fire Hall	Balfour	Balfour Fire Department
E-24	Fire Hall	Harrop	Harrop Fire Department

3.3.1 ELECTRICAL POWER

A large fire has the potential to impact electrical service by causing disruption in network distribution through direct or indirect processes. Direct heat from flames or damage from fallen trees associated with a fire event may cause power outages. There is one major transmission line and right-of-way that transects EA-E's WUI, just upslope from homes and structures, from the northeast in Queens Bay, travelling the north side of West Arm of Kootenay Lake to where it crosses Kootenay River just west of Nelson and continues through Blewett. Transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions – trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways. A tree falling across a line can tear the line down and result in a downed line. A branch spanning two line conductors for a sufficient period of time may ignite the branch and also may produce high-energy, high-temperature arcs multiple feet in length. If the branch remains in contact and arcing, it can cause progressive damage that eventually breaks the line. It is important that both EA-E and RDCK lobby the electrical power providers in and influencing the community's WUI to regularly maintain their right-of-way's vegetation (see Recommendation #25 in Section 5.5).

Residential and commercial power throughout EA-E is provided by a network of wood-pole distribution lines. There are many instances where both the regional district/MOTI and private landowners have highly flammable vegetation and/or unmaintained conifer trees growing in close proximity to power poles and distribution lines.

Having secondary power sources for critical infrastructure is important to reduce community vulnerability in the event of an emergency that cuts power for days, or even weeks. It is recommended that RDCK and

EA-E review critical infrastructure and invest in back-up generators as required (see Recommendation #31 in Section 5.6).²⁹

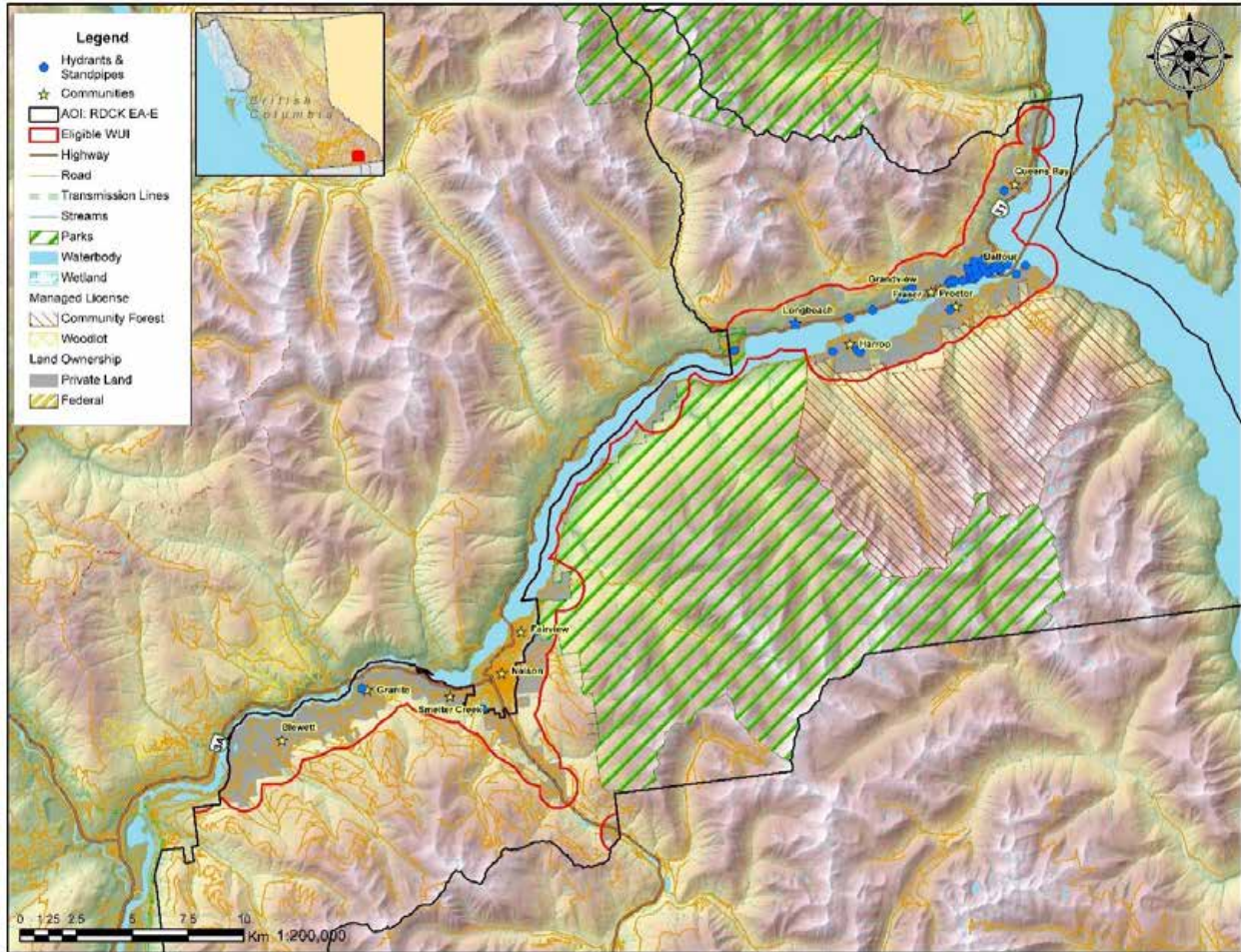
3.3.2 WATER AND SEWAGE

The RDCK operates water systems for Balfour and Grandview Properties; all other properties have individual wells or surface water intakes. RDCK does not operate any sewage systems. Thus all properties have private septic for sewage disposal.

Hydrants and standpipe locations within the WUI are shown below on Map 4, and are mostly located in Balfour, Grandview Properties, Procter, and Harrop. Local Government noted that Balfour to Longbeach would have sufficient water from their hydrants, however Blewett does not have any hydrants, nor does Queens Bay or Procter. Harrop is serviced by one hydrant. Even where there are hydrants, most locations will be serviced by a tanker shuttle for water; few homes are located close enough to hydrants to use them directly. In some areas the distance to shuttle water will be greater, and further work should be done to develop water supplies.

The most reliable source of year-round water for firefighting are Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River, and many other smaller sources (i.e., ponds, creeks, etc.) are known, but not mapped (see Recommendation #18 in Section 5.4). See Section 5.4 for recommendations related to fire department resources.

²⁹ The Blewett Fire Hall has a generator for powering its radio receiver system if electrical power fails. Noted from an information questionnaire as part of the development of this Plan.



Map 4: Hydrants and standpipes for communities in Electoral Area E (RDCK GIS data).

3.3.3 HAZARDOUS VALUES

Hazardous values are defined as values that pose a safety hazard to emergency responders and include large fuel / propane facilities, landfills, rail yards, storage facilities containing explosives, pipelines, etc. Anywhere combustible materials, explosive chemicals, or gas/oil are stored can be considered a hazardous value. Protecting hazardous values from fires is important to preventing interface fire disasters.

No hazardous values were identified within RDCK Electoral Area E’s WUI, but it was noted in the 2023 RDCK Community Risk Assessment that hazardous materials are transported by truck and train throughout the area (Highway 6, Highway 3A and CN rail corridor). Accidental ignitions from train tracks and equipment are a fire risk. Vegetation management practices along the rail lines has the ability to exacerbate a fire hazard if deciduous and/or coniferous vegetation and cured grasses are being brushed and left in accumulations beside the tracks. This presents more of a concern where the vegetation on private properties adjacent to the tracks has a coniferous component or cured grass, which are able to support fast spreading fires. This is of special concern in the communities of Harrop and Procter, where

the rail corridor runs directly adjacent to homes and property. Recommendations associated with industry stakeholders are discussed in Section 5.5.

It is also very likely that both industrial and hobby farms store gas, oil, and/or fertilizer. Education and associated recommendations regarding FireSmart principles for hazardous materials storage are discussed in Section 5.2.

3.3.4 CULTURAL VALUES

There are documented and registered historic and archeological sites within the WUI and a high potential for additional sites to be found given the long history of use by First Nations. Known archeological sites are protected under the Heritage Conservation Act, which applies to both private and public lands.

RDCK, EA-E, and/or MOF should continue to consult with applicable First Nations well before development and implementation of any proposed fuel prescriptions to allow for meaningful review and input, as well as collaborative opportunities – cultural burning by First Nations has a long documented and orally spoken history in the area. Archeological assessments may be required to ensure that known or unknown cultural resources are not inadvertently damaged or destroyed, and that First Nations strategies for land management in their traditional territory are complied with.

3.3.5 HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

The Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund (KLLCF) has identified the following as important environmental values within EA-E: reduction of human-wildlife conflict and protection of grizzly bears; recovery of species at risk (western toad); restoration activities in riparian areas that support bull trout and kokanee spawners; functioning wetlands, creeks, and grasslands that improve water quality; reduction of invasive species; water monitoring and osprey monitoring; and, support of protected bat colonies. There are 16 species of bats in BC and 11 of these are found in the Kootenays. Of these species, three are considered at risk and include the fringed myotis, northern myotis, and Townsend's big-eared bat.

Additionally, EA-E's WUI has significant overlaps with species and ecosystems at risk identified through the B.C. Conservation Data Center and by the federal government (Table 9). All fuel management prescriptions must identify and mitigate potential impacts to ecosystems or species at risk and may require rationales and/or mitigation measures for tree removal in some areas.

Table 9. Species and Ecosystems at Risk in the WUI – BC Conservation Data Center. *Denotes Critical Habitat for Federally Listed Species at Risk

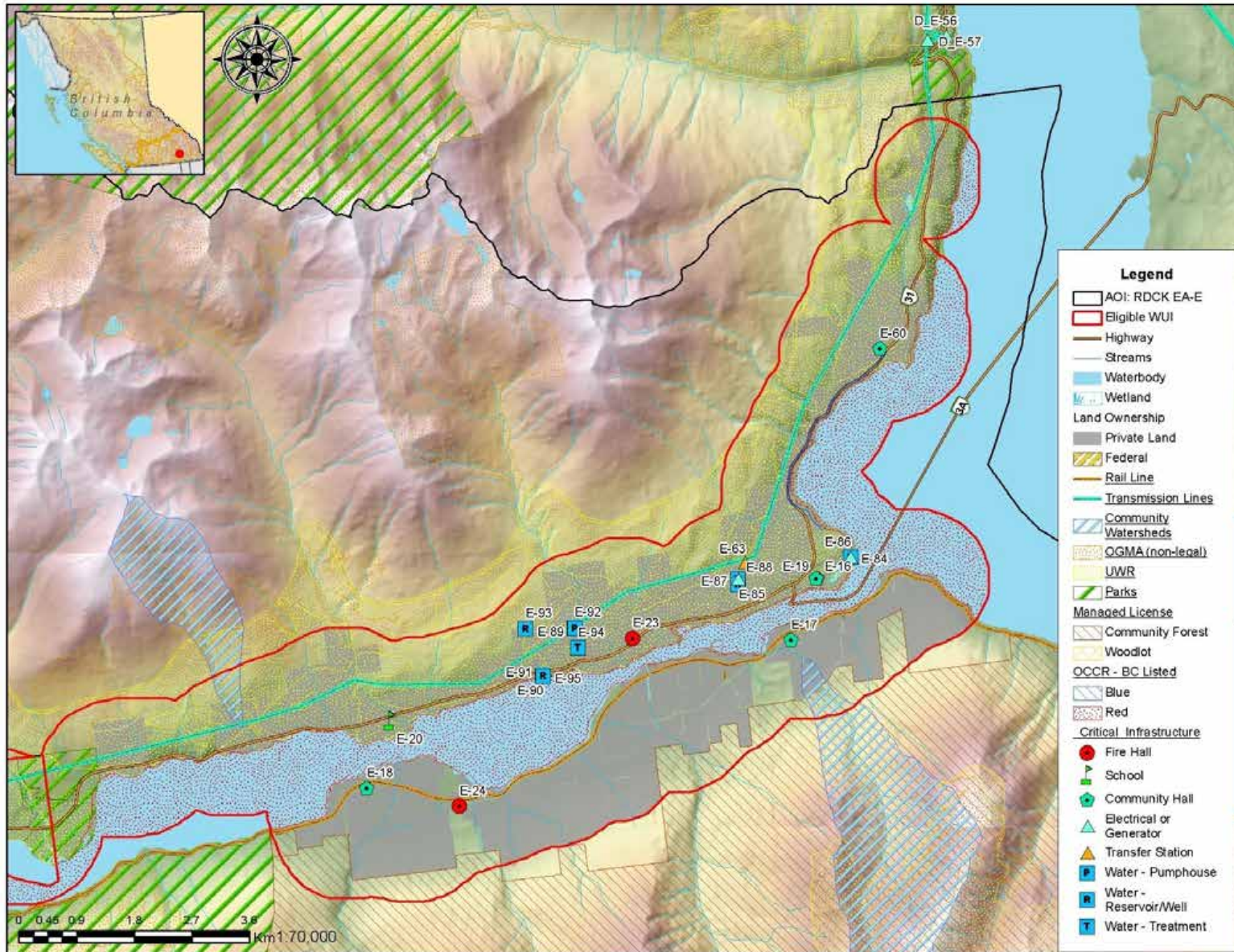
Common Name	Scientific Name	Category	BC List	Habitat Type
White Sturgeon (Upper Kootenay River Population)	Acipenser transmontanus pop. 1	Vertebrate Animal	Red	RIVERINE: Big River; Moderate Gradient; Low Gradient; Pool. LACUSTRINE: Deep Water
Banded Tigersnail	Anguispira kochi	Invertebrate Animal	Blue	TERRESTRIAL: Woodland Mixed. RIVERINE: Riparian

Common Name	Scientific Name	Category	BC List	Habitat Type
Painted Turtle - Intermountain - Rocky Mountain Population	<i>Chrysemys picta</i> pop. 2	Vertebrate Animal	Blue	PALUSTRINE: Herbaceous Wetland
Wild Licorice	<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i>	Vascular Plant	Blue	TERRESTRIAL: Roadside
Spurless Touch-me-not	<i>Impatiens ecornuta</i>	Vascular Plant	Yellow	TERRESTRIAL
Western Screech-owl, Macfarlanei Subspecies	<i>Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei</i>	Vertebrate Animal	Blue	TERRESTRIAL: Urban; Forest Broadleaf. RIVERINE: Riparian
Monardella	<i>Monardella odoratissima</i> ssp. <i>discolor</i>	Vascular Plant	Unknown	TERRESTRIAL
Western Skink	<i>Plestiodon skiltonianus</i>	Vertebrate Animal	Blue	TERRESTRIAL: Rock Outcrop, Coarse Talus/Boulders, Grassland/Herbaceous, Forest Needleleaf.

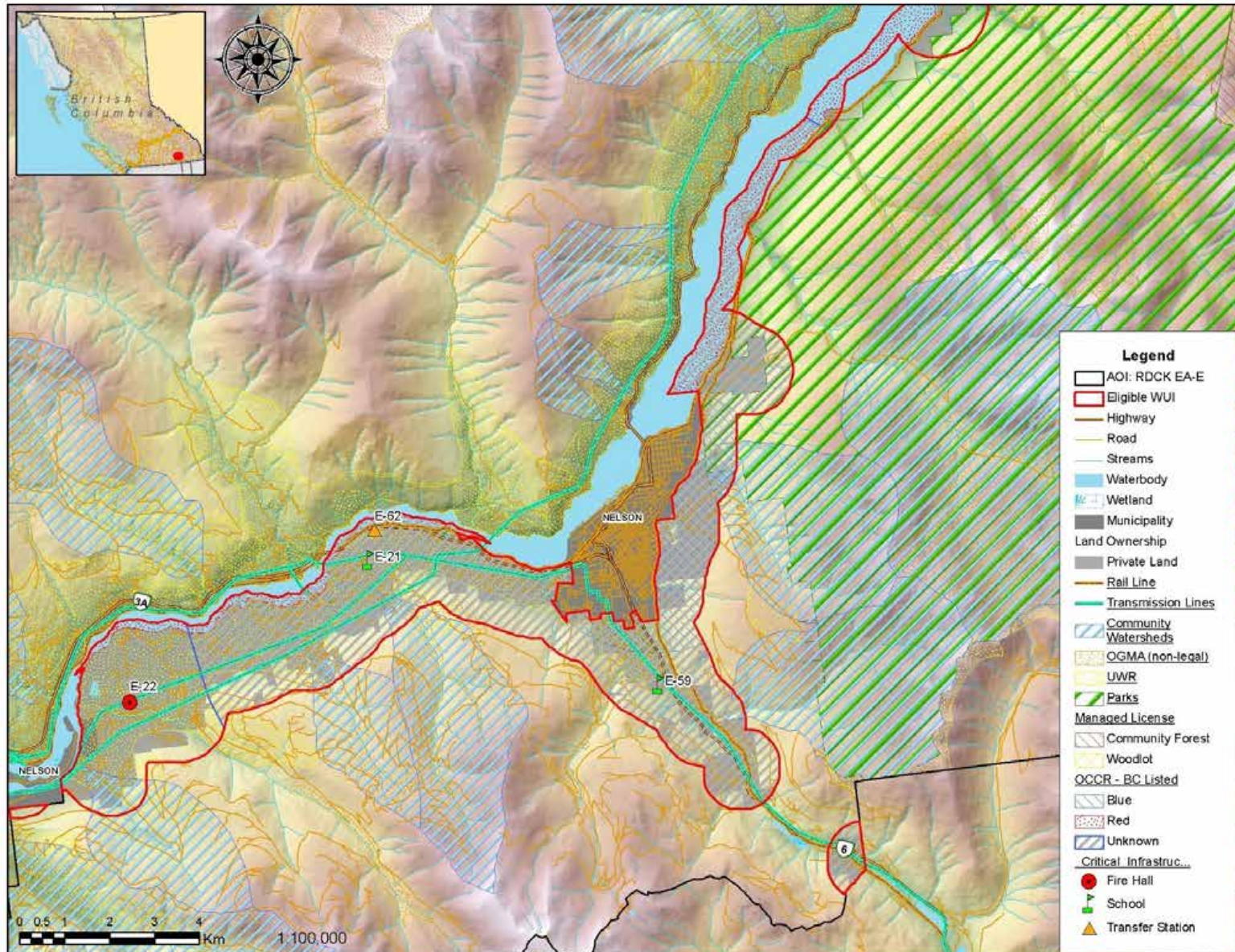
3.3.6 OTHER RESOURCE VALUES

There are multiple other important resource values associated with the land base, including forestry, agriculture (commercial and hobby farms), recreation, and tourism. Any fuel management within EA-E's WUI should consider the impact on any of these additional values, and consult with appropriate land managers and organized recreation groups in the area.

BC Timber Sales (on the north side of Kootenay Lake) and the Harrop-Procter Community Forest (HPCF; on the south side of Kootenay Lake), as well as other volume-based licensees, have significant tenure overlaps with EA-E's WUI. Forest activities can both increase and decrease wildfire risk in WUI areas. Any forestry activities within the WUI should consider the impact of wildfire risk to the community. Recommendations associated with industry stakeholders are discussed in Section 5.5.



Map 5: Values at risk within EA-E's eastern WUI area.



Map 6: Values at risk within EA-E's western WUI area.

SECTION 4: WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

This section summarizes the factors that contribute to local wildfire risk in EA-E. Section 4.1 discusses the wildfire environment in the WUI: focusing on topography, fuel, and weather. Section 4.2 discusses wildfire history in the area and wildfire response data from local fire crews. Section 4.3 uses updated fuel types combined with wildfire threat assessments and an office-based analysis to update the local wildfire risk for the eligible WUI.

The local wildfire risk assessment helps to identify the parts of the eligible WUI that are most vulnerable to wildfire. The CWRP risk assessment complements the broader scale Emergency Response and Recovery Plan for the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

The relationship between wildfire risk and wildfire threat is defined as follows:

$$\text{Wildfire Risk} = \text{Probability} \times \text{Consequence}$$

Where:

Wildfire risk is defined as the potential losses incurred to human life and values at risk within a community in the event of a wildfire.

Probability is the threat of wildfire occurring in an area and is expressed by the ability of a wildfire to ignite and then consume fuel on the landscape. An area's *wildfire threat* is controlled primarily by:

- Topography: Slope and terrain features can influence rate of spread; aspect can affect pre-heating and other fuel properties
- Fuel: Amount, vertical and horizontal arrangement, type, and dryness
- Weather: Temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, precipitation

Consequences refer to the repercussions associated with fire occurrence in a given area. Higher consequences are associated with densely populated areas, presence of values at risk, etc.

4.1 WILDFIRE ENVIRONMENT

There are three environmental components that influence wildfire behavior: topography, weather, and fuel. These components are generally referred to as the 'fire behaviour triangle' (Figure 7); the ways in which they individually influence the wildfire environment of the area will be detailed below. Fuel is the only component of the fire triangle that can be reasonably managed through human intervention. It is important to recognize that in WUI fires, wildland fuels (trees, shrubs, branches, etc.) are not the only fuel available to the fire – houses and their exterior construction materials and landscaping vegetation, cars, barbeque propane tanks, and more (anything that is flammable or combustible) is available fuel.



Figure 7: Graphic display of the fire behaviour triangle, and a subset of characteristics within each component.³⁰

4.1.1 TOPOGRAPHY

Slope steepness influences the fire’s trajectory and rate of spread and slope position relates to the ability of a fire to gain momentum uphill. Other factors of topography that influence fire behaviour include aspect, elevation, and configuration of features on the landscape that can restrict (i.e., water bodies, rock outcrops) or drive (i.e., valleys, exposed ridges) the movement of a wildfire.

Most homes and structures in EA-E communities that are located along the shorelines of Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River are situated along the lower slope adjacent to the lake/river shore. Often, these lower slopes are more subdued, but for some communities (or even just a part of them), the lower slopes can be quite steep. However, communities such as Blewett, Granite, Smelter Creek, the Grandview Properties subdivision, Harrop, and Proctor have homes and structures that are located uphill from the shoreline, on a mix of moderate and steeper slopes, and are intermixed with the wildland environment. Thus, while most homes and structures in EA-E are generally located in the lower slope of their respective macro-topological features (which is naturally advantageous from a fire spread standpoint), topography presents a situationally specific risk to some neighbourhoods and homes at the site level.

On a larger scale, the narrow valley of the west arm of Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River can funnel winds to drive a fire both up (east) and down (west) the valley. Additionally, tributary rivers and adjacent creek draws (often running up/down the valley slopes of the side drainages) provide additional convective features that can drive the up valley and upslope spread of fire.

Map 7 and Map 8 display the slope, by slope classes, for EA-E’s WUI. Table 10 shows the percent of the WUI by slope steepness class, with corresponding *fire behavior* implications. Just over one-third (39%) of the WUI has slopes >30% and would experience accelerated rates of fire spread *uphill*. 60% of the WUI has slopes <30%, and would experience little slope-driven flame and fuel interaction.

³⁰ Graphic adopted from the Province of Alberta.

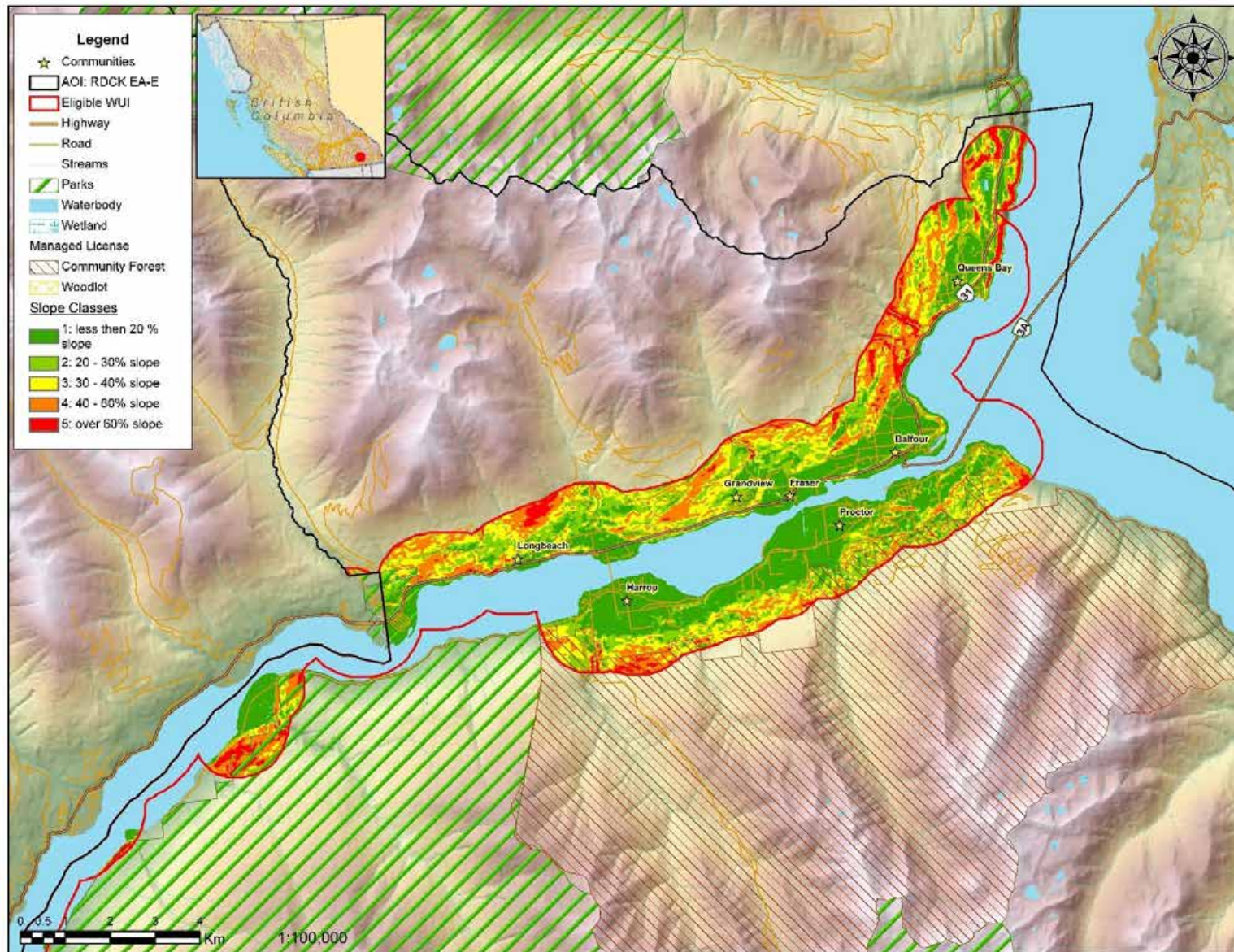
Table 10. Slope Percentage and Fire Behaviour Implications.

Slope	Percent of Eligible WUI	Fire Behaviour Implications
<20%	44%	Very little flame and fuel interaction caused by slope, normal rate of spread.
21-30%	16%	Flame tilt begins to preheat fuel, increase rate of spread.
31-40%	16%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and begins to bathe flames into fuel, high rate of spread.
41-60%	18%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel, very high rate of spread.
>60%	5%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel well upslope, extreme rate of spread.

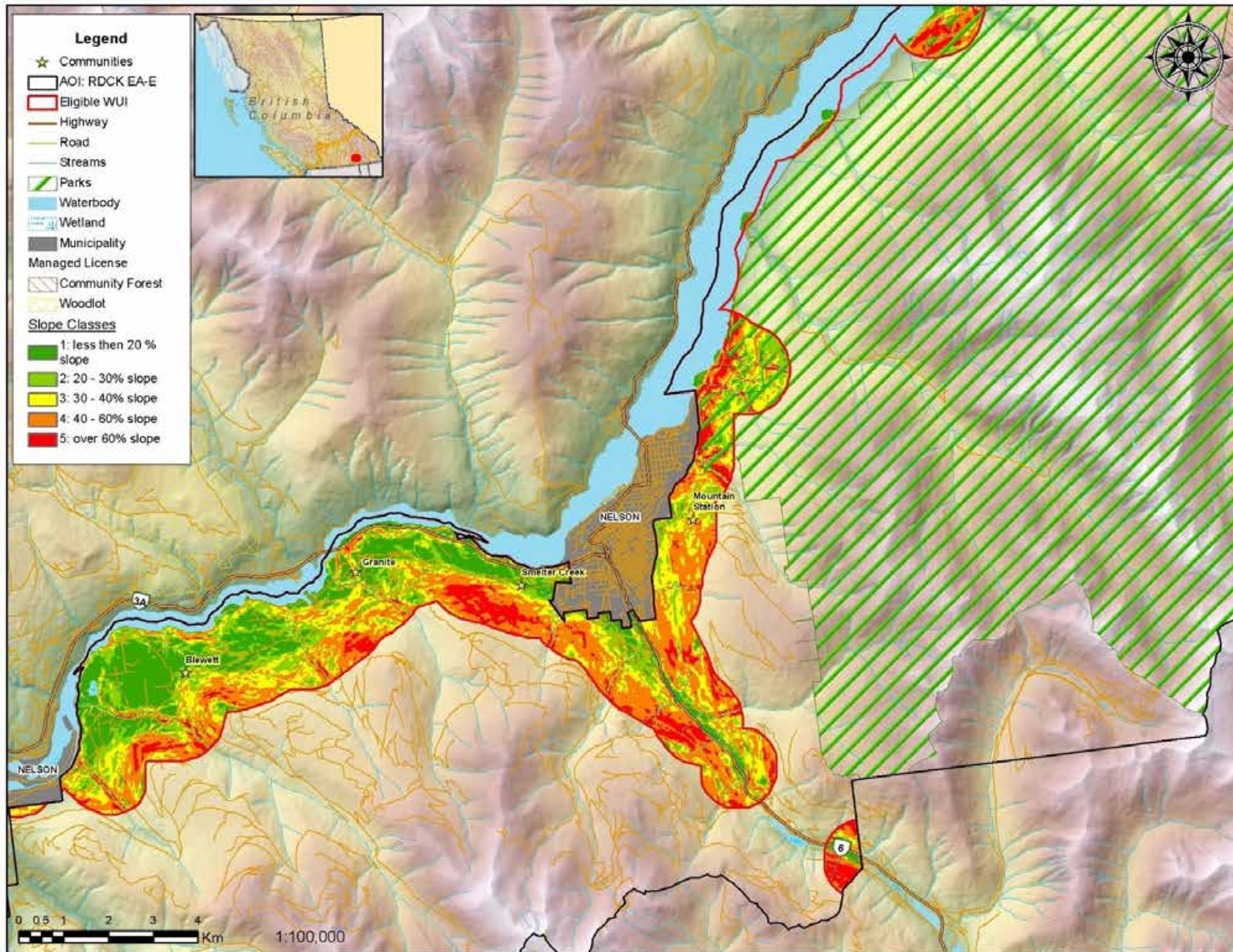
Slope-associated *fire risk* is dependent upon the slope position (location) of values, described below in Table 11. Values located in the middle and upper slopes are threatened by faster rates of fire spread due to the pre-heating of fuels from fire below and longer flame lengths reaching uphill. As discussed above, most of EA-E’s communities are located at valley and slope bottoms, so would not have increased fire behaviour risks influenced by topography alone. However, there are neighbourhoods, homes, and structures that are middle slope, and these would be threatened by faster rates of slope-driven fire spread.

Table 11. Slope Position of Value and Fire Behaviour Implications.

Slope Position of Value	Fire Behaviour Implications
Bottom of Slope/ Valley Bottom	Impacted by normal rates of spread.
Mid Slope - Bench	Impacted by increase rates of spread. Position on a bench may reduce the preheating near the value. (Value is offset from the slope).
Mid Slope – Continuous	Impacted by fast rates of spread. No break in terrain features affected by preheating and flames bathing into the fuel ahead of the fire.
Upper 1/3 of slope	Impacted by extreme rates of spread. At risk to large continuous fire run, preheating and flames bathing into the fuel.



Map 7: Slope, by slope classes, for RDCK EA-E's eastern communities' WUIs.



Map 8: Slope, by slope classes, for RDCK EA-E's western communities' WUIs.

4.1.2 FUEL

The ecological context of wildfire and the role of fire in the local ecosystem under both current and historical conditions is an important basis for understanding the current and future wildfire threat to a community. Also, the type and amount of fuel available for a wildfire is a major driver of the fire's potential fire behaviour. Fuel is the only component of the fire triangle that can be realistically managed through human intervention. This section analyses and discusses available *wildland* vegetative fuels within EA-E's WUI.

The forested slopes both within and outside EA-E's WUI have experienced a significant amount of past, recent, and ongoing logging. Past logging, combined with historically suppressed wildfires throughout the 1900s, has resulted in a relatively continuous distribution of even-aged conifer stands. However, within EA-E's WUI, some of these forested stands have seen recent logging that has begun breaking up the even-aged continuity, something that can reduce wildfire behaviour by forcing fire 'to the ground'. Importantly, management of reduced slash (harvest debris) in these WUI harvested areas is paramount towards further reducing their wildfire behaviour and potential risk to nearby neighbourhoods and adjacent communities.

The Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) System outlines sixteen fuel types based on characteristic fire behaviour under defined conditions.³¹ BC Wildfire Service maintains a provincial fuel type layer that was confirmed and updated for this CWRP. It should be noted that mixed conifer stands³² in the interior wet belt, of which EA-Es WUI is within, are one of the specifically identified areas of uncertainty and knowledge gaps within the FBP system and are considered, at best, a poor match with any fuel type.³³ The FBP system was almost entirely developed for boreal and sub-boreal forest types, which do not occur within the study areas. Furthermore, fuel types depend heavily on Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) data, which is gathered and maintained to inform timber management objectives, not fire behaviour prediction. Although a subjective process, the most appropriate fuel type was assigned based on research, experience, and practical knowledge; this system has been successfully used within BC, with continual improvement and refinement, for 25 years.³⁴ In some areas, aerial imagery is of low spatial resolution and/or ground access was impossible, making fuel type assessment difficult.

Table 12 lists the percentage of fuel types in EA-E's eligible WUI.³⁵ The fuel types present that are considered most hazardous in terms of fire behaviour (almost all located in the forested slopes) are C-4, C-3, S-1, and O-1a/b (can include C-5 and C-7 under certain conditions). C-4 and C-3 fuel types can support

³¹ Forestry Canada Fire Danger Group. 1992. Development and Structure of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System: Information Report ST-X-3.

³² Species such as western white pine and western larch growing in multi-story canopies, usually associated with Douglas-fir, redcedar, lodgepole pine, or other species.

³³ Natural Resources Canada. 2018. British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description. Daniel D.B. Perrakis, George Eade, and Dana Hicks

³⁴ Perrakis, D, G. Eade and D. Hicks. 2018. Canadian Forest Service Pacific Forestry Centre. British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description

³⁵ Larch produces very little persistent litter, so the D-1 fuel type likely overestimates fire spread potential of these stands. In mixed-species stands with other conifers, larch is considered to contribute to the deciduous portion of the stand, implemented using the M-1/M-2 fuel types. (Natural Resources Canada. British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description)

passive and active crown fires, and under extreme wildfire conditions can exhibit some of the highest wildfire risk associated to fuel type. Extensive areas of S-1, O-1a/b, C-5, or C-7 can support a rapidly spreading surface fire capable of damage or destruction of property and jeopardizing human life, but the fire behaviour potential in these fuel types is recognized as highly variable dependent on the percentage of grass or slash that is cured and the wind speed. An M-1/2 fuel type can be considered hazardous depending on the proportion of conifers within the forest stand, and/or the amount of dead and downed material. D-1/2 stands (of which there is little in EA-E’s WUI) are dominated by deciduous species, and are generally considered the least hazardous forest type because of their higher moisture content and lack of flammable ladder fuels. The hazard of a D-1/2 stand can greatly increase if there is an accumulation of surface fuels, cured grasses, or flammable shrubs. Recent spring cross-over conditions³⁶ (called the ‘spring dip’) have allowed for destructive forest fires in deciduous-dominated stands. Detailed fuel type descriptions and their associated wildfire risk can be found in Appendix B-1: Fuel Typing Methodology.

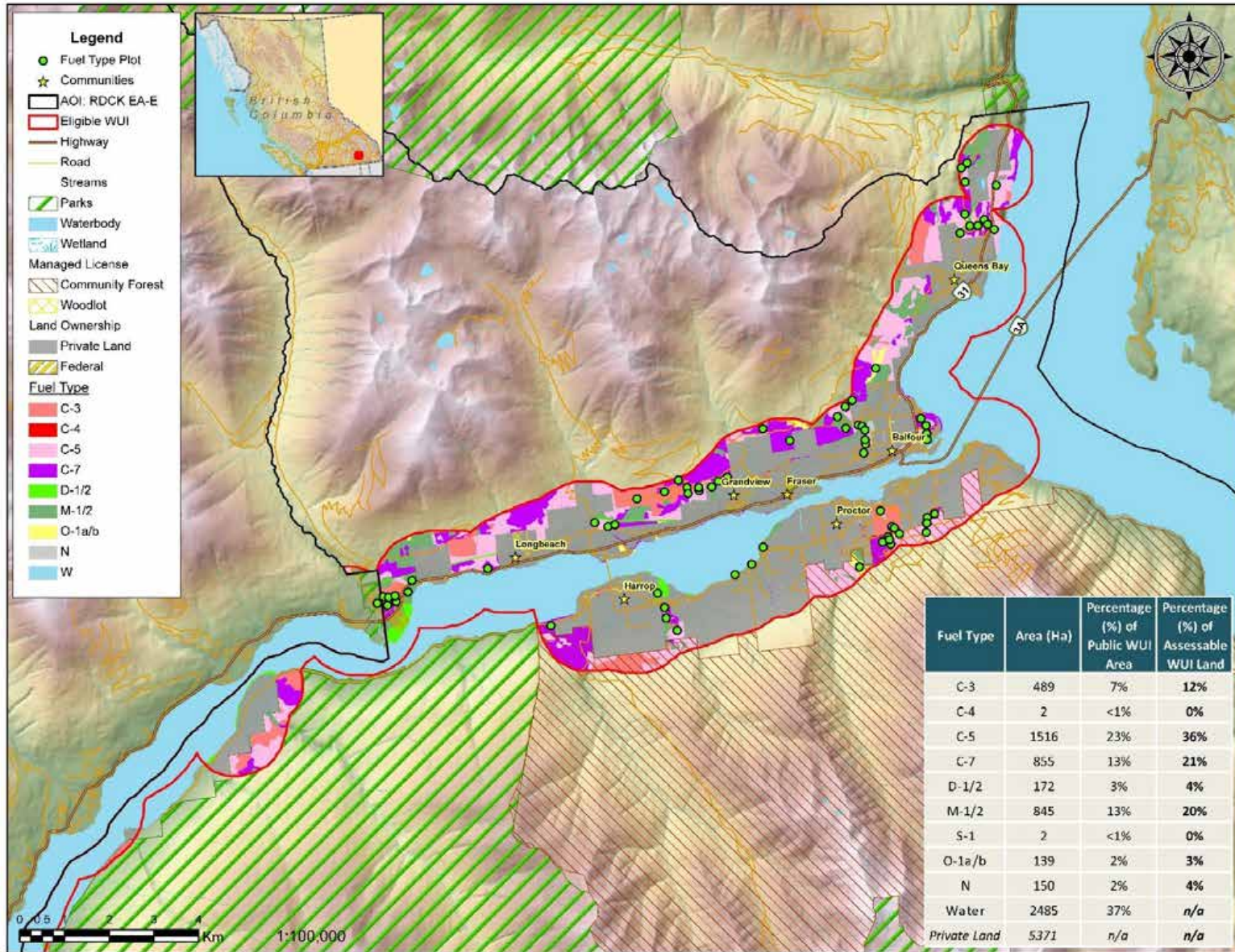
Table 12. Fuel types in EA-E’s Wildland Urban Interface

Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description within the WUI	Area (ha) of total WUI	Percent (%) of assessable WUI area	Percent (%) of assessable WUI area (waterbodies removed)
C-3	Pole-sapling to mature even-aged conifer-dominated forest with moderate to high density and high crown closure (near or at horizontal continuity). Crowns separated from the forest floor in mature stands.	489	7%	12%
C-4	Pole-sapling to mature (but stagnant in growth) very dense conifer-dominated forests (>10,000 sph). Some stands have a high number of dead standing or dead leaning/down from natural exclusion processes.	2	<1%	0%
C-5	Low to moderate density, uneven-aged conifer-dominated forest, crown base heights mixed. Understory of discontinuous natural conifer ingress in openings and gaps, deciduous shrubs, and herbs.	1516	23%	36%
C-7	Low-density, uneven-aged conifer-dominated forest, crowns separated from the ground, understory of discontinuous grasses and shrubs. Exposed bed rock and low surface fuel loading. Often located on south-facing slopes and throughout the ICH. Also used to type completed fuel treatments that have left a low-density conifer stand.	855	13%	21%
S-1	Conifer dominated slash as the result of harvesting practices on moderate to low slope grades. Slash is typically one to two seasons old,	2	<1%	0%

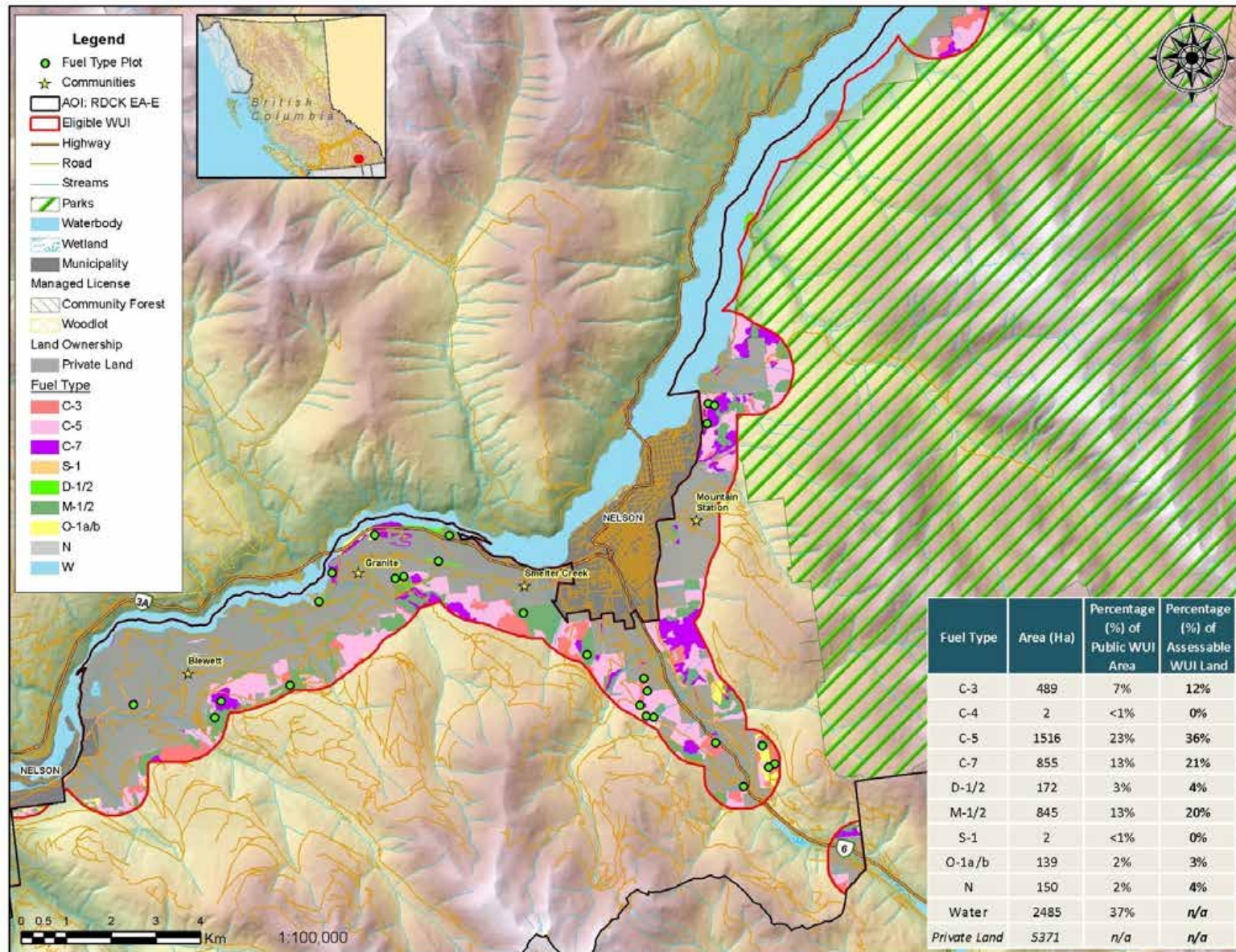
³⁶ Cross-over conditions refer to a point where air temperature drops below the relative humidity (e.g., 20°C/15% humidity), providing conditions for potentially severe fire behaviour.

Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description within the WUI	Area (ha) of total WUI	Percent (%) of assessable WUI area	Percent (%) of assessable WUI area (waterbodies removed)
	continuous, with no post-logging treatment applied. Tops and branches left on site result in moderate fuel load depths.			
D-1/2	Deciduous stands/forest. Hazard increases with the amount of deadfall and/or establishment of a flammable shrub layer.	172	3%	4%
M-1/2	Moderately well-stocked mixed stands of conifer and deciduous, low to moderate dead stems and down woody fuels. Often transition to become more conifer dominated as pioneer deciduous species die out if disturbance is excluded. Note: Western Larch is typed as a deciduous species for fuel typing and may be part or all of the deciduous component in this fuel type.	845	13%	20%
O-1a/b	Grassland fuels ('a' refers to matted grasses, 'b' refers to standing). Matted and standing grass that can cure; sparse or scattered shrubs, trees, and down woody debris. Cutblocks >2 seasons old that do not meet S-type descriptions, as well as young regenerating cutblocks that have not reached any horizontal continuity.	139	2%	3%
Non-fuel	Areas with no available forest or grass fuels (e.g., roadways, gravel clearings, irrigated and/or mowed fields). These areas may (and often do) contain combustible materials, infrastructure, flammable landscaping, and homes.	150	2%	4%
Water	-	2485	37%	<i>n/a</i>
Private Land	-	5371	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>

Map 9 and Map 10 below display the updated fuel types for EA-E's WUI.



Map 9: Update fuel types for EA-E's eastern WUI communities.



Map 10: Update fuel types for EA-E's western WUI communities.

4.1.3 WEATHER

Most EA-E communities are located along the shores and adjacent slopes of Kootenay Lake’s west arm and Kootenay River. Fire season conditions are generally warm to hot (July and August daily temperature means average 19.2°C, with average highs of 28.3°C) with some rainfall expected throughout (August averages the least rainfall with 49.4mm, while June averages the most with 71.1mm), with climate change projections trending toward even hotter summers and more pronounced droughts.³⁷ Local BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) staff working actively on wildfires in the Central Kootenays during 2023 commented that in this region, weather (i.e., relative humidity and wind), slope, and aspect are far more important factors in fire growth than fuel types.³⁸

Historical weather data can provide information on the number and distribution of days when EA-E’s WUI communities and surrounding areas experience high fire danger conditions. ‘High fire danger’ is considered with a Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS) Danger Class rating of 4 (High) or 5 (Extreme). Average danger class data for EA-E can be determined from representative BCWS fire weather stations within the WUI: Smallwood (located at an elevation of 997m (Nelson is at 535m elevation), across from Blewett on the north side of Kootenay Lake, east of Garrity Creek); and Powder Creek (located on the east side of Kootenay Lake across from Kaslo, facing west, at 1020 m elevation). Averages for the past 12 years are presented for each in in Figure 8 and Figure 9 below.

The data from Smallwood fire weather station, which is most appropriate for communities west of approximately Harrop, shows that, for the majority of EA-E’s western WUI, July and August have the greatest number of High and Extreme fire danger days, with July averaging 16 and August averaging 23. When combined, 37% of days in those two months exhibit High or Extreme fire danger. It is important to note that High fire danger days are present in both June and September within EA-E’s WUI.

The data from Powder Creek fire weather station, which is most appropriate for communities east of (and including) approximately Harrop, shows that, for the majority of EA-E’s eastern WUI, July and August have the greatest number of High and Extreme fire danger days, with July averaging eight and August averaging 15. When combined, 64% of days in those two months exhibit High or Extreme fire danger. It is important to note that High and Extreme fire danger days are present in this area from May through October.

Overall, it is most likely that fire weather and associated fire danger days blends across EA-E’s WUI east to west, from averaging a higher number of High and Extreme fire danger days in its more eastern areas, to a lower number of fire danger days in its western areas. However, the data does show that EA-E’s WUI is at risk due to fire season weather.

³⁷ Environment and Climate Change Canada data for Nelson.

³⁸ From verbal conversations between the Plan’s developers and wildfire crews encountered during field work for the Plan’s development.

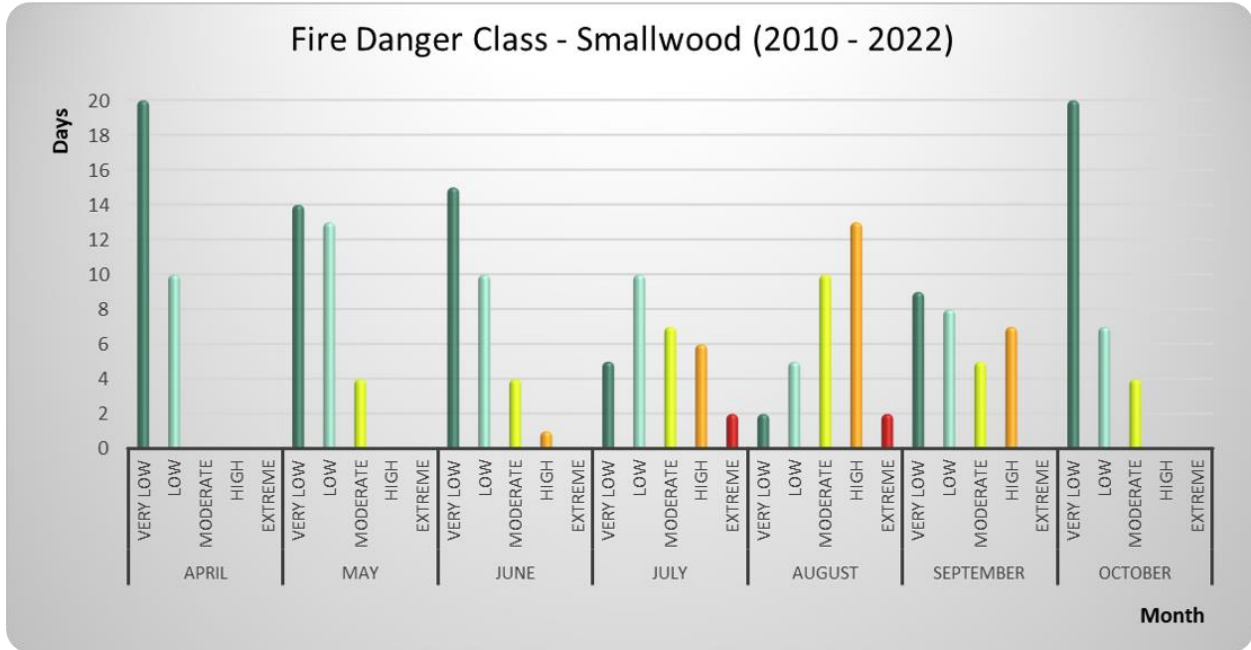


Figure 8: Average number of fire danger rating days by month for the Smallwood fire weather station.

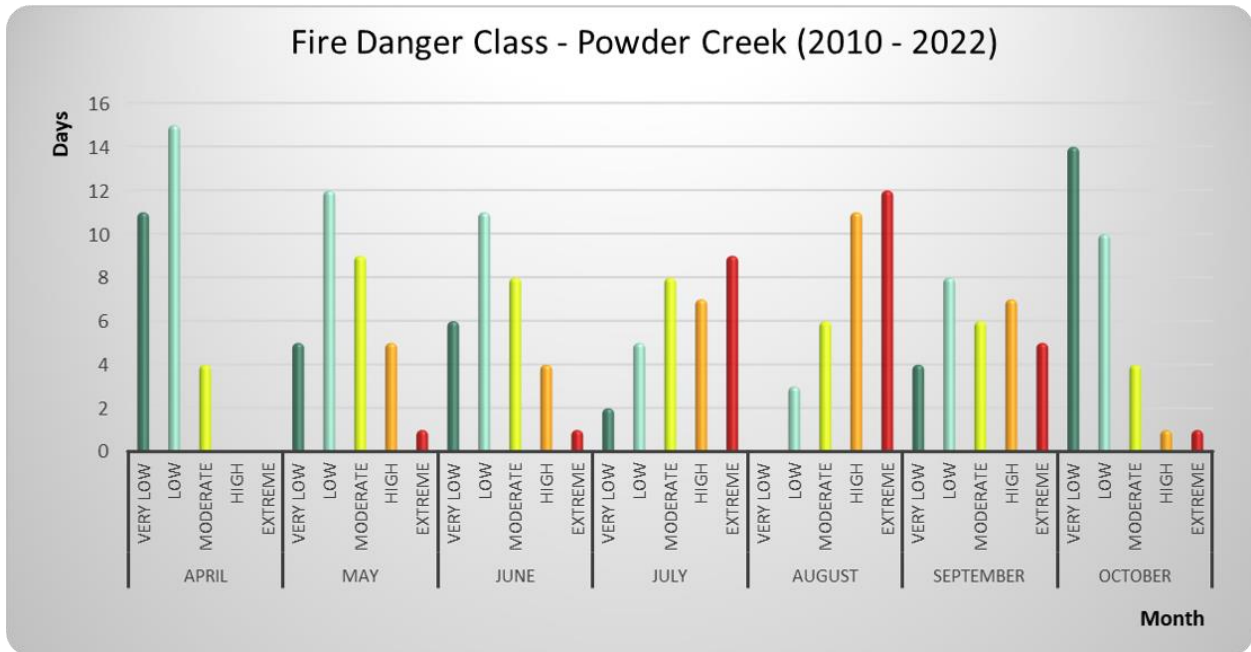


Figure 9: Average number of fire danger rating days by month for the Powder Creek fire weather station.

Hourly wind speed and direction is also recorded at BCWS weather stations. Data is publicly available in the form of average Initial Spread Index (ISI) roses.³⁹ The ISI is a numeric rating of the expected rate of fire spread that combines the effects of wind speed and fine fuel moisture (which is controlled by temperature and relative humidity). ISI roses can be used to help plan the location of fuel treatments on the landscape to protect values at risk based on the predominant wind direction and frequency of higher ISI values. Wildfire that occurs upwind of a value poses a more significant threat to that value than one which occurs downwind.

Wind and ISI data assessed from both the Powder Creek (Figure 10) and Goldhill (Figure 11) fire weather stations during the fire season indicates that EA-E communities primarily experiences strong diurnal winds – up-valley (north and east along Kootenay River, the west arm of Kootenay Lake, and Kootenay Lake during the day, and down-valley (south along Kootenay Lake, west and south along the west arm of Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River) at night . As per the ISI roses, the highest ISI values (and thus associated with higher rates of fire spread) are during the highest temperature summer months, June - August.

The local BCWS Wildfire Prevention Officer noted that high elevation spruce/balsam stands [largely just uphill and outside EA-Es WUI] tend to exhibit the most aggressive and volatile growth in the region. Middle elevation mixed stands of Douglas-fir, larch, and pine species [largely within the upper slopes of EA-E's WUI] can be volatile as well, however, typically less so than the higher spruce/balsam stands. Low elevation western red cedar/western hemlock stands [largely within the lower slopes of EA-E's WUI] exhibit the least volatility, unless certain fuel and weather conditions are met. Importantly, as fuel conditions dry out in the summer and combine with specific weather events (wind, low humidity, hotter temperatures), these fuel types can react with intensity and exhibit aggressive fire behavior. Echoing the sentiments of the firefighting ground crews encountered during Plan development field assessment work, winds are required to create volatility and fire growth in the fuel types in EA-E and are also required to push fire aggressively downslope towards communities.

³⁹ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/vegetation-and-fuel-management/fire-fuel-management/fuel-management>

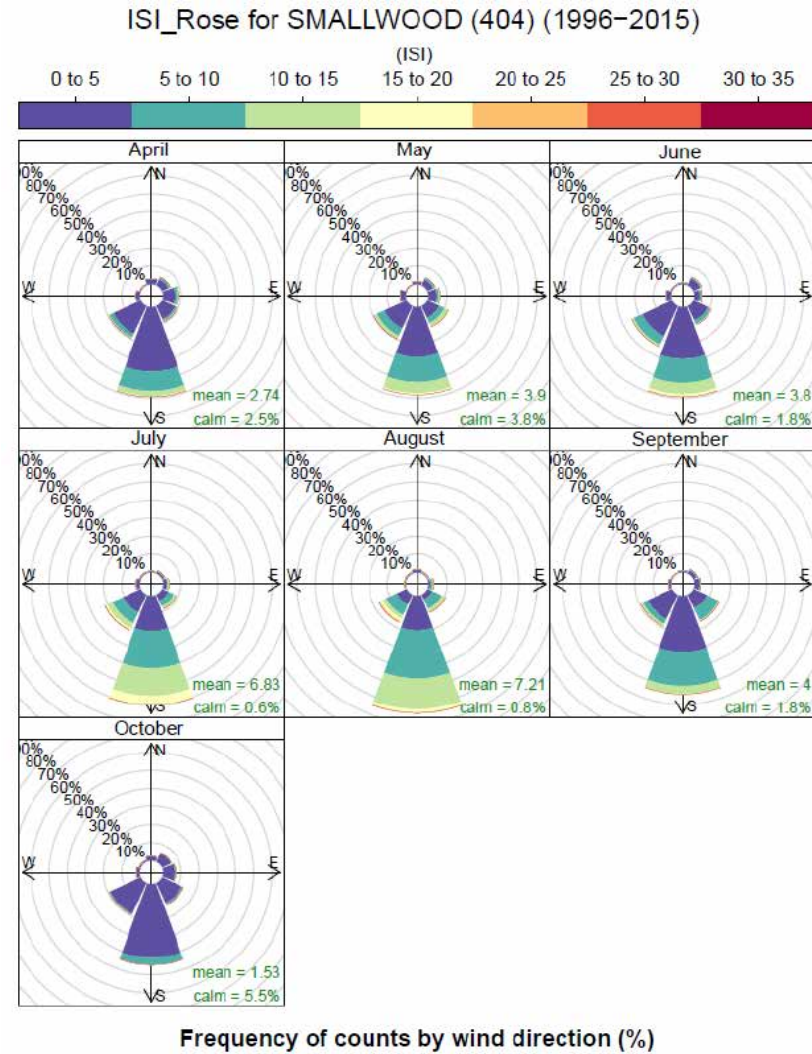
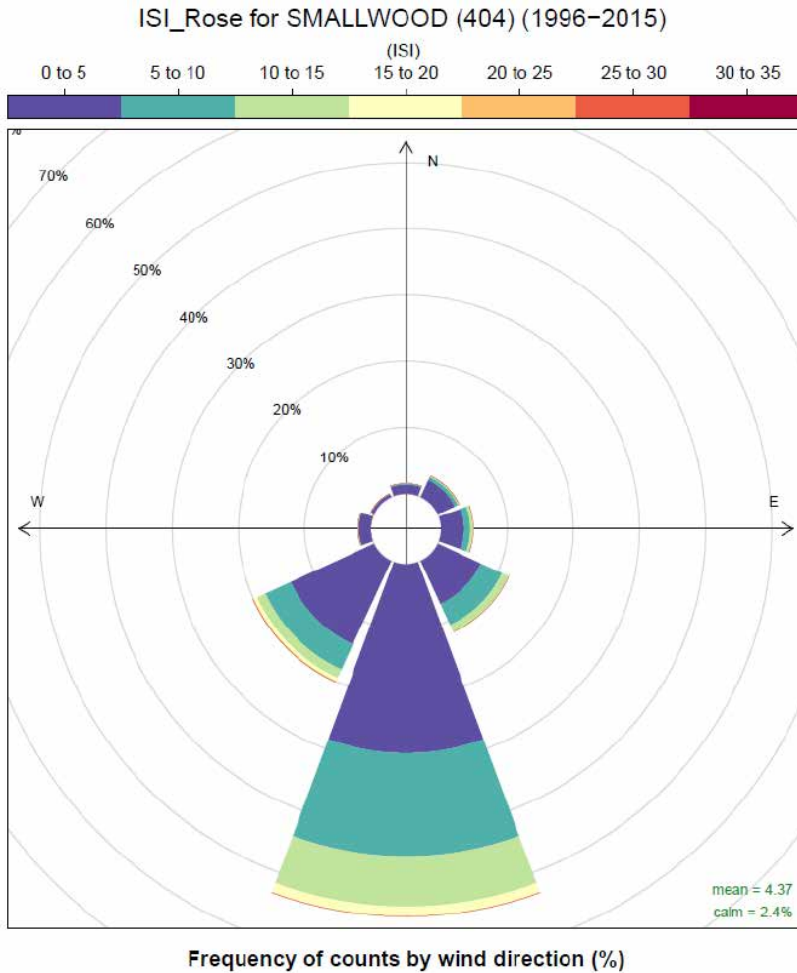


Figure 10. Daily and monthly average initial spread index rose for Smallwood fire weather station for the fire season (April – October)

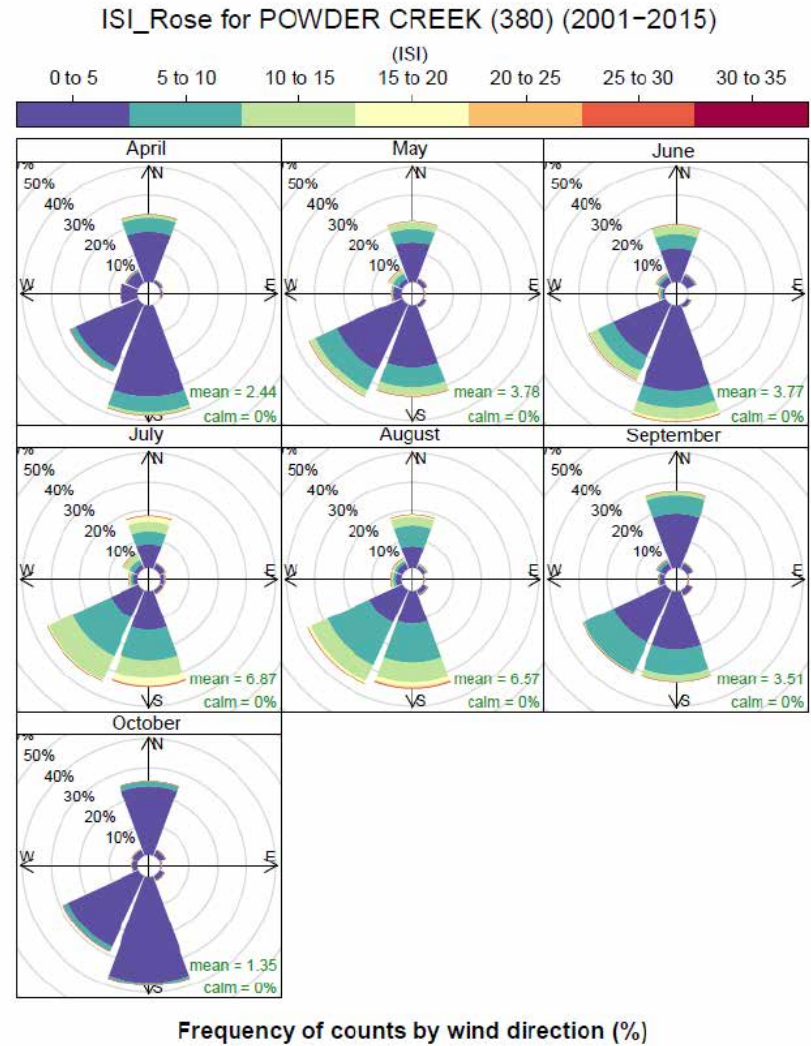
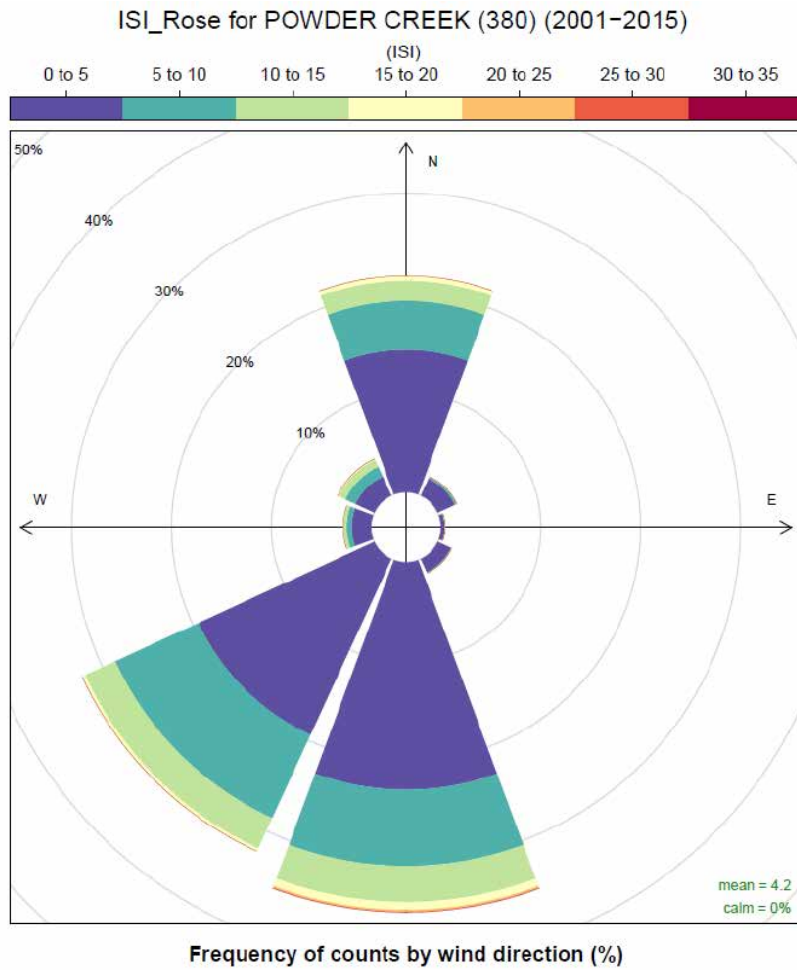


Figure 11: Daily and monthly average initial spread index rose for Powder Creek fire weather station for the fire season (April-October).

4.2 WILDFIRE HISTORY

4.2.1 HISTORIC FIRE REGIME

EA-E’s WUI can be categorized using the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) system, which classifies the province into zones by vegetation, soils, and climate. Regional subzones are derived from relative precipitation and temperature.

Map 11 and Map 12, in Section 4.2.2 below, show the distribution of Biogeoclimatic zones and associated Natural Disturbance Types (NDTs) in EA-E’s WUI. Summarized in Table 13, the north, east, and upper south facing slopes of EA-E’s WUI are dominated by the Interior Cedar Hemlock, Dry Warm (ICHdw1) subzone with an associated NDT3 – ecosystems with frequent stand-initiating events.⁴⁰ These ecosystems are characterized by frequent wildfires that range from small spot fires to conflagrations covering tens of thousands of hectares.⁴⁰ This results in a landscape mosaic of stands of different ages with individual stands being even-aged.⁴⁰ Larger fires often occurred, and could grow to enormous sizes if no topographical-limiting features were present. The mean return interval for fire in the ICH NDT3 is approximately 150 years.⁴⁰

The lower south and west facing slopes of EA-E’s WUI are dominated by the Interior Cedar Hemlock, Very Dry Warm subzone with an associated NDT4 – ecosystems with frequent stand-maintaining fires. These frequent fires would maintain the existing forest stand structure through frequent, low-intensity fires that would normally regulate the amount of surface fuel build-up and reduce the number of small, sapling size regenerating trees.⁴⁰ A higher frequency and a variable intensity of these types of fires across the landscape would create mosaics of uneven-aged forests and grassy or shrubby openings which naturally restricted the spread of large, severe fires.⁴⁰ Larger stand-initiating crown fires may be rarer, but historically occurred at intervals ranging from at least 150 to 250 years.⁴⁰

It is important to consider that fire regimes in the region were likely exemplified through pre-settlement cultural burning practices by First Nations. It is also important to consider that, in the future, BEC (and associated NDT) distributions will likely shift and/or change because of climate change.

Table 13. Natural Disturbance Types (NDTs) of EA-E’s WUI.

Biogeoclimatic Zone	Natural Disturbance Type	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
ICHdw1: Interior Cedar - Hemlock; Dry Warm; West Kootenay Variant	NDT3	9590	80%
ICHxw: Interior Cedar - Hemlock; Very Dry Warm	NDT4	2200	18%
ICHmw2: Interior Cedar - Hemlock; Moist Warm; Slocan Variant	NDT2	223	2%

⁴⁰ BC Biodiversity Guidebook. <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/documents/bib19715.pdf>

4.2.2 HISTORICAL WILDFIRE OCCURENCES

Historic wildfire perimeters, from 1912-2022, are displayed below on Map 11 and Map 12 for an area within five kilometres of EA-E's WUI. Overall, wildfires have occurred regularly since 1912, with both people and lightning being nearly equal causes of those fires' ignitions (people: 45%, 45/81; lightning: 55%, 36/81). Since 2000, there have been 17 fires recorded, of which 12 (71%) were caused by lightning, but only three of those fires crossed into EA-E communities' WUIs. The largest fire recorded occurred in 1926 and was 5,786 ha; the second largest occurred in 1997 and was 4,920 ha. For all historic fires within five kilometres of EA-E communities' WUIs, the average size was 382 ha.

BCWS fire ignition data (which records point ignitions that may or may not have developed into a wildfire with a recorded perimeter area) is only available from 1950 onwards. Looking at the same five-kilometre area surrounding EA-E communities' WUIs, 883 out of 1,275 (69%) recorded ignitions have been from people. 371 (42%) were recorded from 2000 onwards – the frequency of human ignitions has greatly increased in the last 23 years.

Although human ignitions are the dominant source for point ignitions historically, lightning is still a very real ignition threat, and is the leading cause of ignition in higher elevations on slopes and ridges within 5km of EA-E's WUI. Additionally, historical fire perimeter data shows that most past fires that grew to size were started from lightning. Under the right fire weather conditions, fires started from these ignitions can grow in size and threaten the WUI.

Figure 12 displays trends with fire ignitions since the 1950's *within EA-E's WUI*. It is not surprising that, due to the much greater presence of people within the WUI than outside of them, humans are the leading cause of ignitions. Mirroring the larger five-kilometre area surrounding, human ignitions have greatly increased since 2000.

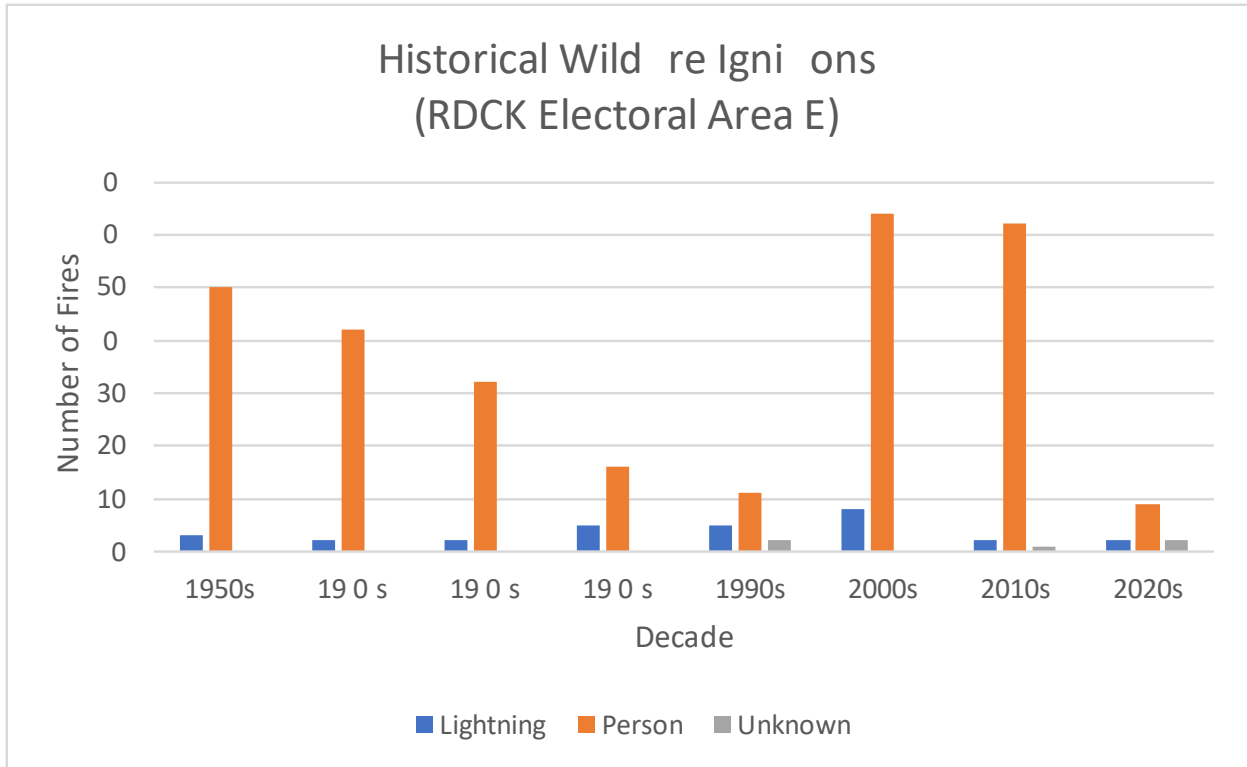
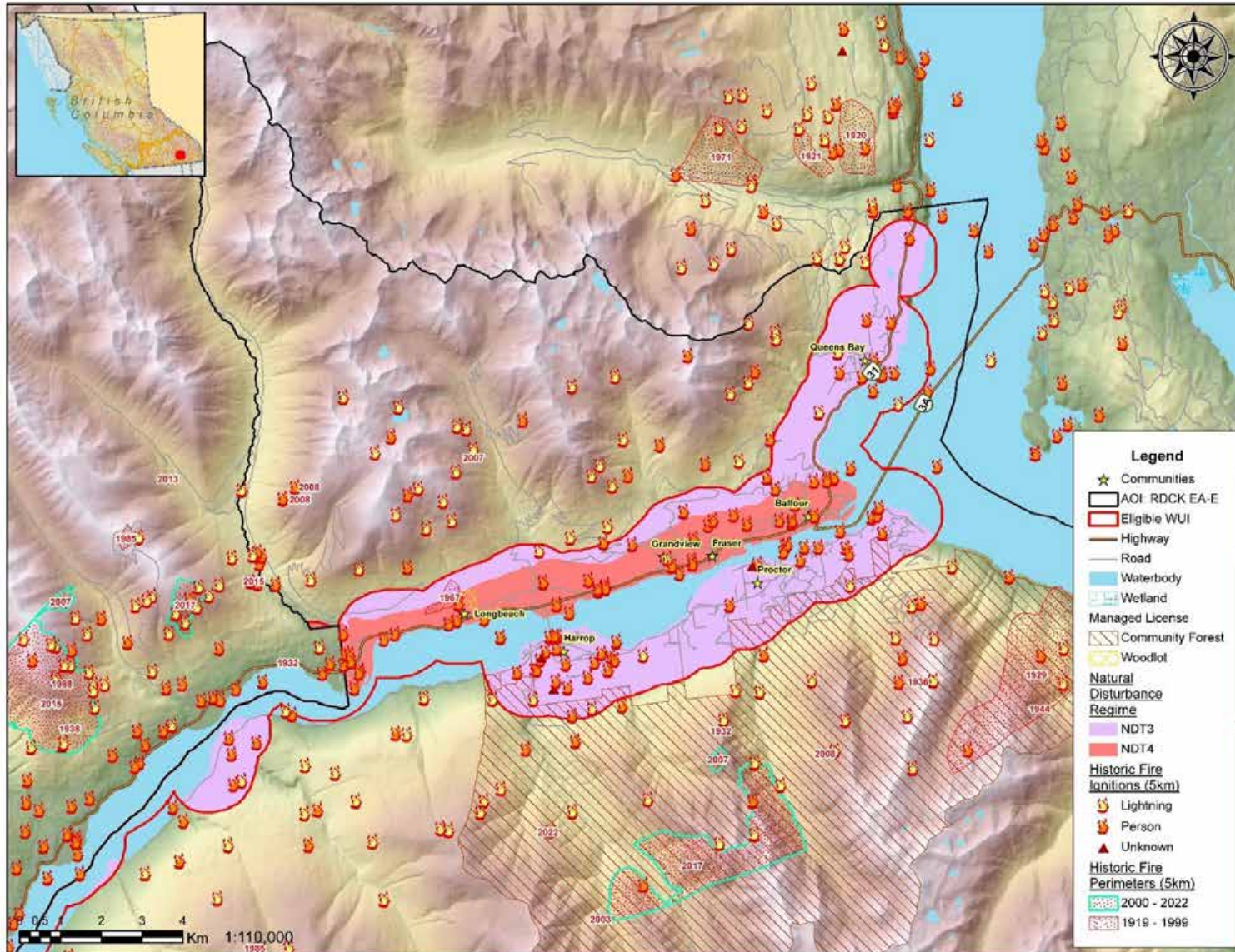
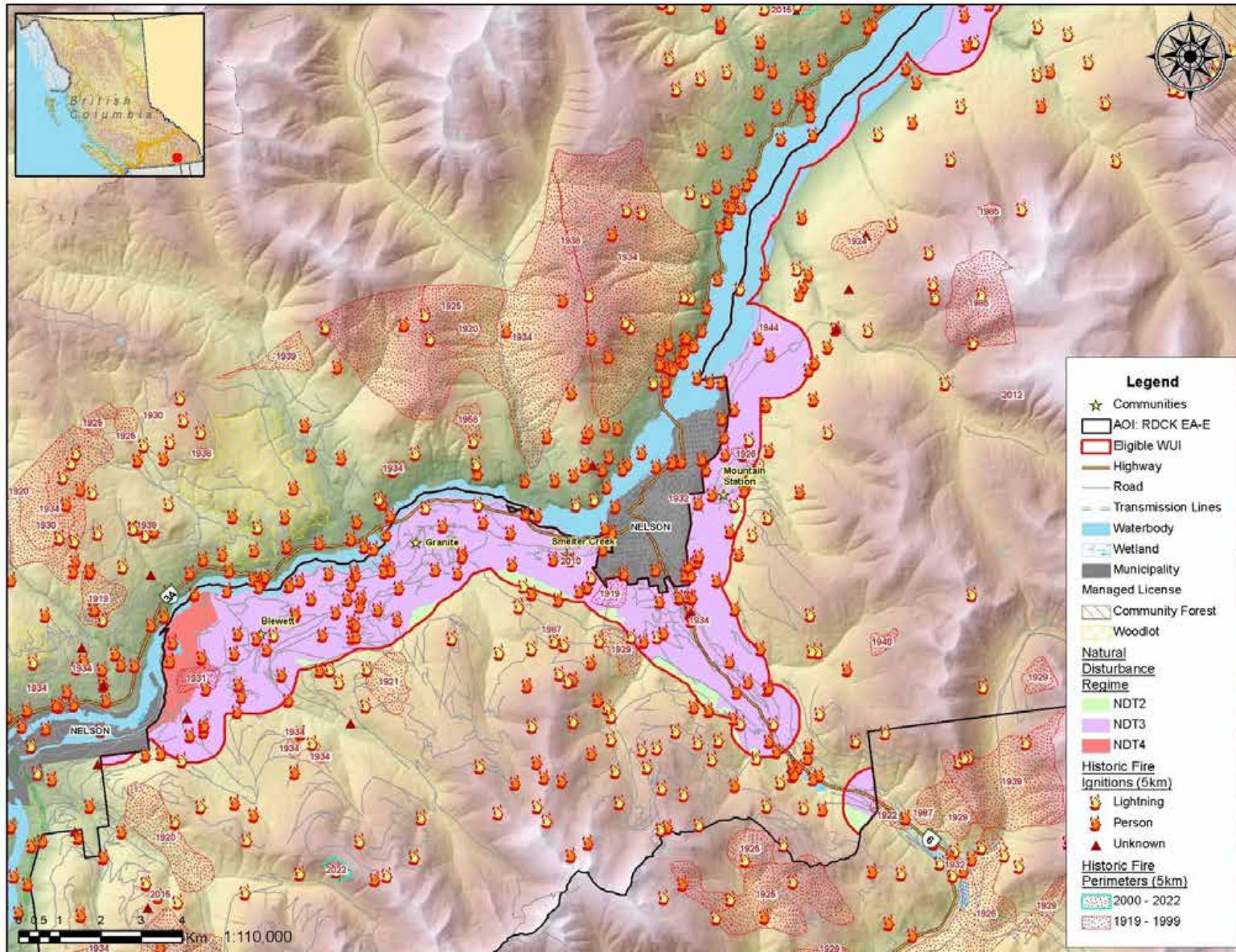


Figure 12: Summary of fire ignition data by cause within RDCK EA-E’s WUI (Data from the BC Wildfire Service).



Map 11: Natural disturbance regimes and historical fire ignitions and occurrences within 5 km of EA-E's WUI (east).



Map 12: Natural disturbance regimes and historical fire ignitions and occurrences within 5 km of EA-E's WUI (west).

4.3 LOCAL WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

There are two main components of this local risk assessment: the *wildfire behaviour threat class* (fuels, weather, and topography sub-components) and the *WUI risk class* (structural sub-component). The local wildfire threat assessment process includes several key steps as outlined in Appendix B: Local Wildfire Risk Process and summarized as follows:

- *Fuel type attribute assessment* – ground truthing/verification and updating as required to develop a local fuel type map (Appendix B-1: Fuel Typing Methodology).
- *Consideration of the proximity of fuel to the community* – recognizing that fuel closest to the community usually represents the highest hazard (Appendix B-4: Proximity of Fuel to the Community).
- *Analysis of predominant summer fire spread patterns* – using wind speed and wind direction during the peak burning period using ISI Rose(s) from BCWS weather station(s). Wind speed, wind direction, and fine fuel moisture condition influence wildfire trajectory and rate of spread.
- *Consideration of topography in relation to values* (Table 10 and Table 11) – slope percentage and slope position of the value are considered, where slope percentage influences the fire’s trajectory and rate of spread and slope position relates to the ability of a fire to gain momentum uphill.
- *Stratification of the WUI* – according to relative wildfire threat based on the above considerations, other local factors, and field assessment of priority wildfire risk areas.

Wildfire threat assessment field work in EA-E’s WUI was completed in August of 2023. Nearly 165 field stops (e.g., qualitative FireSmart notes, fuel type updates/verification, photograph documentation) were made across the WUI (see Appendix B-2: ; Map 13 and Map 14), including 16 Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) threat plots (see Appendix C: Wildfire Risk Assessment – Worksheets and Photos). WTA plots were completed in interface (i.e., abrupt change from forest to residential development) and intermix (i.e., where forest and structures are intermingled) areas of the WUI to support wildfire risk analyses and development of priority treatment areas, as well as in completed fuel treatment areas to quantify the reduction in site-level wildfire threat. Constraints such as the limited amount of public land within some parts of the WUI available for assessment, and/or limited accessibility into the WUI (e.g., access required through private property; no roads), limited field assessments for some areas.

It is important to note that the local WTA analysis does not apply to private land parcels nor any areas outside of the eligible WUI for this CWRP. As well, the threat assessments quantify threat as it relates to forest fuels, but do not include the ignition potential of residential landscaping, structures, or other infrastructure. Structure fires and structure-to-structure spread in a wildfire scenario are largely attributable to hazardous conditions in the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone of a structure (i.e., the area within 30m of the principal building and/or its attachments).

4.3.1 WILDFIRE THREAT CLASS ANALYSIS

Classes of the wildfire threat class analysis are as follows:

- Very Low: Waterbodies with no forest or grassland fuels, posing no wildfire threat;

- **Low:** Developed and undeveloped land that will not support significant wildfire spread;
- **Moderate:** Developed and undeveloped land that will support surface fires that can be both threatening and unthreatening to homes and structures;
- **High:** Landscapes or stands with continuous forested or grassland fuels that will support candling, intermittent crown fires, or continuous crown fires. These landscapes often contain steeper slopes, rough or broken terrain and/or south or west aspects. High polygons may include high indices of dead and downed conifers; and
- **Extreme:** Continuous forested land that will support intermittent or continuous crown fires.

The results of the wildfire threat class analysis are displayed on Map 13 and Map 14, and summarized in Table 14 below. The local threat analysis shows that, for the assessable area (i.e., not private land and removing foreshore water areas), 41% of EA-E’s eligible WUI is classified as a high or extreme fire behavior threat – mostly located on the middle and upper slopes on the north side of Kootenay Lake, largely reflecting steeper slopes on southerly aspects with conifer-dominated fuel types. Only 7% of the assessable WUI is classified as a low threat – almost all located in moisture receiving lower slopes (due to deciduous-dominated fuel types and low slope grades, or in areas of recently completed fuel treatments. Overall, private land totals 45% of EA-E’s WUI – this area was not allocated fire threat data. Conditions on private land can often result in the fire hazard being much higher than in the forest adjacent if there is low compliance with FireSmart vegetation and structure principles – issues that were frequently observed throughout EA-E during field work.

Table 14: Wildfire threat summary for EA-E’s eligible WUI

Wildfire Threat			
Threat Class	Hectares	% of WUI	% of Assessable Public Land (excluding water)
Extreme	768	6%	18%
High	954	8%	23%
Moderate	2152	18%	52%
Low	300	2%	7%
Very Low/No Threat (Water)	2485	21%	-
No Data (Private Land)	5371	45%	-

4.3.2 WUI RISK CLASS ANALYSIS

WUI risk classes are quantified when the Wildfire Threat (the above) is assessed as high or extreme, potentially causing unacceptable wildfire risk when near communities and developments. WUI risk classes are described below:

- **Low:** The high or extreme threat is sufficiently distant from developments, having no direct impact of the community and is located over 2 km from structures;
- **Moderate:** The high or extreme threat is sufficiently distant from developments, having no direct impact of the community and is located 500m to 2 km distance from structures;

- **High:** The high or extreme threat has potential to directly impact a community or development and is located 200m to 500m from structures; and
- **Extreme:** The high or extreme threat has potential to directly impact a community or development and is located within 200m from structures.

Table 15 below (and displayed on Map 13 and Map 14) summarizes the risk class ratings within EA-E’s WUI. Of the 1,722 hectares assigned a High or Extreme wildfire threat class, 797 hectares (46%) have a high or extreme WUI risk. Overall, this represents 19% of the assessable land within EA-E’s WUI. This analysis provides an initial step towards identifying priority areas/neighbourhoods for directing FireSmart education and vegetative/fuel management efforts, if practicable.

It is important to note that reducing the risk (i.e., performing wildland fuel management) in any of the High to Extreme WUI risk areas is unlikely to be a silver bullet in protecting communities and structures. In extreme wildfire scenarios, firebrands (embers) can travel many kilometers ahead of the active fire front, land in densities of up to 600/m², and ignite combustible building materials and landscaping vegetation. In combination with wildland fuel management, increasing the resilience of EA-E’s WUI communities and interface/intermix neighbourhoods can only be efficiently achieved by performing residential-scale FireSmart activities on private land. The proposed fuel treatment units identified in Section 5.7 are not a comprehensive list of all areas that qualify for management; they were selected as the highest priority areas that are practicable to implement, present a high risk to their respective communities, and meet required funding program goals and requirements as either fuel breaks or fuel treatment areas.

Table 15: WUI risk class ratings within EA-E’s eligible WUI.

WUI Risk			
Risk Class	Hectares	% of WUI	% of Assessable Public Land
Extreme	162	1%	4%
High	635	5%	15%
N/A (Moderate, Low, or Very Low fire threat)	4917	41%	-
<i>No Data (Private Land)</i>	5371	45%	-

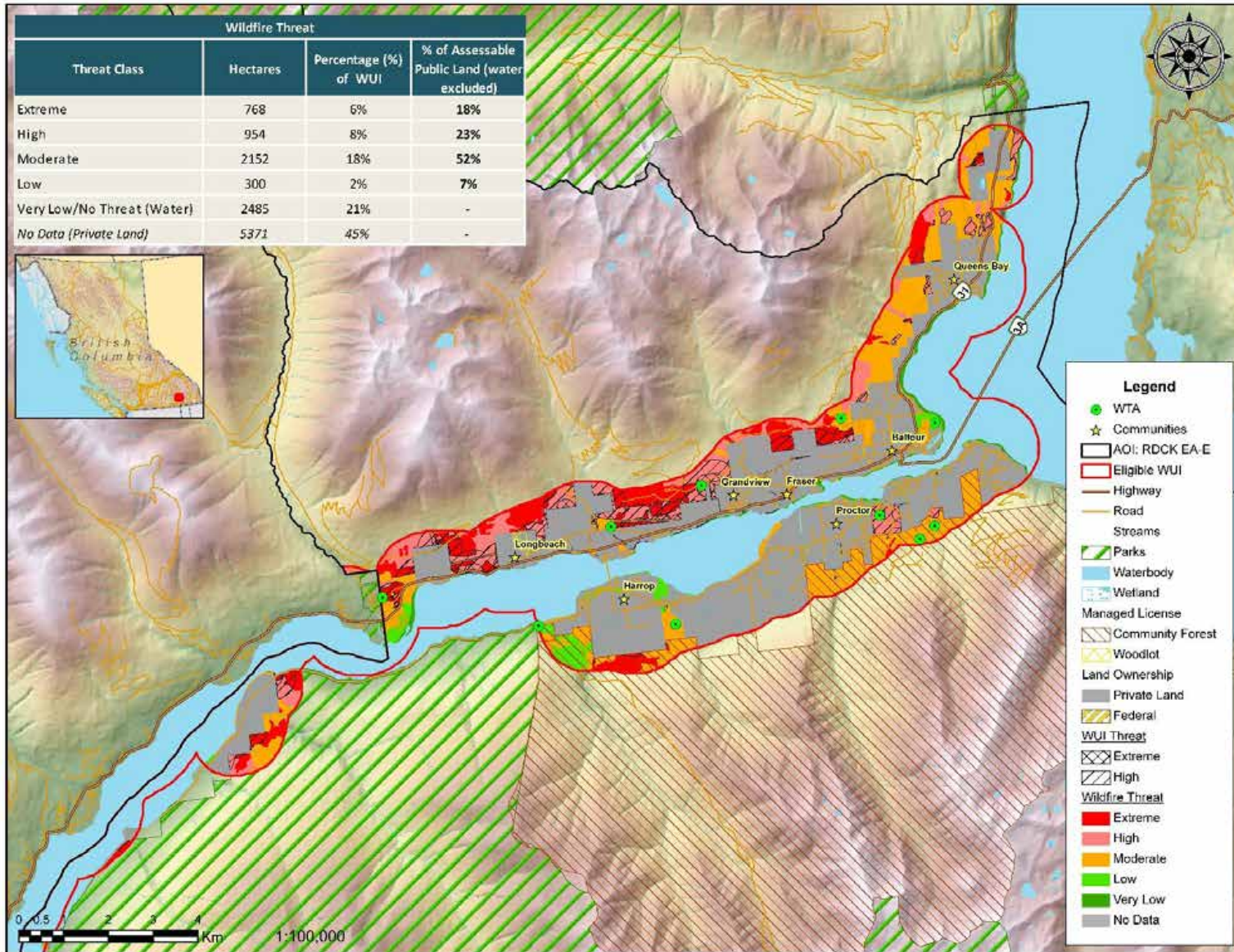
For detailed field data collection and spatial analysis methodology for the local threat assessment and classification, see Appendix B.

The Province of BC produces a Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA; updated in 2021) for all non-private land parcels in BC. This high-level assessment of relative wildfire threat throughout the province is largely based on data from the Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) that has not been ground truthed,

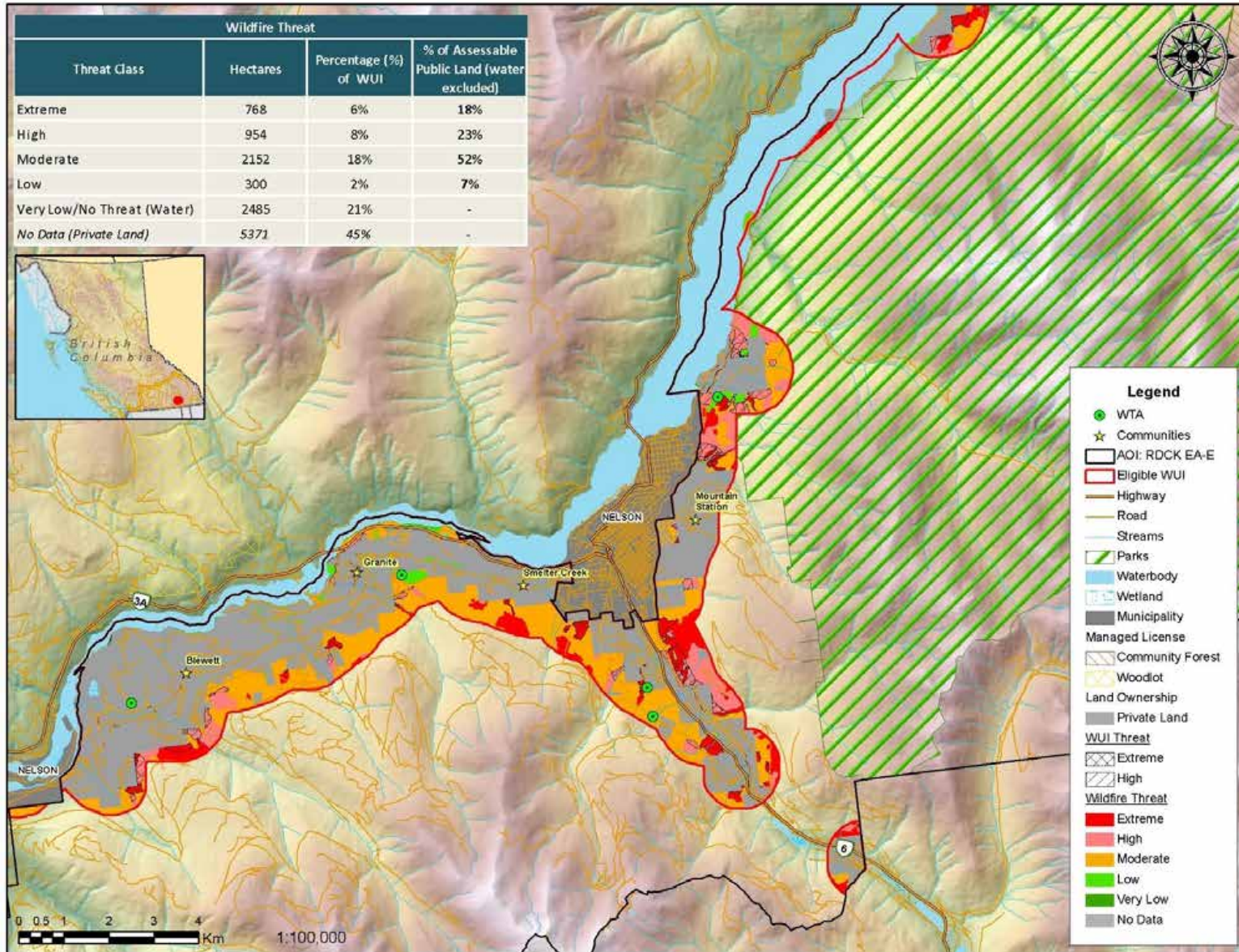
fire occurrence patterns, potential fire intensity, and spotting potential.⁴¹ The PSTA ranks threat on a scale of 1 (lowest) through 10 (extreme). Complementing the above local wildfire risk analyses, the PSTA is a high-level, geographic information system (GIS) raster analysis that is suitable for wildfire threat information across the land base, while appropriate land management activities need to be determined at the local level using site-specific stand-level information.

Additionally, the Province has developed a WUI Risk Class Framework to prioritize risk reduction initiatives, categorizing WUI polygons by a risk class of 1 (highest) through 5 (lowest). The application of relative risk does not imply “no risk” since the goal is to identify areas where there is higher risk. EA-E’s WUI is categorized as being in a Risk Class of 1 – highest relative risk.

⁴¹ MFLNRORD. (2017). Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis. Accessed from: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/fuels-management/provincial_strategic_threat_analysis_2017_update.pdf



Map 13: Local wildfire threat assessment for EA-E's eastern WUI communities.



Map 14: Local wildfire threat assessment for EA-E's western WUI communities.

4.4 HAZARD, RISK, AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

The purpose of a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) is to help a community make risk-based choices to address vulnerabilities, mitigate hazards, and prepare for responding to and recovering from hazard events. The HRVA process assesses sources of potential harm, their likelihood of occurring, the severity of their possible impacts, and who or what is particularly exposed or vulnerable to these impacts.⁴² An HRVA was not noted for EA-E, however, the Emergency Response and Recovery Plan for the Regional District of Central Kootenay includes a section on interface wildfire planning (3.10) with listed potential impacts. When an HRVA is completed or updated for EA-E (or RDCK as a whole), RDCK should look to the most recent CWRPs and reference their completed wildfire threat class analyses as well as recommendations.

⁴² Government of BC. HRVA Example Report. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/local-government/hrva/hrva_forms-step_8-anytown_bc-sample_hrva_report.pdf

SECTION 5: FIRESMART PRINCIPLES

FireSmart™ is the leading program in Canada aimed at empowering the public and increasing neighbourhood resilience through wildfire mitigation measures. It has been formally adopted by almost all Canadian provinces and territories, including British Columbia in 2000. The FireSmart program covers a wide breadth of preventative measures, which are founded in the seven FireSmart disciplines: Education, Legislation and Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-Training, and Vegetation Management. These seven disciplines and the guiding principles behind FireSmart can be applied at a number of spatial scales, and are not restricted to any type of land ownership, forest type or property type. EA-E has an active FireSmart program that is well staffed and funded to complete residential education activities.

Since EA-E's 2015 CWPP was completed, 9 of 36 of its recommendations have been wholly or partially implemented (previously detailed and discussed in Section 2.1). The recommendations addressed primarily related to delivering public FireSmart and wildfire education and prescribing and implementing proposed treatment units.

It has been found that during extreme wildfire events, most home destruction has been a result of low-intensity surface fire flame exposures, usually ignited by embers (firebrands). Firebrands can be transported long distances ahead of the wildfire, across fire guards and fuel breaks, and accumulate in densities that can exceed 600 embers per square meter. Combustible materials found on the exterior of and surrounding homes (the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone) combine to provide fire pathways allowing spot surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames or smoldering fire into contact with structures.

Because ignitability of structures and landscaping vegetation is the main factor driving structure loss, the intensity and rate of spread of wildland fires beyond the community has not been found to necessarily correspond to loss potential. For example, FireSmart homes with low ignitability may survive high-intensity fires, whereas highly ignitable homes may be destroyed during lower intensity surface fire events.⁴³ Increasing ignition resistance would reduce the number of homes simultaneously on fire; extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result in WUI fire disasters.⁴⁴ Initial assessments of homes/structures damaged versus those not from the recent 2023 Kelowna-area wildfires provides strong evidence supporting these key points.⁴⁵ It is for this reason that the key to reducing WUI fire structure loss is to reduce structure ignitability. Mitigation responsibility must be centered on structure owners. Risk communication, education on the range of available activities, and prioritization of activities should help homeowners to feel empowered to complete simple risk reduction activities on their property.

⁴³ Cohen, J. Preventing Disaster Home Ignitability in the Wildland-urban Interface. *Journal of Forestry*. p 15 - 21.

⁴⁴ Calkin, D., J. Cohen, M. Finney, M. Thompson. 2014. *How risk management can prevent future wildfire disasters in the wildland-urban interface*. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U.S.A.* Jan 14; 111(2): 746-751. Accessed online 1 June, 2016 at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3896199/>.

⁴⁵ Presentation by BCWS to the Wildland Fire and Fuels Community of Practice group via Forest Professionals of BC Webinar, November 2023.

5.1 COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

During CWRP development, FireSmart risk and resiliency factors for different general areas or specific neighbourhoods throughout EA-E were noted (Table 16). This incorporates field observations, the local risk assessment, and information from local government meetings and consultation.

Table 16: FireSmart vulnerability and resilience by neighbourhood.

Community	Vulnerability	Resilience
Queens Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface and intermix. - Some homes are not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping vegetation). - Upslope of highway ignition source. - No hydrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire response by Balfour Harrop VFD. - Proximity to Kootenay Lake water source. - Designated as a FireSmart Community. - Ongoing FireSmart activities are a widespread community effort. - Primarily lower slope community on <20% slope.
Balfour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface and intermix. - Some homes are not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping vegetation). - Upslope of highway ignition source. - Primarily a retirement community. - Traffic congestion and high use of ferry terminal area during summer months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire response by Balfour Harrop VFD. - Proximity to Kootenay Lake water source. - Golf course fuel break. - Recently completed fuel treatment units in the community. - Water system with hydrants. - Primarily lower slope community on <20% slope.
Harrop-Procter Sunshine Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface and intermix. - Near ignition source: CP Rail. - Isolated location – only accessible via cable ferry. - Some homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping vegetation) - No hydrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire response by Balfour Harrop VFD - Proximity to Kootenay Lake water source and local streams. - Extensive wildfire risk reduction activities undertaken by Community Forest located upslope of the community – including fuel breaks and fuel treatment activities. - Fuel treatments completed in adjacent West Arm Provincial Park. - Primarily lower slope community on <20% slope.

Community	Vulnerability	Resilience
Longbeach & West Arm Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface and intermix. - High summer use of area. - Upslope of highway ignition source. - No hydrants (except for Grandview Properties). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire response by Balfour Harrop VFD. - Proximity to Kootenay Lake water source and local streams. - Grandview Properties with water system and hydrants.
Bealby Point & Svoboda Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One road in/out for egress. - Forest interface and intermix. - Ignition sources: CN rail, campers in provincial parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to Kootenay Lake water source and local streams. - Primarily lower slope community on <20% slope. - Recent fuel treatments completed adjacent to communities.
Mountain Station & Rural Nelson to Cottonwood Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface and intermix. - Some homes are not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping vegetation). - Ignition sources: CN rail, highway, campers in provincial parks. - No hydrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire response by Nelson Fire Department. - Natural water source (Kootenay River, Cottonwood Lake).
Blewett & Granite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface and intermix. - Some homes not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping vegetation). - No hydrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire response by Blewett VFD and Nelson Fire Rescue. - Natural water source (Kootenay River). - Primarily lower slope community on <20% slope.

The sections to follow provide information on each FireSmart discipline as it relates to EA-E. An analysis of actions that have been implemented are noted, as well as any relevant gaps identified. Each section contains a table of recommended actions for EA-E. Most actions are fundable through the CRI FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program. Each recommendation includes a rationale, lead agency, timeline, and estimated resources to complete.

5.2 EDUCATION

Rural areas without fire services, or dependent upon small volunteer fire services, rely heavily on the coordination of local resources and the uptake of FireSmart initiatives to be prepared for a wildfire event. Public education and outreach play a critical role in helping a community prepare for and prevent a wildfire emergency. Awareness of wildfire risk is important, but this needs to be paired with an awareness of potential mitigation actions and available FireSmart programs for residents to implement on their properties and within the community. Participating in wildfire risk reduction and resiliency activities can also promote a sense of empowerment and shared responsibility at the home, street, neighbourhood, and municipal level. The education discipline often supports the successful implementation of many other FireSmart disciplines by building awareness and understanding within both residents and visitors.

EA-E (via the RDCK FireSmart program and its own FireSmart Coordinator/Mitigation Specialist) has been actively engaging the community with a FireSmart education program. This has led to EA-E having one of the highest numbers of FireSmart assessed homes in the RDCK.⁴⁶ Other FireSmart education activities that have been completed or are ongoing include:

- Distribution of FireSmart educational materials to residents,
- School FireSmart information days,
- Social media updates with FireSmart information and fire danger ratings,
- Community FireSmart workshops and presentations, and
- Created FireSmart signage at completed community fuel treatments.

There are currently seven FireSmart Coordinators across multiple RDCK electoral areas. As these positions were all recently created, there could be many initial lessons learned that could be shared between them. RDCK FireSmart coordinators should look to plan regular meetings amongst themselves to share these lessons, as well as success and failures so that the region, as a whole, is working together towards a more wildfire resilient future. Additionally, as FireSmart Neighbourhood Champions (as part of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program – see Section 5.7) are identified, consider including them in these meetings so that FireSmart information and programming opportunities are taken back into each community.

To continue furthering FireSmart education initiatives, Table 17 below details recommended actions that RDCK and EA-E can pursue or continue. Because of the large amount of private property within EA-E's WUI, the observed general lack of adherence to FireSmart construction materials and landscaping, and the understanding that homes, landscaping vegetation, and all other manner of flammable and combustible materials are considered fuel in the WUI wildfire triangle, a large emphasis should be placed by EA-E to continue upon its FireSmart education successes, and to seek out new opportunities to engage with neighbourhoods or demographics not previously done or that have been difficult to so with to date. Not all activities/efforts will be successfully received by the public, but it is equally important to know what does not work as what does in getting the FireSmart message further into the community – then efforts can be refined and improved moving forwards. This includes tourists, of which there are many to EA-E's communities, recreation areas, and campsites, that may not be knowledgeable on FireSmart and the wildfire risks their actions may carry.

⁴⁶ Information from EA-E local government questionnaire. 200 Home Partners Program assessments have been completed in EA-E at the time of this report's writing.

Table 17: Education recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Education - Section 5.2							
Residents							
1	High	Continue to apply for funding and employ an EA-E FireSmart Coordinator/Mitigation Specialist.	To provide a continuous, local FireSmart program, delivered by local professionals with local knowledge and connections, to their community. Having a FireSmart Coordinator will provide a lead person with dedicated time to coordinate, manage, and implement the program, especially as it grows.	RDCK	2 years	EA-E has its own FireSmart program being managed by a local FireSmart Coordinator.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
2	High	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators should plan regular meetings to discuss their successes, failures, and learnings. Consider adding, or having specific meetings with, FireSmart Community Neighbourhood Champions.	So that they can continue to improve the RDCK’s FireSmart program and tailor it to their respective communities. Adding in Community Champions will allow them to further support their EA’s communities, as well as get FireSmart messaging and opportunities back into the communities faster.	FireSmart Coordinators (RDCK)	ASAP and ongoing	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators are meeting more than once a year.	CRI FCFS funding as part of FireSmart Coordinator salaries.
3	High	Continue to promote FireSmart to EA-E residents at community events, public spaces, and through workshops using FireSmart branded material and printed manuals (Home and Landscaping) and/or a FireSmart Canada Community Preparedness Day. Show a united front by having local government, fire department members, and FireSmart coordinators at events together as much as possible.	Observed adherence and uptake of FireSmart principles on private property and many homes/structures in EA-E is lacking. Landscaping (conifer hedges), firewood and combustible materials storage, and external building materials are the biggest issues. FireSmart BC resources help present a unified message. Print resources are popular and easy to distribute. FireSmart branded tents, banners, and t-shirts can be purchased with CRI FCFS funding.	EA-E / RDCK / FireSmart Coordinator	Annually	Quantity of resources distributed/number of times used at events.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
4	High	Update RDCK’s FireSmart webpage with the most recent FireSmart graphics and language. Provide links to the current fire danger rating, or better yet, have that posted on the front of this page (making sure to keep it updated during the fire season).	To continue to provide to most recent and up to date FireSmart information, language, and principles to residents (and visitors).	RDCK	Annually	RDCK FireSmart webpage is showing current FireSmart information and graphics.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
5	High	Continue the FireSmart social media campaign, with updated FireSmart graphics and language, through various RDCK/EA-E social media platforms (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), including those from Volunteer Fire Departments.	To promote FireSmart information to residents (and visitors). Include links to graphics, videos, pdf information/pamphlet downloads, etc.	EA-E / RDCK	Annually	An organized FireSmart social media campaign is delivered throughout RDCK.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
6	High	Continue to promote FireSmart in EA-E schools using the FireSmart Education Kit and other resources.	Great success has been made through BC schools with FireSmart outreach. Engaging with the community's younger population may increase uptake with all residents.	RDCK / School District 8	Annually	One FireSmart lesson delivered each year (minimum).	CRI FCFS; e.g. FireSmart Magnetic Board for \$1,710.
7	High	Continue to promote free FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments and/or Home Partners Program assessments to residents.	FireSmart Home Ignition zone and Home Partners Program assessments introduce residents to FireSmart, its principles, fire and wildfire risks associated with their home and property, and how they can be mitigated. These assessments are primarily an educational exercise, and can be funded completely through CRI FCFS. They are a requirement to qualify for the FireSmart rebate program (see Section 5.7).	EA-E / RDCK	2 years	FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments are being completed within EA-E.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
8	Moderate	Consider door-to-door knocks in neighbourhoods that have communication constraints to discuss wildfire risk and FireSmart principles that they can apply to their home and property.	Although wildfire can affect all areas of EA-E's WUI, some communities are more at risk due to risks/constraints not associated to wildfire – such as no cell service and low community turnouts at public FireSmart events. Door to door knocks by Fire Chiefs, fire department personnel, and FireSmart Coordinators have been successful in other communities.	RDCK / EA-E fire departments / FireSmart Coordinators	2 years	Visits to homes in these WUI neighbourhoods from local government/ FireSmart/ fire department members (with FireSmart information left at	In-house personnel time. CRI FCFS for FireSmart materials.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
						their door) have started.	
9	Moderate	Increase public awareness of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.	Increasing awareness of wildfire risk also increases community resiliency through household emergency planning, and support for FireSmart.	EA-E / RDCK	1 year from CWRP completion	Awareness by residents - consider a survey.	Staff time to update website, and media posts. Newspaper ads ~\$300 each.
Visitors							
10	High	Lobby BC Parks to install FireSmart educational signage at all BC Park camp and recreation sites within EA-E, starting at Kokanee Creek. RDCK should follow suit for all regional parks.	These signs provide both visitors and residents a quick snapshot of how their actions and activities can inadvertently increase wildfire and ignition risks, as well as introduces visitors to FireSmart – a message they can take home with them.	EA-E / RDCK / BC Parks	5 years (signs installed)	Wildfire risk signs at the highest traffic parks have signs.	Sign cost ~\$800 for purchase and installation per sign.

5.3 LEGISLATION, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Legislation and planning regulation are effective tools for proactively reducing wildfire risk, although they can be less effective in large, rural regional districts like RDCK than in dense municipalities due to difficulties in enforcement. However, private property FireSmart Home Ignition Zone and structure risk reduction is the most effective avenue towards homes and structures surviving a wildfire event. One of the most powerful influences that legislation and planning can have on local wildfire risk is through wildfire hazard Development Permit Areas (DPAs).

Section 2.2 provided a comprehensive look at local plans and bylaws that are currently in place and relevant to wildfire resilience in EA-E. EA-E has embedded some FireSmart principles into its Rural Official Community Plan, primarily focussing on subdivision requirements and access to water for emergency responders. Currently, as stated in OCP section 13.5, only voluntary efforts are encouraged to reduce fire risk to existing buildings and developments by residents.

One of the priorities for recommendations within this Plan is to manage fire risk to structures within their Home Ignition Zones (i.e., within 30m of the structure and the structure itself). As part of the 2022 Wildfire Development Permit Area Study, draft wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs) were developed for the RDCK but have not yet been implemented. The purpose of a wildfire DPA is to manage wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa), achieved through the application of FireSmart principles. The BC Building Code, which to date manages room-to-room and structure-to-structure fire transmission, is currently being updated, with roll out planned for late-2024, and may include FireSmart standards. RDCK should review and assess what FireSmart principles are included and compare them to the draft Wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs), update the draft DPAs as required, then initiate a process to implement the wildfire DPAs, if still required, to manage for risks not addressed in the new Code.

Additionally, it is recommended that the OCP update language referencing “fire risk” (e.g., OCP sections 13.1 and 13.6) to refer to the Local Wildfire Risk Analysis developed as part of this plan, as it more accurately reflects current fire risk for EA-E’s WUI than currently available provincial data.

Part of development considerations is ensuring that all critical infrastructure (described in Section 3.3 and listed in Table 8) are constructed or brought up to a high FireSmart standard. Performing FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments on those infrastructure that have not had one completed yet (in priority sequence) will detail which are most at risk to wildfire, and what mitigation activities should be performed to reduce those risks. Additionally, including a policy in the OCP stating that all regional district structures are built and landscaped to FireSmart standards would ensure these structures are wildfire resilient from the start as well as provide examples of FireSmart construction and landscaping to the public.

Recommended changes to planning and development for EA-E are detailed in Table 18.

Table 18: Legislation, planning and development recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Legislation, Planning and Development - Section 5.3							
11	High	Upon the roll-out of the new BC Building Code in 2024, RDCK should review and assess what FireSmart principles are included and compare them to the draft Wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs). Update the draft DPAs as required. Initiate a process to implement the wildfire DPAs, if still required, to manage for risks not addressed in the new Code.	FireSmart construction and landscaping policies manage for wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa). Over time, resiliency will be built up at the interface and intermix areas.	EA-E / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon BC Building Code roll out	All new development complies with the policy.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
12	High	Update references to “fire risk” in EA-E’s OCP (e.g., sections 13.1 and 13.6) to include referencing the Local Wildfire Risk Analysis developed as part of this plan, as it more accurately reflects current fire risk for EA-E’s WUI than currently available provincial data.	EA-E should look to the most recent and accurate wildfire risk analysis for its WUI to be used to determine areas of Moderate and High wildfire threat for reducing wildfire threat through community planning and development purposes.	EA-E / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon next OCP review and update	OCP update that includes FireSmart construction/development policies for single home and lot development and major renovations.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost
13	High	Consider adopting a Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw to restrict flammable landscaping. Example: prohibit conifer vegetation in the Immediate Zone of a residence or structure (0-1.5 m) and prohibit the planting of new conifer vegetation in Priority Zone 1 (1.5-10 m). Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout the Township, especially on more densely populated streets. This can be an effective communication tool regardless of enforcement capacity.	Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout EA-E, especially on more densely populated streets. Landscaping vegetation can act as a wick, moving fire to homes/structures and throughout communities.	EA-E / RDCK (Consultant)	5 years	A Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw is in effect.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost
14	High	Continue to conduct FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments for public works and community/ government buildings. Conduct FireSmart mitigation as soon as possible (vegetation management, material upgrades). Set a priority sequence for assessment based on wildfire response and post-wildfire recovery. Encourage and support privately owned community halls that act as community shelters, and private or community owned critical infrastructure, to do the same.	Protecting water systems, emergency shelters, and community infrastructure is critical to wildfire response and recovery. Assessments have already been completed for EA-E fire halls.	EA-E / RDCK (Local FireSmart Representatives; FireSmart Coordinator; and/or Consultant)	Ongoing	Number of assessments completed and mitigation hours/investment	CRI FCFS: up to \$800 per assessment and up to \$50,000 for mitigation per structure (publicly owned only)

5.4 CROSS-TRAINING AND FIRE DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

All staff and agency partners who are expected to participate in the development and implementation of this plan, or participate in a wildfire response and recovery, should be appropriately trained. This includes RDCK Emergency Management staff, other municipal staff that could play a role in an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and EA-E Fire Response Area Fire Departments. Training opportunities include:

- Basic Wildland Fire Suppression and Safety
- Incident Command System⁴⁷
- FireSmart 101
- FireSmart Local FireSmart Representative (LFR)
- FireSmart Community Champion
- FireSmart Home Partners Wildfire Mitigation Specialist (WMS)
- Post-wildfire reclamation and recovery
- Post-wildfire structure damage assessment
- BC Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115)⁴⁸

Regular in-person cross-training between agencies is imperative for familiarization with each other's equipment and to address any incompatibilities. BCWS noted that there is annual cross-training conducted between EA-E fire response area fire departments and the BCWS zone staff.⁴⁹ Additionally, valuable training through experience can be acquired from being deployed to wildfires. Under the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC and BC Wildfire Service MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES, fire departments (including those in EA-E) routinely work with BCWS in response to incidents within and outside of Fire Protection and Response Areas. Thus, fire departments should maintain a level of wildland-specific training and equipment.⁵⁰

Water is the most important resource for fighting wildland and structure fires. Balfour and Grandview Properties are the only communities in EA-E that have District-operated water systems with fire hydrants, however other communities have private systems with some standpipes (discussed in Section 3.2 and 3.3.2). Natural water sources are a valuable source of water that can be used for wildfire fighting (especially during summer drought conditions). Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River have water available year-round – having these sources with access points available to firefighters is strategically important, as echoed in EA-E's OCP section 13.3 which supports protection of accesses to water sources such as hydrants, standpipes, lakes, and streams to remain free of obstructions for fire protection purposes.

An example of community-led water development for wildfire fighting was initiated in 2020 by the Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group (AEPG; in EA-D). They began a water mapping project (with assistance from a Selkirk College student), which received additional support in 2023 from Living

⁴⁷ RDCK Emergency Program staff are trained in ICS.

⁴⁸ Blewett Volunteer Fire Department members take S-100 and WSPP-115 training – information received via questionnaire as part of the development of this Plan.

⁴⁹ Information gathered from BCWS questionnaire as part of the development of this Plan.

⁵⁰ Nelson Fire and Rescue Services wildland specific training levels, capacity, and deficiencies are detailed and discussed in the recently completed 2022 Nelson CWRP.

Lakes. With a goal of creating quick access to valuable information for fire response (local and BCWS), a focus has been on available water sources:

- Over 30 locations have been GPS'd where a fire pump could be quickly set up, including photos and access information and detailed information about each site.
- Existing standpipes with fire hose fittings were detailed in a similar fashion, noting water pressure and pipe sizes.

Table 19 lists recommendations for RDCK and EA-E related to cross-training and fire department resources.

Table 19: Cross-training recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Cross Training & Fire Department Resources - Section 5.4							
Training							
15	High	Continue to support 'train-the-trainer' programs so that required courses (e.g., S-231, WSPP-115) can continue to be delivered in-house to EA-E fire department members.	To continue providing an opportunity to expand in-house wildland specific training, and potentially train adjacent fire departments or community groups.	RDCK / EA-E / EA-E fire departments	Annually	Number of fire response personnel with wildland training maintains or increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS funding is available for training. Columbia Basin Trust funding.
16	High	Support FireSmart specific training to EA-E fire departments. Examples include: FireSmart 101, Local FireSmart Representative (LFR), and FireSmart Home Partners Mitigation Specialists.	To continue building an understanding and knowledge of FireSmart principles within fire response personnel and the community. To certify fire response members so they can implement various FireSmart assessments within the community.	RDCK / EA-E / EA-E fire departments	3 years	Number of fire response personnel with FireSmart training increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS funding is available for training.
17	High	EA-E fire departments should continue seeking out (and being supported by RDCK/EA-E in doing so) opportunities to perform wildfire response and structure protection drills - using hydrants, standpipes, and natural water sources, <i>with</i> BCWS.	Fast and effective deployment of available Structure Protection Units (two are owned by RDCK) and any additional equipment that the fire departments have will be crucial in any interface fire scenario. Equipment compatibilities and/or differences between those available and what equipment BCWS uses should be identified and addressed ahead of time.	RDCK / EA-E / EA-E fire departments	Annually	A Drill is performed with BCWS and one EA-E fire department annually.	Staff time as required.

Water							
18	High	Identify and map natural and artificial water sources useable for fire suppression across the entire regional district. Having a digital map would allow it to be uploaded into response vehicles' CAD systems, shared with BCWS response personnel, as well as included in the pre-planning of emergency community water delivery systems connecting major natural water sources with interface communities, to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. Include important details such as: estimated water volume and access point notes. Share this information to all mutual aid fire response partners, and update over time.	Most firefighting service in EA-E requires water shuttling. Wildfire fighting response almost always relies upon local water sources. This impacts EA-E's wildfire resiliency. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers to fill bladders can be pre-planned, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps, and piping.	RDCK GIS department/ EA-E fire departments (to aid in identification for their service areas or share data already acquired) (BCWS)	5 years and ongoing	A fire suppression water source plan and map are produced and shared.	CRI FCFS Community Water Delivery Assessment funding available for incremental staff hours or contract cost.
19	High	In coordination with recommendation #18, create opportunities for BCWS to work with independent water systems to identify assets. Assist those communities in retrofitting their systems to be compatible, if required.	Reducing barriers to BCWS for accessing water sources in the WUI increases opportunities to fight WUI fires.	RDCK / FireSmart Coordinator (BCWS)	Annually	Communities with self-managed water systems are meeting with BCWS	RDCK/EA-E, BCWS, and community time.
20	Moderate	EA-E fire departments should seek (or continue to uphold, if accredited already) Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation from Fire Underwriters Survey.	This accreditation certifies that the fire department can supply enough water to have some areas without fire hydrants within a certain distance of their structures qualify as having a fire hydrant within 300m of it (this can also potentially lower insurance rates for property owners within the EA-E fire response areas). Note: this does not increase the overall water supply already available under automatic and mutual aid agreements.	EA-E fire departments/ RDCK	5 years	Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation achieved by EA-E fire departments.	Fire department staff time as required (and RDCK budget for equipment upgrades and purchases, if needed).
Equipment and Staff							
21	High	In coordination with Recommendations #17 and #18, the EA-E fire departments should continue (or begin, if not done already) annual inspections by BCWS of their wildland firefighting equipment. Any gaps should be addressed, as required.	To ensure proper equipment is available to respond to interface wildfire events, and that equipment is compatible with BCWS's. CRI FCFS funding is available for incremental equipment purchases.	EA-E fire departments (RDCK; BCWS)	Annually	Annual inspection of wildland firefighting equipment from BCWS; gaps filled as practicable.	Fire department and RDCK staff time; CRI FCFS equipment funding up to cost maximums.

5.5 INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

The goal of interagency cooperation is to approach wildfire resilience through a collaborative, multi-agency approach. This increases the ability of local governments to plan and respond to emergencies effectively. Cooperation and communication are especially critical for EA-E as there are multiple jurisdictions side-by-side (EA-E, City of Nelson, RDCK Electoral Areas D and F) and multiple land managers currently operating (e.g., Harrop-Procter Community Forest, Columbia Basin Trust). Landscape-level fire resilience cannot effectively be achieved without planning for resilience across jurisdictional boundaries. Engagement can be formal or informal and can take place through existing communication channels or stand-alone committees.

Due to their adjacency to the City of Nelson, western communities in EA-E (and their respective fire departments) should look to participate in the Nelson Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC) which meets numerous times per year to coordinate cross-jurisdictional FireSmart and fuel mitigation planning within Nelson and surrounding RDCK electoral areas. Communities further from Nelson (i.e., those in the eastern parts of the electoral area), should look to develop their own FireSmart committees, especially as they self-organize for community FireSmart initiatives. Additionally, EA-E Fire Chiefs also participate in an annual Zone 4 Fire Chiefs meeting that includes BCWS representatives to ensure wildfire emergency pre-organization is in place, policy changes are discussed, and opportunities to improve mutual aid for fire response are capitalized on.⁵¹ Mutual aid agreements exist between BCWS and RDCK fire services. This is captured in the MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES between the Fire Chief's Association of BC and the BC Wildfire Service.

When planning and implementing forest harvesting and fuel management treatments in the community and in adjacent forest tenures, a high-level tracking and communication of fuel treatments needs to occur. It is imperative that all land managers know what adjacent or overlapping jurisdictions have identified as fuel breaks, so that time and money is not wasted reassessing or re-prescribing an area. As EA-E's WUI is extensive in area, RDCK (via the CFRC) should develop a process for spatially tracking and managing proposed and completed fuel management/fuel break units in the greater regional district area that all members can access. Although RESULTS⁵² is a powerful spatial tool to keep track of forest activities on the Provincial land base, it does not include activities on municipal and First Nations land. A separate spatial layer should be maintained by Ministry of Forests (MOF) as a public service using inputs from municipalities, First Nations, and forest licensees. Changes to the MOF Wildfire Risk Reduction program (which manages wildland fuel treatments on the Provincial land base) in the coming years may solve some of these problems.

BC Timber Sales (on the north side of Kootenay Lake) and the Harrop-Procter Community Forest (HPCF; on the south side of Kootenay Lake) have significant tenure within EA-E's WUI. Forest activities can both

⁵¹ Information gathered from BCWS questionnaire as part of the development of this Plan.

⁵² Government application that tracks silviculture information by managing the submission of openings, disturbances, silviculture activities and obligation declarations as required by the Forest and Range Practices Act.

increase and decrease wildfire risk in WUI areas. Although BCWS stated that Category 3 industry burning has led to fire starts and continues to be a concern every spring, HPPC noted that there have been no fire escapes from post-harvesting pile and burn activities. HPCF is very proactive in wildfire risk reduction planning and mitigation efforts both within its WUI overlap area as well as outside it on the greater landscape within its tenure.⁵³ This is exemplified by reducing post-harvest slash within the WUI (through additional pile and burning of slash, making pulp product when possible, and providing loads of firewood to the public. Additionally, the community forest has developed its own fuel management areas map (with treatment planning and implementation being implemented through a mix of funding requests and in-house funds) and uses fire management stocking standards as part of reforestation efforts in the WUI.

Discussed in Section 3.3, transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions - trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways. Highways and rail lines can also provide excellent fuel breaks if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. If not, they can act as wicks moving fire along them, or ignition sources for fires from burning cars, cigarette butts, sparks, etc. Additionally, highways are a main access/egress route during an emergency – these routes should be kept at as low risk of state as possible.

Table 20 details Interagency Cooperation recommendations for RDCK, EA-E, and its jurisdictional and local stakeholders.

⁵³ Information gathered from Harrop-Procter Community Forest questionnaire as part of the development of this Plan.

Table 20: Interagency cooperation recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Interagency Cooperation - Section 5.5							
22	High	Communities and Fire Departments adjacent to the City of Nelson should engage with the established local Nelson Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC) to plan, implement, and coordinate FireSmart initiatives, including fuel management treatments. Look to include EA-E volunteer fire department Fire Chiefs.	To provide a platform for information sharing. All parties have indicated a willingness for collaboration, which will allow for greater management of wildfire risk both within and surrounding EA-E's WUI.	Nelson CFRC	Ongoing	CFRC FireSmart meeting takes place at least once annually.	At least 8 hours per meeting to prepare, participate and debrief. CRI FCFS up to \$2,000 per meeting.
23	High	As eastern electoral area communities self-organize for FireSmart initiatives, and even take up the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (see Recommendation #45), RDCK and EA-E should look to support their inclusion in a Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC), or develop local sub-committees, as required.	To further community involvement in FireSmart and wildfire risk reduction activities at the community level.	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Additions to existing CFRCs are made, as required, or new ones are established, as needed.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
24	High	Work with RDCK, CFRC members, and MOF to develop a fuel treatment/fuel break tracking system to spatially manage proposed and completed fuel management areas both within EA-E's WUI and outside it at the regional level.	It is imperative that all land managers know what adjacent or overlapping jurisdictions have identified as fuel breaks, so that time and money is not wasted reassessing or re-prescribing an area.	Nelson CFRC / MOF / RDCK	As soon as possible	A regional GIS tracking system is established, or a provincial one is developed that CFRC members can access.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
25	High	Lobby forest land licensee/managers (e.g., BC Timber Sales, Woodlots, Harrop-Proctor Community Forest) to be aware of where their tenure overlaps EA-E's WUI and to develop and implement (or continue implementing) forest planning, harvesting, slash management, and reforestation plans that reduce wildfire behaviour in these areas.	Cutblock placement can break up the forest continuity across the landscape – with proper slash and reforestation management, they can remain as areas of low wildfire behaviour for many years. However, if not managed properly, they can increase wildfire behaviour.	RDCK / EA-E / MOF / Forest Licensees and Managers / Local Government elected officials/ Community members	Ongoing	Forest licensees/managers are aware of their tenure overlaps with the WUI and are actively working towards forest management plans to reduce wildfire behaviour in those areas.	RDCK/EA-E staff time for discussions.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
26	High	Lobby and work with the electrical power providers in and influencing the community's WUI, MOTI for Provincial highways, and rail line owners/operators to regularly maintain their right-of-way's vegetation.	<p>Transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions - trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways.</p> <p>Highways can also provide excellent fuel breaks if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. If not, they can act as wicks moving fire along them, or ignition sources for fires from burning cars, cigarette butts, sparks, etc. Additionally, highways are a main access/egress route during an emergency – these routes should be kept at as low risk of state as possible.</p>	RDCK / EA-E (MOTI; Local Government elected officials Electrical Providers; Rail line operators)	Yearly and ongoing	Right-of-way maintenance discussions are open and ongoing; right-of-ways are kept in low-risk states.	RDCK/EA-E staff time for discussions.

5.6 EMERGENCY PLANNING

Local government and community preparations for a wildfire emergency are very important. Plans, mutual aid agreements, resources, training, and emergency communications systems make for effective wildfire response. The RDCK Emergency Plan includes EA-E and the RDCK Emergency Program conducts tabletop exercises yearly with staff (and responds to emergencies involving evacuations almost yearly).

In a wildfire emergency that requires evacuation, Harrop and Procter have the largest constraint as they are dependent upon a cable ferry as the primary access route. The small ferry would quickly be overwhelmed by evacuees. This constraint is recognized and addressed in EA-E's Rural Official Community Plan in section 10.12, which encourages the identification and maintenance of public access points to the Kootenay River and the West Arm of Kootenay Lake to facilitate emergency egress via water in the event of forest fire, spills, slides and other disasters, most particularly in constricted areas such as Harrop and Procter where few opportunities exist for egress via roads and highway. Consistently applied in communities where egress is an issue (such as Harrop Procter) is having Local Government work closely with BCWS when considering trigger points for evacuation alerts and evacuation orders to allow time to evacuate via the ferry. This includes recommending residents evacuate livestock and move large items (such as trailers) across the ferry while they are on *evacuation alert*, thus allowing time for an orderly ferry evacuation during an *evacuation order*. Evacuations via public and private boat launches is a last case, least desirable scenario – considered as part of a tactical evacuation.

Thus, clear, consistent, concise, and quick communication during an emergency event and evacuation are integral to the prevention of loss of life. The RDCK has upgraded to a new notification system for emergency alerts and water advisories powered by "Voyent Alert!". Downloadable as an app to a smart phone, the user can receive a detailed map of the affected area. The system also supports text messaging, emails, or landline calls. RDCK and EA-E should promote this notification to residents as much as possible.

Most of EA-E's WUI is only accessible by roads through private property. This is a significant constraint to wildfire first responders as those road conditions are largely unknown. Access by emergency responders to the WUI is paramount towards both defending communities from WUI fire events, but also for aiding in fuel treatment practicability.

Additionally, it was noted during field assessments, and echoed in meetings with local government and first responders, that there is a pervasive lack of visible, reflective addresses for properties within EA-E. Addresses are one of the most common forms of providing first responders directions of where to respond to. This issue should be made aware to the public with examples and options of proper signage.

A pre-incident plan is a compilation of essential fire management information needed to save valuable time during fire suppression operations. During a busy wildfire season, Provincial resources are often stretched thin, and any information that local governments can provide to BCWS crews is helpful. A pre-incident plan should be developed and tested using tabletop simulations, and if necessary, revised prior to every fire season. BCWS should be involved in this process to ensure that any mapping done as part of the pre-incident plan or Fire Management Planning process is not unnecessarily duplicated.

Figure 13 contains a checklist of discussion points and considerations during pre-incident plan development.



Figure 13. A pre-incident planning checklist that can be used to help develop a pre-incident wildfire suppression plan and associated maps.

EA-E, in conjunction with its CFRC and regional district partners, could also consider developing local daily action guidelines based on expected wildfire conditions. Table 21 below provides a template that can be tailored specifically to EA-E, outlining actions staff can take as fire danger levels change throughout the fire season.

Table 21: Example of a Wildfire Response Preparedness Condition Guide⁵⁴

FIRE DANGER LEVEL	ACTION GUIDELINES
LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All District staff on normal shifts.
MODERATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All District staff on normal shifts. Information gathering and dissemination through Nelson’s CFRC.
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All District staff on normal shifts. Regional fire situation evaluated. Daily fire behavior advisory issued. Wildland fire-trained District staff and EOC staff notified of Fire Danger Level. Establish weekly communications with CFRC.
EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily fire behavior advisory issued. Regional fire situation evaluated. EOC staff considered for stand-by. Wildfire Incident Command Team members considered for stand-by/extended shifts. Designated District staff: water tender and heavy machinery operators, arborists may be considered for stand-by/extended shifts. Consider initiating Natural Area closures to align with regional situation. Provide regular updates to media / District staff on fire situation. Update public websites and EA-E social media as new information changes.
FIRE(S) ONGOING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All conditions apply as for ‘Extreme’ (regardless of actual fire danger rating). Mobilize EOC support if evacuation is possible, or fire event requires additional support. Mobilize Wildfire Incident Command Team under the direction of the EOC/Fire Chiefs. Implement Evacuation Alerts and Orders based on fire behavior prediction and under the direction of the EOC/Fire Chief.

Emergency planning also includes the recovery from an emergency. As discussed in Section 3.3.1, having secondary power sources for critical infrastructure is important to reduce community vulnerability in the event of an emergency that cuts power for days, or even weeks.

Roof top and gutter-mounted sprinklers are a useful tool that can be easily stored and then set up, as needed, by individual homeowners (if they have the required water availability). BCWS can also link their water systems to them to support their firefighting efforts. Three main mounting types exist: temporary mounted sprinklers (fully removable), permanently mounted sprinklers, and permanent sprinkler mounts that sprinklers can then be attached/removed from. There are benefits and disadvantages to all, especially as structures can differ significantly from one another, however, the benefits to using permanent sprinkler mounts as the preferred choice were noted as such by the Beasley Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief: permanent rooftop sprinklers are time consuming and difficult to access for troubleshooting; sprinklers

⁵⁴ From FireSmart Community Funding and Supports 2022 CWRP Supplemental Instruction Guide

on pipes that can be lifted and set onto the permanent mounts from the ground are fast to deploy, easy to lift down when repairs or replacement are needed; and, they reduce sprinkler deterioration rates from not being left in place year-round. Local Government and community organizations can spearhead the acquisition and planning of sprinklers and structure protection units (SPUs) themselves, moving the planning and organization off the individual homeowner and increasing community wildfire resiliency. Additionally, there can be cost savings in bulk orders.

RDCK has two Type 2 SPUs which are regional assets, and firefighters from all 16 RDCK supported fire departments that can be deployed as needed. One SPU is (generally) stationed at the Kaslo and Area Fire Department Hall. It should be noted that under the interagency agreement, when the SPUs are needed, they are requested by the local authority for use within a fire protection area and by BCWS for use outside of the fire protection area. Regardless of the requestor, they are sourced by BCWS. The cost of deployment is reimbursed by the Province. BCWS may or may not opt to use local SPUs to be deployed to a fire.

Recommendations and action items that RDCK and EA-E can implement to continue productive and effective emergency planning are detailed below in Table 22.

Table 22: Emergency preparedness recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Emergency Planning - Section 5.6							
27	High	Continue tabletop wildfire scenario tabletop exercises with emergency management and CFRC partners. Yearly, pre-fire season is best. Move the “WUI fire” to a different area of EA-E’s WUI each time.	Tabletop exercises provide an opportunity to identify weak spots in a plan and collaborate.	RDCK (Nelson CFRC; RCMP; BCWS)	5 years	Knowledge of 'pinch points' in an evacuation scenario and understanding of roles and responsibilities.	CRI FCFS Emergency Planning: up to \$2,000 per meeting. Possibly CRI / CEPF / Columbia Basin Trust
28	High	Consider updating EA-E’s OCP with guidelines stating private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment. Discuss with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) possible means supporting/enforcing that private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment.	Access by emergency responders to the WUI is paramount towards both defending communities from WUI fire events, but also for aiding in fuel treatment practicability. This constraint is recognized in EA-F’s Rural Community Official Plan in section 18.3.8 which, “Encourages that private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment.”	RDCK (MOF; BCWS; Local Fire Response Area Departments)	5 years	OCP updated as required and access roads through private land to the interface forest are maintained.	RDCK/EA-E time for planning and discussions. CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 with estimated incremental staff hours or contract cost.
29	High	RDCK and EA-E should continue to promote the Voyent Alert! System to residents and visitors.	Clear, consistent, concise, and quick communication during an emergency event and evacuation are integral to the prevention of loss of life. A lack of this was identified as an issue during recent WUI fire disasters, such as that in Lahaina, Maui, USA and Fort McMurray, Alberta.	RDCK (FireSmart Coordinator)	Ongoing	Continued update of the Voyent Alert! System (can track downloads from app providers).	RDCK for promotion.
30	High	RDCK should have appropriate signage designating shoreline access routes for secondary boat egress for those communities that rely on ferry or private boat for access/egress (e.g., Harrop and Procter).	To expedite egress during an emergency evacuation in areas already significantly constrained.	RDCK / EA-E	5 years	All public shoreline access/egress routes are marked (a series of signs from main roads to access points is best).	RDCK. Cost/time dependent on number of access points and signs required.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
31	High	Invest in back-up generators for any critical infrastructure that does not have one. Encourage private businesses that provide critical services, like gas stations and grocery stores, to follow suit.	Back-up generators for pumphouses, treatment plants, and community buildings (especially those designated as emergency shelters) would facilitate both emergency response (water supply for suppression) and rapid community return and recovery following a fire.	RDCK / EA-E (Private Industry)	ASAP	A budget and purchase plan for back-up generators is implemented, starting with the most critical infrastructure.	Cost varies - ~\$10,000
32	High	Initiate a roof-top sprinkler program for residential properties. Investigate bulk orders from wildfire protection or irrigation companies or commercial gutter-mount kits. Consider sprinkler kits as an incentive to communities/neighbourhoods for FireSmart participation. Discuss with local Fire Departments and BCWS what mounting/sprinkler types are best. This can be directly led by RDCK, or RDCK can offer support to local fire departments and community organizations to assist doing so.	Rooftop sprinklers reduce the time and resources needed to set up a structural protection system in a community threatened by wildfire. Sprinkler installation/acquirement could be paired with a free FireSmart Assessment.	RDCK / EA-E (EA-E fire departments; BCWS)	3 years and ongoing	Establish an efficient and effective system. Track the number and location of sprinklers purchased and installed annually.	Bulk sprinklers \$40 - \$100 each; gutter mount kits ~\$100-200 for one home
33	High	Schedule regular updates of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan: target every 5 years.	A current and acceptable CWRP is required for funding under the CRI FCFS program. Update the wildfire threat for areas with completed fuel treatments and identify additional areas for treatment.	RDCK / EA-E	5 years – 2028 update	EA-E always has a current and acceptable CWRP.	~\$32,000; CRI FCFS funding
34	Moderate	Pre-plan emergency community water delivery systems to connect major natural water sources with interface communities/neighbourhoods to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. This can be supported by Recommendation #18. The Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group has been working on this since 2023 (see Section 5.4).	RDCK has many large natural water bodies and streams/creeks to draw from in the event of a wildfire. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers to fill bladders may be planned in advance, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps and piping.	RDCK / EA-E (BCWS)	5 Years	Assess community water delivery for each neighbourhood. Develop and test neighbourhood specific plans.	CRI: Assessment of Community Water Delivery Ability - incremental staff hours or contract cost
35	Moderate	Promote the installation of visible and reflective addresses in EA-E Consider and explore how to regulate addressing across the District. Note: RDCK has requested a program to support standardized address signage, but stated that if	To allow for faster and more direct response to specific properties by first responders during an emergency.	EA-E / RDCK	5 years	Majority of properties have reflective, visible addresses.	Promotion campaign; consider providing discounted signs.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
		building permits are not applied for then there is no street address. There are no regulations on addressing.					40-60 hours and \$40-60 per sign

5.7 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND OTHER FIRESMART ACTIVITIES

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

As discussed in Section 4.1, fuel is the only aspect of the fire behavior triangle that can be realistically modified to reduce wildfire threat. Fuel or vegetation management reduces potential wildfire intensity and ember, flame, and radiant heat exposure to people, structures, and other values through manipulation of both natural and cultivated vegetation within or adjacent to a community. A well-planned vegetation management strategy can greatly increase first responder safety, fire suppression effectiveness, and reduce damage to property and to values.

Vegetation management can largely be accomplished through two different activities:

1. **Residential-scale FireSmart landscaping:** The removal, reduction, or conversion of flammable [landscaping] plants to create more fire-resistant areas in the FireSmart Immediate, Intermediate, and Extended Zones (i.e., the area within 30m of a structure; see Figure 14 below).



Figure 14: FireSmart Home Ignition Zone

2. **Fuel management treatments:** The manipulation or reduction of living or dead forest and grassland fuels to reduce the rate of spread and head fire intensity and enhance likelihood of successful suppression.

Fuel Management Units

Fuel management treatments may function as fuel breaks (linear features, at least 1 km in length) or polygon treatments for discrete areas. The intent of establishing fuel treatments is to modify fire behaviour and should be designed to keep surface fires on the ground to avoid the establishment of more dangerous and uncontrollable crown fires. Fuel treatments can also provide anchor points to fire-fighting crews for suppression activities,⁵⁵ yet the application of appropriate suppression tactics in a timely manner with sufficient resources is essential for fuel treatments to be effective – fuel treatments adjacent to a home or property should not be considered a “fire break”. Thus, to increase the efficacy of fuel treatments, FireSmart standards should be applied on nearby private properties to structures and vegetation to reduce the risk of structure ignition. Fuel treatment units will also require periodic maintenance (e.g., brushing, prescribed burning, surface fuel cleanup) to retain their effectiveness.

Implementing fuel management treatments often requires the successful collaboration of various land managers as these treatment areas can span across multiple types of land ownership. Often, this is required for the fuel treatment to effectively connect areas of low hazard, or to be a cohesively effective area. A significant amount of public land within EA-E’s WUI is Crown provincial land under various area-based and volume-based licenses. Fuel management projects in community forests (area-based tenure) are currently funded and administered through the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC); those on municipal land are funded and administered through the CRI FCFS program; and those on Crown provincial land (not managed by an area-based tenure) are funded and administered through the BCWS Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) Program. EA-E will need to ensure good planning and collaboration with the Selkirk Resource District CLWRR team, forest tenure holders, local government, community groups, and BCWS to achieve higher quality, more effective, and more efficient fuel treatments.

There are many historical (non-mapped) fuel treatment units (FTUs) completed within EA-E’s WUI, as well as tracked prescribed (but not treated) and treated FTUs from the FESBC, CLWRR, and CRI FCFS programs – these are shown on Map 15 and Map 16 below, in conjunction with the proposed fuel treatment units (PTUs) from this Plan.⁵⁶ A number of past proposed but not treated FTUs are re-identified within this Plan due to their assessed risk and proximity to interface structures and communities. PTUs proposed as part of this Plan are discussed and described in Table 24.

Priority level for prescription and treatment (High, Moderate, Low) of PTUs is given to each and is based upon a combination of site-level risks and factors that include wildfire behaviour threat, strategic location, proximity to structures and critical infrastructure, location relative to dominant fire-season wind directions, and overall practicability of treatment implementation. The PTUs identified in this Plan are not a comprehensive list of all areas that qualify for management; they were selected as the highest priority areas that are practicable to implement, present a high risk to their respective communities or a strategic opportunity, and meet required funding program goals and requirements as either fuel breaks or fuel

⁵⁵ BC Wildfire Service. (2022). [2022 Fuel Management Prescription Guidance](#).

⁵⁶ CLWRR proposed and completed treatments include up to fiscal year-end 2021. CRI FCFS proposed and completed treatments includes up to year end 2022.

treatment areas. Overall, increasing the resilience of EA-E's WUI communities can only be efficiently achieved by performing residential-scale FireSmart activities on private land.

Residential-scale FireSmart Landscaping

Several smaller, community centrally-located PTUs are proposed within this Plan with the additional intention of providing residents with FireSmart vegetation management demonstration projects – showing them what can be done on their properties to reduce similar wildfire risks. A major barrier to implementing FireSmart vegetation management on private property is if there is no easy disposal process for the created vegetative debris. RDCK managed landfills within and adjacent to EA-E (Balfour and Grohman Narrows) accept yard and garden waste for payment – but, during the months of May and October there is no charge.⁵⁷ Unfortunately, for many residents in EA-E's ferry-access or boat only access communities, transporting material to these stations is too far. Thus, most residents likely rely upon at-home burn piles for garden and yard waste – education around the risks associated with this practice, and how to properly manage them, should be built into EA-E's FireSmart education program.

Other Residential-scale FireSmart Activities that RDCK/EA-E should apply through CRI FCFS and implement include:

➤ **FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program**

The FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program is a unique approach to collaboratively reduce a neighbourhood's risk to wildfire through education and events. It is run nationally through FireSmart Canada and facilitated locally by the RDCK. It is a grassroots, volunteer run program that is assisted by RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Specialists. It is a small-scale approach for neighbourhoods consisting of 5-50 homes, with the intent to implement achievable FireSmart goals (mitigation projects can be small and simple, or complex and extensive, ranging from individual owners doing around home clean-ups, to community hand treatments on common and private land near critical infrastructure). Communities within EA-E that have been recognized include Queens Bay, Blewett – CA-TU-KA, and Sunshine Drive.⁵⁸

➤ **FireSmart Rebate Program**

To aid in residential-scale vegetation management and structure improvements, this program allows for residents that have had a completed FireSmart assessment (Home Ignition Zone or Home Partners Program) receive a rebate (using recorded expenses) for work completed to lower risk identified in their assessment. Starting in the 2024 CRI FCFS program, the eligible amount of rebate per property is now \$5000.

Associated vegetation management and other FireSmart recommendations and action items are listed in Table 23.

⁵⁷ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/waste-recycling/household-hazardous-waste-round-up/yard-garden-waste-free-tipping.html>

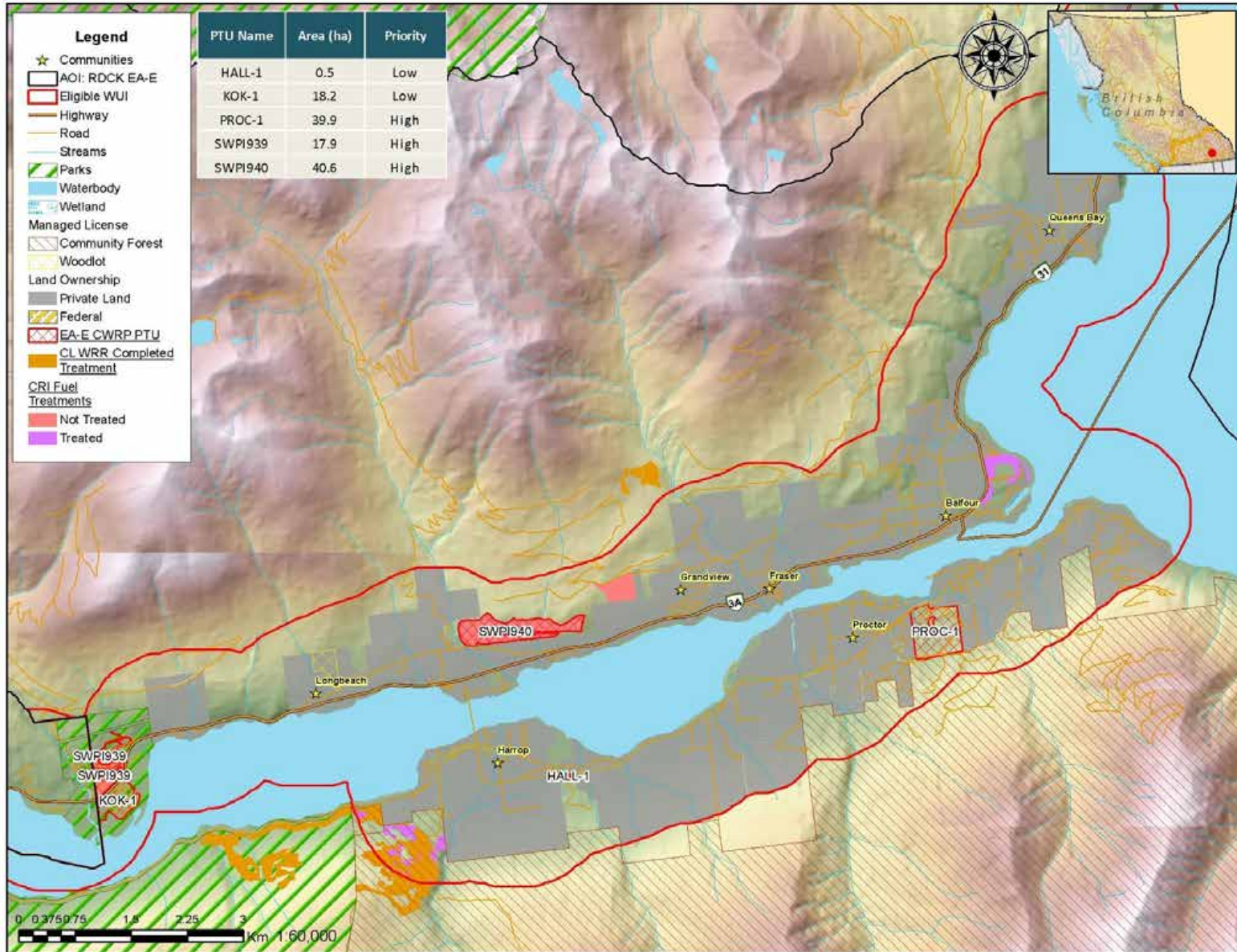
⁵⁸<https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Services/Emergency~Management/Documents/2022-08-26-RDCK%20FireSmart%20Neighbourhoods.pdf>

Table 23: Vegetation management action items

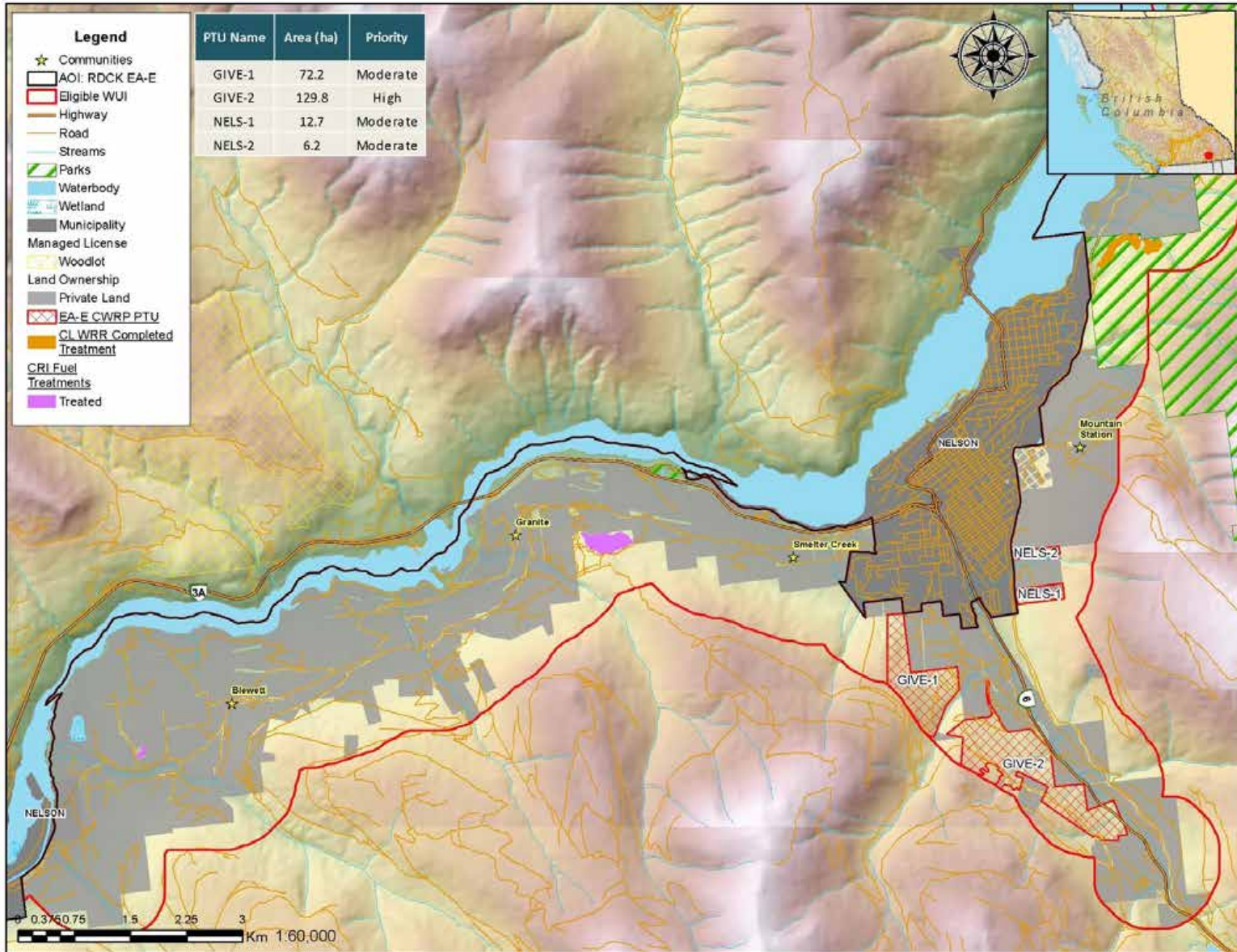
Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric Success for	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Vegetation Management - Section 5.7							
Fuel Management Treatments							
36	High	Develop fuel management prescriptions for the identified Potential Fuel Treatment Units (PTUs), starting with those identified as High priority. Continue with treatment implementation when possible.	To reduce wildfire threat and risk to interface and intermix communities within the WUI. Also, to provide FireSmart vegetation management examples to the public that can be implemented on their own properties. See "Rationale" column in Table 24 for more detailed treatment rationales.	EA-E / MOF / BCWS	5 years	Approved FMP(s) for identified High priority areas.	CRI FCFS funding available for prescription and treatments; ~\$425/hectare for a ~20 ha prescription
37	High	Lobby Provincial Government (Ministry of Forests) and other potential funding organizations for grant funds to implement landscape level fuel treatment on private land.	Much of EA-E's communities' structures are surrounded by undeveloped, forested private land. Current funding streams for fuel reduction at the landscape level are targeted, and thus limited, to public land. However, the interface wildland does not stop at the public/private land border.	Local Government (Provincial Government)	5 years	Discussions initiated and ongoing	Time and cost dependant upon level of engagement required.
Residential FireSmart							
38	High	In conjunction with provided home FireSmart Assessments (see Recommendation #7) Continue offering a local rebate program to property owners that have completed a FireSmart home assessment (Home Ignition Zone assessment or Home Partners Program Mitigation assessment). RDCK, EA-E, and FireSmart coordinators should advertise that the amount eligible for rebate has increased to \$5000 for the CRI FCFS 2024 application program.	FireSmart home assessments encourage action in the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone of a community. Offer a rebate program (funded through CRI FCFS) to residents who have a pre- and post-work FireSmart assessment conducted. Focus on removal of conifer hedges and upgrading exterior structure materials.	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	Annually	Number of properties participating annually.	50% of costs per property up to \$5,000, plus 2 hours administration time per property (CRI FCFS).
39	High	Continue providing regional district-led options for the disposal of yard waste. Currently, this includes having tipping fees waived (May and October) for yard waste at the RDCK transfer stations.	Yard waste burning restrictions limit options for debris disposal. Free debris disposal may be used as an incentive to participate in other FireSmart activities, like assessments or workshops.	RDCK	Annual	Municipally funded yard waste disposal continues.	CRI FCFS funding is available for

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric Success	for	Funding
				(Involved)				Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
								tipping fee coverage.
40	High	Consider implementing a community chipper program. Education of FireSmart yard and landscaping principles, including chipping specifications, should be incorporated into the program.	To reduce fire and wildfire hazards on private property within the WUI, especially those long distances from RDCK landfills/transfer stations, and to promote FireSmart vegetation management knowledge and education. The intent is for landscaping/yard vegetation to be included, not farm or agriculture vegetation. This could assist with more uptake of residential FireSmart landscaping principles as the disposal method is brought to the resident, especially for those older and less mobile.	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	Annual (pre-fire season is best)	Number of properties who elect to have debris disposed.		CRI FCFS funding; ~\$100-150 per chipper crew hour.
41	Moderate	Consider releasing an annual RDCK FireSmart report to the public that tracks community-specific uptake in various FireSmart initiatives, as well as tracks fuel management at all scales.	As the program grows, reporting allows the RDCK FireSmart program to track challenges and successes, further promote the program, and tailor outreach methods to achieve the most uptake.	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	Annual	An annual report is published.		Eligible for CRI funding – FireSmart staff time. Estimate 40-80 hours.
42	Moderate	Engage with local garden centers to implement the FireSmart BC Plant [Tagging] Program.	FireSmart BC introduced a plant tagging program in 2021 that has been implemented with great success by over 34 nurseries and garden centres to date. The Plant Program is an easy way to provide information at the point of purchase for homeowners and landscapers. See: https://firesmartbc.ca/landscaping-hub/plant-program/	Local Garden Centres (RDCK; EA-E FireSmart Coordinator)	5 years	Local garden centres have been notified of the program.		Staff time for engagement (2-4 hours per garden centre).
Community and Critical Infrastructure FireSmart								
43	High	Implement recommended vegetation management recommendations from FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone Assessments (see Recommendation #14), when completed, on a priority basis.	To reduce fire behavior and risks to critical infrastructure most important to fire and wildfire fighting and post-wildfire recovery.	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	5 years	High priority critical infrastructure has had FireSmart vegetation management completed.		CRI FCFS funding up to \$53,500 per municipal infrastructure (vegetation management included).

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric Success for	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
44	High	As part of fuel treatment implementation, RDCK/EA-E should develop interpretive signage to demonstrate pre- and post-fuel treatment forest stands conditions.	Interpretive signage could include text explaining the purpose of the fuel management treatment, connection to the CWRP, and FireSmart practices residents nearby can take to reduce wildfire hazards around their yards and homes.	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	5 years	Signage installed during implementation phases.	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.
45	High	Continue to support and promote the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program to communities within EA-E. Identify community champions to spearhead organization for those communities not already organized, and support those communities that have been recognized in the past to continue working towards being so.	There are many small communities throughout EA-E that, by working together, could reduce their community-scale wildfire risk easily and substantially. The program supports a small-scale approach for neighbourhoods consisting of 5-50 homes, with the intent to implement achievable FireSmart goals	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Increase in number of recognized communities.	FireSmart Canada \$500; RDCK FireSmart Champion Grant up to \$3000
46	Moderate	As part of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP), apply to CRI FCFS for funding to develop Neighbourhood FireSmart Plans.	To help guide FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program communities and their community champions to complete wildfire risk reduction measures.	RDCK / EA-E FireSmart Coordinator	In line with FCNRP Community program uptake.	Communities working towards FCNRP status have a Neighbourhood Plan	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.



Map 15: Overview map of Proposed Treatment Units within EA-E's eastern WUI area.



Map 16: Overview map of Proposed Treatment Units within EA-E's western WUI area.

Table 24: Summary of Proposed Fuel Treatment Units (PTUs) for EA-E's WUI (ordered from east to west).

PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat		Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Moderate	
PROC-1	Proctor	High	39.9	Crown Provincial land. Borders private land on its north, east, and west sides. Borders Harrop-Proctor Community Forest on its south side. Gravel pit (cut out) in the centre.	38.5	0.8	Treat to reduce wildfire threat in a large area that is directly interface to the community. Hazardous, young C-3-type stand. Understory is very dense live and dead conifers - dead will soon contribute to surface fuel loading. Low crown base heights and dense crown closure. Scattered fine fuels. Treatment would likely include thin from below (retaining all dominant and co-dominant stems for shading), pruning retained conifers, and surface fuel reduction. There is a forest road through the unit providing access. WTA Proctor-3 (Moderate)
HALL-1	Harrop	Low	0.5	Crown Provincial land and RDCK municipal land. Adjacent to Harrop Fire Hall and borders private property.	0.5	0.0	Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the community and adjacent to critical emergency response infrastructure. Treating this unit would also provide a demonstration project of FireSmart vegetation management to the community. Dense C-3 fuel type stand (with C-4 characteristics) on the west side of the Harrop Fire Hall. It is a small area, and the work could be potentially done by fire hall staff. Treatment would likely include spacing/thinning of the dense conifer stems and pruning of retained conifers.
SWPI 940	Longbeach	High	40.6	Crown Provincial	34.5	6.1	Treat to reduce wildfire threat in a large area that is directly interface to the community. Older CRI prescription area that may have had treatment work completed in it. Very open, south facing stand of mature Douglas-fir (Fd) and ponderosa pine (Pp), with many mature stems dead and down increasing surface fuel and horizontal continuity. Conifer regeneration is now reaching 1m ht and will continue growing. This unit is identified in this plan as a strong candidate for re-treatment/treatment, with treatment likely including the removal of dead standing stems, bucking of dead down stems, surface fuel clean up in areas of increased concentrations, and thinning regen. in denser pockets. Prescribed burning is a potential prescribed treatment as well. WTA of "Low" does not account for PTU's interface proximity, south aspect, and slope. WTA Wightwick-1 (Low)

PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat		Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Moderate	
KOK-1	Kokanee Campground	Low	19.8	Crown Provincial land. In Kokanee Creek Provincial Park. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Campsites.	10.5	7.7	<p><i>A portion of this PTU is in EA-F. It should all be treated as one polygon.</i></p> <p>Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the campground and to protect the area from accidental fire starts related to campers. Treating this unit would also provide a demonstration project of FireSmart vegetation management to the community as well as visitors/tourists.</p> <p>Mature, C-5 type stand with patches of dense understory conifer regeneration. A mix of low to high crown base heights and moderate surface fuel loads. Treatment would likely include thinning of understory conifers, pruning of retained conifers, and surface fuel reduction.</p> <p>PTU SWPI 939 is uphill (north) from this unit. Treating all of these would create a more landscape-level area of reduced fire threat within the WUI.</p> <p>WTA KOKANEE-1 (Moderate; EA-F)</p>
SWPI 939	Kokanee Provincial Park	High	17.9	Crown Provincial land. Existing CRI prescription, but not yet treated. In Kokanee Creek Provincial Park. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone and overlap with non-legal OGMA.	8.8	10.1	<p><i>A portion of this PTU is in EA-F. It should all be treated as one polygon.</i></p> <p>Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI and an area interface to structures. Treat to reduce fire ignition risk from hikers along the trails within. Treating this unit would also provide a demonstration project of FireSmart vegetation management to the community as well as visitors/tourists. Treating in conjunction with KOK-1 PTU would create a large area of reduced fire threat.</p> <p>Existing CRI prescribed unit, but not treated. The north and east portions of the TU are a young conifer regenerating stand (with some overstory L1 conifers) undergoing stem exclusion and self pruning. Little surface fuel currently, but high horizontal and vertical continuity. The south and east portions of the TU are a more open, mature conifer stand with higher amounts of surface fuels. PTU is anchored to the highway to the south and C5/C7 low risk fuel types to E and W. Prescribed burning following thinning and pruning is likely practicable. It is uphill from large campsite with a lot of people during fire season.</p> <p>WTA KP-1 (Moderate); REDFISH-1 (Low; EA-F)</p>
NELS-2	Nelson	Moderate	6.2	Crown Provincial land. Borders private property on north, east, and west sides.	0.0	6.2	<p>These two units have recently reverted from private land to Crown provincial. They have been recommended by the Nelson Fire Chief to treat due to being directly interface, having good access, and for providing a demonstration project of FireSmart vegetation management to the community. Treatment would likely include thinning of understory conifers, pruning of retained conifers, and surface fuel reduction.</p>
NELS-1	Nelson	Moderate	12.7	Crown Provincial land. Borders private property on north and east sides.	0.0	12.7	

PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat		Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Moderate	
GIVE-2	Ymer/Nelson	High	129.8	Crown Provincial land. PTU proposed in 2022 Nelson CWRP. Steep slopes. Trans Canada Trail within. North edges border private property.	24.2	103.5	<p><i>Recommended in the 2022 Nelson CWRP.</i></p> <p>Treat to reduce interface wildfire threat to Nelson and rural neighbourhoods adjacent in EA-E. At a minimum, it is recommended to create a 30m fuel reduction buffer of the Trans Canada Trail that traverses the lower part of the PTU and is a significant ignition risk. Treating the trail side area would also provide a demonstration project of FireSmart vegetation management to the community as well as visitors/tourists. Treating these two units would create a landscape level fuel break for Nelson on the leading fire season wind edge. Steep slopes also make these units prone to erosion and debris slide/flow issues if ever severely burned.</p> <p>C-5 dominant stand with C-3 characteristics, and some scattered C-7. Horizontal fuel continuity is patchy; existing canopy gaps from forest health factors and pockets of high surface fuel loading exists in these openings. Treatment would likely include thinning of understory conifers, pruning of retained conifers, and surface fuel reduction. The forest road along top of PTUs would allow for prescribed burning, if practicable.</p> <p>WTA GIVE-1 (Moderate); GIVE-2 (High)</p>
GIVE-1	Nelson/Smelter Creek	Moderate	72.2	Crown Provincial land. PTU proposed in 2022 Nelson CWRP. Steep slopes. North edges border private property.	15.3	56.6	

SECTION 6: APPENDICES

6.1 APPENDIX A: REVIEW OF 2015 CWPP RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2015 CWPP Recommendations were reviewed and commented on by the Local Government. Comments were edited for clarity.

Item	2015 CWPP Recommendation	2022 CWRP <i>Follow-Up Discussion</i>
Communication and Education		
Objective: To improve public understanding of fire risk and personal responsibility by increasing resident awareness of the wildfire threat in their community and to establish a sense of homeowner responsibility.		
1.	Establish a school education program to engage youth in wildfire management. Consult ABCFP and BCWS (the zone) to facilitate and recruit volunteer teachers and experts to help with curriculum development to be delivered in elementary and/or secondary schools. Educational programming can be done in conjunction with any currently running fire prevention education programs.	<i>Yes. Some education has happened (although more is needed). It is being done by the school, but not under the authority of RDCK.</i>
2.	Make summaries of this report and associated maps publicly available through webpage, social media, and public FireSmart meetings. Add fire threat spatial data to the interactive web-mapping tool to allow residents to find their property and the associated threat of wildfire.	<i>CWRP is available on RDCK website.</i>
3.	Add a Wildfire-specific Fire Prevention Week (or day) in the spring, immediately prior to the fire season.	<i>Yes, numerous FCNRP events happen throughout 2023.</i>
4.	Consider door to door FireSmart assessment and/or home owner self-assessment within the Area E interface in order to educate residents and to quantify the level the level of risk in the interface.	<i>Yes, 200 HPP assessments completed so far in Area E. [as of September 2023]</i>
Objective: To enhance the awareness of elected officials and stakeholders regarding the resources required to reduce fire risk.		

5.	Maintain and strengthen the regional Interface Working Group that includes Nelson, Area F and BC Parks to coordinate wildfire risk reduction efforts.	<i>Nelson CFRC meets numerous times per season to coordinate efforts within area E.</i>
6.	Consider local planning departments to develop regional development permit standards, provide a group voice to the Building and Safety Standards Branch and other provincial entities, and align municipal bylaws.	<i>No communications I am aware of.</i>
7.	Consider the development of a coordinated approach to fuel management and hazard reduction within and adjacent to the Area E Study Area by coordinating with stakeholders including forest licensees, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and utility companies, to aid in the establishment of large, landscape-level fuel breaks or compliment current or proposed fuel treatment areas.	<i>Nelson CFRC includes Parks, CL WRR, RDCK, and BCWS who all collaborate on various fuel management projects.</i>
8.	Maintain regular communication with the Technical Review Committee (see Section 2.4) to ensure that proposed activities maintain or enhance biodiversity values	<i>[no comment]</i>
Structure Protection and Planning		
Objective: Enhance protection of critical infrastructure from wildfire.		
9.	Complete a fire flow / water vulnerability assessment for each water system and identify and map all alternative water sources (reservoirs, streams, lakes, etc.). Identify which areas may have insufficient or unreliable water supplies and provide recommendations to reduce Area E's vulnerability.	<i>[no comment]</i>

10.	Complete a vulnerability assessment of all critical infrastructure including water infrastructure in interface areas with FireSmart recommendations.	Firehalls complete. Water/power unknown.
11.	Develop alternative, backup water sources for fire protection, including the establishment of standpipes as required.	[no comment]
12.	Complete a detailed review of back-up power source options for all critical infrastructure and upgrade as required.	[no comment]
13.	Consider completing more detailed hazard assessments and developing response plans for stabilization and rehabilitation of burn areas in watersheds that are vulnerable to post-wildfire debris flows and floods. Opportunities may exist to coordinate study and planning with adjacent jurisdictions (City of Nelson and BC Parks).	[no comment]
Objective: Encourage private homeowners to voluntarily adopt FireSmart principles on their properties.		
14.	Complete, or support homeowners to complete, WUI Site and Structure Hazard Assessments for interface homes, make hazard mapping for assessed homes publicly available, and provide informational material to homeowners on specific steps that they can take to reduce fire hazard on their property.	Yes, 200 HPP assessments completed so far in area E. [As of September 2023]

Municipal Policy

Objective: To reduce wildfire hazard on private land and increase FireSmart compliance.

15.	Complete OCP review to strengthen and expand reach of the existing policy.	
16.	Consider developing Wildfire Hazard Development Permit (DP) Areas for major retrofits / renovations or new builds (building permits), collecting bonds to be returned upon evidence of completing development and landscaping according to wildfire hazard assessment. Review District of North Vancouver DP process as a model.	<i>Nothing implemented yet; wildfire development permit area study completed in 2022.</i>
17.	Obtain legal advice regarding the Building Act, specifically regarding the temporarily unrestricted matters and local government authority to set exterior building materials requirements. Use local government authority to mandate FireSmart construction materials beyond BC Building Code in wildfire hazard development permit area, as allowed.	<i>[no comment]</i>
18.	Develop a landscaping standard to be applied in interface / DP areas. The standard should list flammable non-compliant vegetation, non-flammable drought and pest resistant alternatives, and tips on landscape design to reduce maintenance, watering requirements, and reduce wildfire hazard. Include meeting landscaping standard as a requirement of Development Permit.	<i>Not complete</i>
19.	Proactively enforce wildfire covenants requiring owners to maintain their properties hazard free on all properties in Development Permit areas. Enforcement will serve to minimize fuel risks on problematic private properties which have allowed hazardous accumulation of fuels and provide improved protection to adjacent lands.	<i>Not complete</i>

20.	Alter the zoning bylaws to require that developers leave building set backs on private land so that there is a minimum of 10 m distance between buildings and forest interface.	<i>Not complete</i>
21.	Consider developing an outdoor burning bylaw specifying requirements for and limitations to outdoor burning and, in conjunction with the Fire Chief, implement the bylaw at times of high fire danger when provincial bans are not in place. The bylaw should consider effective and efficient enforcement measures and powers.	<i>Not complete</i>
22.	Work with the Building and Safety Standards Branch to provide input into the Building Code revisions that would apply within the development permit areas to prevent the spread of wildfire.	<i>Not complete</i>

Emergency Response and Planning

Objective: To improve structural and wildfire equipment and training available to RDCK Fire and Rescue.

23.	Conduct annual structural and interface training with MFLNRO BCWS. As part of the training, it is recommended to conduct annual reviews to ensure PPE and wildland equipment resources are complete, in working order, and the crews are well-versed in their set-up and use. Interface training should include completion of a mock wildfire simulation in coordination with BCWS and safety training specific to wildland fire and risks inherent with natural areas.	<i>[no comment]</i>
24.	Integrate Emergency Preparedness Committee and West Arm Interface Steering Committee. Coordination and information sharing are crucial to the development of a community well prepared for wildfire. As an outcome of this integration, consider updating the Emergency Program Structure.	<i>[no comment]</i>

25.	Provide S215 training to all/some members of Fire Halls in Area E to enhance wildfire suppression training. Consider investigating Office of the Fire Commissioner funding.	<i>[no comment]</i>
26.	Review UBCM-owned SPU request procedure. Complete training with SPU as required and assess needs based on training outcomes.	<i>[no comment]</i>
27.	Develop Regional Service to fund additional SPUs and maintain existing SPUs.	<i>[no comment]</i>
28.	Explore opportunities to collaborate with BCWS to coordinate discount volumes of hose for interface fires, reducing costs and logistics to local fire departments.	<i>[no comment]</i>
29.	Explore opportunities to ensure a duty officer is in place in each Fire Protection Area to provide coverage for periods of high or extreme hazard.	<i>[no comment]</i>
30.	Conduct fire preplan assessment for key interface areas in Area E. Other jurisdictions have completed assessments that prioritize fire department-specific variables, such as distance to hydrants, response time from nearest fire station, etc. to produce local risk ratings.	<i>[no comment]</i>

Emergency Response Evacuation and Access

Objective: To improve access and egress to neighbourhoods at risk and natural areas within RDCK.

31.	Develop a Total Access Plan to create, map and inventory trail and road network in natural areas for suppression planning, identification of areas with insufficient access and to aid in strategic planning. Fire threat mapping from this CWPP should be included. The plan should be updated every five years, or more regularly, as needed to incorporate additions or changes.	<i>[no comment]</i>
32.	Require that all new interface developments have access for evacuation and sufficient capacity for emergency vehicles.	<i>[no comment]</i>
33.	Facilitate completion of emergency evacuation plans for interface neighbourhoods with limited access.	<i>[no comment]</i>

Fuel Management

Objective: Reduce wildfire threat on public lands through fuel management.

34.	Proceed with detailed assessment, prescription development and treatment of hazardous fuel units identified in this CWPP. Collaboration with BCTS, and other licensees, BC Parks and City of Nelson may facilitate larger projects.	<i>[no comment; some prescriptions have been developed, and some of those implemented]</i>
35.	Prioritize Areas of Interest across Electoral Areas with updated CWPPs to ensure effective and objective treatment.	<i>[no comment]</i>

Objective: Maintain treated areas under an acceptable level of wildfire fire threat (moderate).

36.

As treatments are implemented, complete monitoring within 10 years of treatment (subject to site conditions) and maintenance every 15-20 years (subject to prescription and site conditions) on previously treated areas. Treated areas should be assessed by a Registered Professional Forester, specific to actions required in order to maintain treated areas in a moderate or lower hazard.

[no comment]

6.2 APPENDIX B: LOCAL WILDFIRE RISK PROCESS

Wildfire Risk Assessment plot worksheets are provided in Appendix C: Wildfire Risk Assessment – Worksheets and Photos, plot locations are summarized in Appendix B-2: , and the field data collection and spatial analysis methodology is detailed in Appendix B-2 and B-3.

6.2.1 APPENDIX B-1: FUEL TYPING METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

The Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) System outlines five major fuel groups and sixteen fuel types based on characteristic fire behaviour under defined conditions.⁵⁹ Fuel typing is recognized as a blend of art and science. Although a subjective process, the most appropriate fuel type was assigned based on research, experience, and practical knowledge; this system has been used within BC, with continual improvement and refinement, for 20 years.⁶⁰ It should be noted that there are significant limitations with the fuel typing system which should be recognized. Major limitations include: a fuel typing system designed to describe fuels which sometimes do not occur within the WUI, fuel types which cannot accurately capture the natural variability within a polygon, and limitations in the data used to create initial fuel types.⁶⁰ There are several implications of these limitations, which include: fuel typing further from the developed areas of the study has a lower confidence, generally; and, fuel typing should be used as a starting point for more detailed assessments and as an indicator of overall wildfire risk, not as an operational, or site-level, assessment. Forested ecosystems are dynamic and change over time: fuels accumulate, stands fill in with regeneration, and forest health outbreaks occur. Regular monitoring of fuel types and wildfire risk assessment should occur every 5 – 10 years to determine the need for threat assessment updates and the timing for their implementation.

Table 25 summarizes the fuel types observed in EA-E’s WUI by general fire behaviour (crown fire and spotting potential). These fuel types were used to guide the threat assessment.

Table 25. Fuel Type Categories and Crown Fire Spot Potential encountered within the WUI.

Fuel Type	FBP / CFDDRS Description	WUI Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Fuel Type – Crown Fire / Spotting Potential
C-3	Mature Jack or Lodgepole Pine	<i>Pole-sapling to mature even-aged conifer-dominated forest with moderate to high density and high crown closure (near or at horizontal continuity). Crowns separated from the forest floor in mature stands.</i>	Surface and crown fire, low to very high fire intensity and rate of spread.	High

⁵⁹ Forestry Canada Fire Danger Group. 1992. Development and Structure of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System: Information Report ST-X-3.

⁶⁰ Perrakis, D.B., Eade G., and Hicks, D. 2018. Natural Resources Canada. Canadian Forest Service. *British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description* 2018 Version.

Fuel Type	FBP / CFDRS Description	WUI Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Fuel Type – Crown Fire / Spotting Potential
C-4	Immature Jack or Lodgepole Pine (>10,000 sph)	<i>Pole-sapling to mature (but stagnant in growth) very dense conifer-dominated forests (>5,000 sph). Some stands have a high number of dead standing or dead leaning/down from natural exclusion processes.</i>	Surface and crown fire, low to very high fire intensity and rate of spread.	High
C-5	Red and White Pine	<i>Low to moderate density, uneven-aged conifer-dominated forest, crown base heights mixed. Understory of discontinuous natural conifer ingress in openings and gaps, deciduous shrubs, and herbs.</i>	Moderate potential for active crown fire in wind-driven conditions. Under drought conditions, fuel consumption and fire intensity can be higher due to dead woody fuels.	Moderate
C-7	Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir	<i>Low-density, uneven-aged conifer-dominated forest, crowns separated from the ground, understory of discontinuous grasses and shrubs. Exposed bed rock and low surface fuel loading.</i>	Surface fire spread, torching of individual trees, rarely crowning (usually limited to slopes > 30%), moderate to high intensity and rate of spread.	Moderate
O-1a/b	Grass	<i>Matted and standing grass that can cure; sparse or scattered shrubs, trees, and down woody debris. Cutblocks >2 seasons old that do not meet S-type descriptions, as well as young regenerating cutblocks that have not reached any horizontal continuity.</i>	Rapidly spreading, high-intensity surface fire when cured.	Low
M-1/2	Boreal mixedwood (leafless and green)	<i>Moderately well-stocked mixed stands of conifers and deciduous species, low to moderate dead, down woody fuels.</i>	Surface fire spread, torching of individual trees and intermittent crowning, (depending on slope and percent conifer).	<26% conifer (Very Low); 26-49% Conifer (Low); >50% Conifer (Moderate)
D-1/2	Aspen or birch (leafless and green)	<i>Deciduous stands.</i>	Always a surface fire, low to moderate rate of spread and fire intensity.	Low
S-1	Slash (jack / lodgepole pine, white spruce)	<i>Any conifer slash as the result of harvesting practices.</i>	Moderate to high rate of spread and high to very high intensity surface fire.	Low

Fuel Type	FBP / CFDRS Description	WUI Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Fuel Type – Crown Fire / Spotting Potential
N	N/A	<i>Non-fuel: irrigated/mowed agricultural fields, urban or developed areas void or nearly void of vegetation and forests.</i>	N/A	N/A
W	N/A	<i>Water</i>	N/A	N/A

6.2.2 APPENDIX B-2: WILDFIRE THREAT ASSESSMENT PLOTS

Table 26 displays a summary of all Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) plots completed during CWRP field work. The most recent 2020 WTA threat plot worksheets and methodology were used.⁶¹ The plot forms and photos will be submitted as a separate document. The following ratings are applied to applicable point ranges:

- Wildfire Behaviour Threat Score (Southern Interior Mountains)
 - 0 – 47 Low
 - 48 – 65 Moderate
 - 66 – 79 High
 - 80 + Extreme

Table 26. Summary of WUI Threat Assessment Worksheets (2020).

WTA Plot	Geographic Location	Wildfire Threat Rating
BALFOUR-1	North of access Road	(Lo w)
BALFOUR-2	Adjacent to Balfour Beach Regional Park	35 (Low)
BLEWETT-1	East of Carlson Rd. near the Blewett Fire Department	2 (Lo w)
GIVEOUT-1	South of Nelson on SilverKing Tramway	5 (Mod erate)
GIVEOUT-2	South of Nelson on SilverKing Tramway	5 (Mod erate)
KP-1	Adjacent to Kokanee Glacier Rd	1 (Mod erate)
KOKANEE-1	Kokanee Creek Provincial Park Campground	53 (Moderate)
MORNING-1	Morning Mountain Regional Park	3 (Lo w)
PROCTOR-1	Adjacent to Victor Rd.	52 (Moderate)
PROCTOR-2	Adjacent to Victor Rd.	(Mod erate)
PROCTOR-3	Near the junction between Victor Rd. and Harrop Proctor Rd.	5 (Mod erate)
PROCTOR-	Adjacent to the end of Mill Creek Rd.	31 (Low)
PROCTOR-5	Adjacent to Lasca Creek Rd.	3 (Lo w)
REDCREEK-1	West of Balfor adjacent to access road	5 (Mod erate)
SLOBONA-1	North of Nelson adjacent to Svoboda Rd	25 (Low)
WIGHTWICK-1	Near Wightwick Rd	2 (Lo w)

⁶¹ MFLNRORD.2020 Wildfire Threat Assessment Guide and Worksheets

6.2.3 APPENDIX B-3: FIRE RISK THREAT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

As part of the CWRP process, spatial data submissions are required to meet the defined standards in the Program and Application Guide. Proponents completing a CWRP can obtain open-source BC Wildfire datasets, including Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) datasets from the British Columbia Data Catalogue. Wildfire spatial datasets obtained through the BC Open Data Catalogue used in the development of the CWRP include, but are not limited to:

- PSTA Spotting Impact
- PSTA Fire Density
- PSTA Fire Threat Rating
- PSTA Lighting Fire Density
- PSTA Human Fire Density
- Head Fire Intensity
- WUI Human Interface Buffer (1436m buffer from structure point data)
- Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class
- Current Fire Polygons
- Current Fire Locations
- Historical Fire Perimeters
- Historical Fire Incident Locations
- Historical Fire Burn Severity

As part of the program, proponents completing a CWRP are provided with a supplementary PSTA dataset from BC Wildfire Services. This dataset includes:

- Fuel Type
- Structures
- Structure Density
- Eligible WUI (1 km buffer of structure density classes >6).

The required components for the spatial data submission are detailed in the Program and Application Guide Spatial Appendix – these include:

- AOI
- Proposed Treatment
- WUI (1 km buffer of structure density classes >6)

The provided PSTA data does not transfer directly into the geodatabase for submission, and several PSTA feature classes require extensive updating or correction. In addition, the Fire Threat determined in the PSTA is fundamentally different than the localized Fire Threat feature class that is included in the Local Fire Risk map required for project submission. The Fire Threat in the PSTA is based on provincial scale inputs - fire density; spotting impact; and head fire intensity, while the spatial submission Fire Threat is based on the components of the Wildland Urban Interface Threat Assessment Worksheet. For the scope of this project, completion of WUI Threat Assessment plots on the entire AOI is not possible, and therefore

an analytical model has been built to assume Fire Threat based on spatially explicit variables that correspond to the WUI Threat Assessment worksheet.

Field Data Collection

The primary goals of field data collection are to confirm or correct the provincial fuel type, complete WUI Threat Assessment Plots, and assess other features of interest to the development of the CWRP. This is accomplished by traversing as much of the AOI and surrounding Eligible WUI as possible (within time, budget and access constraints). Threat Assessment plots are completed on the 2020 form, and as per the Wildland Urban Interface Threat Assessment Guide.

For clarity, the final threat ratings for the AOI were determined through the completion of the following methodological steps:

1. Update fuel-typing using orthophotography provided by the client and field verification.
2. Update structural data using critical infrastructure information provided by the client, field visits to confirm structure additions or deletions, BC Assessment, and orthophotography
3. Complete field work to ground-truth fuel typing and threat ratings (completed 8 WUI threat plots on a variety of fuel types, aspects, and slopes and an additional 250 field stops with qualitative notes, fuel type verification, and/or photographs)
4. Threat assessment analysis using field data collected and rating results of WUI threat plots – see next section.

Spatial Analysis

The field data is used to correct the fuel type polygon attributes provided in the PSTA. This corrected fuel type layer is then used as part of the spatial analysis process. The other components are developed using spatial data (BEC zone, fire history zone) or spatial analysis (aspect, slope). A scoring system was developed to categorize resultant polygons as having relatively low, moderate, high or extreme Fire Threat, or Low, Moderate, High or Extreme WUI Threat. Table 27 below summarizes the components and scores to determine the Fire Behaviour Threat.

Table 27: Components of Fire Threat Analysis

Attribute	Indicator	Score
Fuel Type	C-1	35
	C-2	
	C-3	
	C-4	
	M-3/4, >50% dead fir	25
	C-6	
	M-1/2, >75% conifer	20
	C-7	
	M-3/4, <50% dead fir	15
	M-1/2, 50-75% conifer	
	M-1/2, 25-50% conifer	
	C-5	10
	O-1a/b	
	S-1	

	S-2	
	S-3	
	M-1/2, <25% conifer	5
	D-1/2	0
	W	0
	N	0
Weather - BEC Zone	AT, irrigated	1
	CWH, CDF, MH	3
	ICH, SBS, ESSF	7
	IDF, MS, SBPS, CWHsds1 & ds2, BWBS, SWB	10
	PP, BG	15
Historical Fire Occurrence Zone	G5, R1, R2, G6, V5, R9, V9, V3, R5, R8, V7	1
	G3, G8, R3, R4, V6, G1, G9, V8	5
	G7, C5, G4, C4, V1, C1, N6	8
	K1, K5, K3, C2, C3, N5, K6, N4, K7, N2	10
	N7, K4	15
Slope	<16	1
	16-29 (max N slopes)	5
	30-44	10
	45-54	12
	>55	15
Aspect (>15% slope)	North	0
	East	5
	<16% slope, all aspect	10
	West	12
	South	15

WUI Risk Classes and their associated summed scores

Very Low	0
Low	0-35
Moderate	35-55
High	55-65
Extreme	>65

These attributes are summed to produce polygons with a final WUI Risk Score. To determine the Fire Threat score, only the distance to structures is used. Buffer distance classes are determined; <200m, 200m-500m and >500m) but only for polygons that had a 'high' or 'extreme' Fire Threat score from previous assessment. In order to determine WUI Risk; those aforementioned polygons within 200m are rated as 'extreme', within 500m are rated as 'high', within 2km are 'moderate', and distances over that are rated 'low'.

Limitations

There are obvious limitations in this method, most notably that not all components of the threat assessment worksheet are scalable to a GIS model, generalizing the Fire Behaviour Threat score. The WUI Risk Score is greatly simplified, as determining the position of structures on a slope, the type of development and the relative position are difficult in an automated GIS process. Structures are considered, but there is no consideration for structure type (also not included on threat assessment worksheet). This method uses the best available information to produce accurate and useable threat assessment across the study area in a format which is required by the UBCM FCFS program.

6.2.4 APPENDIX B-4: PROXIMITY OF FUEL TO THE COMMUNITY

Home and Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zones

Multiple studies have shown that the principal factors regarding home and structure loss to wildfire are the structure’s characteristics and immediate surroundings. The area that determines the ignition potential of a structure to wildfire is referred to as (for residences) the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) or (for critical infrastructure) the Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone (CIIZ).^{62,63} Both the HIZ and CIIZ include the structure itself and three concentric, progressively wider Priority Zones out to 30 m from the structure (Figure 15 below). More details on priority zones can be found in the FireSmart Manual.⁶⁴



⁶² Reinhardt, E., R. Keane, D. Calkin, J. Cohen. 2008. Objectives and considerations for wildland fuel treatment in forested ecosystems of the interior western United States. *Forest Ecology and Management* 256:1997 - 2006.

⁶³ Cohen, J. Preventing Disaster Home Ignitability in the Wildland-urban Interface. *Journal of Forestry*. p 15 - 21.

⁶⁴ <https://firesmartcanada.ca/> and <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/firesmart>



Figure 15: FireSmart Home and Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone (HIZ, CIIZ)

It has been found that during extreme wildfire events, most home destruction has been a result of low-intensity surface fire flame exposures, usually ignited by embers (firebrands). Firebrands can be transported long distances ahead of the wildfire, across fire guards and fuel breaks, and accumulate within the HIZ/CIIZ in densities that can exceed 600 embers per square meter. Combustible materials found within the HIZ/CIIZ combine to provide fire pathways allowing spot surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames or smoldering fire into contact with structures.

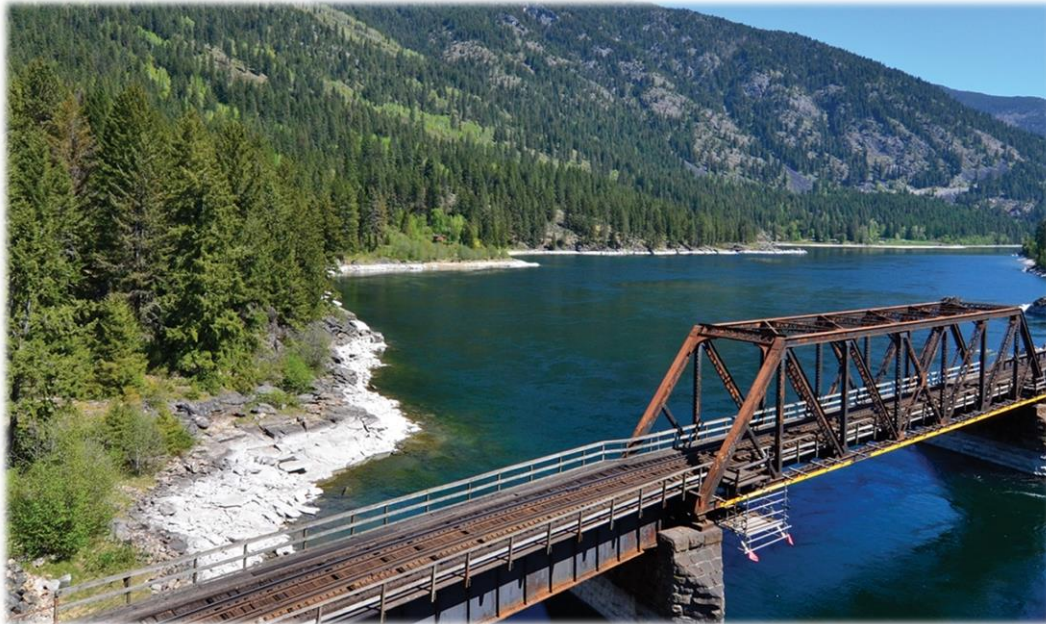
6.3 APPENDIX C: WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT – WORKSHEETS AND PHOTOS

Provided separately as PDF package.

6.4 APPENDIX D: MAPS

Provided separately as PDF package.

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan



Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Area F

December 20, 2023

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REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL SIGN AND SEAL

RPF PRINTED NAME	
Louis Orieux	RPF #5147
DATE SIGNED	
December 18, 2023	
I certify that the work described herein fulfills the standards expected of a member of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals and that I did personally supervise the work.	
Registered Professional Forester Signature and Seal	
	

Cover Photo: Tagum rail bridge. Accessed from:
<https://www.nelsonkootenaylake.com/listing/taghum-bridge>

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- Tom Newell (RDCK Director for Area F)
- Nora Hannon (RDCK Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Senior Advisor)
- Dan Seguin (RDCK Manager Community Sustainability)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2023, B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. was retained by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) to assist Electoral Area F (EA-F) in developing a new Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP). A CWRP is both a localized risk assessment and an action plan to improve wildfire resiliency within EA-F's Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). This plan replaces the previous Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) completed for EA-F in 2016, accounting for changes that have occurred in the last seven years and taking advantage of the newest community wildfire planning framework in BC. The CWRP is founded on the application of the [seven FireSmart™ disciplines](#) (Education, Legislation and Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-training, Emergency Planning, and Vegetation Management).

EA-F has made full or partial progress with 12 of 37 of the 2016 CWPP recommendations. The recommendations addressed primarily related to delivering public FireSmart and wildfire education and prescribing and implementing proposed treatment units. As the Electoral Area's communities (and associated WUI) are spread out over a significant distance along the northern shores of northern Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River, community wildfire resiliency is strongly tied to the actions of the communities and their residents, the Provincial government, and the relevant stakeholders managing the timber harvest land base. Having Local Government and local volunteer fire department Fire Chiefs participating in a local and or regional Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee will be essential to implementing this plan and achieving effective wildfire risk reduction throughout EA-F.

EA-F's WUI communities are all in a provincially defined Wildland Urban Interface polygon that has a Risk Class of "1", which reflects the highest wildfire risk rating. The Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis assigns a "High" or "Extreme" threat rating to much of the surrounding area. Fieldwork for this CWRP allowed for verified and updated fuel types and wildfire threat assessments to be combined with an office-based analysis to provide a local wildfire risk assessment for the communities. The local analysis determined that, for the assessable area, 62% of EA-F's WUI is classified as a high or extreme fire behavior threat, which largely reflects it being dominated by steeper middle and upper slopes on southerly aspects with conifer-dominated fuel types. The analysis cannot be performed on private land, which covers approximately 42% of EA-F's WUI. This highlights the need to implement risk mitigation programs on private land if community resilience is to be achieved. Conditions on private land can often result in the fire hazard being much higher than in the forest adjacent if there is low compliance with FireSmart principles – which is an issue that was frequently observed through field work. It is important to recognize that in WUI fires, wildland fuels (trees, shrubs, branches, etc.) are not the only fuel available to the fire – houses and their exterior construction materials and landscaping vegetation, cars, barbeque propane tanks, and more (anything that is flammable or combustible) is available fuel.

Rural areas without fire services, or dependent upon small volunteer fire services, rely heavily on the coordination of local resources and the uptake of FireSmart initiatives to be prepared for a wildfire event. It has been found that during extreme wildfire events, most home destruction has been a result of low-intensity surface fire flame exposures, usually ignited by flying embers (firebrands). Firebrands can be transported long distances ahead of the wildfire, across fire guards and fuel breaks, and accumulate in

densities that can exceed 600 embers per square meter. Combustible materials found on the exterior of and surrounding homes (the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone) combine to provide fire pathways allowing spot surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames or smoldering fire into contact with structures.

Because ignitability of structures and landscaping vegetation is the main factor driving structure loss, the intensity and rate of spread of wildland fires beyond the community has not been found to necessarily correspond to loss potential. For example, FireSmart homes with low ignitability may survive high-intensity fires, whereas highly ignitable homes may be destroyed during lower intensity surface fire events. Increasing ignition resistance would reduce the number of homes simultaneously on fire; extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result in WUI fire disasters.¹ It is for this reason that the key to reducing WUI fire structure loss is to reduce structure ignitability. Mitigation responsibility must be centered on structure owners, with support from Local Government.

EA-F's WUI communities can be considered as largely interface², with areas/neighbourhoods of intermix.³ Wildfire poses a threat to the communities from either a human ignition (which can happen almost anywhere – forest trail, highway, backyard), or lightning ignition (most often in the adjacent forests near high points of land), but also from a residential fire that then spreads into surrounding vegetation and landscaping. Because of the rural character, remote or isolated locations, and the observed low adherence to FireSmart residential vegetation management and exterior building materials for many structures within EA-F, an emphasis on FireSmart education and FireSmart residential risk reduction policies is made within this Plan. Risk communication, education on the range of available activities, and prioritization of activities should help homeowners to feel empowered to complete simple risk reduction activities on their property. Additional emphasis is placed upon the Provincial government and local timber harvest land base stakeholders to manage potentially hazardous fuel conditions within EA-F's WUI – either through fuel treatments recommended as part of this plan, or by using appropriately targeted harvesting and slash management practices.

A total of 44 recommendation and action items are presented in Table 1 within this Executive Summary and are more thoroughly discussed in their appropriate sections within this Plan. Ultimately, the recommendation and action items within this Plan should be considered as a toolbox of options to help reduce the wildfire risk and consequence to communities with EA-F. RDCK and EA-F will have to further prioritize implementation based on resources, strengths, constraints, and availability of funding, and regularly update the prioritization and course of actions as variables change over time.

This Plan was developed concurrently with CWRPs for adjacent RDCK Electoral Areas D, E, and I. As such, there are synergies between these plans that should be utilized and capitalized upon, such as

¹ Calkin, D., J. Cohen, M. Finney, M. Thompson. 2014. *How risk management can prevent future wildfire disasters in the wildland-urban interface*. Proc Natl Acad Sci U.S.A. Jan 14; 111(2): 746-751. Accessed online 1 June, 2016 at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3896199/>.

² Homes and structures are largely situated adjacent to vegetated/forested landscapes surrounding the community/neighbourhood.

³ Homes and structures are largely situated within the vegetated/forested landscape.

similar/matching recommendations, adjacent or adjoining proposed fuel treatment units, and overlapping fire department response areas.

Table 1: EA-F's Community Wildfire Resiliency Action Plan

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
<i>Education - Section 5.2</i>							
<i>Residents</i>							
1	High	Continue to apply for funding and employ an EA-F FireSmart Coordinator/Mitigation Specialist.	To provide a continuous, local FireSmart program, delivered by local professionals with local knowledge and connections, to their community. Having a FireSmart Coordinator will provide a lead person with dedicated time to coordinate, manage, and implement the program, especially as it grows.	RDCK	2 years	EA-F has its own FireSmart program being managed by a local FireSmart Coordinator.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
2	High	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators should plan regular meetings to discuss their successes, failures, and learnings. Consider adding, or having specific meetings with, FireSmart Community Neighbourhood Champions.	So that they can continue to improve the RDCK's FireSmart program and tailor it to their respective communities. Adding in Community Champions will allow them to further support their EA's communities, as well as get FireSmart messaging and opportunities back into the communities faster.	FireSmart Coordinators (RDCK)	ASAP and ongoing	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators are meeting more than once a year.	CRI FCFS funding as part of FireSmart Coordinator salaries.
3	High	Continue to promote FireSmart to EA-F residents at community events, public spaces, and through workshops using FireSmart branded material and printed manuals (Home and Landscaping) and/or a FireSmart Canada Community Preparedness Day. Show a united front by having local government, fire department members, and FireSmart coordinators at events together as much as possible.	Observed adherence and uptake of FireSmart principles on private property and many homes/structures in EA-F is lacking. Landscaping (conifer hedges), firewood and combustible materials storage, and external building materials are the biggest issues. FireSmart BC resources help present a unified message. Print resources are popular and easy to distribute. FireSmart branded tents, banners, and t-shirts can be purchased with CRI FCFS funding.	EA-F / RDCK	Annually	Quantity of resources distributed/number of times used at events.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
4	High	Update RDCK's FireSmart webpage with the most recent FireSmart graphics and language. Provide links to the current fire danger rating, or better yet, have that posted on the front of this page (making sure to keep it updated during the fire season).	To continue to provide to most recent and up to date FireSmart information, language, and principles to residents (and visitors).	RDCK	Annually	RDCK FireSmart webpage is showing current FireSmart information and graphics.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
5	High	Continue the FireSmart social media campaign, with updated FireSmart graphics and language, through various RDCK/EA-F social media platforms (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), including those from Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs).	To promote FireSmart information to residents (and visitors). Include links to graphics, videos, pdf information/pamphlet downloads, etc.	EA-F / RDCK	Annually	An organized FireSmart social media campaign is delivered throughout RDCK.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
6	High	Continue to promote FireSmart in EA-F schools using the FireSmart Education Kit and other resources.	Great success has been made through BC schools with FireSmart outreach. Engaging with the community's younger population may increase uptake with all residents.	RDCK / School District 8	Annually	One FireSmart lesson delivered each year (minimum).	CRI FCFS; e.g. FireSmart Magnetic Board for \$1,710.
7	High	Continue to promote free FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments and/or Home Partners Program assessments to residents.	FireSmart Home Ignition zone and Home Partners Program assessments introduce residents to FireSmart, its principles, fire and wildfire risks associated with their home and property, and how they can be mitigated. These assessments are primarily an educational exercise, and can be funded completely through CRI FCFS. They are a requirement to qualify for the FireSmart rebate program (see Section 5.7).	EA-F / RDCK	2 years	FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments are being completed within EA-F.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
8	Moderate	Consider door-to-door knocks in neighbourhoods (such as Pass Creek) that have communication constraints to discuss wildfire risk and FireSmart principles that they can apply to their home and property.	Although wildfire can affect all areas of EA-F's WUI, some communities are more at risk due to risks/constraints not associated to wildfire – such as no cell service and low community turnouts at public FireSmart events. Door to door knocks by Fire Chiefs, fire department personnel, and FireSmart Coordinators have been successful in other communities.	RDCK / EA-F VFDs / FireSmart Coordinators	2 years	Visits to homes in these WUI neighbourhoods from local government/ FireSmart/ fire department members (with FireSmart information left at their door) have started.	In-house personnel time. CRI FCFS for FireSmart materials.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
9	Moderate	Increase public awareness of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.	Increasing awareness of wildfire risk also increases community resiliency through household emergency planning, and support for FireSmart.	EA-F / RDCK	1 year from CWRP completion	Awareness by residents - consider a survey.	Staff time to update website, and media posts. Newspaper ads ~\$300 each.
<i>Visitors</i>							
10	High	Lobby BC Parks to install FireSmart educational signage at all BC Park camp and recreation sites within EA-F, starting at Kokanee Creek. RDCK should follow suit for all regional parks.	These signs provide both visitors and residents a quick snapshot of how their actions and activities can inadvertently increase wildfire and ignition risks, as well as introduces visitors to FireSmart – a message they can take home with them.	EA-F / RDCK / BC Parks	5 years (signs installed)	Wildfire risk signs at the highest traffic parks have signs.	Sign cost ~\$800 for purchase and installation per sign.
<i>Legislation, Planning and Development - Section 5.3</i>							
11	High	Upon the roll-out of the new BC Building Code in 2024, RDCK should review and assess what FireSmart principles are included and compare them to the draft Wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs). Update the draft DPAs as required. Initiate a process to implement the wildfire DPAs, if still required, to manage for risks not addressed in the new Code.	FireSmart construction and landscaping policies manage for wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa). Over time, resiliency will be built up at the interface and intermix areas.	EA-F / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon BC Building Code roll out	All new development complies with the policy.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
12	High	Update references to “fire risk” in EA-F’s OCP (e.g., sections 17.4 and 17.6) to include referencing the Local Wildfire Risk Analysis developed as part of this plan, as it more accurately reflects current fire risk for EA-F’s WUI than currently available provincial data.	EA-F should look to the most recent and accurate wildfire risk analysis for its WUI to be used to determine areas of Moderate and High wildfire threat for reducing wildfire threat through community planning and development purposes.	EA-F / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon next OCP review and update	OCP update that includes FireSmart construction/dev development policies for single home and lot development and major renovations.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
13	High	Consider adopting a Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw to restrict flammable landscaping. Example: prohibit conifer vegetation in the Immediate Zone of a residence or structure (0-1.5 m) and prohibit the planting of new conifer vegetation in Priority Zone 1 (1.5-10 m). Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout the Township, especially on more densely populated streets. This can be an effective communication tool regardless of enforcement capacity.	Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout EA-F, especially on more densely populated streets. Landscaping vegetation can act as a wick, moving fire to homes/structures and throughout communities.	EA-F / RDCK (Consultant)	5 years	A Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw is in effect.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
14	High	Continue to conduct FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments for public works and community/government buildings. Conduct FireSmart mitigation as soon as possible (vegetation management, material upgrades). Set a priority sequence for assessment based on wildfire response and post-wildfire recovery. Encourage and support privately owned community halls that act as community shelters, and private or community owned critical infrastructure, to do the same.	Protecting water systems, emergency shelters, and community infrastructure is critical to wildfire response and recovery. Assessments have already been completed for EA-F fire halls.	EA-F / RDCK (Local FireSmart Representatives ; FireSmart Coordinator; and/or Consultant)	Ongoing	Number of assessments completed and mitigation hours/investment	CRI FCFS: up to \$800 per assessment and up to \$50,000 for mitigation per structure (publicly owned only).
Cross Training & Fire Department Resources - Section 5.4							
Training							
15	High	Continue to support 'train-the-trainer' programs so that required courses (e.g., S-231, WSPP-115) can continue to be delivered in-house to EA-F fire department members.	To continue providing an opportunity to expand in-house wildland specific training, and potentially train adjacent fire departments or community groups.	RDCK / EA-F / EA-F fire departments	Annually	Number of firefighters (both paid and on-call volunteer) with wildland training beyond maintains or increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS Training. Columbia Basin Trust funding.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
16	High	Support FireSmart specific training to EA-F fire departments. Examples include: FireSmart 101, Local FireSmart Representative (LFR), and FireSmart Home Partners Mitigation Specialists.	To build understanding and knowledge of FireSmart principles within fire response area fire departments. To certify fire response area fire department members so they can implement various FireSmart assessments within the community.	RDCK / EA-F / EA-F fire departments	Annually	Number of firefighters (both paid and on-call volunteer) with FireSmart training increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS funding is available for training.
17	High	EA-F fire departments should seek out (and be supported by RDCK/EA-F in doing so) opportunities to perform wildfire response and structure protection drills - using hydrants, standpipes, and natural water sources, <i>with</i> BCWS.	Fast and effective deployment of available Structure Protection Units (two are owned by RDCK) and any additional equipment that the fire departments have will be crucial in any interface fire scenario. Equipment compatibilities and/or differences between those available and what equipment BCWS uses should be identified and addressed ahead of time.	Fire Response Area Fire Departments (BCWS)	Annually	Drills performed at least once annually in different communities with different water sources.	Staff time as required.
<i>Water</i>							
18	High	Continue to identify and map natural and artificial water sources useable for fire suppression across the entire regional district. Having a digital map would allow it to be uploaded into response vehicles' CAD systems, shared with BCWS response personnel, as well as included in the pre-planning of emergency community water delivery systems connecting major natural water sources with interface communities, to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. Include important details such as: estimated water volume and access point notes. Share this information to all mutual aid fire response partners, and update over time.	Most firefighting service in EA-F requires water shuttling. Wildfire fighting response almost always relies upon local water sources. This impacts EA-F's wildfire resilience. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers to fill bladders can be pre-planned, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps, and piping.	RDCK GIS department/ EA-F fire departments (to aid in identification for their service areas or share data already acquired) (BCWS)	5 years and ongoing	A fire suppression water source plan and map are produced and shared.	CRI FCFS Community Water Delivery Assessment funding available for incremental staff hours or contract cost.
19	High	In coordination with recommendation #18, create opportunities for BCWS to work with independent water systems to identify assets. Assist those communities in retrofitting their systems to be compatible, if required.	Reducing barriers to BCWS for accessing water sources in the WUI increases opportunities to fight WUI fires.	RDCK / FireSmart Coordinator (BCWS)	Annually	Communities with self-managed water systems are meeting with BCWS.	EA-F, BCWS, and community time.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
20	Moderate	EA-F fire departments should seek (or continue to uphold, if accredited already) Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation from Fire Underwriters Survey.	This accreditation certifies that the fire department can supply enough water to have some areas without fire hydrants within a certain distance of their structures qualify as having a fire hydrant within 300m of it (this can also potentially lower insurance rates for property owners within the EA-F fire response areas). Note: this does not increase the overall water supply already available under automatic and mutual aid agreements.	EA-F fire departments/ RDCK	5 years	Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation achieved by fire response area fire departments.	fire response area fire departments staff time as required (and EA-F budget for equipment upgrades and purchases, if needed).
<i>Equipment & Staff</i>							
21	High	In coordination with recommendations #17 and #18, the EA-F fire departments should continue (or begin, if not done already) annual inspections by BCWS of their wildland firefighting equipment. Any gaps should be addressed, as required.	To ensure proper equipment is available to respond to interface wildfire events, and that equipment is compatible with BCWS's. CRI FCFS funding is available for incremental equipment purchases.	EA-F fire departments (RDCK; BCWS)	Annually	Annual inspection of wildland firefighting equipment from BCWS; gaps filled as practicable.	Fire department and RDCK staff time; CRI FCFS equipment funding up to cost maximums.
<i>Interagency Cooperation - Section 5.5</i>							
22	High	Engage (or continue to) with the established local Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC) to plan, implement, and coordinate FireSmart initiatives, including fuel management treatments. Look to include EA-F volunteer fire department Fire Chiefs.	To provide a platform for information sharing. All parties have indicated a willingness for collaboration, which will allow for greater management of wildfire risk both within and surrounding EA-F's WUI.	Recommended Nelson CFRC	Ongoing	CFRC FireSmart meeting takes place at least once annually.	At least 8 hours per meeting to prepare, participate and debrief. CRI FCFS up to \$2,000 per meeting.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
23	High	As communities self-organize for FireSmart initiatives, and even take up the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (see Recommendation #43), RDCK and EA-F should look to support their inclusion in a CFRC, or develop local sub-committees, as required.	To further community involvement in FireSmart and wildfire risk reduction activities at the community level.	RDCK / EA-F FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Additions to existing CFRCs are made, as required, or new ones are established, as needed.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
24	High	Work with RDCK, CFRC members, and MOF to develop a fuel treatment/fuel break tracking system to spatially manage proposed and completed fuel management areas both within EA-F's WUI and outside it at the regional level.	It is imperative that all land managers know what adjacent or overlapping jurisdictions have identified as fuel breaks, so that time and money is not wasted reassessing or re-prescribing an area.	CFRC / MOF / RDCK	As soon as possible	A regional GIS tracking system is established, or a provincial one is developed that CFRC members can access.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
25	High	Lobby forest land licensee/managers (e.g., BC Timber Sales, Woodlots, volume-based licensees) to be aware of where their tenure overlaps EA-F's WUI and to develop and implement (or continue implementing) forest planning, harvesting, slash management, and reforestation plans that reduce wildfire behaviour in these areas.	Cutblock placement can break up the forest continuity across the landscape – with proper slash and reforestation management, they can remain as areas of low wildfire behaviour for many years. However, if not managed properly, they can increase wildfire behaviour.	RDCK / EA-F / MOF / Forest Licensees and Managers / Local Government elected officials / Community members	Ongoing	Forest licensees/managers are aware of their tenure overlaps with the WUI and are actively working towards forest management plans to reduce wildfire behaviour in those areas.	RDCK/EA-F staff time for discussions.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
26	High	Lobby and work with the electrical power providers in and influencing the community's WUI, MOTI for Provincial highways, and rail line owners/operators to regularly maintain their right-of-way's vegetation.	Transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions - trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways. Highways can also provide excellent fuel breaks if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. If not, they can act as wicks moving fire along them, or ignition sources for fires from burning cars, cigarette butts, sparks, etc. Additionally, highways are a main access/egress route during an emergency – these routes should be kept at as low risk of state as possible.	RDCK / EA-F (MOTI; Local Government elected officials (Electrical Providers; Rail line operators)	Yearly and ongoing	Right-of-way maintenance discussions are open and ongoing; right-of-ways are kept in low-risk states.	RDCK/EA-F staff time for discussions.
Emergency Planning - Section 5.6							
27	High	Continue tabletop wildfire scenario tabletop exercises with emergency management and CFRC partners. Yearly, pre-fire season is best. Move the “WUI fire” to a different area of EA-F’s WUI each time.	Tabletop exercises provide an opportunity to identify weak spots in a plan and collaborate.	RDCK (CFRC; RCMP; BCWS)	5 years	Knowledge of 'pinch points' in an evacuation scenario and understanding of roles and responsibilities.	CRI FCFS Emergency Planning: up to \$2,000 per meeting. Possibly CRI / CEPF / Columbia Basin Trust
28	High	RDCK and EA-F should continue to promote the Voyent Alert! System to residents and visitors.	Clear, consistent, concise, and quick communication during an emergency event and evacuation are integral to the prevention of loss of life. A lack of this was identified as an issue during recent WUI fire disasters, such as that in Lahaina, Maui, USA and Fort McMurray, Alberta.	RDCK (FireSmart Coordinator)	Ongoing	Continued update of the Voyent Alert! System (can track downloads from app providers).	RDCK for promotion.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
29	High	Invest in back-up generators for any critical infrastructure that does not have one. Encourage private businesses that provide critical services, like gas stations and grocery stores, to follow suit.	Back-up generators for pumphouses, treatment plants, and community buildings (especially those designated as emergency shelters) would facilitate both emergency response (water supply for suppression) and rapid community return and recovery following a fire.	RDCK / EA-F (Private Industry)	ASAP	A budget and purchase plan for back-up generators is implemented, starting with the most critical infrastructure.	Cost varies - ~\$10,000
30	High	Initiate a roof-top sprinkler program for residential properties. Investigate bulk orders from wildfire protection or irrigation companies or commercial gutter-mount kits. Consider sprinkler kits as an incentive to communities/neighbourhoods for FireSmart participation. Discuss with local Fire Departments and BCWS what mounting/sprinkler types are best. This can be directly led by RDCK, or RDCK can offer support to local fire departments and community organizations to assist doing so.	Rooftop sprinklers reduce the time and resources needed to set up a structural protection system in a community threatened by wildfire. Sprinkler installation/acquirement could be paired with a free FireSmart Assessment.	RDCK / EA-F (EA-F fire departments; BCWS)	3 years and ongoing	Establish an efficient and effective system. Track the number and location of sprinklers purchased and installed annually.	Bulk sprinklers \$40 - \$100 each; gutter mount kits ~\$100-200 for one home
31	High	Schedule regular updates of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan: target every 5 years.	A current and acceptable CWRP is required for funding under the CRI FCFS program. Update the wildfire threat for areas with completed fuel treatments and identify additional areas for treatment.	RDCK / EA-F	5 years – 2028 update	EA-F always has a current and acceptable CWRP.	~\$32,000; CRI FCFS funding
32	Moderate	Pre-plan emergency community water delivery systems to connect major natural water sources with interface communities/neighbourhoods to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. This can be supported by recommendation #18. The Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group has been working on this since 2023 (see Section 5.4).	RDCK has many large natural water bodies and streams/creeks to draw from in the event of a wildfire. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers to fill bladders may be planned in advance, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps and piping.	RDCK / EA-F (BCWS)	5 Years	Assess community water delivery for each neighbourhood. Develop and test neighbourhood specific plans.	CRI: Assessment of Community Water Delivery Ability - incremental staff hours or contract cost

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
33	Moderate	Promote the installation of visible and reflective addresses in EA-F. Consider and explore how to regulate addressing across the District. Note: RDCK has requested a program to support standardized address signage, but stated that if building permits are not applied for then there is no street address. There are no regulations on addressing.	To allow for faster and more direct response to specific properties by first responders during an emergency.	EA-F / RDCK	5 years	Majority of properties have reflective, visible addresses.	Promotion campaign; consider providing discounted signs. 40-60 hours and \$40-60 per sign
Vegetation Management - Section 5.7							
<i>Fuel Management Treatments</i>							
34	High	Develop fuel management prescriptions for the identified Potential Fuel Treatment Units (PTUs), starting with those identified as High priority. Continue with treatment implementation when possible.	To reduce wildfire threat and risk to interface and intermix communities within the WUI. Also, to provide FireSmart vegetation management examples to the public that can be implemented on their own properties. See "Rationale" column in Table 26 for more detailed treatment rationales.	EA-F / MOF / BCWS	5 years	Approved FMP(s) for identified High priority areas.	CRI FCFS funding available for prescription and treatments; ~\$425/hectare for a ~20 ha prescription
35	High	Lobby Provincial Government (Ministry of Forests) and other potential funding organizations for grant funds to implement landscape level fuel treatment on private land.	Much of EA-F's communities' structures are surrounded by undeveloped, forested private land. Current funding streams for fuel reduction at the landscape level are targeted, and thus limited, to public land. However, the interface wildland does not stop at the public/private land border.	Local Government (Provincial Government)	5 years	Discussions initiated and ongoing	Time and cost dependant upon level of engagement required.

Residential FireSmart							
36	High	In conjunction with provided home FireSmart Assessments (see Recommendation #7) Continue offering a local rebate program to property owners that have completed a FireSmart home assessment (Home Ignition Zone assessment or Home Partners Program Mitigation assessment). RDCK, EA-F, and FireSmart coordinators should advertise that the amount eligible for rebate has increased to \$5000 for the CRI FCFS 2024 application program.	FireSmart home assessments encourage action in the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone of a community. Offer a rebate program (funded through CRI FCFS) to residents who have a pre- and post-work FireSmart assessment conducted. Focus on removal of conifer hedges and upgrading exterior structure materials.	RDCK / EA-F (FireSmart Coordinator)	Annually	Number of properties participating annually.	50% of costs per property up to \$5,000, plus 2 hours administration time per property (CRI FCFS).
37	High	Continue providing regional district-led options for the disposal of yard waste. Currently, this includes having tipping fees waived (May and October) for yard waste at the RDCK transfer stations.	Yard waste burning restrictions limit options for debris disposal. Free debris disposal may be used as an incentive to participate in other FireSmart activities, like assessments or workshops.	RDCK	Annual	Municipally funded yard waste disposal continues.	CRI FCFS funding is available for tipping fee coverage.
38	High	Consider implementing a community chipper program. Education of FireSmart yard and landscaping principles, including chipping specifications, should be incorporated into the program.	To reduce fire and wildfire hazards on private property within the WUI, especially those long distances from RDCK landfills/transfer stations, and to promote FireSmart vegetation management knowledge and education. The intent is for landscaping/yard vegetation to be included, not farm or agriculture vegetation. This could assist with more uptake of residential FireSmart landscaping principles as the disposal method is brought to the resident, especially for those older and less mobile.	RDCK / EA-F FireSmart Coordinator	Annual (pre-fire season is best)	Number of properties who elect to have debris disposed.	CRI FCFS funding; ~\$100-150 per chipper crew hour.
39	Moderate	Consider releasing an annual RDCK FireSmart report to the public that tracks community-specific uptake in various FireSmart initiatives, as well as tracks fuel management at all scales.	As the program grows, reporting allows the RDCK FireSmart program to track challenges and successes, further promote the program, and tailor outreach methods to achieve the most uptake.	RDCK / EA-F FireSmart Coordinator	Annual	An annual report is published.	Eligible for CRI funding – FireSmart staff time. Estimate 40-80 hours.
40	Moderate	Engage with local garden centers to implement the FireSmart BC Plant [Tagging] Program.	FireSmart BC introduced a plant tagging program in 2021 that has been implemented with great success by over 34 nurseries and garden centres to date. The Plant Program is an easy way to provide information at the point of purchase for homeowners and landscapers. See: https://firesmartbc.ca/landscaping-hub/plant-program/	Local Garden Centres (RDCK; EA-F FireSmart Coordinator)	5 years	Local garden centres have been notified of the program.	Staff time for engagement (2-4 hours per garden centre).

Community and Critical Infrastructure FireSmart

41	High	Implement recommended vegetation management recommendations from FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone Assessments (see Recommendation #14), when completed, on a priority basis.	To reduce fire behavior and risks to critical infrastructure most important to fire and wildfire fighting and post-wildfire recovery.	RDCK / EA-F FireSmart Coordinator	5 years	High priority critical infrastructure has had FireSmart vegetation management completed.	CRI FCFS funding up to \$53,500 per municipal infrastructure (vegetation management included).
42	High	As part of fuel treatment implementation, RDCK/EA-F should develop interpretive signage to demonstrate pre- and post-fuel treatment forest stands conditions.	Interpretive signage could include text explaining the purpose of the fuel management treatment, connection to the CWRP, and FireSmart practices residents nearby can take to reduce wildfire hazards around their yards and homes.	RDCK / EA-F FireSmart Coordinator	5 years	Signage installed during implementation phases.	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.
43	Moderate	Continue to support and promote the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program to communities within EA-F. Identify community champions to spearhead organization for those communities not already organized, and support those communities that have been recognized in the past to continue working towards being so.	There are many small communities throughout EA-F that, by working together, could reduce their community-scale wildfire risk easily and substantially. The program supports a small-scale approach for neighbourhoods consisting of 5-50 homes, with the intent to implement achievable FireSmart goals	RDCK / EA-F FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Increase in number of recognized communities.	FireSmart Canada \$500; RDCK FireSmart Champion Grant up to \$3000
44	Moderate	As part of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP), apply to CRI FCFS for funding to develop Neighbourhood FireSmart Plans.	To help guide FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program communities and their community champions to complete wildfire risk reduction measures.	RDCK / EA-F FireSmart Coordinator	In line with FCNRP Community program uptake.	Communities working towards FCNRP status have a Neighbourhood Plan	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.

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FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS

AOI	Area of Interest
BC	British Columbia
BCWS	British Columbia Wildfire Service
BEC	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification
CFFDRS	Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System
CRI	Community Resiliency Investment
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
CWRP	Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan
DPA	Development Permit Area
EA-F	RDCK Electoral Area F
FBP	Fire Behavior Prediction System
FCFS	FireSmart Community Funding and Supports: Stream 1 of the UBCM CRI Program
HIZ	Home Ignition Zone
MOF	Ministry of Forests
MOTI	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
NDT	Natural Disturbance Type
PSTA	Provincial Strategic Threat Assessment
PTU	Proposed Treatment Unit
RDCK	Regional District of Central Kootenay
UBCM	Union of British Columbia Municipalities
WRR	Wildfire Risk Reduction: Stream 2 of the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program, administered by the Ministry of Forests
WTA	Wildfire Threat Assessment
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface & eligible Wildland Urban Interface

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

In June 2023, B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. was retained by the Regional District Central Kootenay (RDCK) to assist Electoral Area F (EA-F) in developing a new Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP). A CWRP has its roots in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) framework, which was originally established in BC in response to the series of devastating wildfires in 2003. This plan replaces the previous 2016 EA-F CWPP. Recent wildfire disasters like those experienced in Oregon State (2020), Washington State (2014, 2015, 2020, 2023), Fort McMurray, Alberta (2016), BC (2017, 2018, 2021, 2023), and California (2017, 2018, 2020) continue to display the vulnerability of communities and the potential toll of wildfires on families, neighbourhoods, public health, and the economy of entire regions. These events, along with important advances in loss prevention programs, have spurred the need for greater consideration and due diligence concerning fire risk in the wildland-urban interface (WUI).⁴ CWRPs are an invaluable opportunity to proactively manage wildfire risk and increase community resilience to wildfire.

CWRPs are currently being developed at many jurisdictional and geographic scales, and are individually tailored to address the needs of different communities in response to their size, their capacity, and the unique threats that they face. Despite these differences, the goals of a CWRP remain the same and are founded in the seven FireSmart™ disciplines: Education, Legislation & Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-Training, Emergency Planning and Vegetation Management.

CWRPs are funded in BC by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) under the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) Program. As per funding requirements, this CWRP is completed according to the 2022 CRI template.

1.1 PLAN PURPOSE AND GOALS

This plan accounts for changes that have occurred since EA-F's last CWPP and takes advantage of the most recent community wildfire planning framework in BC. This CWRP identifies the interface wildfire risk within EA-F's WUI communities, and gives RDCK and EA-F a current and accurate understanding of the threats to human life, infrastructure, and values at risk from wildfire. This CWRP is intended to serve as a framework to guide the implementation of specific actions and strategies to:

- Increase the efficacy of fire suppression and safety of emergency responders,
- Reduce potential impacts and losses to property and critical infrastructure from wildfire, and
- Reduce potential wildfire behavior and threat within the electoral area's WUI.

To help guide and accomplish the above strategies, this CWRP will provide RDCK and EA-F with:

- An assessment of wildfire risk to the communities,
- An assessment of values at risk and potential consequences from wildfire,

⁴ Wildland urban interface is defined as the presence of structures in locations in which conditions result in the potential for their ignition from flames and firebrands/embers of a wildland fire (National Fire Protection Association).

- Maps of fuel types and recommended areas for fuel treatments,
- An assessment of emergency response capacity, and
- Options and strategies to reduce wildfire risk through the seven FireSmart disciplines.

1.2 PLAN DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

The CWRP development process consisted of five general phases:

- 1) Formation or confirmation/continuation of the Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee(s) (CFRC – see Section 5.5) Consultation with the CFRC(s) and information sharing with stakeholders and First Nations occurred throughout.
- 2) Review of relevant plans and legislation regarding emergency response and wildfire (Section 2).
- 3) Description of the community and identification of values at risk (Section 3).
- 4) Assessment of the local wildfire risk (Section 4).
- 5) Analysis and action plan for each of the seven FireSmart disciplines (Section 5).

The following next steps are a suggested route towards operationalizing the recommendations detailed in this CWRP:

1. The CFRC(s) should continue to meet periodically, as needed to coordinate the fulfillment of this report's recommendations (consider annually or bi-annually, before or during the fire season – per Recommendation #22).
 - a. Meetings could include some or all of the parties identified in Section 5.5.
2. The next meeting could be held in Spring-2024. Consider identifying recommendations to allocate resources to, and pursue funding for, from the 2024 UBCM CRI funding intake at this time.
 - a. Consider meeting well in advance of the UBCM CRI application deadline (early October 2024), in order to discuss upcoming projects and align activities and initiatives where possible.
 - b. RDCK will apply for UBCM CRI funding and compile final reporting.
 - c. Continued meetings of the CFRC(s) would be a suitable venue to identify if additional support is needed to fulfill the targeted recommendations.
 - i. Additional support might be required in order to coordinate activities that will bridge more than one funding year (i.e., prioritizing, prescribing and supervising implementation of vegetation management; coordinating plan and policy review) or that require more time and resources currently available to any one CFRC member (e.g., potentially some FireSmart education recommendations).
 - ii. Consultant support or a term contract salary could be incorporated into the UBCM CRI application accordingly.
3. In subsequent meetings, members from different agencies could share information about actions taken to fulfill recommendations.

Documentation of the status of CWRP recommendations could be compiled and maintained alongside these meetings.

SECTION 2: RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS AND LEGISLATION

Wildfires can affect all aspects of a community. As a result, there are many plans specific to or including EA-F that relate to this CWRP. This section reviews all relevant plans, policies, bylaws, guidelines, and provincial legislation to identify sections within that are relevant to community wildfire planning and response.

2.1 LINKAGES TO CWPPS/CWRPS

Regional District of Central Kootenay Area F Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update - 2016⁵

In 2016, B.A. Blackwell & Associates completed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan update for the Regional District of Central Kootenay Area E. The scope of this plan was a two-kilometer buffer around all residences and critical infrastructure based on WUI density criteria. A tabularized review of the 2016 recommendations and their implementation status is presented in Appendix A. Overall, completed activities have primarily fallen within the FireSmart Education discipline, but some recommended fuel treatments have been prescribed and/or treated.

Listed below are jurisdictions adjacent EA-F that have been involved in community wildfire planning. *Strategic opportunities exist between these plans and should be considered.*

- *RDCK Electoral Area E CWRP 2023* – concurrently in development.⁶
- *RDCK Electoral Area I CWRP 2023* – concurrently in development.⁶
- *City of Nelson CWRP 2022* – recently completed.⁶

2.2 LOCAL PLANS AND BYLAWS

The sections and policies of EA-F's Rural Official Community Plan (OCP) listed in Table 2 are directly relevant to proactive wildfire resilience in EA-F. The OCP was reviewed as part of this CWRP to address any gaps or limitations that inadequately address fire hazards or risk mitigation. A major gap that was identified in the EA-F's OCP as it relates to wildfire is the lack of fire management policies (beyond "recommending") specific to single home/lot development or renovations.

⁵<https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Services/Emergency~Management/Documents/RDCK%20Area%20F%20CWPP%20FINAL%2013122016.pdf>

⁶ By B.A. Blackwell & Associates Ltd and Cathro Consulting Ltd.

Table 2: Summary of Electoral Area F’s Rural Official Community Plan emergency and wildfire-related objectives and policies and their relationship to this CWRP.

Section [EA-F Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2214, 2011] ⁷	Policy Description / Relationship to CWRP
8.0: Economic Development Policies	<p>Forestry: 8.3.11: Supports the Provincial FireSmart guidelines for the protection of forestry resources.</p> <p><i>Forestry resources should be accounted for during prescription development and implementation. Additionally, forestry practices (cutblock location, site plans, slash management) can both increase and decrease wildfire risk within the WUI (see Section 5.5).</i></p>
10.0 Open Space Policies	<p>10.3.9: The regional board supports the fire management policies set out in the Hazard Lands Section for any proposed residential uses.</p> <p><i>Higher level government support of FireSmart policies enables support and implementation at all levels.</i></p>
11.0 Residential Lands and Housing General Residential Policies	<p>11.3.3: The regional board will assess and evaluate proposed residential development based on the following criteria, in addition to the criteria found in the corresponding Residential policies where appropriate:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">d) susceptibility to natural hazards including but not limited to flooding, slope instability or wildfire risk.</p> <p><i>Wildfire as a hazard allows for its associated risks to be planned and mitigated.</i></p>
12.0 Commercial Land General Policies	<p>12.3.2: The regional board Supports maintaining and enhancing existing commercial land uses, and supports new small scale commercial development proposals that reflect the needs of the local community and the anticipated demand from tourism, and will use the following criteria, in addition to the criteria for large scale service and commercial development where appropriate, to assess future development:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">d) susceptibility to natural hazards including but not limited to flooding, slope instability or wildfire risk</p> <p><i>Wildfire as a hazard allows for its associated risks to be planned and mitigated.</i></p>

⁷ https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Government/Bylaws/Land~Use-Planning/2260-E_OCP_Consolidated_2751.pdf

	<p>12.3.4: The regional board considers alternatives to large scale service and commercial development in the rural area, such as directing it to existing residential nodes and municipalities which has the necessary infrastructure and support services. A proposal to introduce major commercial development in the rural area should clearly articulate the need for it, analyze its impact on the rural community, and demonstrate how it will respect the character of the rural area. The Regional Board will use the following criteria, in addition to the criteria small scale commercial development, to assess future applications:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">d) has available fire protection services.</p> <p><i>Local fire response is paramount towards initial attack of WUI wildfires, as well as for stopping structure fires from starting wildland fires (see Section 5.4).</i></p>
<p>13.3 Administrative and Institutional Policies</p>	<p>12.3.3: The regional board supports locating fire halls, indoor recreation amenities, and community halls in the rural area as development require, and the needs of the community evolve.</p> <p><i>Local fire response is paramount towards initial attack of WUI wildfires, as well as for stopping structure fires from starting wildland fires (see Section 5.4). Municipal buildings that can be identified and used as safe spaces during an emergency (emergency shelters) increase community resiliency to wildfire events (see Sections 3.3 and 5.3).</i></p>
<p>17.3 Hazard Lands - Fire Management Policies</p>	<p>17.4: The regional board may request that the Provincial Subdivision Approving Authority require the developer to undertake a fire hazard risk assessment at the time of submitting a subdivision application where the Province indicates that a property may be subject to a moderate or higher fire risk. The Regional Board may require the same assessment during the land use designation amendment or applicable development permit process. The assessment will provide a recommended fire hazard mitigation strategy, completed by a qualified professional, that will be submitted to both the RDCK and the Province, and is recommended to include, but is not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. incorporating fuel breaks adjacent to or on the residential subdivisions; B. establishing zones around potential structures and homes which are clear of debris, highly combustible material or trees; C. utilizing fireproofing techniques and fireproof materials in building design; D. designing roads that provide evacuation routes and facilitate movement of firefighting equipment; E. ensuring all roads are named and signed; F. ensuring availability of water supply facilities adequate for fire suppression; G. ensuring the provision of access to local water sources, lakes and watercourses as part of access requirements; and H. implementing setbacks, interfacing fire protection standards, and building material standards pursuant to the Provincial publications The Home Owners FireSmart Manual and FireSmart: Protecting Your Community From Wildfire. <p><i>Develops communities of defensible space and safe access/egress during an emergency (and wildfire) event. Embedding FireSmart subdivision principles into development design is paramount to lowering wildfire and emergency evacuation risks in neighbourhoods. Addressed in Section 5.3.</i></p>

	<p>17.5: Directs the Provincial Subdivision Approving Authority to require that where a fire hazard mitigation strategy has been prepared the developer enter into a restrictive covenant to ensure the strategy is followed.</p> <p><i>To continue existing, lowered wildfire risk into the future. Addressed in Section 5.3.</i></p> <p>17.6: Encourages proactive wildfire mitigation programs to reduce the risk of wildfires to the ‘Moderate’ fire hazard risk as recommended by the Provincial FireSmart program.</p> <p><i>Can be accomplished through this CWRP’s Action Plan (see all recommendations in Section 5).</i></p> <p>17.7: Promotes prescribed burning in areas where there is the potential for wildfire abatement and habitat enhancement.</p> <p><i>Can be accomplished through prescription development and treatment of Potential Treatment Units within this Plan (see Section 5.7).</i></p> <p>17.8: Considers the use of prescribed burning to enhance forage production and riparian remediation.</p> <p><i>Can be accomplished through prescription development and treatment of Potential Treatment Units within this Plan (see Section 5.7).</i></p> <p>17.9: Where practical, coordinates and implements fire hazard reduction activities with priority areas for prescribed burning for ecosystem enhancement purposes.</p> <p><i>Can be accomplished through prescription development and treatment of Potential Treatment Units within this Plan (see Section 5.7).</i></p> <p>17.10: Supports protection of accesses to water sources such as hydrants, standpipes, lakes, and streams, ensuring these accesses remain free of obstructions for fire protection purposes.</p> <p><i>Access to reliable, local water sources is paramount for first responder and BCWS firefighting effectiveness. Addressed in Section 5.4.</i></p> <p>17.11: Encourages local Fire Departments to work with the RDCK to keep its emergency preparedness plan up to date.</p> <p><i>Further inter-agency cooperation (see Section 5.4) and wildfire emergency preparedness (see Section 5.6).</i></p>
<p>18.3 Transportation Policies</p>	<p>18.3.8: Encourages that private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment.</p> <p><i>Access by emergency responders to the WUI is paramount towards both defending communities from WUI fire events, but also for aiding in fuel treatment practicability (see Section 5.6).</i></p>

<p>20.1.d Development Permit Areas</p>	<p>Site design should consider susceptibility to natural hazards, including but not limited to flooding, slope instability, or wildfire risk.</p> <p><i>Private property FireSmart Home Ignition Zone and structure risk reduction is the #1 avenue towards homes and structures surviving a wildfire event. Addressed in Section 5.3.</i></p>
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The local bylaws listed in Table 3 are directly relevant to proactive wildfire resilience in EA-F. These bylaws were reviewed as part of the CWRP to address any gaps or limitations that inadequately address fire hazards or risk mitigation.

Table 3: Summary of local bylaws and their relationship to the CWRP.

Bylaws	Section	Description and <i>Relation to CWRP</i>
Building Bylaw No. 2200 (2010)	18.4	<p>Fire stopping components must be in place before insulation and exterior sheathing are installed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Addresses the need for fire protection in new construction to manage room-to-room and structure-to-structure fire transmission.</i> - <i>To manage wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa), FireSmart principles were developed to address this gap. Currently, to mandate exterior construction materials and landscaping beyond the BC Building Code and the building bylaw, a Development Permit Area can be implemented (see Section 5.3). Note: the BC Building Code is currently being updated, with roll out planned for late-2024, and may include FireSmart standards.</i>
	5.1	<p>Outlines administrative structure and roles of Emergency Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Provides structure and guidelines in times of emergency.</i>
Emergency Management Regulatory Use Bylaw No. 2210 (amended by Bylaw No. 2758 in 2021)	Amended Bylaw No. 2758	<p>Adds “mitigation” into the description of the Emergency Program and Emergency Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>RDCK to develop, coordinate and manage emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. This would include from wildfires.</i>
Manufactured Home Parks Bylaw No. 1082 (1995)	8.8.3	<p>Fires shall be made only in stoves, incinerators, or other structures designed for that purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks in structures made largely from ignitable and combustible materials.</i>
	8.8.4	<p>If no approved fire hydrant is available to provide protection, a minimum of one (1) stagnant water supply at a minimum of 15,539 litres (6000 lgal) shall be provided on site in order to be accessed in case of emergency for fire protection purposes on properties serviced by Fire Protection.</p>

Bylaws	Section	Description and <i>Relation to CWRP</i>
		<p>- <i>Increases assurance of useful water supply systems in the event of a fire to responding fire departments.</i></p>
<p>Parks Regulation – Consolidated Bylaw No. 2173</p>	22	<p>No person shall start or maintain a fire in a park, except in facilities provided at a park for that purpose.</p> <p>- <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
	24	<p>No person shall leave a fire in a park unattended.</p> <p>- <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
	25	<p>No person shall burn any unsuitable materials including but not limited to organic yard waste, household waste, plastic, rubber, flammable or combustible liquid, or any treated lumber or construction debris, or toxic waste.</p> <p>- <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
	52	<p>No person shall possess or discharge Fireworks, firecrackers or explosive materials of any kind in a park, except for an event authorized by a park use permit.</p> <p>- <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
<p>Resource Recovery Facilities Regulatory Bylaw No. 2905</p>	8 (15)	<p>No person other than the Site Operator or Service Personnel or their representative shall start any fires at any Resource Recovery Facility.</p> <p>- <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
<p>Volunteer Fire Service Regulation Bylaw No. 2769</p>	4.1	<p>Jurisdiction of each Fire Department, and the powers granted to each Fire Department and its Fire Chief and Members under this Bylaw, is restricted to the boundaries of the Fire Department's particular Fire Protection Service Area as set out in its establishment bylaw. A Fire Department shall not respond to any Incident under this Bylaw outside of the boundaries of its Fire Protection Service Area except as specified in Section 4(2)(a) to (f) of this Bylaw.</p> <p>- <i>Outlines jurisdictional limits of fire departments, which may impact rural communities with no immediate fire service (see Section 5.6).</i></p>
	4.2	<p>Apparatus and Fire Department Equipment shall not be taken beyond the geographical limits of the jurisdiction for reasons other than repair, maintenance, or training unless: (a) a written agreement, approved by the Regional District, authorizes the supply of Members, Apparatus, Fire Department Equipment, Fire Protection Services and Associated Services to another jurisdiction; or (b) under the authority of the CAO, the Regional Fire Chief, or the Emergency Operations Center Director; or (c) in connection with a request for assistance by a the Office of the Fire Commissioner, or a Federal or Provincial emergency response Agency; or (d) in connection with an Incident near the boundaries of the Fire Service Protection Area which, if left untended, may threaten the Fire Service Protection Area or other such Service area; or (e)</p>

Bylaws	Section	Description and <i>Relation to CWRP</i>
		In the event of a Federal or Provincial State of Emergency; or (f) Under the provision of a bylaw for Associated Services. - <i>Outlines jurisdictional limits of fire departments, which may impact rural communities with no immediate fire service (see Section 5.6).</i>
	9.4	No person shall grow shrubs, hedges, plants or trees so as to obstruct the visibility or use of a fire hydrant, standpipe or sprinkler connection. - <i>Provides linkage to FireSmart activities and property preparedness.</i>
	10.1	Where this bylaw applies within a municipality the Regional District is authorized to enforce municipal open burning regulations. - <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i>
	12.2	The Occupier of a Public Building in which any of the Alarm System, Fire Protection Equipment, or emergency power system is not operating must institute and maintain a Fire Watch until those systems or equipment are operational. - <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i>
Water Bylaw No. 2894	10.4.1	All fire hydrants and standpipes directly connected to Regional District Water Mains are the property of the Regional District. - <i>Outlines RDCK ownership and responsibility relating to water sources.</i>
	11.6.2 (f)	Notwithstanding the prohibitions in this Section, the Manager may authorize in writing the discharge of Regional District supplied water for the purposes of: training programs for fire fighters. - <i>Supports training opportunities for local fire fighters (see Section 5.4).</i>

The local plans listed in Table 4 are directly relevant to proactive wildfire resilience in EA-F. These plans were reviewed as part of the CWRP to address any gaps or limitations that inadequately address fire hazards or risk mitigation.

Table 4: Summary of local plans and policies that are directly relevant to the CWRP.

Plan	Description and <i>Relationship to CWRP</i>
EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PLAN for the Regional District of Central Kootenay	<p>Outlines structural and organizational requirements for coordinated response and recovery from emergencies in the RDCK, including: decision-making tools for evacuation or shelter in place; EOC levels and activation protocols; hazard and evacuation planning; fire planning including industrial, wildfire and structural fires; and, recovery planning.</p> <p><i>Section 3.10 specifically deals with interface fires/wildfires, indicating that interface fires will be managed using unified command with the Ministry of Forests and local fire department(s) and other local fire departments, where applicable.</i></p>

Plan	Description and <i>Relationship to CWRP</i>
West Arm Provincial Park Fire Management Plan (2016)	This Fire Management Plan comprehensively analyzes social and environmental values at risk within West Arm Provincial Park, <i>discusses the potential impacts to those values as a result of a wildfire burning through the park, and recommends management strategies and locations of fuel management treatments to mitigate the risk of adverse impacts.</i>
Nelson Hydro Vegetation Management Best Practices (2021)	<p>This plan identifies vegetation management procedures and best practices to protect the public, infrastructure, and values adjacent to Nelson Hydro transmission distribution lines.</p> <p>The plan identifies wildfire as an important consideration for vegetation management planning in the Nelson Hydro operating area, noting that within the drier ecosystems of this area, there is a possibility of frequent recurrence of fire.</p> <p><i>Debris disposal specifications are identified, in order to prevent hazardous accumulations of woody debris after manual and mechanical vegetation treatments. A monitoring program is proposed in order to ensure debris disposal specifications are adhered to.</i></p>

2.3 HIGHER-LEVEL PLANS AND LEGISLATION

Table 5 lists higher-level plans and legislation that are relevant to wildfire planning and risk mitigation within EA-F and the surrounding area. These plans help guide where and how activities like resource extraction occur on the landscape, which can affect both wildfire threat and consequence. Depending on the location of any proposed fuel management treatment units from this Plan, fuel management prescriptions and prescribed / cultural burn plans may need to address these plans as they relate to on-the-ground restrictions and policies for forest modification.

Table 5: Description of higher-level plans and legislation and their relationship to the CWRP.

Plan/Legislation	Description and Relationship to CWRP
FRPA – Government Action Regulations (GARs)	<p>Multiple GARs are present within EA-F’s WUI. These should be considered and managed for appropriately, where present, at the site level through associated site level plans (e.g., Fuel Management Prescriptions). These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Non-legal Old Growth Management Areas</i> ➤ <i>Ungulate Winter Range partial-harvest</i> ➤ <i>Significant fish streams and rivers</i> ➤ <i>Community watersheds</i> ➤ <i>Regionally significant visual areas</i>
BC Provincial Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation	<p>The Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation came into effect in September 2019 and governs open burning relating to land clearing, forestry operations and silviculture, wildlife habitat enhancement, and community wildfire risk reduction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>The entire WUI of EA-F is within a High Smoke Sensitivity Zone.</i> ➤ <i>All proposed treatment units are within the High Smoke Sensitivity Zone.</i>

Plan/Legislation	Description and Relationship to CWRP
<p>Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan</p>	<p>The Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy was completed in 1997, and was discussed in the previous CWPP.</p> <p><i>Legal, spatially defined objectives for ‘Connectivity Corridors’, and ‘Water Intakes Used for Human Consumption’ apply within the AOI. A non-legal objective for fire-maintained ecosystem restoration also applies - this provision targets NDT4 ecosystems, which are present in 49% of EA-F’s WUI.</i></p>
<p>Selkirk Resource District Fire Management Plan</p>	<p>The Selkirk Resource District Kootenay Lake Fire Management Plan (FMP) (MFLNRORD, 2016) identifies values at risk on the landscape and prioritizes broad categories of values as ‘themes’ for categorizing response through the Resource Strategic Wildfire Allocation Protocol (RSWAP). The four themes are 1) Human Life and Safety, 2) Property and Critical Infrastructure, 3) High Environmental and Cultural Values, and 4) Other resource values (timber, rangelands, etc.).</p> <p><i>The organization of values is intended to provide the information needed to make appropriate fire response decisions in complex emergency situations. This CWRP identifies values within the Plan area with the intent of using this information to make appropriate fire response decisions.</i></p>
<p>BC Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation</p>	<p>The Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation define the legal responsibilities and obligations to which everyone in British Columbia is subject. When the BCWS places bans or restrictions in an area, the Wildfire Act and Regulation make them enforceable.⁸</p> <p><i>Its key goal is to specify responsibilities and obligations on fire use, wildfire prevention, wildfire control, and rehabilitation.⁸</i></p>
<p>Fire Chiefs’ Association of BC and BC Wildfire Service MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES</p>	<p>Guides and facilitates the collaboration between the Province and fire departments or by outlining key information regarding resource requests, deployment and response procedures, remuneration guidelines, and other necessary details to effectively manage the partnership. The intent of this Agreement is to further improve the operating procedure, strengthening capacity while providing increased flexibility to share resources in British Columbia, with clear rules of engagement and reimbursement requirements.</p> <p><i>Mutual aid agreements exist between BCWS and RDCK fire services. RDCK fire departments (including those in EA-F) routinely work with BCWS in</i></p>

⁸ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/about-bcws/governance/legislation-regulations>

Plan/Legislation	Description and Relationship to CWRP
	<i>response to incidents within and outside of Fire Protection and Response Areas.</i>

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

This section defines the planning area for this CWRP and provides general demographic information about EA-F. An understanding of population trends, land use patterns, and values at risk can help effectively direct FireSmart outreach and risk mitigation activities.

3.1 WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE

The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is defined by FireSmart Canada as the zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. For the purpose of the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) program, the ‘eligible WUI’ is considered as the area one kilometer from a structure density class greater than six structures per square kilometer. BC Wildfire Service generates WUI Risk Class maps and associated spatial data to assist with initiatives related to wildfire risk reduction, including the FCFS program.⁹

Field work, GIS analysis, and the recommendations for this CWRP cover only this one kilometer ‘eligible WUI’ which is entirely within EA-F and covers a total of 6,928 hectares (which includes foreshore areas of Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River) and includes residential, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and forested areas. Land use is guided by EA-F’s Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw as discussed in Section 2. Importantly, as outward development occurs from the existing footprint, it is possible that the WUI will change with it.

Map 1 shows an overview of EA-F’s WUI and the communities within. The map shows the geographical breadth of the communities and the area this Plan covers – approximately 34 kilometres from Crescent Bay in the northeast to Bonnington in the southwest. Successful wildfire resilience efforts will need to be applied to all communities. An approximate breakdown of land ownership type by area is listed in Table 6, and shown on Map 2 and Map 3. Just under half (42%¹⁰) of EA-F’s WUI is private land, while RDCK municipal and Crown/untitled provincial land make up almost all the rest of the WUI’s ownership.

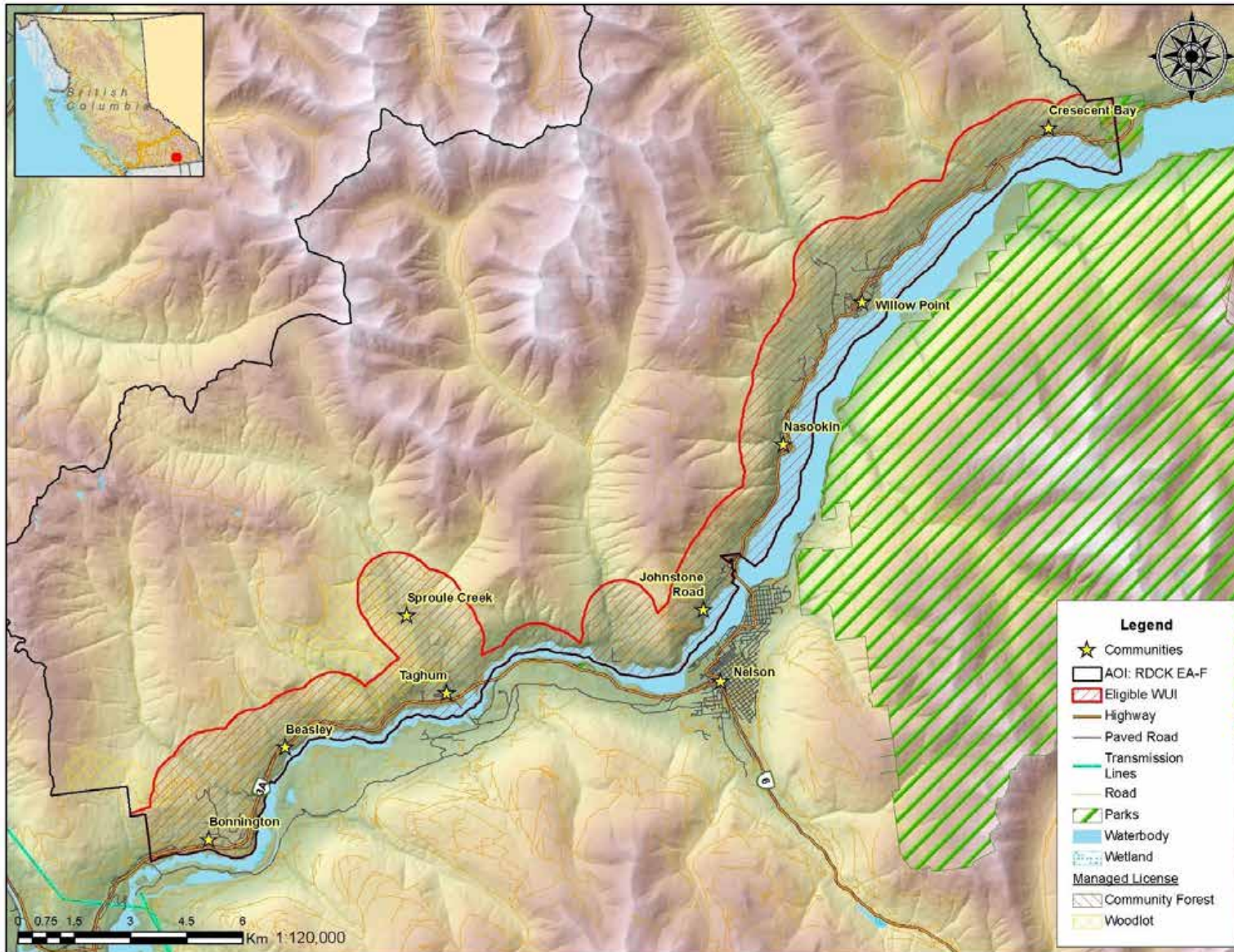
Table 6: Land Ownership within the eligible WUI of Electoral Area F.

Land Ownership	Area (Ha)	Percent of WUI (%)
Crown Agency	13	<1%
Crown Provincial	395	6%

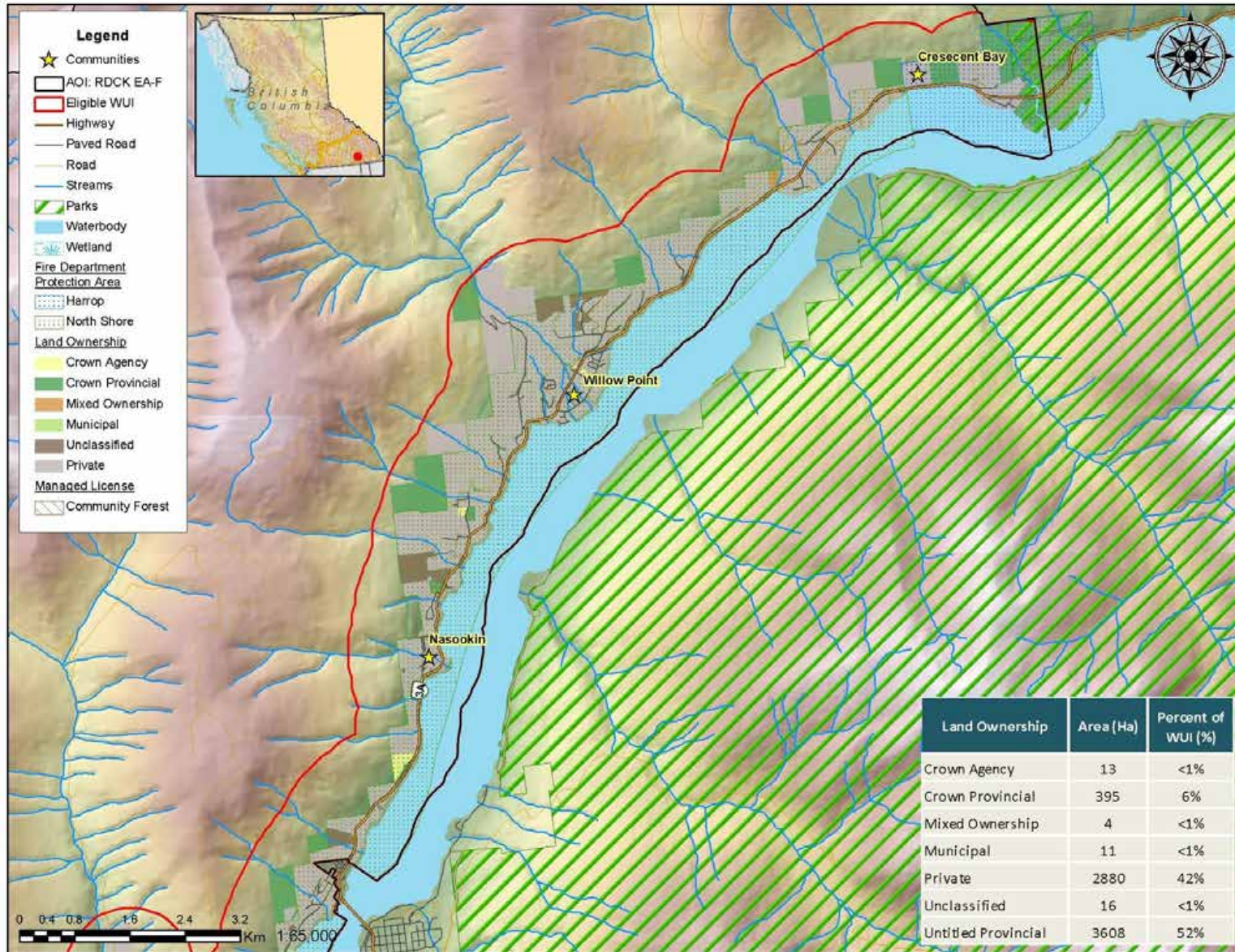
⁹ [Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class Maps - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire/wildfire-prevention/wildland-urban-interface-risk-class-maps)

¹⁰ Private land total area equals Private Land plus Unclassified (strata land).

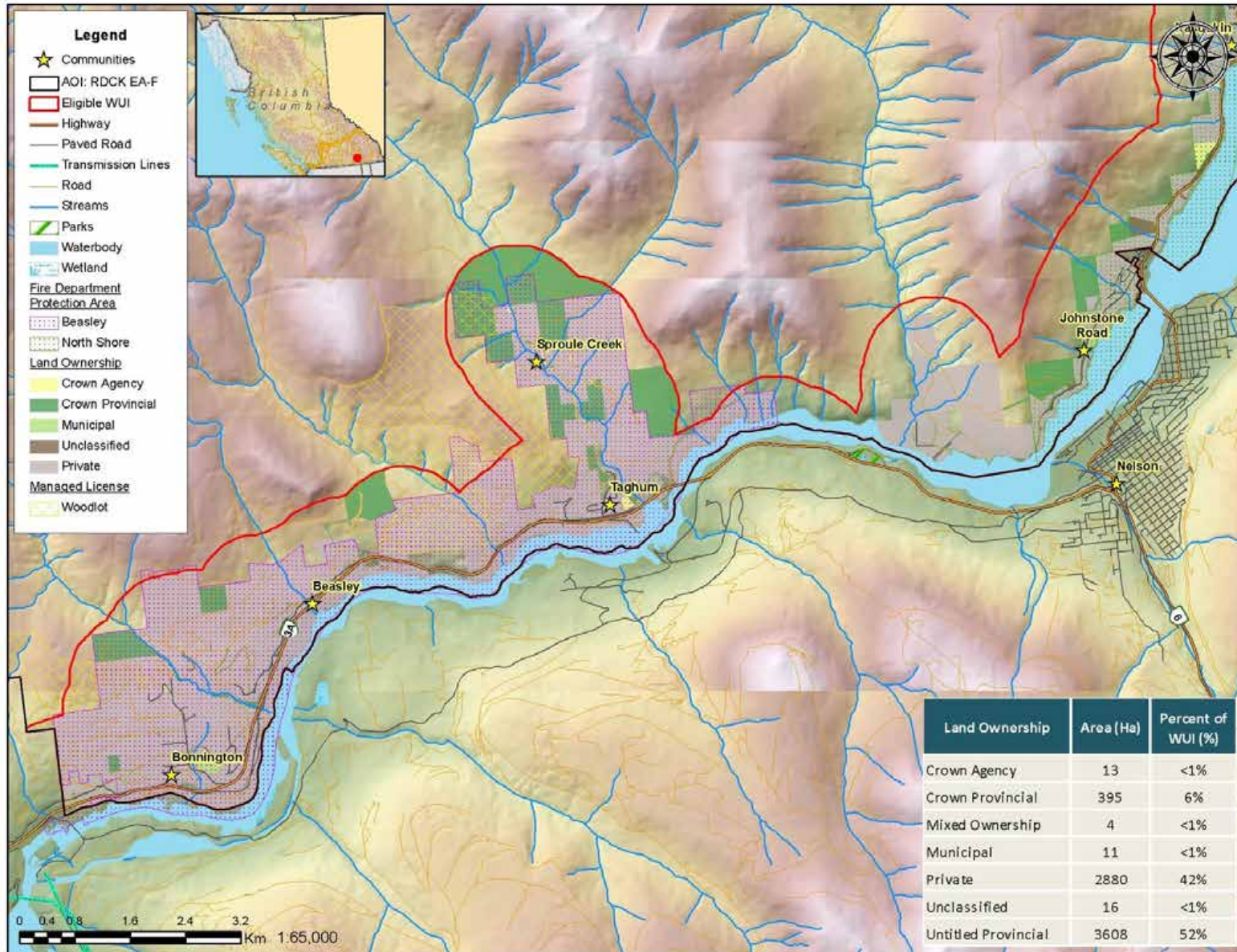
Land Ownership	Area (Ha)	Percent of WUI (%)
Mixed Ownership	4	<1%
Municipal	11	<1%
Private	2880	42%
Unclassified	16	<1%
Untitled Provincial	3608	52%
Total	6928	-



Map 1. Overview of RDCK Electoral Area F's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The 'eligible WUI' is the red diagonally lined polygon.



Map 2: Overview of RDCK Electoral Area F's eastern communities' WUI, with land ownership.



Map 3: Overview of RDCK Electoral Area F's western communities' WUI, with land ownership.

3.2 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Located on the north shore of the Kootenay River and the West Arm of Kootenay Lake, EA-F includes the communities of Crescent Beach, Heddle, Six Mile/Willow Point/Duhamel, Nasookin/Ridgewood, Grohman, Taghum, Sproule Creek, Beasley, and Bonnington.¹¹ EA-F's northern border meets the Kokanee range of the Selkirk Mountains, a natural wilderness featuring granite peaks, deep river valleys, glaciers, and large subalpine lakes that bring fresh drinking water to the inhabitants below.¹²

At approximately 4,116 residents, EA-F is the third most populous of the 11 Electoral Areas in the RDCK. There has been a steady population growth over the years compared to other electoral areas, with a 4% increase from 2006 and 2016. A projected growth of 7% to 2025 will potentially increase the population to 4,390 people. Senior population growth will potentially increase the median age to 47.5.¹³ Relevant socio-economic statistics on population, employment, housing, and education in EA-F are summarized in Table 7. They are not available for separate communities.

Table 7: Socio-economic statistics for RDCK Electoral Area F, as per the 2019 RDCK Community Profile Report. Bolded values have special relevance to the CWRP.

Metric in 2021 Census	Value
Population	
Total Population in 2021	4,116
Total Population in 2016	3,963
Population Density (people/km ²)	10.2
Population percentage change between 2016 to 2021	3.9
Number of people <14 years old	645
Number of people 15-64 years old	2,550
Number of people >65 years old	920
Median Age (years)	47.2 ¹⁴
Housing	
Total private dwellings	1,766
Private dwellings permanently occupied	1,760
Single detached house	1,515
Average Taxable Property Value	n/a
Average household size	2.3
Income and Employment	
Median Total Income of Households ¹⁵	\$88,000
Employment Rate	55.2%
Unemployment Rate	8.4%
Education	
No certificate, diploma or degree	310
Secondary school or equivalent	980
Post-secondary	2,150

¹¹ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/government/board-of-directors/electoral-areas.html>

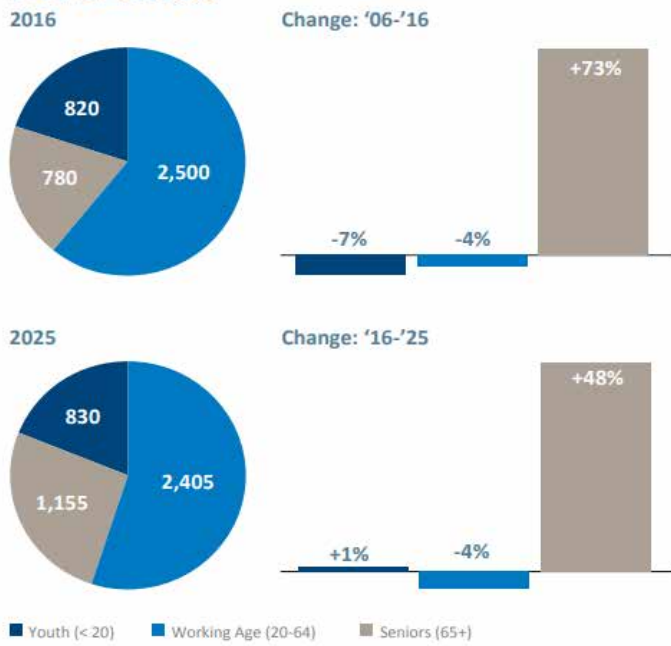
¹² https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Government/Bylaws/Land~Use-Planning/2214-F_OCP_Consolidated_2752.pdf

¹³ https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Government/Documents/14_Electoral_Area_F_Community%20Summary.pdf

¹⁴ The median age for BC is 43.0.

¹⁵ In 2015, pre-tax. BC median is \$69,995.

POPULATION



- Electoral Area F grew 4% between 2006 and 2016 to 4,100 residents.
- Projections anticipate 7% growth to 2025, potentially reaching 4,390 people.
- The population increase is supported mostly by the rise of senior populations, which may increase the median age from 46.5 in 2016 to 47.5 in 2025.

Figure 1: RDCK EA-F population change statistics - 2006-2016 and projected 2016-2026.

As shown in Table 7, most residents live in single-detached homes in rural communities, are between 15-64 years old, and have post-secondary education.

Population growth in nearby municipalities increases wildfire risk within the RDCK. More summer visitors increase the likelihood of a human-caused wildfire (increased ignition potential), and the consequence of a wildfire (more people to evacuate). The RDCK is home to a number of tourism hotspots with a focus on outdoor recreation, camping and boating.

Fire protection services are provided throughout EA-F by the Balfour-Harrop, Northshore, and Beasley Volunteer Fire Departments (also displayed on Map 2 Map 3). The Kootenay Lake Hospital, located in Nelson, is a Level 1 Community Hospital in the Kootenay Boundary health service area managed by Interior Health.¹⁶

The RDCK Emergency Program oversees the planning and implementation of emergency management in EA-F.

The following section gives a brief description of each community covered by this plan including number of residents and services provided. Each community can be seen in Map 1 – Map 3 in the previous section.

Crescent Beach

Crescent Beach, also called Crescent Bay, is a small community located on the West Arm of Kootenay Lake along Highway 3A. The locality is approximately 19 kilometres northeast of Nelson and only 1 km from Kokanee Creek Provincial Park. Due to its proximity to both Kokanee Creek Provincial Park and Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park, the area is a busy tourist and camping zone, and contains important spawning habitat for salmon. The community is characterized by moderately sized lakefront lots, with another neighbourhood upslope on Crescent View Drive. Along the highway there is a large timber frame

¹⁶ https://www.interiorhealth.ca/search?type=All&search_api_fulltext=EA-F&f%5B0%5D=content_type%3Alocation

manufacturer and storage facility. Fire protection services are provided by the Balfour Harrop Volunteer Fire Department.



Figure 2. View of Kokanee Creek Provincial Park with Crescent Bay on the left.¹⁷

Hedde, Six Mile, Willow Point & Duhamel

Hedde, Six Mile, Duhamel, and Willow Point are adjacent communities along the north shore of the West Arm of Kootenay Lake. Located 11-12 kms northeast of Nelson on Highway 3A, the communities lie both along the shoreline below the highway as well as upslope of the highway. The overall area is densely populated and includes properties on the lakefront as well as upslope. Two mobile home communities are situated in the area – Bonadventure Trailer Park and Greenwood Mobile Home Court. Services include Kokanee Glacier Resort, Duhamel Store, North Shore Volunteer Fire Department Hall, Hellman Canoes & Kayaks, and École des Sentiers-Alpins. Six Mile Beach is a popular summer destination, with a long sand spit that extends to the middle of Kootenay Lake. Hedde is located above the Six Mile area on an upper bench; the Hedde neighbourhood has received community FireSmart recognition, and the Hedde neighbourhood is also engaged in FireSmart activities. Fire protection services are provided by the North Shore Volunteer Fire Department. The RDCK operates a water system and a wastewater system in the Duhamel community, with a groundwater well as the water source. The entire water system does not meet standardized requirements for fire protection. However, the Duhamel water system was reviewed by the Fire Underwriters Survey in 2014 and is now recognized as having a Dwelling Protection grade based on available fire flows from one hydrant.¹⁸ The area is prone to flooding at the Duhamel Creek alluvial fan.

¹⁷ <https://www.nelsonkootenaylake.com/listing/kokanee-creek-provincial-park>

¹⁸ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/water/rdck-water-systems/duhamel-water-system.html>



Figure 3. Six Mile Beach near communities of Heddle, Six Mile, Duhamel, and Willow Point¹⁹

Nasookin, 4 Mile & Ridgewood

Nasookin, also known as Nasu'kin, is a prominent landmark, being the remains of the largest Kootenay Lake sternwheeler, now converted into a home on the North Shore. It is located seven kilometers northeast of Nelson along Highway 3A. Nasu'kin was the Ktunaxa word for chief.²⁰ Next to the ship, Nasookin Road leads to the Nasookin Heights subdivision. Just north of Nasookin is the subdivision community of Ridgewood, also located uphill of Highway 3A. The Kootenay Lake Wildfire Base and Forestry offices are located at Ridgewood. Located between Nasookin and Ridgewood is Blaylock, with a landmark mansion and townhouse development above. Fire protection services are provided to these communities by the North Shore Volunteer Fire Department.



Figure 4: Nasookin boat house along Highway 3A²¹

¹⁹ <https://www.trailtimes.ca/news/dangerous-oasis-the-fatal-history-of-a-popular-kootenay-lake-beach/>

²⁰ https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Government/Bylaws/Land~Use-Planning/2214-F_OCP_Consolidated_2752.pdf

²¹ <https://steamboats.com/museum/nasookinboathouse.html>

Johnstone Road

Johnstone Road encompasses the lakeside and roadside homes along Johnstone Road, across from Nelson heading south from the Big Orange Bridge. There are some regional district parks with beach access that are popular by both residents and tourists (James Johnstone Regional Park; Pulpit Rock Access Regional Trail, a very popular local hiking trail) – some of these have had recently completed fuel treatments in them. This area is primarily residential, and includes the North Shore Community Hall, Nelson Search and Rescue Hall, and Nelson Christian School (private). This area is in the North Shore Fire Protection Area.

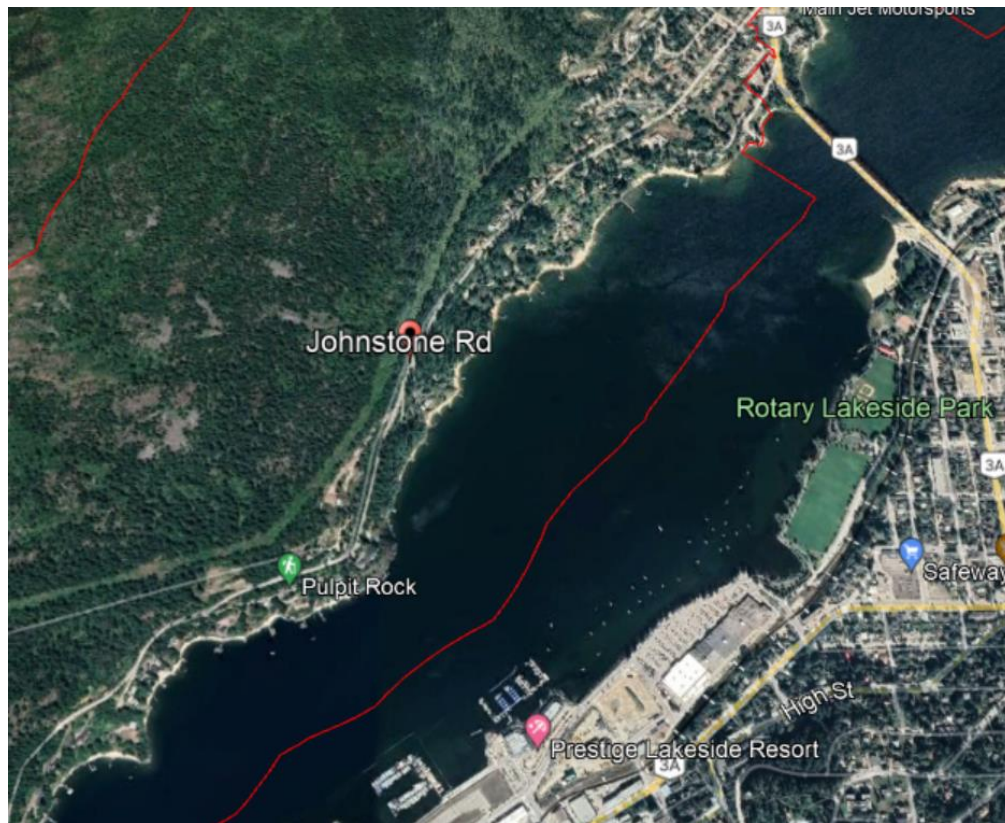


Figure 5: Google screen-shot of the Johnstone Road community (looking north).

Grohman

Located only five kilometers west of Nelson, the community of Grohman sits on the north shore of the West Arm of Kootenay Lake, at a point called Grohman Narrows. The community is accessible via Johnstone Road in Nelson, or Grohman Forest Service Road off Highway 6. Grohman Narrows is where Kootenay Lake turns into Kootenay River. Across from the community is Grohman Narrows Provincial Park, a day use park that protects habitat for provincially significant species, as well as a stand of old growth cottonwood. In EA-F, fire protection services are provided by the Beasley Volunteer Fire Department.



Figure 6. Grohman Narrows on the Kootenay River.²²

Taghum & Sproule Creek

Taghum is an unincorporated community spanning both shores of the Kootenay River, located on Highway 6. It is approximately 35 kms northeast of Castlegar, and nine kilometres west of Nelson. The community is accessible via Nelson by crossing the river at the Taghum bridge, which was first built in 1914 and reconstructed in 1931. The bridge was raised seven feet in height to accommodate for the fluctuating water levels resulting from activities at the nearby Corra Linn Dam.²³ The area also includes a community hall and a gas station/convenience shop. Taghum has a history of unrest and public disputes, stemming from the Corra Linn Dam flooding a 33-acre Doukhobor farm in 1911. Sproule Creek is a small community located upslope of Taghum in the Sproule Creek valley, accessible via Sproule Creek Road off Highway 6. The area is home to a popular 9.8 km trail network.²⁴ Fire protection services are provided to Taghum and Sproule Creek by the nearby Beasley Volunteer Fire Department. Near Taghum, the RDCK operates the Woodland Heights water system.

²² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04BakjaJA5k&ab_channel=KootenayFX

²³ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taghum>

²⁴ <https://westkootenayhiking.ca/sproule-creek/>



Figure 7. Railway bridge adjacent to Taghum Bridge.²⁵

Beasley

Located upslope off Highway 6 via Beasley Road, the community of Beasley is west of Taghum by five kilometres, and northeast of Castlegar by 30 kms. The Beasley Fire Hall is situated in an easily accessible location directly off Highway 6, in between both access roads to the community. Beasley is home to a large bat hibernaculum, which is stated to be “one of the most significant bat sites in the country,” according to local bat biologist, Dr. Cori Lausen.²⁶ In 2021, BC Timber Sales conducted logging of several cutblocks in the Smallwood Creek drainage above Beasley. These areas, for the next several years, may serve as fuel breaks in the event of a wildfire. Fire protection services are provided by Beasley Volunteer Fire Department.

²⁵ <https://www.nelsonkootenaylake.com/listing/taghum-bridge>

²⁶ <https://www.castlegarnews.com/news/kaslo-biologist-questions-logging-at-unique-west-kootenay-bat-site-4736848>



Figure 8. Viewpoint from above Queen Victoria Mine in Beasley, overlooking Kootenay River²⁷

Bonnington

Bonnington, also known as Bonnington Falls, is located upslope of Highway 6, northeast of Castlegar by 26 kms and west of Nelson by 18 kms. The community was named after Bonnington Falls, a waterfall which was submerged by dams on the Kootenay River in the early 1900s. There are three dams in the immediate vicinity of the community: Corra Linn Dam, Upper Bonnington Dam, and Lower Bonnington Dam. All three dams are operated by FortisBC. Fire protection services are provided by Beasley Volunteer Fire Department. The Bonnington Regional Park sits within the upper Bonnington Community. The Bonnington Improvement District owns and operates a community water system that supports some fire hydrants.

²⁷ <https://www.alltrails.com/canada/british-columbia/beasley/photos>



Figure 8. Corra Linn Dam on Kootenay River near Bonnington²⁸

3.3 VALUES AT RISK

Values at risk are the human, natural, or cultural resources that could be negatively impacted by wildfire. Protection of these values during a wildfire event is an important consideration for effective emergency response. Pre-identifying critical infrastructure and values at risk before an emergency event can ensure that essential services can be protected and/or restored quickly. As well, many activities that proactively assess and mitigate fire hazards around critical infrastructure and “Community Assets” are eligible for funding under the 2024 CRI FCFS Program Guide, which is addressed through Recommendation 14 (Section 5.3). Critical infrastructure includes buildings and structures that are essential to the health, safety, security, or economic wellbeing of the community and the effective functioning of government.

Table 8 lists critical infrastructure in EA-F’s WUI as identified by the RDCK,²⁹ in meetings with EA-F staff, and outlined in the 2023 RDCK Community Risk Assessment. This list should not be considered as whole and complete, but rather a starting point for what should be considered as critical infrastructure. This list should be amended as required to add/remove new/excluded or outdated infrastructure so all are available for Community Asset FireSmart activities. The assets operated by the RDCK are the North Shore Fire Hall, Beasley Fire Hall, and North Shore Community Hall. Water and electric systems are discussed in more detail in Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.2. Critical infrastructure FireSmart Assessments were outside the scope of this plan. At the time of writing, FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments have been

²⁸ <https://www.fortisbc.com/news-events/stories/celebrating-125-years-since-hydroelectricity-was-first-started-in-the-kootenays>

²⁹ RDCK maintains a comprehensive database of critical infrastructure GIS point data and was provided as part of this Plan’s development.

conducted on all firehalls within EA-F. Map 5 and Map 6 present a visual display of values at risk throughout the eligible WUI.

Table 8: Critical Infrastructure within EA-F and its WUI.

Map ID	Description	Community (if applicable)	Name
Government / Community			
F-25	Community Hall	Taghum	Taghum Hall
F-26	Community Hall	Northshore	North Shore Hall
F-29	School	Six Mile	Ecole des Sentiers-Alpins
F-68	School	Nelson (North Shore)	Nelson Community Christian School
F-67	Telecommunication	Bonnington	Communications Tower
n/a	Gas Station	Taghum (all EA-F)	Taghum Gas Station (Shell) ³⁰
Utilities			
F-96	Water - Control Building	Duhamel	Control Building
F-97	Water - Reservoir/Well	Duhamel	Reservoir
F-98	Water - Reservoir/Well	Woodland Heights	Reservoir
F-99	Water - Reservoir/Well	Woodland Heights	Supply Well
Emergency Response			
F-27	Fire Hall	North Shore	North Shore Fire Hall
F-28	Fire Hall	Beasley	Beasley Fire Hall

3.3.1 ELECTRICAL POWER

A large fire has the potential to impact electrical service by causing disruption in network distribution through direct or indirect processes. Direct heat from flames or damage from fallen trees associated with a fire event may cause power outages. There is one major transmission line and right-of-way that transects EA-F’s WUI, from the northeast in Willow Point, travelling the north side of West Arm of Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River (where it briefly crosses Kootenay River just west of Nelson but then back over at Taghum). East of Nelson, the transmission line is just upslope from homes and structures. West of Nelson, it follows the shoreline of Kootenay River, downslope of most homes and structures. Transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions – trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways. A tree falling across a line can tear the line down and result in a downed line. A branch spanning two line conductors for a sufficient period of time may ignite the branch and also may produce high-energy, high-temperature arcs multiple feet in length. If the branch remains in contact and arcing, it can cause progressive damage that eventually breaks the line. It is important that both EA-F and RDCK lobby the electrical power providers in and influencing the community’s WUI to regularly maintain their right-of-way’s vegetation (see Recommendation #25 in Section 5.5).

Residential and commercial power throughout EA-F is provided by BC Hydro and FortisBC through a network of wood-pole distribution lines. BC Hydro and Fortis clear right-of-ways in the region every few

³⁰ The only source of fuel for first responders and residents in EA-F.

years and conduct ongoing maintenance as needed. However, there are many instances where both the regional district/MOTI and private landowners have highly flammable vegetation and/or unmaintained conifer trees growing in close proximity to power poles and distribution lines.

Having secondary power sources for critical infrastructure is important to reduce community vulnerability in the event of an emergency that cuts power for days, or even weeks. The Beasley Fire Hall recently acquired a backup generator, and it is not known what other critical infrastructures have ones as well. It is recommended that RDCK and EA-F review additional critical infrastructure and invest in back-up generators as required, as well as lobby privately owned infrastructure to do so as well (see Recommendation #29 in Section 5.6).

3.3.2 WATER AND SEWAGE

The RDCK operates water and wastewater systems for Taghum and Willow Point. All other properties have individual wells or surface water intakes and private septic for sewage disposal.

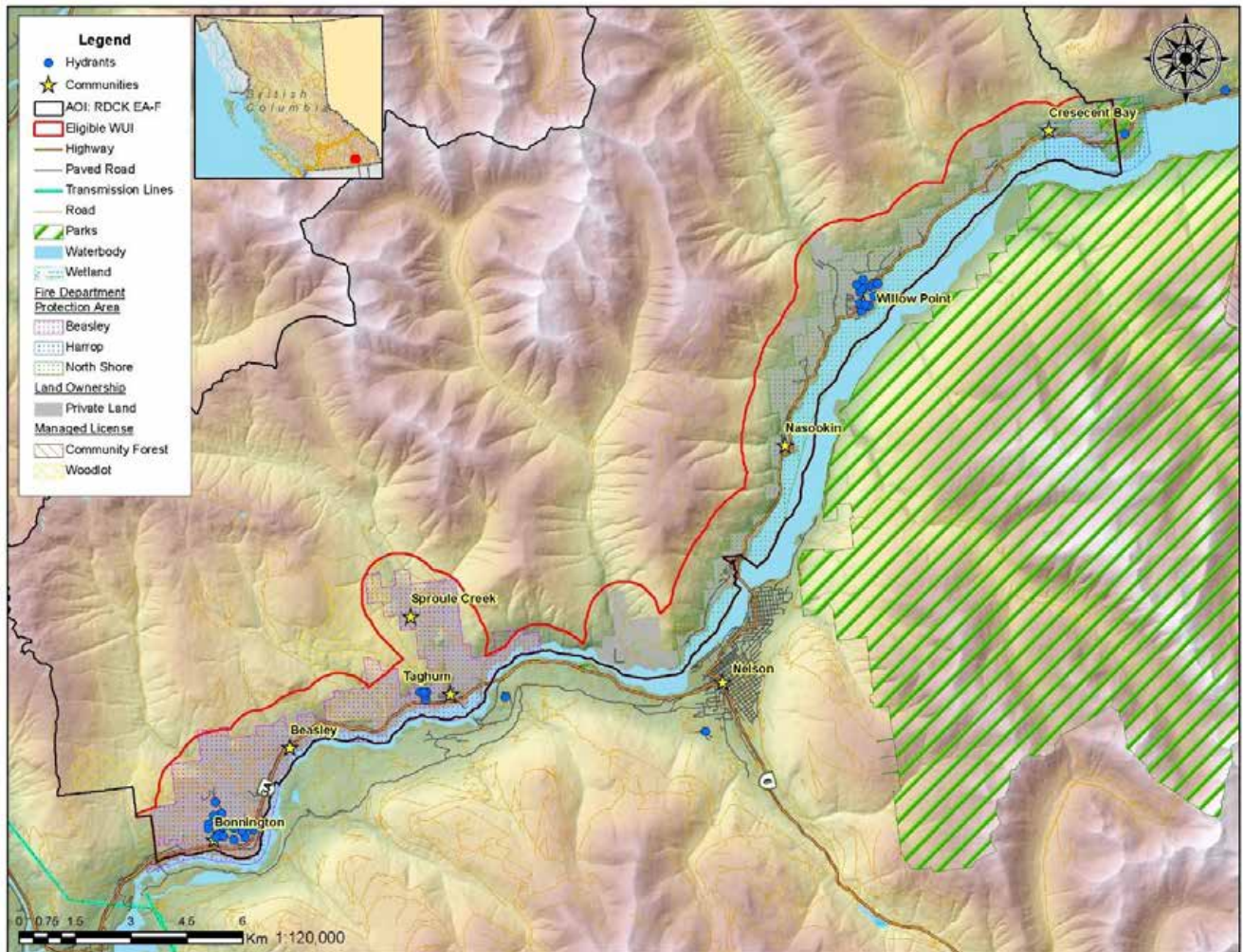
Hydrants and standpipe locations within the WUI are shown below on Map 4. Hydrants are in RDCK water serviced areas Taghum and Willow Point, and a private hydrant system is in Bonnington. Surface water sources are plentiful throughout the WUI and contribute to water availability for firefighting, although there are both seasonal drought/low water and access constraints for many. The most reliable natural water sources for EA-F would be Kootenay Lake and the Kootenay River. See Section 5.4 for recommendations related to fire department resources.

EA-F Fire Response Area Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD; Beasley and North Shore) noted the following regarding the supply of water available for fire response within their response areas:³¹

- Beasley VFD
 - *Hydrants*: Bonnington fire hydrants have good pressure and are generally reliable; the hydrants and standpipes in Taghum are limited in supply.
 - *Water Shuttling*: Water shuttling is effective, especially in those areas where a hydrant or drafting site is relatively close by. The further away from a hydrant or a fill site, the longer the turnaround time and the higher the likelihood of a delay or disruption.
 - *Drafting Sites*: Are mapped; include rivers/streams within the response area, but very few places where they can be accessed; sources most often used are the hydrants in Bonnington and/or a drafting site on private property adjacent to Taghum Community Hall.
- North Shore VFD
 - *Hydrants*: North Shore has one hydrant that provides appropriate pressure, on Tees Road. All other hydrants in the area are considered limited resources due to variable or limited flow rates and/or pressure.

³¹ Information provided to B.A. Blackwell & Associates from Fire Departments via information gathering questionnaire.

- *Water Shuttling*: Shuttling time, once established, is variable based on the water supply proximity to the incident.
- *Drafting Sites*: Kootenay Lake is the primary choice currently with several sites available in our area. They are public access or require private property access. Access can depend on weather, public use, etc.
- Balfour – Harrop VFD
 - *Hydrants*: The Crescent Bay Area does not have any hydrants. Grandview (north of EA-F) has one hydrant that is utilized.
 - *Water Shuttling*: Shuttled from the hydrant at Grandview.
 - *Water Drafting*: Drafted from Kootenay Lake at Crescent Beach.



Map 4: Hydrants and standpipes for communities in Electoral Area F (RDCK GIS data).

3.3.3 HAZARDOUS VALUES

Hazardous values are defined as values that pose a safety hazard to emergency responders and include large fuel / propane facilities, landfills, rail yards, storage facilities containing explosives, pipelines, etc. Anywhere combustible materials, explosive chemicals, or gas/oil are stored can be considered a hazardous value. Protecting hazardous values from fires is important to preventing interface fire disasters.

No hazardous values were identified within EA-F's WUI, but it was noted in the 2023 RDCK Community Risk Assessment that hazardous materials are transported by truck and train throughout the area (Highway 6 and Highway 3A). It is also very likely that both industrial and hobby farms store gas, oil, and/or fertilizer.

Accidental ignitions from train tracks and equipment are also a fire risk. Vegetation management practices along rail lines has the ability to exacerbate a fire hazard if deciduous and/or coniferous vegetation and cured grasses are being brushed and left in accumulations beside the tracks. This presents more of a concern where the vegetation on private properties adjacent to the tracks has a coniferous component or cured grass, which can support fast spreading fires. This is of special concern in the communities west of Nelson (Taghum, Beasley, and Bonnington), where the rail corridor runs along the Kootenay River shoreline adjacent to homes and property. Recommendations associated with industry stakeholders are discussed in Section 5.5).

3.3.4 CULTURAL VALUES

There are documented and registered historic and archeological sites within the WUI and a high potential for additional sites to be found given the long history of use by First Nations. Known archeological sites are protected under the Heritage Conservation Act, which applies to both private and public lands.

RDCK, EA-F, and/or MOF should continue to consult with applicable First Nations well before development and implementation of any proposed fuel prescriptions to allow for meaningful review and input, as well as collaborative opportunities – cultural burning by First Nations has a long documented and orally spoken history in the area. Archeological assessments may be required to ensure that known or unknown cultural resources are not inadvertently damaged or destroyed, and that First Nations strategies for land management in their traditional territory are complied with.

3.3.5 HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

There are multiple high environmental values throughout the RDCK. Specific to EA-F, there is significant proximity to provincial parks and regional parks. Additionally, EA-F's WUI has significant overlaps with species and ecosystems at risk identified through the B.C. Conservation Data Center and by the federal government (Table 9), including a significant population of bats. Of these species, three are considered at

risk and include the fringed myotis, northern myotis, and Townsend's big-eared bat.³² All fuel management prescriptions must identify and mitigate potential impacts to ecosystems or species at risk and may require rationales and/or mitigation measures for tree removal in some areas.

Approval for adding EA-F to the RDCK Local Conservation Fund Establishment Bylaw is currently being sought through the Alternative Approval Process (AAP). A Local Conservation Fund is a local government service that creates dedicated funding to support local high-priority conservation projects. This would benefit EA-F in wildfire mitigation planning and consideration of conservation priorities. Since 2014, a Local Conservation Fund has already been in effect in Electoral Areas A, D, and E as an RDCK provided service. This Local Conservation Fund on Kootenay Lake has provided grants totaling over half a million dollars and raised an additional 2.45 million dollars in financial and in-kind support from other funders.³³

Table 9. Species and Ecosystems at Risk in the WUI – BC Conservation Data Center. *Denotes Critical Habitat for Federally Listed Species at Risk

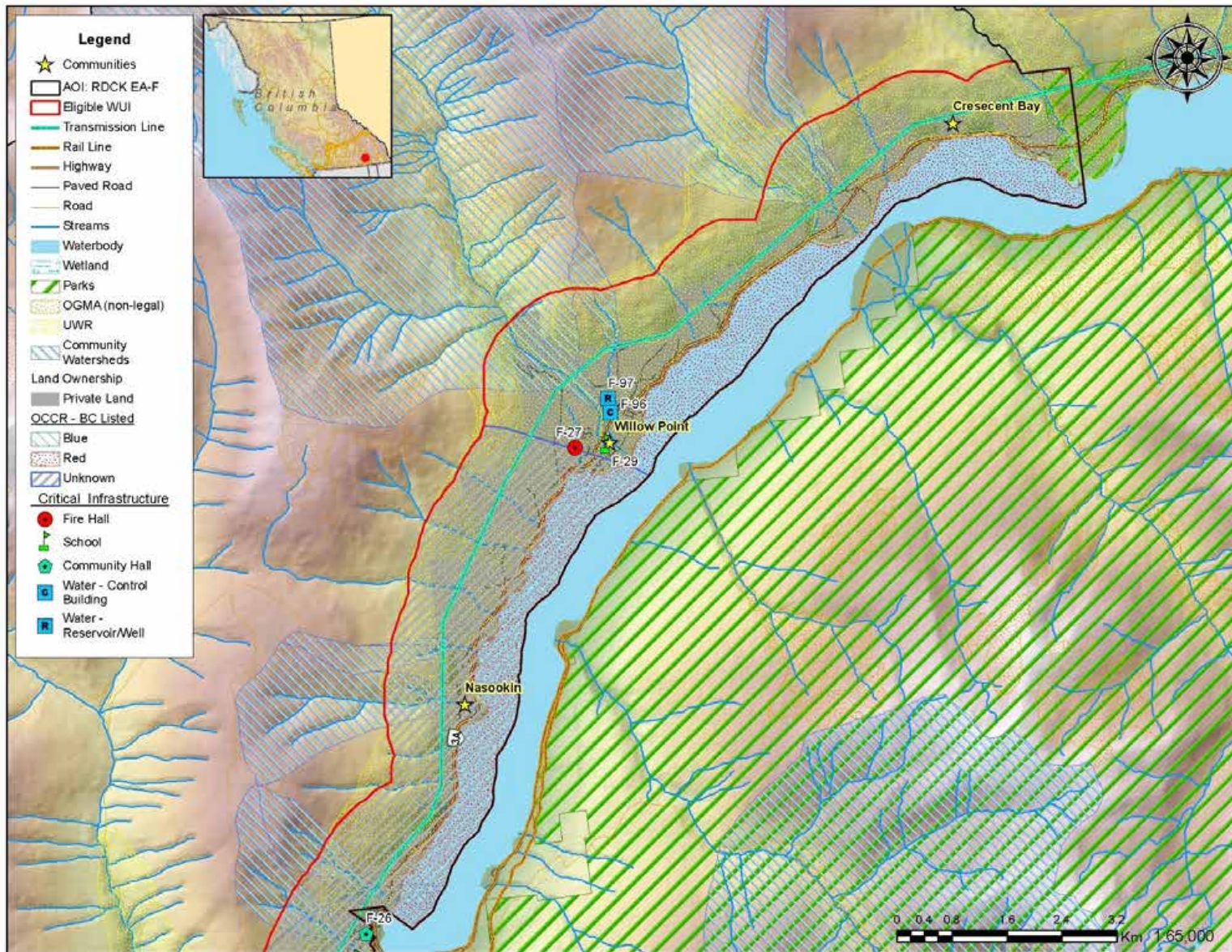
Common Name	Scientific Name	Category	BC List	Habitat Type
White Sturgeon (Upper Kootenay River Population)	Acipenser transmontanus pop. 1	Vertebrate Animal	Red	RIVERINE: Big River; Moderate Gradient; Low Gradient; Pool. LACUSTRINE: Deep Water
Spurless Touch-me-not	Impatiens ecornuta	Vascular Plant	Yellow	TERRESTRIAL
Western Screech-owl, Macfarlanei Subspecies	Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei	Vertebrate Animal	Blue	TERRESTRIAL: Urban
Monardella	Monardella odoratissima ssp. discolor	Vascular Plant	Unknown	TERRESTRIAL
Western Skink	Plestiodon skiltonianus	Vertebrate Animal	Blue	TERRESTRIAL: Rock Outcrop, Coarse Talus/Boulders, Grassland/Herbaceous, Forest Needleleaf.

3.3.6 OTHER RESOURCE VALUES

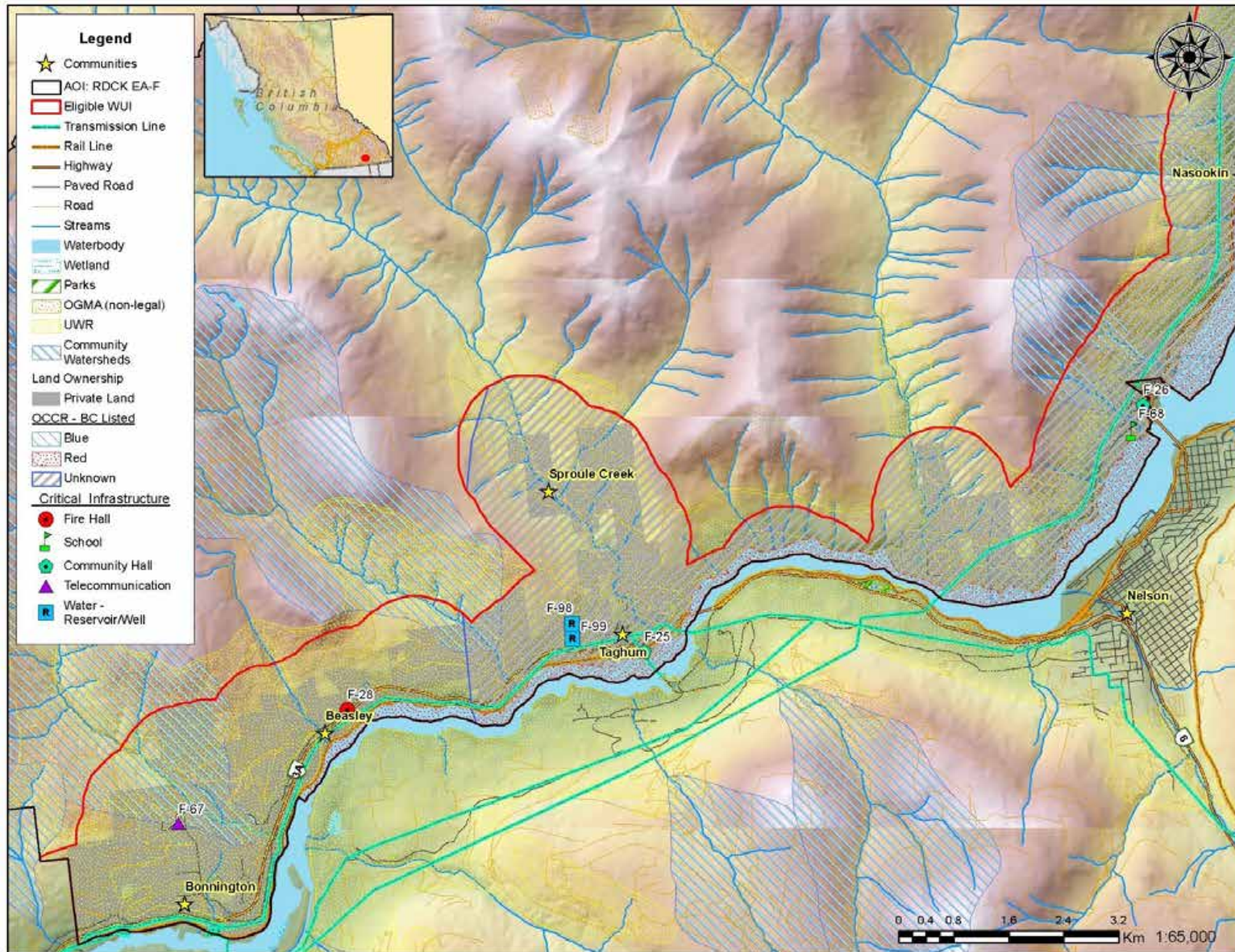
There are multiple other important resource values associated with the land base, including forestry (woodlots), agriculture (commercial and hobby farms), recreation (including a designated BC Recreation Site near Taghum), hydroelectric power generation, and tourism. Any fuel management within EA-F's WUI should consider the impact on any of these additional values, and consult with appropriate land managers and organized recreation groups in the area. Recommendations associated with industry stakeholders are discussed in Section 5.5.

³² https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/pesticides-and-pest-management/managing-pests/bats/kcbp_bats.pdf

³³ <https://kootenayconservation.ca/area-f-lcf-expansion/>



Map 5: Values at risk within EA-F's eastern WUI area.



Map 6: Values at risk within EA-F's western WUI area.

SECTION 4: WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

This section summarizes the factors that contribute to local wildfire risk in EA-F. Section 4.1 discusses the wildfire environment in the WUI: focusing on topography, fuel, and weather. Section 4.2 discusses wildfire history in the area and wildfire response data from local fire crews. Section 4.3 uses updated fuel types combined with wildfire threat assessments and an office-based analysis to update the local wildfire risk for the eligible WUI.

The local wildfire risk assessment helps to identify the parts of the eligible WUI that are most vulnerable to wildfire. The CWRP risk assessment complements the broader scale Emergency Response and Recovery Plan for the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

The relationship between wildfire risk and wildfire threat is defined as follows:

$$\text{Wildfire Risk} = \text{Probability} \times \text{Consequence}$$

Where:

Wildfire risk is defined as the potential losses incurred to human life and values at risk within a community in the event of a wildfire.

Probability is the threat of wildfire occurring in an area and is expressed by the ability of a wildfire to ignite and then consume fuel on the landscape. An area's *wildfire threat* is controlled primarily by:

- Topography: Slope and terrain features can influence rate of spread; aspect can affect pre-heating and other fuel properties
- Fuel: Amount, vertical and horizontal arrangement, type, and dryness
- Weather: Temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, precipitation

Consequences refer to the repercussions associated with fire occurrence in a given area. Higher consequences are associated with densely populated areas, presence of values at risk, etc.

4.1 WILDFIRE ENVIRONMENT

There are three environmental components that influence wildfire behavior: topography, weather, and fuel. These components are generally referred to as the 'fire behaviour triangle' (Figure 9); the ways in which they individually influence the wildfire environment of the area will be detailed below. Fuel is the only component of the fire triangle that can be reasonably managed through human intervention. It is important to recognize that in WUI fires, wildland fuels (trees, shrubs, branches, etc.) are not the only fuel available to the fire – houses and their exterior construction materials and landscaping vegetation, cars, barbeque propane tanks, and more (anything that is flammable or combustible) is available fuel.



Figure 9: Graphic display of the fire behaviour triangle, and a subset of characteristics within each component.³⁴

4.1.1 TOPOGRAPHY

Slope steepness influences the fire’s trajectory and rate of spread and slope position relates to the ability of a fire to gain momentum uphill. Other factors of topography that influence fire behaviour include aspect, elevation, and configuration of features on the landscape that can restrict (i.e., water bodies, rock outcrops) or drive (i.e., valleys, exposed ridges) the movement of a wildfire.

Most homes and structures in EA-F communities that are located along the shorelines of Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River are situated along the lower slope adjacent to the lake/river shore. Often, these lower slopes are more subdued, but for some communities (or even just a part of them), the lower slopes can be quite steep (e.g., Crescent Bay, Beasley, and Bonnington). Additionally, communities such as Sproule Creek, Bonnington, Beasley, and Willow Point) have homes and structures that are located uphill from the shoreline, on a mix of moderate and steeper slopes, and are intermixed with the wildland environment. Thus, while most homes and structures in EA-F are generally located in the lower slope of their respective macro-topological features (which is naturally advantageous from a fire spread standpoint), topography presents a situationally specific risk to some neighbourhoods and homes at the site level.

On a larger scale, the narrow valley of the west arm of Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River can funnel winds to drive a fire both up (east) and down (west) the valley. Additionally, tributary rivers and adjacent creek draws (often running up/down the valley slopes of the side drainages) provide additional convective features that can drive the up valley and upslope spread of fire.

Map 7 and Map 8 display the slope, by slope classes, for EA-F’s WUI. Table 10 shows the percent of the WUI by slope steepness class, with corresponding *fire behavior* implications. Nearly half (52%) of the WUI has slopes >30% and would experience accelerated rates of fire spread *uphill*. 48% of the WUI has slopes <30%, and would experience little slope-driven flame and fuel interaction.

³⁴ Graphic adopted from the Province of Alberta.

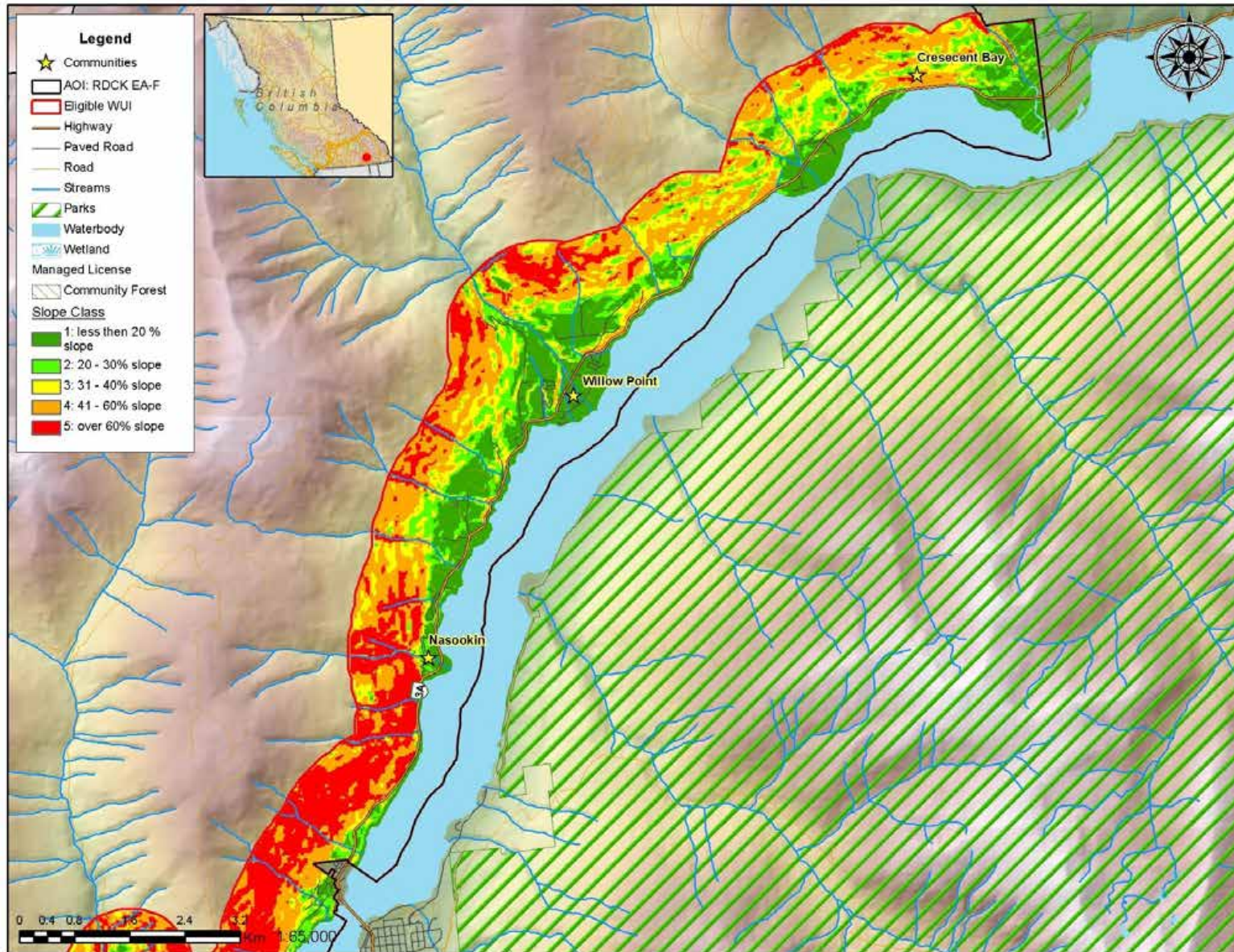
Table 10. Slope Percentage and Fire Behaviour Implications.

Slope	Percent of Eligible WUI	Fire Behaviour Implications
<20%	33%	Very little flame and fuel interaction caused by slope, normal rate of spread.
21-30%	15%	Flame tilt begins to preheat fuel, increase rate of spread.
31-40%	16%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and begins to bathe flames into fuel, high rate of spread.
41-60%	23%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel, very high rate of spread.
>60%	12%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel well upslope, extreme rate of spread.

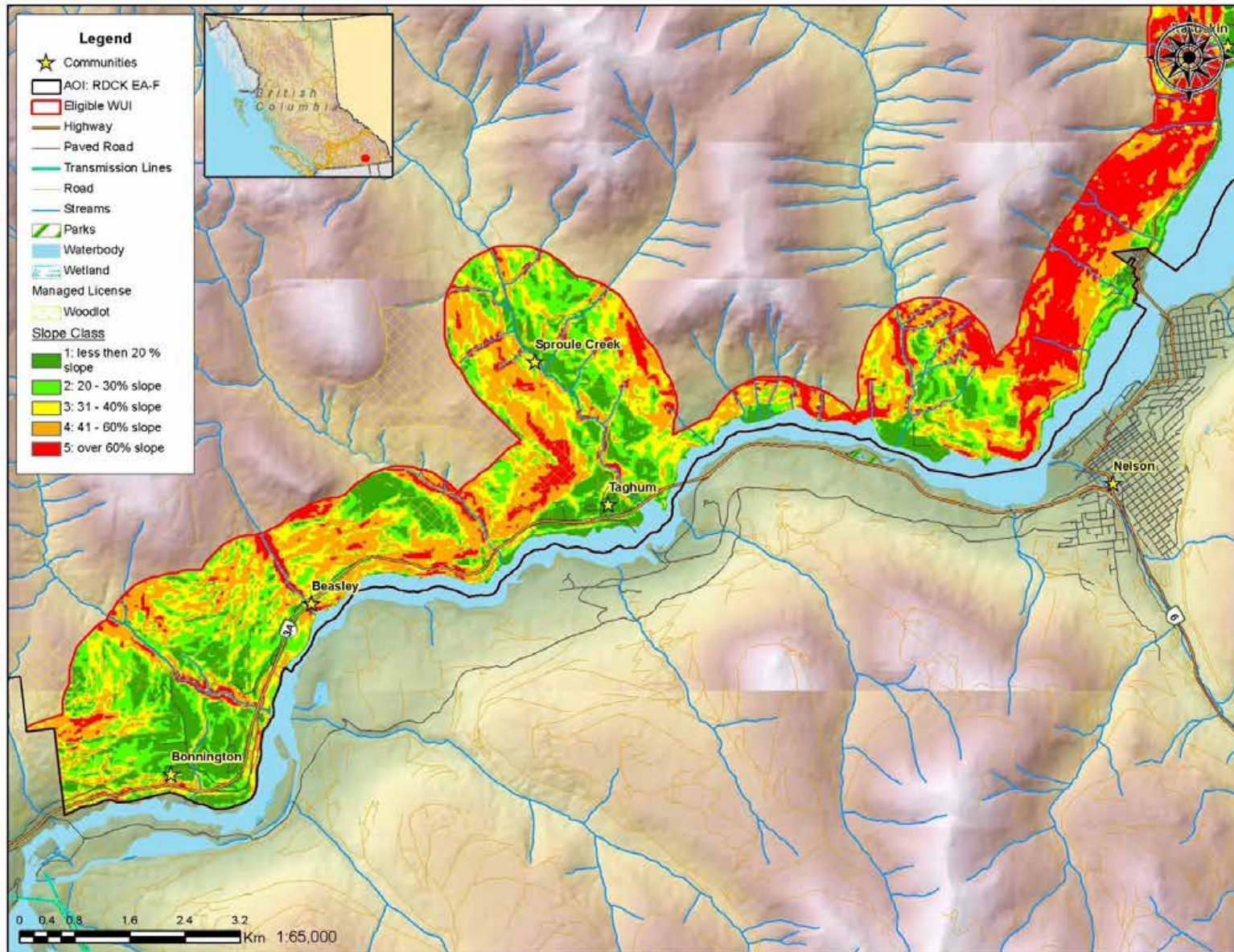
Slope-associated *fire risk* is dependent upon the slope position (location) of values, described below in Table 11. Values located in the middle and upper slopes are threatened by faster rates of fire spread due to the pre-heating of fuels from fire below and longer flame lengths reaching uphill. As discussed above, most of EA-F’s communities are located at valley and slope bottoms, on grades <30%, so would not have increased fire behaviour risks influenced by topography alone. However, there are neighbourhoods, homes, and structures that are middle slope, and these would be threatened by faster rates of slope-driven fire spread.

Table 11. Slope Position of Value and Fire Behaviour Implications.

Slope Position of Value	Fire Behaviour Implications
Bottom of Slope/ Valley Bottom	Impacted by normal rates of spread.
Mid Slope - Bench	Impacted by increase rates of spread. Position on a bench may reduce the preheating near the value. (Value is offset from the slope).
Mid Slope – Continuous	Impacted by fast rates of spread. No break in terrain features affected by preheating and flames bathing into the fuel ahead of the fire.
Upper 1/3 of slope	Impacted by extreme rates of spread. At risk to large continuous fire run, preheating and flames bathing into the fuel.



Map 7: Slope, by slope classes, for RDCK EA-F's eastern WUI.



Map 8: Slope, by slope classes, for RDCK EA-F's western WUI.

4.1.2 FUEL

The ecological context of wildfire and the role of fire in the local ecosystem under both current and historical conditions is an important basis for understanding the current and future wildfire threat to a community. Also, the type and amount of fuel available for a wildfire is a major driver of the fire's potential fire behaviour. Fuel is the only component of the fire triangle that can be realistically managed through human intervention. This section analyses and discusses available *wildland* vegetative fuels within EA-F's WUI.

The forested slopes both within and outside EA-F's WUI have experienced a significant amount of past, recent, and ongoing logging. Past logging, combined with historically suppressed wildfires throughout the 1900s, has resulted in a relatively continuous distribution of even-aged conifer stands. However, within EA-F's WUI, some of these forested stands have seen recent logging that has begun breaking up the even-aged continuity, something that can reduce wildfire behaviour by forcing fire 'to the ground'. Importantly, management of reduced slash (harvest debris) in these WUI harvested areas is paramount towards further reducing their wildfire behaviour and potential risk to nearby neighbourhoods and adjacent communities.

The Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) System outlines sixteen fuel types based on characteristic fire behaviour under defined conditions.³⁵ BC Wildfire Service maintains a provincial fuel type layer that was confirmed and updated for this CWRP. It should be noted that mixed conifer stands³⁶ in the interior wet belt, of which EA-Fs WUI is within, are one of the specifically identified areas of uncertainty and knowledge gaps within the FBP system and are considered, at best, a poor match with any fuel type.³⁷ The FBP system was almost entirely developed for boreal and sub-boreal forest types, which do not occur within the study areas. Furthermore, fuel types depend heavily on Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) data, which is gathered and maintained to inform timber management objectives, not fire behaviour prediction. Although a subjective process, the most appropriate fuel type was assigned based on research, experience, and practical knowledge; this system has been successfully used within BC, with continual improvement and refinement, for 25 years.³⁸ In some areas, aerial imagery is of low spatial resolution and/or ground access was impossible, making fuel type assessment difficult.

Table 12 lists the percentage of fuel types in EA-F's WUI.³⁹ Due to the steep south-facing aspect of the entire north shore slope along Kootenay River and Kootenay Lake, the dominant C-5 and C-7 fuel types present generally reflect this warmer and drier aspect – more open, more grass, and rocky outcrops. The

³⁵ Forestry Canada Fire Danger Group. 1992. Development and Structure of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System: Information Report ST-X-3.

³⁶ Species such as western white pine and western larch growing in multi-story canopies, usually associated with Douglas-fir, redcedar, lodgepole pine, or other species.

³⁷ Natural Resources Canada. 2018. British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description. Daniel D.B. Perrakis, George Eade, and Dana Hicks

³⁸ Perrakis, D, G. Eade and D. Hicks. 2018. Canadian Forest Service Pacific Forestry Centre. British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description

³⁹ Larch produces very little persistent litter, so the D-1 fuel type likely overestimates fire spread potential of these stands. In mixed-species stands with other conifers, larch is considered to contribute to the deciduous portion of the stand, implemented using the M-1/M-2 fuel types. (Natural Resources Canada. British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description)

fuel types present that are considered most hazardous in terms of fire behaviour (of which there is very little) are C-3 and O-1a/b (can include C-5 and C-7 under certain conditions). C-3 fuel types can support passive and active crown fires, and under extreme wildfire conditions can exhibit some of the highest wildfire risk associated to fuel type. Extensive areas of O-1a/b, C-5, or C-7 can support a rapidly spreading surface fire capable of damage or destruction of property and jeopardizing human life, but the fire behaviour potential in these fuel types is recognized as highly variable dependent on the percentage of grass and shrub that is cured and the wind speed. An M-1/2 fuel type can be considered hazardous depending on the proportion of conifers within the forest stand, and/or the amount of dead and downed material. D-1/2 stands (of which there is little in EA-F’s WUI) are dominated by deciduous species, and are generally considered the least hazardous forest type because of their higher moisture content and lack of flammable ladder fuels. The hazard of a D-1/2 stand can greatly increase if there is an accumulation of surface fuels, cured grasses, or flammable shrubs. Recent spring cross-over conditions⁴⁰ (called the ‘spring dip’) have allowed for destructive forest fires in deciduous-dominated stands. Detailed fuel type descriptions and their associated wildfire risk can be found in Appendix B-1: Fuel Typing Methodology.

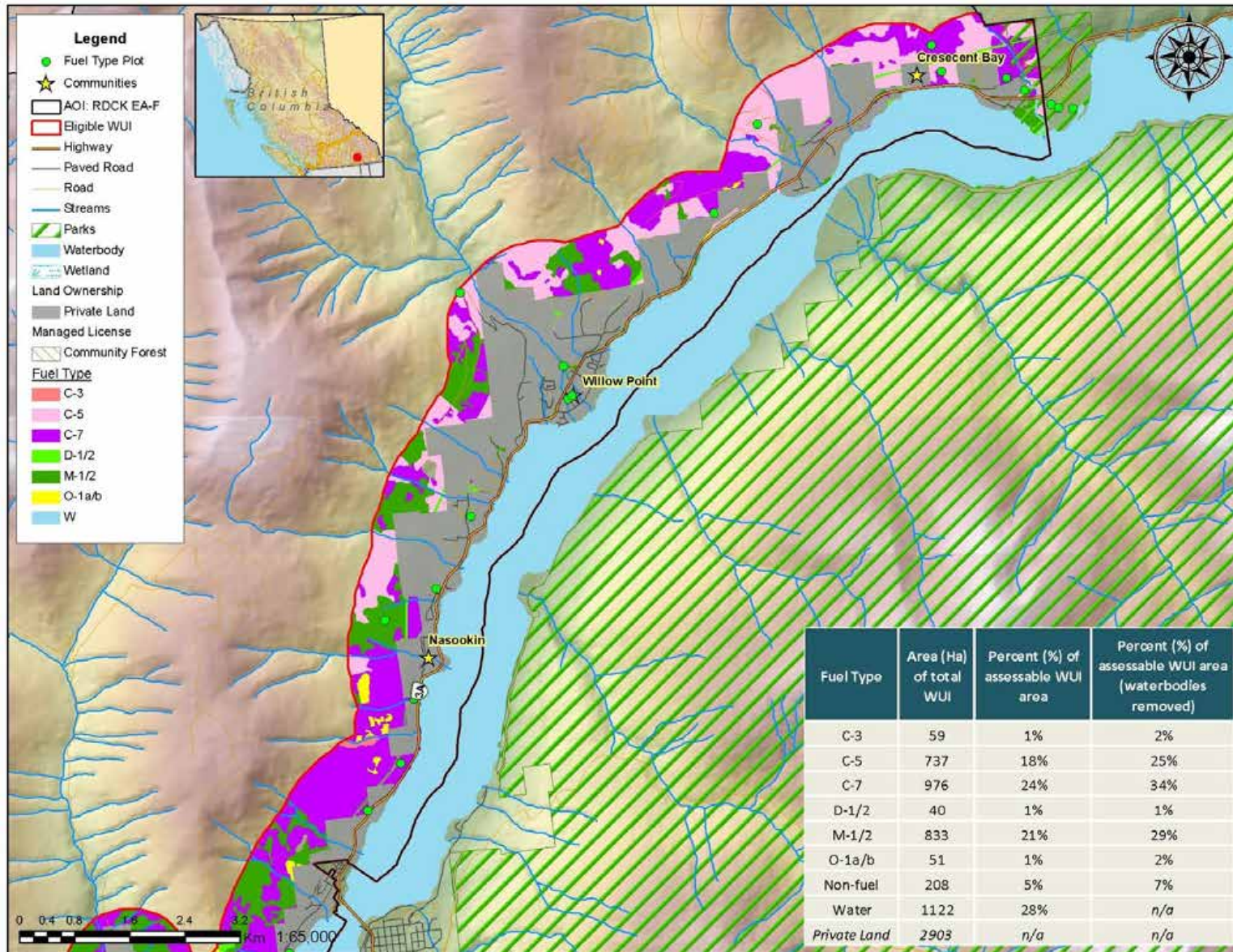
Table 12. Fuel types in EA-F’s Wildland Urban Interface

Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description within the WUI	Area (ha) of total WUI	Percent (%) of assessable WUI area	Percent (%) of assessable WUI area (waterbodies removed)
C-3	Pole-sapling to mature even-aged conifer-dominated forest with moderate to high density and high crown closure (near or at horizontal continuity). Crowns separated from the forest floor in mature stands.	59	1%	2%
C-5	Low to moderate density, uneven-aged conifer-dominated forest, crown base heights mixed. Understory of discontinuous natural conifer ingress in openings and gaps, deciduous shrubs, and herbs.	737	18%	25%
C-7	Low-density, uneven-aged conifer-dominated forest, crowns separated from the ground, understory of discontinuous grasses and shrubs. Exposed bed rock and low surface fuel loading. Often located on south-facing slopes and throughout the ICH. Also used to type completed fuel treatments that have left a low-density conifer stand.	976	24%	34%
D-1/2	Deciduous stands/forest. Hazard increases with the amount of deadfall and/or establishment of a flammable shrub layer.	40	1%	1%
M-1/2	Moderately well-stocked mixed stands of conifer and deciduous, low to moderate dead stems and down woody fuels. Often transition to become	833	21%	29%

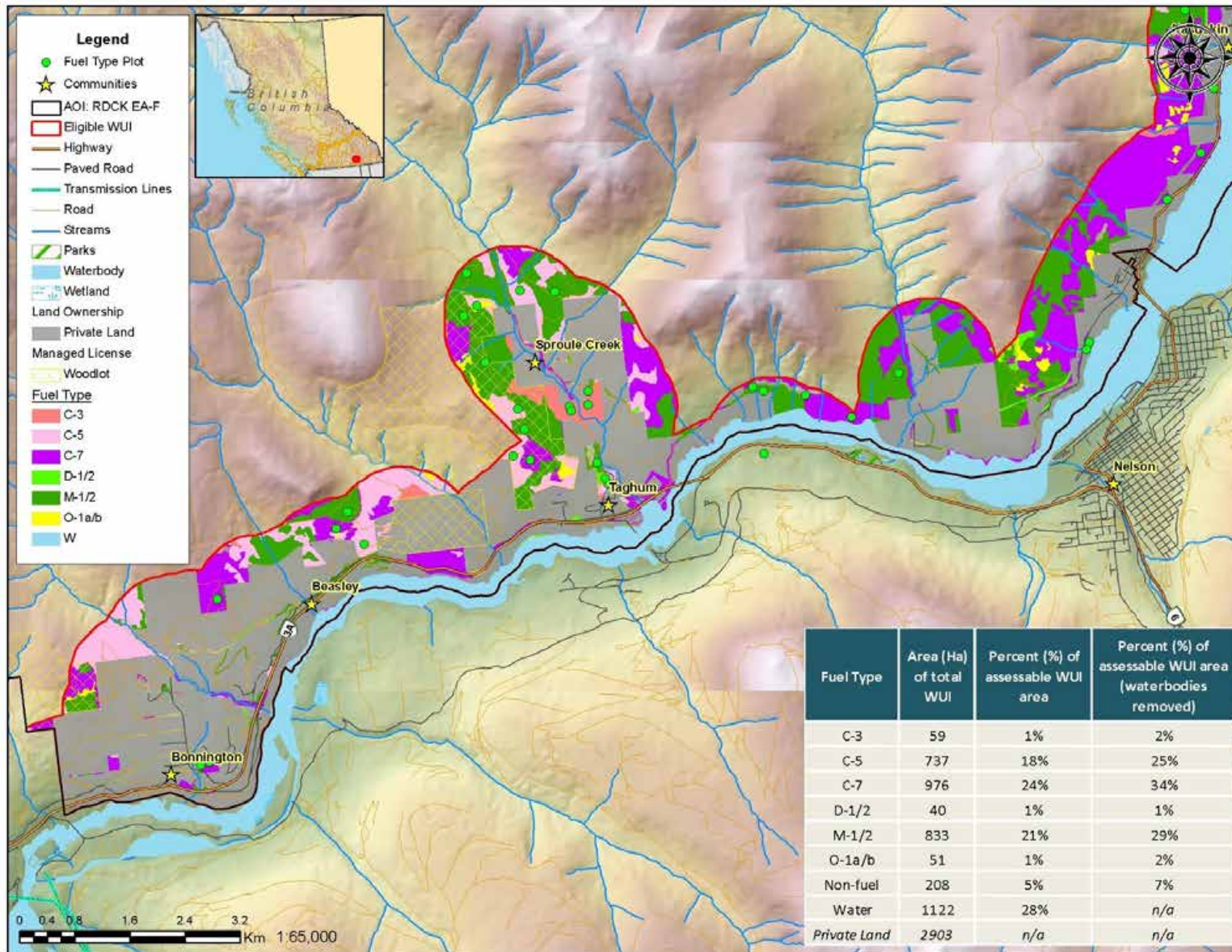
⁴⁰ Cross-over conditions refer to a point where air temperature drops below the relative humidity (e.g., 20°C/15% humidity), providing conditions for potentially severe fire behaviour.

Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description within the WUI	Area (ha) of total WUI	Percent (%) of assessable WUI area	Percent (%) of assessable WUI area (waterbodies removed)
	more conifer dominated as pioneer deciduous species die out if disturbance is excluded. Note: Western Larch is typed as a deciduous species for fuel typing and may be part or all of the deciduous component in this fuel type.			
O-1a/b	Grassland fuels ('a' refers to matted grasses, 'b' refers to standing). Matted and standing grass that can cure; sparse or scattered shrubs, trees, and down woody debris. Cutblocks >2 seasons old that do not meet S-type descriptions, as well as young regenerating cutblocks that have not reached any horizontal continuity.	51	1%	2%
Non-fuel	Areas with no available forest or grass fuels (e.g., roadways, gravel clearings, irrigated and/or mowed fields). These areas may (and often do) contain combustible materials, infrastructure, flammable landscaping, and homes.	208	5%	7%
Water	-	1122	28%	<i>n/a</i>
Private Land	-	2903	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>

Map 9 and Map 10 display the updated fuel types for EA-F's WUI.



Map 9: Update fuel types for EA-F's eastern WUI.



Map 10: Update fuel types for EA-F's western WUI.

4.1.3 WEATHER

Fire season conditions are generally warm to hot (July and August daily temperature means average 19.2°C, with average highs of 28.3°C) with some rainfall expected throughout (August averages the least rainfall with 49.4mm, while June averages the most with 71.1mm), with climate change projections trending toward even hotter summers and more pronounced droughts.⁴¹ Local BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) staff working actively on wildfires in the Central Kootenays during 2023 commented that in this region, weather (i.e., relative humidity and wind), slope, and aspect are far more important factors in fire growth than fuel types.⁴²

Historical weather data can provide information on the number and distribution of days when EA-F's WUI communities and surrounding areas experience high fire danger conditions. 'High fire danger' is considered with a Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS) Danger Class rating of 4 (High) or 5 (Extreme). Average danger class data for EA-F can be determined from representative BCWS fire weather stations within the WUI. Located across from Blewett on the north side of Kootenay Lake, east of Garrity Creek, the Smallwood BCWS fire weather station (997m elevation; Nelson is at 535m elevation); is the most representative for EA-F's WUI. Averages for the past 12 years are presented in Figure 10 below.

Data from the Smallwood fire weather station shows that July and August have the greatest number of High and Extreme fire danger days, with July averaging 8 and August averaging 15. When combined, 38% of days in those two months exhibit High or Extreme fire danger. It is important to note that High fire danger days are present in both June and September within EA-F's WUI.

Overall, it is most likely that fire weather and associated fire danger days blends across EA-F's WUI east to west, from averaging a higher number of High and Extreme fire danger days in its more eastern areas, to a lower number of fire danger days in its western areas. However, the data does show that EA-F's WUI is at risk due to fire season weather.

⁴¹ Environment and Climate Change Canada data for Nelson.

⁴² From verbal conversations between the Plan's developers and wildfire crews encountered during field work for the Plan's development.

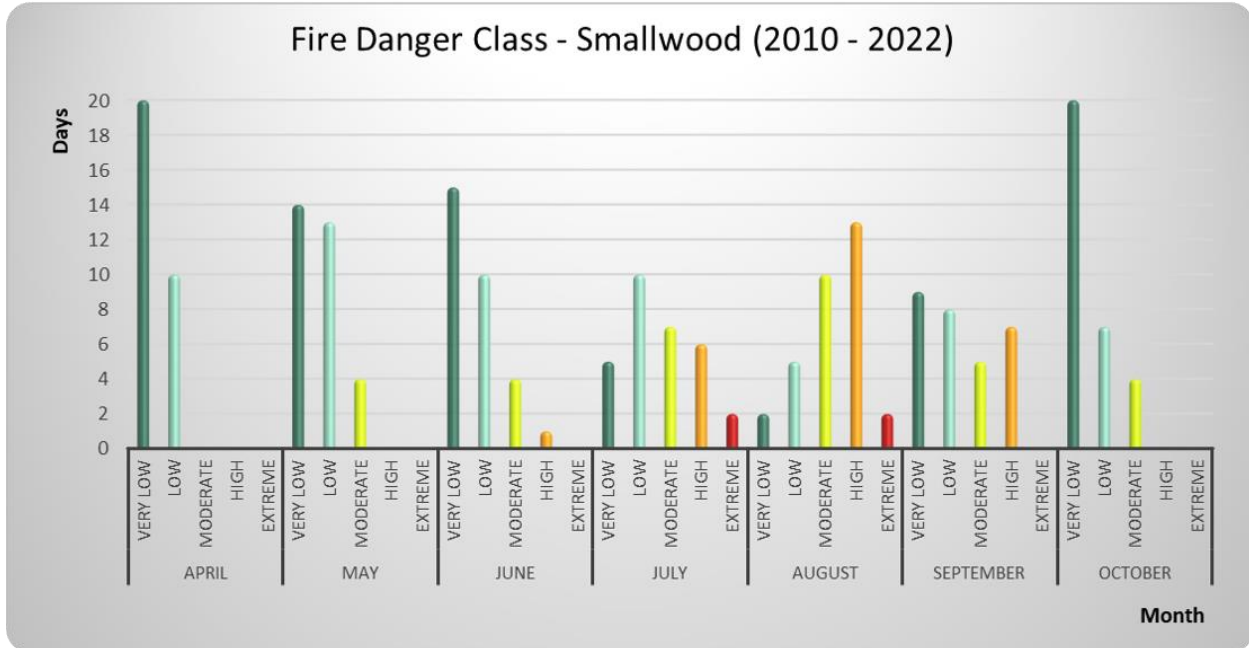


Figure 10: Average number of fire danger rating days by month for the Smallwood fire weather station.

Hourly wind speed and direction is also recorded at BCWS weather stations. Data is publicly available in the form of average Initial Spread Index (ISI) roses.⁴³ The ISI is a numeric rating of the expected rate of fire spread that combines the effects of wind speed and fine fuel moisture (which is controlled by temperature and relative humidity). ISI roses can be used to help plan the location of fuel treatments on the landscape to protect values at risk based on the predominant wind direction and frequency of higher ISI values. Wildfire that occurs upwind of a value poses a more significant threat to that value than one which occurs downwind.

Wind and ISI data assessed from the Smallwood fire weather station (Figure 10) during the fire season indicates that EA-F communities primarily experience strong diurnal winds – up-valley (north and east along Kootenay River and the west arm of Kootenay Lake during the day, and down-valley (south and west along the west arm of Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River) at night . As per the ISI roses, the highest ISI values (and thus associated with higher rates of fire spread) are during the highest temperature summer months, June - August.

The local BCWS Wildfire Prevention Officer noted that high elevation spruce/balsam stands [largely just uphill and outside EA-Fs WUI] tend to exhibit the most aggressive and volatile growth in the region. Middle elevation mixed stands of Douglas-fir, larch, and pine species [largely within the upper slopes of EA-F’s WUI] can be volatile as well, however, typically less so than the higher spruce/balsam stands. Low elevation western red cedar/western hemlock stands [largely within the lower slopes of EA-F’s WUI] exhibit the least volatility, unless certain fuel and weather conditions are met. Importantly, as fuel

⁴³ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/vegetation-and-fuel-management/fire-fuel-management/fuel-management>

conditions dry out in the summer and combine with specific weather events (wind, low humidity, hotter temperatures), these fuel types can react with intensity and exhibit aggressive fire behavior. Echoing the sentiments of the firefighting ground crews encountered during Plan development field assessment work, winds are required to create volatility and fire growth in the fuel types in EA-F and are also required to push fire aggressively downslope towards communities.

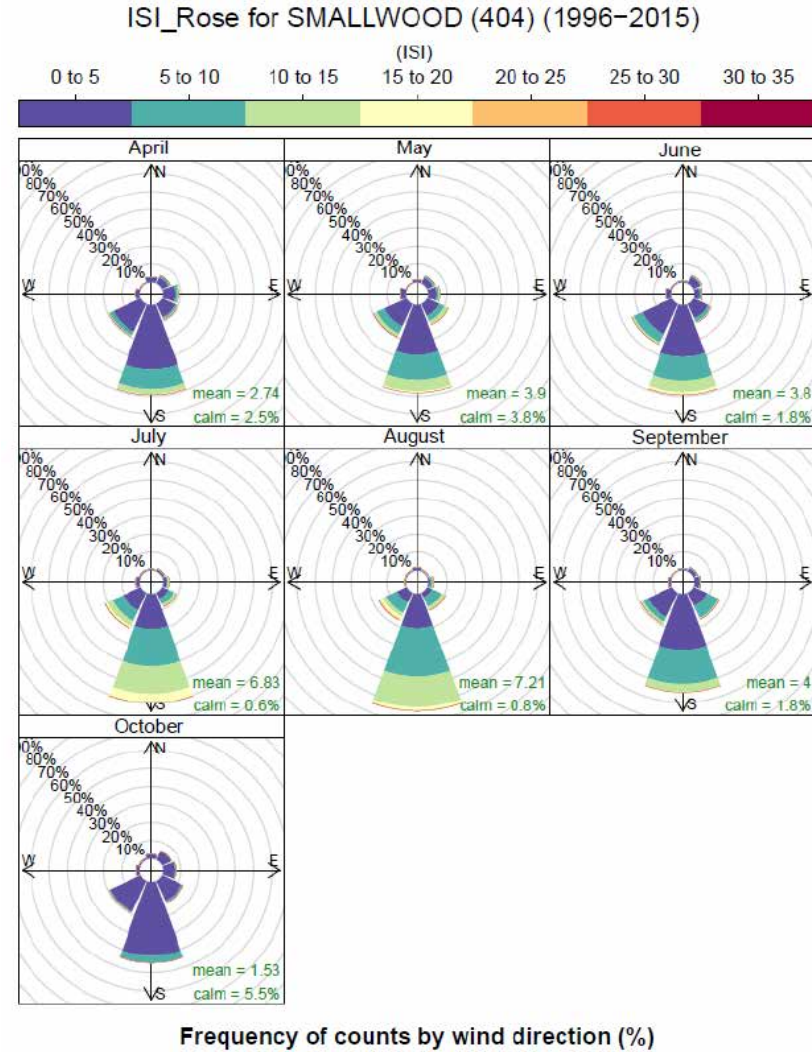
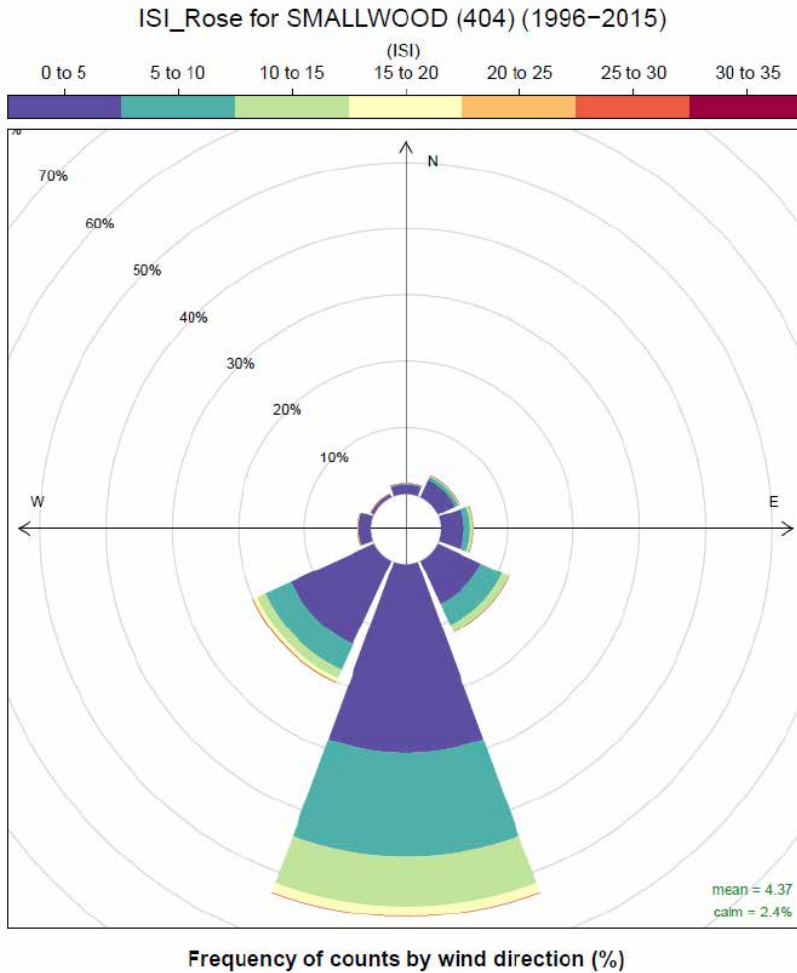


Figure 11. Daily and monthly average initial spread index rose for Smallwood fire weather station for the fire season (April – October)

4.2 WILDFIRE HISTORY

4.2.1 HISTORIC FIRE REGIME

EA-F’s WUI can be categorized using the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) system, which classifies the province into zones by vegetation, soils, and climate. Regional subzones are derived from relative precipitation and temperature.

Map 11 and Map 12, in Section 4.2.2 below, show the distribution of Biogeoclimatic zones and associated Natural Disturbance Types (NDTs) in EA-F’s WUI. Summarized in Table 13, the middle slopes of EA-F’s WUI are dominated by the Interior Cedar Hemlock, Dry Warm (ICHdw1) subzone with an associated NDT3 – ecosystems with frequent stand-initiating events.⁴⁴ These ecosystems are characterized by frequent wildfires that range from small spot fires to conflagrations covering tens of thousands of hectares.⁴⁴ This results in a landscape mosaic of stands of different ages with individual stands being even-aged.⁴⁴ Larger fires often occurred, and could grow to enormous sizes if no topographical-limiting features were present. The mean return interval for fire in the ICH NDT3 is approximately 150 years.⁴⁴

The lower slopes of EA-F’s WUI are dominated by the Interior Cedar Hemlock, Very Dry Warm (West Kootenay Variant) subzone with an associated NDT4 – ecosystems with frequent stand-maintaining fires. These frequent fires would maintain the existing forest stand structure through frequent, low-intensity fires that would normally regulate the amount of surface fuel build-up and reduce the number of small, sapling size regenerating trees.⁴⁴ A higher frequency and a variable intensity of these types of fires across the landscape would create mosaics of uneven-aged forests and grassy or shrubby openings which naturally restricted the spread of large, severe fires.⁴⁴ Larger stand-initiating crown fires may be rarer, but historically occurred at intervals ranging from at least 150 to 250 years.⁴⁴

It is important to consider that fire regimes in the region were likely exemplified through pre-settlement cultural burning practices by First Nations. It is also important to consider that, in the future, BEC (and associated NDT) distributions will likely shift and/or change because of climate change.

Table 13. Natural Disturbance Types (NDTs) of EA-F’s WUI.

Biogeoclimatic Zone	Natural Disturbance Type	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
ICHdw1: Interior Cedar - Hemlock; Dry Warm; West Kootenay Variant	NDT3	3,537	51%
ICHxw: Interior Cedar - Hemlock; Very Dry Warm	NDT4	3,391	49%
ICHmw2: Interior Cedar - Hemlock; Moist Warm; Slocan Variant	NDT2	34	<1%

⁴⁴ BC Biodiversity Guidebook. <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/documents/bib19715.pdf>

4.2.2 HISTORICAL WILDFIRE OCCURENCES

Historic wildfire perimeters, from 1912-2022, are displayed below on Map 11 and Map 12 for an area within five kilometres of EA-F's WUI. Overall, wildfires have occurred regularly since 1912, with both people and lightning being nearly equal causes of those fires' ignitions (people: 54%, 34/63; lightning: 46%, 29/63). Since 2000, there have been 13 fires recorded, of which 8 (62%) were caused by lightning, with none entering EA-F's WUI, but two coming to edge near Willow Point and Crescent Bay. The largest fires recorded, all over 1,000 ha, occurred in 1933-34, and the two largest since 2000 were both approximately 775 ha. For all historic fires within five kilometres of EA-F communities' WUIs, the average size was 354 ha.

BCWS fire ignition data (which records point ignitions that may or may not have developed into a wildfire with a recorded perimeter area) is only available from 1950 onwards. Looking at the same five-kilometre area surrounding EA-F's WUI, 668 out of 915 (73%) recorded ignitions have been from people. 258 (39%) were recorded from 2000 onwards. This data, and the fire perimeter data above, both show that humans are historically the leading cause of fire ignition in EA-F's WUI. The frequency of human ignitions has greatly increased in the last 23 years, but the leading recent cause of developed fires is from lightning.

Although human ignitions are the dominant source for point ignitions historically, lightning is still a very real ignition threat, and is the leading cause of ignition in higher elevations on slopes and ridges within 5km of EA-F's WUI. Overall, under the right fire weather conditions, fires started from any ignition source in the wildland can grow in size and threaten the WUI.

Figure 12 displays trends with fire ignitions since the 1950's *within EA-F's WUI*. It is not surprising that, due to the much greater presence of people within the WUI than outside of it, humans are the leading cause of ignitions. Mirroring the larger five-kilometre area surrounding, human ignitions have been increasing since 2000.

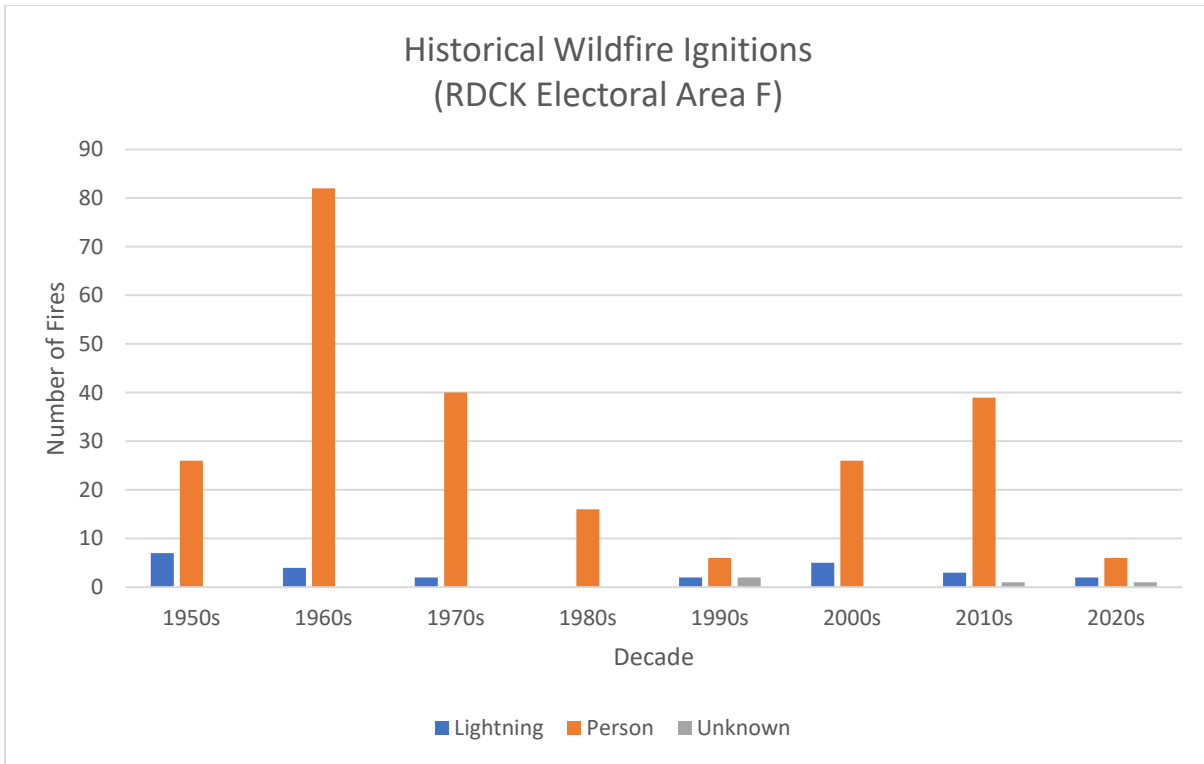
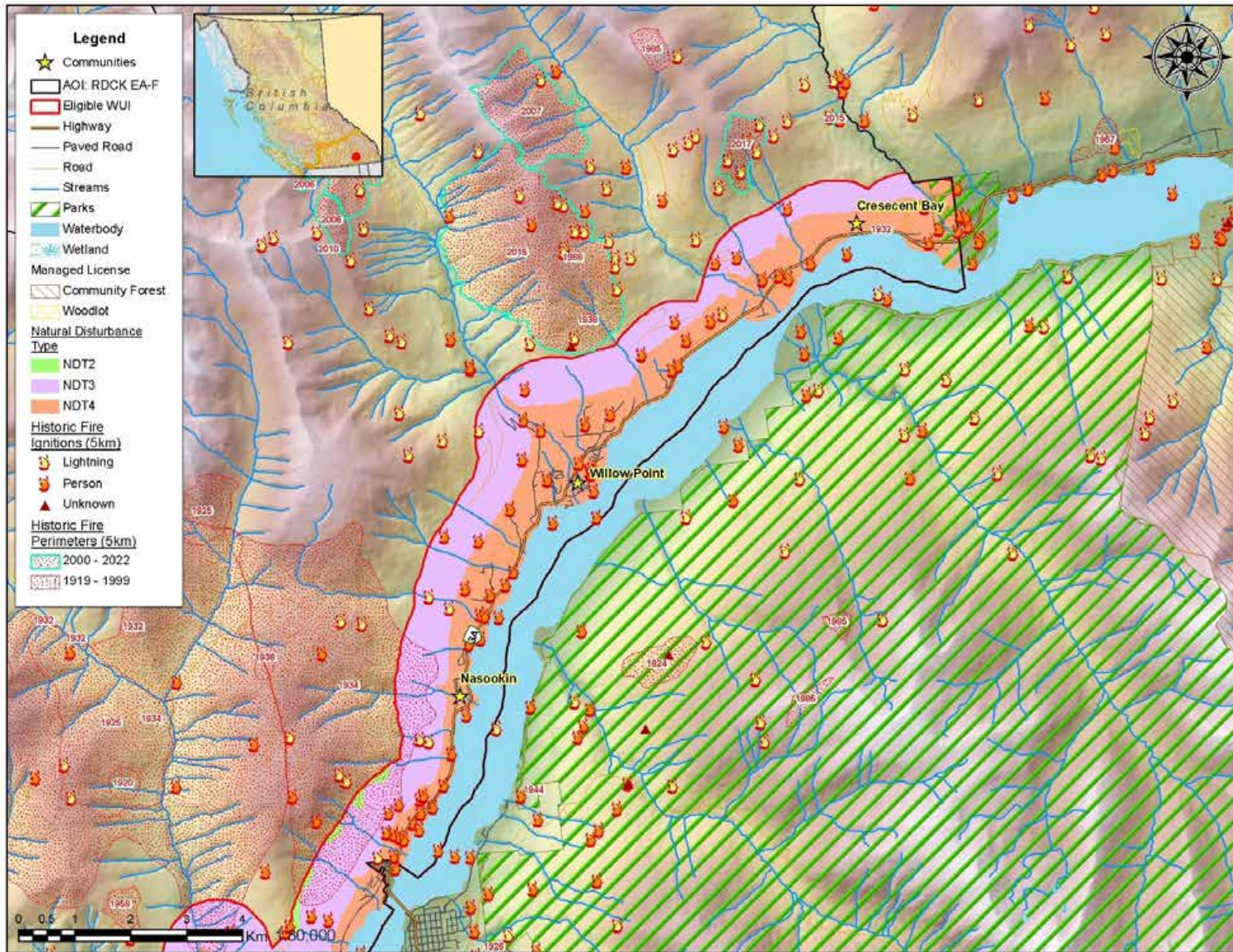
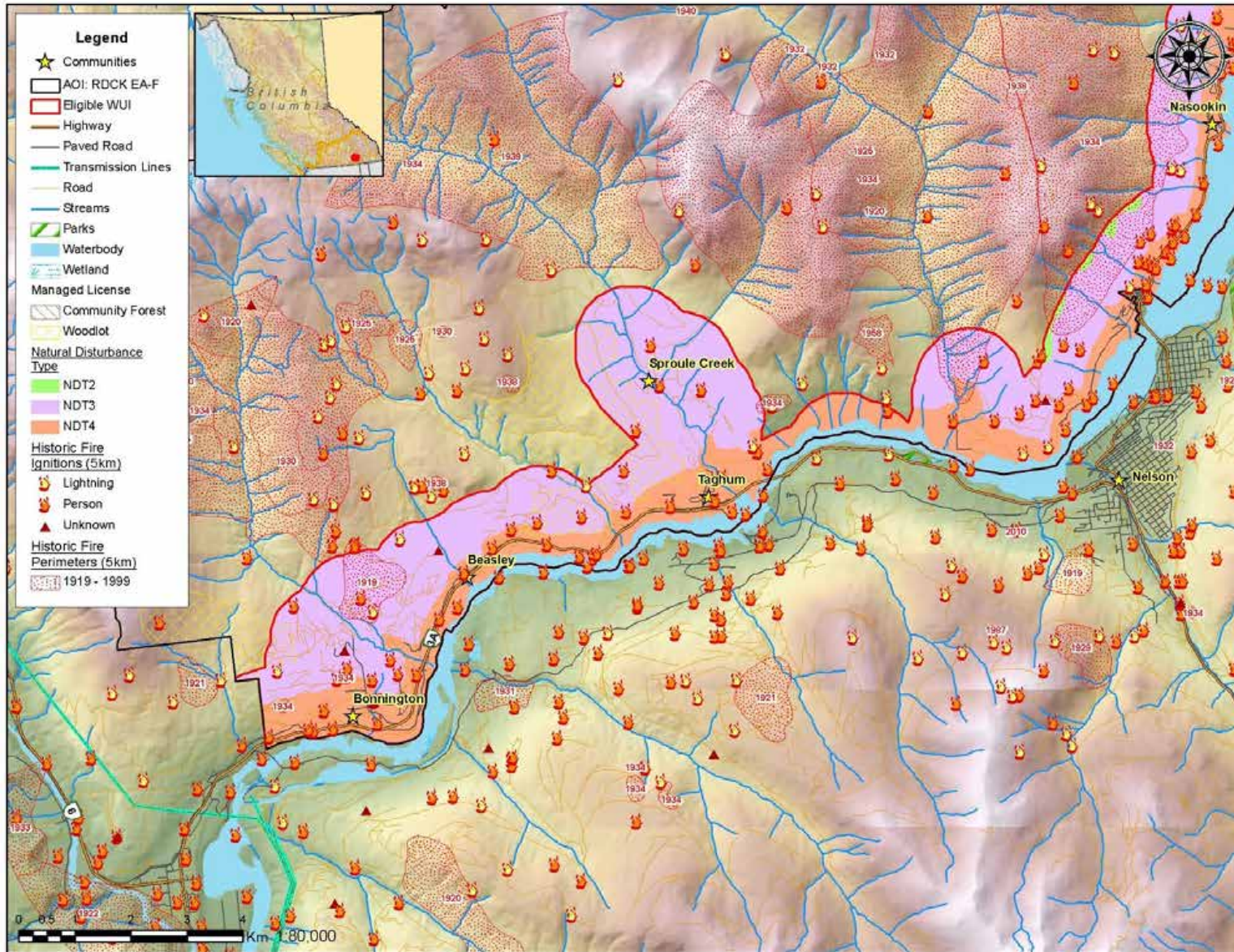


Figure 12: Summary of fire ignition data by cause within RDCK EA-F's WUI (Data from the BC Wildfire Service).



Map 11: Natural disturbance regimes and historical fire ignitions and occurrences within 5 km of EA-F's WUI (east).



Map 12: Natural disturbance regimes and historical fire ignitions and occurrences within 5 km of EA-F's WUI (west).

4.2.3 WILDFIRE RESPONSE

Fire response data⁴⁵ was provided by the Beasley VFD for its response area fire-specific callouts over the last 10 years, and is shown in Table 14. The VFD responded to an average of 4.5 fire calls per year between 2013 and 2022, of which 56% were non-structural fires (identified as ‘wildland’ callouts). The data shows callouts for both structure and wildland fires fluctuate between years, with no discernable trend. Beasley VFD noted that wildland fire callouts for 2023 were lower than previous years. With 56% of average fire callouts per year being for wildland incidents, this response data demonstrates the importance of wildfire specific training and equipment and public fire education – wildfires can just as easily begin from a house fire igniting the adjacent forest and wildland fuels.

Table 14: Beasley Volunteer Fire Department fire callout record 2013-2022.

Year	Wildland Fire Callout	Structure Fire Callout	Total Fire Callouts	% Wildland Callout
2013	1	2	3	33%
2014	2	2	4	50%
2015	8	1	9	89%
2016	1	1	2	50%
2017	2	3	5	40%
2018	3	0	3	100%
2019	3	2	5	60%
2020	1	3	4	25%
2021	4	1	5	80%
2022	0	5	5	0%
average/year	2.5	2	4.5	56%

4.3 LOCAL WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

There are two main components of this local risk assessment: the *wildfire behaviour threat class* (fuels, weather, and topography sub-components) and the *WUI risk class* (structural sub-component). The local wildfire threat assessment process includes several key steps as outlined in Appendix B: Local Wildfire Risk Process and summarized as follows:

- *Fuel type attribute assessment* – ground truthing/verification and updating as required to develop a local fuel type map (Appendix B-1: Fuel Typing Methodology).
- *Consideration of the proximity of fuel to the community* – recognizing that fuel closest to the community usually represents the highest hazard (Appendix B-4: Proximity of Fuel to the Community).
- *Analysis of predominant summer fire spread patterns* – using wind speed and wind direction during the peak burning period using ISI Rose(s) from BCWS weather station(s). Wind speed, wind direction, and fine fuel moisture condition influence wildfire trajectory and rate of spread.

⁴⁵ Data provided to B.A. Blackwell & Associates from Fire Departments via information gathering questionnaire.

- *Consideration of topography in relation to values* (Table 10 and Table 11) – slope percentage and slope position of the value are considered, where slope percentage influences the fire’s trajectory and rate of spread and slope position relates to the ability of a fire to gain momentum uphill.
- *Stratification of the WUI* – according to relative wildfire threat based on the above considerations, other local factors, and field assessment of priority wildfire risk areas.

Wildfire threat assessment field work in EA-F’s WUI was completed in August of 2023. Nearly 80 field stops (e.g., qualitative FireSmart notes, fuel type updates/verification, photograph documentation) were made across the WUI (see Appendix B-2: ; Map 13 and Map 14), including 12 Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) threat plots (see Appendix C: Wildfire Risk Assessment – Worksheets and Photos). WTA plots were completed in interface (i.e., abrupt change from forest to residential development) and intermix (i.e., where forest and structures are intermingled) areas of the WUI to support wildfire risk analyses and development of priority treatment areas, as well as in completed fuel treatment areas to quantify the reduction in site-level wildfire threat. Constraints such as the limited amount of public land within some parts of the WUI available for assessment, and/or limited accessibility into the WUI (e.g., access required through private property; no roads), limited field assessments for some areas.

It is important to note that the local WTA analysis does not apply to private land parcels nor any areas outside of the eligible WUI for this CWRP. As well, the threat assessments quantify threat as it relates to forest fuels, but do not include the ignition potential of residential landscaping, structures, or other infrastructure. Structure fires and structure-to-structure spread in a wildfire scenario are largely attributable to hazardous conditions in the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone of a structure (i.e., the area within 30m of the principal building and/or its attachments).

4.3.1 WILDFIRE THREAT CLASS ANALYSIS

Classes of the wildfire threat class analysis are as follows:

- Very Low: Waterbodies with no forest or grassland fuels, posing no wildfire threat;
- Low: Developed and undeveloped land that will not support significant wildfire spread;
- Moderate: Developed and undeveloped land that will support surface fires that can be both threatening and unthreatening to homes and structures;
- High: Landscapes or stands with continuous forested or grassland fuels that will support candling, intermittent crown fires, or continuous crown fires. These landscapes often contain steeper slopes, rough or broken terrain and/or south or west aspects. High polygons may include high indices of dead and downed conifers; and
- Extreme: Continuous forested land that will support intermittent or continuous crown fires.

The results of the wildfire threat class analysis are displayed on Map 13 and Map 14, and summarized in Table 15 below. The local threat analysis shows that, for the assessable area (i.e., not private land and removing foreshore water areas), 62% of EA-F’s eligible WUI is classified as a high or extreme fire behavior threat, which largely reflects it being dominated by steeper middle and upper slopes on southerly aspects with conifer-dominated fuel types. Only 8% of the assessable WUI is classified as a low threat – almost all

located in moisture receiving lower slopes (due to deciduous-dominated fuel types and low slope grades, or in areas of recently completed fuel treatments. Overall, private land totals 42% of EA-F’s WUI – this area was not allocated fire threat data. Conditions on private land can often result in the fire hazard being much higher than in the forest adjacent if there is low compliance with FireSmart vegetation and structure principles – issues that were frequently observed throughout EA-F during field work.

Table 15: Wildfire threat summary for EA-F’s eligible WUI

Wildfire Threat			
Threat Class	Hectares	% of WUI	% of Assessable Public Land (excluding water)
Extreme	499	7%	17%
High	1308	19%	45%
Moderate	864	12%	30%
Low	231	3%	8%
Very Low/No Threat (Water)	1122	16%	-
No Data (Private Land)	2903	42%	-

4.3.2 WUI RISK CLASS ANALYSIS

WUI risk classes are quantified when the Wildfire Threat (the above) is assessed as high or extreme, potentially causing unacceptable wildfire risk when near communities and developments. WUI risk classes are described below:

- **Low:** The high or extreme threat is sufficiently distant from developments, having no direct impact of the community and is located over 2 km from structures;
- **Moderate:** The high or extreme threat is sufficiently distant from developments, having no direct impact of the community and is located 500m to 2 km distance from structures;
- **High:** The high or extreme threat has potential to directly impact a community or development and is located 200m to 500m from structures; and
- **Extreme:** The high or extreme threat has potential to directly impact a community or development and is located within 200m from structures.

Table 16 below (and displayed on Map 13 and Map 14) summarizes the risk class ratings within EA-F’s WUI. Of the 1,807 hectares assigned a High or Extreme wildfire threat class, 891 hectares (49%) have a high or extreme WUI risk. Overall, this represents 30% of the assessable land within EA-F’s WUI. This analysis provides an initial step towards identifying priority areas/neighbourhoods for directing FireSmart education and vegetative/fuel management efforts, if practicable.

It is important to note that reducing the risk (i.e., performing wildland fuel management) in any of the High to Extreme WUI risk areas is unlikely to be a silver bullet in protecting communities and structures. In extreme wildfire scenarios, firebrands (embers) can travel many kilometers ahead of the active fire front, land in densities of up to 600/m², and ignite combustible building materials and landscaping

vegetation. In combination with wildland fuel management, increasing the resilience of EA-F’s WUI communities and interface/intermix neighbourhoods can only be efficiently achieved by performing residential-scale FireSmart activities on private land. The proposed fuel treatment units identified in Section 5.7 are not a comprehensive list of all areas that qualify for management; they were selected as the highest priority areas that are practicable to implement, present a high risk to their respective communities, and meet required funding program goals and requirements as either fuel breaks or fuel treatment areas.

Table 16: WUI risk class ratings within EA-F’s eligible WUI.

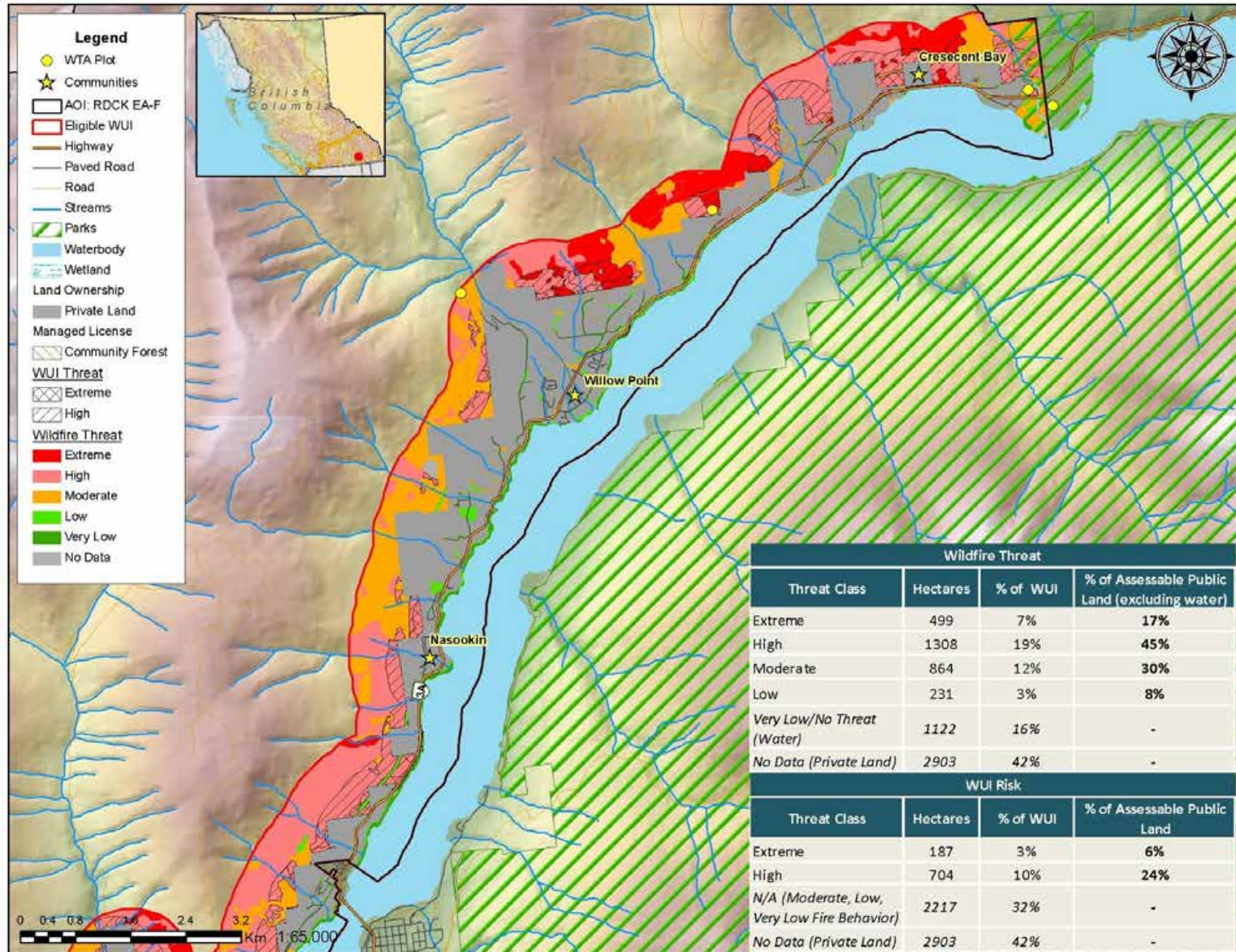
WUI Risk			
Risk Class	Hectares	% of WUI	% of Assessable Public Land
Extreme	187	3%	6%
High	704	10%	24%
N/A (Moderate, Low, or Very Low fire threat)	2217	32%	-
No Data (Private Land)	2903	42%	-

For detailed field data collection and spatial analysis methodology for the local threat assessment and classification, see Appendix B.

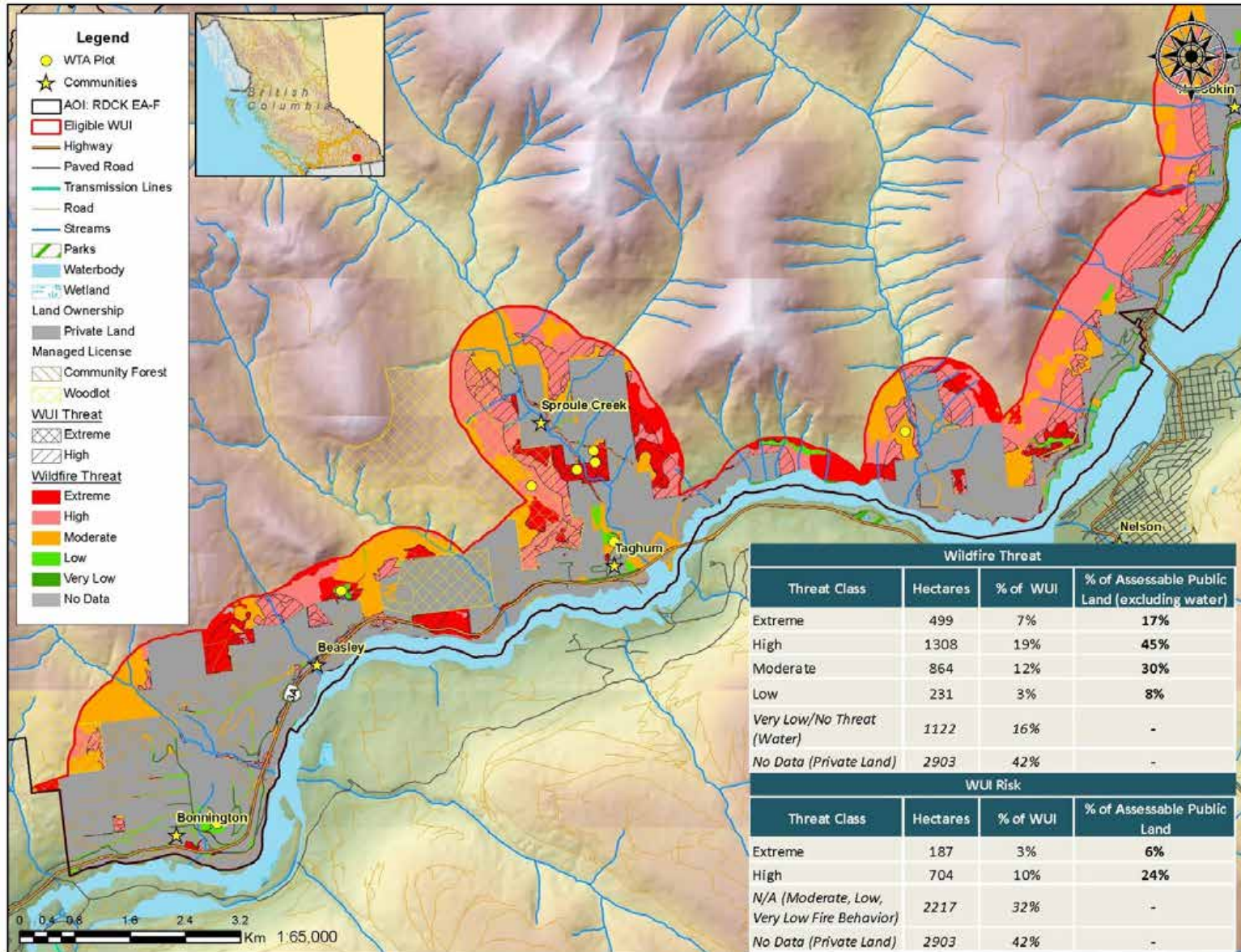
The Province of BC produces a Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA; updated in 2021) for all non-private land parcels in BC. This high-level assessment of relative wildfire threat throughout the province is largely based on data from the Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) that has not been ground truthed, fire occurrence patterns, potential fire intensity, and spotting potential.⁴⁶ The PSTA ranks threat on a scale of 1 (lowest) through 10 (extreme). Complementing the above local wildfire risk analyses, the PSTA is a high-level, geographic information system (GIS) raster analysis that is suitable for wildfire threat information across the land base, while appropriate land management activities need to be determined at the local level using site-specific stand-level information.

Additionally, the Province has developed a WUI Risk Class Framework to prioritize risk reduction initiatives, categorizing WUI polygons by a risk class of 1 (highest) through 5 (lowest). The application of relative risk does not imply “no risk” since the goal is to identify areas where there is higher risk. EA-F’s WUI is categorized as being in a Risk Class of 1 – highest relative risk.

⁴⁶ MFLNRORD. (2017). Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis. Accessed from: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/fuels-management/provincial_strategic_threat_analysis_2017_update.pdf



Map 13: Local wildfire threat assessment for EA-F's eastern WUI.



Map 14: Local wildfire threat assessment for EA-F's western WUI.

4.4 HAZARD, RISK, AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

The purpose of a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) is to help a community make risk-based choices to address vulnerabilities, mitigate hazards, and prepare for responding to and recovering from hazard events. The HRVA process assesses sources of potential harm, their likelihood of occurring, the severity of their possible impacts, and who or what is particularly exposed or vulnerable to these impacts.⁴⁷ An HRVA was not noted for EA-F, however, the Emergency Response and Recovery Plan for the Regional District of Central Kootenay includes a section on interface wildfire planning (3.10) with listed potential impacts. When an HRVA is completed or updated for EA-F (or RDCK as a whole), RDCK should look to the most recent CWRPs and reference their completed wildfire threat class analyses as well as recommendations.

⁴⁷ Government of BC. HRVA Example Report. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/local-government/hrva/hrva_forms-step_8-anytown_bc-sample_hrva_report.pdf

SECTION 5: FIRESMART PRINCIPLES

FireSmart™ is the leading program in Canada aimed at empowering the public and increasing neighbourhood resilience through wildfire mitigation measures. It has been formally adopted by almost all Canadian provinces and territories, including British Columbia in 2000. The FireSmart program covers a wide breadth of preventative measures, which are founded in the seven FireSmart disciplines: Education, Legislation and Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-Training, and Vegetation Management. These seven disciplines and the guiding principles behind FireSmart can be applied at a number of spatial scales, and are not restricted to any type of land ownership, forest type or property type. RDCK and EA-F has an active FireSmart program that is well staffed and funded to complete residential education activities.

Since EA-F's 2016 CWPP was completed, 9 of 37 of its recommendations have been wholly or partially implemented (previously detailed and discussed in Section 2.1). The recommendations addressed primarily related to delivering public FireSmart and wildfire education and prescribing and implementing proposed treatment units.

It has been found that during extreme wildfire events, most home destruction has been a result of low-intensity surface fire flame exposures, usually ignited by embers (firebrands). Firebrands can be transported long distances ahead of the wildfire, across fire guards and fuel breaks, and accumulate in densities that can exceed 600 embers per square meter. Combustible materials found on the exterior of and surrounding homes (the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone) combine to provide fire pathways allowing spot surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames or smoldering fire into contact with structures.

Because ignitability of structures and landscaping vegetation is the main factor driving structure loss, the intensity and rate of spread of wildland fires beyond the community has not been found to necessarily correspond to loss potential. For example, FireSmart homes with low ignitability may survive high-intensity fires, whereas highly ignitable homes may be destroyed during lower intensity surface fire events.⁴⁸ Increasing ignition resistance would reduce the number of homes simultaneously on fire; extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result in WUI fire disasters.⁴⁹ Initial assessments of homes/structures damaged versus those not from the recent 2023 Kelowna-area wildfires provides strong evidence supporting these key points.⁵⁰ It is for this reason that the key to reducing WUI fire structure loss is to reduce structure ignitability. Mitigation responsibility must be centered on structure owners. Risk communication, education on the range of available activities, and prioritization of activities should help homeowners to feel empowered to complete simple risk reduction activities on their property.

⁴⁸ Cohen, J. Preventing Disaster Home Ignitability in the Wildland-urban Interface. *Journal of Forestry*. p 15 - 21.

⁴⁹ Calkin, D., J. Cohen, M. Finney, M. Thompson. 2014. *How risk management can prevent future wildfire disasters in the wildland-urban interface*. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U.S.A.* Jan 14; 111(2): 746-751. Accessed online 1 June, 2016 at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3896199/>.

⁵⁰ Presentation by BCWS to the Wildland Fire and Fuels Community of Practice group via Forest Professionals of BC Webinar, November 2023.

5.1 COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

During CWRP development, FireSmart risk and resiliency factors for different general areas or specific neighbourhoods throughout EA-F were noted (Table 17). This incorporates field observations, the local risk assessment, and information from local government meetings and consultation.

Table 17: FireSmart vulnerability and resilience by neighbourhood.

Community	Vulnerability	Resilience
Crescent Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface and intermix. - Upslope of Highway ignition source. - Steep slopes within the community. - No hydrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serviced by Balfour Harrop VFD. - Proximity to Kootenay Lake water source.
Heddle Six Mile Duhamel Willow Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface and intermix. - Some homes are not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping vegetation). - Upslope of Highway ignition source. - Prone to flooding and mudslides. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serviced by North Shore VFD. - Proximity to Kootenay Lake water source. - Hydrants/standpipes throughout community.
Nasookin 4 Mile Ridgewood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface and intermix. - Some homes are not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping vegetation). - No hydrants. - Upslope of Highway ignition source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serviced by North Shore VFD.
Johnstone Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface and intermix. - Some homes are not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping vegetation). - No hydrants. - Adjacent to highway ignition source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serviced by North Shore VFD. - Fuel treatments recently completed in the interface.
Grohman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface and intermix. - Some homes are not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping vegetation). - Indirect access routes from Nelson and Highways make some properties more isolated. - No hydrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serviced by Beasley VFD. - Proximity to Nelson. - Proximity to Kootenay River water source and local streams.
Taghum Sproule Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface and intermix. - Some homes are not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping vegetation). - Divisive history of land use / land management in community. - Sproule Creek one road in/out community. - No hydrants in Sproule Creek. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serviced by Beasley VFD. - Natural water source (Kootenay River). - A few hydrants/standpipes in Taghum (but limited capacity).
Beasley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface and intermix. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serviced by Beasley VFD in the immediate vicinity.

Community	Vulnerability	Resilience
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some homes are not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping vegetation). - Upslope of Highway ignition source. - Steep slopes within the community. - No hydrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Logging by BCTS may provide fuel breaks above some sections of the community. - Some completed fuel treatments in the interface.
Bonnington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest interface and intermix. - Some homes are not FireSmart (deteriorating fences, sheds, exterior materials, landscaping vegetation). - Upslope of Highway ignition source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serviced by Beasley VFD - Fire hydrants (privately managed). - Some completed fuel treatments in the interface.

The sections to follow provide information on each FireSmart discipline as it relates to EA-F. An analysis of actions that have been implemented are noted, as well as any relevant gaps identified. Each section contains a table of recommended actions for EA-F. Most actions are fundable through the CRI FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program. Each recommendation includes a rationale, lead agency, timeline, and estimated resources to complete.

5.2 EDUCATION

Rural areas without fire services, or dependent upon small volunteer fire services, rely heavily on the coordination of local resources and the uptake of FireSmart initiatives to be prepared for a wildfire event. Public education and outreach play a critical role in helping a community prepare for and prevent a wildfire emergency. Awareness of wildfire risk is important, but this needs to be paired with an awareness of potential mitigation actions and available FireSmart programs for residents to implement on their properties and within the community. Participating in wildfire risk reduction and resiliency activities can also promote a sense of empowerment and shared responsibility at the home, street, and community level. The education discipline often supports the successful implementation of many other FireSmart disciplines by building awareness and understanding within both residents and visitors.

EA-F (via the RDCK FireSmart program and its own FireSmart Coordinator/Mitigation Specialist) has been actively engaging the community with a FireSmart education program. This has led to EA-F having one of the highest rates of FireSmart assessed homes in the RDCK.⁵¹ Other FireSmart education activities that have been completed or are ongoing include:

- Distribution of FireSmart educational materials to residents,
- School FireSmart information days,
- Social media updates with FireSmart information and fire danger ratings,⁵²

⁵¹ Information from EA-F local government questionnaire. 200 Home Partners Program assessments have been completed in EA-F at the time of this report's writing.

⁵² Including updates by the Beasley VFD to their Facebook page.

- Community FireSmart workshops and presentations,⁵³ and
- Created FireSmart signage at completed community fuel treatments.

There are currently seven FireSmart Coordinators across multiple RDCK electoral areas. As these positions were all recently created, there could be many initial lessons learned that could be shared between them. RDCK FireSmart coordinators should look to plan regular meetings amongst themselves to share these lessons, as well as success and failures so that the region, as a whole, is working together towards a more wildfire resilient future. Additionally, as FireSmart Neighbourhood Champions (as part of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program – see Section 5.7) are identified, consider including them in these meetings so that FireSmart information and programming opportunities are taken back into each community.

To continue furthering FireSmart education initiatives, Table 18 below details recommended actions that RDCK and EA-F can pursue or continue. Because of the large amount of private property within EA-F's WUI, the observed general lack of adherence to FireSmart construction materials and landscaping, and the understanding that homes, landscaping vegetation, and all other manner of flammable and combustible materials are considered fuel in the WUI wildfire triangle, a large emphasis should be placed by EA-F to continue upon its FireSmart education successes, and to seek out new opportunities to engage with neighbourhoods or demographics not previously done or that have been difficult to so with to date. Not all activities/efforts will be successfully received by the public, but it is equally important to know what does not work as what does in getting the FireSmart message further into the community – then efforts can be refined and improved moving forwards. This includes tourists, of which there are many to EA-F's communities, recreation areas, and campsites, that may not be knowledgeable on FireSmart and the wildfire risks their actions may carry.

⁵³ Including Beasley VFD attending a FireSmart community presentation at the Taghum Hall in summer 2023.

Table 18: Education recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Education - Section 5.2							
Residents							
1	High	Continue to apply for funding and employ an EA-F FireSmart Coordinator/Mitigation Specialist.	To provide a continuous, local FireSmart program, delivered by local professionals with local knowledge and connections, to their community. Having a FireSmart Coordinator will provide a lead person with dedicated time to coordinate, manage, and implement the program, especially as it grows.	RDCK	2 years	EA-F has its own FireSmart program being managed by a local FireSmart Coordinator.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
2	High	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators should plan regular meetings to discuss their successes, failures, and learnings. Consider adding, or having specific meetings with, FireSmart Community Neighbourhood Champions.	So that they can continue to improve the RDCK's FireSmart program and tailor it to their respective communities. Adding in Community Champions will allow them to further support their EA's communities, as well as get FireSmart messaging and opportunities back into the communities faster.	FireSmart Coordinators (RDCK)	ASAP and ongoing	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators are meeting more than once a year.	CRI FCFS funding as part of FireSmart Coordinator salaries.
3	High	Continue to promote FireSmart to EA-F residents at community events, public spaces, and through workshops using FireSmart branded material and printed manuals (Home and Landscaping) and/or a FireSmart Canada Community Preparedness Day. Show a united front by having local government, fire department members, and FireSmart coordinators at events together as much as possible.	Observed adherence and uptake of FireSmart principles on private property and many homes/structures in EA-F is lacking. Landscaping (conifer hedges), firewood and combustible materials storage, and external building materials are the biggest issues. FireSmart BC resources help present a unified message. Print resources are popular and easy to distribute. FireSmart branded tents, banners, and t-shirts can be purchased with CRI FCFS funding.	EA-F / RDCK	Annually	Quantity of resources distributed/number of times used at events.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
4	High	Update RDCK's FireSmart webpage with the most recent FireSmart graphics and language. Provide links to the current fire danger rating, or better yet, have that posted on the front of this page (making sure to keep it updated during the fire season).	To continue to provide to most recent and up to date FireSmart information, language, and principles to residents (and visitors).	RDCK	Annually	RDCK FireSmart webpage is showing current FireSmart information and graphics.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
5	High	Continue the FireSmart social media campaign, with updated FireSmart graphics and language, through various RDCK/EA-F social media platforms (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), including those from Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs).	To promote FireSmart information to residents (and visitors). Include links to graphics, videos, pdf information/pamphlet downloads, etc.	EA-F / RDCK	Annually	An organized FireSmart social media campaign is delivered throughout RDCK.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
6	High	Continue to promote FireSmart in EA-F schools using the FireSmart Education Kit and other resources.	Great success has been made through BC schools with FireSmart outreach. Engaging with the community's younger population may increase uptake with all residents.	RDCK / School District 8	Annually	One FireSmart lesson delivered each year (minimum).	CRI FCFS; e.g. FireSmart Magnetic Board for \$1,710.
7	High	Continue to promote free FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments and/or Home Partners Program assessments to residents.	FireSmart Home Ignition zone and Home Partners Program assessments introduce residents to FireSmart, its principles, fire and wildfire risks associated with their home and property, and how they can be mitigated. These assessments are primarily an educational exercise, and can be funded completely through CRI FCFS. They are a requirement to qualify for the FireSmart rebate program (see Section 5.7).	EA-F / RDCK	2 years	FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments are being completed within EA-F.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
8	Moderate	Consider door-to-door knocks in neighbourhoods (such as Pass Creek) that have communication constraints to discuss wildfire risk and FireSmart principles that they can apply to their home and property.	Although wildfire can affect all areas of EA-F's WUI, some communities are more at risk due to risks/constraints not associated to wildfire – such as no cell service and low community turnouts at public FireSmart events. Door to door knocks by Fire Chiefs, fire department personnel, and FireSmart Coordinators have been successful in other communities.	RDCK / EA-F VFDs / FireSmart Coordinators	2 years	Visits to homes in these WUI neighbourhoods from local government/ FireSmart/ fire department members (with FireSmart information left at	In-house personnel time. CRI FCFS for FireSmart materials.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
						their door) have started.	
9	Moderate	Increase public awareness of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.	Increasing awareness of wildfire risk also increases community resiliency through household emergency planning, and support for FireSmart.	EA-F / RDCK	1 year from CWRP completion	Awareness by residents - consider a survey.	Staff time to update website, and media posts. Newspaper ads ~\$300 each.
Visitors							
10	High	Lobby BC Parks to install FireSmart educational signage at all BC Park camp and recreation sites within EA-F, starting at Kokanee Creek. RDCK should follow suit for all regional parks.	These signs provide both visitors and residents a quick snapshot of how their actions and activities can inadvertently increase wildfire and ignition risks, as well as introduces visitors to FireSmart – a message they can take home with them.	EA-F / RDCK / BC Parks	5 years (signs installed)	Wildfire risk signs at the highest traffic parks have signs.	Sign cost ~\$800 for purchase and installation per sign.

5.3 LEGISLATION, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Legislation and planning regulation are effective tools for proactively reducing wildfire risk, although they can be less effective in large, rural regional districts like RDCK than in dense municipalities due to difficulties in enforcement. However, private property FireSmart Home Ignition Zone and structure risk reduction is the most effective avenue towards homes and structures surviving a wildfire event. One of the most powerful influences that legislation and planning can have on local wildfire risk is through wildfire hazard Development Permit Areas (DPAs).

Section 2.2 provided a comprehensive look at local plans and bylaws that are currently in place and relevant to wildfire resilience. EA-F has embedded FireSmart principles into its Rural Official Community Plan, primarily focussing on subdivision requirements and access to water and the forest land through private property for emergency responders. Currently, only voluntary efforts are encouraged to reduce fire risk to existing buildings and developments by residents.

One of the priorities for recommendations within this Plan is to manage fire risk to structures within their Home Ignition Zones (i.e., within 30m of the structure and the structure itself). This is supported in OCP section 20.1.d Development Permit Areas which states, “Site design should consider susceptibility to natural hazards, including but not limited to flooding, slope instability, or wildfire risk.” As part of the 2022 Wildfire Development Permit Area Study, draft wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs) were developed for the RDCK but have not yet been implemented. The purpose of a wildfire DPA is to manage wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa), achieved through the application of FireSmart principles. The BC Building Code, which to date manages room-to-room and structure-to-structure fire transmission, is currently being updated, with roll out planned for late-2024, and may include FireSmart standards. RDCK should review and assess what FireSmart principles are included and compare them to the draft Wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs), update the draft DPAs as required, then initiate a process to implement the wildfire DPAs, if still required, to manage for risks not addressed in the new Code.

Additionally, it is recommended that the OCP update language referencing “fire risk” (e.g., OCP sections 17.4 and 17.6) to refer to the Local Wildfire Risk Analysis developed as part of this plan, as it more accurately reflects current fire risk for EA-F’s WUI than currently available provincial data.

Part of development considerations is ensuring that all critical infrastructure (described in Section 3.3 and listed in Table 8) are constructed or brought up to a high FireSmart standard. Performing FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments on those infrastructure that have not had one completed yet (in priority sequence) will detail which are most at risk to wildfire, and what mitigation activities should be performed to reduce those risks. Additionally, including a policy in the OCP stating that all regional district structures are built and landscaped to FireSmart standards would ensure these structures are wildfire resilient from the start as well as provide examples of FireSmart construction and landscaping to the public.

Recommended changes to planning and development for EA-F are detailed in Table 19.

Table 19: Legislation, planning and development recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Legislation, Planning and Development - Section 5.3							
11	High	Upon the roll-out of the new BC Building Code in 2024, RDCK should review and assess what FireSmart principles are included and compare them to the draft Wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs). Update the draft DPAs as required. Initiate a process to implement the wildfire DPAs, if still required, to manage for risks not addressed in the new Code.	FireSmart construction and landscaping policies manage for wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa). Over time, resiliency will be built up at the interface and intermix areas.	EA-F / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon BC Building Code roll out	All new development complies with the policy.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
12	High	Update references to “fire risk” in EA-F’s OCP (e.g., sections 17.4 and 17.6) to include referencing the Local Wildfire Risk Analysis developed as part of this plan, as it more accurately reflects current fire risk for EA-F’s WUI than currently available provincial data.	EA-F should look to the most recent and accurate wildfire risk analysis for its WUI to be used to determine areas of Moderate and High wildfire threat for reducing wildfire threat through community planning and development purposes.	EA-F / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon next OCP review and update	OCP update that includes FireSmart construction/development policies for single home and lot development and major renovations.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
13	High	Consider adopting a Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw to restrict flammable landscaping. Example: prohibit conifer vegetation in the Immediate Zone of a residence or structure (0-1.5 m) and prohibit the planting of new conifer vegetation in Priority Zone 1 (1.5-10 m). Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout the Township, especially on more densely populated streets. This can be an effective communication tool regardless of enforcement capacity.	Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout EA-F, especially on more densely populated streets. Landscaping vegetation can act as a wick, moving fire to homes/structures and throughout communities.	EA-F / RDCK (Consultant)	5 years	A Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw is in effect.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
14	High	Continue to conduct FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments for public works and community/ government buildings. Conduct FireSmart mitigation as soon as possible (vegetation management, material upgrades). Set a priority sequence for assessment based on wildfire response and post-wildfire recovery. Encourage and support privately owned community halls that act as community shelters, and private or community owned critical infrastructure, to do the same.	Protecting water systems, emergency shelters, and community infrastructure is critical to wildfire response and recovery. Assessments have already been completed for EA-F fire halls.	EA-F / RDCK (Local FireSmart Representatives; FireSmart Coordinator; and/or Consultant)	Ongoing	Number of assessments completed and mitigation hours/investment	CRI FCFS: up to \$800 per assessment and up to \$50,000 for mitigation per structure (publicly owned only).

5.4 CROSS-TRAINING AND FIRE DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

All staff and agency partners who are expected to participate in the development and implementation of this plan, or participate in a wildfire response and recovery, should be appropriately trained. This includes RDCK Emergency Management staff, other municipal staff that could play a role in an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and EA-F Volunteer Fire Departments. Training opportunities include:

- Basic Wildland Fire Suppression and Safety
- Incident Command System⁵⁴
- FireSmart 101
- FireSmart Local FireSmart Representative (LFR)
- FireSmart Community Champion
- FireSmart Home Partners Wildfire Mitigation Specialist (WMS)
- Post-wildfire reclamation and recovery
- Post-wildfire structure damage assessment
- BC Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115)

Regular in-person cross-training between agencies is imperative for familiarization with each other's equipment and to address any incompatibilities. BCWS noted that there is annual cross-training conducted between EA-F Volunteer Fire Departments and the BCWS zone staff,⁵⁵ however, Beasley VFD noted that no formal cross-training had been done in some time. Additionally, valuable training through experience can be acquired from being deployed to wildfires. Under the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC and BC Wildfire Service MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES, fire departments (including those in EA-F) routinely work with BCWS in response to incidents within and outside of Fire Protection and Response Areas. Thus, fire departments should maintain a level of wildland-specific training and equipment.⁵⁶ Equipment currently held at the Beasley and North Shore VFD fire halls, and levels of wildfire certification, are detailed below in Table 20.

Table 20: Wildfire training and wildland equipment of the Beasley Volunteer Fire Department.

EA-F Fire Department and Service Area	Training/Experience	[Wildland] Equipment
<p>Beasley VFD Grohman Sproule Creek Taghum Beasley Bonnington</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPP-WFF1: all persons certified, plus annual refresher completed. - WSPP-115: nine members with certification, five trained without certification. - SPP-WFF train-the-trainer certified: two captains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several portable pumps, a decent amount of hose, fire resistant Wildland PPE. - RAM 2500 4x4 Utility/Wildland truck with portable skid unit. - US Cargo wildland trailer with severely portable skid units.

⁵⁴ RDCK Emergency Program staff are trained in ICS.

⁵⁵ Information gathered from BCWS questionnaire as part of the development of this Plan.

⁵⁶ Beasley VFD noted working with BCWS crews for wildfire response usually one to three times per season.

EA-F Fire Department and Service Area	Training/Experience	[Wildland] Equipment
<u>North Shore VFD</u> ⁵⁷ Willow Point & area Nasookin & area Johnstone Road	- Some members with SPP-WFF1, WSPP-115, and SPP-WFF train-the-trainer.	- Several portable Mark-3 water pumps with wildland hose. - 4x4 tender truck. - 2024 budget includes purchasing a rapid-attack wildland vehicle.

Water is the most important resource for fighting wildland and structure fires. Willow Point and Taghum are the only communities in EA-F with District-operated and managed water supply and associated fire hydrant systems, however others (such as Bonnington) have private systems with hydrants (discussed in Section 3.2 and 3.3.2). Natural water sources are a valuable source of water that can be used for wildfire fighting (especially during summer drought conditions). Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River have water available year-round – having these sources with access points available to firefighters is strategically important, as echoed in EA-F’s OCP section 17.10 which supports protection of accesses to water sources such as hydrants, standpipes, lakes, and streams to remain free of obstructions for fire protection purposes.

An example of community-led water development for wildfire fighting was initiated in 2020 by the Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group (AEPG; in EA-D). They began a water mapping project (with assistance from a Selkirk College student), which received additional support in 2023 from Living Lakes. With a goal creating quick access to valuable information for fire response (local and BCWS), a focus has been on available water sources:

- Over 30 locations have been GPS’d where a fire pump could be quickly set up, including photos and access information and detailed information about each site.
- Existing standpipes with fire hose fittings were detailed in a similar fashion, noting water pressure and pipe sizes.

Table 21 lists recommendations for RDCK and EA-F related to cross-training and fire department resources.

⁵⁷ Provided by Local Government, not directly from the Fire Department.

Table 21: Cross-training recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Cross Training & Fire Department Resources - Section 5.4							
Training							
15	High	Continue to support 'train-the-trainer' programs so that required courses (e.g., S-231, WSPP-115) can continue to be delivered in-house to EA-F fire department members.	To continue providing an opportunity to expand in-house wildland specific training, and potentially train adjacent fire departments or community groups.	RDCK / EA-F / EA-F fire departments	Annually	Number of firefighters (both paid and on-call volunteer) with wildland training beyond maintains or increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS Training. Columbia Basin Trust funding.
16	High	Support FireSmart specific training to EA-F fire departments. Examples include: FireSmart 101, Local FireSmart Representative (LFR), and FireSmart Home Partners Mitigation Specialists.	To build understanding and knowledge of FireSmart principles within fire response area fire departments. To certify fire response area fire department members so they can implement various FireSmart assessments within the community.	RDCK / EA-F / EA-F fire departments	Annually	Number of firefighters (both paid and on-call volunteer) with FireSmart training increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS funding is available for training.
17	High	EA-F fire departments should seek out (and be supported by RDCK/EA-F in doing so) opportunities to perform wildfire response and structure protection drills - using hydrants, standpipes, and natural water sources, <i>with</i> BCWS.	Fast and effective deployment of available Structure Protection Units (two are owned by RDCK) and any additional equipment that the fire departments have will be crucial in any interface fire scenario. Equipment compatibilities and/or differences between those available and what equipment BCWS uses should be identified and addressed ahead of time.	Fire Response Area Fire Departments (BCWS)	Annually	Drills performed at least once annually in different communities with different water sources.	Staff time as required.

<i>Water</i>							
18	High	Continue to identify and map natural and artificial water sources useable for fire suppression across the entire regional district. Having a digital map would allow it to be uploaded into response vehicles' CAD systems, shared with BCWS response personnel, as well as included in the pre-planning of emergency community water delivery systems connecting major natural water sources with interface communities, to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. Include important details such as: estimated water volume and access point notes. Share this information to all mutual aid fire response partners, and update over time.	Most firefighting service in EA-F requires water shuttling. Wildfire fighting response almost always relies upon local water sources. This impacts EA-F's wildfire resilience. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers to fill bladders can be pre-planned, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps, and piping.	RDCK GIS department/ EA-F fire departments (to aid in identification for their service areas or share data already acquired) (BCWS)	5 years and ongoing	A fire suppression water source plan and map are produced and shared.	CRI FCFS Community Water Delivery Assessment funding available for incremental staff hours or contract cost.
19	High	In coordination with recommendation #18, create opportunities for BCWS to work with independent water systems to identify assets. Assist those communities in retrofitting their systems to be compatible, if required.	Reducing barriers to BCWS for accessing water sources in the WUI increases opportunities to fight WUI fires.	RDCK / FireSmart Coordinator (BCWS)	Annually	Communities with self-managed water systems are meeting with BCWS.	EA-F, BCWS, and community time.
20	Moderate	EA-F fire departments should seek (or continue to uphold, if accredited already) Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation from Fire Underwriters Survey.	This accreditation certifies that the fire department can supply enough water to have some areas without fire hydrants within a certain distance of their structures qualify as having a fire hydrant within 300m of it (this can also potentially lower insurance rates for property owners within the EA-F fire response areas). Note: this does not increase the overall water supply already available under automatic and mutual aid agreements.	EA-F fire departments/ RDCK	5 years	Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation achieved by fire response area fire departments.	fire response area fire departments staff time as required (and EA-F budget for equipment upgrades and purchases, if needed).
<i>Equipment and Staff</i>							
21	High	In coordination with recommendations #17 and #18, the EA-F fire departments should continue (or begin, if not done already) annual inspections by BCWS of their wildland firefighting equipment. Any gaps should be addressed, as required.	To ensure proper equipment is available to respond to interface wildfire events, and that equipment is compatible with BCWS's. CRI FCFS funding is available for incremental equipment purchases.	EA-F fire departments (RDCK; BCWS)	Annually	Annual inspection of wildland firefighting equipment from BCWS; gaps filled as practicable.	Fire department and RDCK staff time; CRI FCFS equipment funding up to cost maximums.

5.5 INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

The goal of interagency cooperation is to approach wildfire resilience through a collaborative, multi-agency approach. This increases the ability of local governments to plan and respond to emergencies effectively. Cooperation and communication are especially critical for EA-F as there are multiple jurisdictions side-by-side (EA-F, City of Nelson, RDCK Electoral Areas D and F) and multiple land managers currently operating (e.g., Harrop-Procter Community Forest, Columbia Basin Trust). Landscape-level fire resilience cannot effectively be achieved without planning for resilience across jurisdictional boundaries. Engagement can be formal or informal and can take place through existing communication channels or stand-alone committees.

Community FireSmart Resiliency Committees (CFRC) reflect the local land managers, Local Government, and wildfire and emergency response agencies in an area. Several are in operation throughout the RDCK, as well as for some local municipalities. It is not known if EA-F elected representatives (e.g., Electoral Area Director) participate in one; both the Beasley VFD and North Shore VFD Fire Chiefs noted they did not (they do participate in RDCK Emergency Management meetings). Due to its adjacency to the City of Nelson, EA-F elected representatives, as well as VFD Fire Chiefs, should look to participate in the Nelson CFRC. This committee meets numerous times per year to coordinate cross-jurisdictional FireSmart and fuel mitigation planning within Nelson and surrounding RDCK electoral areas. Additionally, EA-F Fire Chiefs also participate in an annual Zone 4 Fire Chiefs meeting that includes BCWS representatives to ensure wildfire emergency pre-organization is in place, policy changes are discussed, and opportunities to improve mutual aid for fire response are capitalized on.⁵⁸

Mutual aid agreements exist between BCWS and RDCK fire services. This is captured in the Memorandum of agreement for Inter-Agency Operational Procedures between the Fire Chief's Association of BC and the BC Wildfire Service. Mutual aid agreements exist between BCWS and RDCK fire services. This is captured in the MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES between the Fire Chief's Association of BC and the BC Wildfire Service.

When planning and implementing forest harvesting and fuel management treatments in the community and in adjacent forest tenures, a high-level tracking and communication of fuel treatments needs to occur. It is imperative that all land managers know what adjacent or overlapping jurisdictions have identified as fuel breaks, so that time and money is not wasted reassessing or re-prescribing an area. As EA-F's WUI is extensive in area, RDCK (via the CFRC) should develop a process for spatially tracking and managing proposed and completed fuel management/fuel break units in the greater regional district area that all members can access. Although RESULTS⁵⁹ is a powerful spatial tool to keep track of forest activities on the Provincial land base, it does not include activities on municipal and First Nations land. A separate spatial layer should be maintained by Ministry of Forests (MOF) as a public service using inputs from municipalities, First Nations, and forest licensees. Changes to the MOF Wildfire Risk Reduction program

⁵⁸ Information gathered from BCWS questionnaire as part of the development of this Plan.

⁵⁹ Government application that tracks silviculture information by managing the submission of openings, disturbances, silviculture activities and obligation declarations as required by the Forest and Range Practices Act.

(which manages wildland fuel treatments on the Provincial land base) in the coming years may solve some of these problems.

BC Timber Sales, woodlots, and volume-based licensees have tenure overlaps with EA-F's WUI. Forest activities can both increase and decrease wildfire risk in WUI areas and BCWS stated that Category 3 industry burning has led to fire starts and continues to be a concern every spring. Forest harvesting practices such as strategic cutblock placement, reducing post-harvest slash, providing loads of firewood to the public, and implementing fire management stocking standards as part of reforestation efforts can reduce wildfire behaviour for harvested areas within the WUI.

Discussed in Section 3.3 transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions - trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways. Highways and rail lines can also provide excellent fuel breaks if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. If not, they can act as wicks moving fire along them, or ignition sources for fires from burning cars, cigarette butts, sparks, etc. Additionally, highways are a main access/egress route during an emergency – these routes should be kept at as low risk of state as possible.

Table 22 details Interagency Cooperation recommendations for RDCK, EA-F, and local stakeholders.

Table 22: Interagency cooperation recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Interagency Cooperation - Section 5.5							
22	High	Engage (or continue to) with the established local Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC) to plan, implement, and coordinate FireSmart initiatives, including fuel management treatments. Look to include EA-F volunteer fire department Fire Chiefs.	To provide a platform for information sharing. All parties have indicated a willingness for collaboration, which will allow for greater management of wildfire risk both within and surrounding EA-F's WUI.	Recommended Nelson CFRC	Ongoing	CFRC FireSmart meeting takes place at least once annually.	At least 8 hours per meeting to prepare, participate and debrief. CRI FCFS up to \$2,000 per meeting.
23	High	As communities self-organize for FireSmart initiatives, and even take up the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (see Recommendation #43), RDCK and EA-F should look to support their inclusion in a CFRC, or develop local sub-committees, as required.	To further community involvement in FireSmart and wildfire risk reduction activities at the community level.	RDCK / EA-F FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Additions to existing CFRCs are made, as required, or new ones are established, as needed.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
24	High	Work with RDCK, CFRC members, and MOF to develop a fuel treatment/fuel break tracking system to spatially manage proposed and completed fuel management areas both within EA-F's WUI and outside it at the regional level.	It is imperative that all land managers know what adjacent or overlapping jurisdictions have identified as fuel breaks, so that time and money is not wasted reassessing or re-prescribing an area.	CFRC / MOF / RDCK	As soon as possible	A regional GIS tracking system is established, or a provincial one is developed that CFRC members can access.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
25	High	Lobby forest land licensee/managers (e.g., BC Timber Sales, Woodlots, volume-based licensees) to be aware of where their tenure overlaps EA-F's WUI and to develop and implement (or continue implementing) forest planning, harvesting, slash management, and reforestation plans that reduce wildfire behaviour in these areas.	Cutblock placement can break up the forest continuity across the landscape – with proper slash and reforestation management, they can remain as areas of low wildfire behaviour for many years. However, if not managed properly, they can increase wildfire behaviour.	RDCK / EA-F / MOF / Forest Licensees and Managers / Local Government elected officials/ Community members	Ongoing	Forest licensees/managers are aware of their tenure overlaps with the WUI and are actively working towards forest management plans to reduce wildfire behaviour in those areas.	RDCK/EA-F staff time for discussions.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
26	High	Lobby and work with the electrical power providers in and influencing the community's WUI, MOTI for Provincial highways, and rail line owners/operators to regularly maintain their right-of-way's vegetation.	<p>Transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions - trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways.</p> <p>Highways can also provide excellent fuel breaks if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. If not, they can act as wicks moving fire along them, or ignition sources for fires from burning cars, cigarette butts, sparks, etc. Additionally, highways are a main access/egress route during an emergency – these routes should be kept at as low risk of state as possible.</p>	RDCK / EA-F (MOTI; Local Government elected officials (Electrical Providers; Rail line operators)	Yearly and ongoing	Right-of-way maintenance discussions are open and ongoing; right-of-ways are kept in low-risk states.	RDCK/EA-F staff time for discussions.

5.6 EMERGENCY PLANNING

Local government and community preparations for a wildfire emergency are very important. Plans, mutual aid agreements, resources, training, and emergency communications systems make for effective wildfire response. The RDCK Emergency Plan includes EA-F and the RDCK Emergency Program conducts tabletop exercises yearly with staff (and responds to emergencies involving evacuations almost yearly).

Clear, consistent, concise, and quick communication during an emergency event and evacuation are integral to the prevention of loss of life. The RDCK has upgraded to a new notification system for emergency alerts and water advisories powered by “Voyent Alert!”. Downloadable as an app to a smart phone, the user can receive a detailed map of the affected area. The system also supports text messaging, emails, or landline calls. RDCK and EA-F should promote this notification to residents as much as possible.

Most of EA-F’s WUI is only accessible by roads through private property. This is a significant constraint to wildfire first responders as those road conditions are largely unknown. This constraint is recognized in EA-F’s Rural Community Official Plan in section 18.3.8 which, “Encourages that private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment.” Access by emergency responders to the WUI is paramount towards both defending communities from WUI fire events, but also for aiding in fuel treatment practicability.

Additionally, it was noted during field assessments, and echoed in meetings with local government and first responders, that there is a pervasive lack of visible, reflective addresses for properties within EA-F. Addresses are one of the most common forms of providing first responders directions of where to respond to. This issue should be made aware to the public with examples and options of proper signage.

A pre-incident plan is a compilation of essential fire management information needed to save valuable time during fire suppression operations. During a busy wildfire season, Provincial resources are often stretched thin, and any information that local governments can provide to BCWS crews is helpful. A pre-incident plan should be developed and tested using tabletop simulations, and if necessary, revised prior to every fire season. BCWS should be involved in this process to ensure that any mapping done as part of the pre-incident plan or Fire Management Planning process is not unnecessarily duplicated.

Figure 13 contains a checklist of discussion points and considerations during pre-incident plan development.



Figure 13. A pre-incident planning checklist that can be used to help develop a pre-incident wildfire suppression plan and associated maps.

EA-F, in conjunction with its CFRC and regional district partners, could also consider developing local daily action guidelines based on expected wildfire conditions. Table 23 below provides a template that can be tailored specifically to EA-F, outlining actions staff can take as fire danger levels change throughout the fire season.

Table 23: Example of a Wildfire Response Preparedness Condition Guide⁶⁰

FIRE DANGER LEVEL	ACTION GUIDELINES
LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All District staff on normal shifts.
MODERATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All District staff on normal shifts. Information gathering and dissemination through Nelson’s CFRC.
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All District staff on normal shifts. Regional fire situation evaluated. Daily fire behavior advisory issued. Wildland fire-trained District staff and EOC staff notified of Fire Danger Level. Establish weekly communications with CFRC.
EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily fire behavior advisory issued. Regional fire situation evaluated. EOC staff considered for stand-by. Wildfire Incident Command Team members considered for stand-by/extended shifts. Designated District staff: water tender and heavy machinery operators, arborists may be considered for stand-by/extended shifts. Consider initiating Natural Area closures to align with regional situation. Provide regular updates to media / District staff on fire situation. Update public websites and EA-F social media as new information changes.
FIRE(S) ONGOING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All conditions apply as for ‘Extreme’ (regardless of actual fire danger rating). Mobilize EOC support if evacuation is possible, or fire event requires additional support. Mobilize Wildfire Incident Command Team under the direction of the EOC/Fire Chiefs. Implement Evacuation Alerts and Orders based on fire behavior prediction and under the direction of the EOC/Fire Chief.

Emergency planning also includes the recovery from an emergency. As discussed in Section 3.3.1, having secondary power sources for critical infrastructure is important to reduce community vulnerability in the event of an emergency that cuts power for days, or even weeks.

Roof top and gutter-mounted sprinklers are a useful tool that can be easily stored and then set up, as needed, by individual homeowners (if they have the required water availability). BCWS can also link their water systems to them to support their firefighting efforts. Three main mounting types exist: temporary mounted sprinklers (fully removable), permanently mounted sprinklers, and permanent sprinkler mounts that sprinklers can then be attached/removed from. There are benefits and disadvantages to all, especially as structures can differ significantly from one another, however, the benefits to using permanent sprinkler mounts as the preferred choice were noted as such by the Beasley Fire Chief: permanent rooftop sprinklers are time consuming and difficult to access for troubleshooting; sprinklers on pipes that can be

⁶⁰ From FireSmart Community Funding and Supports 2022 CWRP Supplemental Instruction Guide

lifted and set onto the permanent mounts from the ground are fast to deploy, easy to lift down when repairs or replacement are needed; and, they reduce sprinkler deterioration rates from not being left in place year-round. Local Government and community organizations can spearhead the acquisition and planning of sprinklers and structure protection units (SPUs) themselves, moving the planning and organization off the individual homeowner and increasing community wildfire resiliency. Additionally, there can be cost savings in bulk orders.

RDCK has two Type 2 SPUs which are regional assets, and firefighters from all 16 RDCK supported fire departments that can be deployed as needed. One SPU is (generally) stationed at the Kaslo and Area Fire Department Hall. It should be noted that under the interagency agreement, when the SPUs are needed, they are requested by the local authority for use within a fire protection area and by BCWS for use outside of the fire protection area. Regardless of the requestor, they are sourced by BCWS. The cost of deployment is reimbursed by the Province. BCWS may or may not opt to use local SPUs to be deployed to a fire.

Recommendations and action items that RDCK and EA-F can implement to continue productive and effective emergency planning are detailed below in Table 24.

Table 24: Emergency preparedness recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
<i>Emergency Planning - Section 5.6</i>							
27	High	Continue tabletop wildfire scenario tabletop exercises with emergency management and CFRC partners. Yearly, pre-fire season is best. Move the “WUI fire” to a different area of EA-F’s WUI each time.	Tabletop exercises provide an opportunity to identify weak spots in a plan and collaborate.	RDCK (CFRC; RCMP; BCWS)	5 years	Knowledge of 'pinch points' in an evacuation scenario and understanding of roles and responsibilities.	CRI FCFS Emergency Planning: up to \$2,000 per meeting. Possibly CRI / CEPF / Columbia Basin Trust
28	High	RDCK and EA-F should continue to promote the Voyent Alert! System to residents and visitors.	Clear, consistent, concise, and quick communication during an emergency event and evacuation are integral to the prevention of loss of life. A lack of this was identified as an issue during recent WUI fire disasters, such as that in Lahaina, Maui, USA and Fort McMurray, Alberta.	RDCK (FireSmart Coordinator)	Ongoing	Continued update of the Voyent Alert! System (can track downloads from app providers).	RDCK for promotion.
29	High	Invest in back-up generators for any critical infrastructure that does not have one. Encourage private businesses that provide critical services, like gas stations and grocery stores, to follow suit.	Back-up generators for pumphouses, treatment plants, and community buildings (especially those designated as emergency shelters) would facilitate both emergency response (water supply for suppression) and rapid community return and recovery following a fire.	RDCK / EA-F (Private Industry)	ASAP	A budget and purchase plan for back-up generators is implemented, starting with the most critical infrastructure.	Cost varies - ~\$10,000
30	High	Initiate a roof-top sprinkler program for residential properties. Investigate bulk orders from wildfire protection or irrigation companies or commercial gutter-mount kits. Consider sprinkler kits as an incentive to communities/neighbourhoods for FireSmart participation. Discuss with local Fire Departments and BCWS what mounting/sprinkler types are best. This can be directly led by RDCK, or RDCK can offer support to local fire	Rooftop sprinklers reduce the time and resources needed to set up a structural protection system in a community threatened by wildfire. Sprinkler installation/acquirement could be paired with a free FireSmart Assessment.	RDCK / EA-F (EA-F fire departments; BCWS)	3 years and ongoing	Establish an efficient and effective system. Track the number and location of sprinklers purchased and installed annually.	Bulk sprinklers \$40 - \$100 each; gutter mount kits ~\$100-200 for one home

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
		departments and community organizations to assist doing so.					
31	High	Schedule regular updates of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan: target every 5 years.	A current and acceptable CWRP is required for funding under the CRI FCFS program. Update the wildfire threat for areas with completed fuel treatments and identify additional areas for treatment.	RDCK / EA-F	5 years – 2028 update	EA-F always has a current and acceptable CWRP.	~\$32,000; CRI FCFS funding
32	Moderate	Pre-plan emergency community water delivery systems to connect major natural water sources with interface communities/neighbourhoods to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. This can be supported by recommendation #18. The Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group has been working on this since 2023 (see Section 5.4).	RDCK has many large natural water bodies and streams/creeks to draw from in the event of a wildfire. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers to fill bladders may be planned in advance, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps and piping.	RDCK / EA-F (BCWS)	5 Years	Assess community water delivery for each neighbourhood. Develop and test neighbourhood specific plans.	CRI: Assessment of Community Water Delivery Ability - incremental staff hours or contract cost
33	Moderate	Promote the installation of visible and reflective addresses in EA-F. Consider and explore how to regulate addressing across the District. Note: RDCK has requested a program to support standardized address signage, but stated that if building permits are not applied for then there is no street address. There are no regulations on addressing.	To allow for faster and more direct response to specific properties by first responders during an emergency.	EA-F / RDCK	5 years	Majority of properties have reflective, visible addresses.	Promotion campaign; consider providing discounted signs. 40-60 hours and \$40-60 per sign

5.7 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND OTHER FIRESMART ACTIVITIES

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

As discussed in Section 4.1, fuel is the only aspect of the fire behavior triangle that can be realistically modified to reduce wildfire threat. Fuel or vegetation management reduces potential wildfire intensity and ember, flame, and radiant heat exposure to people, structures, and other values through manipulation of both natural and cultivated vegetation within or adjacent to a community. A well-planned vegetation management strategy can greatly increase first responder safety, fire suppression effectiveness, and reduce damage to property and to values.

Vegetation management can largely be accomplished through two different activities:

1. **Residential-scale FireSmart landscaping:** The removal, reduction, or conversion of flammable [landscaping] plants to create more fire-resistant areas in the FireSmart Immediate, Intermediate, and Extended Zones (i.e., the area within 30m of a structure; see Figure 14 below).



Figure 14: FireSmart Home Ignition Zone

2. **Fuel management treatments:** The manipulation or reduction of living or dead forest and grassland fuels to reduce the rate of spread and head fire intensity and enhance likelihood of successful suppression.

Fuel Management Units

Fuel management treatments may function as fuel breaks (linear features, at least 1 km in length) or polygon treatments for discrete areas. The intent of establishing fuel treatments is to modify fire behaviour and should be designed to keep surface fires on the ground to avoid the establishment of more dangerous and uncontrollable crown fires. Fuel treatments can also provide anchor points to fire-fighting crews for suppression activities,⁶¹ yet the application of appropriate suppression tactics in a timely manner with sufficient resources is essential for fuel treatments to be effective – fuel treatments adjacent to a home or property should not be considered a “fire break”. Thus, to increase the efficacy of fuel treatments, FireSmart standards should be applied on nearby private properties to structures and vegetation to reduce the risk of structure ignition. Fuel treatment units will also require periodic maintenance (e.g., brushing, prescribed burning, surface fuel cleanup) to retain their effectiveness.

Implementing fuel management treatments often requires the successful collaboration of various land managers as these treatment areas can span across multiple types of land ownership. Often, this is required for the fuel treatment to effectively connect areas of low hazard, or to be a cohesively effective area. A significant amount of public land within EA-F’s WUI is Crown provincial land under various area-based and volume-based licenses. Fuel management projects in woodlots (area-based tenure) are currently funded and administered through the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC); those on municipal land are funded and administered through the CRI FCFS program; and those on Crown provincial land (not managed by an area-based tenure) are funded and administered through the BCWS Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) Program. EA-F will need to ensure good planning and collaboration with the Selkirk Resource District CLWRR team, forest tenure holders, local government, community groups, and BCWS to achieve higher quality, more effective, and more efficient fuel treatments.

There are many historical (non-mapped) fuel treatment units (FTUs) completed within EA-F’s WUI, as well as tracked prescribed (but not treated) and treated FTUs from the FESBC⁶², CLWRR, and CRI FCFS programs – these are shown on Map 15 and Map 16 below, in conjunction with the proposed fuel treatment units (PTUs) from this Plan.⁶³ A number of past proposed but not treated FTUs are re-identified within this Plan due to their assessed risk and proximity to interface structures and communities. PTUs proposed as part of this Plan are discussed and described in Table 26.

Priority level for prescription and treatment (High, Moderate, Low) of PTUs is given to each and is based upon a combination of site-level risks and factors that include wildfire behaviour threat, strategic location, proximity to structures and critical infrastructure, location relative to dominant fire-season wind directions, and overall practicability of treatment implementation. The PTUs identified in this Plan are not a comprehensive list of all areas that qualify for management; they were selected as the highest priority areas that are practicable to implement, present a high risk to their respective communities or a strategic

⁶¹ BC Wildfire Service. (2022). [2022 Fuel Management Prescription Guidance](#).

⁶² E.g., FESBC funded fuel treatments have been completed along portions of the Sproule Creek FSR both within and outside EA-F’s WUI.

⁶³ CLWRR proposed and completed treatments include up to fiscal year-end 2021. CRI FCFS proposed and completed treatments includes up to year end 2022.

opportunity, and meet required funding program goals and requirements as either fuel breaks or fuel treatment areas. Overall, increasing the resilience of EA-F's WUI communities can only be efficiently achieved by performing residential-scale FireSmart activities on private land.

Residential-scale FireSmart Landscaping

Several smaller, community centrally-located PTUs are proposed within this Plan with the additional intention of providing residents with FireSmart vegetation management demonstration projects – showing them what can be done on their properties to reduce similar wildfire risks. A major barrier to implementing FireSmart vegetation management on private property is if there is no easy disposal process for the created vegetative debris. RDCK managed landfills within and adjacent to EA-F (Balfour and Grohman Narrows) accept yard and garden waste for payment – but, during the months of May and October there is no charge.⁶⁴ Unfortunately, for many residents in EA-F, transporting material to these stations is too far. Thus, most residents likely rely upon at-home burn piles for garden and yard waste – education around the risks associated with this practice, and how to properly manage them, should be built into EA-F's FireSmart education program.

Other Residential-scale FireSmart Activities that RDCK/EA-F should apply through CRI FCFS and implement include:

➤ ***FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program***

The FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program is a unique approach to collaboratively reduce a neighbourhood's risk to wildfire through education and events. It is run nationally through FireSmart Canada and facilitated locally by the RDCK. It is a grassroots, volunteer run program that is assisted by RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Specialists. It is a small-scale approach for neighbourhoods consisting of 5-50 homes, with the intent to implement achievable FireSmart goals (mitigation projects can be small and simple, or complex and extensive, ranging from individual owners doing around home clean-ups, to community hand treatments on common and private land near critical infrastructure).

➤ ***FireSmart Rebate Program***

To aid in residential-scale vegetation management and structure improvements, this program allows for residents that have had a completed FireSmart assessment (Home Ignition Zone or Home Partners Program) receive a rebate (using recorded expenses) for work completed to lower risk identified in their assessment. Starting in the 2024 CRI FCFS program, the eligible amount of rebate per property is now \$5000.

Associated vegetation management and other FireSmart recommendations and action items are listed in Table 25.

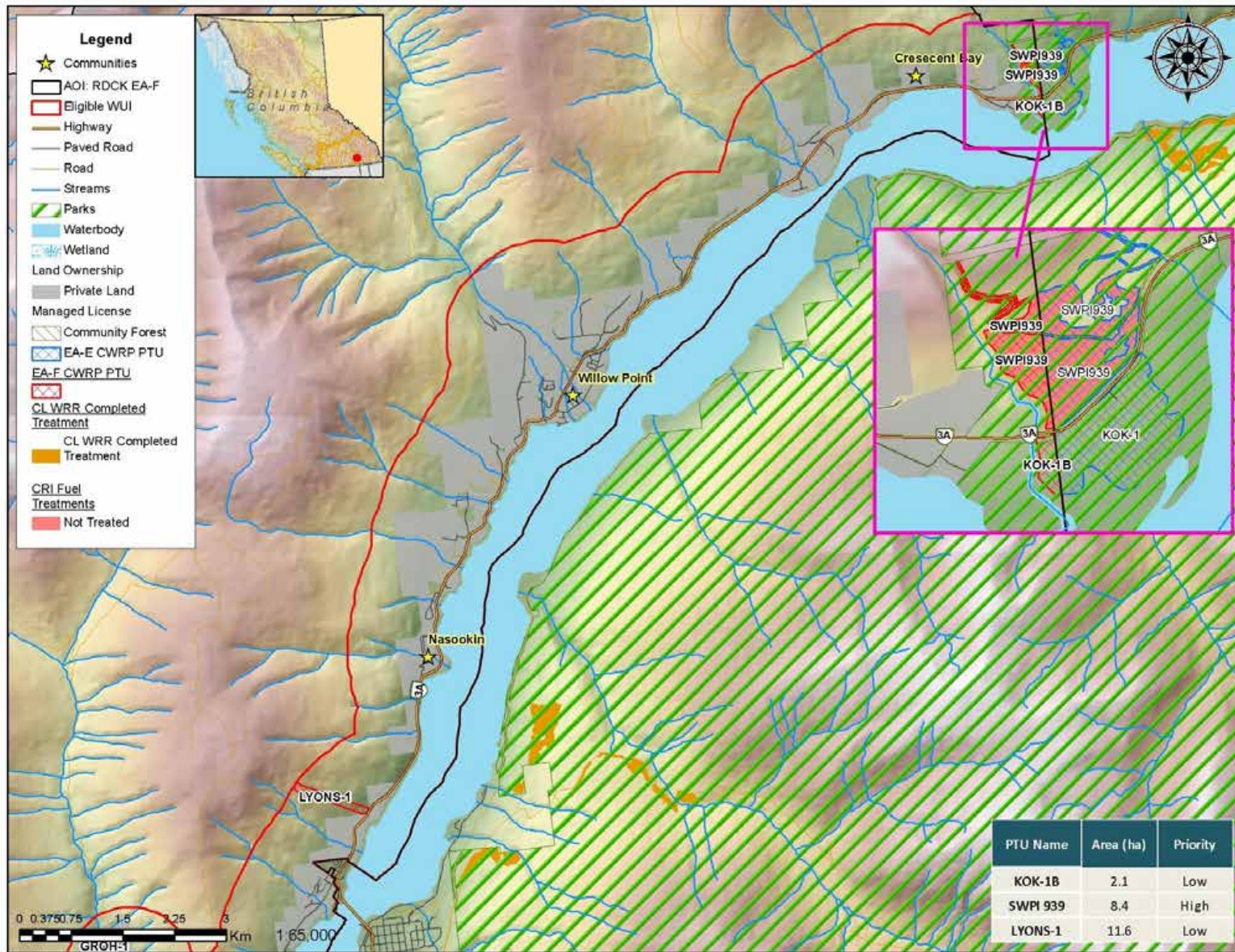
⁶⁴ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/waste-recycling/household-hazardous-waste-round-up/yard-garden-waste-free-tipping.html>

Table 25: Vegetation management action items

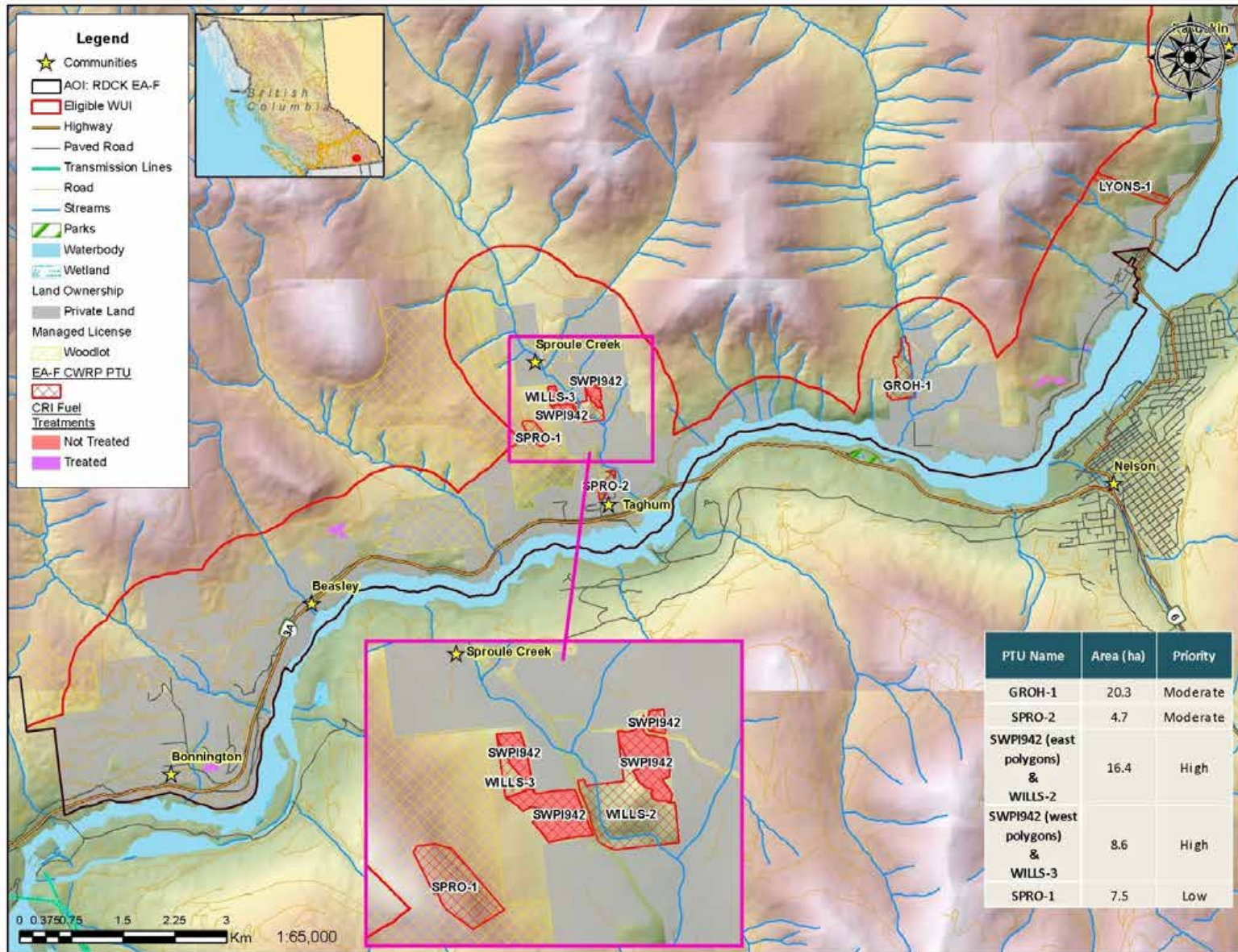
Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric Success for	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Vegetation Management - Section 5.7							
Fuel Management Treatments							
34	High	Develop fuel management prescriptions for the identified Potential Fuel Treatment Units (PTUs), starting with those identified as High priority. Continue with treatment implementation when possible.	To reduce wildfire threat and risk to interface and intermix communities within the WUI. Also, to provide FireSmart vegetation management examples to the public that can be implemented on their own properties. See "Rationale" column in Table 26 for more detailed treatment rationales.	EA-F / MOF / BCWS	5 years	Approved FMP(s) for identified High priority areas.	CRI FCFS funding available for prescription and treatments; ~\$425/hectare for a ~20 ha prescription
35	High	Lobby Provincial Government (Ministry of Forests) and other potential funding organizations for grant funds to implement landscape level fuel treatment on private land.	Much of EA-F's communities' structures are surrounded by undeveloped, forested private land. Current funding streams for fuel reduction at the landscape level are targeted, and thus limited, to public land. However, the interface wildland does not stop at the public/private land border.	Local Government (Provincial Government)	5 years	Discussions initiated and ongoing	Time and cost dependant upon level of engagement required.
Residential FireSmart							
36	High	In conjunction with provided home FireSmart Assessments (see Recommendation #7) Continue offering a local rebate program to property owners that have completed a FireSmart home assessment (Home Ignition Zone assessment or Home Partners Program Mitigation assessment). RDCK, EA-F, and FireSmart coordinators should advertise that the amount eligible for rebate has increased to \$5000 for the CRI FCFS 2024 application program.	FireSmart home assessments encourage action in the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone of a community. Offer a rebate program (funded through CRI FCFS) to residents who have a pre- and post-work FireSmart assessment conducted. Focus on removal of conifer hedges and upgrading exterior structure materials.	RDCK / EA-F (FireSmart Coordinator)	Annually	Number of properties participating annually.	50% of costs per property up to \$5,000, plus 2 hours administration time per property (CRI FCFS).
37	High	Continue providing regional district-led options for the disposal of yard waste. Currently, this includes having tipping fees waived (May and October) for yard waste at the RDCK transfer stations.	Yard waste burning restrictions limit options for debris disposal. Free debris disposal may be used as an incentive to participate in other FireSmart activities, like assessments or workshops.	RDCK	Annual	Municipally funded yard waste disposal continues.	CRI FCFS funding is available for

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric Success	for	Funding
				(Involved)				Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
								tipping fee coverage.
38	High	Consider implementing a community chipper program. Education of FireSmart yard and landscaping principles, including chipping specifications, should be incorporated into the program.	To reduce fire and wildfire hazards on private property within the WUI, especially those long distances from RDCK landfills/transfer stations, and to promote FireSmart vegetation management knowledge and education. The intent is for landscaping/yard vegetation to be included, not farm or agriculture vegetation. This could assist with more uptake of residential FireSmart landscaping principles as the disposal method is brought to the resident, especially for those older and less mobile.	RDCK / EA-F FireSmart Coordinator	Annual (pre-fire season is best)	Number of properties who elect to have debris disposed.		CRI FCFS funding; ~\$100-150 per chipper crew hour.
39	Moderate	Consider releasing an annual RDCK FireSmart report to the public that tracks community-specific uptake in various FireSmart initiatives, as well as tracks fuel management at all scales.	As the program grows, reporting allows the RDCK FireSmart program to track challenges and successes, further promote the program, and tailor outreach methods to achieve the most uptake.	RDCK / EA-F FireSmart Coordinator	Annual	An annual report is published.		Eligible for CRI funding – FireSmart staff time. Estimate 40-80 hours.
40	Moderate	Engage with local garden centers to implement the FireSmart BC Plant [Tagging] Program.	FireSmart BC introduced a plant tagging program in 2021 that has been implemented with great success by over 34 nurseries and garden centres to date. The Plant Program is an easy way to provide information at the point of purchase for homeowners and landscapers. See: https://firesmartbc.ca/landscaping-hub/plant-program/	Local Garden Centres (RDCK; EA-F FireSmart Coordinator)	5 years	Local garden centres have been notified of the program.		Staff time for engagement (2-4 hours per garden centre).
Community and Critical Infrastructure FireSmart								
41	High	Implement recommended vegetation management recommendations from FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone Assessments (see Recommendation #14), when completed, on a priority basis.	To reduce fire behavior and risks to critical infrastructure most important to fire and wildfire fighting and post-wildfire recovery.	RDCK / EA-F FireSmart Coordinator	5 years	High priority critical infrastructure has had FireSmart vegetation management completed.		CRI FCFS funding up to \$53,500 per municipal infrastructure (vegetation management included).

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric Success for	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
42	High	As part of fuel treatment implementation, RDCK/EA-F should develop interpretive signage to demonstrate pre- and post-fuel treatment forest stands conditions.	Interpretive signage could include text explaining the purpose of the fuel management treatment, connection to the CWRP, and FireSmart practices residents nearby can take to reduce wildfire hazards around their yards and homes.	RDCK / EA-F FireSmart Coordinator	5 years	Signage installed during implementation phases.	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.
43	Moderate	Continue to support and promote the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program to communities within EA-F. Identify community champions to spearhead organization for those communities not already organized, and support those communities that have been recognized in the past to continue working towards being so.	There are many small communities throughout EA-F that, by working together, could reduce their community-scale wildfire risk easily and substantially. The program supports a small-scale approach for neighbourhoods consisting of 5-50 homes, with the intent to implement achievable FireSmart goals	RDCK / EA-F FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Increase in number of recognized communities.	FireSmart Canada \$500; RDCK FireSmart Champion Grant up to \$3000
44	Moderate	As part of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP), apply to CRI FCFS for funding to develop Neighbourhood FireSmart Plans.	To help guide FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program communities and their community champions to complete wildfire risk reduction measures.	RDCK / EA-F FireSmart Coordinator	In line with FCNRP Community program uptake.	Communities working towards FCNRP status have a Neighbourhood Plan	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.



Map 15: Overview map of Proposed Treatment Units within EA-F's eastern WUI area.



Map 16: Overview map of Proposed Treatment Units within EA-F's western WUI area.

Table 26: Summary of Proposed Fuel Treatment Units (PTUs) for EA-F's WUI (ordered from east to west).

PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat		Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Moderate	
KOK-1B	Kokanee Campground	Low	2.1	Crown Provincial land. In Kokanee Creek Provincial Park. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Campsites.	0.0	2.1	<p><i>A larger portion of this PTU is in EA-E. It should all be treated as one polygon.</i></p> <p>Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the campground and to protect the area from accidental fire starts related to campers. Treating this unit would also provide a demonstration project of FireSmart vegetation management to the community as well as visitors/tourists.</p> <p>Mature, C-5 type stand with patches of dense understory conifer regeneration. A mix of low to high crown base heights and moderate surface fuel loads. Treatment would likely include thinning of understory conifers, pruning of retained conifers, and surface fuel reduction.</p> <p>PTU SWPI 939 is uphill (north) from this unit. Treating all of these would create a more landscape-level area of reduced fire threat within the WUI.</p> <p>WTA KOKANEE-1 (Moderate; EA-F)</p>
SWPI 939	Kokanee Provincial Park	High	8.4	Crown Provincial land. Existing CRI prescription, but not yet treated. In Kokanee Creek Provincial Park. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone and overlap with non-legal OGMA.	5.0	3.4	<p><i>A larger portion of this PTU is in EA-E. It should all be treated as one polygon.</i></p> <p>Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI and an area interface to structures. Treat to reduce fire ignition risk from hikers along the trails within. Treating this unit would also provide a demonstration project of FireSmart vegetation management to the community as well as visitors/tourists. Treating in conjunction with KOKANEE PTU would create a large area of reduced fire threat.</p> <p>Existing CRI prescribed unit, but not treated. The north and east portions of the TU are a young conifer regenerating stand (with some overstory L1 conifers) undergoing stem exclusion and self pruning. Little surface fuel currently, but high horizontal and vertical continuity. The south and east portions of the TU are a more open, mature conifer stand with higher amounts of surface fuels. PTU is anchored to the highway to the south and C5/C7 low risk fuel types to E and W. Prescribed burning following thinning and pruning is likely practicable. It is uphill from large campsite with a lot of people during fire season.</p> <p>WTA KP-1 (Moderate); REDFISH-1 (Low; EA-F)</p>
LYONS-1	Nasookin (Northshore)	Low	11.6	Crown Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Northwest corner overlaps the Foster Community Watershed. South edge is adjacent to,	11.1	0.0	<p>Treat to create a landscape-level fuel break in the interface that runs perpendicular to the dominant fire season wind direction.</p> <p>This linear PTU is located on the steep slopes of north shore communities, just south of Nasookin. There is an old, somewhat overgrown 10m wide strip going from the</p>

PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat		Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Moderate	
				but does not touch, private property. Steep slopes.			highway straight upslope to the top of the slope break. This feature creates a unique opportunity whereby extending the fuel free or fuel-reduced zone to 30m on either side would create a fuel break, allowing for safer access by wildland firefighters and a strategic location for dropping retardant. Treatment should focus on removing understory conifers, pruning retained conifers, and surface fuel reduction.
GROH-1	Grohman Creek	Moderate	20.3	Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private property on its east and south sides.	9.3	11.0	Treat to reduce wildfire threat in the WUI and interface to homes/structures. PTU proposed in the Nelson CWDP, this unit is strategically located on the leading fire season wind side of the Grohman valley and associated community. Possibly a historic salvage harvested block that has resulted in a relatively dense mix-wood understory, low crown base heights of L1/L2 dominant conifers, and tall intermediate stems contribute to the wildfire hazard. Treatment should focus on thin from below of understory conifers, pruning of retained conifers, and a minor amounts of surface fuel reduction. WTA GOHMAN-1 (Moderate)
SPRO-2	Taghum	Moderate	4.7	Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private property on all sides except the northwest portion.	0.5	4.0	Treat to reduce wildfire threat in the WUI located within a dense community and to protect an important access/egress route. Treating this unit would also demonstrate to the public FireSmart vegetation management practices they can use on their properties. Hazardous open C5-type stand with low lying and wide spreading dead ladder branches with lichen. Treatment would increase the vertical fuel strata gap via pruning L1 stems. This PTU would require low effort and cost. WTA SPROULE-2 (Moderate)
SWPI942 (east polygons) & WILLS-2	Sproule Creek	High	16.4	Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private property on all sides, except the southeast portion. Community walking trails within. Some steep slopes.	15.9	0.5	<i>SWPI-942: Existing CRI Prescription - not treated.</i> Treat to reduce extreme wildfire treat within the Sproule Creek upper valley community. Hazardous young forest C-3-type stand with very dense pockets. Treatment should focus on surface fuel removal, thinning suppressed understory stems, and pruning L1/L2 stems to increase the fuel strata gap and decrease the high crown closure. Treat in conjunction with additional SWPI-942 polygons and WILLS-3 PTU on the west side of Sproule Creek Road to create a landscape-like fuel break across the lower valley directly interface to the community. WTA WILLS-1 (High); WILLS-2 (High)

PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat		Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Moderate	
SWPI942 (West polygons) & WILLS-3	Sproule Creek	High	8.6	Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private property on north and northeast sides. Community walking trails within.	8.6	-	<p><i>SWPI-942: Existing CRI Prescription - not treated.</i></p> <p>Treat to reduce extreme wildfire threat within the Sproule Creek upper valley community. Hazardous young forest C-3-type stand with very dense pockets. Treatment should focus on surface fuel removal, thinning suppressed understory stems, and pruning L1/L2 stems to increase the fuel strata gap and decrease the high crown closure.</p> <p>Treat in conjunction with additional SWPI-942 polygons and WILLS-3 PTU on the east side of Sproule Creek Road to create a landscape-like fuel break across the lower valley directly interface to the community.</p> <p>WTA WILLS-3 (High)</p>
SPRO-1	Sproule Creek	Low	7.5	Overlap with Woodlot 1670. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone.	7.5	-	<p>Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI. In conjunction with SWPI-942, WILLS-2, and WILLS-3 PTUs, treating this would extend the interface area of reduced wildfire threat for both Sproule Creek and Taghum communities. Additionally, the Sproule Creek FSR has had buffering fuel treatments completed for a significant portion west of this unit. This would extend those efforts further across the WUI.</p> <p>M-1/2 fuel type due to larch in the overstory. Quite dense, western red cedar dominated stand with very low crown base heights. Low ladder fuel horizontal continuity, but high general canopy horizontal continuity. Consistent moderate fine surface fuels. Treatment should focus on understory thinning, pruning of retained conifers, and surface fuel reduction.</p> <p>WTA SPROULE-1 (Moderate)</p>

SECTION 6: APPENDICES

6.1 APPENDIX A: REVIEW OF 2016 CWPP RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2016 CWPP Recommendations were reviewed and commented on by the Local Government. Comments were edited for clarity.

Item	2015 CWPP Recommendation	2022 CWRP <i>Follow-Up Discussion</i>
Communication and Education		
Objective: To improve public understanding of fire risk and personal responsibility by increasing resident awareness of the wildfire threat in their community and to establish a sense of homeowner responsibility.		
1.	Establish a school education program to engage youth in wildfire management. Consult ABCFP and BCWS (the zone) to facilitate and recruit volunteer teachers and experts to help with curriculum development to be delivered in elementary and/or secondary schools. Educational programming can be done in conjunction with any currently running fire prevention education programs.	<i>Yes. Some education has happened (although more is needed). It is being done by the school, but not under the authority of RDCK.</i>
2.	Make summaries of this report and associated maps publicly available through webpage, social media, and public FireSmart meetings. Add fire threat spatial data to the interactive web-mapping tool to allow residents to find their property and the associated threat of wildfire.	<i>CWRP is available on RDCK website.</i>
3.	Add a Wildfire-specific Fire Prevention Week (or day) in the spring, immediately prior to the fire season.	<i>Yes, numerous FCNRP events happen throughout 2023.</i>
4.	Consider door to door FireSmart assessment (and/or home owner self assessment) within the Area F interface in order to educate residents and to quantify the level the level of risk in the interface	<i>Yes, 179 HPP assessments completed so far in area F. [as of September 2023]</i>
Objective: To enhance the awareness of elected officials and stakeholders regarding the resources required to reduce fire risk.		

5.	Maintain and strengthen the regional Interface Working Group that includes Nelson, Area E and BC Parks to coordinate wildfire risk reduction efforts.	<i>Nelson CFRC meets numerous times per season to coordinate efforts within parts of area F.</i>
6.	Consider local planning departments to develop regional development permit standards, provide a group voice to the Building and Safety Standards Branch and other provincial entities, and align municipal bylaws.	<i>No communications I am aware of.</i>
7.	Consider the development of a coordinated approach to fuel management and hazard reduction within and adjacent to the Area F Study Area by coordinating with stakeholders including forest licensees, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and utility companies to aid in the establishment of large, landscape-level fuel breaks or compliment current or proposed fuel treatment areas.	<i>Nelson CFRC includes Parks, CL WRR, RDCK, and BCWS who all collaborate on various fuel management projects.</i>
8.	Maintain regular communication with the Technical Review Committee (see Section 2.4) to ensure that proposed activities maintain or enhance biodiversity values.	<i>[no comment]</i>

Structure Protection and Planning

Objective: Enhance protection of critical infrastructure from wildfire.

9.	Complete a fire flow / water vulnerability assessment for each water system and identify and map all alternative water sources (reservoirs, streams, lakes, etc.). Identify which areas may have insufficient or unreliable water supplies and provide recommendations to reduce Area F's vulnerability.	<i>[no comment]</i>
10.	Complete a vulnerability assessment of all critical infrastructure including water infrastructure in interface areas with FireSmart recommendations.	<i>Firehalls complete. Water/power unknown.</i>
11.	Develop alternative, backup water sources for fire protection, including the establishment of standpipes as required.	<i>[no comment]</i>
12.	Complete a detailed review of back-up power source options for all critical infrastructure and upgrade as required.	<i>[no comment]</i>

13.	Consider completing more detailed hazard assessments and developing response plans for stabilization and rehabilitation of burn areas in watersheds that are vulnerable to post-wildfire debris flows and floods. Opportunities may exist to coordinate study and planning with adjacent jurisdictions (BC Parks).	<i>[no comment]</i>
Objective: Encourage private homeowners to voluntarily adopt FireSmart principles on their properties.		
14.	Complete, or support homeowners to complete, WUI Site and Structure Hazard Assessments for interface homes, make hazard mapping for assessed homes publicly available, and provide informational material to homeowners on specific steps that they can take to reduce fire hazard on their property.	<i>Yes, 179 HPP assessments completed so far in area F. [As of September 2023]</i>
Municipal Policy		
Objective: To reduce wildfire hazard on private land and increase FireSmart compliance.		
15.	Complete OCP review to strengthen and expand reach of the existing policy.	<i>[no comment]</i>
16.	Consider developing Wildfire Hazard Development Permit (DP) Areas for major retrofits / renovations or new builds (building permits), collecting bonds to be returned upon evidence of completing development and landscaping according to wildfire hazard assessment. Review District of North Vancouver DP process as a model.	<i>Nothing implemented yet, wildfire development permit area study completed in 2022</i>
17.	Obtain legal advice regarding the Building Act, specifically regarding the temporarily unrestricted matters and local government authority to set exterior building materials requirements. Use local government authority to mandate FireSmart construction materials beyond BC Building Code in wildfire hazard development permit area, as allowed.	<i>[no comment]</i>
18.	Develop a landscaping standard to be applied in interface / DP areas. The standard should list flammable non-compliant vegetation, non-flammable drought and pest resistant alternatives, and tips on landscape design to reduce maintenance, watering requirements, and reduce wildfire hazard. Include meeting landscaping standard as a requirement of Development Permit.	<i>Not complete</i>

19.	Proactively enforce wildfire covenants requiring owners to maintain their properties hazard free on all properties in Development Permit areas. Enforcement will serve to minimize fuel risks on problematic private properties which have allowed hazardous accumulation of fuels and provide improved protection to adjacent lands.	<i>Not complete</i>
20.	Alter the zoning bylaws to require that developers leave building set backs on private land so that there is a minimum of 10 m distance between buildings and forest interface.	<i>Not complete</i>
21.	Consider developing an outdoor burning bylaw specifying requirements for and limitations to outdoor burning and, in conjunction with the Fire Chief, implement the bylaw at times of high fire danger when provincial bans are not in place. The bylaw should consider effective and efficient enforcement measures and powers.	<i>Not complete</i>
22.	Work with the Building and Safety Standards Branch to provide input into the Building Code revisions that would apply within the development permit areas to prevent the spread of wildfire.	<i>Not complete</i>

Emergency Response and Planning

Objective: To improve structural and wildfire equipment and training available to RDCK Fire and Rescue.

23.	Conduct annual structural and interface training with MFLNRO BCWS. As part of the training, it is recommended to conduct annual reviews to ensure PPE and wildland equipment resources are complete, in working order, and the crews are well-versed in their set-up and use. Interface training should include completion of a mock wildfire simulation in coordination with BCWS and safety training specific to wildland fire and risks inherent with natural areas.	<i>[no comment]</i>
24.	Integrate Emergency Preparedness Committee and West Arm Interface Steering Committee. Coordination and information sharing are crucial to the development of a community well prepared for wildfire. As an outcome of this integration, consider updating the Emergency Program Structure.	<i>[no comment]</i>
25.	Provide S215 training to all/some members of Fire Halls in Area F to enhance wildfire suppression training. Consider investigating Office of the Fire Commissioner funding.	<i>[no comment]</i>

26.	Review UBCM-owned SPU request procedure. Complete training with SPU as required and assess needs based on training outcomes.	<i>[no comment]</i>
27.	Develop Regional Service to fund additional SPUs and maintain existing SPUs.	<i>[no comment]</i>
28.	Explore opportunities to collaborate with BCWS to coordinate discount volumes of hose for interface fires, reducing costs and logistics to local fire departments.	<i>[no comment]</i>
29.	Explore opportunities to ensure a duty officer is in place in each Fire Protection Area to provide coverage for periods of high or extreme hazard.	<i>[no comment]</i>
30.	Conduct fire preplan assessment for key interface areas in Area F. Other jurisdictions have completed assessments that prioritize fire department-specific variables, such as distance to hydrants, response time from nearest fire station, etc. to produce local risk ratings.	<i>[no comment]</i>

Emergency Response Evacuation and Access

Objective: To improve access and egress to neighbourhoods at risk and natural areas within RDCK.

31.	Develop a Total Access Plan to create, map and inventory trail and road network in natural areas for suppression planning, identification of areas with insufficient access and to aid in strategic planning. Fire threat mapping from this CWPP should be included. The plan should be updated every five years, or more regularly, as needed to incorporate additions or changes.	<i>[no comment]</i>
32.	Require that all new interface developments have access for evacuation and sufficient capacity for emergency vehicles.	<i>[no comment]</i>
33.	Facilitate completion of emergency evacuation plans for interface neighbourhoods with limited access.	<i>[no comment]</i>

Fuel Management

Objective: Reduce wildfire threat on public lands through fuel management.

34.	Proceed with detailed assessment, prescription development and treatment of hazardous fuel units identified in this CWPP. Collaborate with Kalesnikoff, BCTS, and other licensees, BC Parks and City of Nelson to facilitate larger projects.	<i>[no comment; some prescriptions have been developed, and some of those implemented.]</i>
35.	Prioritize Areas of Interest across Electoral Areas with updated CWPPs to ensure effective and objective treatment.	<i>[no comment; some prescriptions have been developed, and some of those implemented.]</i>
36.	Proceed with treatment of shovel-ready and funded hazardous fuel units identified in the 2008 CWPP.	<i>[no comment; some prescriptions have been developed, and some of those implemented.]</i>
Objective: Maintain treated areas under an acceptable level of wildfire fire threat (moderate).		
37.	As treatments are implemented, complete monitoring within 10 years of treatment (subject to site conditions) and maintenance every 15-20 years (subject to prescription and site conditions) on previously treated areas. Treated areas should be assessed by a Registered Professional Forester, specific to actions required in order to maintain treated areas in a moderate or lower hazard.	<i>[no comment]</i>

6.2 APPENDIX B: LOCAL WILDFIRE RISK PROCESS

Wildfire Risk Assessment plot worksheets are provided in Appendix C: Wildfire Risk Assessment – Worksheets and Photos, plot locations are summarized in Appendix B-2: , and the field data collection and spatial analysis methodology is detailed in Appendix B-2 and B-3.

6.2.1 APPENDIX B-1: FUEL TYPING METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

The Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) System outlines five major fuel groups and sixteen fuel types based on characteristic fire behaviour under defined conditions.⁶⁵ Fuel typing is recognized as a blend of art and science. Although a subjective process, the most appropriate fuel type was assigned based on research, experience, and practical knowledge; this system has been used within BC, with continual improvement and refinement, for 20 years.⁶⁶ It should be noted that there are significant limitations with the fuel typing system which should be recognized. Major limitations include: a fuel typing system designed to describe fuels which sometimes do not occur within the WUI, fuel types which cannot accurately capture the natural variability within a polygon, and limitations in the data used to create initial fuel types.⁶⁶ There are several implications of these limitations, which include: fuel typing further from the developed areas of the study has a lower confidence, generally; and, fuel typing should be used as a starting point for more detailed assessments and as an indicator of overall wildfire risk, not as an operational, or site-level, assessment. Forested ecosystems are dynamic and change over time: fuels accumulate, stands fill in with regeneration, and forest health outbreaks occur. Regular monitoring of fuel types and wildfire risk assessment should occur every 5 – 10 years to determine the need for threat assessment updates and the timing for their implementation.

Table 27 summarizes the fuel types observed in EA-F’s WUI by general fire behaviour (crown fire and spotting potential). These fuel types were used to guide the threat assessment.

Table 27. Fuel Type Categories and Crown Fire Spot Potential encountered within the WUI.

Fuel Type	FBP / CFDDRS Description	WUI Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Fuel Type – Crown Fire / Spotting Potential
C-3	Mature Jack or Lodgepole Pine	<i>Pole-sapling to mature even-aged conifer-dominated forest with moderate to high density and high crown closure (near or at horizontal continuity). Crowns separated from the forest floor in mature stands.</i>	Surface and crown fire, low to very high fire intensity and rate of spread.	High

⁶⁵ Forestry Canada Fire Danger Group. 1992. Development and Structure of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System: Information Report ST-X-3.

⁶⁶ Perrakis, D.B., Eade G., and Hicks, D. 2018. Natural Resources Canada. Canadian Forest Service. *British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description* 2018 Version.

Fuel Type	FBP / CFDRS Description	WUI Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Fuel Type – Crown Fire / Spotting Potential
C-5	Red and White Pine	<i>Low to moderate density, uneven-aged conifer-dominated forest, crown base heights mixed. Understory of discontinuous natural conifer ingress in openings and gaps, deciduous shrubs, and herbs.</i>	Moderate potential for active crown fire in wind-driven conditions. Under drought conditions, fuel consumption and fire intensity can be higher due to dead woody fuels.	Moderate
C-7	Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir	<i>Low-density, uneven-aged conifer-dominated forest, crowns separated from the ground, understory of discontinuous grasses and shrubs. Exposed bed rock and low surface fuel loading.</i>	Surface fire spread, torching of individual trees, rarely crowning (usually limited to slopes > 30%), moderate to high intensity and rate of spread.	Moderate
O-1a/b	Grass	<i>Matted and standing grass that can cure; sparse or scattered shrubs, trees, and down woody debris. Cutblocks >2 seasons old that do not meet S-type descriptions, as well as young regenerating cutblocks that have not reached any horizontal continuity.</i>	Rapidly spreading, high-intensity surface fire when cured.	Low
M-1/2	Boreal mixedwood (leafless and green)	<i>Moderately well-stocked mixed stands of conifers and deciduous species, low to moderate dead, down woody fuels.</i>	Surface fire spread, torching of individual trees and intermittent crowning, (depending on slope and percent conifer).	<26% conifer (Very Low); 26-49% Conifer (Low); >50% Conifer (Moderate)
D-1/2	Aspen or birch (leafless and green)	<i>Deciduous stands.</i>	Always a surface fire, low to moderate rate of spread and fire intensity.	Low
S-1	Slash (jack / lodgepole pine, white spruce)	<i>Any conifer slash as the result of harvesting practices.</i>	Moderate to high rate of spread and high to very high intensity surface fire.	Low
N	N/A	<i>Non-fuel: irrigated/mowed agricultural fields, urban or developed areas void or nearly void of vegetation and forests.</i>	N/A	N/A
W	N/A	<i>Water</i>	N/A	N/A

6.2.2 APPENDIX B-2: WILDFIRE THREAT ASSESSMENT PLOTS

Table 28 displays a summary of all Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) plots completed during CWRP field work. The most recent 2020 WTA threat plot worksheets and methodology were used.⁶⁷ The plot forms and photos will be submitted as a separate document. The following ratings are applied to applicable point ranges:

- Wildfire Behaviour Threat Score (Southern Interior Mountains)
 - 0 – 47 Low
 - 48 – 65 Moderate
 - 66 – 79 High
 - 80 + Extreme

Table 28. Summary of WUI Threat Assessment Worksheets (2020).

WTA Plot	Geographic Location	Wildfire Threat Rating
6 MILE-1	Adjacent to Six Mile rd.	59 (Moderate)
BEAR-1	North of Nelson newly Hwy	46 (Low)
BONN-1	Near junction between Park view Dr. and Brown Rd.	39 (Low)
GOHMAN-1	Grohman Forest Service Road	48 (Moderate)
KEIRAN-1	Adjacent to Keiran Rd on rocky south facing slope	49 (Moderate)
KOKANEE-1	Kokanee Creek Provincial Park Campground	53 (Moderate)
REDFISH-1	Near Redfish Campground north of Hwy 3A	44 (Low)
SPROULE-1	North of Taghum	60 (moderate)
SPROULE-2	North of Taghum between Sproule Creek Rd. and Hutchins Rd.	48 (Moderate)
WILLS-1	North of Taghum adjacent to Wills Rd EA F	69 (High)
WILLS-2	North of Taghum south of Wills Rd	67 (High)
WILLS-3	North of Taghum adjacent to junction between Sproule Rd and Wills Rd	74 (High)

⁶⁷ MFLNRORD.2020 Wildfire Threat Assessment Guide and Worksheets

6.2.3 APPENDIX B-3: FIRE RISK THREAT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

As part of the CWRP process, spatial data submissions are required to meet the defined standards in the Program and Application Guide. Proponents completing a CWRP can obtain open-source BC Wildfire datasets, including Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) datasets from the British Columbia Data Catalogue. Wildfire spatial datasets obtained through the BC Open Data Catalogue used in the development of the CWRP include, but are not limited to:

- PSTA Spotting Impact
- PSTA Fire Density
- PSTA Fire Threat Rating
- PSTA Lighting Fire Density
- PSTA Human Fire Density
- Head Fire Intensity
- WUI Human Interface Buffer (1436m buffer from structure point data)
- Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class
- Current Fire Polygons
- Current Fire Locations
- Historical Fire Perimeters
- Historical Fire Incident Locations
- Historical Fire Burn Severity

As part of the program, proponents completing a CWRP are provided with a supplementary PSTA dataset from BC Wildfire Services. This dataset includes:

- Fuel Type
- Structures
- Structure Density
- Eligible WUI (1 km buffer of structure density classes >6).

The required components for the spatial data submission are detailed in the Program and Application Guide Spatial Appendix – these include:

- AOI
- Proposed Treatment
- WUI (1 km buffer of structure density classes >6)

The provided PSTA data does not transfer directly into the geodatabase for submission, and several PSTA feature classes require extensive updating or correction. In addition, the Fire Threat determined in the PSTA is fundamentally different than the localized Fire Threat feature class that is included in the Local Fire Risk map required for project submission. The Fire Threat in the PSTA is based on provincial scale inputs - fire density; spotting impact; and head fire intensity, while the spatial submission Fire Threat is based on the components of the Wildland Urban Interface Threat Assessment Worksheet. For the scope of this project, completion of WUI Threat Assessment plots on the entire AOI is not possible, and therefore

an analytical model has been built to assume Fire Threat based on spatially explicit variables that correspond to the WUI Threat Assessment worksheet.

Field Data Collection

The primary goals of field data collection are to confirm or correct the provincial fuel type, complete WUI Threat Assessment Plots, and assess other features of interest to the development of the CWRP. This is accomplished by traversing as much of the AOI and surrounding Eligible WUI as possible (within time, budget and access constraints). Threat Assessment plots are completed on the 2020 form, and as per the Wildland Urban Interface Threat Assessment Guide.

For clarity, the final threat ratings for the AOI were determined through the completion of the following methodological steps:

1. Update fuel-typing using orthophotography provided by the client and field verification.
2. Update structural data using critical infrastructure information provided by the client, field visits to confirm structure additions or deletions, BC Assessment, and orthophotography
3. Complete field work to ground-truth fuel typing and threat ratings (completed 8 WUI threat plots on a variety of fuel types, aspects, and slopes and an additional 250 field stops with qualitative notes, fuel type verification, and/or photographs)
4. Threat assessment analysis using field data collected and rating results of WUI threat plots – see next section.

Spatial Analysis

The field data is used to correct the fuel type polygon attributes provided in the PSTA. This corrected fuel type layer is then used as part of the spatial analysis process. The other components are developed using spatial data (BEC zone, fire history zone) or spatial analysis (aspect, slope). A scoring system was developed to categorize resultant polygons as having relatively low, moderate, high or extreme Fire Threat, or Low, Moderate, High or Extreme WUI Threat. Table 29 below summarizes the components and scores to determine the Fire Behaviour Threat.

Table 29: Components of Fire Threat Analysis

Attribute	Indicator	Score
Fuel Type	C-1	35
	C-2	
	C-3	
	C-4	
	M-3/4, >50% dead fir	25
	C-6	
	M-1/2, >75% conifer	20
	C-7	
	M-3/4, <50% dead fir	15
	M-1/2, 50-75% conifer	
	M-1/2, 25-50% conifer	
	C-5	10
	O-1a/b	
	S-1	

	S-2	
	S-3	
	M-1/2, <25% conifer	5
	D-1/2	0
	W	0
	N	0
Weather - BEC Zone	AT, irrigated	1
	CWH, CDF, MH	3
	ICH, SBS, ESSF	7
	IDF, MS, SBPS, CWHsds1 & ds2, BWBS, SWB	10
	PP, BG	15
Historical Fire Occurrence Zone	G5, R1, R2, G6, V5, R9, V9, V3, R5, R8, V7	1
	G3, G8, R3, R4, V6, G1, G9, V8	5
	G7, C5, G4, C4, V1, C1, N6	8
	K1, K5, K3, C2, C3, N5, K6, N4, K7, N2	10
	N7, K4	15
Slope	<16	1
	16-29 (max N slopes)	5
	30-44	10
	45-54	12
	>55	15
Aspect (>15% slope)	North	0
	East	5
	<16% slope, all aspect	10
	West	12
	South	15

WUI Risk Classes and their associated summed scores

Very Low	0
Low	0-35
Moderate	35-55
High	55-65
Extreme	>65

These attributes are summed to produce polygons with a final WUI Risk Score. To determine the Fire Threat score, only the distance to structures is used. Buffer distance classes are determined; <200m, 200m-500m and >500m) but only for polygons that had a 'high' or 'extreme' Fire Threat score from previous assessment. In order to determine WUI Risk; those aforementioned polygons within 200m are rated as 'extreme', within 500m are rated as 'high', within 2km are 'moderate', and distances over that are rated 'low'.

Limitations

There are obvious limitations in this method, most notably that not all components of the threat assessment worksheet are scalable to a GIS model, generalizing the Fire Behaviour Threat score. The WUI Risk Score is greatly simplified, as determining the position of structures on a slope, the type of development and the relative position are difficult in an automated GIS process. Structures are considered, but there is no consideration for structure type (also not included on threat assessment worksheet). This method uses the best available information to produce accurate and useable threat assessment across the study area in a format which is required by the UBCM FCFS program.

6.2.4 APPENDIX B-4: PROXIMITY OF FUEL TO THE COMMUNITY

Home and Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zones

Multiple studies have shown that the principal factors regarding home and structure loss to wildfire are the structure’s characteristics and immediate surroundings. The area that determines the ignition potential of a structure to wildfire is referred to as (for residences) the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) or (for critical infrastructure) the Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone (CIIZ).^{68,69} Both the HIZ and CIIZ include the structure itself and three concentric, progressively wider Priority Zones out to 30 m from the structure (Figure 15 below). More details on priority zones can be found in the FireSmart Manual.⁷⁰



⁶⁸ Reinhardt, E., R. Keane, D. Calkin, J. Cohen. 2008. Objectives and considerations for wildland fuel treatment in forested ecosystems of the interior western United States. *Forest Ecology and Management* 256:1997 - 2006.

⁶⁹ Cohen, J. Preventing Disaster Home Ignitability in the Wildland-urban Interface. *Journal of Forestry*. p 15 - 21.

⁷⁰ <https://firesmartcanada.ca/> and <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/firesmart>



Figure 15: FireSmart Home and Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone (HIZ, CIIZ)

It has been found that during extreme wildfire events, most home destruction has been a result of low-intensity surface fire flame exposures, usually ignited by embers (firebrands). Firebrands can be transported long distances ahead of the wildfire, across fire guards and fuel breaks, and accumulate within the HIZ/CIIZ in densities that can exceed 600 embers per square meter. Combustible materials found within the HIZ/CIIZ combine to provide fire pathways allowing spot surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames or smoldering fire into contact with structures.

6.3 APPENDIX C: WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT – WORKSHEETS AND PHOTOS

Provided separately as PDF package.

6.4 APPENDIX D: MAPS

Provided separately as PDF package.

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan



Regional District of Central Kootenay

Electoral Area I

December 20, 2023

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REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL SIGN AND SEAL

RPF PRINTED NAME	
Louis Orieux	RPF #5147
DATE SIGNED	
December 18, 2023	
I certify that the work described herein fulfills the standards expected of a member of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals and that I did personally supervise the work.	
Registered Professional Forester Signature and Seal	
	

Cover Photo: B. Farrell (B.A. Blackwell & Associates Ltd.)

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- Garrett Fishlock (RDCK FireSmart Program Coordinator)
- Nora Hannon (RDCK Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Senior Advisor)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2023, B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. was retained by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) to assist Electoral Area I (EA-I) in developing a new Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP). A CWRP is both a localized risk assessment and an action plan to improve wildfire resiliency within EA-I's Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). This plan replaces the previous Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) completed for EA-I in 2016, accounting for changes that have occurred in the last seven years and taking advantage of the newest community wildfire planning framework in BC. The CWRP is founded on the application of the [seven FireSmart™ disciplines](#) (Education, Legislation and Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-training, Emergency Planning, and Vegetation Management).

EA-I has made full or partial progress with six of 34 of the 2016 CWPP recommendations. The recommendations addressed primarily related to delivering public FireSmart and wildfire education and prescribing and treating proposed fuel treatment units. As the Electoral Area's communities (and associated WUI) are spread out over a significant distance surrounding Sentinel Mountain, community wildfire resiliency is strongly tied to the actions of the communities and their residents, the Provincial government, and the relevant stakeholders managing the timber harvest land base. Maintaining meetings of the Castlegar Area FireSmart and Resiliency Committee (and ensuring local volunteer fire department Fire Chiefs are included), which EA-I is part of, will be essential to implementing this plan and achieving effective wildfire risk reduction throughout the electoral area.

EA-I's WUI communities are all in a provincially defined Wildland Urban Interface polygon that has a Risk Class of "1", which reflects the highest wildfire risk rating. The Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis assigns a "High" or "Extreme" threat rating to much of the surrounding area. Fieldwork for this CWRP allowed for verified and updated fuel types and wildfire threat assessments to be combined with an office-based analysis to provide a local wildfire risk assessment for the communities. The local analysis determined that, for the assessable area, 32% of EA-I's WUI is classified as a high or extreme fire behavior threat, mostly located on the slopes above (east) of Gibsons Creek, north of Brilliant, and east of Glade – these areas are largely dominated by steeper middle and upper slopes on south and west aspects with conifer-dominated fuel types. The analysis cannot be performed on private land, which covers approximately 55% of EA-I's WUI. This highlights the need to implement risk mitigation programs on private land if community resilience is to be achieved. Conditions on private land can often result in the fire hazard being much higher than in the forest adjacent if there is low compliance with FireSmart principles – which is an issue that was frequently observed through field work. It is important to recognize that in WUI fires, wildland fuels (trees, shrubs, branches, etc.) are not the only fuel available to the fire – houses and their exterior construction materials and landscaping vegetation, cars, barbeque propane tanks, and more (anything that is flammable or combustible) is available fuel.

Rural areas without fire services, or dependent upon small volunteer fire services, rely heavily on the coordination of local resources and the uptake of FireSmart initiatives to be prepared for a wildfire event. It has been found that during extreme wildfire events, most home destruction has been a result of low-

intensity surface fire flame exposures, usually ignited by flying embers (firebrands). Firebrands can be transported long distances ahead of the wildfire, across fire guards and fuel breaks, and accumulate in densities that can exceed 600 embers per square meter. Combustible materials found on the exterior of and surrounding homes (the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone) combine to provide fire pathways allowing spot surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames or smoldering fire into contact with structures.

Because ignitability of structures and landscaping vegetation is the main factor driving structure loss, the intensity and rate of spread of wildland fires beyond the community has not been found to necessarily correspond to loss potential. For example, FireSmart homes with low ignitability may survive high-intensity fires, whereas highly ignitable homes may be destroyed during lower intensity surface fire events. Increasing ignition resistance would reduce the number of homes simultaneously on fire; extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result in WUI fire disasters.¹ It is for this reason that the key to reducing WUI fire structure loss is to reduce structure ignitability. Mitigation responsibility must be centered on structure owners, with support from Local Government.

EA-I's WUI communities can be considered as largely intermix,² with areas/neighbourhoods of interface.³ Wildfire poses a threat to the communities from either a human ignition (which can happen almost anywhere – forest trail, highway, railway line, backyard), or lightning ignition (most often in the adjacent forests near high points of land), but also from a residential fire that then spreads into surrounding vegetation and landscaping. Because of the rural character, remote or isolated locations, and the observed low adherence to FireSmart residential vegetation management and exterior building materials for many structures within EA-I, an emphasis on FireSmart education and FireSmart residential risk reduction policies is made within this Plan. Risk communication, education on the range of available activities, and prioritization of activities should help homeowners to feel empowered to complete simple risk reduction activities on their property. Additional emphasis is placed upon the Provincial government and local timber harvest land base stakeholders to manage potentially hazardous fuel conditions within EA-I's WUI – either through fuel treatments recommended as part of this plan, or by using appropriately targeted harvesting and slash management practices.

A total of 47 recommendation and action items are presented in Table 1 within this Executive Summary and are more thoroughly discussed in their appropriate sections within this Plan. Ultimately, the recommendation and action items within this Plan should be considered as a toolbox of options to help reduce the wildfire risk and consequence to communities with EA-I. RDCK and EA-I will have to further prioritize implementation based on resources, strengths, constraints, and availability of funding, and regularly update the prioritization and course of actions as variables change over time.

¹ Calkin, D., J. Cohen, M. Finney, M. Thompson. 2014. *How risk management can prevent future wildfire disasters in the wildland-urban interface*. Proc Natl Acad Sci U.S.A. Jan 14; 111(2): 746-751. Accessed online 1 June, 2016 at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3896199/>.

² Homes and structures are largely situated within the vegetated/forested landscape.

³ Homes and structures are largely situated adjacent to vegetated/forested landscapes surrounding the community/neighbourhood.

Table 1: Electoral Area-I's Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
<i>Education - Section 5.2</i>							
<i>Residents</i>							
1	High	Continue to apply for funding and employ an EA-I FireSmart Coordinator/Mitigation Specialist.	To provide a continuous, local FireSmart program, delivered by local professionals with local knowledge and connections, to their community. Having a FireSmart Coordinator will provide a lead person with dedicated time to coordinate, manage, and implement the program, especially as it grows.	RDCK	2 years	EA-I has its own FireSmart program being managed by a local FireSmart Coordinator.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
2	High	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators should plan regular meetings to discuss their successes, failures, and learnings. Consider adding, or having specific meetings with, FireSmart Community Neighbourhood Champions.	So that they can continue to improve the RDCK's FireSmart program and tailor it to their respective communities. Adding in Community Champions will allow them to further support their EA's communities, as well as get FireSmart messaging and opportunities back into the communities faster.	FireSmart Coordinators (RDCK)	ASAP and ongoing	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators are meeting more than once a year.	CRI FCFS funding as part of FireSmart Coordinator salaries.
3	High	Continue to promote FireSmart to EA-I residents at community events, public spaces, and through workshops using FireSmart branded material and printed manuals (Home and Landscaping) and/or a FireSmart Canada Community Preparedness Day. Show a united front by having local government, fire department members, and FireSmart coordinators at events together as much as possible.	Observed adherence and uptake of FireSmart principles on private property and many homes/structures in EA-I is lacking. Landscaping (conifer hedges), firewood and combustible materials storage, and external building materials are the biggest issues. FireSmart BC resources help present a unified message. Print resources are popular and easy to distribute. FireSmart branded tents, banners, and t-shirts can be purchased with CRI FCFS funding. Tarrys Fire Chief noted the department had not been part of any public education events. Having representatives from all levels of response and government demonstrates the importance of FireSmart to the public.	EA-I / RDCK/ FireSmart Coordinator	Annually	Quantity of resources distributed/number of times used at events.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
4	High	Update RDCK’s FireSmart webpage with the most recent FireSmart graphics and language. Provide links to the current fire danger rating, or better yet, have that posted on the front of this page (making sure to keep it updated during the fire season).	To continue to provide to most recent and up to date FireSmart information, language, and principles to residents (and visitors).	RDCK	Annually	Website continuously updated as required.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
5	High	Continue the FireSmart social media campaign, with updated FireSmart graphics and language, through various RDCK/EA-I social media platforms (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).	To promote FireSmart information to residents (and visitors). Include links to graphics, videos, pdf information/pamphlet downloads, etc.	EA-I / RDCK	Annually	Ongoing FireSmart social media campaign.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
6	High	Continue to promote FireSmart in School District 8 schools using the FireSmart Education Kit and other resources. Students residing in EA-I attend schools in Castlegar and South Slokan.	Great success has been made through BC schools with FireSmart outreach. Engaging with the community’s younger population may increase uptake with all residents.	RDCK / School District 8	Annually	One FireSmart lesson delivered each year (minimum).	CRI FCFS; e.g. FireSmart Magnetic Board for \$1,710.
7	High	Continue to promote free FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments and/or Home Partners Program assessments to residents.	FireSmart Home Ignition zone and Home Partners Program assessments introduce residents to FireSmart, its principles, fire and wildfire risks associated with their home and property, and how they can be mitigated. These assessments are primarily an educational exercise, and can be funded completely through CRI FCFS. They are a requirement to qualify for the FireSmart rebate program (see Section 5.7).	EA-I / RDCK	2 years	FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments are being completed within EA-I.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
8	Moderate	Consider door-to-door knocks in neighbourhoods (such as Pass Creek) that have communication constraints to discuss wildfire risk and FireSmart principles that they can apply to their home and property.	Although wildfire can affect all areas of EA-I’s WUI, some communities are more at risk due to risks/constraints not associated to wildfire – such as no cell service and low community turnouts at public FireSmart events. Door to door knocks by Fire Chiefs, fire department personnel, and FireSmart Coordinators have been successful in other communities.	RDCK / EA-I Fire Response Area Departments / FireSmart Coordinators	2 years	Visits to homes in these WUI neighbourhoods from local government/ FireSmart/ fire department members (with FireSmart information left at their door) have started.	In-house personnel time. CRI FCFS for FireSmart materials.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
9	Moderate	Increase public awareness of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.	Increasing awareness of wildfire risk also increases community resiliency through household emergency planning, and support for FireSmart.	EA-I / RDCK	1 year from CWRP completion	Awareness by residents - consider a survey.	Staff time to update website, and media posts. Newspaper ads ~\$300 each.
<i>Visitors</i>							
10	High	Install FireSmart educational signage at regional parks.	These signs provide both visitors and residents a quick snapshot of how their actions and activities can inadvertently increase wildfire and ignition risks, as well as introduces visitors to FireSmart – a message they can take home with them.	EA-I / RDCK	5 years (signs installed)	Wildfire risk signs at the highest traffic parks have signs.	Sign cost ~\$800 for purchase and installation per sign.
<i>Legislation, Planning and Development - Section 5.3</i>							
11	High	Upon the roll-out of the new BC Building Code in 2024, RDCK should review and assess what FireSmart principles are included and compare them to the draft Wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs). Update the draft DPAs as required. Initiate a process to implement the wildfire DPAs, if still required, to manage for risks not addressed in the new Code. Consider the inclusion of EA-I WUI communities.	FireSmart construction and landscaping policies manage for wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa). Over time, resiliency will be built up at the interface and intermix areas.	EA-I / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon BC Building Code roll out	All new development complies with the policy.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
12	High	Update references to “fire risk” in EA-I’s OCP to include referencing the Local Wildfire Risk Analysis developed as part of this plan, as it more accurately reflects current fire risk for EA-I’s WUI than currently available provincial data.	EA-I should look to the most recent and accurate wildfire risk analysis for its WUI to be used to determine areas of Moderate and High wildfire threat for reducing wildfire threat through community planning and development purposes.	EA-I / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon next OCP review and update	OCP update that includes FireSmart construction/dev development policies for single home and lot development and major renovations.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
13	High	Include a policy in EA-I's OCP which supports protection of <i>designated</i> accesses to water sources such as hydrants, standpipes, lakes, and streams to remain free of obstructions for fire protection purposes.	Water is the most important resource for fighting wildland and structure fires. As such, policies regarding regular access points for fire trucks to known water sources (such as Kootenay River) should be identified, designated, and protected.	EA-I / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon next OCP review and update	OCP update that protects fire department access to designated water source access points.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost
14	High	Consider adopting a Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw to restrict flammable landscaping. Example: prohibit conifer vegetation in the Immediate Zone of a residence or structure (0-1.5 m) and prohibit the planting of new conifer vegetation in Priority Zone 1 (1.5-10 m). Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout the Township, especially on more densely populated streets. This can be an effective communication tool regardless of enforcement capacity.	Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout EA-I, especially on more densely populated streets. Landscaping vegetation can act as a wick, moving fire to homes/structures and throughout communities.	EA-I / RDCK (Consultant)	5 years	A Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw is in effect.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost
15	High	Continue to conduct FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments for public works and community/government buildings. Conduct FireSmart mitigation as soon as possible (vegetation management, material upgrades). Set a priority sequence for assessment based on wildfire response and post-wildfire recovery. Encourage and support privately owned community halls that act as community shelters, and private or community owned critical infrastructure, to do the same.	Protecting water systems, emergency shelters, and community infrastructure is critical to wildfire response and recovery. Assessments have already been completed for EA-I fire halls.	EA-I / RDCK (Local FireSmart Representative; FireSmart Coordinator; and/or Consultant)	Ongoing	Number of assessments completed and mitigation hours/investment	CRI FCFS: up to \$800 per assessment and up to \$50,000 for mitigation per structure (publicly owned only)

Cross Training & Fire Department Resources - Section 5.4

Training

16	High	Continue to provide SPP-WFF1 training in-house to EA-I fire department members and consider having some members take 'train-the-trainer' courses so that more courses (e.g., S-231, WSPP-115) can be delivered in-house.	This would provide an opportunity to expand in-house wildland specific training, and potentially train adjacent fire departments.	RDCK / Fire Response Area Fire Departments	Annually	Number of firefighters (both paid and on-call volunteer) with wildland training beyond SPP-WFF1 increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS Training. Columbia Basin Trust funding.
17	High	Support FireSmart specific training to EA-I fire response area fire departments: FireSmart 101, Local FireSmart Representative (LFR), and FireSmart Home Partners Mitigation Specialists.	To build understanding and knowledge of FireSmart principles within local fire departments. To certify EA-I fire department members so they can implement various FireSmart assessments within the community.	RDCK / Fire Response Area Fire Departments	3 years	Number of firefighters (both paid and on-call volunteer) with FireSmart training increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS Training.
18	High	EA-I fire response area fire departments should continue seeking out (and being supported by RDCK/EA-I in doing so) opportunities to perform wildfire response and structure protection drills - using hydrants, standpipes, and natural water sources, <i>with</i> BCWS.	Fast and effective deployment of available Structure Protection Units (two are owned by RDCK) and any additional equipment operated by the BCWS will be crucial in any interface fire scenario. Equipment compatibilities and/or differences between fire departments & BCWS should be identified and addressed ahead of time. Tarrys Fire Department noted that more training opportunities with BCWS would be greatly beneficial.	RDCK / Fire Response Area Fire Departments (BCWS)	Annually	A Drill is performed with BCWS and one EA-I fire department annually.	Staff time as required.

Water							
19	High	Identify and map natural and artificial water sources useable for fire suppression across the entire regional district. Consider standpipe locations along Kootenay River for development. Having a digital map would allow it to be uploaded into response vehicles' CAD systems, shared with BCWS response personnel, as well as included in the pre-planning of emergency community water delivery systems connecting major natural water sources with interface communities, to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. Include important details such as: estimated water volume and access point notes. Share this information to all mutual aid fire response partners, and update over time.	Most of the firefighting service in EA-I requires water shuttling. This impacts EA-I's wildfire resilience. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers (and more easily from standpipes) to fill bladders can be pre-planned, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps, and piping.	Fire Response Area Fire Departments (RDCK GIS department; BCWS; MOTI; MOE)	5 years and ongoing	A fire suppression water source plan and map are produced and shared.	CRI FCFS Community Water Delivery Assessment – Up to \$10,700 to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
20	High	In coordination with Recommendation #19, create opportunities for BCWS to work with independent water systems to identify assets. Assist those communities in retrofitting their systems to be compatible, if required.	Reducing barriers to BCWS for accessing water sources in the WUI increases opportunities to fight WUI fires.	RDCK / FireSmart Coordinator (BCWS)	Annually	Communities with self-managed water systems are meeting with BCWS	RDCK/EA-I, BCWS, and community time.
21	Moderate	Fire response area fire departments should seek Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation from Fire Underwriters Survey.	This accreditation certifies that the fire department can supply enough water to have some areas without fire hydrants within a certain distance of their structures qualify as having a fire hydrant within 300m of it (this can also potentially lower insurance rates for property owners within the EA-I fire response areas). Note: this does not increase the overall water supply already available under automatic and mutual aid agreements.	Fire Response Area Fire Departments (RDCK)	5 years	Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation achieved.	Fire department staff time as required (and RDCK budget for equipment upgrades and purchases, if needed).

<i>Equipment & Staff</i>							
22	High	In coordination with Recommendations #18 and #19, the EA-I fire departments should continue (or begin, if not done already) annual inspections by BCWS of their wildland firefighting equipment. Any gaps should be addressed, as required.	To ensure proper equipment is available to respond to interface wildfire events, and that equipment is compatible with BCWS's. CRI FCFS funding is available for incremental equipment purchases.	EA-I fire departments (RDCK; BCWS)	Annually	Annual inspection of wildland firefighting equipment from BCWS; gaps filled as practicable.	Fire department and RDCK staff time; CRI FCFS equipment funding up to cost maximums.
<i>Interagency Cooperation - Section 5.5</i>							
23	High	Continue to engage with the established Castlegar Area FireSmart and Resiliency Committee (CFRC) to plan, implement, and coordinate FireSmart initiatives, including fuel management treatments. Look to include EA-I volunteer fire department Fire Chiefs.	To provide a platform for information sharing. All parties have indicated a willingness for collaboration, which will allow for greater management of wildfire risk both within and surrounding EA-I's WUI.	Castlegar CFRC	Ongoing	CFRC FireSmart meeting takes place at least once annually.	At least 8 hours per meeting to prepare, participate and debrief. CRI FCFS up to \$2,000 per meeting.
24	High	As communities self-organize for FireSmart initiatives, and even take up the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (see Recommendation #46), RDCK and EA-I should look to support their inclusion in a Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC), or develop local sub-committees, as required.	To further community involvement in FireSmart and wildfire risk reduction activities at the community level.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Additions to existing CFRCs are made, as required, or new ones are established, as needed.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
25	High	Work with RDCK, CFRC members, and MOF to develop a fuel treatment/fuel break tracking system to spatially manage proposed and completed fuel management areas both within EA-I's WUI and outside it at the regional level.	It is imperative that all land managers know what adjacent or overlapping jurisdictions have identified as fuel breaks, so that time and money is not wasted reassessing or re-prescribing an area.	EA-I/Castlegar CFRC / MOF / RDCK	As soon as possible	A regional GIS tracking system is established, or a provincial one is developed that CFRC members can access.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.

26	High	Lobby forest land licensee/managers (e.g., BC Timber Sales) to be aware of where their tenure overlaps EA-I's WUI and to develop and implement (or continue implementing) forest planning, harvesting, slash management, and reforestation plans that reduce wildfire behaviour in these areas.	Cutblock placement can break up the forest continuity across the landscape – with proper slash and reforestation management, they can remain as areas of low wildfire behaviour for many years. However, if not managed properly, they can increase wildfire behaviour.	RDCK / EA-I / Local Government elected officials/ Community members (MOF; Forest Licensees and Managers)	Ongoing	Forest licensees/managers are aware of their tenure overlaps with the WUI and are actively working towards forest management plans to reduce wildfire behaviour in those areas.	RDCK/EA-I staff time for discussions.
27	High	Lobby and work with the electrical power providers in and influencing the community's WUI, MOTI for Provincial highways, and rail line owners/operators to regularly maintain their right-of-way's vegetation.	Transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions - trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways. Highways can also provide excellent fuel breaks if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. If not, they can act as wicks moving fire along them, or ignition sources for fires from burning cars, cigarette butts, sparks, etc. Additionally, highways are a main access/egress route during an emergency – these routes should be kept at as low risk of state as possible.	RDCK / EA-I Local Government elected officials (MOTI; Electrical Providers; Railways)	Yearly and ongoing	Right-of-way maintenance discussions are open and ongoing; right-of-ways are kept in low-risk states.	RDCK/EA-I staff time for discussions.
Emergency Planning - Section 5.6							
28	High	Continue tabletop wildfire scenario tabletop exercises with emergency management and CFRC partners. Yearly, pre-fire season is best. Move the "WUI fire" to a different area of EA-I's WUI each time.	Tabletop exercises provide an opportunity to identify weak spots in a plan and collaborate.	RDCK (EA-I/Castlegar CFRC; RCMP; BCWS)	5 years	Knowledge of 'pinch points' in an evacuation scenario and understanding of roles and responsibilities.	CRI FCFS Emergency Planning: up to \$2,000 per meeting. Possibly CRI / CEPF / Columbia Basin Trust

29	High	<p>Consider updating EA-I's OCP with guidelines stating private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment.</p> <p>Discuss with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) possible means supporting/enforcing that private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment.</p>	<p>Access by emergency responders to the WUI is paramount towards both defending communities from WUI fire events, but also for aiding in fuel treatment practicability.</p> <p>This constraint is recognized in EA-F's Rural Community Official Plan in section 18.3.8 which, "Encourages that private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment."</p>	RDCK (MOF; BCWS; Local Fire Response Area Departments)	5 years	OCP updated as required and access roads through private land to the interface forest are maintained.	RDCK/EA-I time for planning and discussions. CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 for incremental staff hours or contract cost.
30	High	RDCK and EA-I should continue to promote the Voyent Alert! System to residents and visitors.	Clear, consistent, concise, and quick communication during an emergency event and evacuation are integral to the prevention of loss of life. A lack of this was identified as an issue during recent WUI fire disasters, such as that in Lahaina, Maui, USA and Fort McMurray, Alberta.	RDCK (FireSmart Coordinator)	Ongoing	Continued update of the Voyent Alert! System (can track downloads from app providers).	RDCK for promotion.
31	High	RDCK should have appropriate signage designating shoreline access routes for secondary boat egress for Glade which relies on ferry or private boat for access/egress.	To expedite egress during an emergency evacuation in a community already significantly constrained.	RDCK / EA-I	5 years	All public shoreline access/egress routes are marked (a series of signs from main roads to access points is best).	RDCK: Cost/time dependent on number of access points and signs required.
32	High	Invest in back-up generators for any critical infrastructure that does not have one (including fire halls). Encourage private businesses that provide critical services, like gas stations and grocery stores, to follow suit.	Back-up generators for pumphouses, treatment plants, and community buildings (especially those designated as emergency shelters) would facilitate both emergency response (water supply for suppression) and rapid community return and recovery following a fire.	RDCK / EA-I (Private Industry)	ASAP	A budget and purchase plan for back-up generators is implemented, starting with the most critical infrastructure.	Cost varies - ~\$10,000

33	High	Initiate a roof-top sprinkler program for residential properties. Investigate bulk orders from wildfire protection or irrigation companies or commercial gutter-mount kits. Consider sprinkler kits as an incentive to communities/neighbourhoods for FireSmart participation. Discuss with local Fire Departments and BCWS what mounting/sprinkler types are best. This can be directly led by RDCK, or RDCK can offer support to local fire departments and community organizations to assist doing so.	Pre-installed rooftop sprinklers reduce the time and resources needed to set up a structural protection system in a community threatened by wildfire. Sprinkler installation could be paired with a free FireSmart Assessment.	RDCK / EA-I	1 Year and Ongoing	Establish an efficient and effective system. Track the number and location of sprinklers purchased and installed annually.	Bulk sprinklers \$40 - \$100 each; gutter mount kits ~\$100-200 for one home
34	High	Schedule regular updates of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan: target every 5 years.	A current and acceptable CWRP is required for funding under the CRI FCFS program. Update the wildfire threat for areas with completed fuel treatments and identify additional areas for treatment.	RDCK / EA-I	5 years – 2028 update	EA-I always has a current and acceptable CWRP.	~\$32,000; CRI FCFS funding
35	Moderate	Pre-plan emergency community water delivery systems to connect major natural water sources with interface communities/neighbourhoods to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. This can be supported by Recommendation #19. The Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group has been working on this since 2023 (see Section 5.4).	RDCK has many large natural water bodies and streams/creeks to draw from in the event of a wildfire. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers to fill bladders may be planned in advance, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps and piping.	RDCK / EA-I (BCWS)	5 Years	Assess community water delivery for each neighbourhood. Develop and test neighbourhood specific plans.	CRI: Assessment of Community Water Delivery Ability - incremental staff hours or contract cost
Vegetation Management - Section 5.7							
<i>Fuel Management Treatments</i>							
37	High	Develop fuel management prescriptions for the identified Potential Fuel Treatment Units (PTUs), starting with those identified as High priority. Continue with treatment implementation when possible.	To reduce wildfire threat and risk to interface and intermix communities within the WUI. Also, to provide FireSmart vegetation management examples to the public that can be implemented on their own properties. See "Rationale" column in Table 25 for more detailed treatment rationales.	EA-I / MOF / BCWS	5 years	Approved FMP(s) for identified High priority areas.	CRI FCFS funding available for prescription and treatments; ~\$425/hectare for a ~20 ha prescription

38	High	Lobby Provincial Government (Ministry of Forests) and other potential funding organizations for grant funds to implement landscape level fuel treatment on private land.	Much of EA-I's communities' structures are surrounded by undeveloped, forested private land. Current funding streams for fuel reduction at the landscape level are targeted, and thus limited, to public land. However, the interface wildland does not stop at the public/private land border.	Local Government (Provincial Government)	5 years	Discussions initiated and ongoing	Time and cost dependant upon level of engagement required.
<i>Residential FireSmart</i>							
39	High	In conjunction with provided home FireSmart Assessments (see Recommendation #7), continue offering a local rebate program to property owners that have completed a FireSmart home assessment (Home Ignition Zone assessment or Home Partners Program Mitigation assessment). RDCK, EA-I, and FireSmart coordinators should advertise that the amount eligible for rebate has increased to \$5000 for the CRI FCFS 2024 application program.	FireSmart home assessments encourage action in the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone of a community. Offer a rebate program (funded through CRI FCFS) to residents who have a pre- and post-work FireSmart assessment conducted. Focus on removal of conifer hedges and upgrading exterior structure materials.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	Annually	Number of properties participating annually.	50% of costs per property up to \$5,000, plus 2 hours administration time per property (CRI FCFS).
40	High	Continue providing regional district-led options for the disposal of yard waste. Currently, this includes having tipping fees waived (May and October) for yard waste at the RDCK transfer stations/landfills.	Yard waste burning restrictions limit options for debris disposal. Free debris disposal may be used as an incentive to participate in other FireSmart activities, like assessments or workshops.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	Annual	Municipally funded yard waste disposal continues.	CRI FCFS funding is available for tipping fee coverage.
41	High	Consider implementing a community chipper program. Education of FireSmart yard and landscaping principles, including chipping specifications, should be incorporated into the program.	To reduce fire and wildfire hazards on private property within the WUI, especially those long distances from RDCK landfills/transfer stations, and to promote FireSmart vegetation management knowledge and education. The intent is for landscaping/yard vegetation to be included, not farm or agriculture vegetation. This could assist with more uptake of residential FireSmart landscaping principles as the disposal method is brought to the resident, especially for those older and less mobile.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	Annual (pre-fire season is best)	Number of properties who elect to have debris disposed.	CRI FCFS funding; ~\$100-150 per chipper crew hour.
42	Moderate	Consider releasing an annual RDCK FireSmart report to the public that tracks community-specific uptake in various FireSmart initiatives, as well as tracks fuel management at all scales.	As the program grows, reporting allows the RDCK FireSmart program to track challenges and successes, further promote the program, and tailor outreach methods to achieve the most uptake.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	Annual	An annual report is published.	Eligible for CRI funding – FireSmart staff time. Estimate 40-80 hours.

43	Moderate	Engage with local garden centers to implement the FireSmart BC Plant [Tagging] Program.	FireSmart BC introduced a plant tagging program in 2021 that has been implemented with great success by over 34 nurseries and garden centres to date. The Plant Program is an easy way to provide information at the point of purchase for homeowners and landscapers. See: https://firesmartbc.ca/landscaping-hub/plant-program/	Local Garden Centres (RDCK; EA-I FireSmart Coordinator)	5 years	Local garden centres have been notified of the program.	Staff time for engagement (2-4 hours per garden centre).
<i>Community and Critical Infrastructure FireSmart</i>							
44	High	Implement recommended vegetation management recommendations from FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone Assessments (see Recommendation #15), when completed, on a priority basis.	To reduce fire behavior and risks to critical infrastructure most important to fire and wildfire fighting and post-wildfire recovery.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	5 years	High priority critical infrastructure has had FireSmart vegetation management completed.	CRI FCFS funding up to \$53,500 per municipal infrastructure (vegetation management included).
45	High	As part of fuel treatment implementation, RDCK/EA-I should develop interpretive signage to demonstrate pre- and post-fuel treatment forest stands conditions.	Interpretive signage could include text explaining the purpose of the fuel management treatment, connection to the CWRP, and FireSmart practices residents nearby can take to reduce wildfire hazards around their yards and homes.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	5 years	Signage installed during implementation phases.	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.
46	High	Continue to support and promote the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program to communities within EA-I. Identify community champions to spearhead organization for those communities not already organized, and support those communities that have been recognized in the past to continue working towards being so.	There are many small communities throughout EA-I that, by working together, could reduce their community-scale wildfire risk easily and substantially. The program supports a small-scale approach for neighbourhoods consisting of 5-50 homes, with the intent to implement achievable FireSmart goals	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Increase in number of recognized communities.	FireSmart Canada \$500; RDCK FireSmart Champion Grant up to \$3000
47	Moderate	As part of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP), apply to CRI FCFS for funding to develop Neighbourhood FireSmart Plans.	To help guide FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program communities and their community champions to complete wildfire risk reduction measures.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	In line with FCNRP Community program uptake.	Communities working towards FCNRP status have a Neighbourhood Plan	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.

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FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS

AOI	Area of Interest
BC	British Columbia
BCWS	British Columbia Wildfire Service
BEC	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification
CFFDRS	Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System
CRI	Community Resiliency Investment
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
CWRP	Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan
DPA	Development Permit Area
EA	Electoral Area
FBP	Fire Behavior Prediction System
FCFS	FireSmart Community Funding and Supports: Stream 1 of the UBCM CRI Program
HIZ	Home Ignition Zone
MOF	Ministry of Forests
MOTI	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
NDT	Natural Disturbance Type
PSTA	Provincial Strategic Threat Assessment
PTU	Proposed Treatment Unit
RDCK	Regional District Central Kootenay
UBCM	Union of British Columbia Municipalities
WRR	Wildfire Risk Reduction: Stream 2 of the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program, administered by the Ministry of Forests
WTA	Wildfire Threat Assessment
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

In June 2023, B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. was retained by the Regional District Central Kootenay (RDCK) to develop a new Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) for Electoral Area (EA) I. A CWRP has its roots in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) framework, which was originally established in BC in response to the series of devastating wildfires in 2003. This plan replaces the previous 2016 RDCK Electoral Area I CWPP. Recent wildfire disasters like those experienced in Oregon State (2020), Washington State (2014, 2015, 2020, 2023), Fort McMurray, Alberta (2016), BC (2017, 2018, 2021, 2023), and California (2017, 2018, 2020) continue to display the vulnerability of communities and the potential toll of wildfires on families, neighbourhoods, public health, and the economy of entire regions. These events, along with important advances in loss prevention programs, have spurred the need for greater consideration and due diligence concerning fire risk in the wildland-urban interface (WUI).⁴ CWRPs are an invaluable opportunity to proactively manage wildfire risk and increase community resilience to wildfire.

CWRPs are currently being developed at many jurisdictional and geographic scales, and are individually tailored to address the needs of different communities in response to their size, their capacity, and the unique threats that they face. Despite these differences, the goals of a CWRP remain the same and are founded in the seven FireSmart disciplines: Education, Legislation & Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-Training, Emergency Planning and Vegetation Management.

CWRPs are funded in BC by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) under the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) Program. As per funding requirements, this CWRP is completed according to the 2022 CRI template.

1.1 PLAN PURPOSE AND GOALS

This plan accounts for changes that have occurred since EA-I's last CWPP and takes advantage of the most recent community wildfire planning framework in BC. This CWRP identifies the interface wildfire risk within EA-I's WUI communities, and gives RDCK and EA-I a current and accurate understanding of the threats to human life, infrastructure, and values at risk from wildfire. This CWRP is intended to serve as a framework to guide the implementation of specific actions and strategies to:

- Increase the efficacy of fire suppression and safety of emergency responders,
- Reduce potential impacts and losses to property and critical infrastructure from wildfire, and
- Reduce potential wildfire behavior and threat within the community.

To help guide and accomplish the above strategies, this CWRP will provide RDCK and EA-I with:

- An assessment of wildfire risk to the communities,
- An assessment of values at risk and potential consequences from wildfire,

⁴ Wildland urban interface is defined as the presence of structures in locations in which conditions result in the potential for their ignition from flames and firebrands/embers of a wildland fire (National Fire Protection Association).

- Maps of fuel types and recommended areas for fuel treatments,
- An assessment of emergency response capacity, and
- Options and strategies to reduce wildfire risk through the seven FireSmart disciplines.

1.2 PLAN DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

The CWRP development process consisted of five general phases:

- 1) Formation or confirmation/continuation of the Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC; see Section 5.5). Consultation with the CFRC and information sharing with stakeholders and First Nations occurred throughout.
- 2) Review of relevant plans and legislation regarding emergency response and wildfire (Section 2)
- 3) Description of the community and identification of values at risk (Section 3)
- 4) Assessment of the local wildfire risk (Section 4)
- 5) Analysis and action plan for each of the seven FireSmart disciplines (Section 5)

The following next steps are a suggested route towards operationalizing the recommendations detailed in this CWRP:

1. The CFRC should continue to meet periodically, as needed to coordinate the fulfillment of this report's recommendations (consider annually or bi-annually, before or during the fire season – per Recommendation #23).
 - a. Meetings could include some or all of the parties identified in Section 5.5.
2. The next meeting could be held in Spring-2024. Consider identifying recommendations to allocate resources to, and pursue funding for, from the 2024 UBCM CRI funding intake at this time.
 - a. Consider meeting well in advance of the UBCM CRI application deadline (early October 2024), in order to discuss upcoming projects and align activities and initiatives where possible.
 - b. RDCK will apply for UBCM CRI funding and compile final reporting.
 - c. Continued meetings of the CFRC would be a suitable venue to identify if additional support is needed to fulfill the targeted recommendations.
 - i. Additional support might be required in order to coordinate activities that will bridge more than one funding year (i.e., prioritizing, prescribing and supervising implementation of vegetation management; coordinating plan and policy review) or that require more time and resources currently available to any one CFRC member (e.g., potentially some FireSmart education recommendations).
 - ii. Consultant support or a term contract salary could be incorporated into the UBCM CRI application accordingly.
3. In subsequent meetings, members from different agencies could share information about actions taken to fulfill recommendations.

Documentation of the status of CWRP recommendations could be compiled and maintained alongside these meetings.

SECTION 2: RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS AND LEGISLATION

Wildfires can affect all aspects of a community. As a result, numerous RDCK plans and neighbouring jurisdictions relate to this CWRP. This section reviews all relevant plans, policies, bylaws, guidelines and provincial legislation to identify sections within that are relevant to community wildfire planning and response.

2.1 LINKAGES TO CWPPS/CWRPS

Regional District of Central Kootenay Area I Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update - 2016⁵

In 2016, B.A. Blackwell & Associates completed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan update for the Regional District of Central Kootenay Area I. The scope of this plan was a two-kilometer buffer around all residences and critical infrastructure based on WUI density criteria. A tabularized review of the 2016 recommendations and their implementation status is presented in Appendix A. Overall, completed activities have primarily fallen within the FireSmart Education discipline, but some recommended fuel treatments have been prescribed and/or treated, and there is now an active Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (Castlegar Area FireSmart and Resiliency Committee).

Listed below are jurisdictions adjacent EA-I that have been involved in community wildfire planning. *Strategic opportunities exist between these plans and should be considered.*

- RDCK Electoral Area E CWRP 2023 – concurrently in development.⁶
- RDCK Electoral Area I CWRP 2023 – concurrently in development.⁶
- City of Nelson CWRP 2022 – recently completed.⁶

2.2 LOCAL PLANS AND BYLAWS

The sections and policies of Kootenay-Columbia Rivers Official Community Plan (OCP) listed in Table 2 are directly relevant to proactive wildfire resilience in EA-I. The OCP was reviewed as part of this CWRP to address any gaps or limitations that inadequately address fire hazards or risk mitigation. Due to the last major update of the OCP being from 1996, a major gap is that FireSmart is not mentioned in any policies and Wildfire as a risk has a very limited scope within the Plan. Updating the Plan with a full review of doing so, as well as including management policies specific to single home/lot and subdivision development or renovations is recommended (see Section 5.3).

⁵<https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Services/Emergency~Management/Documents/RDCK%20Area%20I%20CWPP%20January%208%202018%20Final%20Draft.pdf>

⁶ By B.A. Blackwell & Associates Ltd and Cathro Consulting Ltd.

Table 2: Summary of North Kootenay Lake Electoral Area I's (Kootenay-Columbia Rivers) Official Community Plan and its relationship to this CWRP.

Section [Kootenay-Columbia Rivers Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1157, 1996] ⁷	Policy Description / Relationship to CWRP
2.8 Servicing Objective	<p>2.8.3: To provide for an adequate level of fire protection within the Plan Area.</p> <p><i>This will include appropriate training, tools, and equipment for fire response area fire departments (addressed in Section 5.4)</i></p>
3.9 Community Service Policies	<p>3.9.1: Community Services permitted on lots designated for Community Service on Schedule 'B' - Land Use Designations, shall include public recreation facilities, community halls, public utility structures and services, schools, universities/colleges, firehalls, greenspace, museums, hospitals and similar uses.</p> <p><i>Imbedding policies to upgrade existing, or develop from new, Community Service structures and open/green spaces that are FireSmart will lead to reduced wildfire risk within communities as well as reduced wildfire risk to those assets designated as emergency shelters (addressed in Section 5.3).</i></p> <p>3.9.4: The Board of the Regional District will continue to maintain and enhance fire protection throughout the Plan Area.</p> <p><i>This will include appropriate training, tools, and equipment for fire response area fire departments (addressed in Section 5.4). Wildfire protection can begin/continue by implementing recommendations within this Plan.</i></p> <p>3.9.6: New and improved domestic water supply systems shall be designed and constructed to provide hydrants and sufficient flows for fire protection and the Regional District recommends to Improvement and Irrigation Districts, the City of Castlegar and the Regional District of Central Kootenay owned water systems that the same utility standards be used so that in case of emergencies, fire equipment can be interchanged and critical repairs made.</p> <p><i>Access to reliable, local water sources is paramount for first responder and BCWS firefighting effectiveness. Addressed in Section 5.4)</i></p>

The local bylaws listed in Table 3 are directly relevant to proactive wildfire resilience in EA-I. These bylaws were reviewed as part of the CWRP to address any gaps or limitations that inadequately address fire hazards or risk mitigation.

⁷ https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Government/Bylaws/Land~Use-Planning/1157-I J_OCP_Consolidated_2787.pdf

Table 3: Summary of local bylaws and their relationship to the CWRP.

Bylaws	Section	Description and <i>Relation to CWRP</i>
Building Bylaw No. 2200 (2010)	18.4	<p>Fire stopping components must be in place before insulation and exterior sheathing are installed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Addresses the need for fire protection in new construction to manage room-to-room and structure-to-structure fire transmission.</i> - <i>To manage wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa), FireSmart principles were developed to address this gap. Currently, to mandate exterior construction materials and landscaping beyond the BC Building Code and the building bylaw, a Development Permit Area can be implemented (see Section 5.3). Note: the BC Building Code is currently being updated, with roll out planned for late-2024, and may include FireSmart standards.</i>
	5.1	<p>Outlines administrative structure and roles of Emergency Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Provides structure and guidelines in times of emergency.</i>
Emergency Management Regulatory Use Bylaw No. 2210 (amended by Bylaw No. 2758 in 2021)	Amended Bylaw No. 2758	<p>Adds “mitigation” into the description of the Emergency Program and Emergency Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>RDCK to develop, coordinate and manage emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. This would include from wildfires.</i>
	8.8.3	<p>Fires shall be made only in stoves, incinerators, or other structures designed for that purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks in structures made largely from ignitable and combustible materials.</i>
Manufactured Home Parks Bylaw No. 1082 (1995)	8.8.4	<p>If no approved fire hydrant is available to provide protection, a minimum of one (1) stagnant water supply at a minimum of 15,539 litres (6000 lgal) shall be provided on site in order to be accessed in case of emergency for fire protection purposes on properties serviced by Fire Protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Increases assurance of useful water supply systems in the event of a fire to responding fire departments.</i>
	22	<p>No person shall start or maintain a fire in a park, except in facilities provided at a park for that purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i>
Parks Regulation – Consolidated Bylaw No. 2173	24	<p>No person shall leave a fire in a park unattended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i>
	25	<p>No person shall burn any unsuitable materials including but not limited to organic yard waste, household waste, plastic, rubber, flammable or combustible liquid, or any treated lumber or construction debris, or toxic waste.</p>

Bylaws	Section	Description and <i>Relation to CWRP</i>
		<p>- <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
	52	<p>No person shall possess or discharge Fireworks, firecrackers or explosive materials of any kind in a park, except for an event authorized by a park use permit.</p> <p>- <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
<p>Resource Recovery Facilities Regulatory Bylaw No. 2905</p>	8 (15)	<p>No person other than the Site Operator or Service Personnel or their representative shall start any fires at any Resource Recovery Facility.</p> <p>- <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
<p>Volunteer Fire Service Regulation Bylaw No. 2769</p>	4.1	<p>Jurisdiction of each Fire Department, and the powers granted to each Fire Department and its Fire Chief and Members under this Bylaw, is restricted to the boundaries of the Fire Department's particular Fire Protection Service Area as set out in its establishment bylaw. A Fire Department shall not respond to any Incident under this Bylaw outside of the boundaries of its Fire Protection Service Area except as specified in Section 4(2)(a) to (f) of this Bylaw.</p> <p>- <i>Outlines jurisdictional limits of fire departments, which may impact rural communities with no immediate fire service (see Section 5.6).</i></p>
	4.2	<p>Apparatus and Fire Department Equipment shall not be taken beyond the geographical limits of the jurisdiction for reasons other than repair, maintenance, or training unless: (a) a written agreement, approved by the Regional District, authorizes the supply of Members, Apparatus, Fire Department Equipment, Fire Protection Services and Associated Services to another jurisdiction; or (b) under the authority of the CAO, the Regional Fire Chief, or the Emergency Operations Center Director; or (c) in connection with a request for assistance by a the Office of the Fire Commissioner, or a Federal or Provincial emergency response Agency; or (d) in connection with an Incident near the boundaries of the Fire Service Protection Area which, if left untended, may threaten the Fire Service Protection Area or other such Service area; or (e) In the event of a Federal or Provincial State of Emergency; or (f) Under the provision of a bylaw for Associated Services.</p> <p>- <i>Outlines jurisdictional limits of fire departments, which may impact rural communities with no immediate fire service (see Section 5.6).</i></p>
	9.4	<p>No person shall grow shrubs, hedges, plants or trees so as to obstruct the visibility or use of a fire hydrant, standpipe or sprinkler connection.</p> <p>- <i>Provides linkage to FireSmart activities and property preparedness.</i></p>
	10.1	<p>Where this bylaw applies within a municipality the Regional District is authorized to enforce municipal open burning regulations.</p> <p>- <i>Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>

Bylaws	Section	Description and <i>Relation to CWRP</i>
	12.2	The Occupier of a Public Building in which any of the Alarm System, Fire Protection Equipment, or emergency power system is not operating must institute and maintain a Fire Watch until those systems or equipment are operational. <i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i>
Water Bylaw No. 2894	10.4.1	All fire hydrants and standpipes directly connected to Regional District Water Mains are the property of the Regional District. <i>- Outlines RDCK ownership and responsibility relating to water sources.</i>
	11.6.2 (f)	Notwithstanding the prohibitions in this Section, the Manager may authorize in writing the discharge of Regional District supplied water for the purposes of: training programs for fire fighters. <i>- Supports training opportunities for local fire fighters (see Section 5.4).</i>

The local plans listed in Table 4 are directly relevant to proactive wildfire resilience in EA-I. These plans were reviewed as part of the CWRP to address any gaps or limitations that inadequately address fire hazards or risk mitigation.

Table 4: Summary of local plans and policies that are directly relevant to the CWRP.

Plan	Description and <i>Relationship to CWRP</i>
EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PLAN for the Regional District of Central Kootenay	Outlines structural and organizational requirements for coordinated response and recovery from emergencies in the RDCK, including: decision-making tools for evacuation or shelter in place; EOC levels and activation protocols; hazard and evacuation planning; fire planning including industrial, wildfire and structural fires; and, recovery planning. <i>Section 3.10 specifically deals with interface fires/wildfires, indicating that interface fires will be managed using unified command with the Ministry of Forests and local fire department(s) and other local fire departments, where applicable.</i>

2.3 HIGHER-LEVEL PLANS AND LEGISLATION

Table 5 lists higher-level plans and legislation that are relevant to wildfire planning and risk mitigation within EA I and the surrounding area. These plans help guide where and how activities like resource extraction occur on the landscape, which can affect both wildfire threat and consequence. Depending on the location of any proposed fuel management treatments, fuel management prescriptions and prescribed / cultural burn plans may need to address these plans as they relate to on-the-ground restrictions and policies for forest modification.

Table 5: Higher level plans and legislation relevant to EA-I's WUI and this Plan.

Plan/Legislation	Description and <i>Relationship to CWRP</i>
FRPA – Government Action Regulations (GARs)	<p>Multiple GARs are present within EA-I's WUI. These should be considered and managed for appropriately, where present, at the site level through associated site level plans (e.g., Fuel Management Prescriptions). These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Non-legal Old Growth Management Areas</i> ➤ <i>Ungulate Winter Range partial-harvest</i> ➤ <i>Significant fish streams and rivers</i> ➤ <i>Community watersheds</i> ➤ <i>Regionally significant visual areas</i>
BC Provincial Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation	<p>The Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation came into effect in September 2019 and governs open burning relating to land clearing, forestry operations and silviculture, wildlife habitat enhancement, and community wildfire risk reduction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>The entire wildland-urban interface of EA-I is within a High Smoke Sensitivity Zone.</i> ➤ <i>All proposed treatment units are within the High Smoke Sensitivity Zone.</i>
Selkirk Resource District Fire Management Plan	<p>The Selkirk Resource District Kootenay Lake Fire Management Plan (FMP) (MFLNRORD, 2016) identifies values at risk on the landscape and prioritizes broad categories of values as 'themes' for categorizing response through the Resource Strategic Wildfire Allocation Protocol (RSWAP). The four themes are 1) Human Life and Safety, 2) Property and Critical Infrastructure, 3) High Environmental and Cultural Values, and 4) Other resource values (timber, rangelands, etc.).</p> <p><i>The organization of values is intended to provide the information needed to make appropriate fire response decisions in complex emergency situations. This CWRP identifies values within the Plan area with the intent of using this information to make appropriate fire response decisions.</i></p>
BC Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation	<p>The Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation define the legal responsibilities and obligations to which everyone in British Columbia is subject. When the BCWS places bans or restrictions in an area, the Wildfire Act and Regulation make them enforceable.⁸</p> <p><i>Its key goal is to specify responsibilities and obligations on fire use, wildfire prevention, wildfire control, and rehabilitation.⁸</i></p>
Fire Chiefs' Association of BC and BC Wildfire Service MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES	<p>Guides and facilitates the collaboration between the Province and fire departments or by outlining key information regarding resource requests, deployment and response procedures, remuneration guidelines, and other necessary details to effectively manage the partnership. The intent of this Agreement is to further improve the operating procedure, strengthening</p>

⁸ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/about-bcws/governance/legislation-regulations>

Plan/Legislation	Description and <i>Relationship to CWRP</i>
	<p>capacity while providing increased flexibility to share resources in British Columbia, with clear rules of engagement and reimbursement requirements.</p> <p><i>Mutual aid agreements exist between BCWS and RDCK fire services. RDCK fire departments (including those in EA-I) routinely work with BCWS in response to incidents within and outside of Fire Protection and Response Areas.</i></p>

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

This section defines the planning area for this CWRP and provides general demographic information about EA-I. An understanding of population trends, land use patterns, and values at risk can help effectively direct FireSmart outreach and risk mitigation activities.

3.1 WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE

The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is defined by FireSmart Canada as the zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. For the purpose of the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) program, the ‘eligible WUI’ is considered as the area one kilometer from a structure density class greater than six structures per square kilometer. BC Wildfire Service generates WUI Risk Class maps and associated spatial data to assist with initiatives related to wildfire risk reduction, including the FCFS program.⁹

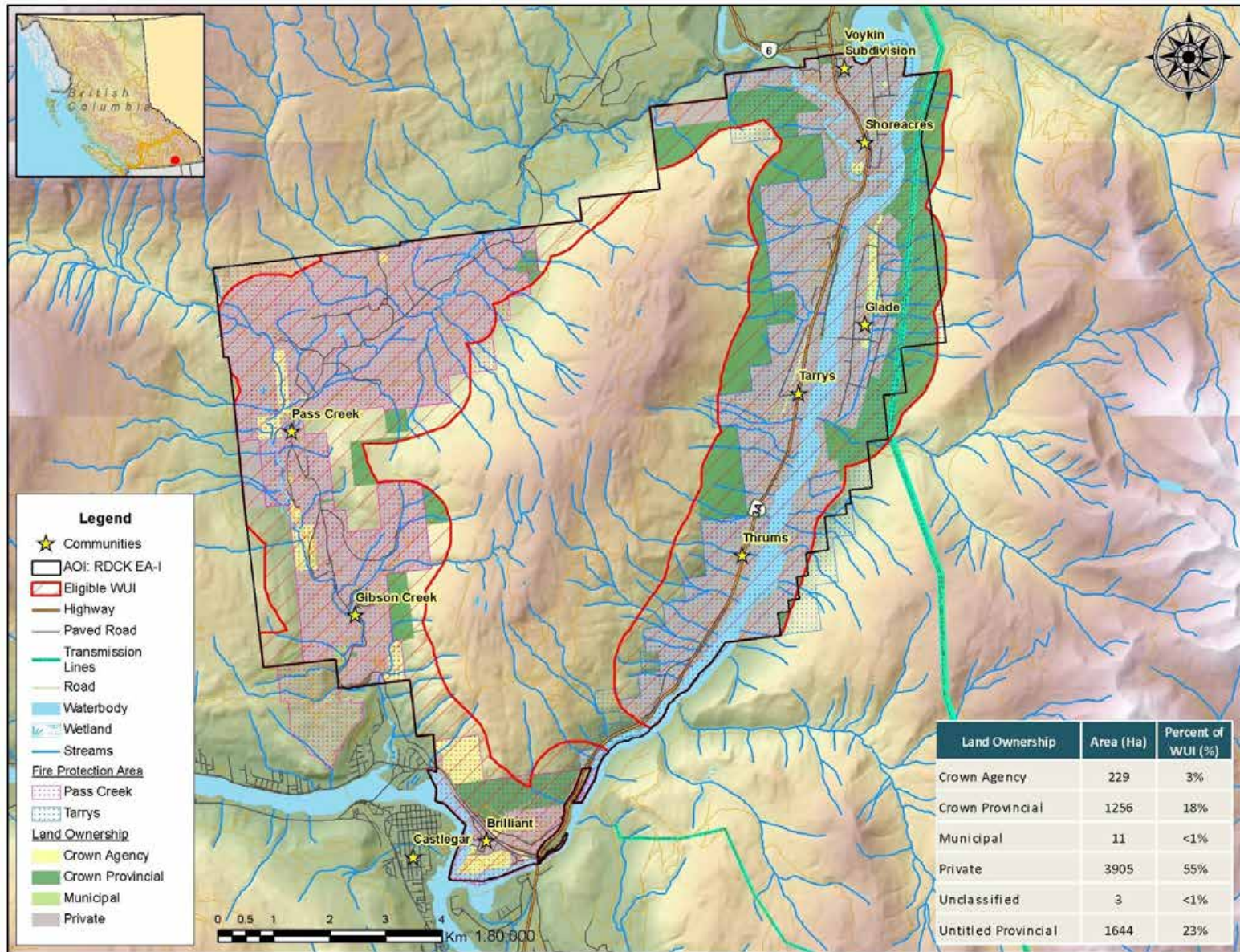
Field work, GIS analysis, and the recommendations for this CWRP cover only this one kilometer ‘eligible WUI’ which covers a total of 7,048 hectares. The electoral area includes residential, industrial, agricultural, and forested areas. Land use is guided by the Official Community Plan as discussed in Section 2.2. As development occurs, it is possible that the WUI will change.

Map 1 shows an overview of the wildland urban interface (WUI) surrounding communities in EA-I, with an approximate breakdown of land ownership type by area listed in Table 6. A significant portion of EA-I’s WUI consists of private land, accounting for approximately 55% of the total land area. This predominance of privately-owned land highlights the importance of proactive FireSmart practices by property owners. The presence of Crown Provincial and Untitled Provincial lands, which collectively make up around 41% of the area, emphasizes the need for collaborative efforts and tailored strategies to address wildfire risk across the jurisdiction.

Table 6: Landownership within EA-I’s WUI.

Land Ownership	Area (Ha)	Percent of WUI (%)
Crown Agency	229	3%
Crown Provincial	1256	18%
Municipal	11	<1%
Private	3905	55%
Unclassified	3	<1%
Untitled Provincial	1644	23%
Crown Agency	229	3%
TOTAL	7048	-

⁹ [Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class Maps - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire/wildland-urban-interface-risk-class-maps)



Map 1: Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) for Electoral Area I. The 'eligible WUI' area is the red diagonally lined polygon.

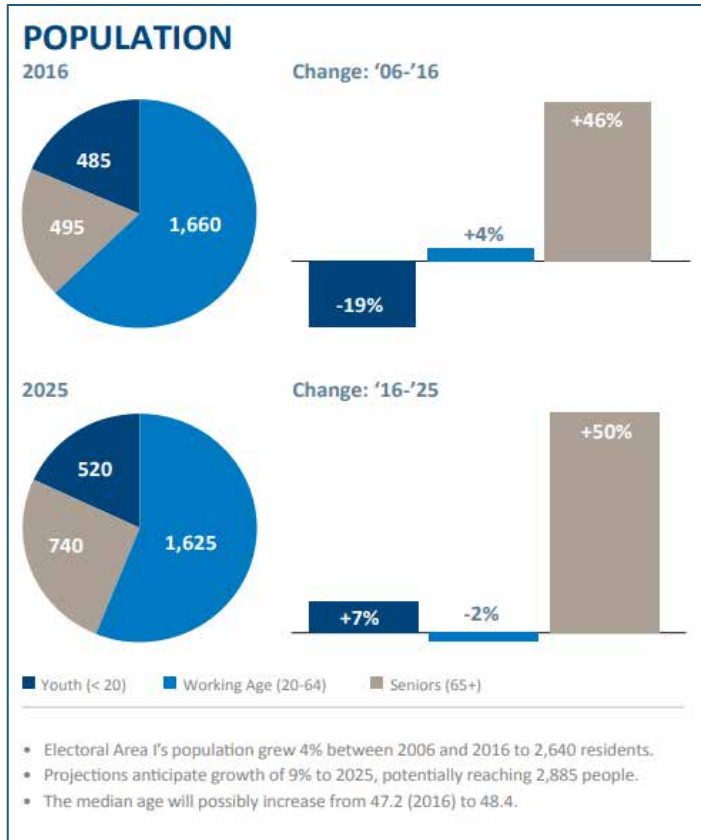
3.2 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

EA-I is home to several residential neighborhoods situated along the banks of the Kootenay River and against the foothills of Sentinel Mountain, including Pass Creek, Gibsons Creek, Thrums, Tarrys, Shoreacres, Glade, Brilliant, and the emerging Voykin Subdivision. The electoral area benefits from its location near the convergence of the Columbia and Kootenay Rivers, strategically positioned between the communities of Nelson and Castlegar. This geographical advantage enhances accessibility and connectivity, contributing to the area's appeal. The electoral area is well-connected through a network of highways, including Highway 3, which spans east-west through the region and links it to southern BC. Highway 3A also extends north along the eastern shore of Kootenay Lake, leading to the ferry at Kootenay Bay, while Highway 21 heads south to the US-Canada border. Close proximity to the West Kootenay Regional Airport in Castlegar further enhances transportation options.

Pass Creek and Gibsons Creek are built along the east sides of Sentinel Mountain. Pass Creek and parts of Gibsons Creek have poor cellular service, making them more rural in nature. Brilliant is built along the terrace of the Columbia River, where it meets with the Kootenay River, across from Castlegar. Tarrys, Thrums, Shoreacres, and Voykin Subdivision are built along the main Highway 3A route. Glade stands as a unique neighborhood within EA-I as it is only accessible via a cable ferry that operates daily on-demand. A railway single-track that is operated by Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway runs parallel east of Highway 3A, abutting homes in Shoreacres. A Fortis BC pipeline extends in a north-south direction, traversing the landscape upslope of Tarrys and Thrums neighborhoods.

EA-I resides within the Southeast Fire Region and Arrow Fire Zone; the Arrow Fire Zone base is located in Shoreacres. EA-I receives essential emergency services, community development programs, and land use direction from the RDCK. It overlaps with two fire protection areas (FPA). The Pass Creek Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) provides fire services to Pass Creek, Gibsons Creek, and Brilliant. The Tarrys VFD provides fire services to Tarrys, Thrums, Shoreacres, and Glade. Both fire department fire halls are located on either side of Sentinel Mountain.

Historically, Doukhobor communities and a robust agricultural focus characterized the region. Over time, diversity in the population developed, accompanied by economic shifts toward natural resource sectors, healthcare, tourism, and the service industry. As trades and manufacturing sectors expanded, many residents began commuting to Castlegar or Nelson for employment. Today, the electoral area maintains a primarily residential character, with limited commercial and industrial infrastructure. Prominent among the industrial operations is the Kalesnikoff Lumber mill, located in Tarrys on Highway 3A, across the highway from Tarrys VFD Fire Hall and the Kootenay River.



EA-I's population has shown steady growth, with the most recent census in 2021 recording a total population of 2,534 residents. This area encompasses a mix of residential neighborhoods and rural communities, and the population density stands at 23.1 people per square kilometer. Notably, there has been a 4.9% population increase between 2016 and 2021. The area encompasses 1,177 total private dwellings, with an impressive permanent occupancy rate of 94.1%. This significant presence of permanent residents presents an ideal opportunity for proactive FireSmart education. This education can have a lasting impact within the community, empowering residents to apply FireSmart principles effectively. Table 7 and Figure 1 provide an overview of relevant census and socio-economic data, offering valuable insights into the demographics and characteristics of the area.

Figure 1: RDCK EA-I population change statistics - 2006-2016 and projected 2016-2026.

Table 7: Socio-economic statistics for Electoral Area I, as per the 2021 census. Bolded values have special relevance to the CWRP.

Metric	Value
Population¹⁰	
Total Population	2,534
Population Density (people/km2)	23.1
Population percentage change between 2016 and 2021	4.9
Number of people <14 years old	19
Number of people 15-64 years old	62
Number of people >65 years old	20
Median Age (years)	44.6
Housing¹⁰	
Total private dwellings (year)	1,177
Private dwellings permanently occupied	94.1
Average household size	2.3
Income and Employment¹¹	
Median Total Income of Households	\$67,797

¹⁰ 2021 Canadian Census Data.

¹¹ 2020 Canadian Census Data.

3.3 VALUES AT RISK

Values at risk are the human, natural, or cultural resources that could be negatively impacted by wildfire. Protection of these values during a wildfire event is an important consideration for effective emergency response. Pre-identifying critical infrastructure and values at risk before an emergency event can ensure that essential services can be protected and/or restored quickly. As well, many activities that proactively assess and mitigate fire hazards around critical infrastructure and “Community Assets” are eligible for funding under the 2024 CRI FCFS Program Guide, which is addressed in Section 5.3. Critical infrastructure includes buildings and structures that are essential to the health, safety, security, or economic wellbeing of the community and the effective functioning of government.

Table 8 lists critical infrastructure in EA-I’s WUI as identified by the RDCK,¹² in meetings with EA-I staff, and outlined in the 2023 RDCK Community Risk Assessment. This list should not be considered as whole and complete, but rather a starting point for what should be considered as critical infrastructure. This list should be amended as required to add/remove new/excluded or outdated infrastructure so all are available for Community Asset FireSmart activities. The assets operated by the RDCK are the Tarrys Fire Hall and Pass Creek Fire Hall. Water and electric systems are discussed in more detail in Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.2. Critical infrastructure FireSmart Assessments were outside the scope of this plan. At the time of writing, FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments have been conducted on all firehalls within EA-I. Map 2 presents a visual display of values at risk throughout the eligible WUI.

Table 8: Critical Infrastructure and community assets within EA I’s WUI.

Map ID	Description	Community or Location	Name
Government / Community			
I-30	Community Hall	Pass Creek	Pass Creek Community Hall
I-31	Community Hall	Shoreacres	Shoreacres Community Hall
I-32	Community Hall	Tarrys	Tarrys & District Community Hall
I-33	Community Hall	Glade	Glade Community Hall
I-34	Community Hall	Brilliant	Brilliant Cultural Centre
Utilities			
I-75	Electrical or Generator	Thrums	Brilliant Power Corp.
I-76	Electrical or Generator	Glade	Brilliant Power Corp.
Emergency Response			
I-35	Fire Hall	Tarrys	Tarrys Fire Hall
I-36	Fire Hall	Pass Creek	Pass Creek Fire Hall
I-73	Fire Hall	Shoreacres	BCWS Arrow Fire Zone Office
I-70	Telecommunications	Brilliant	Telecommunications Tower (Telus)

¹² RDCK maintains a comprehensive database of critical infrastructure GIS point data and was provided as part of this Plan’s development.

3.3.1 ELECTRICAL POWER

A large fire has the potential to impact electrical service by causing disruption in network distribution through direct or indirect processes. Direct heat from flames or damage from fallen trees associated with a fire event may cause power outages. There are two major transmission lines right-of-ways that travel north-south, positioned upslope and to the east of the Glade community. Transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions – trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways. A tree falling across a line can tear the line down and result in a downed line. A branch spanning two line conductors for a sufficient period of time may ignite the branch and also may produce high-energy, high-temperature arcs multiple feet in length. If the branch remains in contact and arcing, it can cause progressive damage that eventually breaks the line. It is important that both EA-I and RDCK lobby the electrical power providers in and influencing the community’s WUI to regularly maintain their right-of-way’s vegetation (see Recommendation #27 in Section 5.5).

Residential power is provided by a network of wood-pole distribution lines. In general, poles and lines are well-maintained with adequate vegetation setbacks. Nevertheless, some poles are surrounded by tall, unmaintained grass, warranting maintenance considerations to ensure reliable and safe electricity throughout the electoral area.

Having secondary power sources for critical infrastructure is important to reduce community vulnerability in the event of an emergency that cuts power for days, or even weeks. The Voykin Improvement Water District has a backup diesel powered pump, but it is unknown if any Local Government assets (including fire halls) have them. It is recommended that RDCK and EA-I review additional critical infrastructure and invest in back-up generators as required (see Recommendation #32 in Section 5.5).

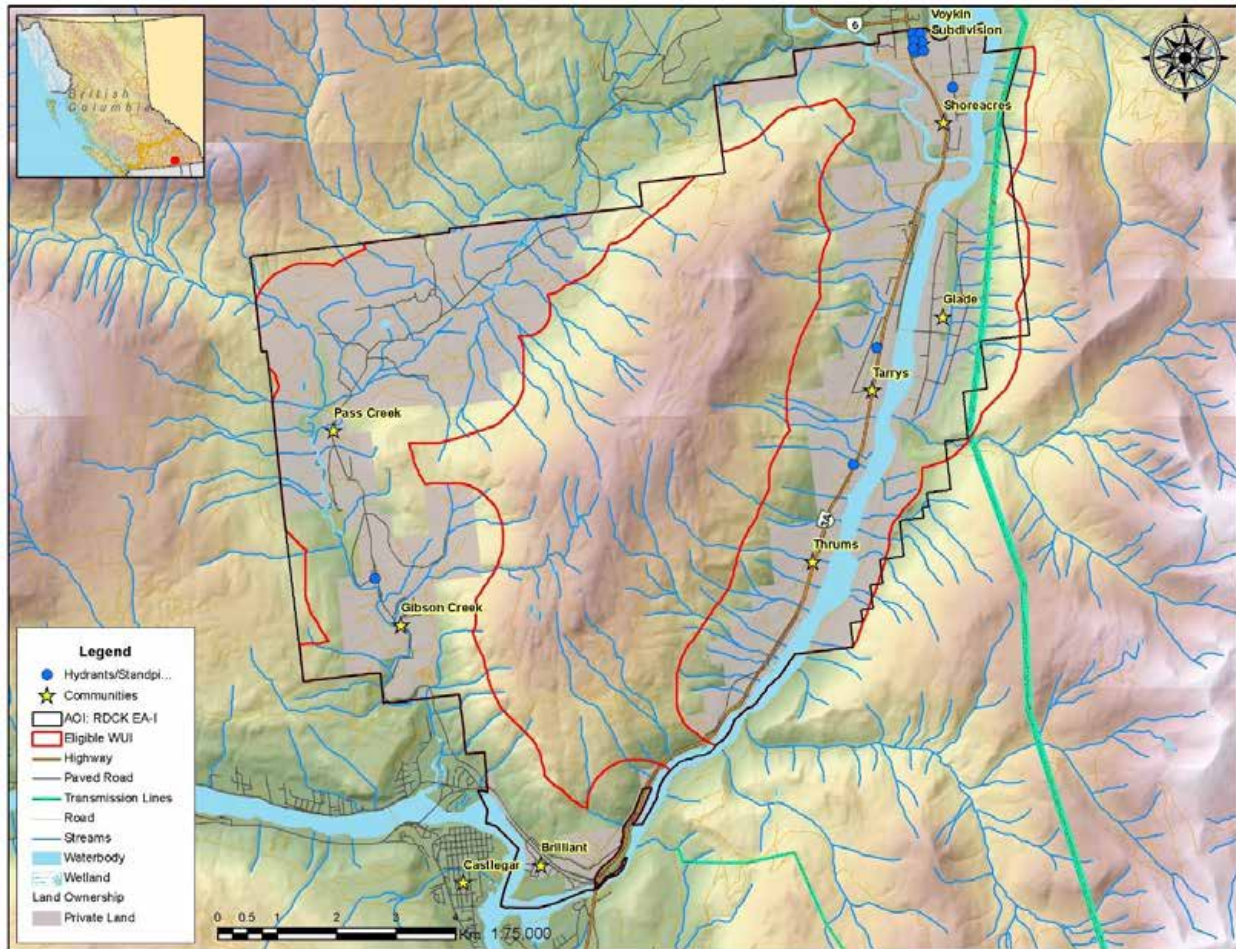
3.3.2 WATER AND SEWAGE

Water supply within EA-I primarily relies on surface water points of diversion and private groundwater resources, except for Glade, Voykin Subdivision and Upper Pass Creek neighbourhoods, which are served by private water systems. A critical aspect of wildfire preparedness is assessing the availability of fire hydrants – of which there are few in EA-I communities. Shown on Map 2, Voykin Sub-division has six rated fire hydrants that are only authorized for fire protection within the sub-division; Shoreacres has one standpipe that feeds a 6,000 gallon underground holding tank; Pass Creek has one fire hydrant; and, Glade has one unrated hydrant (that is not used by the fire department). EA-I Fire Response Area fire departments (Tarrys and Pass Creek) have noted that the supply of water available for fire response within their response areas from available fire hydrants is only able to be used for structures in their immediate vicinity.¹³

¹³ Information provided to B.A. Blackwell & Associates from Tarrys Fire Department via information gathering questionnaire.

For the many areas not serviced by hydrants, the Tarrys Fire Department has a 17,000-gallon holding tank at their fire hall and a further 6,000-gallon holding tank in Shoreacres. Kalesnikoff Lumber also has two holding tanks for a total of 403,000 gallons which Tarrys Fire Department is authorized us to use for structure/wildland fires. In the many areas not serviced by hydrants, the department mainly drafts water from the Kootenay River at known access points.

Surface water sources are plentiful throughout the WUI and contribute to water availability for firefighting. The most reliable source of year-round water for firefighting is from the Kootenay River. Other sources (i.e., ponds, creeks, etc.) are known, but not mapped. See Section 5.4 for recommendations related to fire department resources.



Map 2: Hydrant and standpipe locations within EA-I's WUI.

3.3.3 HAZARDOUS VALUES

Hazardous values are defined as values that pose a safety hazard to emergency responders and include large fuel / propane facilities, landfills, rail yards, storage facilities containing explosives, pipelines, etc. Anywhere combustible materials, explosive chemicals, or gas/oil is stored can be considered a hazardous value. Protecting hazardous values from fires is important to preventing interface fire disasters.

It was noted in the 2023 RDCK Community Risk Assessment that hazardous materials are transported by truck (Highway 3 and Highway 3A) and train throughout the area. Fire ignition data presented in Section 4.2.2 – Historical Wildfire Occurrences display the concentration of human-caused fire ignitions along the transportation route. As such, it is important for the Ministry of Transportation (MOT) to continue to employ best management practices in maintaining the grass and vegetation along the highway right-of-way. The CP Railway traverses the WUI parallel to the highway and represents another potential ignition source, particularly if vegetation becomes overgrown along the tracks. The risk is heightened where adjacent private properties have coniferous vegetation and/or unmaintained grass.

Additional hazardous infrastructure includes the Kalesnikoff Lumber Mill (in Tarrys along Highway 3A) which may store a substantial amount of wood fibre fuel at any given time, and industrial and hobby farms that likely store gas, oil, and/or fertilizer. Education and associated recommendations regarding FireSmart principles for hazardous materials storage are discussed in Section 5.2. Recommendations associated with industry stakeholders are discussed in Section 5.5.

3.3.4 CULTURAL VALUES

There are documented and registered historic (with a particular focus on the prevalent Doukhobor and mining history of the area) and archeological sites within the WUI and a high potential for additional sites to be found given the long history of use by First Nations (including Syilx Okanagan Nation). Known archeological sites are protected under the Heritage Conservation Act, which applies to both private and public lands.

RDCK should continue to consult with applicable First Nations well before development and implementation of any proposed fuel prescriptions to allow for meaningful review and input, as well as collaborative opportunities – cultural burning by First Nations has a long documented and orally spoken history in the area. Archeological assessments may be required to ensure that known or unknown cultural resources are not inadvertently damaged or destroyed, and that First Nations strategies for land management in their traditional territory are complied with.

3.3.5 HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

There are multiple high environmental values throughout the RDCK. Specific to EA-I, there are significant proximities to provincial parks and regional parks. Additionally, EA-I's WUI has significant overlaps with species and ecosystems at risk identified through the B.C. Conservation Data Center and by the federal government (), including a significant population of bats. Of these species, three are considered at risk

and include the fringed myotis, northern myotis, and Townsend's big-eared bat.¹⁴ All fuel management prescriptions must identify and mitigate potential impacts to ecosystems or species at risk and may require rationales and/or mitigation measures for tree removal in some areas.

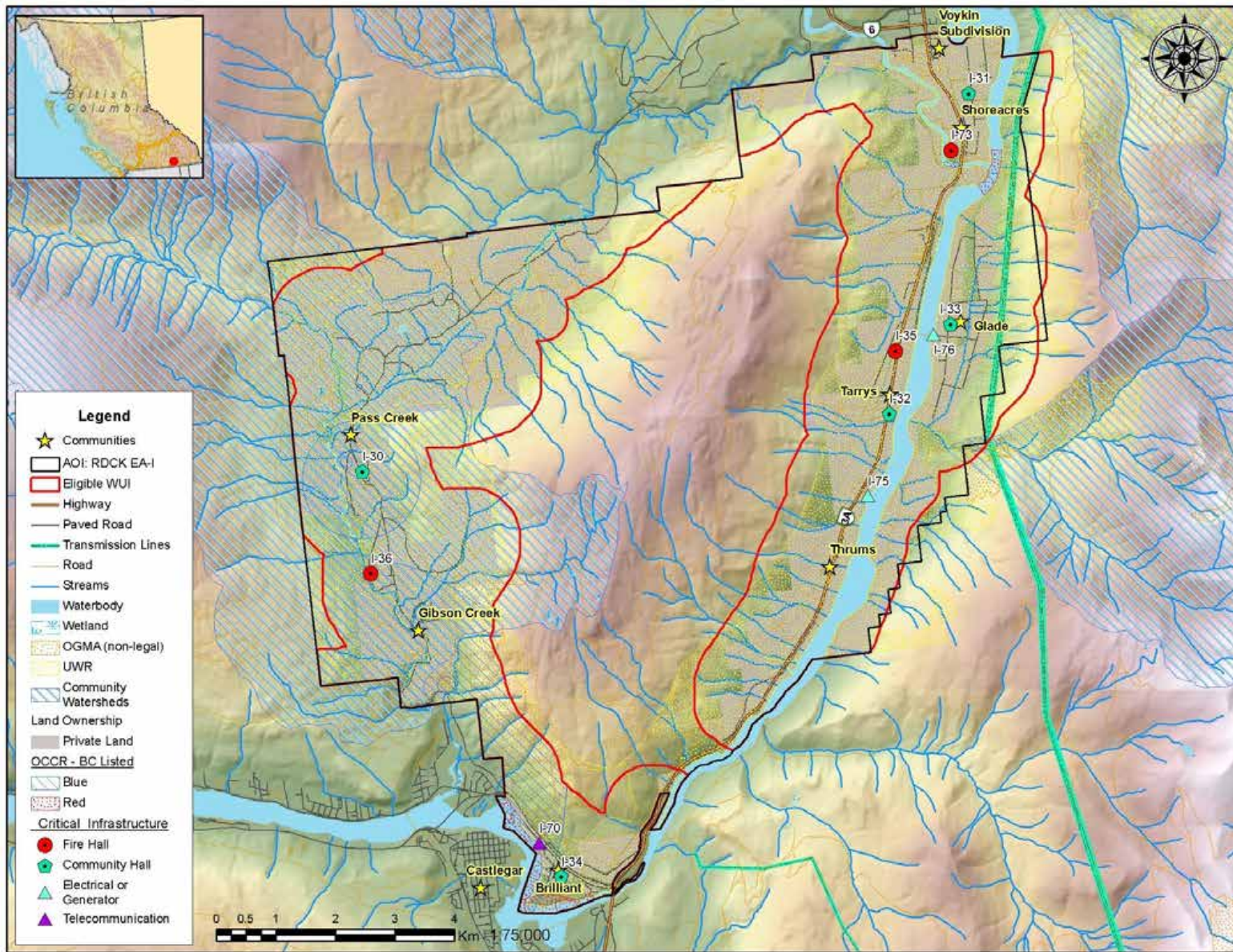
Table 9: Species and Ecosystems at Risk in the WUI – BC Conservation Data Center.

Scientific Name	English Name	Category	BC List	Habitat Type
Acipenser transmontanus pop. 2	White Sturgeon (Upper Columbia River Population)	Vertebrate Animal	Red	RIVERINE: Big River; High Gradient; Moderate Gradient; Pool
Ardea herodias herodias	Great Blue Heron, Herodias Subspecies	Vertebrate Animal	Blue	TERRESTRIAL: Forest needleleaf
Astragalus microcystis	Least Bladdery Milk-vetch	Vascular Plant	Blue	TERRESTRIAL
Chrysemys picta pop. 2	Painted Turtle - Intermountain - Rocky Mountain Population	Vertebrate Animal	Blue	RIVERINE: Slough
Cottus confusus	Shorthead Sculpin	Vertebrate Animal	Blue	RIVERINE; CREEK; MEDIUM RIVER; HIGH GRADIENT; MODERATE GRADIENT
Cottus hubbsi	Columbia Sculpin	Vertebrate Animal	Blue	RIVERINE; BIG RIVER
Dolichonyx oryzivorus	Bobolink	Vertebrate Animal	Blue	TERRESTRIAL; GRASSLAND/HERBACEOUS
Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei	Western Screech-owl, Macfarlanei Subspecies	Vertebrate Animal	Blue	TERRESTRIAL: Forest Mixed; Woodland Mixed, Roadside; RIVERINE: Riparian
Melanerpes lewis	Lewis's Woodpecker	Vertebrate Animal	Blue	RIVERINE: Riparian; TERRESTRIAL: Snag/Hollow Tree; Old Field; Suburban/Orchard; Roadside
Rhinichthys umatilla	Umatilla Dace	Vertebrate Animal	Red	RIVERINE; MEDIUM RIVER; HIGH GRADIENT; MODERATE GRADIENT

3.3.6 OTHER RESOURCE VALUES

There are multiple other important resource values associated with the land base, including forestry, agriculture (commercial and hobby farms), recreation, and tourism. Any fuel management within EA-I's WUI should consider the impact on any of these additional values and consult with appropriate land managers and organized recreation groups in the area. Recommendations associated with industry stakeholders are discussed in Section 5.5.

¹⁴ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/pesticides-and-pest-management/managing-pests/bats/kcbp_bats.pdf



Map 3: Values at Risk map for EA-1's WUI.

SECTION 4: WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

This section summarizes the factors that contribute to local wildfire risk in EA-I. Section 4.1 discusses the wildfire environment in the WUI: focusing on topography, fuel, and weather. Section 4.2 discusses wildfire history in the area. Section 4.3 uses updated fuel types combined with wildfire threat assessments and an office-based analysis to update the local wildfire risk for the eligible WUI.

The local wildfire risk assessment helps to identify the parts of the eligible WUI that are most vulnerable to wildfire. The CWRP risk assessment complements the broader scale RDCK Emergency Response and Recovery Plan.

The relationship between wildfire risk and wildfire threat is defined as follows:

$$\text{Wildfire Risk} = \text{Probability} \times \text{Consequence}$$

Where:

Wildfire risk is defined as the potential losses incurred to human life and values at risk within a community in the event of a wildfire.

Probability is the threat of wildfire occurring in an area and is expressed by the ability of a wildfire to ignite and then consume fuel on the landscape. An area's *wildfire threat* is controlled primarily by:

- Topography: Slope and terrain features can influence rate of spread; aspect can affect pre-heating and other fuel properties
- Fuel: Amount, vertical and horizontal arrangement, type, and dryness
- Weather: Temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, precipitation

Consequences refer to the repercussions associated with fire occurrence in a given area. Higher consequences are associated with densely populated areas, presence of values at risk, etc.

4.1 WILDFIRE ENVIRONMENT

There are three environmental components that influence wildfire behavior: topography, weather, and fuel. These components are generally referred to as the 'fire behaviour triangle' (Figure 2); the ways in which they individually influence the wildfire environment of the area will be detailed below. Fuel is the only component of the fire triangle that can be reasonably managed through human intervention. It is important to recognize that in WUI fires, wildland fuels (trees, shrubs, branches, etc.) are not the only fuel available to the fire – houses and their exterior construction materials and landscaping vegetation, cars, barbeque propane tanks, and more (anything that is flammable or combustible) is available fuel.



Figure 2: Graphic display of the fire behaviour triangle, and a subset of characteristics within each component.¹⁵

4.1.1 TOPOGRAPHY

Slope steepness influences the fire’s trajectory and rate of spread and slope position relates to the ability of a fire to gain momentum uphill. Other factors of topography that influence fire behaviour include aspect, elevation, and configuration of features on the landscape that can restrict (i.e., water bodies, rock outcrops) or drive (i.e., valleys, exposed ridges) the movement of a wildfire.

The topography of EA-I plays a significant role in influencing wildfire behavior and the associated risks to the community. Most communities are situated in the foothills of Sentinel Mountain and near the confluence of the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers. Much of the residential development is positioned along the flat terraces of the Kootenay River, while other neighbourhoods are tucked behind the north face of Sentinel Mountain. Steep, rugged terrain characterizes the mountain which naturally restricts development patterns. As a result, homes are primarily concentrated on the mountain’s flat foothills and adjacent river terraces where the topography is more amenable to construction and community growth. This development layout situates homes on flat terrain in the valley bottom, which offers certain advantages in terms of wildfire risk. Notably, homes in these areas would not have their fire rates of spread significantly influenced by topography alone due to their valley-bottom location. The flat terrain of residential development also facilitates water suppression availability for emergency services.

Continuous forested land extends upslope from many residential developments. These forested slopes have the potential to accelerate the rate of fire spread uphill. The steep terrain and access challenges of these slopes can pose challenges for wildfire mitigation and suppression efforts.

Table 10 (and displayed on Map 4) presents a breakdown of the WUI based on slope steepness classes, with implications for fire behaviour. Notably, approximately 42% of the WUI (predominantly on upper south and east sides of Sentinel Mountain, as well as upslope (east) of Glade) features slopes exceeding

¹⁵ Graphic adopted from the Province of Alberta.

30%. These steep slopes can significantly accelerate the rate of fire spread uphill, posing increased fire behavior challenges.

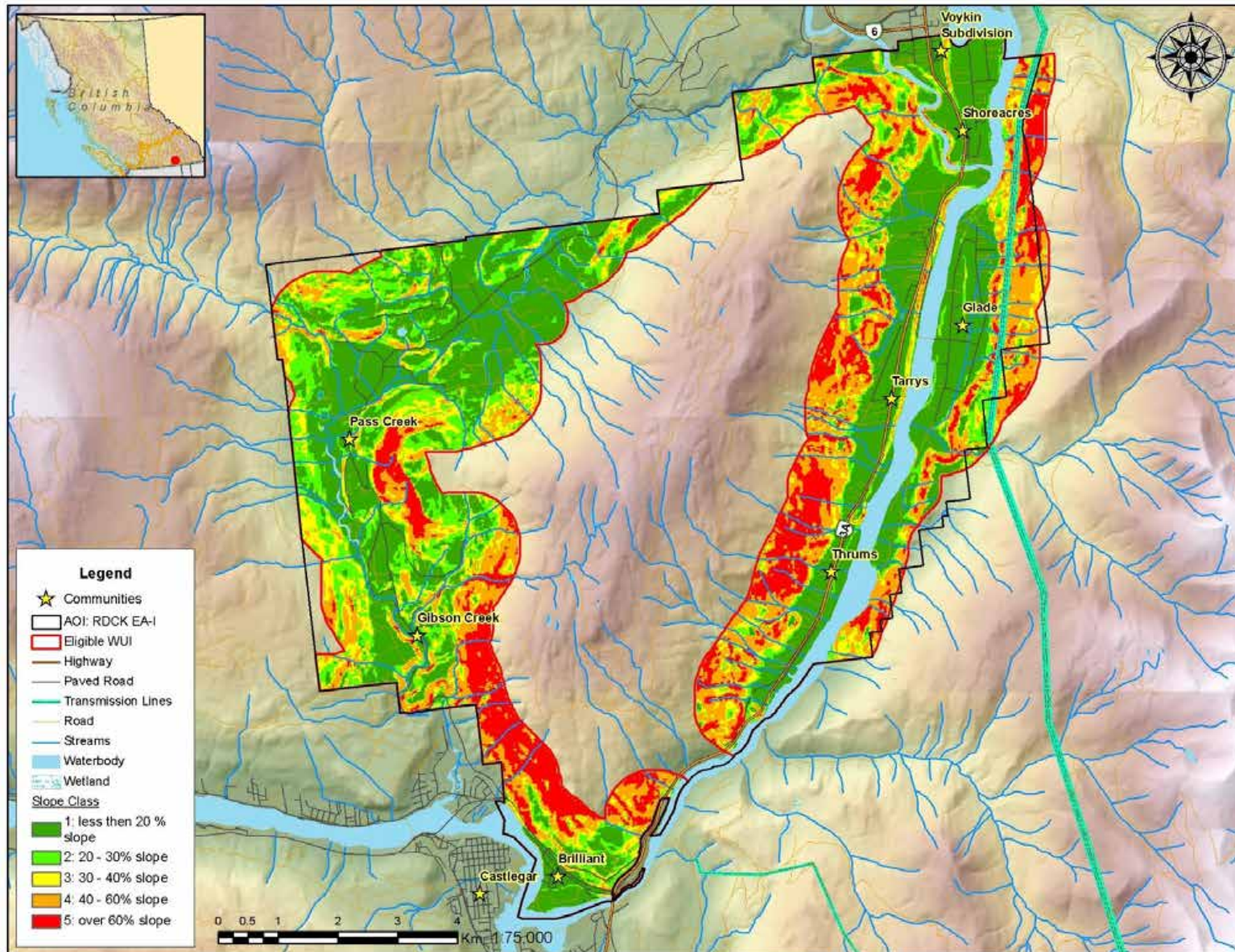
Table 10: Slope Percentage and Fire Behaviour Implications.

Slope	Percent of Eligible WUI	Fire Behaviour Implications
<20%	44%	Very little flame and fuel interaction caused by slope, normal rate of spread.
21-30%	14%	Flame tilt begins to preheat fuel, increase rate of spread.
31-40%	12%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and begins to bathe flames into fuel, high rate of spread.
41-60%	19%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel, very high rate of spread.
>60%	11%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel well upslope, extreme rate of spread.

Slope-associated *fire risk* is dependent upon the slope position (location) of values, described below in Table 11. Values located in the middle and upper slopes are threatened by faster rates of fire spread due to the pre-heating of fuels from fire below and longer flame lengths reaching uphill. As discussed above, most of EA-I’s communities are located at valley and slope bottoms, on grades <30%, so would not have increased fire behaviour risks influenced by topography and slope position alone. However, there are neighbourhoods, homes, and structures that are middle slope, and these would be threatened by faster rates of slope-driven fire spread. For EA-I, the key topographical feature affecting potential fire behaviour is the presence of continuous forest fuels on all slopes and aspects of Sentinel Mountain. This landscape composition implies that accelerated rates of fire spread are a potential concern, particularly if a fire were to move uphill from structures into the wildland.

Table 11: Slope Position of Value and Fire Behaviour Implications.

Slope Position of Value	Fire Behaviour Implications
Bottom of Slope/ Valley Bottom	Impacted by normal rates of spread.
Mid Slope - Bench	Impacted by increase rates of spread. Position on a bench may reduce the preheating near the value. (Value is offset from the slope).
Mid Slope – Continuous	Impacted by fast rates of spread. No break in terrain features affected by preheating and flames bathing into the fuel ahead of the fire.
Upper 1/3 of slope	Impacted by extreme rates of spread. At risk to large continuous fire run, preheating and flames bathing into the fuel.



Map 4: Slope, by slope classes, for EA-I's WUI.

4.1.2 FUEL

The ecological context of wildfire and the role of fire in the local ecosystem under both current and historical conditions is an important basis for understanding the current and future wildfire threat to a community. Also, understanding the distribution, type, and management of wildland fuels within Electoral Area I's WUI is vital for developing effective wildfire mitigation and management strategies. Fuel is the only component of the fire triangle that can be realistically managed through human intervention. This section analyses and discusses available *wildland* vegetative fuels within EA-I's WUI.

EA-I exhibits a unique mix of vegetative communities that are influenced by human activities and the region's natural geography. Land clearing for agriculture and residential development has significantly shaped the vegetative landscape in the valley bottom. This process has resulted in expansive swaths of cleared and irrigated farmland and lawns. If well-maintained, these clearings effectively reduce the wildfire threat, creating natural firebreaks within the community.

Neighbourhoods built along the Kootenay River watershed, such as Glade and Shoreacres, along Pass Creek and on the Columbia and Kootenay River convergence floodplain (i.e., Brilliant) exhibit a riparian influence. These areas typically feature deciduous vegetation interspersed amongst structures. Deciduous vegetation, with its higher moisture content and characteristics, can reduce fire behaviour dynamics, acting as a mitigating factor in wildfire risk.

The forested slopes both within and outside EA-I's WUI have experienced a significant amount of past, recent, and ongoing logging. Past logging, combined with historically suppressed wildfires throughout the 1900s, has resulted in a relatively continuous distribution of even-aged conifer stands. Importantly, management of reduced slash (harvest debris) in WUI harvested areas is paramount towards further reducing their wildfire behaviour and potential risk to nearby neighbourhoods and adjacent communities. Most homes in the electoral area have adequate forest setbacks, often characterized by long, narrow irrigated properties. However, some homes in Gibsons Creek, Tarry and Thrums have coniferous vegetation within Home Ignition Zones, which requires vigilant maintenance to reduce the wildfire risk.

The Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) System outlines sixteen fuel types based on characteristic fire behaviour under defined conditions.¹⁶ BC Wildfire Service maintains a provincial fuel type layer that was confirmed and updated for this CWRP. It should be noted that mixed conifer stands¹⁷ in the interior wet belt, of which EA-I's WUI is within, are one of the specifically identified areas of uncertainty and knowledge gaps within the FBP system and are considered, at best, a poor match with any fuel type.¹⁸ The FBP system was almost entirely developed for boreal and sub-boreal forest types, which do not occur within the study areas. Furthermore, fuel types depend heavily on Vegetation

¹⁶ Forestry Canada Fire Danger Group. 1992. Development and Structure of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System: Information Report ST-X-3.

¹⁷ Species such as western white pine and western larch growing in multi-story canopies, usually associated with Douglas-fir, redcedar, lodgepole pine, or other species.

¹⁸ Natural Resources Canada. 2018. British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description. Daniel D.B. Perrakis, George Eade, and Dana Hicks

Resource Inventory (VRI) data, which is gathered and maintained to inform timber management objectives, not fire behaviour prediction. Although a subjective process, the most appropriate fuel type was assigned based on research, experience, and practical knowledge; this system has been successfully used within BC, with continual improvement and refinement, for 25 years.¹⁹ In some areas, aerial imagery is of low spatial resolution and/or ground access was impossible, making fuel type assessment difficult.

Table 12 lists the percentage of fuel types in EA-I’s eligible WUI. Two of the most hazardous fuel types in the area are C-3 and O-1a/b. C-3 fuel types typically consist of fully stocked, late young forests often with varying crown base heights. Continuous forest land adjacent to residential neighborhoods are often characterized as C-3 fuel types. These areas are susceptible to both surface and crown fires, exhibiting a wide range of fire intensity and rate of spread. Crown fires and spotting potential are high in C-3 fuel types. The rapid rate of fire spread and intense flames pose significant challenges to wildfire management efforts. O-1a/b fuel types are often found on south-facing slopes above Brilliant and scattered throughout residential areas. These areas are characterized by matted and standing grass that can cure, as well as sparse or scattered shrubs, trees, and down woody debris. O-1a/b fuel types can sustain rapidly spreading, high-intensity surface fires, especially when grasses are tall and unmaintained. The potential for active fire behaviour is significant in these areas, making them a focal point for fuel management.

The often drier and rockier steeper middle slopes of Sentinel Mountain (along with south and west facing aspects) are dominated by C-5 and C-7 fuel types. These can support a rapidly spreading surface fire capable of damage or destruction of property and jeopardizing human life, but the fire behaviour potential in these fuel types is recognized as highly variable dependent on the percentage of grass and shrub that is cured and the wind speed. An M-1/2 fuel type can be considered hazardous depending on the proportion of conifers within the forest stand, and/or the amount of dead and downed material. D-1/2 stands are dominated by deciduous species, and are generally considered the least hazardous forest type because of their higher moisture content and lack of flammable ladder fuels. The hazard of a D-1/2 stand can greatly increase if there is an accumulation of surface fuels, cured grasses, or flammable shrubs. Recent spring cross-over conditions²⁰ (called the ‘spring dip’) have allowed for destructive forest fires in deciduous-dominated stands. Detailed fuel type descriptions and their associated wildfire risk can be found in Appendix B-1: Fuel Typing Methodology.

Table 12: Fuel types in EA-I’s Wildland Urban Interface.

Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description within the WUI	Area (ha)	Percent (%) of Public land	% of assessable WUI area (waterbodies removed)
C-3	Fully stocked, late young conifer stands with crowns separated from the ground. Moderate to high surface fuel loading from self-pruning and stem exclusion.	123	4%	4%

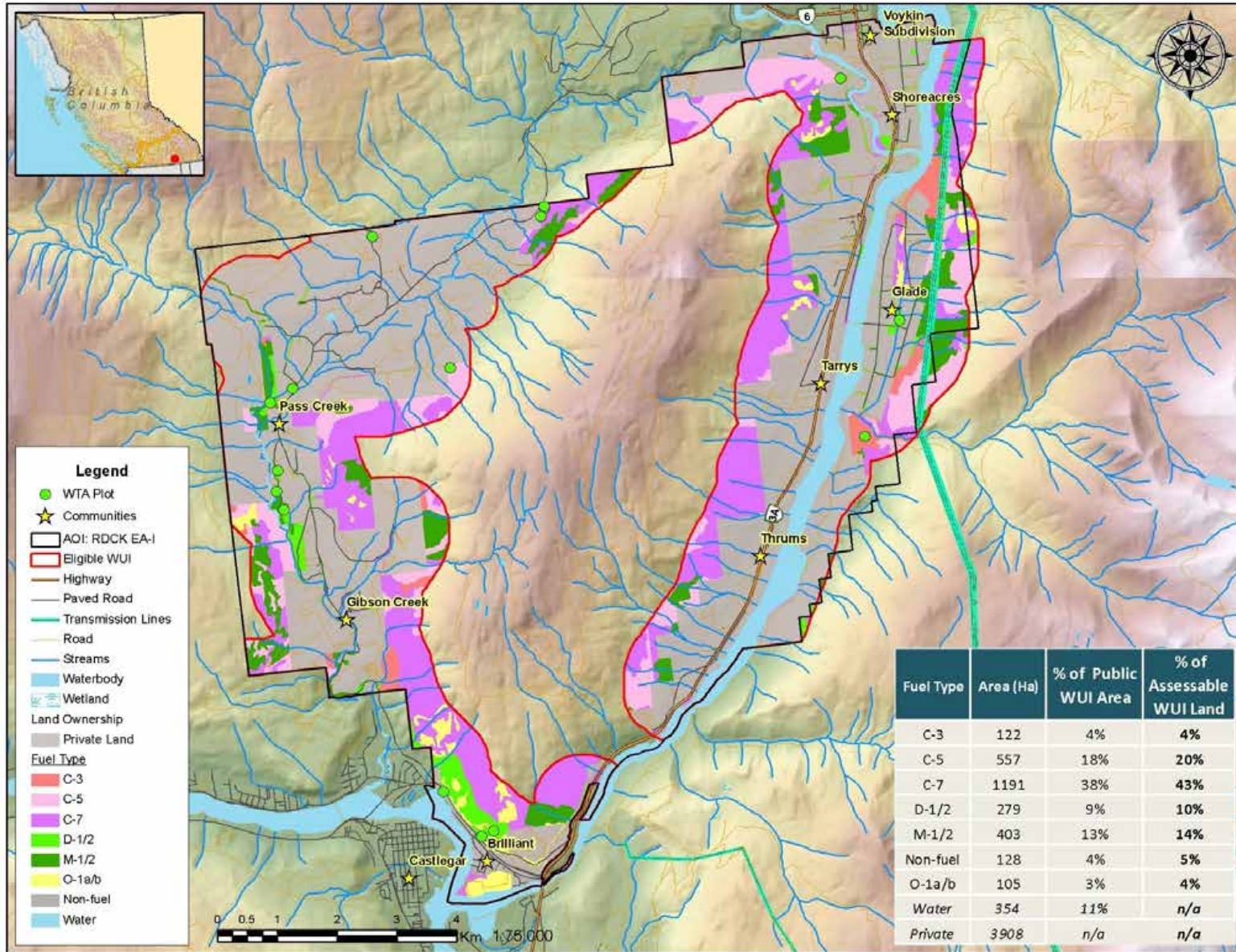
¹⁹ Perrakis, D, G. Eade and D. Hicks. 2018. Canadian Forest Service Pacific Forestry Centre. British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description

²⁰ Cross-over conditions refer to a point where air temperature drops below the relative humidity (e.g., 20°C/15% humidity), providing conditions for potentially severe fire behaviour.

Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description within the WUI	Area (ha)	Percent (%) of Public land	% of assessable WUI area (waterbodies removed)
C-5	Well-stocked mature forest, crowns separated from ground. Moderate understory herbs and shrubs. Little grass or surface fuel accumulation.	557	18%	20%
C-7	Mature and open forest stands with a mix of flashy grass fuels and lower flammability shrubs. Often located on south-facing slopes and throughout the ICHxw.	1191	38%	43%
D-1/2	Deciduous stands/forest. Hazard increases with the amount of deadfall and/or establishment of a flammable shrub layer.	279	9%	10%
M-1/2	Moderately well-stocked mixed stands of conifer and deciduous, low to moderate dead stems and down woody fuels. Often transition to become more conifer dominated as pioneer deciduous species die out if disturbance is excluded. ²¹	403	13%	14%
O-1a/b	Grassland fuels ('a' refers to matted grasses, 'b' refers to standing). The volatility of this fuel type depends on the percentage of grass that is cured.	105	3%	4%
Non-fuel	Areas with no available forest or grass fuels (e.g., roadways, gravel clearings, irrigated and/or mowed fields). These areas may (and often do) contain combustible materials, infrastructure, flammable landscaping, and homes.	129	4%	5%
Water	Water and riparian features (e.g., rivers, streams, waterbodies, wetlands)	354.	11%	n/a

Map 5 below displays the updated fuel types for EA-I's WUI.

²¹ Larch was treated as deciduous during fuel typing to account for its high moisture content.



Map 5. Updated fuel types in EA-I's WUI.

4.1.3 WEATHER

Weather conditions, including relative humidity and wind, along with drought, play pivotal roles in wildfire behaviour. The intricacies of local topography can result in unpredictable and variable weather patterns, further emphasizing the significance of weather as a primary environmental factor influencing fire behaviour. EA-I's weather patterns are considerable variable and are strongly influenced by local topography and other factors. Summers are relatively short, warm and dry, while winters bring freezing temperatures, heavy snowfall, and mostly cloudy conditions. During the summer months, the regional district experiences hot and dry conditions, with occasional periods of extreme heat. Climate change projections suggest intensifying these trends, pointing toward even hotter summers and more pronounced droughts. These conditions create an environment conducive to increased wildfire behaviour, particularly in the context of the region's complex topography.

The local climatic profile of neighbourhoods is influenced by their geographical location in respect to Sentinel Mountain. The varying geographical positions have distinct effects on weather patterns, influencing potential wildfire behaviour respectively. Communities situated on the north side of Sentinel Mountain, such as Pass Creek and Gibsons Creek, experience a climate characterized by more shade and higher precipitation levels. The mountain acts as a natural barrier, intercepting moisture-laden air masses, resulting in relatively cooler and moister conditions. In contrast, south-facing neighborhoods like Tarrys, Thrums, Shoreacres, Glad, and the Voykin Subdivision are more exposed to sunlight, resulting in warmer, sunnier conditions that contribute to lower humidity levels. Forests on south-facing slopes may exhibit drier characteristics which can support more hazardous fire behaviour, as the vegetation in these areas may have lower moisture content making it susceptible to ignition and rapid fire spread.

Historical weather data can provide information on the number and distribution of days when EA-I's WUI communities and surrounding areas experience high fire danger conditions. 'High fire danger' is considered with a Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS) Danger Class rating of 4 (High) or 5 (Extreme). Average danger class data for EA-I can be determined from representative BCWS fire weather stations. Located across from Blewett on the north side of Kootenay Lake, east of Garrity Creek, the Smallwood BCWS fire weather station (997m elevation; Nelson is at 535m elevation); is the most representative for EA-I's WUI. Averages for the past 12 years are presented in below in Figure 3.

Data from the Smallwood fire weather station shows that July and August have the greatest number of High and Extreme fire danger days, with July averaging 8 and August averaging 15. When combined, 38% of days in those two months exhibit High or Extreme fire danger. It is important to note that High fire danger days are present in both June and September within EA-I's WUI.

Overall, it is most likely that fire weather and associated fire danger days blends across EA-I's WUI south to north, from averaging a higher number of High and Extreme fire danger days in its more southern areas, to a lower number of fire danger days in its northern areas. However, the data does show that EA-I's WUI is at risk due to fire season weather.

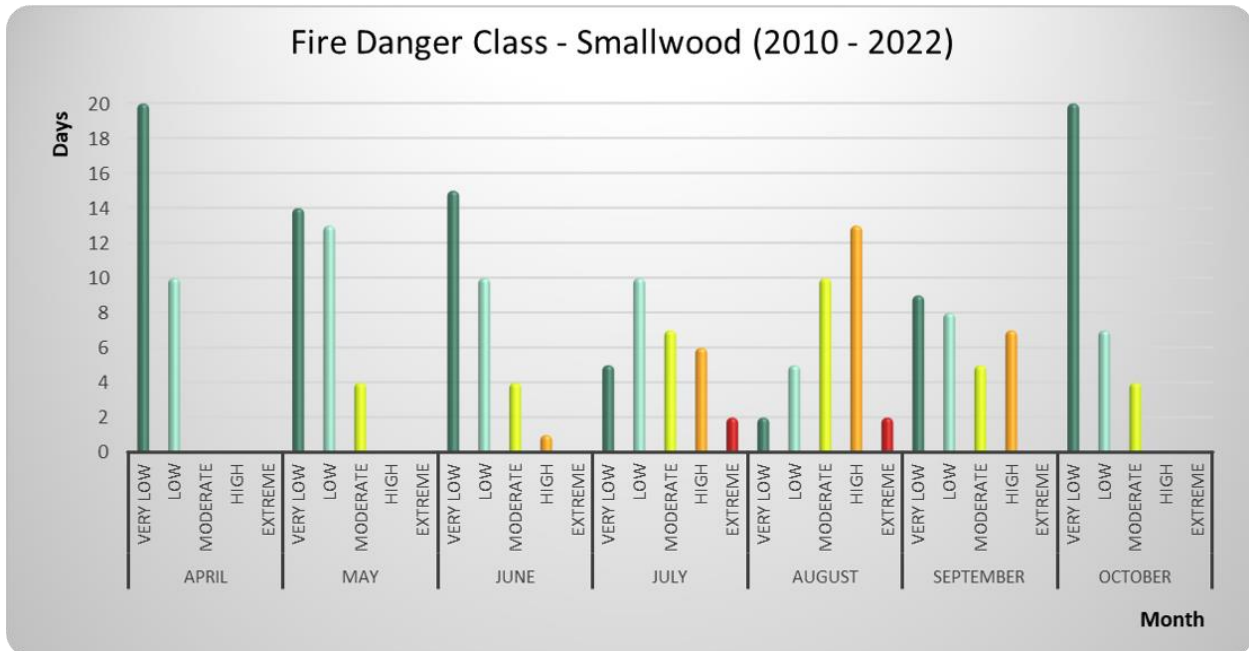


Figure 3: Average number of fire danger rating days by month for the Smallwood fire weather station.

Wind speed and direction are also critical weather components influencing fire behavior, and wind speed and direction are also recorded at BCWS weather stations. Data is publicly available in the form of average Initial Spread Index (ISI) roses.²² The ISI is a numeric rating of the expected rate of fire spread that combines the effects of wind speed and fine fuel moisture (which is controlled by temperature and relative humidity). ISI roses can be used to help plan the location of fuel treatments on the landscape to protect values at risk based on the predominant wind direction and frequency of higher ISI values. Wildfire that occurs upwind of a value poses a more significant threat to that value than one which occurs downwind.

During the fire season, the Smallwood fire weather station indicates (Figure 4) that EA-I primarily experiences strong diurnal winds – up-valley from the southeast and south during the day, and down-valley from the northeast at night. As per ISI roses, the highest ISI wind directions likely originate from the south, which would drive fire spread in a general northerly direction. July and August are peak wind-driven fire spread months, with strong winds (high ISI values coinciding with the highest temperatures).

The local BCWS Wildfire Prevention Officer noted that high elevation spruce/balsam stands [largely just uphill and outside EA-I’s WUI] tend to exhibit the most aggressive and volatile growth in the region. Middle elevation mixed stands of Douglas-fir, larch, and pine species [largely within the upper slopes of EA-I’s WUI] can be volatile as well, however, typically less so than the higher spruce/balsam stands. Low elevation western red cedar/western hemlock stands [largely within the lower slopes of EA-I’s WUI] exhibit the least volatility, unless certain fuel and weather conditions are met. Importantly, as fuel

²²<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/vegetation-and-fuel-management/fire-fuel-management/fuel-management>

conditions dry out in the summer and combine with specific weather events (wind, low humidity, hotter temperatures), these fuel types can react with intensity and exhibit aggressive fire behavior. Echoing the sentiments of the firefighting ground crews encountered during Plan development field assessment work, winds are required to create volatility and fire growth in the fuel types in EA-I and are also required to push fire aggressively downslope towards communities.

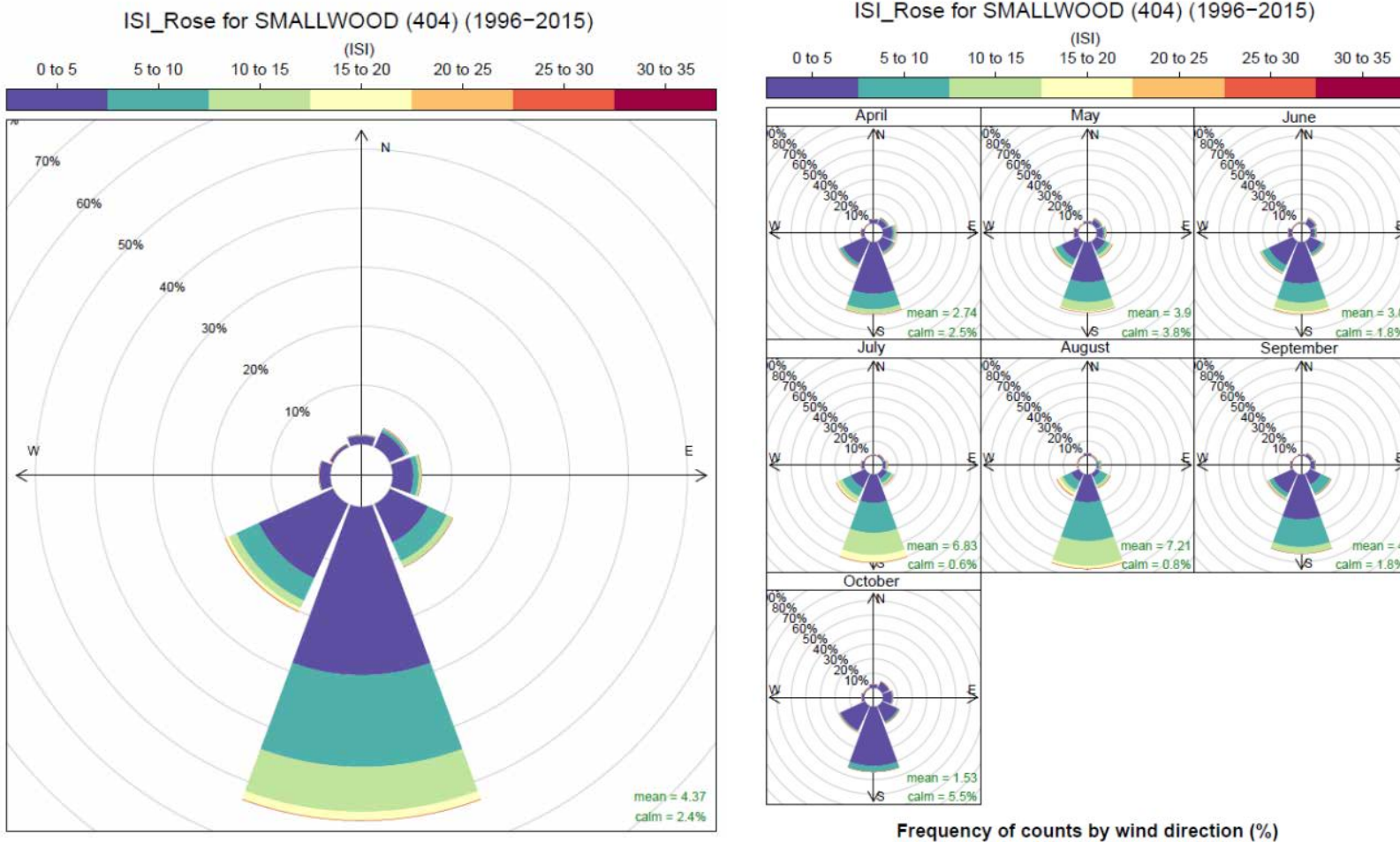


Figure 4. Daily and monthly average initial spread index rose for Smallwood fire weather station for the fire season (April – October)

4.2 WILDFIRE HISTORY

4.2.1 HISTORIC FIRE REGIME

EA-I's WUI can be categorized using the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) system, which classifies the province into zones by vegetation, soils, and climate. Regional subzones are derived from relative precipitation and temperature.

Map 6, in Section 4.2.2 below, shows the distribution of Biogeoclimatic zones and associated Natural Disturbance Types (NDTs) in EA-I's WUI. Summarized in Table 13, the middle and lower slopes are predominantly within the Interior Cedar Hemlock, Very Dry Warm (ICHxw) subzone with an associated NDT4 – ecosystems with frequent stand-maintaining fires. These frequent fires would maintain the existing forest stand structure through frequent, low-intensity fires that would normally regulate the amount of surface fuel build-up and reduce the number of small, sapling size regenerating trees.²³ A higher frequency and a variable intensity of these types of fires across the landscape would create mosaics of uneven-aged forests and grassy or shrubby openings which naturally restricted the spread of large, severe fires.²³ Larger stand-initiating crown fires may be rarer, but historically occurred at intervals ranging from at least 150 to 250 years.²³

The upper slopes of EA-I's WUI are dominated by the Interior Cedar Hemlock, Dry Warm (ICHdw1) subzone with an associated NDT3 – ecosystems with frequent stand-initiating events.²³ These ecosystems are characterized by frequent wildfires that range from small spot fires to conflagrations covering tens of thousands of hectares.²³ This results in a landscape mosaic of stands of different ages with individual stands being even-aged.²³ Larger fires often occurred, and could grow to enormous sizes if no topographical-limiting features were present. The mean return interval for fire in the ICH NDT3 is approximately 150 years.²³

It is important to consider that fire regimes in the region were likely exemplified through pre-settlement cultural burning practices by First Nations. It is also important to consider that, in the future, BEC (and associated NDT) distributions will likely shift and/or change because of climate change.

Table 13: Natural Disturbance Types (NDTs) of Electoral Area I's WUI.

Biogeoclimatic Zone	Natural Disturbance Type	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
Interior Cedar Hemlock, Dry Warm	NDT3	1756	25%
Interior Cedar Hemlock, Very Dry Warm	NDT4	5292	75%

²³ BC Biodiversity Guidebook. <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/documents/bib19715.pdf>

4.2.2 HISTORICAL WILDFIRE OCCURENCES

Historic wildfire perimeters, from 1912-2022, are displayed below on on Map 6 for an area within five kilometres of EA-I's WUI. Several large fires have occurred in the area since the 1900s. In the 1960s, a significant human-caused fire scorched approximately 2,777 hectares, burning from Gibsons Creek up Sentinel Mountain. Historical records also indicate several small to medium-sized fires in Pass Creek during the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s, likely attributed to forestry activities and land-clearing practices. Recent fires in EA-I include a 2015 human-caused fire resulting from a rollover incident in Pass Creek, as well as a smaller fire in 2021 from a similar rollover event in the same area. The majority of reported fire ignitions in the area are human-caused, with many of these ignitions occurring along the highway. Lightning ignitions, although less common, can be a concern, particularly on the tops of slopes where fire behavior can be challenging to control.

BCWS fire ignition data (which records point ignitions that may or may not have developed into a wildfire with a recorded perimeter area) is only available from 1950 onwards. Looking at the same five-kilometre area surrounding EA-I's WUI, 764 out of 946 (81%) recorded ignitions have been from people. 180 (24%) of those human caused ignitions were recorded from 2000 onwards. This data, and the fire perimeter data above, both show that humans are historically the leading cause of fire ignition in EA-I's WUI.

Although human ignitions are the dominant source for point ignitions historically, lightning is still a very real ignition threat, and is the leading cause of ignition in higher elevations on slopes and ridges within 5km of EA-I's WUI. Overall, under the right fire weather conditions, fires started from any ignition source in the wildland can grow in size and threaten the WUI.

Figure 5 displays trends with fire ignitions since the 1950's *within EA-I's WUI*. It is not surprising that, due to the much greater presence of people within the WUI than outside of it, humans are the leading cause of ignitions. Of the 284 recorded ignitions within the WUI, 84% were attributed to humans or human-related factors. Furthermore, the data shows that only 19% of these human-caused ignitions occurred from 2000 onwards – this could indicate increased awareness and education among residents about fire prevention. In contrast, lightning-initiated fires constituted only 13% of the recorded ignitions, with 22% of these lightning-related incidents taking place after 2000.

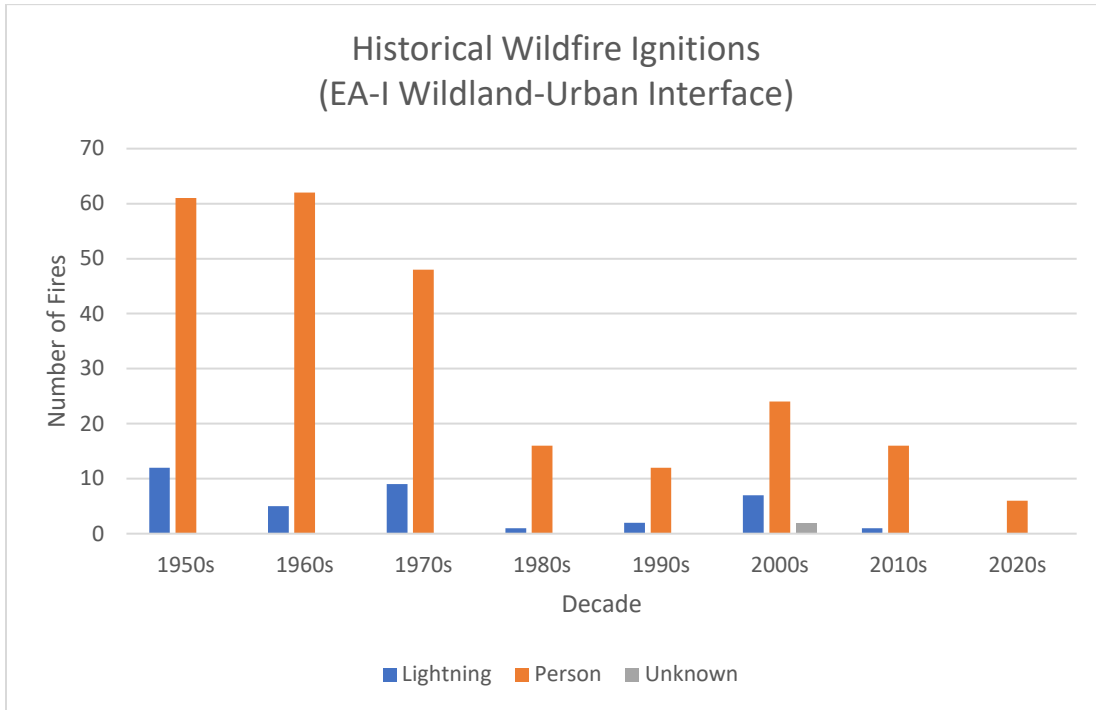
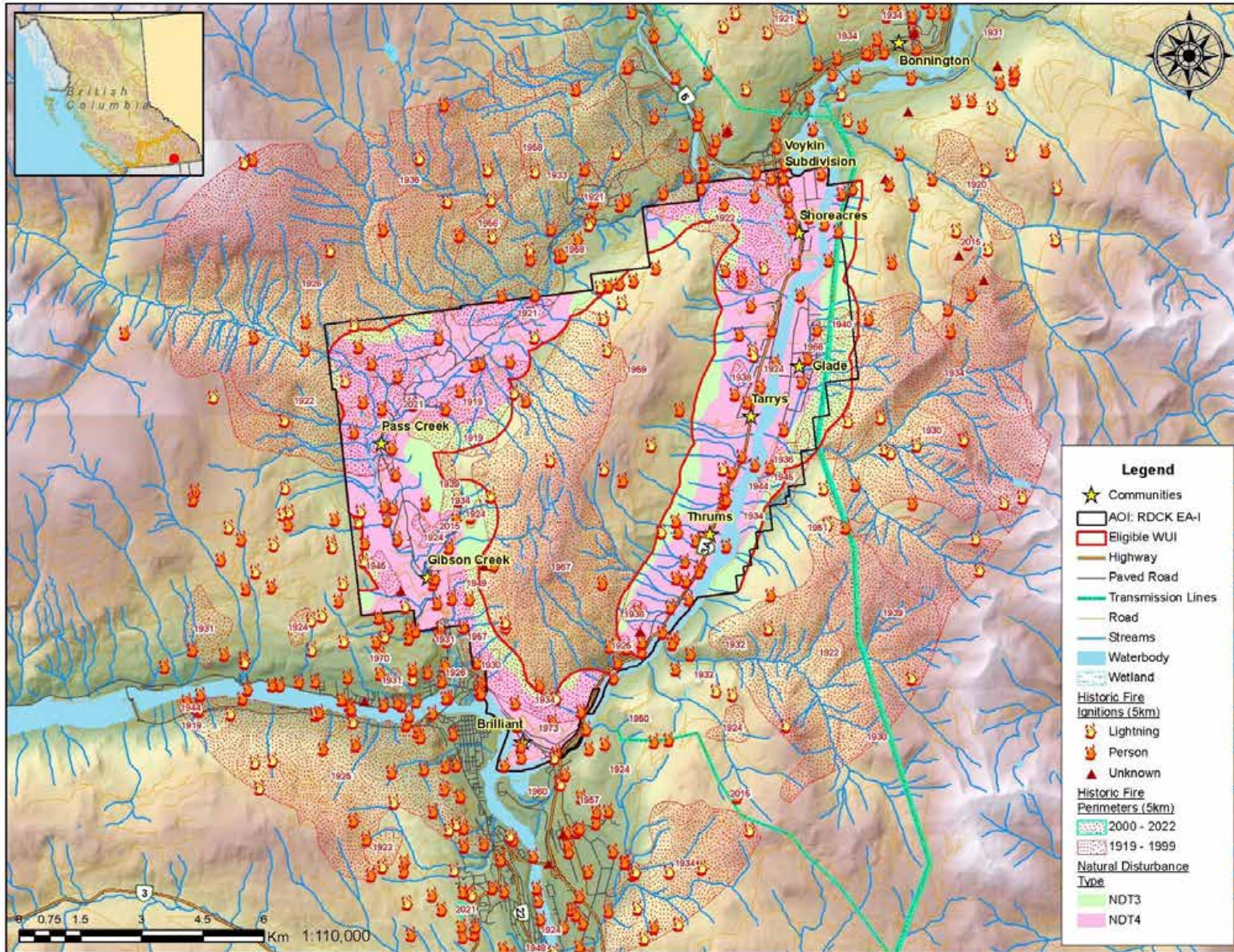


Figure 5: Summary of fire ignition data by cause within EA-I's WUI (Data from BCWS).



Map 6: Natural disturbance regimes and historical fire ignitions and occurrences for EA-I's WUI and a five-kilometer area surrounding.

4.3 LOCAL WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

There are two main components of this local risk assessment: the *wildfire behaviour threat class* (fuels, weather, and topography sub-components) and the *WUI risk class* (structural sub-component). The local wildfire threat assessment process includes several key steps as outlined in Appendix B: Local Wildfire Risk Process and summarized as follows:

- *Fuel type attribute assessment* – ground truthing/verification and updating as required to develop a local fuel type map (Appendix B-1: Fuel Typing Methodology).
- *Consideration of the proximity of fuel to the community* – recognizing that fuel closest to the community usually represents the highest hazard (Appendix B-4: Proximity of Fuel to the Community).
- *Analysis of predominant summer fire spread patterns* – using wind speed and wind direction during the peak burning period using ISI Rose(s) from BCWS weather station(s). Wind speed, wind direction, and fine fuel moisture condition influence wildfire trajectory and rate of spread.
- *Consideration of topography in relation to values* (Table 10 and Table 11) – slope percentage and slope position of the value are considered, where slope percentage influences the fire’s trajectory and rate of spread and slope position relates to the ability of a fire to gain momentum uphill.
- *Stratification of the WUI* – according to relative wildfire threat based on the above considerations, other local factors, and field assessment of priority wildfire risk areas.

Wildfire threat assessment field work in EA-I’s WUI was completed in August of 2023. 70 field stops (e.g., qualitative FireSmart notes, fuel type updates/verification, photograph documentation) were made across the WUI (see Appendix B-2: Wildfire Threat Assessment Plots and Map 5), including 10 Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) threat plots (see Appendix C: Wildfire Risk Assessment – Worksheets and Photos). WTA plots were completed in interface (i.e., abrupt change from forest to residential development) and intermix (i.e., where forest and structures are intermingled) areas of the WUI to support wildfire risk analyses and development of priority treatment areas, as well as in completed fuel treatment areas to quantify the reduction in site-level wildfire threat. Constraints such as the limited amount of public land within some parts of the WUI available for assessment, and/or limited accessibility into the WUI (e.g., access required through private property; no roads), limited field assessments for some areas.

It is important to note that the local WTA analysis does not apply to private land parcels nor any areas outside of the eligible WUI for this CWRP. As well, the threat assessments quantify threat as it relates to forest fuels, but do not include the ignition potential of residential landscaping, structures, or other infrastructure. Structure fires and structure-to-structure spread in a wildfire scenario are largely attributable to hazardous conditions in the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone of a structure (i.e., the area within 30m of the principal building and/or its attachments).

4.3.1 WILDFIRE THREAT CLASS ANALYSIS

Classes of the wildfire threat class analysis are as follows:

- **Very Low:** Waterbodies with no forest or grassland fuels, posing no wildfire threat;
- **Low:** Developed and undeveloped land that will not support significant wildfire spread;
- **Moderate:** Developed and undeveloped land that will support surface fires that can be unthreatening to homes and structures;
- **High:** Landscapes or stands with continuous forested or grassland fuels that will support candling, intermittent crown fires, or continuous crown fires. These landscapes often contain steeper slopes, rough or broken terrain and/or south or west aspects. High polygons may include high indices of dead and downed conifers; and
- **Extreme:** Continuous forested land that will support intermittent or continuous crown fires.

The results of the wildfire threat class analysis are shown on Map 7 and summarized in Table 14 below. The local threat analysis shows that, for the assessable area (i.e., not private land and removing large water bodies like Kootenay River), 32% is represented by High to Extreme wildfire behaviour landscapes. High and Extreme fire wildfire threat areas in EA-I encompass forested slopes of the southern portion of Sentinel Mountain as well as forest land along the west facing eastern slopes of the Glade neighbourhood. Forested slopes with extreme fire threat ratings (4% of public land) are characterized by densely stocked second-growth stands often with moderate to high surface fuel loading on the forest floor, while high wildfire behaviour forests (28%) are typically more open with a mix of grassy fuels and deciduous shrubs dominating the understory. Both often have a drier south or west aspect component. 60% of the landscape is classified as a Moderate wildfire behaviour threat, represented by a mosaic of open-grown forests and grasslands, often on lower and gentler slopes and/or with cooler north and east aspects. Overall, private land totals 55% of EA-I’s WUI – this area was not allocated fire threat data. Conditions on private land can often result in the fire hazard being much higher than in the forest adjacent if there is low compliance with FireSmart vegetation and structure principles – issues that were frequently observed throughout EA-I during field work.

Table 14: Wildfire threat summary for Electoral Area I’s eligible WUI

Threat Class	Wildfire Threat		
	Hectares	% of WUI	% of Assessable Public Land
Extreme	122	2%	4%
High	768	11%	28%
Moderate	1660	24%	60%
Low	236	3%	8%
Very Low/No Threat (Water)	354	5%	-
No Data (Private Land)	3908	55%	-

4.3.2 WUI RISK CLASS ANALYSIS

WUI risk classes are quantified when the Wildfire Threat (the above) is assessed as High or Extreme, potentially causing unacceptable wildfire risk when near communities and developments. WUI risk classes are described below:

- **Low:** The high or extreme threat is sufficiently distant from developments, having no direct impact of the community and is located over 2 km from structures;
- **Moderate:** The high or extreme threat is sufficiently distant from developments, having no direct impact of the community and is located 500m to 2 km distance from structures;
- **High:** The high or extreme threat has potential to directly impact a community or development and is located 200m to 500m from structures; and
- **Extreme:** The high or extreme threat has potential to directly impact a community or development and is located within 200m from structures.

Table 15 below (and also displayed on Map 7) summarizes the risk class ratings within the WUI. Of the 890 hectares assigned a High or Extreme wildfire threat class, 297 hectares (32%) have a High or Extreme WUI risk. This analysis provides an initial step towards identifying priority areas/neighbourhoods for directing FireSmart education and vegetative/fuel management efforts, if practicable.

It is important to note that reducing the risk (i.e., performing wildland fuel management) in any of the High to Extreme WUI risk areas is unlikely to be a silver bullet in protecting communities and structures. In extreme wildfire scenarios, firebrands (embers) can travel many kilometers ahead of the active fire front, land in densities of up to 600/m², and ignite combustible building materials and landscaping vegetation. In combination with wildland fuel management, increasing the resilience of EA-I’s WUI communities and interface/intermix neighbourhoods can only be efficiently achieved by performing residential-scale FireSmart activities on private land. The proposed fuel treatment units identified in Section 5.7 are not a comprehensive list of all areas that qualify for management; they were selected as the highest priority areas that are practicable to implement, present a high risk to their respective communities, and meet required funding program goals and requirements as either fuel breaks or fuel treatment areas.

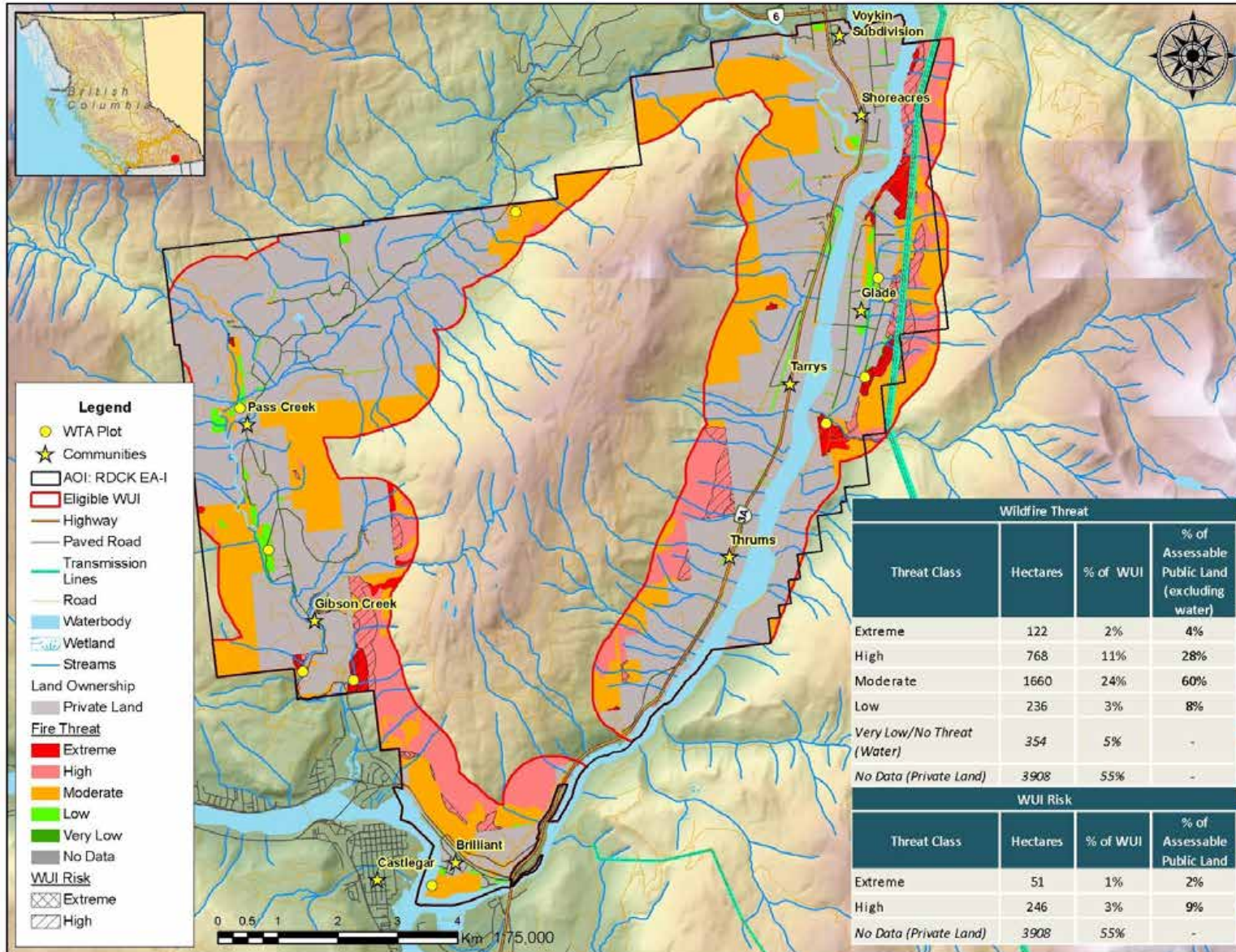
Table 15: WUI risk class ratings within the eligible WUI of the Village of Pemberton

WUI Risk			
Risk Class	Hectares	% of WUI	% Assessable Public Land
Extreme	51	1%	2%
High	246	3%	9%
N/A (Moderate, Low, or Very Low fire threat)	2249	32%	-
No Data (Private Land)	3908	55%	-

The Province of BC produces a Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA, updated in 2021) for all non-private land parcels in BC. This high-level assessment of relative wildfire threat throughout the province is largely based on data from the Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) that has not been ground truthed, fire occurrence patterns, potential fire intensity, and spotting potential.²⁴ The PSTA ranks threat on a scale of 1 (lowest) through 10 (extreme). Complementing the above local wildfire risk analyses, the PSTA is a high-level, geographic information system (GIS) raster analysis that is suitable for wildfire threat information across the land base, while appropriate land management activities need to be determined at the local level using site-specific stand-level information.

Additionally, the Province has developed a WUI Risk Class Framework to prioritize risk reduction initiatives, categorizing WUI polygons by a risk class of 1 (highest) through 5 (lowest). The application of relative risk does not imply “no risk” since the goal is to identify areas where there is higher risk. Electoral Area I’s WUI is categorized as being in a Risk Class of 1 – highest relative risk.

²⁴ MFLNRORD. (2017). Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis. Accessed from: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/fuels-management/provincial_strategic_threat_analysis_2017_update.pdf



Map 7: Local wildfire threat assessment within EA-I's WUI.

4.4 HAZARD, RISK, AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

The purpose of a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) is to help a community make risk-based choices to address vulnerabilities, mitigate hazards, and prepare for responding to and recovering from hazard events. The HRVA process assesses sources of potential harm, their likelihood of occurring, the severity of their possible impacts, and who or what is particularly exposed or vulnerable to these impacts.²⁵ An HRVA was not noted for EA-I, however, the Emergency Response and Recovery Plan for the Regional District of Central Kootenay includes a section on interface wildfire planning (3.10) with listed potential impacts. When an HRVA is completed or updated for EA-I (or RDCK as a whole), RDCK should look to the most recent CWRPs and reference their completed wildfire threat class analyses as well as recommendations.

²⁵ Government of BC. HRVA Example Report. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/local-government/hrva/hrva_forms-step_8-anytown_bc-sample_hrva_report.pdf

SECTION 5: FIRESMART PRINCIPLES

FireSmart™ is the leading program in Canada aimed at empowering the public and increasing neighbourhood resilience through wildfire mitigation measures. It has been formally adopted by almost all Canadian provinces and territories, including British Columbia in 2000. The FireSmart program covers a wide breadth of preventative measures, which are founded in the seven FireSmart disciplines: Education, Legislation and Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-Training, and Vegetation Management. These seven disciplines and the guiding principles behind FireSmart can be applied at a number of spatial scales, and are not restricted to any type of land ownership, forest type or property type. RDCK and EA-I has an active FireSmart program that is well staffed and funded to complete residential education activities.

Since EA-I's 2016 CWPP was completed, six of 34 of its recommendations have been wholly or partially implemented (previously detailed and discussed in Section 2.1). The recommendations addressed primarily related to delivering public FireSmart and wildfire education and prescribing and implementing proposed treatment units.

It has been found that during extreme wildfire events, most home destruction has been a result of low-intensity surface fire flame exposures, usually ignited by embers (firebrands). Firebrands can be transported long distances ahead of the wildfire, across fire guards and fuel breaks, and accumulate in densities that can exceed 600 embers per square meter. Combustible materials found on the exterior of and surrounding homes (the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone) combine to provide fire pathways allowing spot surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames or smoldering fire into contact with structures.

Because ignitability of structures and landscaping vegetation is the main factor driving structure loss, the intensity and rate of spread of wildland fires beyond the community has not been found to necessarily correspond to loss potential. For example, FireSmart homes with low ignitability may survive high-intensity fires, whereas highly ignitable homes may be destroyed during lower intensity surface fire events.²⁶ Increasing ignition resistance would reduce the number of homes simultaneously on fire; extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result in WUI fire disasters.²⁷ Initial assessments of homes/structures damaged versus those not from the recent 2023 Kelowna-area wildfires provides strong evidence supporting these key points.²⁸ It is for this reason that the key to reducing WUI fire structure loss is to reduce structure ignitability. Mitigation responsibility must be centered on structure owners. Risk

²⁶ Cohen, J. Preventing Disaster Home Ignitability in the Wildland-urban Interface. *Journal of Forestry*. p 15 - 21.

²⁷ Calkin, D., J. Cohen, M. Finney, M. Thompson. 2014. *How risk management can prevent future wildfire disasters in the wildland-urban interface*. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U.S.A.* Jan 14; 111(2): 746-751. Accessed online 1 June, 2016 at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3896199/>.

²⁸ Presentation by BCWS to the Wildland Fire and Fuels Community of Practice group via Forest Professionals of BC Webinar, November 2023.

communication, education on the range of available activities, and prioritization of activities should help homeowners to feel empowered to complete simple risk reduction activities on their property.

5.1 COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

During CWRP development, FireSmart risk and resiliency factors for different general areas or specific neighbourhoods throughout EA-I were noted (Table 16). This incorporates field observations, the local risk assessment, and information from local government meetings and consultation.

Table 16: FireSmart vulnerability and resilience by neighbourhood.

Community	Vulnerability	Resilience
Gibson Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intermix neighbourhood. - Steep, broken terrain and continuous forest land abut neighbourhood to the east. - Single-access dead end roads (Lower Gibson Rd, Upper Gibson Rd, Gibson School Rd). - No fire hydrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the Pass Creek FPA. - Homes on Pass Creek Rd & Winter Rd have large properties with irrigated lawns. - Bottom slope. - FireSmart vegetation management completed on some properties. - Suppression waterlines exist on some properties. - Metals roofs are common.
Pass Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited cellular service. - Interface to steep forest land to the east. - Narrow, dead-end roads (e.g., Goose Creek Rd, Suncrest Rd). - Retired vehicles and combustibles often abundant throughout rural properties. - No fire hydrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most homes are located on large, irrigated properties (Sandy Rd, Soukoroff Rd, Pass Creek Rd, Raven Rd etc.). - Within the Pass Creek FPA. - Fuel treatment units have been completed. - New developments generally have FireSmart-compliant building stock. - Wide turn-arounds at dead-end roads.
Brilliant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Narrow roads. - No fire hydrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within Pass Creek's FPA. - Flat, fluvial terrace. - Deciduous-dominated vegetation. - Multiple ignition sources: railway, undesignated campsite, highway. - Building stock is generally FireSmart-compliant (stucco, asphalt etc.).
Thrums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interface to steep forest land to the west. - Railway and highway are potential ignition sources. - No fire hydrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the Tarrys FPA. - Most homes have direct access to main access/egress route (Hwy 3A). - Irrigated lawns with deciduous landscaping favoured. - Some homes have water access (Kootenay River).
Tarrys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interface to steep forest land to the west; some properties are intermixed - Potential ignition sources from railway and highway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the Tarrys FPA. - Most homes have direct access to main access/egress route (Hwy 3A).

Community	Vulnerability	Resilience
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dead-end roads commonly access homes (e.g., Lazeroff Rd, Kooznetsoff Rd). - No fire hydrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frontier road (Loff Rd) provides secondary access route.
Glade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Egress challenges posed by ferryboat access. - Interface neighbourhood with hazardous fuel types to the east. - Forested bench (between Glade Rd and Upper Glade Rd). - No fire hydrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the Tarrys FPA. - Bottom slope and flat terrain - Irrigated, well-maintained lawns. - Some homes have water access (Kootenay River). - FireSmart activities commonly practiced within HIZ.
Shoreacres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Single road access/egress, with railway track crossing. - Interface neighbourhood. - Potential ignition source from nearby railway. - No fire hydrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the Tarrys FPA. - Flat, fluvial terrace. - Well-maintained, irrigated properties. - Deciduous vegetation is favoured. - Some homes have water access (Kootenay River). - Close access to main egress route (Hwy 3A).
Voykin Subdivision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interface to continuous forest land to the west. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within Tarrys FPA - Fire hydrants (six). - Well-maintained irrigated lawns. - Adequate firewood storage setbacks.

The sections to follow provide information on each FireSmart discipline as it relates to EA-I. An analysis of actions that have been implemented are noted, as well as any relevant gaps identified. Each section contains a table of recommended actions for EA-I. Most actions are fundable through the CRI FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program. Each recommendation includes a rationale, lead agency, timeline, and estimated resources to complete.

5.2 EDUCATION

Rural areas without fire services, or dependent upon small volunteer fire services, rely heavily on the coordination of local resources and the uptake of FireSmart initiatives to be prepared for a wildfire event. Public education and outreach play a critical role in helping a community prepare for and prevent a wildfire emergency. Awareness of wildfire risk is important, but this needs to be paired with an awareness of potential mitigation actions and available FireSmart programs for residents to implement on their properties and within the community. Participating in wildfire risk reduction and resiliency activities can also promote a sense of empowerment and shared responsibility at the home, street, and community level. The education discipline often supports the successful implementation of many other FireSmart disciplines by building awareness and understanding within both residents and visitors.

EA-I (via the RDCK FireSmart program and its own FireSmart Coordinator/Mitigation Specialist) has been actively engaging the community with a FireSmart education program. Despite FireSmart education efforts made by the electoral area Director and Tarrys Fire Chief, uptake has been noted as slow, reflected

in EA-I having one of the lowest rates of completing FireSmart assessments on homes.²⁹ Other FireSmart education activities that have been completed or are ongoing include:

- Distribution of FireSmart educational materials to residents,
- Social media updates with FireSmart information and fire danger ratings,
- Community FireSmart workshops and presentations, and
- Created FireSmart signage at completed community fuel treatments.

There are currently seven FireSmart Coordinators across multiple RDCK electoral areas. As these positions were all recently created, there could be many initial lessons learned that could be shared between them. RDCK FireSmart coordinators should look to plan regular meetings amongst themselves to share these lessons, as well as success and failures so that the region, as a whole, is working together towards a more wildfire resilient future. Additionally, as FireSmart Neighbourhood Champions (as part of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program – see Section 5.7) are identified, consider including them in these meetings so that FireSmart information and programming opportunities are taken back into each community.

To continue furthering FireSmart education initiatives, Table 17 below details recommended actions that EA-I can pursue. Because of the large amount of private property within EA-I's WUI, the observed general lack of adherence to FireSmart construction materials and landscaping, and the understanding that homes, landscaping vegetation, and all other manner of flammable and combustible materials are considered fuel in the WUI wildfire triangle, a large emphasis should be placed by EA-I to continue upon its FireSmart education successes, and to seek out new opportunities to engage with neighbourhoods or demographics not previously done or that have been difficult to do with to date. Not all activities/efforts will be successfully received by the public, but it is equally important to know what does not work as what does in getting the FireSmart message further into the community – then efforts can be refined and improved moving forwards. This includes tourists, of which there are many to EA-I's communities, recreation areas, and campsites, that may not be knowledgeable on FireSmart and the wildfire risks their actions may carry.

²⁹ Information from EA-I local government questionnaire. 56 Home Partners Program assessments have been completed in EA-I at the time of this report's writing.

Table 17: Education recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Education - Section 5.2							
Residents							
1	High	Continue to apply for funding and employ an EA-I FireSmart Coordinator/Mitigation Specialist.	To provide a continuous, local FireSmart program, delivered by local professionals with local knowledge and connections, to their community. Having a FireSmart Coordinator will provide a lead person with dedicated time to coordinate, manage, and implement the program, especially as it grows.	RDCK	2 years	EA-I has its own FireSmart program being managed by a local FireSmart Coordinator.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
2	High	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators should plan regular meetings to discuss their successes, failures, and learnings. Consider adding, or having specific meetings with, FireSmart Community Neighbourhood Champions.	So that they can continue to improve the RDCK’s FireSmart program and tailor it to their respective communities. Adding in Community Champions will allow them to further support their EA’s communities, as well as get FireSmart messaging and opportunities back into the communities faster.	FireSmart Coordinators (RDCK)	ASAP and ongoing	RDCK FireSmart Coordinators are meeting more than once a year.	CRI FCFS funding as part of FireSmart Coordinator salaries.
3	High	Continue to promote FireSmart to EA-I residents at community events, public spaces, and through workshops using FireSmart branded material and printed manuals (Home and Landscaping) and/or a FireSmart Canada Community Preparedness Day. Show a united front by having local government, fire department members, and FireSmart coordinators at events together as much as possible.	Observed adherence and uptake of FireSmart principles on private property and many homes/structures in EA-I is lacking. Landscaping (conifer hedges), firewood and combustible materials storage, and external building materials are the biggest issues. FireSmart BC resources help present a unified message. Print resources are popular and easy to distribute. FireSmart branded tents, banners, and t-shirts can be purchased with CRI FCFS funding. Tarrys Fire Chief noted the department had not been part of any public education events. Having representatives from all levels of response and government demonstrates the importance of FireSmart to the public.	EA-I / RDCK / FireSmart Coordinator	Annually	Quantity of resources distributed/number of times used at events.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
4	High	Update RDCK’s FireSmart webpage with the most recent FireSmart graphics and language. Provide links to the current fire danger rating, or better yet, have that posted on the front of this page (making sure to keep it updated during the fire season).	To continue to provide to most recent and up to date FireSmart information, language, and principles to residents (and visitors).	RDCK	Annually	Website is continuously updated, as required.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
5	High	Continue the FireSmart social media campaign, with updated FireSmart graphics and language, through various RDCK/EA-I social media platforms (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).	To promote FireSmart information to residents (and visitors). Include links to graphics, videos, pdf information/pamphlet downloads, etc.	EA-I / RDCK	Annually	FireSmart social media campaign continues.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
6	High	Continue to promote FireSmart in School District 8 schools using the FireSmart Education Kit and other resources. Students residing in EA-I attend schools in Castlegar and South Slocan.	Great success has been made through BC schools with FireSmart outreach. Engaging with the community’s younger population may increase uptake with all residents.	RDCK / School District 8	Annually	One FireSmart lesson delivered each year (minimum).	CRI FCFS; e.g. FireSmart Magnetic Board for \$1,710.
7	High	Continue to promote free FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments and/or Home Partners Program assessments to residents.	FireSmart Home Ignition zone and Home Partners Program assessments introduce residents to FireSmart, its principles, fire and wildfire risks associated with their home and property, and how they can be mitigated. These assessments are primarily an educational exercise, and can be funded completely through CRI FCFS. They are a requirement to qualify for the FireSmart rebate program (see Section 5.7).	EA-I / RDCK	2 years	FireSmart Home Ignition Zone assessments are being completed within EA-I.	CRI FCFS up to cost maximums.
8	Moderate	Consider door-to-door knocks in neighbourhoods (such as Pass Creek) that have communication constraints to discuss wildfire risk and FireSmart principles that they can apply to their home and property.	Although wildfire can affect all areas of EA-I’s WUI, some communities are more at risk due to risks/constraints not associated to wildfire – such as no cell service and low community turnouts at public FireSmart events. Door to door knocks by Fire Chiefs, fire department personnel, and	RDCK / EA-I Fire Response Area Departments / FireSmart Coordinators	2 years	Visits to homes in these WUI neighbourhoods from local government/	In-house personnel time. CRI FCFS for FireSmart materials.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
			FireSmart Coordinators have been successful in other communities.			FireSmart/ fire department members (with FireSmart information left at their door) have started.	
9	Moderate	Increase public awareness of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.	Increasing awareness of wildfire risk also increases community resiliency through household emergency planning, and support for FireSmart.	EA-I / RDCK	1 year from CWRP completion	Awareness by residents - consider a survey.	Staff time to update website, and media posts. Newspaper ads ~\$300 each.
Visitors							
10	High	Install FireSmart educational signage at regional parks.	These signs provide both visitors and residents a quick snapshot of how their actions and activities can inadvertently increase wildfire and ignition risks, as well as introduces visitors to FireSmart – a message they can take home with them.	EA-I / RDCK	5 years (signs installed)	Wildfire risk signs at the highest traffic parks have signs.	Sign cost ~\$800 for purchase and installation per sign.

5.3 LEGISLATION, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Legislation and planning regulation are effective tools for proactively reducing wildfire risk, although they can be less effective in large, rural regional districts like RDCK than in dense municipalities due to difficulties in enforcement. However, private property FireSmart Home Ignition Zone and structure risk reduction is the most effective avenue towards homes and structures surviving a wildfire event. One of the most powerful influences that legislation and planning can have on local wildfire risk is through wildfire hazard Development Permit Areas (DPAs).

Section 2.2 provided a comprehensive look at local plans and bylaws that are currently in place and relevant to wildfire resilience. There are currently no policies imbedding FireSmart development principles and considerations within the Kootenay-Columbia Rivers Official Community Plan (OCP).

One of the priorities for recommendations within this Plan is to manage fire risk to structures within their Home Ignition Zones (i.e., within 30m of the structure and the structure itself). As part of the 2022 Wildfire Development Permit Area Study, draft wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs) were developed for the RDCK (but have not yet been implemented), however there was little mention of EA-I interface communities. The purpose of a wildfire DPA is to manage wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa), achieved through the application of FireSmart principles. The BC Building Code, which to date manages room-to-room and structure-to-structure fire transmission, is currently being updated, with roll out planned for late-2024, and may include FireSmart standards. RDCK should review and assess what FireSmart principles are included and compare them to the draft Wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs), update the draft DPAs as required, then initiate a process to implement the wildfire DPAs, if still required, to manage for risks not addressed in the new Code – with a strong consideration to include EA-I WUI communities.

Water is the most important resource for fighting wildland and structure fires. As such, policies regarding regular access points for fire trucks to known water sources (such as Kootenay River) should be included in EA-I's OCP – reference can be drawn from RDCK Electoral Area F's Rural OCP Section 17.10 which supports protection of accesses to water sources such as hydrants, standpipes, lakes, and streams to remain free of obstructions for fire protection purposes.

Part of development considerations is ensuring that all critical infrastructure (described in Section 3.3 and listed in Table 8) are constructed or brought up to a high FireSmart standard. Performing FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments on those infrastructure that have not had one completed yet (in priority sequence) will detail which are most at risk to wildfire, and what mitigation activities should be performed to reduce those risks. Additionally, including a policy in the OCP stating that all regional district structures are built and landscaped to FireSmart standards would ensure these structures are wildfire resilient from the start as well as provide examples of FireSmart construction and landscaping to the public.

Recommended changes to planning and development RDCK and EA-I can implement are detailed in Table 18.

Table 18: Legislation, planning and development recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Legislation, Planning and Development - Section 5.3							
11	High	Upon the roll-out of the new BC Building Code in 2024, RDCK should review and assess what FireSmart principles are included and compare them to the draft Wildfire Development Permit Areas (DPAs). Update the draft DPAs as required. Initiate a process to implement the wildfire DPAs, if still required, to manage for risks not addressed in the new Code. Consider the inclusion of EA-I WUI communities.	FireSmart construction and landscaping policies manage for wildland-to-structure fire transfer (and vice versa). Over time, resiliency will be built up at the interface and intermix areas.	EA-I / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon BC Building Code roll out	All new development complies with the policy.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
12	High	Update references to “fire risk” in EA-I’s OCP to include referencing the Local Wildfire Risk Analysis developed as part of this plan, as it more accurately reflects current fire risk for EA-I’s WUI than currently available provincial data.	EA-I should look to the most recent and accurate wildfire risk analysis for its WUI to be used to determine areas of Moderate and High wildfire threat for reducing wildfire threat through community planning and development purposes.	EA-I / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon next OCP review and update	OCP update that includes FireSmart construction/development policies for single home and lot development and major renovations.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost
13	High	Include a policy in EA-I’s OCP which supports protection of <i>designated</i> accesses to water sources such as hydrants, standpipes, lakes, and streams to remain free of obstructions for fire protection purposes.	Water is the most important resource for fighting wildland and structure fires. As such, policies regarding regular access points for fire trucks to known water sources (such as Kootenay River) should be identified, designated, and protected.	EA-I / RDCK (Consultant)	Upon next OCP review and update	OCP update that protects fire department access to designated water source access points.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost
14	High	Consider adopting a Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw to restrict flammable landscaping. Example: prohibit conifer vegetation in the Immediate Zone of a residence or structure (0-1.5 m) and prohibit the planting of new conifer vegetation in Priority Zone 1 (1.5-10 m). Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout the Township, especially on more densely populated streets. This can be an effective communication tool regardless of enforcement capacity.	Highly flammable landscaping plants (ex., cedar hedges) were noted throughout EA-I, especially on more densely populated streets. Landscaping vegetation can act as a wick, moving fire to homes/structures and throughout communities.	EA-I / RDCK (Consultant)	5 years	A Wildfire Landscaping Bylaw is in effect.	CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 available to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
15	High	Continue to conduct FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments for public works and community/government buildings. Conduct FireSmart mitigation as soon as possible (vegetation management, material upgrades). Set a priority sequence for assessment based on wildfire response and post-wildfire recovery. Encourage and support privately owned community halls that act as community shelters, and private or community owned critical infrastructure, to do the same.	Protecting water systems, emergency shelters, and community infrastructure is critical to wildfire response and recovery. Assessments have already been completed for EA-I fire halls.	EA-I / RDCK (Local FireSmart Representative; FireSmart Coordinator; and/or Consultant)	Ongoing	Number of assessments completed and mitigation hours/investment	CRI FCFS: up to \$800 per assessment and up to \$50,000 for mitigation per structure (publicly owned only)

5.4 CROSS-TRAINING AND FIRE DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

All staff and agency partners who are expected to participate in the development and implementation of this plan, or participate in a wildfire response and recovery, should be appropriately trained. This includes municipal Emergency Management staff, other municipal staff that could play a role in an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and EA-I Fire Response Area Fire Departments. Training opportunities include:

- Basic Wildland Fire Suppression and Safety
- Incident Command System
- FireSmart 101
- FireSmart Local FireSmart Representative (LFR)
- FireSmart Community Champion
- FireSmart Home Partners Wildfire Mitigation Specialist (WMS)
- Post-wildfire reclamation and recovery
- Post-wildfire structure damage assessment
- BC Structure Protection Program (WSPP-115)

Regular in-person cross-training between agencies is imperative for familiarization with each other’s equipment and to address any incompatibilities. The Tarrys Fire Department and BCWS noted that almost annual cross-training is conducted with BCWS staff, however the Department’s wildland specific equipment has not been reviewed by BCWS in a few years.^{30,31} Additionally, valuable training through experience can be acquired from being deployed to wildfires. Under the Fire Chiefs’ Association of BC and BC Wildfire Service MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES, fire departments (including those in EA-I) routinely work with BCWS in response to incidents within and outside of Fire Protection and Response Areas. Thus, fire departments should maintain a level of wildland-specific training and equipment – wildland training and equipment for the Tarrys VFD is detailed below in Table 19.³²

Table 19: Wildland specific training and resources of the Tarrys VFD.

Department	Members	Training/Experience	[Wildland] Equipment
Tarrys VFD	22 paid on call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17/22 have completed the SPP-WFF1. - Several have SPP-115. - Several firefighters have been deployed to other areas as SPU crews, Crew Leaders, SPS, Engine Boss, etc. - Somewhat annual cross training with BCWS Arrow base. 	<p>Tender 441</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1500 gals with 1500-gal porta tank. - Forestry equipment on truck: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4” High Volume Pump, Honda forestry pump, various forestry nozzles and adaptor/fittings, 4 - 3 ways, 17 plastic water thieves, 4 forestry gated y’s, 21 – 100’ 1 ½” supply lines, 4 – 50’ 1” forestry lines,

³⁰ Information gathered from Tarrys VFD questionnaire as part of the development of this Plan.

³¹ Information gathered from BCWS questionnaire as part of the development of this Plan.

³² Wildland training and equipment for the Pass Creek VFD were not provided.

Department	Members	Training/Experience	[Wildland] Equipment
			<p>1 bag of 10 sprinklers, 8 long handle shovels, 4 Pulaski's, and 2 fire axes, 1 Mark 3 pump with tools and equipment.</p> <p>Rescue 441 (used for wildland and Medical First Response)</p> <p>- Forestry equipment on truck: High pressure skid Honda pump with 100 gals of water, 12 small forestry hoses, 6 – 1 ½" supply lines, 2 Forestry Hose backpacks, 5 long handle shovels, 8 Pulaski's and 2 fire axes, 2 – 50" 1 1/2" hoses, 2 rubber fire swatters, 6 – fire rakes and 4 water backpacks.</p>

Water is the most important resource for fighting wildland and structure fires. Detailed previously in Section 3.3.2, there are a limited number of hydrants available within EA-I. Natural water sources are thus a valuable source of water that can be used for wildfire fighting (especially during summer drought conditions). The Kootenay River has water available year-round – having this source with access points available to firefighters is strategically important. Recommended by the Tarrys VFD would be to have standpipes installed on the Kootenay River – example locations would be on both sides of the Glade Ferry, one in Shoreacres, and one in Thrums.

An example of community-led water development for wildfire fighting was initiated in 2020 by the Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group (AEPG; in EA-D). They began a water mapping project (with assistance from a Selkirk College student), which received additional support in 2023 from Living Lakes. With a goal of creating quick access to valuable information for fire response (local and BCWS), a focus has been on available water sources:

- Over 30 locations have been GPS'd where a fire pump could be quickly set up, including photos and access information and detailed information about each site.
- Existing standpipes with fire hose fittings were detailed in a similar fashion, noting water pressure and pipe sizes.

Table 20 lists recommendations for the RDCK related to cross-training and fire department resources in EA-I.

Table 20: Cross-training recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Cross Training & Fire Department Resources - Section 5.4							
Training							
16	High	Continue to provide SPP-WFF1 training in-house to EA-I fire department members and consider having some members take 'train-the-trainer' courses so that more courses (e.g., S-231, WSPP-115) can be delivered in-house.	This would provide an opportunity to expand in-house wildland specific training, and potentially train adjacent fire departments.	RDCK / Fire Response Area Fire Departments	Annually	Number of firefighters (both paid and on-call volunteer) with wildland training beyond SPP-WFF1 increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS Training. Columbia Basin Trust funding.
17	High	Support FireSmart specific training to EA-I fire response area fire departments: FireSmart 101, Local FireSmart Representative (LFR), and FireSmart Home Partners Mitigation Specialists.	To build understanding and knowledge of FireSmart principles within local fire departments. To certify EA-I fire department members so they can implement various FireSmart assessments within the community.	RDCK / Fire Response Area Fire Departments	3 years	Number of firefighters (both paid and on-call volunteer) with FireSmart training increases.	Staff time; CRI FCFS Training.
18	High	EA-I fire response area fire departments should continue seeking out (and being supported by RDCK/EA-I in doing so) opportunities to perform wildfire response and structure protection drills - using hydrants, standpipes, and natural water sources, <i>with</i> BCWS.	Fast and effective deployment of available Structure Protection Units (two are owned by RDCK) and any additional equipment operated by the BCWS will be crucial in any interface fire scenario. Equipment compatibilities and/or differences between fire departments & BCWS should be identified and addressed ahead of time. Tarrys Fire Department noted that more training opportunities with BCWS would be greatly beneficial.	RDCK / Fire Response Area Fire Departments (BCWS)	Annually	A Drill is performed with BCWS and one EA-I fire department annually.	Staff time as required.

Water							
19	High	Identify and map natural and artificial water sources useable for fire suppression across the entire regional district. Consider standpipe locations along Kootenay River for development. Having a digital map would allow it to be uploaded into response vehicles' CAD systems, shared with BCWS response personnel, as well as included in the pre-planning of emergency community water delivery systems connecting major natural water sources with interface communities, to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. Include important details such as: estimated water volume and access point notes. Share this information to all mutual aid fire response partners, and update over time.	Most of the firefighting service in EA-I requires water shuttling. This impacts EA-I's wildfire resilience. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers (and more easily from standpipes) to fill bladders can be pre-planned, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps, and piping.	Fire Response Area Fire Departments (RDCK GIS department; BCWS; MOTI; MOE)	5 years and ongoing	A fire suppression water source plan and map are produced and shared.	CRI FCFS Community Water Delivery Assessment – Up to \$10,700 to apply to incremental staff hours or contract cost.
20	High	In coordination with Recommendation #19, create opportunities for BCWS to work with independent water systems to identify assets. Assist those communities in retrofitting their systems to be compatible, if required.	Reducing barriers to BCWS for accessing water sources in the WUI increases opportunities to fight WUI fires.	RDCK / FireSmart Coordinator (BCWS)	Annually	Communities with self-managed water systems are meeting with BCWS	RDCK/EA-I, BCWS, and community time.
21	Moderate	Fire response area fire departments should seek Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation from Fire Underwriters Survey.	This accreditation certifies that the fire department can supply enough water to have some areas without fire hydrants within a certain distance of their structures qualify as having a fire hydrant within 300m of it (this can also potentially lower insurance rates for property owners within the EA-I fire response areas). Note: this does not increase the overall water supply already available under automatic and mutual aid agreements.	Fire Response Area Fire Departments (RDCK)	5 years	Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation achieved.	Fire department staff time as required (and RDCK budget for equipment upgrades and purchases, if needed).
Equipment and Staff							
22	High	In coordination with Recommendations #18 and #19, the EA-I fire departments should continue (or begin, if not done already) annual inspections by BCWS of their wildland firefighting equipment. Any gaps should be addressed, as required.	To ensure proper equipment is available to respond to interface wildfire events, and that equipment is compatible with BCWS's. CRI FCFS funding is available for incremental equipment purchases.	EA-I fire departments (RDCK; BCWS)	Annually	Annual inspection of wildland firefighting equipment from BCWS; gaps filled as practicable.	Fire department and RDCK staff time; CRI FCFS equipment funding up to cost maximums.

5.5 INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

The goal of interagency cooperation is to approach wildfire resilience through a collaborative, multi-agency approach. This increases the ability of local governments to plan and respond to emergencies effectively. Cooperation and communication are especially critical for EA-I as there are multiple jurisdictions side-by-side (e.g., RDCK EAs E, H and G, and the City of Castlegar) and multiple land managers currently operating (e.g., BC Timber Sales, Columbia Basin Trust). Landscape-level fire resilience cannot effectively be achieved without planning for resilience across jurisdictional boundaries. Engagement can be formal or informal and can take place through existing communication channels or stand-alone committees.

Due to its adjacency to the City of Castlegar, EA-I participates in the Castlegar Area FireSmart and Resiliency Committee (CFRC) which began meeting in 2023 to coordinate cross-jurisdictional FireSmart and fuel mitigation planning within Castlegar and surrounding RDCK electoral areas (see Appendix E: Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee). Additionally, EA-I Fire Chiefs also participate in an annual Zone 4 Fire Chiefs meeting that includes BCWS representatives to ensure wildfire emergency pre-organization is in place, policy changes are discussed, and opportunities to improve mutual aid for fire response are capitalized on.³³ Mutual aid agreements exist between BCWS and RDCK fire services. This is captured in the MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES between the Fire Chief's Association of BC and the BC Wildfire Service.

When planning and implementing forest harvesting and fuel management treatments in the community and in adjacent forest tenures, a high-level tracking and communication of fuel treatments needs to occur. It is imperative that all land managers know what adjacent or overlapping jurisdictions have identified as fuel breaks, so that time and money is not wasted reassessing or re-prescribing an area. As EA-I's WUI is extensive in area, RDCK (via the CFRC) should develop a process for spatially tracking and managing proposed and completed fuel management/fuel break units in the greater regional district area that all members can access. Although RESULTS³⁴ is a powerful spatial tool to keep track of forest activities on the Provincial land base, it does not include activities on municipal and First Nations land. A separate spatial layer should be maintained by Ministry of Forests (MOF) as a public service using inputs from municipalities, First Nations, and forest licensees. Changes to the MOF Wildfire Risk Reduction program (which manages wildland fuel treatments on the Provincial land base) in the coming years may solve some of these problems.

BC Timber Sales has tenure overlaps with EA-I's WUI (Sentinel Mountain). Forest activities can both increase and decrease wildfire risk in WUI areas and BCWS stated that Category 3 industry burning has led to fire starts and continues to be a concern every spring. Forest harvesting practices such as strategic cutblock placement, reducing post-harvest slash, providing loads of firewood to the public, and

³³ Information gathered from BCWS questionnaire as part of the development of this Plan.

³⁴ Government application that tracks silviculture information by managing the submission of openings, disturbances, silviculture activities and obligation declarations as required by the Forest and Range Practices Act.

implementing fire management stocking standards as part of reforestation efforts can reduce wildfire behaviour for harvested areas within the WUI.

Discussed in Section 3.3, transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions - trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways. Highways and rail lines can also provide excellent fuel breaks if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. If not, they can act as wicks moving fire along them, or ignition sources for fires from burning cars, cigarette butts, sparks, etc. Additionally, highways are a main access/egress route during an emergency – these routes should be kept at as low risk of state as possible.

Table 21 details Interagency Cooperation recommendations for EA-I and its jurisdictional and land manager partners.

Table 21: Interagency cooperation recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
<i>Interagency Cooperation - Section 5.5</i>							
23	High	Continue to engage with the established Castlegar Area FireSmart and Resiliency Committee (CFRC) to plan, implement, and coordinate FireSmart initiatives, including fuel management treatments. Look to include EA-I volunteer fire department Fire Chiefs.	To provide a platform for information sharing. All parties have indicated a willingness for collaboration, which will allow for greater management of wildfire risk both within and surrounding EA-I's WUI.	Castlegar CFRC	Ongoing	CFRC FireSmart meeting takes place at least once annually.	At least 8 hours per meeting to prepare, participate and debrief. CRI FCFS up to \$2,000 per meeting.
24	High	As communities self-organize for FireSmart initiatives, and even take up the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (see Recommendation #46), RDCK and EA-I should look to support their inclusion in a Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC), or develop local sub-committees, as required.	To further community involvement in FireSmart and wildfire risk reduction activities at the community level.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Additions to existing CFRCs are made, as required, or new ones are established, as needed.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
25	High	Work with RDCK, CFRC members, and MOF to develop a fuel treatment/fuel break tracking system to spatially manage proposed and completed fuel management areas both within EA-I's WUI and outside it at the regional level.	It is imperative that all land managers know what adjacent or overlapping jurisdictions have identified as fuel breaks, so that time and money is not wasted reassessing or re-prescribing an area.	EA-I/Castlegar CFRC / MOF / RDCK	As soon as possible	A regional GIS tracking system is established, or a provincial one is developed that CFRC members can access.	Cost and time dependent upon level of effort required.
26	High	Lobby forest land licensee/managers (e.g., BC Timber Sales) to be aware of where their tenure overlaps EA-I's WUI and to develop and implement (or continue implementing) forest planning, harvesting, slash management, and reforestation plans that reduce wildfire behaviour in these areas.	Cutblock placement can break up the forest continuity across the landscape – with proper slash and reforestation management, they can remain as areas of low wildfire behaviour for many years. However, if not managed properly, they can increase wildfire behaviour.	RDCK / EA-I / Local Government elected officials/ Community members (MOF; Forest Licensees and Managers)	Ongoing	Forest licensees/managers are aware of their tenure overlaps with the WUI and are actively working towards forest management plans to reduce wildfire behaviour in those areas.	RDCK/EA-I staff time for discussions.

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
27	High	Lobby and work with the electrical power providers in and influencing the community's WUI, MOTI for Provincial highways, and rail line owners/operators to regularly maintain their right-of-way's vegetation.	<p>Transmission lines can provide excellent fuel breaks and access for first responders in the event of a wildfire – if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. They can also be the source of fire ignitions - trees and other vegetation intruding into power lines can cause fires in multiple ways.</p> <p>Highways can also provide excellent fuel breaks if the vegetation on them is regularly managed and kept in a low-hazard state. If not, they can act as wicks moving fire along them, or ignition sources for fires from burning cars, cigarette butts, sparks, etc. Additionally, highways are a main access/egress route during an emergency – these routes should be kept at as low risk of state as possible.</p>	RDCK / EA-I Local Government elected officials (MOTI; Electrical Providers; Railways)	Yearly and ongoing	Right-of-way maintenance discussions are open and ongoing; right-of-ways are kept in low-risk states.	RDCK/EA-I staff time for discussions.

5.6 EMERGENCY PLANNING

Local government and community preparations for a wildfire emergency are very important. Plans, mutual aid agreements, resources, training, and emergency communications systems make for effective wildfire response. The RDCK Emergency Plan includes EA-I and the RDCK Emergency Program conducts tabletop exercises yearly with staff (and responds to emergencies involving evacuations almost yearly).

In a wildfire emergency that requires evacuation, Glade has the largest constraint as the community is dependent upon a cable ferry as the primary access route. The small ferry would quickly be overwhelmed by evacuees. As such, there is a specific Evacuation Route Plan for the community, but this has not been shared with the public and is only used in the RDCK EOC for planning purposes. This constraint should be recognized and addressed in EA-I's Official Community Plan (as it has been in Electoral Area E's for Harrop-Proctor) by encouraging the identification and maintenance of public access points to the Kootenay River to facilitate emergency egress via water in the event of forest fire, spills, slides, and other disasters. Consistently applied in communities where egress is an issue (such as Glade) is having Local Government work closely with BCWS when considering trigger points for evacuation alerts and evacuation orders to allow time to evacuate via the ferry. This includes recommending residents evacuate livestock and move large items (such as trailers) across the ferry while they are on *evacuation alert*, thus allowing time for an orderly ferry evacuation during an *evacuation order*. Evacuations via public and private boat launches is a last case, least desirable scenario – considered as part of a tactical evacuation.

Clear, consistent, concise, and quick communication during an emergency event and evacuation are integral to the prevention of loss of life. The RDCK has upgraded to a new notification system for emergency alerts and water advisories powered by "Voyent Alert!". Downloadable as an app to a smart phone, the user can receive a detailed map of the affected area. The system also supports text messaging, emails, or landline calls. RDCK and EA-I should promote this notification to residents as much as possible.

Most of EA-I's WUI is only accessible by roads through private property. This is a significant constraint to wildfire first responders as those road conditions are largely unknown. This constraint should also be recognized in EA-I's Community Official Plan by encouraging that private roads that access forest lands be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment. Access by emergency responders to the WUI is paramount towards defending communities from WUI fire events, but also for aiding in fuel treatment practicability.

Additionally, it was noted during field assessments, and echoed in meetings with local government and first responders, that there is a pervasive lack of visible, reflective addresses for properties within EA-I. Addresses are one of the most common forms of providing first responders directions of where to respond to. This issue should be made aware to the public with examples and options of proper signage.

A pre-incident plan is a compilation of essential fire management information needed to save valuable time during fire suppression operations. During a busy wildfire season, Provincial resources are often stretched thin, and any information that local governments can provide to BCWS crews is helpful. A pre-incident plan should be developed and tested using tabletop simulations, and if necessary, revised prior

to every fire season. BCWS should be involved in this process to ensure that any mapping done as part of the pre-incident plan or Fire Management Planning process is not unnecessarily duplicated.

Figure 6 contains a checklist of discussion points and considerations during pre-incident plan development.



Figure 6. A pre-incident planning checklist that can be used to help develop a pre-incident wildfire suppression plan and maps.

The RDCK could also consider developing local daily action guidelines based on expected wildfire conditions. Table 22 below provides a template that can be tailored specifically to the EA-I, outlining actions staff can take as fire danger levels change throughout the fire season.

Table 22: Example of a Wildfire Response Preparedness Condition Guide³⁵

FIRE DANGER LEVEL	ACTION GUIDELINES
LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All District staff on normal shifts.
MODERATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All District staff on normal shifts. Information gathering and dissemination through Nelson’s CFRC.
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All District staff on normal shifts. Regional fire situation evaluated. Daily fire behavior advisory issued. Wildland fire-trained District staff and EOC staff notified of Fire Danger Level. Establish weekly communications with CFRC.
EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily fire behavior advisory issued. Regional fire situation evaluated. EOC staff considered for stand-by. Wildfire Incident Command Team members considered for stand-by/extended shifts. Designated District staff: water tender and heavy machinery operators, arborists may be considered for stand-by/extended shifts. Consider initiating Natural Area closures to align with regional situation. Provide regular updates to media / District staff on fire situation. Update public websites and RDCK social media as new information changes.
FIRE(S) ONGOING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All conditions apply as for ‘Extreme’ (regardless of actual fire danger rating). Mobilize EOC support if evacuation is possible, or fire event requires additional support. Mobilize Wildfire Incident Command Team under the direction of the EOC/Fire Chiefs. Implement Evacuation Alerts and Orders based on fire behavior prediction and under the direction of the EOC/Fire Chief.

Emergency planning also includes the recovery from an emergency. As discussed in Section 3.3.1, having secondary power sources for critical infrastructure is important to reduce community vulnerability in the event of an emergency that cuts power for days, or even weeks.

Roof top and gutter-mounted sprinklers are a useful tool that can be easily stored and then set up, as needed, by individual homeowners (if they have the required water availability). BCWS can also link their water systems to them to support their firefighting efforts. Three main mounting types exist: temporary mounted sprinklers (fully removable), permanently mounted sprinklers, and permanent sprinkler mounts

³⁵ From FireSmart Community Funding and Supports 2022 CWRP Supplemental Instruction Guide

that sprinklers can then be attached to/removed from. There are benefits and disadvantages to all, especially as structures can differ significantly from one another, however, the benefits to using permanent sprinkler mounts as the preferred choice were noted as such by the Beasley Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief: permanent rooftop sprinklers are time consuming and difficult to access for troubleshooting; sprinklers on pipes that can be lifted and set onto the permanent mounts from the ground are fast to deploy, easy to lift down when repairs or replacement are needed; and, they reduce sprinkler deterioration rates from not being left in place year-round. Local Government and community organizations can spearhead the acquisition and planning of sprinklers and structure protection units (SPUs) themselves, moving the planning and organization off the individual homeowner and increasing community wildfire resiliency. Additionally, there can be cost savings in bulk orders.

RDCK has two Type 2 SPUs which are regional assets, and firefighters from all 16 RDCK supported fire departments that can be deployed as needed. One SPU is (generally) stationed at the Kaslo and Area Fire Department Hall. It should be noted that under the interagency agreement, when the SPUs are needed, they are requested by the local authority for use within a fire protection area and by BCWS for use outside of the fire protection area. Regardless of the requestor, they are sourced by BCWS. The cost of deployment is reimbursed by the Province. BCWS may or may not opt to use local SPUs to be deployed to a fire.

Recommendations and action items that RDCK and EA-I can implement to continue productive and effective emergency planning are detailed below in Table 23.

Table 23: Emergency preparedness recommendation and action items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Emergency Planning - Section 5.6							
28	High	Continue tabletop wildfire scenario tabletop exercises with emergency management and CFRC partners. Yearly, pre-fire season is best. Move the “WUI fire” to a different area of EA-I’s WUI each time.	Tabletop exercises provide an opportunity to identify weak spots in a plan and collaborate.	RDCK (EA-I/Castlegar CFRC; RCMP; BCWS)	5 years	Knowledge of 'pinch points' in an evacuation scenario and understanding of roles and responsibilities.	CRI FCFS Emergency Planning: up to \$2,000 per meeting. Possibly CRI / CEPF / Columbia Basin Trust
29	High	Consider updating EA-I’s OCP with guidelines stating private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment. Discuss with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) possible means supporting/enforcing that private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment.	Access by emergency responders to the WUI is paramount towards both defending communities from WUI fire events, but also for aiding in fuel treatment practicability. This constraint is recognized in EA-F’s Rural Community Official Plan in section 18.3.8 which, “Encourages that private roads that access forest lands should be of adequate design to allow for the safe movement of logging and fire-fighting equipment.”	RDCK (MOF; BCWS; Local Fire Response Area Departments)	5 years	OCP updated as required and access roads through private land to the interface forest are maintained.	RDCK/EA-I time for planning and discussions. CRI FCFS: up to \$10,700 for incremental staff hours or contract cost.
30	High	RDCK and EA-I should continue to promote the Voyent Alert! System to residents and visitors.	Clear, consistent, concise, and quick communication during an emergency event and evacuation are integral to the prevention of loss of life. A lack of this was identified as an issue during recent WUI fire disasters, such as that in Lahaina, Maui, USA and Fort McMurray, Alberta.	RDCK (FireSmart Coordinator)	Ongoing	Continued update of the Voyent Alert! System (can track downloads from app providers).	RDCK for promotion.
31	High	RDCK should have appropriate signage designating shoreline access routes for secondary boat egress for Glade which relies on ferry or private boat for access/egress.	To expedite egress during an emergency evacuation in a community already significantly constrained.	RDCK / EA-I	5 years	All public shoreline access/egress routes are marked (a series of signs	RDCK: Cost/time dependent on number of

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
						from main roads to access points is best).	access points and signs required.
32	High	Invest in back-up generators for any critical infrastructure that does not have one (including fire halls). Encourage private businesses that provide critical services, like gas stations and grocery stores, to follow suit.	Back-up generators for pumphouses, treatment plants, and community buildings (especially those designated as emergency shelters) would facilitate both emergency response (water supply for suppression) and rapid community return and recovery following a fire.	RDCK / EA-I (Private Industry)	ASAP	A budget and purchase plan for back-up generators is implemented, starting with the most critical infrastructure.	Cost varies - ~\$10,000
33	High	Initiate a roof-top sprinkler program for residential properties. Investigate bulk orders from wildfire protection or irrigation companies or commercial gutter-mount kits. Consider sprinkler kits as an incentive to communities/neighbourhoods for FireSmart participation. Discuss with local Fire Departments and BCWS what mounting/sprinkler types are best. This can be directly led by RDCK, or RDCK can offer support to local fire departments and community organizations to assist doing so.	Pre-installed rooftop sprinklers reduce the time and resources needed to set up a structural protection system in a community threatened by wildfire. Sprinkler installation could be paired with a free FireSmart Assessment.	RDCK / EA-I	1 Year and Ongoing	Establish an efficient and effective system. Track the number and location of sprinklers purchased and installed annually.	Bulk sprinklers \$40 - \$100 each; gutter mount kits ~\$100-200 for one home
34	High	Schedule regular updates of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan: target every 5 years.	A current and acceptable CWRP is required for funding under the CRI FCFS program. Update the wildfire threat for areas with completed fuel treatments and identify additional areas for treatment.	RDCK / EA-I	5 years – 2028 update	EA-I always has a current and acceptable CWRP.	~\$32,000; CRI FCFS funding
35	Moderate	Pre-plan emergency community water delivery systems to connect major natural water sources with interface communities/neighbourhoods to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system. This can be supported by Recommendation #19. The Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group has been working on this since 2023 (see Section 5.4).	RDCK has many large natural water bodies and streams/creeks to draw from in the event of a wildfire. Shuttling or pumping water from lakes and rivers to fill bladders may be planned in advance, including tender access points, traffic control, permanent large-volume pumps and piping.	RDCK / EA-I (BCWS)	5 Years	Assess community water delivery for each neighbourhood. Develop and test neighbourhood specific plans.	CRI: Assessment of Community Water Delivery Ability - incremental staff hours or contract cost

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
36	Moderate	<p>Promote the installation of visible and reflective addresses in EA-I. Consider and explore how to regulate addressing across the District.</p> <p>Note: RDCK has requested a program to support standardized address signage, but stated that if building permits are not applied for then there is no street address. There are no regulations on addressing.</p>	To allow for faster and more direct response to specific properties by first responders during an emergency.	EA-I / RDCK	5 years	Majority of properties have reflective, visible addresses.	Promotion campaign; consider providing discounted signs. 40-60 hours and \$40-60 per sign

5.7 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND OTHER FIRESMART ACTIVITIES

As discussed in Section 4.1, fuel is the only aspect of the fire behavior triangle that can be realistically modified to reduce wildfire threat. Fuel or vegetation management reduces potential wildfire intensity and ember, flame, and radiant heat exposure to people, structures, and other values through manipulation of both natural and cultivated vegetation within or adjacent to a community. A well-planned vegetation management strategy can greatly increase first responder safety, fire suppression effectiveness, and reduce damage to property and to values.

Vegetation management can largely be accomplished through two different activities:

1. **Residential-scale FireSmart landscaping:** The removal, reduction, or conversion of flammable [landscaping] plants to create more fire-resistant areas in the FireSmart Immediate, Intermediate, and Extended Zones (i.e., the area within 30m of a structure; see Figure 7 below).

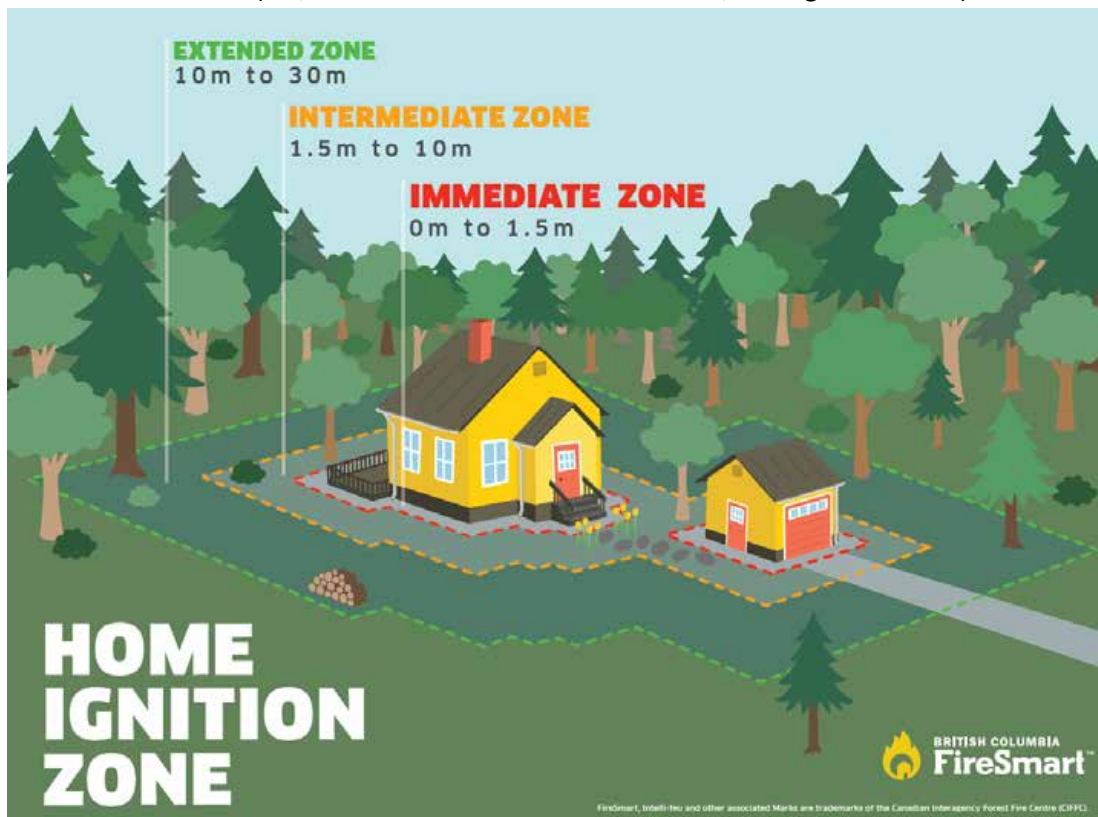


Figure 7: FireSmart Home Ignition Zone

2. **Fuel management treatments:** The manipulation or reduction of living or dead forest and grassland fuels to reduce the rate of spread and head fire intensity and enhance likelihood of successful suppression.

Fuel Management Units

Fuel management treatments may function as fuel breaks (linear features, at least 1 km in length) or polygon treatments for discrete areas. The intent of establishing fuel treatments is to modify fire behaviour and should be designed to keep surface fires on the ground to avoid the establishment of more dangerous and uncontrollable crown fires. Fuel treatments can also provide anchor points to fire-fighting crews for suppression activities,³⁶ yet the application of appropriate suppression tactics in a timely manner with sufficient resources is essential for fuel treatments to be effective – fuel treatments adjacent to a home or property should not be considered a “fire break”. Thus, to increase the efficacy of fuel treatments, FireSmart standards should be applied on nearby private properties to structures and vegetation to reduce the risk of structure ignition. Fuel treatment units will also require periodic maintenance (e.g., brushing, prescribed burning, surface fuel cleanup) to retain their effectiveness.

Implementing fuel management treatments often requires the successful collaboration of various land managers as these treatment areas can span across multiple types of land ownership. Often, this is required for the fuel treatment to effectively connect areas of low hazard, or to be a cohesively effective area. A significant amount of public land within EA-I’s WUI is Crown provincial land under forest licenses. Fuel management projects on municipal land are funded and administered through the CRI FCFS program; and those on Crown provincial land (not managed by an area-based tenure) are funded and administered through the BCWS Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) Program. EA-I will need to ensure good planning and collaboration with the Selkirk Resource District CLWRR team, forest tenure holders, local government, community groups, and BCWS to achieve higher quality, more effective, and more efficient fuel treatments.

There are many historical (non-mapped) fuel treatment units (FTUs) completed within EA-I’s WUI, as well as tracked prescribed (but not treated) and treated FTUs from the FESBC, CLWRR, and CRI FCFS programs – these are shown on Map 8 - Map 10 below, in conjunction with the proposed fuel treatment units (PTUs) from this Plan.³⁷ A number of past proposed but not treated FTUs are re-identified within this Plan due to their assessed risk and proximity to interface structures and communities. PTUs proposed as part of this Plan are discussed and described in Table 25.

Priority level for prescription and treatment (High, Moderate, Low) of PTUs is given to each and is based upon a combination of site-level risks and factors that include wildfire behaviour threat, strategic location, proximity to structures and critical infrastructure, location relative to dominant fire-season wind directions, and overall practicability of treatment implementation. The PTUs identified in this Plan are not a comprehensive list of all areas that qualify for management; they were selected as the highest priority areas that are practicable to implement, present a high risk to their respective communities or a strategic opportunity, and meet required funding program goals and requirements as either fuel breaks or fuel

³⁶ BC Wildfire Service. (2022). [2022 Fuel Management Prescription Guidance](#).

³⁷ CLWRR proposed and completed treatments include up to fiscal year-end 2021. CRI FCFS proposed and completed treatments includes up to year end 2022.

treatment areas. Overall, increasing the resilience of EA-I's WUI communities can only be efficiently achieved by performing residential-scale FireSmart activities on private land.

Residential-scale FireSmart Landscaping

Several smaller, community centrally-located PTUs are proposed within this Plan with the additional intention of providing residents with FireSmart vegetation management demonstration projects – showing them what can be done on their properties to reduce similar wildfire risks. A major barrier to implementing FireSmart vegetation management on private property is if there is no easy disposal process for the created vegetative debris. RDCK managed landfills within and adjacent to EA-I (Castlegar and Grohman Narrows) accept yard and garden waste for payment – but, during the months of May and October there is no charge.³⁸ Unfortunately, for many residents in EA-I's ferry-access or longer-drive communities, transporting material to these stations is too far. Thus, most residents likely rely upon at-home burn piles for garden and yard waste – education around the risks associated with this practice, and how to properly manage them, should be built into EA-I's FireSmart education program.

Other Residential-scale FireSmart Activities that EA-I should apply through CRI FCFS and implement include:

➤ ***FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program***

The FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program is a unique approach to collaboratively reduce a neighbourhood's risk to wildfire through education and events. It is run nationally through FireSmart Canada and facilitated locally by the RDCK. It is a grassroots, volunteer run program that is assisted by RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Specialists. It is a small-scale approach for neighbourhoods consisting of 5-50 homes, with the intent to implement achievable FireSmart goals (mitigation projects can be small and simple, or complex and extensive, ranging from individual owners doing around home clean-ups, to community hand treatments on common and private land near critical infrastructure). EA-I has recruited and guided communities into this program, and should continue to do so.

➤ ***FireSmart Rebate Program***

To aid in residential-scale vegetation management and structure improvements, this program allows for residents that have had a completed FireSmart assessment (Home Ignition Zone or Home Partners Program) receive a rebate (using recorded expenses) for work completed to lower risk identified in their assessment. Starting in the 2024 CRI FCFS program, the eligible amount of rebate per property is now \$5000.

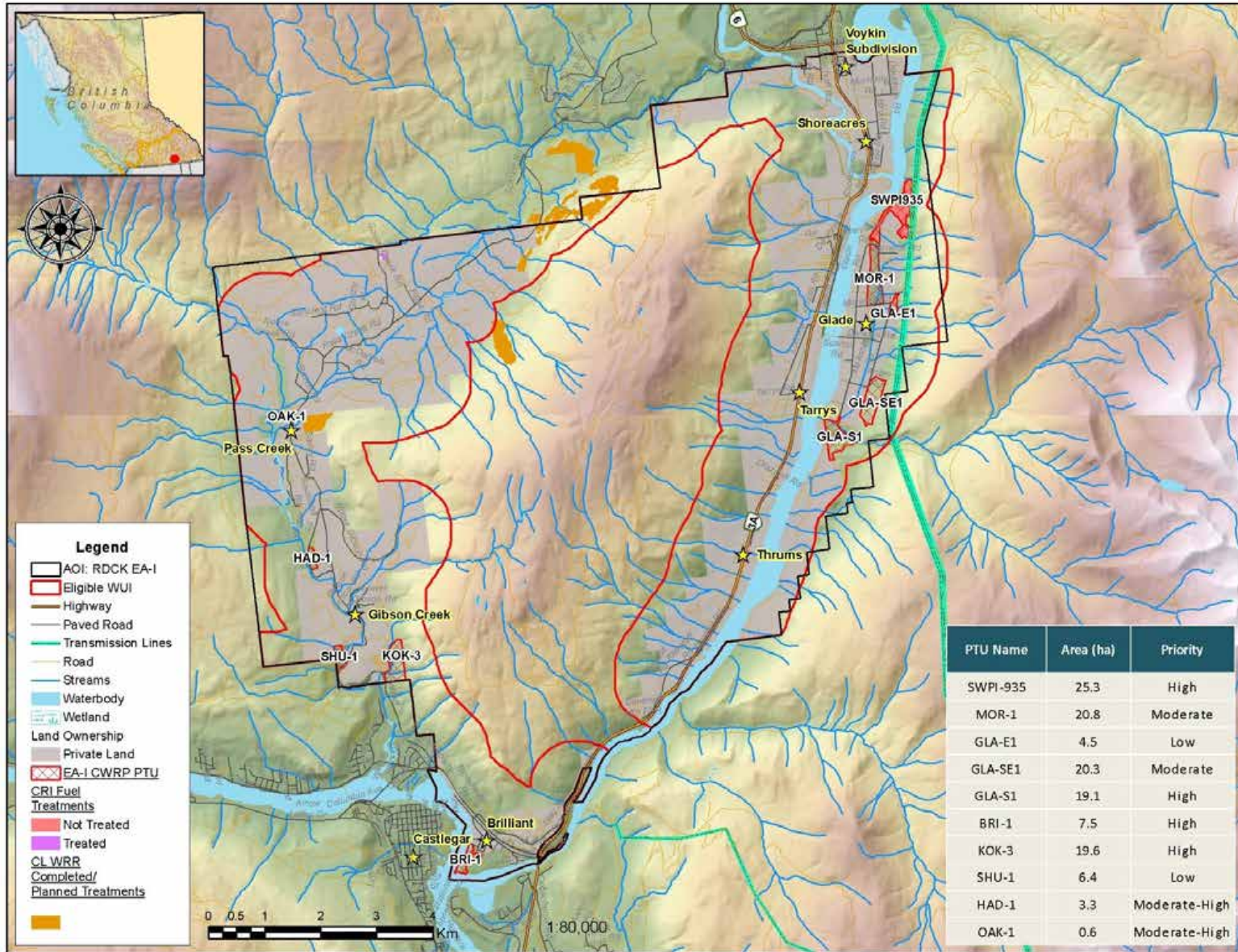
³⁸ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/waste-recycling/household-hazardous-waste-round-up/yard-garden-waste-free-tipping.html>

Table 24: Vegetation management action items

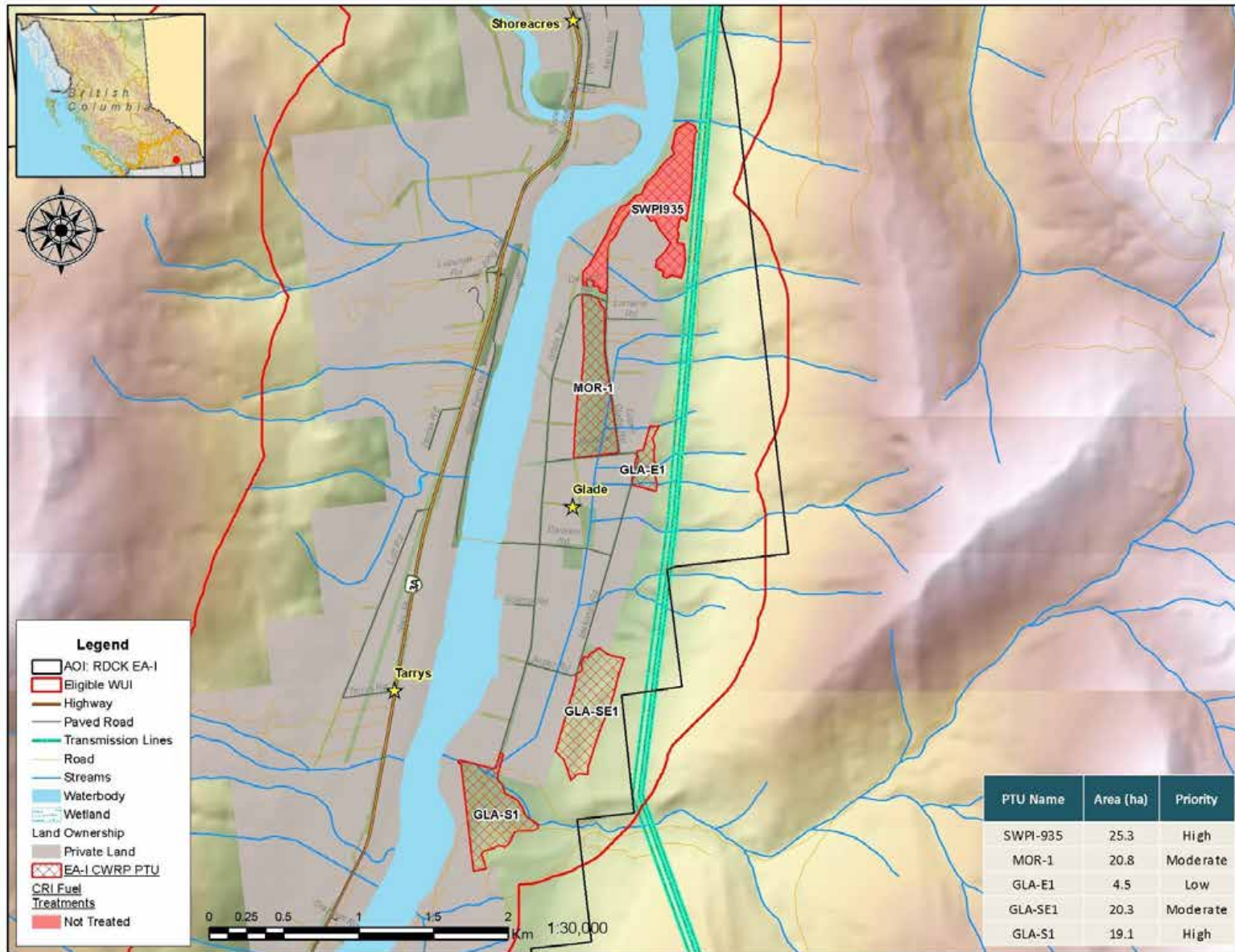
Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric Success for	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
Vegetation Management - Section 5.7							
Fuel Management Treatments							
37	High	Develop fuel management prescriptions for the identified Potential Fuel Treatment Units (PTUs), starting with those identified as High priority. Continue with treatment implementation when possible.	To reduce wildfire threat and risk to interface and intermix communities within the WUI. Also, to provide FireSmart vegetation management examples to the public that can be implemented on their own properties. See "Rationale" column in Table 25 for more detailed treatment rationales.	EA-I / MOF / BCWS	5 years	Approved FMP(s) for identified High priority areas.	CRI FCFS funding available for prescription and treatments; ~\$425/hectare for a ~20 ha prescription
38	High	Lobby Provincial Government (Ministry of Forests) and other potential funding organizations for grant funds to implement landscape level fuel treatment on private land.	Much of EA-I's communities' structures are surrounded by undeveloped, forested private land. Current funding streams for fuel reduction at the landscape level are targeted, and thus limited, to public land. However, the interface wildland does not stop at the public/private land border.	Local Government (Provincial Government)	5 years	Discussions initiated and ongoing	Time and cost dependant upon level of engagement required.
Residential FireSmart							
39	High	In conjunction with provided home FireSmart Assessments (see Recommendation #7), continue offering a local rebate program to property owners that have completed a FireSmart home assessment (Home Ignition Zone assessment or Home Partners Program Mitigation assessment). RDCK, EA-I, and FireSmart coordinators should advertise that the amount eligible for rebate has increased to \$5000 for the CRI FCFS 2024 application program.	FireSmart home assessments encourage action in the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone of a community. Offer a rebate program (funded through CRI FCFS) to residents who have a pre- and post-work FireSmart assessment conducted. Focus on removal of conifer hedges and upgrading exterior structure materials.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	Annually	Number of properties participating annually.	50% of costs per property up to \$5,000, plus 2 hours administration time per property (CRI FCFS).
40	High	Continue providing regional district-led options for the disposal of yard waste. Currently, this includes having tipping fees waived (May and October) for yard waste at the RDCK transfer stations/landfills.	Yard waste burning restrictions limit options for debris disposal. Free debris disposal may be used as an incentive to participate in other FireSmart activities, like assessments or workshops.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	Annual	Municipally funded yard waste disposal continues.	CRI FCFS funding is available for

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric Success for	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
							tipping fee coverage.
41	High	Consider implementing a community chipper program. Education of FireSmart yard and landscaping principles, including chipping specifications, should be incorporated into the program.	To reduce fire and wildfire hazards on private property within the WUI, especially those long distances from RDCK landfills/transfer stations, and to promote FireSmart vegetation management knowledge and education. The intent is for landscaping/yard vegetation to be included, not farm or agriculture vegetation. This could assist with more uptake of residential FireSmart landscaping principles as the disposal method is brought to the resident, especially for those older and less mobile.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	Annual (pre-fire season is best)	Number of properties who elect to have debris disposed.	CRI FCFS funding; ~\$100-150 per chipper crew hour.
42	Moderate	Consider releasing an annual RDCK FireSmart report to the public that tracks community-specific uptake in various FireSmart initiatives, as well as tracks fuel management at all scales.	As the program grows, reporting allows the RDCK FireSmart program to track challenges and successes, further promote the program, and tailor outreach methods to achieve the most uptake.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	Annual	An annual report is published.	Eligible for CRI funding – FireSmart staff time. Estimate 40-80 hours.
43	Moderate	Engage with local garden centers to implement the FireSmart BC Plant [Tagging] Program.	FireSmart BC introduced a plant tagging program in 2021 that has been implemented with great success by over 34 nurseries and garden centres to date. The Plant Program is an easy way to provide information at the point of purchase for homeowners and landscapers. See: https://firesmartbc.ca/landscaping-hub/plant-program/	Local Garden Centres (RDCK; EA-I FireSmart Coordinator)	5 years	Local garden centres have been notified of the program.	Staff time for engagement (2-4 hours per garden centre).
Community and Critical Infrastructure FireSmart							
44	High	Implement recommended vegetation management recommendations from FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone Assessments (see Recommendation #15), when completed, on a priority basis.	To reduce fire behavior and risks to critical infrastructure most important to fire and wildfire fighting and post-wildfire recovery.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	5 years	High priority critical infrastructure has had FireSmart vegetation management completed.	CRI FCFS funding up to \$53,500 per municipal infrastructure (vegetation management included).

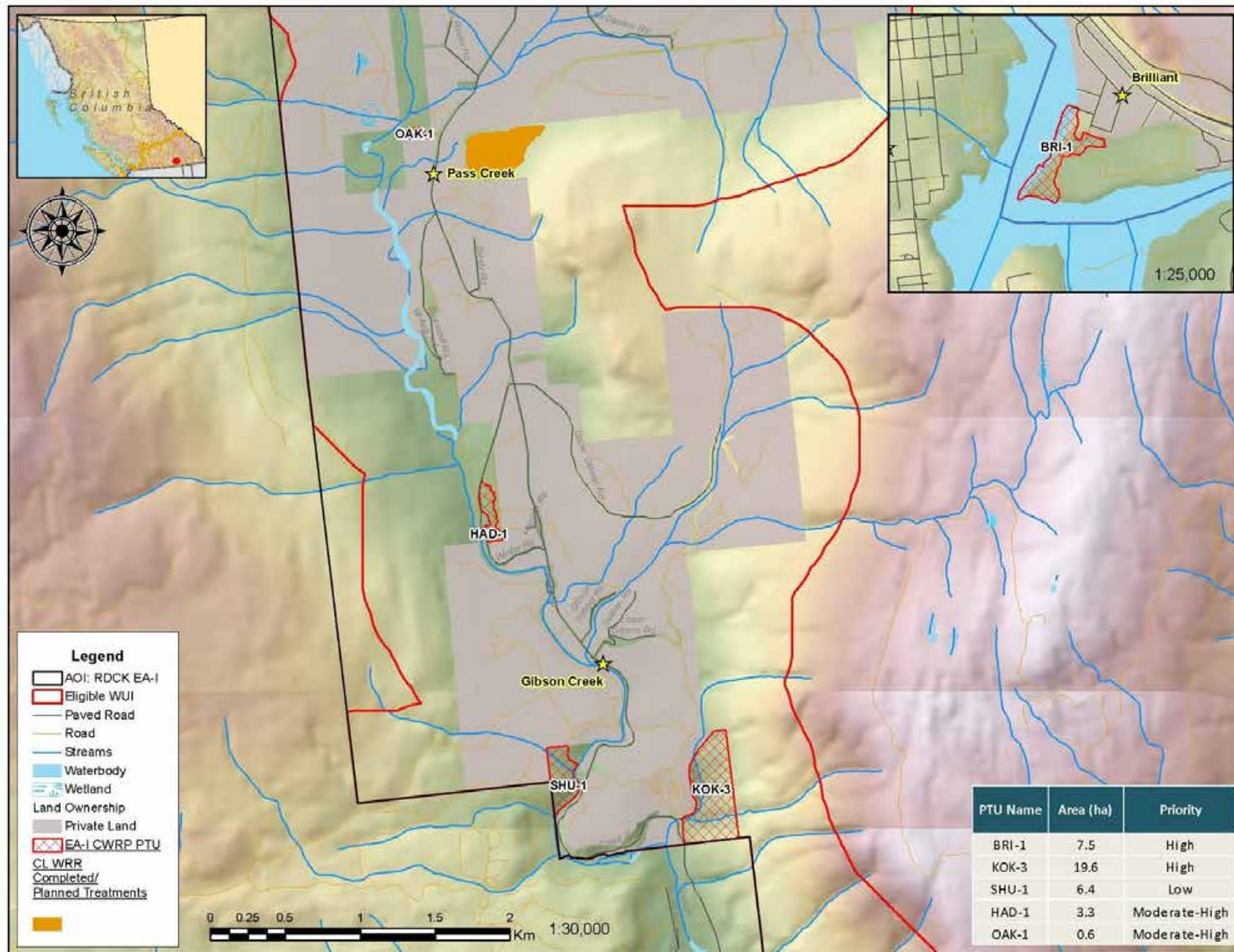
Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric Success for	Funding Source / Est. Cost (\$) / Person Hours
				(Involved)			
45	High	As part of fuel treatment implementation, RDCK/EA-I should develop interpretive signage to demonstrate pre- and post-fuel treatment forest stands conditions.	Interpretive signage could include text explaining the purpose of the fuel management treatment, connection to the CWRP, and FireSmart practices residents nearby can take to reduce wildfire hazards around their yards and homes.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	5 years	Signage installed during implementation phases.	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.
46	High	Continue to support and promote the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program to communities within EA-I. Identify community champions to spearhead organization for those communities not already organized, and support those communities that have been recognized in the past to continue working towards being so.	There are many small communities throughout EA-I that, by working together, could reduce their community-scale wildfire risk easily and substantially. The program supports a small-scale approach for neighbourhoods consisting of 5-50 homes, with the intent to implement achievable FireSmart goals	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	Ongoing	Increase in number of recognized communities.	FireSmart Canada \$500; RDCK FireSmart Champion Grant up to \$3000
47	Moderate	As part of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP), apply to CRI FCFS for funding to develop Neighbourhood FireSmart Plans.	To help guide FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program communities and their community champions to complete wildfire risk reduction measures.	RDCK / EA-I FireSmart Coordinator	In line with FCNRP Community program uptake.	Communities working towards FCNRP status have a Neighbourhood Plan	Eligible for UBCM CRI funding.



Map 8: Overview map of prescribed and proposed fuel treatment units within EA-I's WUI.



Map 9: Closer view of the proposed and prescribed treatment areas for EA-I's eastern WUI areas.



Map 10: Closer view of the proposed and prescribed treatment areas for EA-I's western WUI areas.

Table 25: Summary of Proposed Fuel Treatment Units for EA-I's CWRP (ordered from east to west).

PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat		Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Moderate	
SWPI-935	Glade	High	25.3	Crown Provincial & Crown Agency land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private property. Hydro right of way transmission line on east edge.	23.7	0.5	<i>Existing CRI prescription.</i> Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI, interface to homes as well as abutting Hydro right of way transmission line (ignition risk). Treating this unit would also provide a demonstration project of FireSmart vegetation management to the community. In conjunction with PTUs MOR-1 and GLA-E1, treating together would develop a significant fuel break across the northeast edge of Glade.
MOR-1	Glade	Moderate	20.8	Crown Agency land. Borders private property.	0.0	13.2	Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI, interface to homes. Treating this unit would provide a demonstration project of FireSmart vegetation management to the community. In conjunction with PTUs SWPI-935 and GLA-E1, treating together would develop a significant fuel break across the northeast edge of Glade. Lodgepole pine (PI) leading C-3 stands with open canopy gaps (like C-7). High component of forest health issues among PI causing mortality. Low crown base heights on most PI. Treatment would protect homes along Upper Glade Rd including community hall. Treatment would likely include thin from below of understory stems, pruning, and removing dead stems of all sizes. Opportunity to lop-scatter-burn (and to prescribe burn) as well as grazing to manage grass – this is a low cost debris disposal method. WTA GLADE-2 (Moderate)
GLA-E1	Glade	Low	4.5	Crown Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private property. Hydro right of way transmission line on east side.	4.3	0.0	Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI, interface to homes, and adjacent to Hydro right of way transmission line. Treating this unit would provide a demonstration project of FireSmart vegetation management to the community. In conjunction with PTUs SWPI-935 and MOR-1, treating together would develop a significant fuel break across the northeast edge of Glade. Grand fir leading stand with most understory (L3) stems dead or suppressed. Treatment would likely include thin from below of understory stems, pruning, and removing dead stems of all sizes. WTA GLADE-3 (Moderate)
GLA-SE1	Glade	Moderate	20.3	Crown Provincial land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private property.	8.8	11.5	Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI, interface to homes, and adjacent to Hydro right of way transmission line. In conjunction with PTU GLA-S1, treating together would develop a significant fuel break across the southeast edge of Glade.

PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat		Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Moderate	
							Treatment would likely include thin from below of understory stems, pruning, and surface fuel reduction. WTA GLADE-4 (High)
GLA-S1	Glade	High	19.1	Crown Provincial land. Water/Electrical critical infrastructure in unit. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private property.	17.1	1.7	Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI and interface to homes. In conjunction with PTU GLA-SE1, treating together would develop a significant fuel break across the southeast edge of Glade. Hazardous C-3-type stand with C-4 characteristics. Suppressed and dying understory (L3) stems creating future fuel loading hazard. Treatment would likely include thin from below of understory stems, pruning, and surface fuel reduction. Opportunity for commercial selective harvest. WTA GLADE-1 (High)
BRI-1	Brilliant	High	7.5	Crown Provincial and Crown Agency land. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private property. Gated access from the cemetery – work with Castlegar for access.	0.0	7.2	Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI and interface to homes in a high-use recreation area that includes beach fires and fire pits (ignition risk). C-5/C-7 type stand with some C-3 characteristics. Lodgepole pine leading stand with significant forest health issues. Treatment would likely include thinning of understory stems, pruning, surface fuel removal – targeting forest health affected stems first. Potential for prescribed burning (which could extend into the grass fields to the east). WTA BRI-1 (Moderate)
KOK-3	Pass Creek Falls	High	19.6	Crown Agency land. Existing prescription ribbon on trees. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private property. Steep slopes. POD water boxes in unit.	19.3	0.3	<i>Existing CRI prescription.</i> Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI and interface to homes, to create safe access/egress along main road, and to protect community water sources (PODs). Mixed conifers stand with C-3 characteristics. Treatment would likely include thinning of understory stems, pruning, and surface fuel removal. WTA KOK-1 (Moderate)
SHU-1	Pass Creek Falls	Low	6.4	RDCK Municipal land. Within the Norns Community Watershed. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private property. Borders Pass Creek riparian area.	3.7	2.7	Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI and interface to homes, and to create safe access/egress along main road. Treating this unit would provide a demonstration project of FireSmart vegetation management to the community. Western red cedar leading C-3-type stand. Dead standing and down suppressed understory conifers have created a high surface fuel load. Treatment would likely focus on thinning of understory conifers, pruning, and reduction of surface fuels. WTA SHU-1 (Moderate)

PTU Name	Nearest Community	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Wildfire Behaviour Threat		Treatment Rationale
					Extreme & High	Moderate	
HAD-1	Gibsons Creek	Moderate-High	3.3	Crown Agency and a small area of RDCK municipal land. Within the Norns Community Watershed. Entirely within UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private property.	0.0	0.0	Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI and interface to homes. Treating this unit would provide a demonstration project of FireSmart vegetation management to the community. Young Lodgepole pine (PI) leading stand with open patches of low density. Pervasive grass throughout. Little to no existing surface fuel. Treatment would likely focus on removing smaller diameter stems and pruning. Potential grazing or prescribed burning to manage grass would be supported. WTA HAD-1 (Moderate) [Entire polygon fire threat analyses is Low. Site conditions and WTA form indicate that fire behaviour would likely be “flashy” – short but intense.]
OAK-1	Pass Creek	Moderate-High	0.6	Crown Agency land. Within the Norns Community Watershed. Entirely in UWR conditional harvest zone. Borders private property.	0.6	0.0	Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI and interface to homes. Treating this unit would provide a demonstration project of FireSmart vegetation management to the community. Young grand fir leading stand with some forest health induced mortality of overstory conifers. C-3-type stand with C-4 characteristics. Treatment would likely focus on thinning from below of understory conifers, pruning, and surface fuel removal. Removal of some co-dominants to reduce overstory crown connectivity could be considered. WTA OAK-1 (High)

SECTION 6: APPENDICES

6.1 APPENDIX A: REVIEW OF 2016 CWPP RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2016 CWPP Recommendations were reviewed and commented on by the Local Government. Comments were edited for clarity.

Item	2016 CWPP Recommendation	2022 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
Communication and Education		
Objective: To improve public understanding of fire risk and personal responsibility by increasing resident awareness of the wildfire threat in their community and to establish a sense of homeowner responsibility.		
1.	Establish a school education program to engage youth in wildfire management. Consult ABCFP, BCWS (the zone) and RDCK Fire Service to facilitate and recruit volunteer teachers and experts to help with curriculum development to be delivered in elementary and/or secondary schools. Educational programming can be done in conjunction with any currently running fire prevention education programs.	<i>I am not aware of any FireSmart school programs within area I.</i>
2.	Make summaries of this report and associated maps publicly available through webpage, social media, and public FireSmart meetings. Add fire threat spatial data to the interactive web-mapping tool to allow residents to find their property and the associated threat of wildfire.	<i>CWRP is available on RDCK website.</i>
3.	Participate in the National Wildfire Community Preparedness day, typically in May each year.	<i>We have attended events and FireSmart promotion within area I. Finding an FCNRP within I would be valuable.</i>
4.	Expand door-to-door FireSmart assessment and/or Home Partner Program within Area I interface in order to educate residents and to quantify the level of risk in the interface.	<i>Yes, 56 HPP assessments completed so far in area I. [as of September 2023]</i>
Objective: To enhance the awareness of elected officials and stakeholders regarding the resources required to reduce fire risk.		
5.	Develop regional development permit standards and align local government bylaws.	<i>Nothing implemented yet, wildfire development permit area study completed in 2022.</i>
6.	Provide a group voice to the Building and Safety Standards Branch and other provincial entities,	<i>No communications I am aware of.</i>

7.	Develop a coordinated approach to fuel management and hazard reduction within and adjacent to the Area I Study Area by coordinating with stakeholders including conservation organizations, communities, forest licensees, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and utility companies, to aid in the establishment of FireSmart activities and large, landscape-level fuel breaks or compliment current or proposed fuel treatment areas.	<i>Part of area I falls within the Castlegar WRR committee. The majority would be covered off by the Regional round table.</i>
Structure Protection and Planning		
Objective: Enhance protection of critical infrastructure from wildfire.		
8.	Complete a fire flow / water vulnerability assessment for each water system and identify and map all alternative water sources (reservoirs, streams, lakes, etc.). Identify which areas may have insufficient or unreliable water supplies and provide recommendations to reduce vulnerability in Area I. Explore collaboration with other agencies including Columbia Basin Trust, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and Interior Health Authority.	<i>[no comment]</i>
9.	Complete a vulnerability assessment of all critical infrastructure (not only RDCK critical infrastructure) including water infrastructure in interface areas with FireSmart recommendations.	<i>[no comment]</i>
10.	Develop alternative, back-up water sources for fire protection and the establishment of standpipes as required.	<i>[no comment]</i>
11.	Complete a detailed review of back-up power source options for all critical infrastructure and upgrade as required.	<i>[no comment]</i>
12.	Complete more detailed hazard assessments and developing, in collaboration with other available government funding, response plans for stabilization and rehabilitation of burn areas in watersheds that are vulnerable to post-wildfire debris flows and floods.	<i>[no comment]</i>
Objective: Encourage private homeowners to voluntarily adopt FireSmart principles on their properties.		
13.	Support homeowners with professionals to provide the Home Partners Program or WUI Site and Structure Hazard Assessments for interface homes and provide information to homeowners on specific steps that they can take to reduce fire hazards on their property. Homeowners should not be charged for these assessments	<i>Yes, 56 HPP assessments completed so far in area I. [as of September 2023]</i>
Local Government Policy		
Objective: To reduce wildfire hazard on private land and increase FireSmart compliance.		
14.	Complete OCP review and implement and / or strengthen zoning to expand reach of the existing.	

15.	Develop Wildfire Hazard Development Permit (DP) Areas for major retrofits / renovations or new builds (building permits), collecting bonds to be returned upon evidence of completing development and landscaping according to wildfire hazard assessment. Review District of North Vancouver and Kelowna DP processes, with particular attention to implementation, enforcement, affordability and associated liabilities. Explore proactive incentives, such as tax reductions and reduced building permit fees.	<i>Not complete.</i>
16.	Obtain legal advice regarding the Building Act, specifically regarding the temporarily unrestricted matters and local government authority to set exterior building materials requirements. Use local government authority to mandate FireSmart construction materials beyond BC Building Code in wildfire hazard development permit area, as allowed.	<i>[no comment]</i>
17.	Develop a landscaping standard to be applied in interface / DP areas. The standard should list flammable non-compliant vegetation, nonflammable drought and pest resistant alternatives, and tips on landscape design to reduce maintenance, watering requirements, and reduce wildfire hazard. Include meeting landscaping standard as a requirement of Development Permit. Review District of North Vancouver and Kelowna DP processes, with particular attention to implementation, enforcement, affordability and associated liabilities. Explore proactive incentives, such as tax reductions and reduced building permit fees.	<i>Not complete.</i>
18.	Proactively enforce wildfire covenants requiring owners to maintain their properties hazard free on all properties in Development Permit areas. Enforcement will serve to minimize fuel risks on problematic private properties that have allowed hazardous accumulation of fuels and provide improved protection to adjacent lands.	<i>Not complete.</i>
19.	Develop a landscaping standard to be applied in interface / DP areas to ensure that developers leave building set backs on private land so that there is a minimum of 10 m distance between buildings and forest interface.	<i>Not complete.</i>
20.	Consider developing an outdoor burning bylaw specifying requirements for and limitations to outdoor burning and, in conjunction with the Fire Chief, implement the bylaw at times of high fire danger when provincial bans are not in place. The bylaw should consider effective and efficient enforcement measures and powers.	<i>[no comment]</i>
21.	Work with the Building and Safety Standards Branch to provide input into the Building Code revisions that would apply within the interface to prevent the spread of wildfire	<i>[no comment]</i>

Emergency Response and Planning

Objective: To improve structural and wildfire equipment and training available to RDCK Fire and Rescue.

22.	Conduct annual mutual aid training with MFLNRORD and BCWS including completion of a mock wildfire simulation in coordination with BCWS and safety training specific to wildland fire and risks inherent with natural areas. As part of the training, conduct annual reviews to ensure PPE and wildland equipment resources are complete, in working order, and the crews are well versed in their set-up and use. Wildfire training should be in compliance with Office of the Fire Commissioner standards.	<i>[no comment]</i>
23.	Ensure RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator act as liaison between the RDCK Collaborative Planning Group and the Emergency Preparedness Committee for Area I. Coordination and information sharing are crucial to the development of a community well prepared for wildfire.	<i>[no comment]</i>
24.	Review and clarify SPU request procedures with RDCK fire Chiefs and ensure robust SPP115 training for fire fighters.	<i>[no comment]</i>
25.	Develop Regional Service to fund additional SPUs and maintain existing SPUs.	<i>[no comment]</i>
26.	Explore opportunities to collaborate with BCWS and within RDCK fire service to coordinate discount volumes of hose for interface fires, reducing costs and logistics to local fire departments	<i>[no comment]</i>
27.	Explore opportunities to ensure a duty officer is in place in each Fire Protection Area to provide coverage for periods of high or extreme hazard.	<i>[no comment]</i>
28.	Conduct fire preplan assessment for key interface areas in Area I. Other jurisdictions have completed assessments that prioritize fire department-specific variables, such as distance to hydrants, response time from nearest fire station, etc. to produce local risk ratings.	<i>[no comment]</i>
Emergency Response Evacuation and Access		
Objective: To improve access and egress to neighbourhoods at risk and natural areas within RDCK.		
29.	Develop a Total Access Plan to create, map and inventory trail and road network in natural areas for suppression planning, identification of areas with insufficient access and to aid in strategic planning. Fire threat mapping from this CWPP should be included. The plan should be updated every five years, or more regularly, as needed to incorporate additions or changes.	<i>[no comment]</i>
30.	Require that all new interface developments have access for evacuation and sufficient capacity for emergency vehicles.	<i>[no comment]</i>
31.	Facilitate completion of emergency planning zones for interface neighbourhoods with limited access.	<i>[no comment]</i>
Fuel Management		

Objective: Reduce wildfire threat on public lands through fuel management.		
32.	Proceed with detailed assessment, prescription development and treatment of hazardous fuel units identified in this CWPP. Collaboration with licensees may facilitate larger projects.	<i>[no comment; some prescriptions have been developed, and some of those implemented]</i>
33.	Prioritize Areas of Interest across Electoral Areas with updated CWPPs to ensure effective and objective treatment	<i>[no comment; some prescriptions have been developed, and some of those implemented]</i>
Objective: Maintain treated areas under an acceptable level of wildfire fire threat (moderate).		
34.	As treatments are implemented, complete monitoring within 10 years of treatment (subject to site conditions) and maintenance every 15-20 years (subject to prescription and site conditions) on previously treated areas. Treated areas should be assessed by a Registered Professional Forester, specific to actions required in order to maintain treated areas in a moderate or lower hazard.	<i>[no comment]</i>

6.2 APPENDIX B: LOCAL WILDFIRE RISK PROCESS

Wildfire Risk Assessment plot worksheets are provided in The correlation between structure loss and wildfire are described below.

Home and Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zones

Multiple studies have shown that the principal factors regarding home and structure loss to wildfire are the structure’s characteristics and immediate surroundings. The area that determines the ignition potential of a structure to wildfire is referred to as (for residences) the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) or (for critical infrastructure) the Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone (CIIZ). Both the HIZ and CIIZ include the structure itself and three concentric, progressively wider Priority Zones out to 30 m from the structure (Figure 8 below). More details on priority zones can be found in the FireSmart Manual.



Figure 8. FireSmart Ignition Zone (HIZ)

It has been found that during extreme wildfire events, most home destruction has been a result of low-intensity surface fire flame exposures, usually ignited by embers. Firebrands can be transported long distances ahead of the wildfire, across fire guards and fuel breaks, and accumulate within the HIZ in densities that can exceed 600 embers per square meter. Combustible materials found within the HIZ combine to provide fire pathways allowing spot surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames or smoldering fire into contact with structures.

Appendix C: Wildfire Risk Assessment – Worksheets and Photos, plot locations are summarized in Appendix B-2: , and the field data collection and spatial analysis methodology is detailed in Appendix B-2 and B-3.

6.2.1 APPENDIX B-1: FUEL TYPING METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

The Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) System outlines five major fuel groups and sixteen fuel types based on characteristic fire behaviour under defined conditions.³⁹ Fuel typing is recognized as a blend of art and science. Although a subjective process, the most appropriate fuel type was assigned based on research, experience, and practical knowledge; this system has been used within BC, with continual improvement and refinement, for 20 years.⁴⁰ It should be noted that there are significant limitations with the fuel typing system which should be recognized. Major limitations include: a fuel typing system designed to describe fuels which sometimes do not occur within the WUI, fuel types which cannot accurately capture the natural variability within a polygon, and limitations in the data used to create initial fuel types.⁴⁰ There are several implications of these limitations, which include: fuel typing further from the developed areas of the study has a lower confidence, generally; and, fuel typing should be used as a starting point for more detailed assessments and as an indicator of overall wildfire risk, not as an operational, or site-level, assessment. Forested ecosystems are dynamic and change over time: fuels accumulate, stands fill in with regeneration, and forest health outbreaks occur. Regular monitoring of fuel types and wildfire risk assessment should occur every 5 – 10 years to determine the need for threat assessment updates and the timing for their implementation.

Table 26 summarizes the fuel types by general fire behaviour (crown fire and spotting potential). These fuel types were used to guide the threat assessment.

Table 26. Fuel Type Categories and Crown Fire Spot Potential encountered within the WUI.

Fuel Type	FBP / CFDRS Description	AOI Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Fuel Type – Crown Fire / Spotting Potential
C-3	Mature jack or lodgepole pine	<i>Fully stocked, late young forest (Douglas fir, hemlock, cedar), with crowns separated from the ground</i>	Surface and crown fire, low to very high fire intensity and rate of spread.	High*

³⁹ Forestry Canada Fire Danger Group. 1992. Development and Structure of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System: Information Report ST-X-3.

⁴⁰ Perrakis, D.B., Eade G., and Hicks, D. 2018. Natural Resources Canada. Canadian Forest Service. *British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description* 2018 Version.

Fuel Type	FBP / CFDRS Description	AOI Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Fuel Type – Crown Fire / Spotting Potential
C-5	Red and white pine	<i>Well-stocked mature forest, crowns separated from ground. Moderate understory herbs and shrubs. Little grass or surface fuel accumulation.</i>	Moderate potential for active crown fire in wind-driven conditions. Under drought conditions, fuel consumption and fire intensity can be higher due to dead woody fuels.	Low
C-7	Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir	<i>Low-density, uneven-aged forest, crowns separated from the ground, understory of discontinuous grasses and shrubs. Exposed bed rock and low surface fuel loading.</i>	Surface fire spread, torching of individual trees, rarely crowning (usually limited to slopes > 30%), moderate to high intensity and rate of spread.	Moderate
O-1a/b	Grass	<i>Matted and standing grass that can cure; sparse or scattered shrubs, trees, and down woody debris. Seasonal wetlands that can cure</i>	Rapidly spreading, high-intensity surface fire when cured.	Low
M-1/2	Boreal mixedwood (leafless and green)	<i>Moderately well-stocked mixed stand of conifers and deciduous species, low to moderate dead, down woody fuels</i>	Surface fire spread, torching of individual trees and intermittent crowning, (depending on slope and percent conifer).	<26% conifer (Very Low); 26-49% Conifer (Low); >50% Conifer (Moderate)
D-1/2	Aspen or birch (leafless and green)	<i>Deciduous stands</i>	Always a surface fire, low to moderate rate of spread and fire intensity.	Low
N	N/A	<i>Non-fuel: irrigated agricultural fields, urban or developed areas void or nearly void of vegetation and forests</i>	N/A	N/A
W	N/A	<i>Water</i>	N/A	N/A

*C-3 fuel type is considered to have a high crown fire and spotting potential within the WUI due to the presence of moderate to high fuel loading (dead standing and partially or fully down woody material), and continuous conifer ladder fuels.

6.2.2 APPENDIX B-2: WILDFIRE THREAT ASSESSMENT PLOTS

Table 27 displays a summary of all Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) plots completed during CWRP field work. The most recent 2020 WTA threat plot worksheets and methodology were used.⁴¹ The plot forms and photos will be submitted as a separate document. The following ratings are applied to applicable point ranges:

- Wildfire Behaviour Threat Score (Coast and Mountains Ecoprovince)
 - 0 – 41 Low
 - 42 – 57 Moderate
 - 58 – 69 High
 - 70 – 100 Extreme

Table 27. Summary of WUI Threat Assessment Worksheets (2020).

WTA Plot	Geographic Location	Wildfire Threat Rating
BRI-1	Area I Brilliant Road Cemetery, east of Columbia River	51 (Moderate)
GLADE-1	Adjacent to Glade Rd. at south end of community	74 (High)
GLADE-2	Adjacent to Upper Glade Rd	52 (Moderate)
GLADE-3	Adjacent to north of Makonin Rd.	61 (Moderate)
GLADE-4	Adjacent to south of Makonin Rd.	70 (High)
HAD-1	Area I adjacent to Hadikin Rd.	56 (Moderate)
KOK-1	Area I South of Kokanee Dr.	60 (Moderate)
NSEN-1	Area I north sentinel East of Pass Creek Rd North	56 (Moderate)
OAK-1	Area I South of Oak Rd.	66 (High)
SHU-1	Area I East of Pass Creek Rd	64 (Moderate)

⁴¹ MFLNRORD.2020 Wildfire Threat Assessment Guide and Worksheets

6.2.3 APPENDIX B-3: FIRE RISK THREAT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

As part of the CWRP process, spatial data submissions are required to meet the defined standards in the Program and Application Guide. Proponents completing a CWRP can obtain open-source BC Wildfire datasets, including Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) datasets from the British Columbia Data Catalogue. Wildfire spatial datasets obtained through the BC Open Data Catalogue used in the development of the CWRP include, but are not limited to:

- PSTA Spotting Impact
- PSTA Fire Density
- PSTA Fire Threat Rating
- PSTA Lighting Fire Density
- PSTA Human Fire Density
- Head Fire Intensity
- WUI Human Interface Buffer (1436m buffer from structure point data)
- Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class
- Current Fire Polygons
- Current Fire Locations
- Historical Fire Perimeters
- Historical Fire Incident Locations
- Historical Fire Burn Severity

As part of the program, proponents completing a CWRP are provided with a supplementary PSTA dataset from BC Wildfire Services. This dataset includes:

- Fuel Type
- Structures
- Structure Density
- Eligible WUI (1 km buffer of structure density classes >6).

The required components for the spatial data submission are detailed in the Program and Application Guide Spatial Appendix – these include:

- AOI
- Proposed Treatment
- WUI (1 km buffer of structure density classes >6)

The provided PSTA data does not transfer directly into the geodatabase for submission, and several PSTA feature classes require extensive updating or correction. In addition, the Fire Threat determined in the PSTA is fundamentally different than the localized Fire Threat feature class that is included in the Local Fire Risk map required for project submission. The Fire Threat in the PSTA is based on provincial scale inputs - fire density; spotting impact; and head fire intensity, while the spatial submission Fire Threat is based on the components of the Wildland Urban Interface Threat Assessment Worksheet. For the scope of this project, completion of WUI Threat Assessment plots on the entire AOI is not possible, and therefore

an analytical model has been built to assume Fire Threat based on spatially explicit variables that correspond to the WUI Threat Assessment worksheet.

Field Data Collection

The primary goals of field data collection are to confirm or correct the provincial fuel type, complete WUI Threat Assessment Plots, and assess other features of interest to the development of the CWRP. This is accomplished by traversing as much of the AOI and surrounding Eligible WUI as possible (within time, budget and access constraints). Threat Assessment plots are completed on the 2020 form, and as per the Wildland Urban Interface Threat Assessment Guide.

For clarity, the final threat ratings for the AOI were determined through the completion of the following methodological steps:

1. Update fuel-typing using orthophotography provided by the client and field verification.
2. Update structural data using critical infrastructure information provided by the client, field visits to confirm structure additions or deletions, BC Assessment, and orthophotography
3. Complete field work to ground-truth fuel typing and threat ratings (completed 8 WUI threat plots on a variety of fuel types, aspects, and slopes and an additional 250 field stops with qualitative notes, fuel type verification, and/or photographs)
4. Threat assessment analysis using field data collected and rating results of WUI threat plots – see next section.

Spatial Analysis

The field data is used to correct the fuel type polygon attributes provided in the PSTA. This corrected fuel type layer is then used as part of the spatial analysis process. The other components are developed using spatial data (BEC zone, fire history zone) or spatial analysis (aspect, slope). A scoring system was developed to categorize resultant polygons as having relatively low, moderate, high or extreme Fire Threat, or Low, Moderate, High or Extreme WUI Threat. Table 28 below summarizes the components and scores to determine the Fire Behaviour Threat.

Table 28: Components of Fire Threat Analysis

Attribute	Indicator	Score
Fuel Type	C-1	35
	C-2	
	C-3	
	C-4	
	M-3/4, >50% dead fir	25
	C-6	
	M-1/2, >75% conifer	20
	C-7	
	M-3/4, <50% dead fir	15
	M-1/2, 50-75% conifer	
	M-1/2, 25-50% conifer	
	C-5	10
	O-1a/b	
	S-1	

	S-2	
	S-3	
	M-1/2, <25% conifer	5
	D-1/2	0
	W	0
	N	0
Weather - BEC Zone	AT, irrigated	1
	CWH, CDF, MH	3
	ICH, SBS, ESSF	7
	IDF, MS, SBPS, CWHsds1 & ds2, BWBS, SWB	10
	PP, BG	15
Historical Fire Occurrence Zone	G5, R1, R2, G6, V5, R9, V9, V3, R5, R8, V7	1
	G3, G8, R3, R4, V6, G1, G9, V8	5
	G7, C5, G4, C4, V1, C1, N6	8
	K1, K5, K3, C2, C3, N5, K6, N4, K7, N2	10
	N7, K4	15
Slope	<16	1
	16-29 (max N slopes)	5
	30-44	10
	45-54	12
	>55	15
Aspect (>15% slope)	North	0
	East	5
	<16% slope, all aspect	10
	West	12
	South	15

WUI Risk Classes and their associated summed scores

Very Low	0
Low	0-35
Moderate	35-55
High	55-65
Extreme	>65

These attributes are summed to produce polygons with a final WUI Risk Score. To determine the Fire Threat score, only the distance to structures is used. Buffer distance classes are determined; <200m, 200m-500m and >500m) but only for polygons that had a 'high' or 'extreme' Fire Threat score from previous assessment. In order to determine WUI Risk; those aforementioned polygons within 200m are rated as 'extreme', within 500m are rated as 'high', within 2km are 'moderate', and distances over that are rated 'low'.

Limitations

There are obvious limitations in this method, most notably that not all components of the threat assessment worksheet are scalable to a GIS model, generalizing the Fire Behaviour Threat score. The WUI Risk Score is greatly simplified, as determining the position of structures on a slope, the type of development and the relative position are difficult in an automated GIS process. Structures are considered, but there is no consideration for structure type (also not included on threat assessment worksheet). This method uses the best available information to produce accurate and useable threat assessment across the study area in a format which is required by the UBCM FCFS program.

6.2.4 APPENDIX B-4: PROXIMITY OF FUEL TO THE COMMUNITY

The correlation between structure loss and wildfire are described below.

Home and Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zones

Multiple studies have shown that the principal factors regarding home and structure loss to wildfire are the structure's characteristics and immediate surroundings. The area that determines the ignition potential of a structure to wildfire is referred to as (for residences) the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) or (for critical infrastructure) the Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone (CIIZ).^{42,43} Both the HIZ and CIIZ include the structure itself and three concentric, progressively wider Priority Zones out to 30 m from the structure (Figure 8 below). More details on priority zones can be found in the FireSmart Manual.⁴⁴

⁴² Reinhardt, E., R. Keane, D. Calkin, J. Cohen. 2008. *Objectives and considerations for wildland fuel treatment in forested ecosystems of the interior western United States*. Forest Ecology and Management 256:1997 - 2006. Retrieved from: [Objectives and considerations for wildland fuel treatment in forested ecosystems of the interior western United States | Treesearch \(usda.gov\)](#)

⁴³ Cohen, J. *Preventing Disaster Home Ignitability in the Wildland-urban Interface*. Journal of Forestry. p 15 - 21. Retrieved from: [Preventing Disaster: Home Ignitability in the Wildland-Urban Interface | Journal of Forestry | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)

⁴⁴ Available for download here: [FireSmartBC HomeownersManual Printable.pdf](#)



Figure 8. FireSmart Ignition Zone (HIZ)⁴⁵

It has been found that during extreme wildfire events, most home destruction has been a result of low-intensity surface fire flame exposures, usually ignited by embers. Firebrands can be transported long distances ahead of the wildfire, across fire guards and fuel breaks, and accumulate within the HIZ in densities that can exceed 600 embers per square meter. Combustible materials found within the HIZ combine to provide fire pathways allowing spot surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames or smoldering fire into contact with structures.

⁴⁵ FireSmart Canada. 2023. The Home Ignition Zone. Retrieved from: [The Home Ignition Zone | FireSmart Canada](https://www.fire-smart.ca/en/the-home-ignition-zone)
December 20, 2023

6.3 APPENDIX C: WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT – WORKSHEETS AND PHOTOS

Provided separately as PDF package.

6.4 APPENDIX D: MAPS

Provided separately as PDF package.

6.5 APPENDIX E: COMMUNITY FIRESMART RESILIENCY COMMITTEE

The Castlegar Area FireSmart and Resiliency Committee (CFRC) was formed in 2023, and includes EA-I representation.

Table 29. Initial invitee list (2023) of the Castlegar and Area FireSmart and Resiliency Committee

Agency	Role
EA-I	Unknown (assumed Area Director)
BCWS	Senior Wildfire Prevention Officer
	Prevention Specialist
RDCK	Wildfire Mitigation Specialist
	FireSmart Co-Ordinator
Ministry of Forests	Wildfire Risk Reduction Specialist
	Wildfire Risk Reduction Specialist
City of Castlegar Fire Department	Fire Chief
	Deputy Fire Chief
City of Castlegar	Manger of Planning, Development, and Sustainability
	Manager of Engineering and Infrastructure
Columbia Power Corporation	Environmental Lead
Shuswap Band	Unknown
Yaqaan Nukiy	Forester
Lower Kootenay Band	Firesmart Coordinator
Okanagan Nation Alliance	Tmix Technician
Province of BC Government	District Wildfire Coordinator
Selkirk College	Forestry Instructor
Ootischenia Improvement District	Representative



Board Report

Date of Report: December 20, 2023
Date & Type of Meeting: January 18, 2024 Regular Open Board Meeting
Author: Nora Hannon, Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Senior Advisor
Subject: 2024 Wildfire Mitigation & FireSmart Program
File: 14/7625/60
Electoral Area/Municipality: All RDCK Rural Electoral Areas

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the Board with an update on the Wildfire Mitigation and FireSmart Program, seek direction to request funding for the allocation based 2024 UBCM Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program to operate the Wildfire Mitigation and FireSmart Program.

The 2024 UBCM CRI Program funds will be used to:

- Hire up to 7 Wildfire Mitigation Specialists (WMS) and 1 FireSmart Coordinator to deliver the FireSmart and Neighborhood Recognition (NRP) programs;
- Offer and administer a FireSmart rebate program to residential properties that have had a FireSmart Assessment and have begun mitigation work outlined in their recommendations;
- Offer and administer monetary support to neighborhoods pursuing Neighborhood Recognition;
- Coordinate and participate in Community FireSmart Resiliency Committees (CFRC) and Regional Integrated Fuel Management Planning table to champion landscape-level fuel mitigation;
- Bolster educational activities promoting FireSmart activities; and,
- Amend and update Community Wildfire Protection/Resiliency Plans (CWPP/CWRP) providing a regional prioritization.

The total UBCM CRI grant request for 2024 is \$750,000.

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

PROGRAM HISTORY AND 2022 REVIEW

The RDCK Wildfire Mitigation and FireSmart Program is focused on increasing community resilience to wildfire and has two distinct streams, wildfire mitigation and FireSmart.

FireSmart

The FireSmart program's primary goal is to reduce structure loss in the event of a wildfire that comes into, or is in close proximity to a community. Central to this are the provincial FireSmart Home Partners and Neighborhood Recognition Programs (NRP) that are delivered by up to eight full time seasonal RDCK staff. These programs

focus on identifying areas of a home, property and outbuildings that make them more vulnerable to wildfires, and developing a workplan of how the homeowner can reduce those vulnerabilities. The home assessments are provided free of charge by the RDCK, and currently offer up to \$1000 cash rebate for work completed. Additionally, community engagement is encouraged through the Neighborhood Recognition Program which aims to reduce vulnerabilities throughout a neighborhood, including common spaces and adjacent Crown land. The FireSmart program is primarily funded through the UBCM CRI program.

Wildfire Mitigation

The Wildfire Mitigation stream is focused on reducing the severity of wildfires near communities. Understanding that the vast majority of ecosystems in our region are dependent on regular wildfires for their health, and that the RDCK has limited control over activities on Crown land, this stream aims to work with land managers to reduce the severity of wildfires by reducing the fuel loading that has built up over decades of wildfire suppression. This is primarily done through the development of Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans(CWRPs) to identify high risk areas (forest close to assets and structures that have high fuel loading) within a 1km radius of communities, facilitation of regional and sub-regional integrated planning committees, and the development of common understanding of landscape level goals pertaining to mitigating fuel loading. This stream is funded through the UBCM CRI program, and other available grant streams which have included the Forest Enhancement Society of BC and Columbia Basin Trust.

2023 Update

FireSmart

The 2023 FireSmart program was very successful, with good uptake from residents and communities across the region. 145 rebates were issued to residents totaling \$131,238, and 26 communities were issued grants under the Neighborhood Recognition Program.

FireSmart Stats

Home Assessments	Residential Rebates Up to \$1000	Neighborhood Recognition Program		NRP Champion Grants Up to \$3000
		Recognized	Established	
411	145	27	9	26

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan Updates

The Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans for Areas D, E, F, I and Creston have been updated; the plans for Areas D, E, F and I are before Board for approval at this meeting.

2024 FireSmart and Wildfire Mitigation Objectives

This year UBCM CRI will allow applicants to request CRI funding by demonstrating they meet the required wildfire risk class and have the proper framework in place to operate a successful FireSmart program, all of which the RDCK meets. We will also be allowed to request funding over a two year cycle including 2024 and 2025. The RDCK will be allocated \$750,000 annually (\$200,000 at the Regional level + \$50,000 per electoral area)

may partner with the municipalities of Castlegar, Creston, Salmo, Nakusp, and Kaslo who each will be eligible to request \$200,000 annually

FireSmart

The 2024 FireSmart program will be implemented by seasonal staff that include up to 7 Wildfire Mitigation Specialists (an increase of 1 from 2023) and 1 FireSmart Coordinator, and offer free home assessments to all residents within the RDCK with up to a \$5000 cash rebate per household. The Neighborhood Recognition Program, which supports increased fire resiliency actions at the community scale, will also be supported by the seasonal FireSmart staff and offer up to \$3000 per neighborhood for completing eligible work to become FireSmart Recognized.

Wildfire Mitigation

Since 2019 and the development of the provincial Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction program (CLWRR) the RDCK has been working to understand what role local governments play in landscape level wildfire mitigation. It is now understood that within the 1km radius wildland urban interface (WUI) is where local governments are able to influence wildfire mitigation projects. As such, the main deliverable of the 2024 Wildfire Mitigation stream will be to update the remaining Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans (CWRP) throughout the region and develop a regionally prioritized list of potential treatment areas.

The 2024 wildfire mitigation workplan includes:

- Updating the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans;
- Providing a regional prioritization based on Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan updates;
- Identifying Areas of Interest (AOIs) within the 1km WUI for RDCK to systematically apply for fuel treatments;
- Continuing the Regional Integrated Fuel Management Planning table for collaborative engagement with provincial and First Nation representatives;
- Coordinating an integrated spatial database tool to strategize landscape level wildfire mitigation; and,
- Expanding sub-regional committees across the regional district to create momentum for fuel reduction initiatives.

SECTION 3: DETAILED ANALYSIS

3.1 Financial Considerations – Cost and Resource Allocations:

Included in Financial Plan:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Financial Plan Amendment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Debt Bylaw Required:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Public/Gov't Approvals Required:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

2024 Program Funding:

UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Grant: \$750,000

All revenue and expenses to be paid through A101, Emergency Consolidated Services

3.2 Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws):

None at this time.

3.3 Environmental Considerations

Supporting wildfire mitigation and FireSmart work is supporting tools for positive ecological stewardship.

3.4 Social Considerations:

Public safety, reducing structure loss and creating a fire-resilient landscape is the key to determining wildfire mitigation and FireSmart priorities.

3.5 Economic Considerations:

Building employment capacity by supporting the adaptation and modernization of a skilled and knowledgeable labour force is essential for any of this work to be completed.

3.6 Communication Considerations:

The ripple effect is initiated from community-centric views and as such are entrenched within the framework of the wildfire mitigation and FireSmart program at the RDCK.

3.7 Staffing/Departmental Workplan Considerations:

Staff resources have been allocated to this program.

3.8 Board Strategic Plan/Priorities Considerations:

- To adapt to our changing climate and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions
- To Excel in Governance and Service Delivery

SECTION 4: OPTIONS & PROS / CONS

OPTION 1: That the Board direct staff to apply to the 2024 and 2025 UBCM CRI grant to continue providing the Wildfire Mitigation and FireSmart services to the RDCK Program.

Pros

- Concrete action the RDCK can take to mitigate the impacts of wildfire and build resiliency in our communities through grant funding rather than taxation.
- Our communities are more resilient as a result of actions taken to mitigate the likelihood of structure loss during wildfire in the interface.

Cons

- None.

OPTION 2: That the Board direct staff not to apply to the 2024 or 2025 UBCM CRI grant.

Pros

- None.

Cons

- If wildfire mitigation was still desirable, it would than have to be funded through another source.

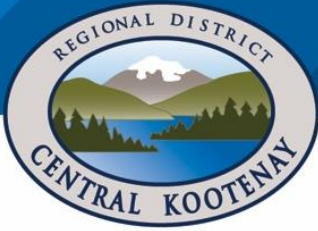
SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board direct staff to apply to the 2024 and 2025 UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program intake to coordinate and manage grant funding within the RDCK in order to operate the Wildfire Mitigation and FireSmart Program in 2024; AND FURTHER, if successful, the Board authorizes the Corporate Officer to sign the necessary documents to complete the grant agreement with UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program to manage and administer the funds.

Respectfully submitted,
Nora Hannon – Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Senior Advisor

CONCURRENCE

Manager of Community Sustainability – Dan Seguin	Approved
GM Development and Community Sustainability – Sangita Sudan	Approved
Chief Financial Officer – Yev Malloff	Approved
Chief Administrative Officer – Stuart Horn	Approved



Board Report

Date of Report:	January 3, 2024
Date & Type of Meeting:	January Regular Board Meeting
Author:	Shari Imada, Senior Energy Specialist
Subject:	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION PATHWAY STUDY AWARD
File:	10-5200-20-RDCK Facilities
Electoral Area/Municipality:	All Electoral Areas

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the status of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Pathway Study, and request that the contract award to Building Energy Solutions Ltd. for the study delivery be negotiated by staff and resulting GSA to be signed by the Board Chair and Corporate Officer.

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

As a result of resolution 126/23, the RDCK was successful in their application for a \$200,000 grant for a Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) - Green Municipal Fund (GMF) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Pathway Study. The study with a total project budget of \$250,000, will identify a corporate-wide roadmap for all RDCK facilities, which will enable the RDCK to reach their pledged GHG emissions reduction targets and realize cost savings due to reduced energy usage. Please see the attached report prepared for the February 2023 open board meeting for study details.

Staff posted a request for proposals (RFP) for the delivery of this study. The RFP closed on December 14, 2023. The list of proponents that submitted a proposal included:

- The AME Consulting Group Ltd.
- BES – Building Energy Solutions Ltd.
- GHG Accounting Services
- Green PI Inc.
- Introba Canada LLP
- McCuaig & Associates Engineering Ltd.
- Prism Engineering Ltd.
- Yastremski Associates Inc. (dba Sustainable Projects Group)

The proposals were evaluated on overall value to the RDCK as per the conditions set out in the RFP. A team composed of the Senior Energy Specialist, Regional Manager – Operations and Asset Management, Community Services, and Senior Project Manager, evaluated the proposals based on the following criteria:

- a. Understanding of the Project deliverables 15%
- b. Methodology and Approach 20%
- c. Project Team Experience 20%

- d. Experience with similar projects – 30%
- e. Price 10%
- f. Value added 5%

Note that there was a fixed upper price limit stipulated in this RFP of \$225,000. The remainder of the project budget (\$25,000) will be used for project contingency and staff salaries for project delivery.

Based on staff’s evaluation, the proposal that represents the best value to the RDCK for this project is Building Energy Solutions Ltd.

The successful consultant demonstrated: a good understanding of project needs, delivery experience of a similar FCM/GMF funded GHG emissions reduction study, completion of GHG reduction and energy efficiency related work for municipal facilities, and a project team composition that is well positioned in breath of knowledge and depth of experience for successful delivery of this study. Building Energy Solutions Ltd. also has an established value-added relationship with FortisBC as an engineering partner, which provides engineering support funding and direct installation funding for all types of buildings, and has suggested a suitable 6 month project schedule, which will lend well to the planning of capital projects starting as soon as 2025.

A project risk moving forward includes a delayed delivery timing which will impact the propensity for capital projects for 2025. It will be the role of the Senior Energy Specialist to liaison between the consultant and the multiple RDCK services in order to ensure the project moves along as per schedule.

SECTION 3: DETAILED ANALYSIS

3.1 Financial Considerations – Cost and Resource Allocations:

Included in Financial Plan:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Financial Plan Amendment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Debt Bylaw Required:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Public/Gov’t Approvals Required:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

The funding for this project will be included in the 2024 financial plan. The project budget is \$250,000 and includes a grant representing 80% of the total project (\$200,000) from the FCM/GMF Community Buildings program. The 20% remainder of the RDCK’s portion of the project budget (\$50,000) will come from several services across the RDCK as per resolution 126/23 (see attached related board report for details):

- \$12,000 S222 Castlegar and District Community Complex – Castlegar and Areas I & J
- \$12,000 S224 Creston and District Community Complex – Creston, Area B and Defined Portion of Area A and C
- \$12,000 S226 Nelson and District Community Complex – Nelson, Area F and Defined Portion of Area E
- \$1,000 S193 Public Library Services – Creston and Areas A, B & C
- \$1,000 S209 Recreation Facilities – Defined A - Riondel
- \$1,000 S211 Recreation Facilities – F – North Shore Hall
- \$1,000 S230 Recreation Commission No. 7 - Salmo and Area G
- \$2,000 S100 General Administration
- \$2,000 A102 Resource Recovery
- \$2,000 A103 Utility Services
- \$4,000 various Fire Protection Services – divided equally between 16 services
- \$50,000

It is expected that the consultant costs for this study will be \$225,000. The remaining \$25,000 of the project budget will be used for project contingency and staff salaries for project delivery.

3.2 Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws):

Staff procured this study according to the RDCK procurement policy. The study supports RDCK, provincial and federal targets for GHG emissions reduction.

3.3 Environmental Considerations

The study will support the reduction of GHG emissions, as well as identifying energy savings opportunities for RDCK facilities.

3.4 Social Considerations:

The public will benefit by more efficient operations of RDCK community buildings.

3.5 Economic Considerations:

Retrofit work that will result from the study recommendations will benefit regional design, supply, and construction firms.

3.6 Communication Considerations:

There is an external consultation requirement for this study, to be performed by the consultant. Results of this study will be communicated to the public through a media release and an information sheet.

3.7 Staffing/Departmental Workplan Considerations:

The project team consists of: Senior Energy Specialist, Regional Manager – Operations and Asset Management and General Manager, Community Services, and Senior Project Manager with administration support.

3.8 Board Strategic Plan/Priorities Considerations:

This project aligns with the strategic priorities of:

- Energy efficiency and environmental responsibility
- Manage our assets and service delivery in a fiscally responsible manner

SECTION 4: OPTIONS & PROS / CONS

Option A: Award the contract to Building Energy Solutions Ltd.

Pros

- The successful consultant is capable to deliver the study on time, which will provide a pathway for the RDCK to move forward with GHG emissions / energy reductions in our corporate facility portfolio
- The \$200,000 grant received from FCM/GMF will be well utilized

Cons

- None

Option B: Reject the submissions and repost the RFP

Pros

- RDCK may receive proposals that represent greater value

Cons

- The project will be delayed, which will impact the ability to start the GHG emissions reduction pathway to realize energy savings and reduce GHG emissions

SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board direct staff to negotiate with the proponent, Building Energy Solutions Ltd. to achieve highest value to the RDCK, which meets all the required scope of work to deliver a GHG Emissions Reduction Pathway Study for RDCK-owned facilities as described in the issued Request for Proposals;

AND FURTHER, that the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the necessary documents, following negotiations, to award the GHG Emissions Reduction Pathway Study contract to Building Energy Solutions Ltd. to the maximum value of \$225,000 with funds to be paid from Service A108 Development Services.

Respectfully submitted,
Shari Imada – Senior Energy Specialist

CONCURRENCE

Manager, Community Sustainability – Dan Seguin	Approved
General Manager, Development and Community Sustainability – Sangita Sudan	Approved
CAO – Stuart Horn	Approved

ATTACHMENT: Board Report - FCM/GMF GHG Emissions Reduction Pathway Feasibility Study (Feb. 2023)



Board Report

Date of Report: January 30, 2023
Date & Type of Meeting: February 16, 2023, Open Board Meeting
Author: Shari Imada, Senior Energy Specialist
Subject: FCM-GMF GHG Emissions Reduction Pathway Feasibility Study
File: 10-5200-20-SES
Electoral Area/Municipality: All areas

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) - Green Municipal Fund (GMF) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Pathway and related funding opportunity and request approval to apply to the GMF.

The RDCK owns numerous facilities, including: community complexes, recreation facilities, community halls, a library, fire halls, utility services water treatment plants and pumphouses, resource recovery facilities, and corporate offices. The GHG Emissions Reduction Pathway is designed to help local governments to identify opportunities to reduce GHG emissions and energy usage in their facilities. The pathway has 4 stages: 1) understanding your buildings' performance, 2) optimizing your existing buildings' system, 3) studying long term retrofit options and 4) implementing capital upgrades.

Staff are actively engaging in activities that support Stages 1 and 2. At this time, staff are proposing to apply for funding to deliver Stage 3, in the form of a GHG Emissions Reduction Pathway Feasibility Study. With this study, a corporate-wide, roadmap can be identified for facilities, which will enable the RDCK to reach their pledged GHG emissions reduction targets and realize cost savings due to reduced energy usage.

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Introduction

The RDCK has set GHG emissions (carbon pollution) reduction targets that cover all community and corporate GHG emissions. The targets are: 50% reduction by 2030 and 100% by 2050. Twenty percent of GHG emissions in the RDCK are generated by buildings in the form of heating fuels.

To support GHG emissions and energy usage reductions in facilities, the Senior Energy Specialist has been supporting facility managers across the departments (Community Services, Fire Services, Utility Services, Resource Recovery and Corporate Administration) with several initiatives, largely on a building-by-building basis.

The GHG Emissions Reduction Pathway, as set out by FCM, is the next step for the RDCK to be able to plan in a corporate-wide unified manner, to ensure that reduction targets are reached within the subscribed timeline. As mentioned, staff have already been engaging in activities that satisfy Stages 1 and 2. A summary of these activities are as follows:

Stage 1: Understanding your buildings' performance

Staff are finalizing the set-up of an energy monitoring program (Portfolio Manager) for all facilities across the RDCK. It is expected that this program will be in use by all facility managers by the end of March 2023. With this program, facility managers will be able to both monitor energy usage in their facilities, and compare to similarly-sized and used facilities across Canada.

Stage 2: Optimizing your existing buildings' system

Several initiatives have been delivered including these highlights:

- Energy audits performed for several RDCK owned facilities
- Commissioning validation studies performed and recommendations being implemented in the 3 community complexes
- Energy efficiency upgrade projects for several fire halls funded by Community Works grants
- Energy efficiency retrofit project (budget \$150,000) for Arrow Creek Water Treatment Plant proposed for 2023
- High efficiency HVAC upgrades project for Lakeside Drive office completed in 2022

Next Steps

At this point, staff are proposing to apply for Stage 3 funding of the 4-stage process, in order to gain an understanding of what needs to occur across the organization and how to allocate funds to reach emissions targets and realize optimal energy savings.

Stage 3: Studying long-term retrofit options

In this stage a detailed feasibility study is developed by an experienced building energy engineering consultant to determine options to reach RDCK GHG emissions reduction (2030 and 2050) targets.

FCM-GMF currently offers a one-time grant to help finance this feasibility study. Staff recommends to apply for this grant, in order to significantly reduce costs to RDCK services. The maximum grant allowable is \$200,000 which covers up to 80% of a feasibility study. It is proposed that the other 20% of the study costs would be funded by services that own / operate the facilities. The breakdown of the proposed feasibility study cost per department and corresponding FCM-GMF and RDCK contribution is:

Department	Feasibility Study Cost	80% FCM-GMF Contribution	20% RDCK Contribution
<i>Community Services – Creston Area (includes Rotocrest)</i>	\$60,000	\$48,000	\$12,000
<i>Community Services – Castlegar Area (includes daycare)</i>	\$60,000	\$48,000	\$12,000
<i>Community Services – Nelson Area</i>	\$60,000	\$48,000	\$12,000
<i>Community Services - Salmo, Riondel, North Shore Hall, Creston Library</i>	\$20,000	\$16,000	\$4,000
<i>Resource Recovery (West, Central, East)</i>	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$2,000
<i>Utility Services (Central and East)</i>	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$2,000
<i>Fire Services</i>	\$20,000	\$16,000	\$4,000

<i>Corporate Admin (Head Office)</i>	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$2,000
Totals	\$250,000	\$200,000	\$50,000

The main deliverable of the feasibility study would be the receipt of at least two pathways (options) for the overall corporate buildings portfolio including costs that will have direct correlation to meeting RDCK GHG emission reduction goals and optimizing energy savings. Based on this, staff would be able to recommend a corporate-wide energy retrofit plan to the Board.

Note that there would be differing scopes for facilities depending on building size and energy usage. A more detailed study would be performed for each of the 3 community complexes, resulting in proposed conceptual designs. For smaller facilities (i.e. resource recovery attendant buildings), 3 to 4 buildings (archetypes) would be studied, which would then be used to represent all similar facilities. For all facilities, previous energy audits, commissioning documents, asset inventories, and other related reports will be used to inform the study.

The resulting energy retrofit plan will outline tangible energy conservation measures (ECMs) with expected costs, related energy savings and GHG reductions, which can be integrated into future capital projects and grant applications. As well, the ECMs can be input into the asset management plan for each facility, so that energy efficient options will have already accounted for in financial planning as assets are renewed.

Stage 4: Implement capital upgrades

As described above, capital upgrades would be delivered as informed by the energy retrofit plan. Additionally, the RDCK could consider applying for the next stage of FCM/GMF funding: the Capital Project GHG Reduction Pathway Retrofit. This grant is a maximum \$5 million funding opportunity – 25% grant, remainder as loan.

In Closing

Overall, staff believe that by applying for the FCM-GMF funding for a feasibility study, a unified, tangible retrofit plan for the whole portfolio of RDCK-owned facilities can be produced. This will be a more fruitful and meaningful path forward rather than continuing to plan for and implement energy retrofits on a facility-by-facility basis. Further, completing Stage 3 will enable the RDCK to apply on Stage 4 – Capital Project GHG Reduction Pathway Retrofit.

SECTION 3: DETAILED ANALYSIS

3.1 Financial Considerations – Cost and Resource Allocations:

Included in Financial Plan: Yes No **Financial Plan Amendment:** Yes No
Debt Bylaw Required: Yes No **Public/Gov't Approvals Required:** Yes No

RDCK contributions to the proposed GHG Emissions Pathway feasibility study have been included in the draft financial plan by all affected services. It is expected that energy conservation measures (ECMs) that are implemented as a result of the proposed study will lower energy usage in RDCK facilities, which will lead to cost savings within service budgets.

3.2 Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws):

N/A

3.3 Environmental Considerations

The RDCK is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The GHG Reduction Pathway Feasibility Study will identify tangible energy conservation measures (ECMs) for all RDCK facilities, and build these ECMs into an overall strategy. The resulting strategy will directly inform the Board on the pathway to achieve the 2030 and 2050 carbon pollution goals for facilities. This work is part of the draft Climate Actions.

3.4 Social Considerations:

Implementing ECMs in RDCK facilities in many cases will allow for more thermal comfort for building occupants.

3.5 Economic Considerations:

The possibility of a corporate wide facility retrofit program would provide economic benefit to local building contractors and their families.

3.6 Communication Considerations:

N/A

3.7 Staffing/Departmental Workplan Considerations:

This initiative is within the Senior Energy Specialist's workplan. It is expected that facility managers' will need to contribute a small amount of time into the initiative for data collection, report review and to attend related workshops.

3.8 Board Strategic Plan/Priorities Considerations:

This initiative aligns with the Strategic Objectives *To Manage our Assets and Operations in a Fiscally Responsible Manner* and *To Adapt to our Changing Climate and Mitigate Greenhouse Gas Emissions*.

SECTION 4: OPTIONS & PROS / CONS

Option 1 – Support the grant application

Pros:

1. Energy conservation measures (ECMs) and a GHG emissions reduction pathway will be determined for RDCK-owned facilities, which will provide a corporate-wide energy retrofit plan for future years, and will inform asset management planning.
2. The RDCK will have a tangible route to reaching 2030 and 2050 GHG emission reduction goals for corporate facilities.
3. As ECMs are implemented, energy savings in facilities will be realized.
4. RDCK contribution of \$50,000 will leverage up to \$200,000 in funding from FCM-GMF.
5. RDCK will have a greater chance of getting Stage 4 funding for Capital Projects.
6. A plan of this nature would allow the RDCK to seek additional grant funding for capital upgrades.

Cons:

1. RDCK contribution of \$50,000 from various services will be utilized to deliver this project.

Option 2 – Do not support the application

Pros:

1. RDCK planned contribution of \$50,000 is not required.

Cons:

1. The RDCK will not attain a corporate-wide GHG emissions reduction pathway to inform on how to reach 2030 and 2050 goals, nor a corporate-wide energy retrofit plan to aid in facility management.
2. ECMs for every RDCK-owned facility will not be included in asset management planning.
3. Utility costs for RDCK-owned facilities will be more likely to increase over time.

SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board direct staff to submit an application to Federation of Canadian Municipalities - Green Municipal Fund for a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Pathway Feasibility Study;

AND further that the cost for RDCK's contribution of \$50,000 towards the feasibility study be included in the 2023 draft Financial Plan as follows:

\$12,000 S222 Castlegar and District Community Complex – Castlegar and Areas I & J

\$12,000 S224 Creston and District Community Complex – Creston, Area B and Defined Portion of Area A and C

\$12,000 S226 Nelson and District Community Complex – Nelson, Area F and Defined Portion of Area E

\$1,000 S193 Public Library Services – Creston and Areas A, B & C

\$1,000 S209 Recreation Facilities – Defined A - Riondel

\$1,000 S211 Recreation Facilities – F – North Shore Hall

\$1,000 S230 Recreation Commission No. 7 - Salmo and Area G

\$2,000 S100 General Administration

\$2,000 A102 Resource Recovery

\$2,000 A103 Utility Services

\$4,000 various Fire Protection Services – divided equally between 16 services

AND FURTHER, that staff be authorized to enter into a funding agreement with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Green Municipal Fund should the RDCK be awarded the grant.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Imada, Senior Energy Specialist

CONCURRENCE

Manager of Community Sustainability - Chris Johnson

Approved

GM of Development and Community Sustainability – Sangita Sudan

Approved

Chief Administrative Officer – Stuart Horn

Approved



Board Report

Date of Report: January 2, 2024
Date & Type of Meeting: January 18, 2024 Open Board Meeting
Author: Yev Malloff, GM Finance, IT and Economic Development / CFO
Subject: Travel Allowances for RDCK Directors and Employees
File: 01-0510-20
Electoral Area/Municipality: All

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to:

- provide the board with further information regarding travel allowances, including meals and mileage allowances, and
- request board direction for amending bylaw and/or policy with respect to travel allowances

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

At the October 23, 2023 open board meeting, the following resolution was adopted:

677/23: That staff be directed to prepare an amendment to the Chair, Directors and Alternate Directors Remuneration Bylaw No. 2710, 2021 to amend the expense for meals not covered by stipend amount to reflect the annual approved Canada Revenue Agency allowances for meals, and that the bylaw reflect that the meal allowances will be updated annually for any change to the CRA allowances.

Upon staff review, several considerations have emerged, necessitating further direction from the board prior to amendment to the director's remuneration bylaw. Staff does not recommend the CRA travel directive for employees referenced in 677/23 as an option.

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED:

1. Misalignment with CRA Guidelines: The CRA meal allowance rates referenced at the October 23, 2023 open board meeting are part of the **Travel directive for CRA employees**, not the approved reasonable rates in CRA income tax guidelines. The travel directive for CRA employees:

- Is derived from a wider travel directive for Canadian Federal Government employees through the National Joint Council (NJC) which is part of a negotiated agreement with employee representatives and potentially contains elements to incentivize travel
- Is reviewed quarterly and updated at least semi-annually, contradicting the annual revision stated in the resolution 677/23
- Offers a lower mileage rate (\$0.58/km) compared to the CRA approved rate (\$0.70/km)
- Requires actual meal expense claims (with receipts) for trips inside the operating area/region
- Is largely geared towards overnight trips outside the employee's operating area/region

2. Consideration of existing RDCK Policies: It is not evident that Amendment 200/13 to the RDCK Employee Reimbursement & Travel Directive (Policy No. 200-02-04) was taken into consideration in the adoption of resolution 677/23:

- Amendment 200/13 reads: “That the per diem rates in the Staff and Directors’ travel policies be amended to parallel each other.”
- Consideration of the employee travel allowances has significance as over 70% of the allowances paid out relate to employees versus directors.

3. Comparison to other public sector organizations. It is not evident that a comparison to meal and mileage allowance policies and rates at other public sector organizations was performed. This is understandable given that the assumption at the October 23, 2023 open board meeting was that the meal allowance rates brought forward lined up with the CRA approved reasonable rates used for mileage allowances existing in RDCK bylaw No. 2710, 2021.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR BYLAW AND POLICY AMENDMENT:

1. Alignment of Staff and Directors’ Allowances: Should the RDCK continue to maintain parallel meal and mileage allowances for staff and directors, or differentiate based on roles and responsibilities?

Pro: Equity

Pro: Eases administrative burden

Con: May not reflect real-world differences in travel purposes, destinations and associated costs

2. Use an External Source for Allowance Guidelines and Rates: Should the RDCK base its allowance rates on external sources such as the CRA, NJC, Provincial Government etc.?

Pro: Eases administrative and governance process burden

Pro: Increased independence and reduced potential conflict of interest

Con: Future divergence may not reflect real-world differences in travel purposes, destinations and associated costs

3. Consistency of Source for Allowances: Evaluating the feasibility of deriving both meal and mileage allowances from the same source (CRA reasonableness guidelines vs. CRA employee travel directive) for policy uniformity.

Pro: Consistency, ease of administration, messaging

Con: May not reflect real-world differences in travel purposes, destinations and associated costs

4. Adherence to Source Directives: Determining the extent to which the RDCK should adopt the restrictions of the chosen meal allowance source, such as daily limits or receipt requirements.

Pro: Consistency of overall application of source policy

Con: May not reflect real-world differences in travel purposes, destinations and associated costs

Con: Exclusions and exceptions increase administrative burden (potentially significantly)

5. Frequency of Rate Revisions: Assessing the practicality of revising rates in alignment with the source, especially if updates occur more frequently than annually.

Pro: Increased frequency may more closely match real word cost shifts

Con: Increased frequency increases administrative burden

6. Administrative Considerations: Understanding the demands on staff and directors in administering these policies, especially considering the effort required for different revision frequencies and source adherence, as well as the effort to communicate and train directors and employees on the use of more complicated policies.

7. Benchmarking against Other Public Sector Organizations: Deciding where the RDCK wants to position itself in terms of rates compared to other public sector organizations, and whether any of the external organizations or policies should be considered as a source for the RDCK rates. **Attachment A** provides a summary comparison, while **attachments B through E** provides details on various Canadian Federal government and BC Provincial government guidelines and directives.

Pro: Allows for RDCK policy to not fall far out of sync with comparable organizations or policies

Con: Other public Sector organizations policies may not currently be applicable to the RDCK

Con: Staff time to prepare comparative analysis

Staff recommends adopting a meal allowance source that is more reflective of the RDCK's more common travel scenarios for directors and employees overall, primarily in-region and non-overnight stays, instead of aligning with the CRA employee travel directive, which is tailored towards less frequent, costlier out-of-region meals in major centres and may include a component to incentivize travel. To this end, staff suggests implementing the BC Provincial Government employee Group II meal allowance rates, including an incidental rate for out-of-region overnight stays, and the corresponding mileage rate. This approach largely aligns with considerations 1 through 7 above, addressing both practical and administrative aspects of RDCK travel allowances.

The current rates for the BC Provincial Government employee Group II, with meals and incidentals rounded to the nearest whole dollar, are as follows:

- Breakfast: \$25.00
- Lunch: \$25.00
- Dinner: \$35.00
- Incidentals: \$15.00 (applicable per overnight stay away from home during out-of-region travel)
- Mileage: \$0.61/km

The above rates are revised annually with the revision effective April 1 of each calendar year.

Not implementing the daily limits in the BC Government employee travel allowance policy further streamlines the process, making it more efficient for both staff and directors. This recommendation aims to provide a balanced, practical solution for travel expense management within the RDCK.

Should the board decide to adopt a source for travel allowances other than the suggested Provincial Government employee travel policy, it will be necessary to update Resolution 677/23 to accurately reflect the chosen alternative. This update should include:

1. Clear Identification of the New Source: The board must specify the exact policy or directive that will serve as the new benchmark for travel allowances, which will allow for regular updates to rates should the source rates change.

2. Adjustment Frequency and Methodology: The resolution should clearly state how often and by what method the RDCK will adjust its rates. This is particularly important if there's a discrepancy in the frequency of adjustments between the selected source and the RDCK's bylaws or policies. It should also include the effective dates of the revised methodology.

3. Implementation Details: The board needs to delineate which aspects of the chosen policy or directive will be incorporated into the RDCK bylaw or policy. This may include decisions on:

- Whether to implement individual meal allowances or daily limits.
- Applicability to in-region or out-of-region travel.
- Considerations for overnight travel expenses.

4. Alignment of Director and Employee Allowances: In case the board decides to diverge from the practice of aligning director and employee travel allowance rates:

- A resolution will be required to rescind or replace resolution 200/13.
- An amendment to the RDCK Employee Reimbursement & Travel Directive (Policy No. 200-02-04) will be needed to reflect the new approach for meals and mileage allowances.

These steps will ensure that the RDCK’s travel allowance policies are both clear and aligned with the board’s intentions, while also being responsive to the practical needs of both directors and employees.

SECTION 3: DETAILED ANALYSIS

3.1 Financial Considerations – Cost and Resource Allocations:

Included in Financial Plan:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Financial Plan Amendment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Debt Bylaw Required:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Public/Gov’t Approvals Required:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Total annual meals expense for the RDCK is estimated at \$32K (Directors \$10K). A change from the current rates to the CRA employee travel directive rates would increase the annual cost by an estimated:

$$(\$109.45 - \$75.00) / \$75.00 * \$32K = \$15K$$

A change to the BC Provincial Government Employee travel policy rates would increase the annual cost by:

$$(\$85.00 - \$75.00) / \$75.00 * \$32K = \$4K$$

There would also be an increase stemming from the introduction of an incidental rate for overnight stays estimated at about \$3K to \$5K per year.

Total annual mileage expense is estimated at \$150K (Directors \$40K). A change from the current rates to the CRA employee travel directive rate would decrease the annual cost by an estimated:

$$(\$0.70 - \$0.58) / \$0.70 * \$150K = \$26K$$

A change to the BC Provincial Government Employee travel policy rates would decrease the annual cost by:

$$(\$0.70 - \$0.61) / \$0.70 * \$150K = \$19K$$

The above two calculations are for illustrative purposes and should not necessarily be used to drive policy.

3.2 Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws):

In order to enact the staff recommendation of utilizing the BC Provincial Government employee travel policy as a source, Bylaw 2710,2021 (Directors and Alternate Directors Remuneration and Expenses) will require the following amendments:

Revise subsection 7 (1)

A Director can claim a meal allowance for each meal up to the maximum Per Diem rate for each 24 hours period he/she attends meetings on behalf of the Board. The Per Diem is intended to compensate Directors for all meals expenses and incidental expenses otherwise not covered in 7(6) below incurred while representing the RDCK and are shown in Schedule A to this bylaw.

Add subsection 7 (5)

The meal allowance rates for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are to be based on the BC Provincial Government Group II employee meal allowance rates, rounded up to the nearest whole dollar, utilizing the Breakfast Only, Lunch Only and Dinner Only rates respectively. The partial and full day limitations in the BC Provincial Government employee meals allowance policy section do not apply. The daily maximum for meals shall be the sum of the three meal allowance amounts. The meal allowance rates for the Directors will be revised effective on the 1st of the month following the revision date of the BC Provincial Government employee travel allowance policy

Add subsection 7 (6)

A director may submit a claim for incidental expenses for each overnight stayover away from home while traveling outside of RDCK boundaries. The Incidental rate will be based on the BC Provincial Government Group II employee Incidental Only rate rounded up to the nearest whole dollar. The incidental expense rate for RDCK directors will be revised effective on the 1st of the month following the revision date of the BC Provincial Government employee travel allowance policy

Revise subsection 5(1)

A Director shall be paid a mileage allowance for use of a vehicle as transportation from their Normal Place of residence and return as follows:

- (a) to and from meetings as defined in Section Per Diem;
- (b) to the closest airport from which she/he can depart in the case of their being a Delegate; and
- (c) in the case of a Delegate, to the place of the meeting should departure by air not be practical; or
- (d) in the case of a Board or Committee Chair, for attendance at meetings he/she is required to attend by virtue of office.

The mileage allowance rate will be based on the BC Provincial Government employee private vehicle allowance rate rounded up to the nearest whole penny. The mileage allowance rate for directors will be revised effective on the 1st of the month following the revision date of the BC Provincial Government employee travel allowance policy

3.3 Environmental Considerations

N/A

3.4 Social Considerations:

N/A

3.5 Economic Considerations:

N/A

3.6 Communication Considerations:

The Finance department will notify Directors of changes in allowance rates and the effective dates, including the revision of travel expense claim forms.

3.7 Staffing/Departmental Workplan Considerations:

Staff resources will be required to prepare the amendments to bylaws and policies. A bylaw/policy that derives rates from an external source will require less staff time for annual analysis and review. A policy that derives rates from sources that have revisions more often than once annually will require additional staff resources to administer.

3.8 Board Strategic Plan/Priorities Considerations:

To Excel in Governance and Service Delivery

To Manage our Assets and Operations in a Fiscally Responsible Manner

SECTION 4: OPTIONS & PROS / CONS

Option 1 – Amend Bylaw 2710,2021 (Directors and Alternate Directors Remuneration and Expenses) as per section 3.2 to match the BC Provincial Government Employee Group II rates.

PROS

- Consistency of source for meals, incidentals and mileage allowances (BC Provincial Government employee travel allowance policy)
- One annual rate revision eases administrative burden
- Rates are rationalized for use in BC and are in step with current comparable rates with most other local governments in BC shown in Attachment A.
- Recognizes the potential additional costs associated with out of region overnight travel while also effectively reimbursing directors for in region day travel.
- Utilizing one mileage rate for all travel eases administrative burden compared to the split rates in the published CRA annual mileage allowance rate table.

CONS

- Will require bylaw amendment and changes to expense reporting processes
- The BC Government mileage rate is lower than the CRA reasonable mileage rate.

Option 2: That the Board direct staff to prepare a bylaw to amend RDCK Directors and Alternate Directors Remuneration Bylaw 2710, 2021 to update the meal allowances and mileage rates to match another directive, as instructed by the Board.

Pros and Cons unknown without further information.

Option 3: Staff be directed to take no further action, and the meal allowances and mileage rates remain as per the current RDCK Directors and Alternate Directors Remuneration Bylaw 2710, 2021.

PROS

- No further staff time required
- The current meal and mileage rates do not appear to be significantly different than other regional districts.
- The meals and mileage can be reviewed in accordance with bylaw 2710, 2021 during the year prior to the next local government election.

CONS

- The meal allowances have not been matched or tied to a source directive and are currently arbitrary
- Meal allowances have not changed in at least 10 years and may not be reflective of current costs

SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board direct staff to prepare a bylaw to amend RDCK Directors and Alternate Directors Remuneration Bylaw 2710, 2021 to update the meal allowances and mileage rates to match the BC Provincial Government Employee Group II rates as per the Board report dated January 2, 2024 Travel Allowance for RDCK Directors and Employees authored by Yev Malloff.

Respectfully submitted by:

Yev Malloff, General Manager Finance, IT and Economic Development / CFO

CONCURRENCE

Chief Administrative Officer – Stuart Horn

Approved

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Travel Allowance policy/directive/guideline Comparisons

Attachment B through E – Various CRA and BC Government travel allowance guidelines and directives.

Attachment F - Directors and Alternate Directors Remuneration Bylaw No. 2710, 2021

Attachment G - Employee Reimbursement & Travel Directive (Policy No. 200-02-04)

ATTACHMENT A – COMPARISONS TO OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS

Organization	Application	Effective	Meals Allowance - \$/meal						Day Trip Limit to Actual?	Incidental Rate \$/stay	Mileage - \$/km		Revision
			Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Total	Daily Max	<5,000km			>5,000km		
RDCK	Current	2023	15.00	25.00	35.00	75.00	75.00	No	-	0.70	0.64		
RDCK	Recommendation	2024	25.00	25.00	35.00	85.00	85.00	No	15.00	0.61	0.61	Annual	
CRA	Approved Rates	2023	23.00	23.00	23.00	69.00	69.00	No	-	0.70	0.64	Annual	
CRA	Travel Directive	Oct 1/23	24.35	24.65	60.45	109.45	109.45	Yes	17.50	0.58	0.58	Quarterly	
NJC	Travel Directive	Oct 1/23	24.35	24.65	60.45	109.45	109.45	Yes	17.30	0.58	0.58	Quarterly	
BC Govt	Emp Grp I	Apr 1/23	14.16	16.38	28.31	58.85	64.75	Yes	-	0.61	0.61	Annual	
BC Govt	Emp Grp II	Apr 1/23	25.00	25.00	34.50	84.50	62.00	Yes	15.00	0.61	0.61	Annual	
BC Govt	Emp Grp II	Apr 1/23	25.75	25.75	35.00	86.50	58.85	Yes	15.00	0.61	0.61	Annual	
BC Govt	MLAs	Jul 1/23	27.00	27.00	36.00	90.00	61.00	No	14.50	0.61	0.61	Annual	
Local Muni.													
Castlegar	Staff/Council	Current	20.00	25.00	40.00	85.00	85.00	No	20.00	0.61	0.61		
Creston	Staff/Council	Current	25.00	30.00	45.00	100.00	100.00	No	15.00	0.70			
Nelson	Staff/Council	Current	15.00	20.00	35.00	70.00	70.00	No	-	0.70			
BC RDs													
Alberni	Staff/Directors	2023	20.00	25.00	30.00	75.00	75.00	No	20.00	0.70	0.64		
Alberni - 2	Staff/Directors	2023	25.00	30.00	35.00	90.00	90.00	No	20.00	0.70	0.64		
East Kootenay	Staff/Directors	2023	25.00	30.00	40.00	95.00	95.00	No	-	0.70	0.64		
Nanaimo	Staff/Directors	2023	20.00	25.00	40.00	85.00	85.00	No		0.70	0.64		
Central Oka.	Staff/Directors	2023	17.00	17.00	35.00	69.00	69.00	No		0.70	0.64		
Thompson	Staff/Directors	2023	17.00	18.00	29.00	64.00	64.00	No		0.59	0.59		
Thompson - 2	Staff/Directors	2023	19.00	26.00	38.00	83.00	83.00	No		0.59	0.59		
Koot Bound	Staff/Directors	2023	20.00	25.00	35.00	80.00	80.00	No	20.00	0.61	0.61		
Cariboo	Staff/Directors	2023	24.35	24.65	60.45	109.45	109.45	No		0.58	0.58		
Qathet	Staff/Directors	2023	20.00	25.00	35.00	80.00	80.00	No	20.00	0.59	0.59		
Capitol	Staff/Directors	2023	10.50	21.00	31.50	63.00	63.00	No		0.70	0.64		
Peace River	Staff/Directors	2023	20.00	25.00	35.00	80.00	80.00	No		0.70	0.64		
Central Coast	Staff/Directors	2023	22.00	27.00	40.00	89.00	89.00	No	11.00	0.70	0.64		
NOTES													
Revisions	The above rates may not include all revisions as of January 8, 2024												
CRA	Canada Revenue Agency												
NJC	National Joint Council (of Canadian Federal Government Employee Unions and the Treasury Board)												
GRP I	BCGEU												
GRP II	Management												
GRP III	Deputy Ministers												
Alberni - 2	For travel to Vancouver, Victoria, Whistler and Kelowna												
Thompson - 2	For travel to Vancouver, Victoria, Whistler and Kelowna												

ATTACHMENT B – Canada Revenue Agency Approved Reasonable Rates – 2024

- The allowance, or the cost of the meal, is reasonable. The CRA generally considers a value of up to \$23 (including the GST/HST and PST) to be reasonable. The CRA will consider higher amounts reasonable if the relative cost of meals in that location is higher, or under other significant extenuating circumstances

Reasonable allowance rates

For 2024, they are:

- 70¢ per kilometre for the first 5,000 kilometres driven
- 64¢ per kilometre driven after that

ATTACHMENT C – Canada Revenue Agency Directive on Travel

2. Application

The directive applies to employees and other persons travelling on Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) business, such as Members of Parliament, the Minister's exempt staff and contractors, and is mandatory to follow. It does not apply to those persons whose travel is governed by other authorities, such as the Minister.

The term "employees" has been deliberately used throughout the directive to distinguish entitlements that apply to strictly employees. Sections pertaining to "travellers" apply to contractors and other persons travelling on CRA business. For the purposes of this directive, the term employee will encompass members of the Board.

4. Overview

This directive sets out the financial administration requirements for the reimbursement of reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by travellers on CRA business.

The kilometric rates and meal allowances set out in this directive are those guided and established by the National Joint Council (NJC). While this directive is guided by the NJC, the entitlements of the employees will be determined in accordance with the provisions of this directive.

6.6.7 Travel within HQ area

- 6.6.7.1 Meal expenses will be paid, based on receipts, up to the limit of the applicable meal allowance in the CRA Directive on Travel [Appendix B: Meals and Allowances](#) or CRA Directive on Travel [Appendix C: Daily Meals Rates at Locations Abroad](#), as applicable, in the following situations:
 - a. when travellers are required to work through or beyond normal meal hours and are clearly placed in situations of having to spend more for the meal than would otherwise be the case;
 - b. when travellers are required to attend conferences, seminars, meetings or public hearings during the weekend or holidays;
 - c. when travellers are required to attend formal full-day conferences, seminars, meetings or hearings and where meals are an integral part of the proceedings;
 - d. when the CRA representatives are involved in collective bargaining proceedings;
 - e. when intensive task force or committee studies are enhanced by keeping participants together over a normal meal period;
 - f. when the reimbursement of meal expenses is clearly reasonable and justifiable as a direct result of a traveller's duties; or
 - g. when covered by the terms and conditions of employment or collective agreements.

ATTACHMENT C – Canada Revenue Agency Directive on Travel (cont.)

Effective: October 1, 2023

1. Travel in Canada

	Canada (all Provinces) & USA (except Alaska)
1. Travel in Canada	
1.1 Meal allowances	
Breakfast	24.35
Lunch	24.65
Dinner	60.45
Meal allowance total	109.45
1.2 Incidental Expense Allowance	17.50

Effective: January 1, 2024

CRA Kilometric Rates

This table indicates the rates payable in cents per kilometre for the use of privately owned vehicles driven on business travel

Province/Territory	Cents/km (taxes included)
Alberta	53.5
British Columbia	58.0
Manitoba	56.0
New Brunswick	59.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	60.5
Northwest Territories	70.5
Nova Scotia	59.5
Nunavut	68.0
Ontario	60.5
Prince Edward Island	57.5
Quebec	58.0
Saskatchewan	55.0
Yukon	72.0

ATTACHMENT D – BC Government Employees Travel Allowance Policy

Appendix 1 – Travel Allowances

Last updated: April 1, 2023

Note: This Appendix provides key reimbursement amounts.

1. Meal/Per Diem Allowances

- (1) Meal/per diem reimbursement when traveling on the employer’s business will be in accordance with Treasury Board Orders and Directives at the following rates:

Effective April 1, 2023									
Employee Group	Full Day \$	Half Day \$	Breakfast Only \$	Lunch Only \$	Dinner Only \$	B&L Only \$	L&D Only \$	B&D Only \$	Incidental Only \$
I	58.85	N/A	14.16	16.38	28.31	30.54	44.69	42.47	N/A
II	62.00	N/A	25.00	25.00	34.50	36.00	45.50	45.50	15.00
III	64.75	32.50	25.75	25.75	35.00	39.25	48.50	48.50	15.00

- (2) Unless otherwise provided for in this appendix, the reimbursement rates for Groups II and III cover meal and other out-of-pocket travel expenses.
- (3) Where travel is for a partial day, only meals that are applicable to that portion of the day spent on travel status are claimed.
- (4) Where a meal is provided without charge or is paid for from public funds, no claim for that meal can be made.
- (5) The meal/per diem allowances cover expenses arising from absences away from headquarters or geographic location over a meal period(s).
- (6) Meal expenses incurred within headquarters or geographic location due to job responsibilities, will be reimbursed as follows:

Group I and Group II	Group III
at the meal rate(s) specified in 1(1) for Group I, above	for all actual meal expenses incurred

2. Private Vehicle Allowance

- (1) Where a private vehicle is used on the employer’s business, reimbursement shall be: Effective April 1, 2023 – \$0.61 per km

ATTACHMENT E – Travel Guidelines for Members of the BC Legislative Assembly

A Member of the Legislative Assembly on travel status outside of their constituency (or within their constituency if the condition outlined below is met) may claim a per diem reimbursement at the following rates:

Full Day	\$61.00
Half Day	\$30.50
Breakfast Only	\$27.00
Lunch Only	\$27.00
Dinner Only	\$36.00
Breakfast & Lunch Only	\$39.50
Lunch & Dinner Only	\$48.50
Breakfast & Dinner Only	\$48.50
Incidentals Only	\$14.50

The per diem reimbursement is intended to cover the cost of meals and other out of pocket incidental travel expenses while a Member is away from their home or constituency over a meal period(s). A per diem reimbursement is not claimable when a Member is working in their constituency, unless they are attending a parliamentary committee meeting in their riding or if the Member travelled more than 50 kilometers in one day (excluding mileage between the Member's home and primary constituency office).

When a Member travels for a partial day, only meals that are applicable to the portion of the day spent on travel status may be claimed. When a Member consumes a meal, which has been provided without charge or paid for from public funds, no claim for that meal may be made.

A Member may claim incidentals only when no other per diem claims are made for that day. Examples of incidental expenses include telephone calls, portage and other gratuities.

Mileage when using a private car (\$0.61 per kilometer effectively July 1, 2023)

All mileage claims must include a clear description of each individual trip, including starting location and ending destination, to be eligible for reimbursement.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

Bylaw No. 2710

A Bylaw to provide for payment of remuneration and expenses to the Directors and Alternate Directors of the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

WHEREAS the Regional Board by bylaw, makes payment of remuneration to the Chair, Vice Chair, Directors and Alternate Directors and to members of Committees of the Board for each regularly constituted meeting attended;

AND WHEREAS by resolution of the Board, the Board may reimburse members of the Board or Committee members for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with their attending to the business affairs of the District;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board adopted Bylaw No. 1851, being a bylaw relative to the Chair's and Directors' remuneration;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed expedient to rescind Bylaw No. 1851 and amendments thereto, and replace it with Bylaw No. 2710;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, in open meeting assembled, HEREBY ENACTS as follows:

APPLICATION

1 This Bylaw is applicable to the Board of Directors of the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

DEFINITIONS

2 In this bylaw:

Board means the governing and executive body of a regional district.

Committees include Standing and Special Committees as may from time to time be struck by resolution or by bylaw of the Board and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, includes the following:

- Rural Affairs Committee
- East Resource Recovery Committee
- Central Resource Recovery Committee
- West Resource Recovery Committee
- Joint Resource Recovery Committee
- All Recreation Committee, and

- Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee

Delegate means Directors, Alternate Directors, and named employees appointed by resolution of the Board to make representation to other bodies on behalf of the Regional District.

Director unless specifically referred to elsewhere in this bylaw, means an Alternate, Municipal, and Electoral Area Director.

Alternate Directors means a person who has completed the prescribed forms for appointment as Alternate for a Municipal or Electoral Area Director, as the case may be, and has been duly sworn into office.

Expenses means reimbursable out of pocket costs incurred by the Director or Alternate that will be paid by the Regional District as specified in Schedule A.

External Committee means a committee without a direct relationship to an RDCK service, for which the organization has requested representation from the RDCK Board.

Local Time means the time zone in which the Director is resident or their point of departure for the purpose of returning to their Normal Place of residence.

Meeting

- **Board** means a regularly scheduled or special meeting for the purpose of conducting Regional District Board business regardless of whether the Board conducts business for both the regional and hospital districts.
- **Committee** means a regularly scheduled or special meeting of a Standing or Special Committee as defined in *Committees*.

Member of a Committee means the Director appointed by resolution of the Board to serve on a Committee, an ex-officio member who is also a Board member, and a person who, although not a Director of the Board, has been appointed by resolution of the Board

Normal Place means the location where the Director resides most of the calendar year.

Per Diem daily amount paid to reimburse Directors for meal and miscellaneous Expenses during a 24 hour period.

Public Hearing carries the definition used in Section 465 of the *Local Government Act*.

Remuneration means an amount payable to a Director and Chair of the Board as specified in the within Schedule A of this bylaw.

REMUNERATION

- 3 (1) Remuneration shall be paid to Directors, Alternate Directors and the Chair of the Board in accordance with this bylaw by direct deposit, electronic fund transfer.

- (2) The rates in Schedule A, of this bylaw, will be adjusted annually (effective January 1st) by an amount equal to the average monthly change in the British Columbia Consumer Price Index, rounded to one decimal point, for the twelve month period ending October 31st of the previous year.
- (3) The rates in Schedule A, of this bylaw, will be brought the Board for review in February of the year of each local government election beginning in 2026, with any changes to be effective January 1 following the election.
- (4) A Director shall not receive Remuneration for wages lost through absence from work or income deemed lost due to their attendance at a meeting:
 - (a) of the Board;
 - (b) Committee to which she/he is appointed; and
 - (c) as a Delegate representing the Regional District.
- (5) For attending to the affairs of the District, each Municipal (from General Administration) and Rural Director (from General and Rural Administration) will be paid twice per month as outlined in Schedule A of this bylaw. The service split for the stipend for Rural Directors is calculated at fifty four percent to General Administration and forty six percent to Rural Administration. For clarity, this stipend includes attendance monthly at the RDCK Rural Affairs Committee and Board meetings.
- (6) In addition to Section 3 subsection (5) of this bylaw, a Board Chair will be paid a monthly stipend to be paid from General Administration, as outlined in Schedule A of this bylaw.
- (7) When Alternate Directors attend Board or Committee meetings on the Director's behalf, regardless of there being a quorum, they are compensated per the rates outlined in Schedule A of this bylaw.
- (8) In addition to Section 3 subsections (5), (6) & (7) of this bylaw, there shall be a monthly stipend paid to the Chair of a standing Committee of the Board (with the exception of the Joint Resource Recovery Committee) and the Vice Chair of the Board as outlined in Schedule A of this bylaw. These funds are to cover, but not be limited to, attendance at agenda preparation meetings and consultation with Directors and staff as deemed necessary.
- (9) In addition to the above Directors or Alternate Directors who have been appointed to and attend the Resource Recovery meetings are to be paid an additional stipend as identified in Schedule A of this bylaw.
- (10) All Directors and Alternate Directors who, by resolution of the Board are authorized to attend a Meeting on behalf of the Board shall be entitled to Remuneration and/or Expenses as outlined in Schedule A of this bylaw.
- (11) Directors will from time to time be named by resolution to External Committees. Directors attending meetings of External Committees to which they have been named will be paid stipend and/or Expenses with costs charged as directed by the Board via resolution at the time of the Director's appointment.

(12) Meetings on Successive Dates:

When Directors attend Committee Meetings on successive days at the same location, they are eligible for:

- (a) Day 1 – either mileage to and from the meeting or mileage to the meeting and applicable accommodation charges, as appropriate; and
- (b) Day 2 – actual mileage; with the additional costs for Rural Directors being charged to Rural Administration.

(13) Multiple Meetings on the Same Day:

For efficiency multiple meetings of the Board and/or Committees may be scheduled on the same day. The maximum number of meetings for which a Director can claim stipend for in one day is two (2).

(14) The Board and Vice Chair of the Board and Chairs of Standing Committees are to be paid Expenses only (mileage and meals) for attendance at agenda preparation or other meetings required as part of their role.

(15) A Director delegated to chair a Public Hearing be paid stipend and Expenses with costs charged to the Rural Administration Budget.

(16) Delegates to Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG) Conventions:

- (a) Municipal and Rural Directors or, in their absence, Alternate Directors, authorized by Board Resolution to attend the UBCM and/or the FCM Convention be paid stipend and Expenses to be charged to the General Administration budget;
- (b) Rural Directors or, in their absence, Alternate Directors, authorized by Board Resolution to attend the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments Convention be paid stipend and Expenses to be charged to the Rural Administration budget.

(17) A Delegate Director shall receive Remuneration at the current rate for each day on which business is conducted and at which the Delegate Director is in attendance. Stipends are not paid for travel days.

(18) Board Member Elected or Appointed to FCM:

A Board member whose candidacy is endorsed by the RDCK Board is duly elected or appointed to serve on the FCM Board or Committees, the member be paid the usual Remuneration for attending FCM Board Meetings, in accordance with this bylaw, upon the member submitting the required claim form, with all such costs not covered by FCM, charged to General Administration.

- (19) Whenever a spouse/partner is registered for and does accompany the Director to a conference, the Regional District does not pay any Expenses of the spouse/partner, and any charges incurred by the Regional District to register or book travel for the spouse/partner be invoiced to the Director.
- (20) In addition to the above Directors and Alternate Directors are entitled to the reimbursement of Expenses identified in Schedule A of this bylaw.
- (21) Directors and Alternate Directors are entitled to claim an additional stipend for attendance at any additional special monthly meetings of the Board over and above the 12 monthly meetings included in the annual allowance in Section 3 subsection (5) of this bylaw.
- (22) Directors are entitled to claim stipends for Board and Committee Meetings in which they participate in by electronic means.
- (23) In addition to the above, Rural Directors will have the opportunity to attend conference and other educational sessions that are outside those identified in Section 3 subsection (16) and not specifically approved by the Board, to be paid from a Rural Director Allowance of \$2,500 annually, charged to Rural Administration. This allowance can be used for stipend and/or Expenses.
- (24) Any unused allowance from Section 3 subsection (26) is carried forward for future use at the end of a calendar year. All rural allowance balances reset to zero at the end of an elected term.

TRAVEL

- 4 (1) The Director's Normal Place of residence, within the Regional District, shall be considered the starting point and point of return of any trip.
- (2) Every Director is expected to travel by the most direct route and use the most economical means of transportation. Factors to be considered in determining the most economical travel option include:
 - (a) Travel time involved;
 - (b) Lowest quoted airfare;
 - (c) Journey expense to and from airport, including airport parking fees;
 - (d) Mileage Expenses; and
 - (e) Car rentals, taxis and parking fees at destination.
- (3) Except for journeys where the use of a car is either more economical or the only practical option, air travel is the preferred method of transportation. If travel is by air, the Director shall be reimbursed for the most economical means of travel to and from the airport.
- (4) Where air travel is the most economical option, but a Director chooses to drive for personal reasons, the Director will be reimbursed for travel in the amount of the lowest quoted airfare, or the actual mileage to the destination plus hotel parking, whichever is less.

- (5) Directors must submit expense claims using the required form and attach receipts for eligible Expenses. Reimbursement of Expenses will occur subject to approval of the Chief Financial Officer or designate. For certainty, no Expenses claims may be submitted in advance of the actual Expense being incurred.

MILEAGE ALLOWANCE

- 5 (1) A Director shall be paid mileage allowance for use of a vehicle as transportation at the current yearly posted reasonable per kilometre rate allowance by *Canadian Revenue Agency* (CRA) from their Normal Place of residence and return as follows:
 - (a) to and from meetings as defined in Section *Per Diem*;
 - (b) to the closest airport from which she/he can depart in the case of their being a Delegate; and
 - (c) in the case of a Delegate, to the place of the meeting should departure by air not be practical; or
 - (d) in the case of a Board or Committee Chair, for attendance at meetings he/she is required to attend by virtue of office.
- (2) Should Directors elect to travel together in an automobile, only one mileage allowance shall be payable per vehicle.
- (3) The District does not accept any liability under any circumstances for claims arising from the use of privately-owned vehicles.
- (4) The District shall not reimburse the Director for stand-by charges of their personal vehicle while she/he is attending a meeting. Stand-by refers to the privately-owned vehicle being situated at the point of departure or at the place of the meeting.
- (5) No additional allowances are payable for carrying passengers.
- (6) In addition to mileage allowance, a Director may claim Expenses incurred for ferry charges, bridge, road and tunnel tolls, as well as parking charges where parking is not free.
- (7) Unless approved by the Board, a Director who is not a member and who attends a meeting of the Committee will not be compensated. If the Board approves, a Director who is not a member and who attends a Committee meeting will be paid mileage only.

ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES

- 6 (1) Actual hotel room cost for single occupancy will be paid when travelling on Regional District business. Every effort should be made to obtain accommodation at the government rate. Where the travel requires overnight stay and the individual chooses to stay with friends or relatives rather than hotel accommodation, the rate shown in Schedule A is applicable and permitted to be expensed.
- (2) Overnight Accommodation is approved for Directors attending an authorized Regional District meeting who would otherwise have to:

- (a) begin travel before 7:00 a.m.;
 - (b) end travel after 11:00 p.m.;
 - (c) travel in hazardous weather; or
 - (d) for unforeseen circumstances as approved by the Board Chair;
- (3) The reason for the overnight stay must be noted on the Director's expense form.

PER DIEM EXPENSES

- 7 (1) A Director shall receive reimbursement at the Per Diem rate for each 24 hours period he/she attends meetings on behalf of the Board. The Per Diem is intended to compensate Directors for all meal and incidental Expenses incurred while representing the RDCK and are shown in Schedule A to this bylaw.
- (2) Whenever Directors attend meetings or conferences, the Delegate Director shall not be eligible for meal allowances for those meals which the RDCK has paid an additional amount.
- (3) Meals and incidentals charged to hotel accommodation shall be recovered from Directors. Directors must claim the applicable Per Diem.
- (4) Only one Per Diem shall be paid for each 24 hour period and should the 24 hour period be exceeded, a claim for the additional applicable meal or meals allowance, may be submitted by the Director.

EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES

- 8 Extraordinary Expenses which are in excess of the amounts available in this bylaw shall be accounted for on the Expenses Director's claim form, accompanied by receipts and details of the circumstances. Such a claim will be paid only upon resolution adopted by the Board.

HOME OFFICE EXPENSES

- 9 Directors are expected to maintain a home office and Expenses involved in maintaining their home office are non-reimbursable by the RDCK. Directors may be able to claim some non-reimbursable Expenses for income tax purposes in accordance with the Income Tax Act.

CITATION

- 10 This Bylaw may be cited as "**Chair, Directors and Alternate Directors Remuneration Bylaw No. 2710, 2021.**"

REPEAL

11 "Chair and Directors Remuneration Bylaw No. 1851, 2006", and amendments hereto, are hereby repealed.

READ A FIRST TIME this 9th day of December, 2021.

READ A SECOND TIME this 9th day of December, 2021.

READ A THIRD TIME this 9th day of December, 2021.

ADOPTED by an affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of the votes cast this 9th day of December, 2021.



Aimee Watson, Board Chair



Angela Lurd, Deputy Corporate Officer
For Michael Morrison, Corporate Officer



SCHEDULE A – RATES AND PAYMENT AMOUNTS FOR DIRECTOR REMUNERATION

	POSITION	FREQUENCY	2021 - RATES
Monthly Stipend	Municipal Director	Monthly	\$1,341/month
Monthly Stipend	Rural Director	Monthly	\$3,457/month
Monthly Stipend	Board Chair	Monthly	\$3,352/month
Monthly Stipend	Vice Chair of the Board	Monthly	\$670/month
Monthly Stipend	Chair of the Rural Affairs Committee	Monthly	\$795/month
Monthly Stipend	Chair of East, Central and West Resource Recovery Committee	Monthly	\$397/month
Monthly Stipend	Chair of the Standing Committee (Other than RR)	Monthly	\$286/month
Attendance at Board Meetings	Alternate Director	Per Meeting	\$422/meeting
Attendance at Other Meetings	Directors & Alternates	Per Meeting	\$191/meeting
Attendance at Resource Recovery Meetings	Director & Alternates	Per Meeting	\$265/meeting
Attendance at special Board meetings	Directors & Alternates	Per Meeting	\$422/meeting
Meals not included with the stipend meeting amount	Directors & Alternates	Daily Maximum	\$75/day B \$15/L \$25/D \$35
Registration fees for workshops and conferences	Directors & Alternates	As Required	Attendance to be approved by the Board
Travel: Accommodation with friends or family	Directors & Alternates	Daily Maximum	\$25/day



POLICY MANUAL

Number: 200-02-04

CHAPTER: ADMINISTRATION

SECTION: HUMAN RESOURCES

SUBJECT: EMPLOYEE REIMBURSEMENT & TRAVEL DIRECTIVE

BOARD RESOLUTION: 632/04, 233/05 (25), 391/07 200/13 239/13

EFFECTIVE DATE: 23 APR 2005 APR 2008

REVISION DATE: 11 APR 2013

POLICY:

**EMPLOYEE
REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES
&
TRAVEL DIRECTIVE**

December 2006

Updated: APRIL 2008

SECTION 1

DEFINITIONS:

- 1.01 ***Department Head*** means the:
- Chief Administrative Officer
 - Manager of Corporate Administration
 - Chief Financial Officer
 - Manager of Development Services
 - Manager of Engineering & Environmental Services; and
 - Manager of Community Services.
- 1.02 ***Employee*** means a person employed by the Regional District of Central Kootenay.
- 1.03 ***Normal place*** means the location from where the employee conducts most of his work in the calendar year.

SECTION 2

TRAVEL:

- 2.01 The employee's normal place of work, within the Regional District, shall be considered the starting point and point of return of any trip.
- 2.02 Attendance at conventions or meetings outside the Regional District are subject to prior written approval of the Department Manager, based on an estimated budget for attendance.
- 2.03 Whenever practical, every employee is expected to travel by the most direct route and use the most economical means of transportation, taking into consideration the travel time involved.
- 2.04 Except for journeys where the use of a car is more practical, air travel is the accepted method of transportation.
- 2.05 If travel is by air, the employee shall be reimbursed for limousine service to and from the airport.
- 2.06 No employee shall use a rental car or taxi unless there is no more economical means of transportation. Reimbursement is subject to the provision under Section 3.04 Extraordinary Expenses.
- 2.07 For employees and firefighters, the travel advance claim process and practice follows:

- Travel advance claims are to be submitted as per the current process – an advance will be processed on approval for up to 75% of the expected claim amount.
- All travel advance claim requests will be processed through A/P direct deposit.
- A travel advance will only be issued 2 weeks or less prior to travel.
- A final claim form must be received by A/P within 2 weeks of the actual travel event. If a final travel claim is not filed in this time, the travel advance will need to be repaid to the RDCK.
- If the final claim is less than the advance, the amount owing to the RDCK must be repaid immediately.
- This policy does not apply to RDCK Directors.

2.08 Employees submit an appropriate expense claim form together with actual receipts for expenses upon return from conventions or other meetings and these be promptly reimbursed by the Regional District.

2.09 Whenever a spouse/partner is registered for and does accompany the staff member to a conference, the Regional District does not pay any expenses of the spouse/partner. (233/05 - 25)

2.10 CKRFSA:

Accommodation and meal expenses for spouse/partner attendance at functions of the Central Kootenay Regional Fire Services Association, shall be sanctioned by the Chief and covered by the budget of the respective Department with said expenses not to exceed the fiscal limits of RDCK policy.

2.11 Use of RDCK Vehicles: refer to attached **RDCK VEHICLE POLICY** (807/06).

2.12 Employee Use of Personal Vehicles: refer to **RDCK VEHICLE POLICY**.

SECTION 3

ACCOMODATION, MEALS AND EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES:

Accommodation:

3.01 Actual hotel room cost for single occupancy will be paid when travelling on Regional District business. Every effort should be made to obtain accommodation at the government rate. Where the travel requires overnight stay and the individual chooses to stay with friends or relatives rather than hotel accommodation, then a \$25.00 per night allowance is permitted. (391/07)

3.02 Overnight accommodation be approved at the median facility rate for staff attending an authorized Regional District meeting who would otherwise have to:

- (1) begin travel before 7:00 a.m.;
- (2) end travel after 11:00 p.m.;
- (3) travel in hazardous weather; or
- (4) for unforeseen circumstances as approved by the Board Chair;

AND FURTHER, the reason for the overnight stay be noted on the employee's application for reimbursement form. (632/04)

Per Diem:

3.03 a) Meal Allowances:

	WITHIN RDCK BOUNDARY	BEYOND RDCK BOUNDARY
Breakfast	\$ 9.50	\$ 15.50
Lunch	\$ 13.50	\$ 22.00
Dinner	\$ 23.75	\$ 28.50

- b) Where a meal is provided without charge or is paid from public funds, no claim can be made for that meal.
- c) Meals charged to hotel accommodation shall be recovered from employees. Employees must claim the applicable allowances.
- d) A meal allowance is acceptable and will be paid when employees are absent from their normal workplace either by reason of travel or on unscheduled business, working overtime beyond the normal time for a meal, are involved in emergency responses and in other circumstances where it is reasonable to submit a claim for a meal allowance. Managers are required to approve all claims for meal allowances.

Extraordinary Expenses:

3.04 Extraordinary expenses which are in excess of the amounts available under the Remuneration, Reimbursement of Expenses and Travel Directive shall be accounted for on the employee's claim, accompanied by receipts and details of the circumstances. Such a claim will be paid only upon approval of the Chief Administrative Officer.



Number: [200-02-04]
REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY
Policy Manual

Chapter: ADMINISTRATION

Section: 200-02 HUMAN RESOURCES

Subject: EMPLOYEE REIMBURSEMENT & TRAVEL DIRECTIVE

Board	233/05	Established	23-APR-05	Revised	11 APR 2013
Resolution:	391/07	Date:		Date:	
	200/13				
	239/13				

POLICY:

PURPOSE:

Amendment to existing policy 200-02-04

POLICY:

- 200-13 That the per diem rates in the Staff and Directors' travel policies be amended to parallel each other.
- 237/13 That the wording regarding overnight accommodation be amended to read "whichever is the most economical means for the regional district."
- 238/13 That the Directors' Travel Policy be amended under section 4.04 by inserting the following language: if a Director arrives by air transportation or other means, the most reasonably economic al means possible and further, that section 4.05 be deleted.
- 239/13 That the amendments to the Directors' and Staff Travel policies be adopted as presented.
- 240/13 That the Directors' and Staff travel policies, as amended, go into effect as of May 1, 2013.



CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

The main forum for UBCM policy making is the **annual resolutions cycle** and this is an opportunity for local governments of all sizes and from all areas to express concerns, share their experiences and take a united position. This is the first call for resolutions from AKBLG. Resolutions must be submitted to AKBLG by **February 16, 2024**.

It is time to start thinking about resolutions and to have them endorsed by your local government.

Please remember:

- Resolutions are only accepted from AKBLG member local governments and **must have been endorsed by the board or council**.
- Resolutions **must be relevant to other local governments within AKBLG** rather than specific to a single member government.
- UBCM encourages all members to submit resolutions first to Area Associations for consideration. Resolution sponsors should be prepared to introduce their resolutions at the AKBLG Resolutions session.
- Each resolution **should** include a separate backgrounder that is a maximum of 3 pages and specific to a single resolution. The backgrounder may include links to other information sources and reports.
- Resolutions may be combined with other, similar resolutions from other local governments if each local government agrees to co-sponsorship.
- All resolutions, along with any supportive background information, shall be sent to the AKBLG office BY **FEBRUARY 16, 2024**.
- Resolutions should be forwarded by email to resolutions@akblg.ca
- Receipt of emailed resolutions will be confirmed by return email.
- Resolutions should be written in accordance with the UBCM Writing Guidelines (attached to this email).

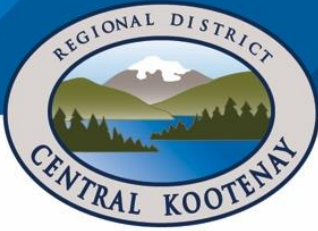
Resolutions Preparation Assistance:

If you have questions regarding resolution preparation please contact the AKBLG Resolutions Chair, Aidan McLaren-Caux at resolutions@akblg.ca or the AKBLG Executive Director at admin@akblg.ca. **We are ready to assist you to draft impactful resolutions.**

Thank you,

Your AKBLG resolutions committee,

Aidan McLaren-Caux (Chair), Kyle Hamilton, Kevin McIsaac, Erin Palashniuk, Wesley Routley



Board Report

Date of Report: December 21, 2023
Date & Type of Meeting: January 18, 2024 Regular Open Board Meeting
Author: Nora Hannon, Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Senior Advisor
Subject: Creston Valley Fire Service Contract Extensions
File: 14/7750
Electoral Area/Municipality: Electoral Areas A, B and C

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request Board approval for the Canyon Lister, Wynndel, Electoral Areas B and C and the Arrow Creek Fire Protection Service Area contract extensions with the Town of Creston.

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The contracts with the Town of Creston for providing fire protection and Areas B and C and the Arrow Creek Fire Protection Service expired December 31st 2023.

The contracts with the Town of Creston for providing fire protection in the Canyon Lister Fire Protection Area and Wynndel Fire Protection Area, including operation of the Canyon Lister and Wynndel Fire Halls and associated apparatus expired December 31st, 2023.

Under the contract for the Canyon Lister and Wynndel Fire Protection Areas, the Town of Creston operates and manages the both the Canyon Lister and Wynndel Fire Halls, and is responsible for recruiting, and training and maintaining a roster of volunteer firefighters in each fire department. All assets including buildings, apparatus and equipment remain under the ownership of S129 Fire Protection Areas A and C (Wynndel, Lakeview) and S130 Fire Protection Area B (Canyon Lister), but are included in the contract or separately leased by the Town of Creston for the purposes of operating each fire department.

Under the contract for Areas B and C and Arrow Creek, the Town of Creston provides Fire Protection and Fire Response services respectively to the areas included in the contract utilizing Town of Creston firefighters, and apparatus that are responding from the Creston Fire Hall.

RDCK staff have been working with the Town of Creston under the RDCK Creston Project Charter, which was approved by the Board in July of 2021 to develop one master agreement for the contracts listed above.

The project charter defined:

Given the long-term nature of the service arrangements being contemplated, Creston and the RDCK will work toward establishing cost sharing formulas and fees for service for future agreements guided by the following principles:

- Long term capital and operational planning and management of fire department assets in accordance with best practices;
- Transparent and agreed-upon methodologies for determining inputs to service fee calculations; and
- Reasonable proportionality in sharing the cost of service between Creston and the RDCK service areas based on the relative benefits and service levels within each unique service area.

In relation to the cost allocation across the service areas, the RDCK will work to ensure that the methodologies applied are consistent and fair between the different participating service areas.

As part of the latter process, it may make sense in the future to assess whether the merger of the various RDCK fire protection service areas into a single service area should be undertaken to simplify the overall structure. Any such approach would need to ensure that it was undertaken fairly for all of the residents (including, for example, ring-fencing any capital reserves that may exist). This approach has been adopted in some other regional districts – most notably in the CSRD, which merged various fire protection service areas around Shuswap Lake. These issues, however, do not need to be assessed for this initial undertaking, but could form part of the on-going assessment of optimal approaches to service provision in the Creston Valley.

This work is ongoing, with staff aiming to complete the draft agreement to present to Board in 2024 and recommending the current contracts be extended for 2024.

SECTION 3: DETAILED ANALYSIS

3.1 Financial Considerations – Cost and Resource Allocations:

Included in Financial Plan: Yes No **Financial Plan Amendment:** Yes No
Debt Bylaw Required: Yes No **Public/Gov't Approvals Required:** Yes No

The 2024 Contract amount for S129 Fire Protection Areas A and C (Wynndel, Lakeview) is \$161,451.

The 2024 contract amount for S130 Fire Protection Area B (Canyon Lister) is \$272,095.

The 2024 contract amount for S131 Fire Protection Areas B and C (Creston Contract) \$177,507 (defined B) And \$ 86,571 (defined C).

The 2024 contract amount for S281 Fire Response Arrow Creek is \$75,466.

3.2 Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws):

NA

3.3 Environmental Considerations

NA

3.4 Social Considerations:

Fire Protection is a part of core service delivery, helping build resilience in the community.

3.5 Economic Considerations:

Best value for RDCK residents.

3.6 Communication Considerations:

NA

3.7 Staffing/Departmental Workplan Considerations:

This completion of these contracts is in the staff workplan.

3.8 Board Strategic Plan/Priorities Considerations:

Core Service Delivery.

SECTION 4: OPTIONS & PROS / CONS

Pros:

By entering into the one year extension of the proposed agreements, the Board will ensure continuity of service delivery.

Staff will be able to complete a draft master contract for 2025 onwards.

Cons:

By not entering into the one year contract extension service delivery may be disrupted.

SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board enter into one year contract extensions from January 1st to December 31st 2024 with the Town of Creston for the Canyon Lister Fire Protection Services Agreement, the Wynndel Lakeview Fire Protection Services Agreement, the Electoral Areas B and C and the area defined as “Arrow Creek Fire Protection Service Area” Fire Protection and Assistance Response Agreement and the Amendment to Canyon Lister Fire Hall Lease Agreement, and authorize the Board Chair and Corporate Officer to execute these agreements.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Hannon – Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Senior Advisor

CONCURRENCE

Chief Administrative Officer – Stuart Horn	Approved
Chief Financial Officer – Yev Malloff	Approved
Corporate Officer – Mike Morrison	Approved

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Canyon Lister Fire Protection Services Agreement

Attachment B – Wynndel Lakeview Fire Protection Services Agreement

Attachment C – Electoral Areas B and C and the area defined as “Arrow Creek Fire Protection Service Area” Fire Protection and Assistance Response Agreement

Attachment D - Amendment to Canyon Lister Fire Hall Lease Agreement



Amendment to Canyon Lister Fire Protection Services Agreement

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into as of the ___ day of _____, 2023.

BETWEEN:

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY
Po Box 590, Nelson, British Columbia, V1L 5R4
(the “RDCK”)

AND:

TOWN OF CRESTON
P.O. Box 1339, 238 10th Ave. North,
Creston, B.C., V0B 1G0

(the “Town”)

WHEREAS:

- A. The Town and the RDCK entered into an agreement for the Town to provide Fire Protection within a portion of Electoral Area “B” on June 16, 2022;
- B. The Parties wish to amend Section 2.0 “Term” to reflect an extension of the agreement for a one year period from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the terms set out in this agreement and the obligations to be performed by the parties, the parties agree as follows:

2.1 This Agreement is for a term commencing on the date first written above and continuing until December 31, 2024. (the “Term”).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have signed this Agreement, the ___ day of _____, 2023.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

TOWN OF CRESTON

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

Print Name

Print Name



Amendment to Wynndel Fire Protection Services Agreement

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into as of the ___ day of _____, 2023.

BETWEEN:

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY
Po Box 590, Nelson, British Columbia, V1L 5R4
(the “RDCK”)

AND:

TOWN OF CRESTON
P.O. Box 1339, 238 10th Ave. North,
Creston, B.C., V0B 1G0

(the “Town”)

WHEREAS:

- A. The Town and the RDCK entered into an agreement for the Town to provide Fire Protection within a portion of Electoral Area “A” and “C” on January 1, 2019;
- B. The Parties wish to amend Section 9.00 “Duration and Renewal of Agreement” to reflect an extension of the agreement for a one year period from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the terms set out in this agreement and the obligations to be performed by the parties, the parties agree as follows:

9.01 This Agreement shall be in effect for a term of 72 months commencing on January 1, 2019 and expiring on December 31, 2024 unless otherwise terminated in accordance with this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have signed this Agreement, the ___ day of _____, 2023.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

TOWN OF CRESTON

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

Print Name

Print Name



Amendment to Fire Protection and Assistance Response Agreement

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into as of the ___ day of _____, 2023.

BETWEEN:

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY
Po Box 590, Nelson, British Columbia, V1L 5R4
(the “RDCK”)

AND:

TOWN OF CRESTON
P.O. Box 1339, 238 10th Ave. North,
Creston, B.C., V0B 1G0

(the “Town”)

WHEREAS:

- A. The Town and the RDCK entered into an agreement for the Town to provide Fire Protection and Assistance Response within defined portions of Electoral Areas B and C and the area defined as “Arrow Creek Fire Protection Service Area” on January 1, 2018;
- B. The Parties wish to amend Section 3 “Term and Replacement of 2013 and 2014 Agreement” to reflect an extension of the agreement for a one year period from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the terms set out in this agreement and the obligations to be performed by the parties, the parties agree as follows:

3.1 Subject to sections 3.2 and 3.4, this Agreement shall be in effect for a term of seven (7) years commencing on January 1, 2018 and expiring on December 31, 2024 unless otherwise terminated in accordance with this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have signed this Agreement, the ___ day of _____, 2023.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

TOWN OF CRESTON

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

Print Name

Print Name



Amendment to Canyon Lister Fire Hall Lease Agreement

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into as of the ____ day of _____, 2023.

BETWEEN:

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

Po Box 590, Nelson, British Columbia, V1L 5R4
(the “RDCK”)

AND:

TOWN OF CRESTON

P.O. Box 1339, 238 10th Ave. North,
Creston, B.C., V0B 1G0

(the “Town”)

WHEREAS:

- A. The RDCK owns the real property and Fire Hall situate thereon located at 2850 Lister Road, Creston, Province of British Columbia, V0B 1G2, more particularly known and described as: LOT A DISTRICT LOT 812 KOOTENAY DISTRICT PLAN EPP78263 (collectively, the “Property”);
- B. The RDCK and the Town have entered into the Fire Service Agreement and this Lease is being entered into in connection with that agreement;
- C. In connection with the provision of services under the Fire Services Agreement by the Town, the RDCK wishes to lease the Property, including the Fire Hall, to the Town; and
- D. The RDCK agrees to lease the Property herein described to the Town on the terms and subject to the conditions set out herein;
- E. The Parties wish to amend Article 2 “Demise and Term” to reflect an extension of the agreement for a one year period from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the terms set out in this agreement and the obligations to be performed by the parties, the parties agree as follows:

2.1 Demise, Term and Renewal – The RDCK hereby demises and leases to the Town the Property for a term commencing as of the date first written above (the “Commencement Date”) to and including 11:59 pm on 31 December 2024, or such earlier or later date as may be determined by the mutual agreement of the parties or in accordance with this Lease (the “Termination Date”), to have and to hold for the initial and any renewal Term as the tenant, and the Town does hereby accept the demise and lease of the Property, all subject to the covenants, conditions and agreements herein contained. This Lease shall automatically renew on the terms herein contained, in the event that the Fire Service Agreement between the parties is renewed, such renewal term to be the term of such renewed Fire Service Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have signed this Agreement, the ___ day of _____, 2023.

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL
KOOTENAY**

TOWN OF CRESTON

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

Print Name

Print Name



Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Valley Community Services Society	Date of Application: 12/08/2023
Contact Name: Justine Keirn	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: A <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 915 Pine Street Creston BC V0B 1G0	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 428-5547	Email: j.keirn@valley.services

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

Funds requested would be used to support the critical transportation needs of seniors on the East Shore the majority of which are to medical appointments. We estimate that \$2000 would be used for transportation. The other \$2000 is requested to support coordination of transportation and coordination of activities that support reduction of isolation, health and wellness of older adults. This would be done in collaboration with existing initiatives on the East Shore whenever possible. and would not replace activities currently provided but offer additional supports where none exist.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 4000.00	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural
-----------------------------------	---

Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
Currently East Shore Better at Home has a small budget . The purpose of this funding is to provide bridging support until ...

Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount: 2014 for VCS's building

By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at:
2023-12-08 09:14:56

Signature

Justine Keirn

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 4,000.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Community Futures Central Kootenay	Date of Application: 12/15/2023
Contact Name: Alison MacDonald or Andrea Wilkey	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: A <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 201-514 Vernon Street Nelson BC V1L 4E7	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 352-1933	Email: awilkey@futures.bc.ca

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

Community Futures Central Kootenay and Synergy Foundation are bringing climate change adaptation and resilience to Central Kootenay businesses. Activities include: three webinars, targeting 60 businesses, on topics including going green, developing circular business ideas, and taking climate action. The BC Green Business Program will engage 30 businesses and provide 15 small businesses with free 1:1 assessments that will help them identify ways they can reduce emissions, conserve energy and/or water, reduce and/or divert waste, and more.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 800	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural

Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
ETSI-BC: \$30,000 (confirmed)...

Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount: \$0

By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Atw Signed at:
2023-12-15 14:34:32

Andrea Wilkey

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 800.00
--	--------------------------------

Board Approved Date:	Resolution #
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Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Kootenay Region - Skate Canada BC/YT Section	Date of Application: 01/08/2024
Contact Name: Jillian Sibbald	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: A <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 1180 Spokane St PO Box 615 Rossland BC V0G 1Y0	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 368-1473	Email: skatekootenay@gmail.com

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

Over 150 figure skaters as well as their coaches and families from the East and West Kootenays will be coming together in Creston to compete at the Kootenay Region Championships which will be held Febraury 16-18, 2024 at the Creston & District Community Complex. Creston provides a central location with excellent facilities to host the Championships. Families will be travelling to the Creston area requiring accommodations, meals and shopping in the area. The funds donated will be used to offset the facility rentals as well as a pizza and pool party we host for the skaters and families.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$400	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural
------------------------------	--

Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
viaSport - \$2000 requested...

Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount: 2023 - \$350

By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Jillian Sibbald Signed at:
2024-01-08 09:03:45

Jillian Sibbald

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 400.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: South Kootenay Lake ArtConnect Society	Date of Application: 01/08/2024
Contact Name: Lois Wakelin, Treasurer	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: A <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: Box 9 14729 Hwy 3A Gray Creek BC V0B 1S0	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 227-9126	Email: loiswakelin@gmail.com

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

The Society is working with Wendy Booth, coordinator of the CBT program, and we have already completed the no charge initial assessment. CBT contracts consultants for continued assistance. We plan to continue with two programs... a Board Governance, and Strategic Planning. The Society portion will be 20% of the cost with CBT contributing a maximum of \$3500. Ms. Booth has indicated our cost could range from \$1000+, and has written a proposal to be forwarded to consultants. Costs could be higher, depending on the consultant selected. see attached information. ArtConnect has 125+ members.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 600-900	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural
Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received: Anonymous donor for \$400	
Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount: 2023-\$1000, 2022 \$3200, 2021 \$5000	
By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.	
Signed at: 2024-01-08 10:02:05	Lois M Wakelin
Signature	Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 900.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Kootenay Region - Skate Canada BC/YT Section	Date of Application: 01/08/2024
Contact Name: Jillian Sibbald	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: B <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 1180 Spokane St PO Box 615 Rossland BC V0G 1Y0	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 368-1473	Email: skatekootenay@gmail.com

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

Over 150 figure skaters as well as their coaches and families from the East and West Kootenays will be coming together in Creston to compete at the Kootenay Region Championships which will be held Febraury 16-18, 2024 at the Creston & District Community Complex. Creston provides a central location with excellent facilities to host the Championships. Families will be travelling to the Creston area requiring accommodations, meals and shopping in the area. The funds donated will be used to offset the facility rentals as well as a pizza and pool party we host for the skaters and families.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$600	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural
------------------------------	--

Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
viaSport - \$2000 requested...

Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount: 2023 - \$600

By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at: 2024-01-08 09:08:31	Jillian Sibbald <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> Print Name
Signature	

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 600.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Canyon Community Association	Date of Application: 12/19/2023
Contact Name: Lawrence Kolthammer	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: B <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 4110 43rd St Canyon BC V0B1C0	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 402-9176	Email: canyonparkhall@gmail.com

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

Community celebration with our 2nd Annual Spud night, celebrate the yearly success with loaded baked potatoes (all local ingredients), live band (also Canyon Locals). We share a meal and music together with door prizes. Last year we served 89 people and more interest this year. We collect non perishable goods to donate to the food bank.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 999.00	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural
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Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received: We have our own funds allocated from fundraising and donations to support the event. Local businesses are donating many of ...

Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount: 2022- 999.00 2023- 1000.00

By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at: 2023-12-19 21:23:46	Lawrence Kolthammer <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> Print Name
Signature	

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 999.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Wildsight Creston Valley	Date of Application: 01/08/2024
Contact Name: Debby Johnson	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: B <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: Box 1001 Creston BC V0B 1G0	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 428-6438	Email: soulardynamics@gmail.com

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

Fencing is within your jurisdiction under the Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw. This informative mailed in March brochure can help support a collaborative effort in educating rural residents on wildlife friendly fencing and inform residents on ways to avoid harming wildlife. Residents can then make informed decisions the need for further regulations. Informed residents are more likely to participate in work bees to remove abandoned barbed wire. The cost to print and mail is just over \$4000.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ \$1000	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural
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Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
Wildsight Creston Valley has received a private donation of \$500 to apply to this project. ...

Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount:

By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at:
2024-01-08 19:05:42

Debby Johnson

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 1000.00
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Board Approved Date:	Resolution #
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Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: LVR Grad Committee 2024	Date of Application: 12/04/2023
Contact Name: Paula Pensiero	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: E <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: LVR: 1004 Cottonwood St, Nelson BC V1L 3W2	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 354-7793	Email: paulapensiero@gmail.com

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

We are hoping that Area E will again support this inclusive, community event to help ensure that LVR 2024 graduation is successful, safe, and memorable. Graduation activities and expenditures for the 2024 graduating class include photographs, cap and gown rentals, decorations, a gala event after the cavalcade, and a site rental fee for the grad ceremony. Graduation festivities provide an important opportunity for our grads to celebrate their accomplishments, their friendships and the great times they have shared together.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ \$1000	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural
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Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received: Grocery Card, Bottle Drive, Cookie Dough, Finley's Social, Silent Auction, grad fees, PAC: all unknown values at this time. Grant ...

Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount: \$1000 in both 2022 & 2023

By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at:
2023-12-11 11:43:50

Paula Pensiero

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 1000.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: LVR Grad Committee 2024	Date of Application: 12/13/2023
Contact Name: Paula Pensiero	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: F <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: LVR: 1004 Cottonwood St, Nelson BC V1L 3W2	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 354-7793	Email: paulapensiero@gmail.com

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

We are asking that Area F will again support this inclusive, community event to help ensure the LVR 2024 graduation is successful, safe, and memorable. Graduation expenditures include cap and gown rentals, decorations, gala event, and the NDCC site rental fee for the grad ceremony. This cap-and-gown event has outgrown the school gym and despite family restrictions (4ppl), it has been over capacity and unbearably hot for elderly family members. This grant would be redirected right back to the RDCK in the form of the site rental fee so we're hoping this increase to \$1500 is possible.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$1500	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural
Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received: Grocery Cards, Bottle Drive, Cookie Dough, Finley's Social, Silent Auction, grad fees, Talent Show, PAC - all currently unknown ...	
Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount: \$1000 in both 2022 & 2023	
By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.	
Signed at: 2023-12-13 10:53:02 _____ Signature	Paula Pensiero _____ Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 1500.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Darelyn stuart	Date of Application: 11/28/2023
Contact Name: Darelyn stuart	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: G <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 3441 Marigold Drive Trail BC V1R2X7	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 231-1905	Email: darstu1@telus.net

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

Trailer
Mattress
Garbage
LOTS OF GARBAGE
THE TRAILER WILL BE BROKEN UP AND BROUGHT TO SCRAP KING.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$1500	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural
Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received: We have no funding this is people that love our land and want to keep the Pony open. ...	
Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount: Nothing ever	
By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.	
 Signed at: 2023-11-28 15:12:44 _____ Signature	Darelyn Stuart _____ Print Name
Authorization	
Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 169.20
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Community Futures Central Kootenay	Date of Application: 12/15/2023
Contact Name: Andrea Wilkey & Alison MacDonald	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: G <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 201-514 Vernon Street Nelson BC V1L 4E7	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 352-1933	Email: awilkey@futures.bc.ca

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

Community Futures Central Kootenay and Synergy Foundation are bringing climate change adaptation and resilience to Central Kootenay businesses. Activities include: three webinars, targeting 60 businesses, on topics including going green, developing circular business ideas, and taking climate action. The BC Green Business Program will engage 30 businesses and provide 15 small businesses with free 1:1 assessments that will help them identify ways they can reduce emissions, conserve energy and/or water, reduce and/or divert waste, and more.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 700	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural
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Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
ETSI-BC: \$30,000 (confirmed)...

Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount: \$0

By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

AW Signed at:
2023-12-15 16:06:29

Andrea Wilkey

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 700.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Glade Community Hall	Date of Application: 01/08/2024
Contact Name: Andy Ozeroff	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: I <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 2160 Glade Rd Castlegar BC V1N4R2	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 399-4293	Email: andyozerooff@shaw.ca

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

The project is a Glade Community Hall sponsored pie bingo fundraiser. Funds will be distributed to the hall for the AED pads for our defibrillator and other charities.

The funds we receive will be used to purchase supplies to make 35-40 pies and concession. for example coffee, tea, sugar, creamer juice, disposable cups plus the black out bingo ice cream cake.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$400.00	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural
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Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:

Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount: 2018 -for \$250.00

By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Debbie Girard Signed at:
2024-01-08 16:31:19

Debbie Girard

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 400.00
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Board Approved Date:	Resolution #
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Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Stanley Humphries Secondary School	Date of Application: 12/21/2023
Contact Name: Tiare Pion	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: I <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 720 7th Avenue Castlegar British Columbia V1N 1R5	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 365-7735	Email: tpion@sd20.bc.ca

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

To assist our graduates with funds for post-secondary education.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$3,000.00	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural
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Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
Corporate & community small business donations

Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount: \$5,000 received for 2023 graduates

By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at:
2023-12-21 14:06:16

Tiare Pion

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 3000.00
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Board Approved Date:	Resolution #
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Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: West Kootenay Regional Arts Council	Date of Application: 12/15/2023
Contact Name: Maggie Shirley	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: J <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 619 B Front St Office: #4 Nelson BC V1L 4B6	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 801-2349	Email: outreach@wkartscouncil.com

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

Bent on Art Kootenay Queer & Trans Art Festival is a series of events designed to promote the work of LGBTQ+ artists in the Kootenays while creating educational opportunities, fostering community connection, and promoting resilience through the arts. It consists of an annual art festival including visual art, performance, craft art and more.

The funds will be used to pay for scholarships to artists from rural areas to participate in workshops.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 300.00	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural
----------------------------------	--

Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received: Canadian Heritage - Local Festivals - asking for \$50,000 (Require Municipal support)...

Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount: None

By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at:
2023-12-15 12:08:31

Maggie Shirley

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 300.00
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Board Approved Date:	Resolution #
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Discretionary Fund Grant Program Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1860-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Stanley Humphries Secondary School	Date of Application: 12/18/2023
Contact Name: Tiare Pion	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: J <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 868 7 Avenue 720 7th Avenue Castlegar British Columbia V1N 1R9	Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 687-1855	Email: tpion@sd20.bc.ca

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) *Attach supporting project documentation, organization's list of directors and their respective executive position, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by the organization's most recently approved financial statements.*

Funding request for our high school scholarship/bursary program. This will assist our students with post-secondary education.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$3,000.00 (2x \$1,500.00)	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural
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Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
Corporate & local business donations.

Previous Discretionary Grants Received – Year and Amount: 2022 - \$3,000.00

By submitting this application for the Discretionary Fund Grant Program, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Discretionary Fund Grant Program Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at:
2023-12-18 10:33:41

Tiare Pion

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 3000.00
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Board Approved Date:	Resolution #
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Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Community Futures Central Kootenay	Date of Application: 12/15/2023
Contact Name: Andrea Wilkey	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: B <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 201-514 Vernon Street Nelson BC V1L 4E7	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 352-1933	Email: awilkey@futures.bc.ca

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.)

Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)

Community Futures Central Kootenay and Synergy Foundation are bringing climate change adaptation and resilience to Central Kootenay businesses. Activities include: three webinars, targeting 60 businesses, on topics including going green, developing circular business ideas, and taking climate action. The BC Green Business Program will engage 30 businesses and provide 15 small businesses with free 1:1 assessments that will help them identify ways they can reduce emissions, conserve energy and/or water, reduce and/or divert waste, and more.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 1000	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental
--------------------------------	--

Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
ETSI-BC: \$30,000 (confirmed)
Columbia Basin Trust: \$4,000 (confirmed)...

Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount:

\$0

By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at:
2023-12-15 16:08:35

Andrea Wilkey

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 1000.00
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Board Approved Date:	Resolution #
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Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Okanagan Nation Alliance	Date of Application: 01/02/2024
Contact Name: Carson Kettlewell	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: F <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 101 - 3535 Old Okanagan Hwy Westbank BC V4T 3L7	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 687-4687	Email: ckettlewell@syilx.org

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.)
Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)

Fish in Schools (FinS) has been operated by the ONA in the Columbia region since 2017 and provides an opportunity for students to gain knowledge about salmon biology and life cycle, Indigenous culture, human impacts to fish habitat from dams, and salmon reintroduction. Participant schools raise sockeye salmon from eggs in tanks provided by ONA. Funds will go towards hatchery activities and support; in person tech support; outreach; program coordination; ceremony and fry release planning and implementation. We currently support participants from school districts 8, 10, 20, 51, and 93.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 1250	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental
Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received: Funder: Fortis BC Approved Funding: \$10,000...	

Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount:

By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at:
2024-01-02 13:32:59

Carson Kettlewell

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 1250.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4

Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300

Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Salmo & District Chamber of Commerce	Date of Application: 12/22/2023
Contact Name: Brian Cusack	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: G <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 220 Bethel road Nelson BC V1L6N2	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 354-4629	Email: brianCUSACK7@gmail.com

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.)
Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)

We plan to continue an effort to protect Douglas Fir trees in the Hall Siding community (including rail trail & highways property) and to expand to properties on Porto Rico road.
 Since 2020, Hall Siding residents have installed MCH bubbles on Douglas Fir trees. This product is a pheromone that causes the Douglas Fir beetles to ignore these trees. It is not a pesticide and affects only these beetles.
 To date this programme has been very successful.
 Dean Christianson, BC forest steward, fully supports the use of MCH. It promotes forest health and reduces forest fire risk from dying/dead ...

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 5000.00	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental
Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received: The purchase of 1200 MCH25 costs 5166.17, we are applying for 5000, the balance to be fulfilled by community members.	
Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount: 2023 - 4122.08. 2022 - 2691.68 . 2021 - 1768.89	
By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.	
 Signed at: 2023-12-22 12:10:47 _____ Signature	Brian Cusack _____ Print Name
Authorization	
Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 5000.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4

Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300

Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Slocan Lake Arts Council	Date of Application: 01/03/2024
Contact Name: Martine denBok	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: H <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 408 Lake Ave Silverton BC V0G 1S0	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 818-9859	Email: martine@slocanlakeartscouncil.ca

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.)
Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)

Slocan Lake Arts Council (SLAC) has been providing arts and cultural opportunities to the North Slocan area since the 1970's. A condition of SLAC receiving operational funding from our main funder, BCAC, is that local governments provide financial support to SLAC. Any support provided by local government is then matched dollar for dollar up to \$5,000. This matching funding is in addition to operational funding and can be used to cover costs such as administration labour, bookkeeping, events & marketing, building rental fees. This is a valuable way to garner additional funding for local arts.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 3000	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental
Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received: Village of Silverton - \$250 Village of New Denver - \$1000 (pending)	

Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount:

By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at:
2024-01-04 15:24:18

Martine denBok

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 3000.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Okanagan Nation Alliance	Date of Application: 01/02/2024
Contact Name: Carson Kettlewell	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: H <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 101 - 3535 Old Okanagan Hwy Westbank BC V4T 3L7	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 687-4687	Email: ckettlewell@syilx.org

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.)
Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)

Fish in Schools (FinS) has been operated by the ONA in the Columbia region since 2017 and provides an opportunity for students to gain knowledge about salmon biology and life cycle, Indigenous culture, human impacts to fish habitat from dams, and salmon reintroduction. Participant schools raise sockeye salmon from eggs in tanks provided by ONA. Funds will go towards hatchery activities and support; in-person tech support; outreach; program coordination; ceremony and fry release planning and implementation. We currently support participants from school districts 8, 10, 20, 51, and 93.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 1500	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental
--------------------------------	---

Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
Fortis BC \$10,000
Teck Trail Operations \$10,000...

Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount:

By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at:
2024-01-02 12:12:20

Carson Kettlewell

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 1500.00
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Board Approved Date:	Resolution #
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Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Community Futures Central Kootenay	Date of Application: 12/15/2023
Contact Name: Andrea Wilkey	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 201-514 Vernon Street Nelson BC V1L 4E7	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 352-1933	Email: awilkey@futures.bc.ca

Project/Service Description
<p>Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) <i>Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)</i></p> <p>Community Futures Central Kootenay and Synergy Foundation are bringing climate change adaptation and resilience to Central Kootenay businesses. Activities include: three webinars, targeting 60 businesses, on topics including going green, developing circular business ideas, and taking climate action. The BC Green Business Program will engage 30 businesses and provide 15 small businesses with free 1:1 assessments that will help them identify ways they can reduce emissions, conserve energy and/or water, reduce and/or divert waste, and more.</p>

Grant Application:	
Total Grant Requested: \$ 700	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental

Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
ETSI-BC: \$30,000 (confirmed);
Columbia Basin Trust: \$4,000 (confirmed); ...

Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount:
\$0

By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at: 2023-12-15 16:08:32 _____ Signature	Andrea Wilkey _____ Print Name
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Authorization	
Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 700.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-__

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Stanley Humphries Secondary School	Date of Application: 12/21/2023
Contact Name: Tiare Pion	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 720 7th Avenue Castlegar British Columbia V1N 1R5	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 365-7735	Email: tpion@sd20.bc.ca

Project/Service Description
<p>Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) <i>Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)</i></p> <p>These funds assist in providing bursaries for student post-secondary education.</p>

Grant Application:	
Total Grant Requested: \$ 3,000.00	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental
Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received: Corporate & community business donations	
Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount: 0	
By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.	
Signed at: 2023-12-21 13:52:53	Tiare Pion
Signature	Print Name

Authorization	
Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 3000.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Okanagan Nation Alliance	Date of Application: 01/09/2024
Contact Name: Carson Kettlewell	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 101 - 3535 Old Okanagan Hwy Westbank BC V4T 3L7	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 687-4687	Email: ckettlewell@syilx.org

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.)

Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)

Fish in Schools (FinS) has been operated by the ONA in the Columbia region since 2017 and provides an opportunity for students to gain knowledge about salmon biology and life cycle, Indigenous culture, human impacts to fish habitat from dams, and salmon reintroduction. Participant schools raise sockeye salmon from eggs in tanks provided by ONA. Funds will go towards hatchery activities and support; in-person tech support; outreach; program coordination; ceremony and fry release planning and implementation. We currently support participants from school districts 8, 10, 20, 51, and 93.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 1250

Which funding criterial objective does this project meet?



Social



Economic



Environmental

Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:

Funder	Approved funding
Fortis BC	\$10,000...

Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount:

By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at:
2024-01-09 11:07:01

Carson Kettlewell

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director

Total Grant Approved \$ 1250.00

Board Approved Date:

Resolution #



Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Okanagan Nation Alliance	Date of Application: 01/04/2024
Contact Name: Carson Kettlewell	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: J <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 101 - 3535 Old Okanagan Hwy Westbank BC V4T 3L7	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 687-4687	Email: ckettlewell@syilx.org

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.)

Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)

Fish in Schools (FinS) has been operated by the ONA in the Columbia region since 2017 and provides an opportunity for students to gain knowledge about salmon biology and life cycle, Indigenous culture, human impacts to fish habitat from dams, and salmon reintroduction. Participant schools raise sockeye salmon from eggs in tanks provided by ONA. Funds will go towards hatchery activities and support; in-person tech support; outreach; program coordination; ceremony and fry release planning and implementation. We currently support participants from school districts 8, 10, 20, 51, and 93.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 1250	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental
--------------------------------	---

Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
Funder: Fortis BC Approved Funding: \$10,000...

Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount:

2022/2023 - \$1,250

By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at:
2024-01-04 08:36:51

Carson Kettlewell

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 1250.00
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Board Approved Date:	Resolution #
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Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
 Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
 Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Bayview Residents Association	Date of Application: 12/12/2023
Contact Name: Peter Gajda	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: K <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 425 Bayles Road Nakusp BC V0G 1R1	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (778) 206-0072	Email: pgajda1966@gmail.com

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.)

Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)

With the work we've done as a Fire Smart community, it is important for our association to have the ability to do an intial attack on any small fires in our area. To do this, our local Residents Association has maintained a small fire caddy shed which will allow local residents, with our ongoing training and support, to do this. The building is powered, with a small heater, and contains all the items we've amassed over the years to help in this regard. The building and contents insurance as well as the power needs will be covered with requested monies.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$2000	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental
-------------------------------	---

Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
 We do not treat our group as local government, so have no other sources of income. We have reached out for other grants through our Fire Smart Committee to deal with costs in our area.

Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount:

I do not recall, was a few years ago (before I became Chair).

By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

P. Gajda Signed at:
2023-12-12 11:53:42

Peter Gajda

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 2000.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Nakusp Secondary School	Date of Application: 12/13/2023
Contact Name: Peter Gajda	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: K <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 619B Fourth St NW PO Box 249 Nakusp BC V0G 1R0	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (778) 206-0072	Email: peter.gajda@sd10.bc.ca

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.)
Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)

An overnight trip to Penticton on January 6, 2024 for ~40 students and 7 chaperones to attend the Cirque du Soleil - Corteo, and share a fancy meal. Our students will get to see this cultural event which would normally not be available too them. The sets are detailed, colourful and original, with rotating stages, hanging chandeliers and swinging trapeze. The costumes are unique and creative & the athleticism is incredible. The clowns are not your typical characters. They are funny, goofy and quite relatable. The music is original and is sang and played live.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 2000	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental
Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received: Student Fees - \$3000 (received, school covering for vulnerable students) District Grant - \$2000 (received)...	

Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount:

\$5000, January 2023 Boat Show

By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at:
2023-12-13 14:22:45

Signature

Peter Gajda

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 2000.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Kinship Connection Society	Date of Application: 01/07/2024
Contact Name: Skye Cunningham	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: K <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 611 Broadway St. Nakusp BC V0G1R0	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 265-7325	Email: coralcunningham@gmail.com

Project/Service Description
<p>Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) <i>Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)</i></p> <p>This project will upgrade the Kinship Connection Centre's heating and cooling system, and create better energy efficiency. The building will receive a new split heating and cooling system with a central control for energy efficiency and ease of use for clients and building users. A central control system will minimize the risk of the heating and cooling systems being left on while the building is not in use. And, upgrading the exterior entrance doors weather stripping and some of the old, single pane windows in the building will create further efficiency in the overall building insulation.</p>

Grant Application:	
Total Grant Requested: \$ 3,000	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental
Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received: Columbia Basin Trust - Non-Profit SMART grant - \$26,500 (Requested, Unconfirmed) Kinship Connection Society - Cash Reserves - \$4,000 (Confirmed)...	

Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount: 2021 - \$1,500
--

By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.	
Signed at: 2024-01-07 19:59:24 _____ Signature	Skye Cunningham _____ Print Name

Authorization	
Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 3000.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
 Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
 Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Nakusp Elementary	Date of Application: 12/18/2023
Contact Name: Mike Hibberson	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: K <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 619 4th St Nakusp British Columbia V0G 1R0	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 265-3638	Email: mike.hibberson@sd10.bc.ca

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.)
 Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)

Nakusp Elementary students attend 3 days of ski lessons at Summit Lake ski hill. This activity serves the community, the school, and families in our community. The ski hill benefits as this program represents a considerable portion of their revenue. The school benefits as we help our students to develop healthy life long outdoor hobbies. Consistently when we hear from students as they leave our school these trips are some of their most memorable experiences. Families benefit as many families cannot afford to take their children to the hill, and in particular afford private lessons.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ <u>12000</u> \$10,000	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental
---	---

Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
 School budget
 Costs: ...

Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount:

January 2023- \$6500

By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

mh
ll Signed at:
 2023-12-18 15:42:24

Mike Hibberson

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 10,000.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4

Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300

Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Nakusp Rail Society	Date of Application: 01/08/2024
Contact Name: Beth McLeod	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: K <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 782 c/o Tracy Fetters Nakusp BC V0G 1R0	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 265-8087	Email: rorybeth@telus.net

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.)

Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)

Roofing of the new shelter for the restored milk wagon which is a piece of heritage from early Nakusp. The volunteers of the Nakusp Rail Society are managing the construction of the new shelter which is located in front of the Centennial Building in Nakusp. This project is a combined effort of Nakusp Rail Society, Arrow Lakes Historical Society and Nakusp & District Museum. When completed, we will have an impressive display of items with high heritage value, in a high-traffic location for both residents and visitors.

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 575.00	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental
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Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
The full shelter project is costing just under \$20,000, with confirmed funding from a private donation and a Heritage BC grant through Arrow Lakes Historical Society....

Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount:

none for this project

By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

B.McLeod Signed at:
2024-01-08 21:20:32

Beth McLeod

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 575.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #



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FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Organization/Society Name: the edgewood volunteer fire department society		Date of Application: 01/08/2024	
Contact Name: jennifer irmen		RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: K <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:	
Mailing Address: 410 monashee ave edgewood bc V0g1J0		Payment Type: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque	
Phone #: (250) 269-7551		Email: evfd.edgewood@gmail.com	
<p>Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.) <i>Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)</i></p> <p>our largest fundraiser of the year. firefighter gala. monies raised to help maintain our current fleet of equipment. which includes Tender, Pumper, 2 rapid attack units and SPU trailer. evening events include live entertainment 4 course dinner, silent auction. Funds will be used to help offset cost which includes groceries, entertainment and decorating costs.</p>			
Total Grant Requested: \$ 1,500.00		Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental	
Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received: we've applied to Columbia Basin Trust for event sponsorship. VantageOne credit union community sponsorship. CBT-1,500.00...			
Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount:			
<p>By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><i>Jennifer Irmen</i> Signed at 2024-01-08 19:05:45</p> <hr/> <p>Signature</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>jennifer irmen</p> <hr/> <p>Print Name</p> </div> </div>			
Signature of Area Director Signed by director		Total Grant Approved \$ 1500.00	
Board Approved Date:		Resolution #	



Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

202 Lakeside Drive, Box 590, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
 Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
 Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Nakusp Fire Brigade	Date of Application: 01/08/2024
Contact Name: Daniel Abraham	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: K <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality:
Mailing Address: 201 Upper Brouse Road Nakusp British Columbia V0G 1R1	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 301-7000	Email: dan.abraham@alsar.ca

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.)
 Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)

The Nakusp Fire Brigade is a volunteer run organization that conducts road rescue, rope rescue, and fire rescue services over a wide geographic area. In addition, they offer mutual aid in the form of lift assists to BC Ambulance when called upon. Part of the mandate of the brigade is the requirement for a certain level of physical fitness. To meet this mandate, the brigade has been using a gym that is approximately 45 years old, and which, while still functional, is not a comprehensive set for obtaining our fitness standards. We are prioritizing new equipment for our volunteers

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 2500	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental
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Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
 Nakusp Hospital Auxilliary - \$8000 (confirmed)
 Brigade Member Donations - \$2000 (confirmed)...

Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount:

By submitting this application for the Community Development Grant, I confirm I am an authorized signatory of the recipient organization and I agree to the Community Development Grant Recipient Obligations detailed on page two of this application.

Signed at:
2024-01-08 17:22:00

Daniel Abraham

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 2500.00
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Board Approved Date:	Resolution #
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Community Development Grant Application Form

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

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 Phone 250-352-6665 Fax 250-352-9300
 Toll Free in B.C. 1-800-268-7325

FILE NO. 1865-20-___

Contact Information:

Note: Applicants are encouraged to discuss their project with the applicable RDCK elected official prior to submitting their grant application.

Organization/Society Name: Town of Creston	Date of Application: 12/19/2023
Contact Name: Asha DeLisle	RDCK Electoral Area/Member Municipality: <input type="checkbox"/> RDCK Electoral Area: <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality: Creston
Mailing Address: 238 10th Ave N Creston BC V0B1G0	Payment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Fund Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed cheque
Phone #: (250) 428-2214	Email: asha.delisle@creston.ca

Project/Service Description

Please provide an overview of the project and/or service and how the funds will be used. (600 characters max.)
 Attach any supporting documentation such as engineering reports, feasibility studies, and budget documents. All applicants must submit their organization's list of directors showing their respective executive positions, plus overall number of members. Grant requests exceeding \$5,000 must be accompanied by your organization's most recently approved financial statements..)

The funding will support the development of three Accessory Dwelling Unit designs. These designs would adhere to Step Code 4 or higher, be designed with affordability in mind, be configured for 1 to 3 bedrooms, and have accessible options. They would be free for the public to use

Grant Application:

Total Grant Requested: \$ 10000	Which funding criterial objective does this project meet? <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental
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Other Funding Sources - Identify all sources of project funding and amounts. Both funds requested and received:
None

Previous Community Development Grants Received – Year and Amount:

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Signed at:
2023-12-19 10:15:10

Steffan Klassen

Signature

Print Name

Authorization

Signature of Area Director Signed by director	Total Grant Approved \$ 10,000.00
Board Approved Date:	Resolution #