



## The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

### REGULAR MEETING (#11-25) INCLUDING ITEMS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Salmo to be held in Council Chambers at 423 Davies Avenue, Salmo, B.C. on **Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

*The public may attend in person or electronically. The electronic link will be available on our website on Tuesday.*

**Traditional Lands Acknowledgement Statement:** We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

#### AGENDA:

1. Call to Order

2. Adoption of Agenda

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Pg.1

That the agenda of Regular Meeting #11-25 of Tuesday, June 10, 2025 be adopted as amended from *Council Procedure Bylaw #663, 2014 Schedule "A"* to include a New Business section, an Administrative Report section, a Public Question period, and an *In Camera* section.

3. Delegations - NIL

4. New Business

5. Adoption of the Minutes

(1) **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Pg.5

That the minutes of Regular Council meeting #10-25 of Tuesday, May 27, 2025 be adopted as presented.

6. Referrals from Delegations - NIL

7. Referrals from Prior Meetings - NIL

8. Policy Development & Review - NIL

9. Bylaw Development & Review - NIL

(1) **Unightly Premises Amendment Bylaw**

Pg.9

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the "*Village of Salmo Unightly Premises Amendment Bylaw #767, 2025*" be given first, second, and third reading.

10. Administrative Reports

(1) **CAO Report- Village By-election**

Pg.33

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That the verbal and written reports of Mayor and Council be received for information.

15. Public Question Period
16. In Camera Resolution
17. Reconvene Open Meeting
18. Adjournment

*The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be on June 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.*



## The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Salmo held in Council Chambers at 423 Davies Avenue in Salmo, B.C. on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

In Person:

Councillor Jonathon Heatlie

Councillor Jennifer Lins

Councillor Kenzie Neil

CAO Derek Kwiatkowski

Members of Public - 1

Electronically:

Mayor Diana Lockwood

Members of the Public - 3

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Councillor Heatlie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**AGENDA:**

R1-10-25

Moved and seconded, that the agenda of Regular Meeting #10-25 of Tuesday, May 27, 2025 be adopted as amended from *Council Procedure Bylaw No. 663, 2014* Schedule "B" to include a New Business section, a Bylaw Development & Review section, a Public Question Period, and an *In Camera* section.

Carried.

**DELEGATIONS:**

Salmo Valley Public  
Library Re: Update to  
Council - #19

**NEW BUSINESS:**

NIL

**MINUTES:** (Note: See official minutes and agenda package for applicable reports.)

R2-10-25

Regular Meeting

April 22, 2025

Moved and seconded, that the minutes of the Regular Council meeting #08-25 of Tuesday, April 22, 2025 be adopted as presented.

Carried.

R3-10-25

Regular Meeting

May 13, 2025

Moved and seconded, that the minutes of the Regular Council meeting #09-25 of Tuesday, May 13, 2025 be adopted as presented.

Carried.

**REFERRALS FROM DELEGATIONS: NIL**

**REFERRALS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:**

R4-10-25

Village Event Food

Vendor Survey

Moved and seconded, that Council denies the participation of mobile food vendors within Salmo Days.

Carried.

**BYLAW DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW:**

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

- |                                 |   |          |
|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| R14-10-25<br>Accounts Payable   | Moved and seconded, that Council receive for information the list of accounts payable cheques and electronic fund transfers from May 6, 2025 to May 22, 2025 totaling \$120,229.21. | Carried. |
| R15-10-25<br>Treasurer's Report | Moved and seconded, that Council receive for information the Treasurer's report for April 2025.   | Carried. |

**CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A DECISION:**

- |           |   |          |
|-----------|---|----------|
| R16-10-25 | Moved and seconded, that Council approve the \$100 community grant request of the 55+ BC Senior Games/Zone 6 West Kootenay to assist seniors in attending the 2025 55+ Games held in Nanaimo, BC. | Carried. |
|-----------|---|----------|

**CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY: NIL**

**MEMBER REPORTS & INQUIRIES:**

- |  |   |          |
|--|---|----------|
| Councillor Heatlie   | NIL   |          |
| Councillor Lins  | NIL   |          |
| Councillor Neil  | NIL   |          |
| Mayor Lockwood   | See <i>Appendix B</i> .   |          |
| R17-10-25<br>Verbal & Written<br>Reports of Mayor &<br>Council | Moved and seconded, that the verbal and written reports of Mayor and Council be received for information. | Carried. |

**PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:**

**IN CAMERA RESOLUTION:**

- |           |  |          |
|-----------|--|----------|
| R18-10-25 | Moved and seconded, that the meeting be closed to the public under <i>Community Charter</i> Sections 90(1)(i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose and (j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. | Carried. |
|-----------|--|----------|

**RECONVENE OPEN MEETING:** Council reconvened the meeting at 8:39 p.m.





## The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

### Request for Decision

Report Date: June 5, 2025  
Meeting Date: June 10, 2025 (#11-25)  
From: Derek Kwiatkowski, Chief Administrative Officer  
Subject: Bylaw #767 – Unsightly Premises Amendment Bylaw

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#### **OBJECTIVE**

For Council to approve the Unsightly Premises Amendment Bylaw #767, an amendment to the Unsightly Premises Bylaw #649.

#### **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

As part of the Village's Policy & Bylaw review, administration is bringing forward the Unsightly Premises Bylaw for amendments to increase the ability to enforce. The priority of reviewing this Bylaw increased because of the few properties that are unsightly around the Village that need to be enforced & the inability for staff to enforce the Bylaw based on the current language.

The changes include:

- a) Aligning "Part 6: Enforcement" with the Bylaw's fine structure,
- b) Would remove any reference to a specific gender,
- c) Add a 5% administration fee for fine once it is move onto the property taxes,
- d) Provide Council with written responses to any infraction communication &
- e) correct some minor grammatical errors.

These changes are necessary to carry out property enforcements.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the "Unsightly Premises Amendment Bylaw #767" be given first reading.

That the "Unsightly Premises Amendment Bylaw #767" be given second and third reading.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. That Council deny the "Unsightly Premises Amendment Bylaw #767" as presented.
2. That Council table the "Unsightly Premises Amendment Bylaw #767" for further discussion.

## THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE SALMO

### BYLAW #767

#### A BYLAW TO AMEND VILLAGE OF SALMO UNSIGHTLY PREMISES BYLAW #649

---

WHEREAS pursuant to Sections 8(3)(h) and 64 of the Community Charter authorizes Council to protect and enhance the wellbeing of the community and to prevent unsightliness on real property within the Village of Salmo;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Village of Salmo, in open meeting assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

##### 1. CITATION

This Bylaw may be cited as the "**VILLAGE OF SALMO UNSIGHTLY PREMISES BYLAW AMENDMENT BYLAW #767, 2025**".

##### 2. AMENDMENTS

- 2.1. Section 5.3 is hereby deleted & replaced with the following:

"If Council receives written notification from the offending party within the specified 14 day period, Council will provide the offending party with the opportunity to make representation to Council within the specified time frame. After providing the opportunity to make representation, Council may confirm, amend, or cancel the remedial action requirement. In the event the Owner/Occupier cannot attend this meeting, the Owner/Occupier may appoint a representative; written notice of representation must be provided to the Village of Salmo office in advance of this meeting."

- 2.2. Section 5.4 is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

"On or after the 32<sup>nd</sup> day, following issuance of the notice per Section 5.2, staff will inspect the subject property again, noting the condition of property and photographing the same. If the property has not been cleaned, staff or a contractor will clean up the property and send an account to the Owner/Occupier. If the account is not paid by December 31<sup>st</sup> of that year, the charges will be added, along with a 5% administration fee to and form part of the taxes payable as taxes in arrears."

- 2.3. Section 5.5 is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

"Notwithstanding any action taken under this Bylaw, any and all infractions are still subject to fines under all applicable Village Bylaws."

- 2.4. Section 6.1 is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

"Every person who violates any provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and not more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) plus the cost of prosecution for each offence. Should this fine be unpaid, the fees shall be added to taxes in accordance with Section 260 of the Community Charter. This fine shall be in addition to the costs incurred in Section 5.4 of this Bylaw."

# THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO

## **BY-LAW #649**

### **A BY-LAW OF THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO TO PREVENT UNSIGHTLINESS ON REAL PROPERTY.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 8(3)(h) and 64 of the *Community Charter*, Council is empowered to protect and enhance the wellbeing of the community and to prevent unsightliness on real property within the Village of Salmo;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Village of Salmo, in open meeting assembled, hereby ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

#### **PART 1. Title**

1.1 This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Village of Salmo Unsightly Premises Bylaw"

#### **PART 2. Definitions**

2.1 "Bylaw Enforcement Officer" means the person appointed as such by Council;

"Council" means the Council of the Village of Salmo;

"Village" means the Village of Salmo;

"Graffiti" means an inscription, drawing, writing, pictorial representation, message or slogan, made on a wall, fence or other surface by means of paint, chalk, ink or other substance, or by chisel, hammer, stone or other device, excluding signs permitted pursuant to the current Sign Regulation Bylaw;

"Motor home" means a motor vehicle designed or used primarily for accommodation during travel or recreation, but does not include a motor vehicle that has attached to it a structure:

(a) designed or used primarily for accommodation during travel or recreation, and

(b) designed or intended to be detachable;

"Noxious weed" means any weed designated by regulation to be a noxious weed pursuant to the British Columbia Weed Control Act;

"Rubbish" includes, but is not limited to, discarded bottles, broken glass, motor vehicle parts and any derelict or partially dismantled motor vehicle;

"Trailer" means a vehicle that is at any time drawn on a highway by a motor vehicle, and includes a semi-trailer as defined in the *Commercial Transport Act*;

“Trees” includes shrubs;

“Unsightly” means physical objects which are detrimental to the physical or mental well-being of persons;

“Vehicle” means a device in, on or by which a person or thing is or may be transported or drawn on a highway, but does not include a device designed to be moved by human power, a device used exclusively on stationary rails or tracks or a motor assisted cycle. A vehicle, as defined in the *Motor Vehicle Act*, shall have the same meaning in this Bylaw, unless otherwise defined in this Bylaw;

### **PART 3. Right of Entry**

- 3.1 A Bylaw Enforcement Officer may enter on a parcel at all reasonable times to ascertain whether this bylaw is being observed, to gather evidence on any violation, or to serve any notice related to any violation of this bylaw.
- 3.2 No person shall obstruct a Bylaw Enforcement Officer from entering a parcel in accordance with Section 5.

### **PART 4. Prohibition**

- 4.1 No person, who is the owner or occupier of real property, shall allow that real property to become or remain unsightly or unsanitary.
- 4.2 In the considered opinion of Council or appointed staff: No owner shall cause, allow or permit:
  - 4.2.1 the accumulation of filth, discarded materials, or rubbish of any kind on their premise;
  - 4.2.2 the accumulation of water, broken glass, uncontained compost, or graffiti;
  - 4.2.3 the growth of trees, weeds (noxious or otherwise), grass or other vegetation that is considered unsightly and should be removed, cut down, or trimmed,
  - 4.2.4 the emission of smoke, dust, or fumes that is liable to foul or contaminate the atmosphere;
  - 4.2.5 the storage or accumulation on the parcel of all or part of a vehicle, as defined by the Motor Vehicle Act, that is not:
    - (i) validly registered or licensed in accordance with the Motor Vehicle Act, or
    - (ii) capable of movement under its own power unless it is stored in a closed building or structure such that the vehicle, or any portion of the vehicle, is not visible from

another parcel or a public place, unless the owner of the parcel is a licensed dealer of motor vehicle repairs;

- 4.2.6 construction materials and equipment, not currently being used for the purposes of valid construction, including an accumulation of wood, soils, concrete or materials otherwise used for the use of household construction.

## **PART 5. Notice and Effecting Compliance**

- 5.1 When a complaint is received by staff, or in the opinion of Bylaw Enforcement personnel, a member of staff will inspect the property and take photos, date and sign, and note details of the nuisance. Staff will send or deliver to the Owner, Occupier and Mortgager a letter (in the form prescribed in Schedule A) detailing the condition of the property, along with the violation ticket indicating the penalty for non-compliance.
- 5.2 The letter will direct remediation of the property within 31 days, and the offending party will be given 14 days from the date of issuance to respond in writing. If Council considers that there is a health or safety risk if action is not taken earlier, the 31 day remedial time frame may be shortened by resolution of Council.
- 5.3 If Council receives written notification from the offending party within the specified 14 day period, Council will provide the offending party with the opportunity to make representation to Council within the specified time frame. After providing the opportunity to make representation, Council may confirm, amend, or cancel the remedial action requirement. In the event the Owner/Occupier cannot attend this meeting, the Owner/Occupier may appoint a representative; written notice of representation must be provided to the Village of Salmo office in advance of this meeting.
- 5.4 On or after the 32<sup>nd</sup> day, following issuance of the notice per Section 5.2, staff will inspect the subject property again, noting the condition of property and photographing the same. If the property has not been cleaned, staff or a contractor will clean up the property and send an account to the Owner/Occupier. If the account is not paid by December 31<sup>st</sup> of that year, the charges will be added, along with a 5% administration fee to and form part of the taxes payable as taxes in arrears.
- 5.5 Notwithstanding any action taken under this Bylaw, any and all infractions are still subject to ~~ticketing under the Village's Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw.~~ finest under all applicable Village Bylaws.
- 5.6 The Municipal Ticket, indicating the relevant fine, will be sent with the notification of the offence.

## **PART 6. Offences**

- 6.1 Every person who violates any provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than ~~two hundred and fifty~~ one hundred dollars (~~\$250.00~~100.00) and not more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) plus the cost of prosecution for each offence. Should this fine be unpaid, the fees shall be added to taxes in accordance with Section 260 of the Community Charter. This fine shall be in addition to the costs incurred in Section 5.4 of this Bylaw.

- 6.2 For purposes of determining if a contravention or violation of or failure to perform any provision of this Bylaw has occurred, each day of such contravention, violation or failure will be deemed to be a separate offence.
- 6.3 Where the offence is a continuing one, each day the offence continues shall be a separate offence.

**PART 7. Severability**

- 7.1 If any section, subsection or clause of this Bylaw is held to be invalid by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalid portion shall be severed and shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Bylaw.

**Part 8. Repeal of Existing Bylaw**

- 8.1 Village of Salmo Unsightly Premises Bylaw No 484, 2001 is hereby repealed in its entirety and this Bylaw substituted therefore.

Read a first time this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2013.  
Read a second time this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2013.  
Read a third time this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.  
Reconsidered and Adopted this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate Officer

I hereby certify this to be a true  
copy of the "Village of Salmo  
Unsightly Premises By-law No.649, 2013".

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate Officer

“Schedule A”

Date:

Owner/Occupier  
Address

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Re:**    **Lot**                    **Section:**            **Plan:**  
          **Folio No.**

As a result of complaints received in this office, our Bylaw Enforcement Officer inspected your property legally described and located at \_\_\_\_\_, Salmo, B.C. and observed\_\_\_\_\_.

Under the provisions of the \_\_\_\_\_ of “Village of Salmo Unsightly Premises Bylaw No. 649”, it is an offence for owners or occupiers of real property within the Village of Salmo to permit any accumulation of filth, discarded materials or rubbish of any kind on their premises.

I therefore serve this notice and request that you remove and clear the accumulation of filth, discarded materials and rubbish and, in particular, \_\_\_\_\_ from your property by (date).

I trust that you will cooperate with the Village in this regards and see that this matter is resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Yours truly,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate Officer

"Schedule B"

IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 8(3)(h) and 64 of the Community Charter

S.B.C. 2003 CHAPTER 26

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THAT PART OF PARCEL  
D.L. \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_, PLAN \_\_\_\_\_

TO: Name and Address (send copies to mortgagee)  
(Owner/Occupier)

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Municipal Council of the Village of Salmo pursuant to Sections 8(3)h and 64 of the Community Charter and the Village of Salmo Unsightly Premises Bylaw No. 649, will at the hour of \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. on \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of 20\_\_, in the Council Chambers at the Village Office at 423 Davies Avenue, Salmo, B.C. hear representations by \_\_\_\_\_ as to whether, with respect to the lands more particularly described above, the owner/occupier shall be required to remove the accumulation thereon of \_\_\_\_\_.

**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE** that should Council require the owner/occupier to remove the described accumulation, and the owner/occupier defaults, the Council may direct its employees and others to enter and effect the removal at the expense of the person defaulting. The charges for doing so, if unpaid on December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year in which the Village effects the removal, shall be added to and form part of the taxes payable in respect of the real property in question, as taxes in arrears.

**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE** that should you wish to make a representation to the Council regarding the lands and premises listed above, you should appear at that time, date, and place to make your presentation to Council.

**THIS NOTICE** is given by the Municipal Council of the Village of Salmo on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate Officer



"Schedule C"

**BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**

Date

**TO:** The Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Bylaw Enforcement Officer

**RE:** Unsightly Premises Bylaw No. 649

This department has received complaints regarding the unsightly appearance of property situated at \_\_\_\_\_, Salmo, B.C. legally described as Lot \_\_\_\_\_, Section \_\_\_\_\_, Plan \_\_\_\_\_, District \_\_\_\_\_, Folio No. \_\_\_\_\_ registered in the names of (owner/occupier, address).

A letter was forwarded to the owners of the property on \_\_\_\_\_ requesting that the premises be cleaned up. (Add details).

I request therefore that Council proceed with the notice to the owner or occupier giving ~~him or her~~ them \_\_\_\_\_ days to effect a clean-up or the work will be done by the Village or by its authorized agents.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bylaw Enforcement Officer

Enclosures

"Schedule D"

**RESOLUTION**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the owners and occupiers of the respective premises set forth below be notified to remove the ~~accumulation thereon~~accumulation of the materials specified or take such remedial measures as are specified:

**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**

Lot \_\_\_\_\_, Section \_\_\_\_\_, Plan \_\_\_\_\_, District \_\_\_\_\_.  
Folio No. \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATION**

\_\_\_\_\_, Village of Salmo, B.C.

**UNSIGHTLY ACCUMULATION**

(Description): \_\_\_\_\_

**REMEDIAL MEASURES**

(Description): \_\_\_\_\_

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Corporate Officer of the Village of Salmo

**BE AND IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED** in default of such removal or remedial measures being undertaken by the owners occupiers, within ( ) \_\_\_\_ days of receipt of this notice to do so, to carry out or have such work carried out and the expense charges to the owner or occupier. If unpaid on December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year in which the work is done, the expenses shall be added to and form part of the taxes payable on that real property as taxes in arrears.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR \_\_\_\_\_

Dated at the Village of Salmo, B.C. this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Certified a true copy the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate Officer

"Schedule E"

Date

Owner/Occupier  
Address

Registered

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

**Re: Village of Salmo Unsightly Premises Bylaw No. 649**

Take notice that the Village of Salmo has passed the Resolution, a copy of which is enclosed with this letter.

Pursuant to the Resolution of Council, we advise that unless you, the owner of Lot \_\_\_\_\_, Section \_\_\_\_\_, District \_\_\_\_\_, Plan \_\_\_\_\_, clean up that property by removing the \_\_\_\_\_ and all other unsightly accumulation of material and debris, and leave the premises clean and tidy, within \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_ ) days of receipt of this letter by you, the Village of Salmo shall, in default of such removal, enter upon the property and effect the removal by its workmen and others, at your expense. Receipt of this letter by you will be assumed to be four (4) days from the date of this letter.

The charges made by the Village of Salmo for the removal, if done by the \_\_\_\_\_ if unpaid by you on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December in the year in which the Village effects the removal, shall be added to and form part of the taxes payable in respect of the real property in question, as taxes in arrears.

This Notice is given by and on behalf of the Village of Salmo.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate Officer

Enclosures  
pc: (registered mortgagees)

“Schedule F”

Offence	Section	Fine
The accumulation of filth, discarded materials, or rubbish of any kind on their premise.	4.2.1	\$100.00
The accumulation of water, broken glass, uncontained compost, or graffiti.	4.2.2	\$100.00
The growth of trees, weeds (noxious or otherwise), grass or other vegetation that is considered unsightly and should be removed, cut down, or trimmed.	4.2.3	\$100.00
The emission of smoke, dust, or fumes that is liable to foul or contaminate the atmosphere.	4.2.4	\$100.00
The storage or accumulation on the parcel of all or part of a vehicle that is not: (i) validly registered or licensed in accordance with the Motor Vehicle Act, or (ii) capable of movement under its own power unless it is stored in a closed building or structure such that the vehicle, or any portion of the vehicle, is not visible from another parcel or a public place or unless the owner of the parcel is a licensed dealer of motor vehicle repairs.	4.2.5	\$100.00
Construction materials and equipment, not currently being used for the purposes of valid construction, including an accumulation of wood, soils, concrete or materials otherwise used for the use of household construction.	4.2.6	\$100.00



## The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

### CAO Report

Report Date: June 5, 2025  
Meeting Date: June 10, 2025 (#11-25)  
From: CAO Derek Kwiatkowski  
Subject: CAO Report, Village Byelection

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#### **Background**

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, Melanie Cox resigned her position on Village Council & following legislative requirements, the remaining Council was notified at that meeting. The next step in the process is that the Village is required to begin the process of holding a by-election.

Staff has reached out to the provincial authorities to notify them as well. They have provided staff with some information needed to complete the by-election. Staff has also reached out to local municipalities who have recently held by-elections for guidance.

The process is still being worked through to determine the appropriate timelines. There is no legislated timeline to hold a by-election, however once a Chief Election Officer has been appointed, it must take place within 80 days. Staff is not prepared at this time to recommend to Council appointing a (CEO), the goal is that will be coming at the next meetings.

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

That Council accept the CAO Report for information.



## The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

### CAO Report

Report Date: June 4, 2025

Meeting Date: June 10, 2025 (#11-25)

From: CAO Derek Kwiatkowski

Subject: CAO Report, Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan

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#### Background

In 2024, the Village began working with the RDCK to develop a joint Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan, funded by a collaborative grant.

In November staff met with the RDCK to begin discussions about collaboration & in December Council approved the joint project. In February, staff met with the RDCK & UBCM to finalize the grant approval. The working group also received proposed recommendations to be included in the final report that were categorized under communication, education, structure protection, policy, response planning, & fuel management.

By March, the final draft was completed & at the beginning of May, a final review was conducted by the working group.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, the Village received the final Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan. This will be brought to the RDCK Open Board Meeting in June for information. The RDCK have submitted the plan and all associated spatial data to BCWS and UBCM for approval.

#### Staff Recommendation:

That Council accept the CAO Report for information.

An aerial photograph of a valley. In the foreground, a river flows through a dense forest. A town is visible in the middle ground, nestled between the river and the forested hills. The background shows more forested hills and a small lake in the distance.

# Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan 2025

*Regional District of Central Kootenay  
Electoral Area G and Village of Salmo*

May 2025



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2024, B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. was approached by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) to assist with updating their existing 2017 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Electoral Area G and the Village of Salmo to the newest Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) format. A CWRP is both a localized risk assessment and an action plan to improve wildfire resiliency within Electoral Area G and Salmo's Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). This update accounts for changes that have occurred since the development of the last plan and takes advantage of the newest community wildfire planning framework in BC. The CWRP has a strong focus on the seven FireSmart™ disciplines<sup>1</sup> and on interagency collaboration.

The Area of Interest (AOI) of this CWRP encompasses the 1-km Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) around Salmo and the surrounding communities of Ross Spur, Meadows, Erie, Ymir, Porto Rico, Hall Siding and Nelway. Recommendations made within this plan are directed at the RDCK and Village of Salmo, although some recommendations involve collaboration or partnership with other local governments, agencies, or organizations.

The RDCK has a mature and successful regional FireSmart program that also includes the Village of Salmo. In addition to identifying areas of possible expansion and improvement, this plan serves to recognize all the progress made to date since the last CWPP was completed. Across the RDCK between 2018 and 2023, 1699 FireSmart Home Assessments have been completed, 29 neighbourhoods have received FireSmart recognition, \$96,000 of mitigation work has been completed under a FireSmart rebate program, and \$77,738 of Neighbourhood Champion grants has been distributed.<sup>2</sup> Specifically in Electoral Area G and Salmo, there has been 136 FireSmart Assessments and 19 rebates awarded. Although Salmo and Ymir are good candidates for the FireSmart Neighbourhood Program, no communities in Electoral Area G are currently recognized. This suggests that the RDCK could focus on building more local FireSmart leadership in the plan area through FireSmart training for fire department members (Action Item #16) or community workshops (Action Item #2).

Since the last CWPP was completed for the area, the RDCK has also explored implementing a Wildfire Hazard Development Permit Area (DPA) policy. Although the RDCK has opted not to implement a Wildfire Hazard DPA in Electoral Area G at this time, development concerns have been partially addressed through the RDCK Bare Land FireSmart assessment program, offered throughout the region to residents who are planning to build on undeveloped lots. This free, voluntary assessment educates residents on FireSmart principles and advises best practices regarding construction, lot preparation, and landscaping. The Village of Salmo has a Wildfire DPA in place that applies to limited areas on the edge of the municipality. Action Item # suggest a review of DPA boundaries.

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<sup>1</sup> Education, Legislation and Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-training, Emergency Planning, and Vegetation Management

<sup>2</sup>Urban Systems. 2023. *Wildfire Development Permit Area Summary Report*.



Table 1: Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Area G and Salmo - Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan Action Items

Table 1: Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Area G and Salmo - Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan Action Items								
Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead		Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source
				(Involved)				
Education - Section 5.2								
Residents								
#1 FireSmart Staff	High	Continue to apply for funding to employ and train Wildfire Mitigation Specialists (WMS)/Local FireSmart Representatives (LFR) and a FireSmart Coordinator across the RDCK.	A FireSmart Coordinator is a fundamental component of a FireSmart program and a requirement for CRI funding. The CFRC noted that even with 6 WMS in the RDCK, there is sometimes a backup of requested home assessments, so hiring more WMS may be required as the program grows in popularity.	RDCK FireSmart		1 year and annually	Sufficient staff capacity is maintained to support the program	CRI FCFS for FireSmart staff
		Continue to promote FireSmart to residents at community events (e.g. farmers markets) and through workshops using printed and digital FireSmart BC resources. Consider a FireSmart Community Preparedness Day or combined Emergency Preparedness Day. Include local first responders if possible.	Community events are a great opportunity to increase awareness of FireSmart programming and FireSmart BC resources present a unified message.	RDCK FireSmart		1 year and annually	Continued uptake of the RDCK FireSmart program in Electoral Area G and Salmo (e.g. number of home assessments completed)	CRI FCFS funding - FireSmart staff time; resources for Education events (banners, brochures, promo items)
		#3 FireSmart Advertising	High	Continue the RDCK FireSmart media campaign through social (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), radio, and/or print media avenues. Keep track of which avenues receive the most engagement so that funds can be best directed and keep abreast of new outlets. Review material annually and update graphics and language to match any changes in the FireSmart BC program. Consider asking community associations to post on their websites or Facebook groups. Promote FireSmart in School District 8 schools (Salmo) using the FireSmart Education Kit and other resources. Invite local first responders or forestry staff if possible.	Successfully engaging a community in FireSmart will rely on more than one communication avenue. Keeping material 'fresh' and up to date is important for authoritative messaging.	RDCK FireSmart		Annually
#4 FireSmart in Schools	Moderate		Engaging local students in FireSmart may increase uptake with all residents. There are no schools in Electoral Area G outside of Salmo.	RDCK FireSmart / Village of Salmo/ School District 8		Annually	One FireSmart lesson delivered each year (minimum).	CRI FCFS
#5 Home Assessments	High	Continue to offer and promote the free FireSmart Home Assessment Program and especially the rebate program to residents.	FireSmart Home Assessments are a foundational part of FireSmart Education for a community and allow for in-person connection between residents and FireSmart staff. Rebate programs incentivize on-the-ground mitigation. The program has been popular to date, with many assessments completed but fewer rebates awarded.	RDCK FireSmart		Annually	The number of home assessments completed and rebates awarded increases annually	CRI FCFS
#6 Regional Park Signage	Low	Consider installing seasonal FireSmart signage at regional parks (Rosebud) – consider a QR code that links to the RDCK FireSmart website.	Signage in parks presents a good opportunity for public education on FireSmart and wildfire prevention – whether the parks have fuel management projects planned or not.	RDCK FireSmart / Parks		5 years (signs installed)	Signage in parks is considered	CRI FCFS – staff time and sign costs
Administrative	#7 Share CWRP Online	Like other CWRPPs, make this plan available on the RDCK and Village of Salmo websites and communicate its completion to residents.	Plan implementation will be most successful with buy-in from the public, as significant action on private land is required.	RDCK FireSmart		1 year	Plan is available online	CRI FCFS – staff time
	#8 Annual Progress Report	Consider releasing an annual RDCK FireSmart report to elected officials and the public that tracks community-specific uptake in various FireSmart initiatives	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		Annual	An annual report is published.	CRI FCFS – staff time



Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead (Involved)	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source
#17 Cross Training	High	Look for ways to support Ymir VFD in regularly holding a practical cross-training event with BCWS, involving an interface fire or possibly a structural protection scenario.	Practical training is essential for fire departments, and BCWS cross-training enhances the abilities of crews to work together on an interface fire. Ymir VFD expressed interest in such an event; Salmo Fire Department has BCWS come to their hall about every 3 years.	RDCK / Ymir VFD / BCWS	Annually	All fire department members participate in a practical training event annually; with BCWS every 3 years	Staff and volunteer time
<i>Water/Other</i>							
#18 Response Map	High	Work with local fire departments to build an RDCK dataset of natural and artificial water sources and access points for fire suppression. Share this information with BCWS, all mutual aid fire response partners, and update over time. Include with other key fire response information, like roads, trails, and gates, on a map.	Water sources in the plan area are known by firefighters but in Ymir are not mapped. Salmo Fire Department uses the Whos Responding App. In an interface wildfire scenario, it would be helpful if all local information was consolidated so it could be easily shared with BCWS response personnel and mutual aid partners, as well as included in the pre-planning of emergency community water delivery systems. Consider digital (e.g. KMZ).	RDCK (Ymir VFD) (Salmo Fire Department)	2 years and ongoing	A digital file or PDF response map is produced and shared	Incremental staff time; funding possible
#19 Water Supply	Moderate	Assist the Ymir VFD in identifying and implementation possible mitigation solutions for water supply outside of hydrated area	Ymir VFD expressed concerns with the availability of /access to drafting sites in Wildhorse Road and Hall Siding. The siting of water tanks and/or standpipe installation may mitigate some issues.	RDCK Emergency Services, Ymir VFD	3 years and ongoing	Adequacy of water supply for fire suppression is reviewed	Incremental staff time; funding possible
<i>Interagency Cooperation - Section 5.5</i>							
#20 FireSmart Committees	High	Continue to engage the regional Wildfire Planning Table to plan, to plan, implement, and coordinate FireSmart initiatives, including fuel management treatments. Support a local (Salmo area) FireSmart and Resiliency Committee (CFRC) if it is formed.	Both regional and sub-regional FireSmart Committees are valuable. The current Planning Table is working well and the RDCK should look for opportunities to support a sub-regional committee.	RDCK FireSmart	Ongoing	CFRC FireSmart meeting takes place at least annually.	At least 8 hours per meeting to prepare, participate and debrief. CRI FCFS
<i>Emergency Planning - Section 5.6</i>							
#21 Tabletop Exercises	Moderate	As part of the RDCK Emergency Program (Salmo is included), continue to hold annual tabletop emergency exercises with emergency management partners.	Tabletop exercises provide an opportunity to identify weak spots in a plan and collaborate. The RDCK already has experience with wildfire evacuations, but tabletop exercises are still valuable.	RDCK Emergency Management (RCMP, SAR, BCWS, Fire Departments)	3 years	Exercise (potentially involving a fire in Area G) is completed	CRI FCFS Emergency Planning. Possibly CEPP / Columbia Basin Trust
#22 Promote Voyent Alert	Moderate	RDCK 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. This was identified as an issue during WUI fire disasters in Lahaina, Maui, USA and Fort McMurray, Alberta. 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. The Salmo water and sewer systems and the fire hall have backup power; the Ymir water system and fire hall do not.	RDCK Emergency Management	Ongoing	Continued uptake of the Voyent Alert! System (can track downloads from app providers).	RDCK staff time
#23 Secondary Power Sources	High	Purchase or encourage the purchase of back-up generators for any publicly or society-owned critical infrastructure that does not have one yet.		RDCK Emergency Management	2 years	All fire halls and water systems have back up power	Staff time and equipment cost



Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead (Involved)	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source
#31 Free Yard Waste Disposal	Moderate	Expand 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 Central (Salmo) transfer station. Continue to promote the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program, including offering support from local Wildfire Mitigation Specialist(s) or Local FireSmart Representatives (LFRs) for Neighbourhood Assessments and Plans. Continue offering the Neighbourhood Champion Grant.	Having to pay tipping fees may be a barrier for residents who wish to conduct FireSmart landscaping, especially during the fire season when burn bans are in place.  The RDCK provides step-by-step information online for interested neighbourhoods. No communities in the plan area are currently recognized, although Salmo and Ymir are both good candidates. The Neighbourhood Champion Grant provides a valuable incentive for program participation and has received good uptake in other Electoral Areas.	RDCK FireSmart	Annual	Free yard waste disposal continues and is also offered at the Ymir transfer station.	CRI FCFS funding is available for tipping fee coverage
#32 Neighbourhood Recognition	High			RDCK FireSmart	2 years	A neighbourhood in Area G receives recognition.	CRI FCFS- FireSmart staff; FireSmart Champion Grant



## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

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In October 2024, B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. was retained by the Regional District Central Kootenay (RDCK) to update the previous 2017 RDCK CWPP for Electoral Area G and Salmo to the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) template. This plan replaces the previous 2017 RDCK CWPP for Electoral Area G and Salmo. 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. Since then, many communities in BC have continued to face an ever-increasing threat of wildfire, as the 2017, 2018, and 2023 fire seasons proved to be three of the most historically damaging seasons on record.

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 2023 CRI template.

### 1.1 PLAN PURPOSE AND GOALS

This plan accounts for FireSmart program changes that have occurred since the 2017 CWPP and takes advantage of the most recent community wildfire planning framework in BC. This CWRP:

- Re-identifies the interface wildfire risk around communities by clipping the 2017 CWPP wildfire threat layer (completed to a 2-km WUI) to the newer 1-km Eligible WUI,
- Re-identifies the interface fuel types around communities by clipping the 2017 CWPP fuel type layer (completed to a 2-km WUI) to the newer 1-km Eligible WUI,
- Re-visits fuel treatment units proposed in 2017, proposing additions or reductions to them,
- Proposes new fuel treatment units, and
- Updates RDCK's FireSmart program for Electoral Area G and Salmo.

This CWRP is intended to serve as a framework to guide the implementation of specific actions and strategies to:

- 1) Increase the efficacy of fire suppression and safety of emergency responders,
- 2) Reduce potential impacts and losses to property and critical infrastructure from wildfire, and
- 3) Reduce potential wildfire behavior and threat within the community.

To help guide and accomplish the above strategies, this CWRP will provide the RDCK with:



for evacuation or shelter in place; emergency operation centers (EOC) levels and activation protocols; hazard and evacuation planning; fire planning including industrial, wildfire and structural fires; and recovery planning. 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. The Plan is reviewed annually.

The RDCK Emergency Management Program conducts tabletop exercises yearly with staff (and responds to emergencies involving evacuations almost yearly). Emergency preparedness initiatives are further described in Section 5.6.

## 2.2 LINKAGES TO CWPPS/CWRPS

### Regional District of Central Kootenay Area G & Salmo Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update – 2017<sup>5</sup>

Beginning in 2017, B.A. Blackwell & Associates developed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan update for the Regional District of Central Kootenay Area G and the Village of Salmo. The scope of this plan was a two-kilometer buffer around all residences and critical infrastructure based on structure density criteria. A tabularized review of the 2017 recommendations and their implementation status is presented in Appendix A.

Listed below are jurisdictions adjacent to Electoral Area G and Salmo that have been involved in community wildfire planning. *Strategic opportunities exist between these plans and should be considered.*

- RDCK Electoral Area A CWRP 2024 – concurrently in development.<sup>6</sup>
- RDCK Electoral Area B CWRP 2024 – concurrently in development.<sup>6</sup>
- RDCK Electoral Area C CWRP 2024 – concurrently in development.<sup>6</sup>
- RDCK Electoral Area D CWRP 2023 – recently completed.<sup>6</sup>
- RDCK Electoral Area E CWRP 2023 – recently completed.<sup>6</sup>
- City of Nelson CWRP 2021 – recently completed.<sup>6</sup>

## 2.3 LOCAL PLANS AND BYLAWS

The sections and policies of the Electoral Area G Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw No. 2452, 2018<sup>7</sup> and the Village of Salmo Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 687, 2020<sup>8</sup> listed in Table 2 and Table 3 and are directly relevant to proactive wildfire resilience in the plan area. Both jurisdiction's OCPs were reviewed as part of this CWRP to address any gaps or limitations that inadequately address fire hazards or risk mitigation.

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<sup>5</sup><https://rdck.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Area%20G%20and%20Salmo%20CWPP%202019.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> By B.A. Blackwell & Associates Ltd and Cathro Consulting Ltd.

<sup>7</sup> Salmo River Valley – Electoral Area G Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw No. 2452, 2018 (Consolidated to June 2024).

<sup>8</sup> Sustainable Salmo - Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 687, 2020



Section [Salmo River Valley Electoral Area G Land Use Bylaw No. 2452,2018] <sup>9</sup>	Relevant Policies
<b>15.0 Community Specific Policies</b>	<b>Rosebud Lake/Nelway</b> 43. <i>Encourages investigation into the establishment of a community-based fire department to support fire protection and first response within the area.</i>
<b>16.0 WATERCOURSE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT (WDP) AREA</b>	14. <i>[Exemption] Land alterations involving emergency measures to prevent or reduce immediate threats to life or property including:</i> c. <i>the removal of trees, shrubs or landscaping that has been deemed necessary for the purposes of wildfire mitigation measures as identified through a professional wildfire risk assessment, where such trees, shrubs or landscaping is replaced or compensated for elsewhere within the WDPA;</i>

**Table 3. Summary of the Village of Salmo Official Community Plan and its relationship to this CWRP.**

Section [Salmo Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 687,2020] <sup>10</sup>	Section	Relevant Policies
<b>3.0 Natural Environment</b>	3.1.1	b) <i>Recognize and plan for the possible impacts of climate change on the Village and surrounding region, including drought and the increased risk of flood and wildfire;</i>
		(d) <i>Reduce the risk of wildfire through awareness, prevention, regulation, and other mitigation measures;</i>
	3.1.2	(c) <i>To manage the trees and vegetation cover on Village-owned properties in order to minimize wildfire risk</i>
		(d) <i>Continue to promote the measures outlined in provincial and federal programs, such as WaterSmart, FireSmart, WildSafe and BearSmart;</i>

<sup>10</sup> <https://salmo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/OCP-Sustainable-Salmo-2020-Final-1.pdf>

Section	Section	Relevant Policies
[Salmo Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 687, 2020] <sup>10</sup>		
	7.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. Promoting the FireSmart program and building practices</li> <li>iii. Reducing the length of cul-de-sacs or ensuring the provision of emergency access roads;</li> <li>iv. Providing for adequate side-yard and rear-yard setbacks to permit access for firefighting equipment and to prevent the spread of fire.</li> <li>(b) Promote fire safety and efficient fire fighting by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. ensuring that no building is approved whose height exceeds the limit of the Village's firefighting equipment; and</li> <li>ii. adopting side-yard and rear-yard setbacks that permit access for fire-fighting equipment and that prevent the spread of fire.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

The local bylaws listed in Table 4 are directly relevant to proactive wildfire resilience in Electoral Area G & Salmo. These bylaws 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 bylaws and their relationship to the CWRP.**

Bylaws	Section	Description and Relevant Policies
Village of Salmo Fire Prevention Bylaw No.719 (2020)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishes fire safety regulations to protect people and property, including the adoption of the BC Fire Code, rules for fire prevention, open burning restrictions, and enforcement measures. It outlines responsibilities for property owners, penalties for violations, and the authority of the Fire Department to inspect, regulate, and respond to fire hazards.</li> <li>- Campfires are permitted within municipal boundaries under most conditions</li> </ul>
Village of Salmo Emergency Measures Bylaw No. 643 (1996)	4.4.e 4.4.g	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. Cause the evacuation of persons and removal of livestock, animals and personal property from any part of the municipality that is or may be affected by an emergency or a disaster and make arrangements for the adequate care and protection of those persons, livestock, animals and property</li> <li>g. Cause the demolition or removal of any trees, structures or crops if the demolition or removal is considered to be necessary or appropriate in order to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster;</li> <li>- Assigns ICS structure in the community of Salmo for an emergency or disaster</li> </ul>
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"> <li>- Addresses need for fire protection in new construction.</li> </ul>

Bylaws	Section	Description and Relevant Policies
Resource Recovery Facilities Regulatory Bylaw No. 2905	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>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</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>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</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 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>- Outlines jurisdictional limits of fire departments, which may impact rural communities with no immediate fire service (see Section 5.6).</p>
Volunteer Fire Service Regulation Bylaw No. 2769	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>- Outlines jurisdictional limits of fire departments, which may impact rural communities with no immediate fire service (see Section 5.6).</p>
	9.4	<p>No person shall grow shrubs, hedges, plants or trees to obstruct the visibility or use of a fire hydrant, standpipe or sprinkler connection.</p> <p>- Provides linkage to FireSmart activities and property preparedness.</p>
	10.1	<p>Where this bylaw applies within a municipality the Regional District is authorized to enforce municipal open burning regulations.</p> <p>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</p>

**Table 5: Higher level plans and legislation relevant to the plan area**

Plan/Legislation	Description and Relationship to CWRP
<b>The Forest and Range Practices Act &amp; Government Action Regulations (GARs)</b>	<p>The Forest and Range Practices Act integrates wildfire considerations into forest management by mandating proactive planning, authorizing necessary fire control actions, and promoting collaboration with Indigenous communities to enhance forest resilience against wildfires.</p> <p>Multiple GARs overlap the WUI. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Non-legal Old Growth Management Areas</i></li> <li>- <i>Ungulate Winter Range partial-harvest</i></li> <li>- <i>Significant fish streams and rivers</i></li> <li>- <i>Community watersheds</i></li> <li>- <i>Regionally significant visual areas</i></li> </ul>
<b>BC Provincial Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation</b>	<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"> <li>- <i>The majority of the wildland-urban interface is within a High Smoke Sensitivity Zone.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan</b>	<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 the WUI (see Section 4.2.1).</i></p> <p>It must be noted that many of the KBHLP (Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan) objectives have been replaced with other legislation such as Government Actions Regulation (GAR) for special management of certain forest values including caribou habitat.</p>
<b>Wildfire Act and Regulation</b>	<p>Dedicated to wildfire management in BC. Key objective of the legislation is to specify responsibilities and obligations with respect to fire use, prevention, control and rehabilitation.</p>
<b>Parks Act</b>	<p>The Parks Act protects parks from wildfires through regulations, emergency responses, and collaboration with fire management efforts. Inclusive in this act, is an outline of authorities to prohibit or control the use of fire within Parks.</p>
<b>BC Parks and Protected Areas Management Plans and Strategic Statements</b>	<p>Outlines management objectives for a park / protected area and any special considerations. Would provide strategic direction for proposed</p>

the same structure density class. BC Wildfire Service generates WUI spatial layers and WUI Risk Class maps to assist with initiatives related to wildfire risk reduction, including the CRI FCFS program.<sup>12</sup>

The Eligible WUI was clipped to the boundaries of Electoral Area G, which encompasses the Village of Salmo and forms the Area of Interest (AOI) for the CWRP. Field work, GIS analysis, and the recommendations for this CWRP cover only this one kilometer 'Eligible WUI' which covers a total of 13,579 hectares. If development results in new areas exceeding the interface structure density threshold of six structures per square kilometer, the Eligible WUI will grow over time. Note that any parts of this plan's Eligible WUI that are 'new' since 2017 will not contain any CWRP spatial data (fuel type, local fire threat, or proposed treatment units) due to the limitations of this update.

Map 1 shows an overview of the wildland urban interface (WUI) in Electoral Area G and Salmo, with an approximate breakdown of land ownership type by area listed in Table 6. A large portion of the WUI consists of private land, accounting for approximately 49% of the total land area. This predominance of privately-owned land highlights the importance of proactive FireSmart practices by property owners. Most of the remaining area is Crown land, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts among land users to address wildfire risk across the jurisdiction.

**Table 6: Land ownership within Electoral Area G's WUI.**

Land Ownership	Area (Ha)	Percent of WUI (%)
Crown Agency	195	1%
Crown Provincial	6339	47%
Federal	1	0%
Mixed Ownership	0	0%
Municipal	38	0%
Municipal - RDCK	169	1%
Untitled Provincial	227	2%
Private/Unclassified	6609	49%
TOTAL	13,579	100%

<sup>12</sup> [Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class Maps - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/preparedness/wildfire/wildfire_risk_class_maps)



### 3.2 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Electoral Area G is in the southwestern corner of the RDCK, south of Nelson and east of Castlegar. It includes the Village of Salmo and the unincorporated communities of Ross Spur, Meadows, Erie, Ymir, Porto Rico, Hall Siding, and Nelway. Salmo is the largest population centre. Electoral Area G is nestled in the Selkirk Mountains, separated from the Creston Valley by the Nelson Range and from Nelson by the Bonnington Range. The Salmo River flows south through the area, emptying into the Pend Oreille River near the Canada-US border.

Community access is via Highway 3, which runs roughly west-east through Castlegar, Salmo and Creston; Highway 6, which follows the Salmo River from Nelway to Nelson; and Highway 3B, which connects Trail to Highway 3 in Ross Spur, west of Salmo. The Regional District of Kootenay Boundary abuts the plan area to the west. Electoral Area G shares a border with Washington and part of Idaho (United States) to the south.

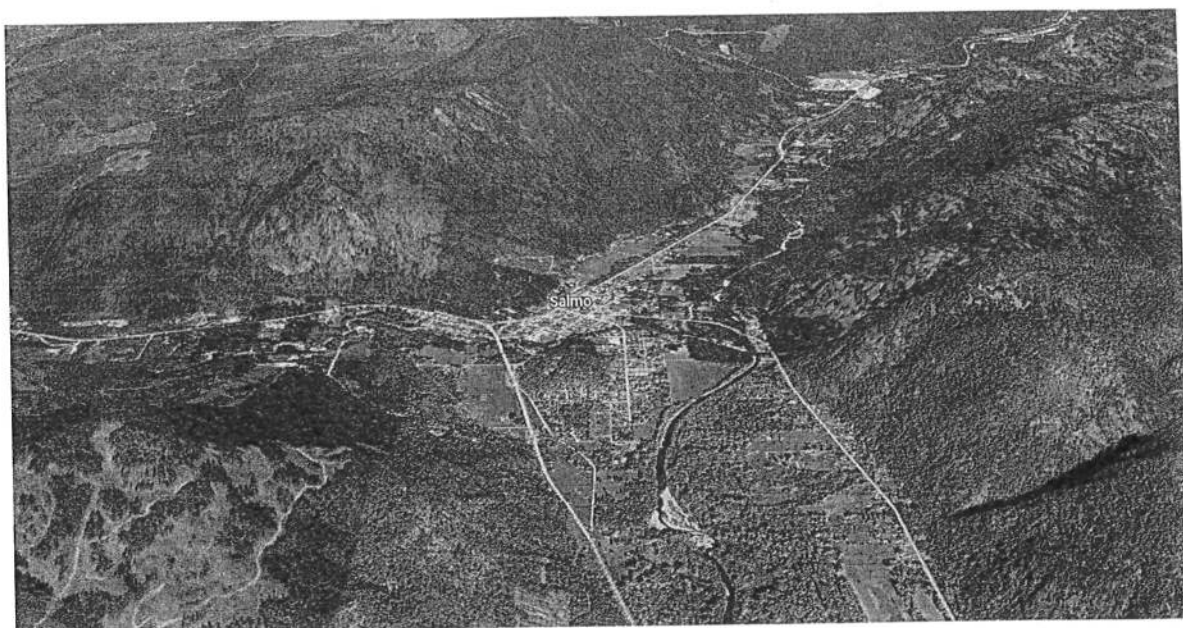
The plan area is within the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) Southeast Fire Centre and Arrow and Kootenay Lake Fire Zones. Structural firefighting services are coordinated by the RDCK and the Village of Salmo, with volunteer fire departments located in Ymir and Salmo. The Ymir Fire Department provides protection throughout much of the Highway 6 corridor from Ymir to Nelson (about 25 km). Likewise, the Salmo Fire Protection Area extends along Highway 3 approximately 10 km south and west of town. The RDCK has a contract with the Regional District Kootenay Boundary to provide fire protection to Ross Spur. Medical care and ambulance service is available in Salmo, with hospitals outside the plan area in Trail, Castlegar, and Nelson. Salmo also has an RCMP detachment. There are RDCK-operated transfer stations in Salmo and in Ymir; the nearest landfill is west of the plan area in Ootischenia, just south of Castlegar.

Table 6 provides an overview of relevant census and socio-economic data, offering valuable insights into the demographics and characteristics of the plan area. Population in the plan area is stable, with negligible population change recorded by Statistics Canada between 2016 and 2021.<sup>13</sup> Like most of the RDCK, the area outside of the municipal boundaries of Salmo is low density and rural. As of 2021, there were a total of 740 private dwellings in the Electoral Area and 570 in the Village of Salmo, with a permanent occupancy rate of 70-80%. A high rate 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: Socio-economic statistics for Electoral Area G as per the 2021 census<sup>13</sup>**

Metric	Value
<b>Population</b>	
Total Population	1,650
Population Density (people/km <sup>2</sup> )	1.1

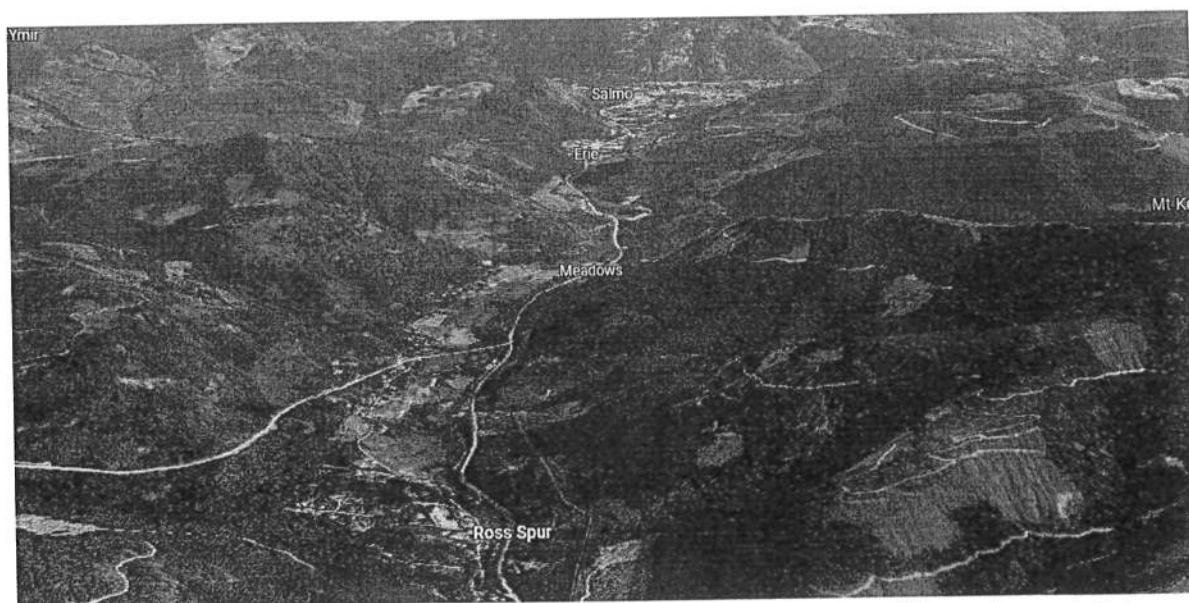
<sup>13</sup> 2021 Canadian Census Data.



*Figure 1. Google Earth image of Salmo (looking north).*

### Salmo

The Village of Salmo, population 1,140, is located at the intersection of Highway 6 and Highway 3. Development within municipal boundaries is relatively dense; residential neighbourhoods and a small downtown area back onto forested slopes behind down and flat cleared or forested land at valley bottom. The Salmo Fire Department provides structural and interface fire protection to the community, as well as to properties in rural Salmo north, south, and west of the Village. Water and sewer are also provided by the municipality.



*Figure 2. Google Earth image of the Ross Spur-Erie corridor, looking east along Highway 3 towards Salmo.*

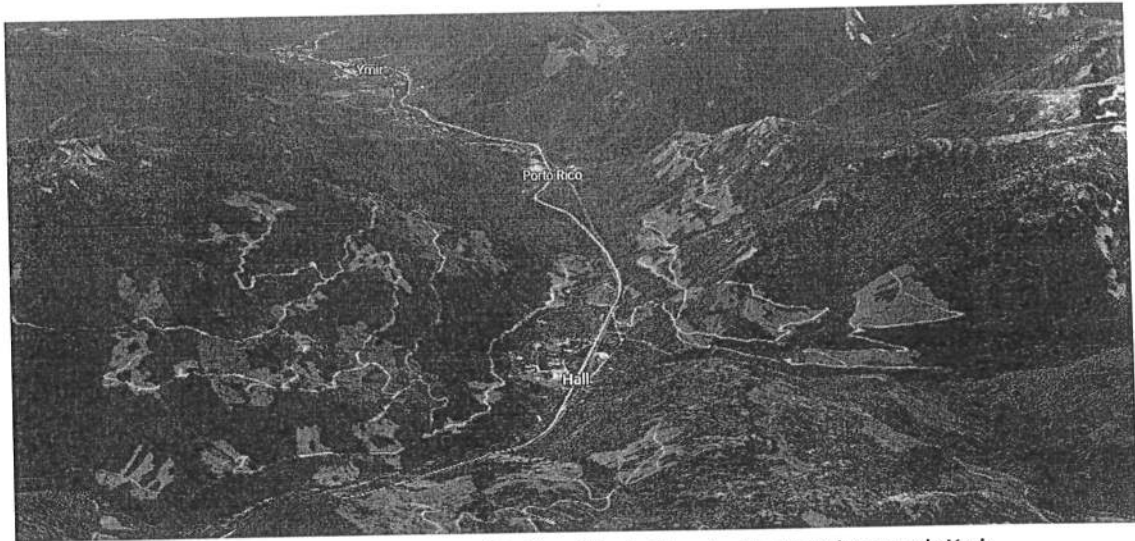


Figure 4. Google Earth image of Hall and Porto Rico, looking south towards Ymir.

#### Porto Rico / Hall Siding

Porto Rico and Hall Siding are on Highway 6 north of Ymir. Both neighbourhoods have intermix properties on residential roads paralleling Highway 6, as well as some light industrial development beside the highway. There are a small number of agricultural properties in Hall. Fire protection is provided by the Ymir Volunteer Fire Department.

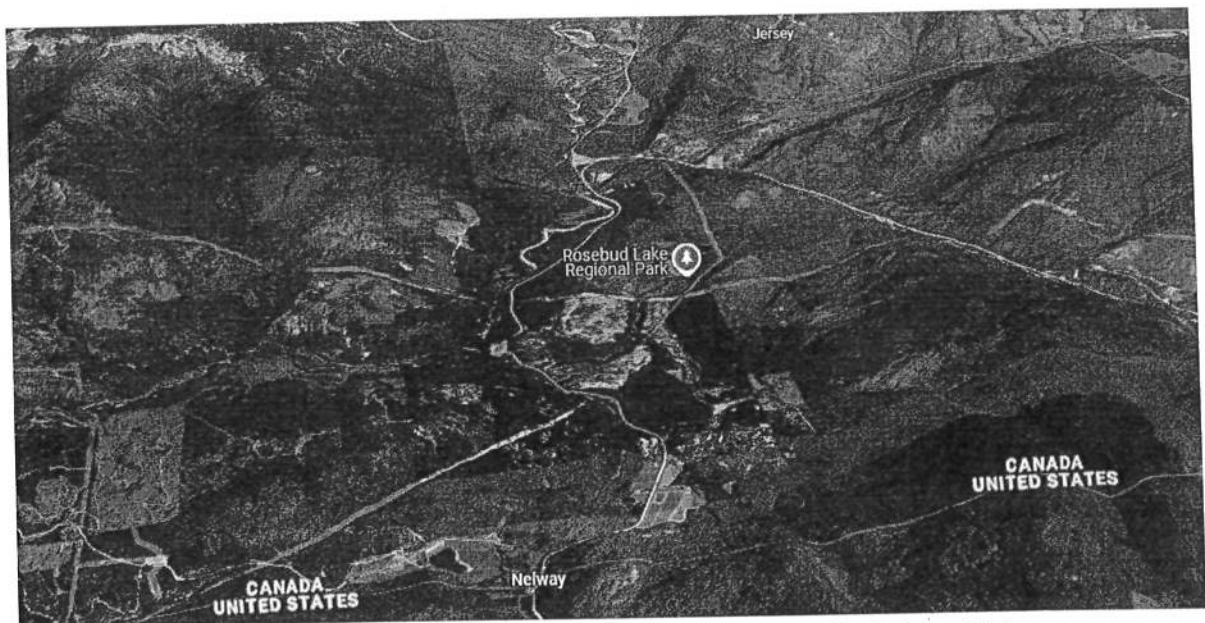


Figure 5. Google Earth image of Nelway, looking north to Rosebud Lake and Salmo.



Name	Type	Jurisdiction	Location	Comment
		Ymir Volunteer Fire Department		completed, mitigation pending
Communication Tower	Telecommunication	Crown Provincial	Electoral Area G	
Water Distribution System	Water	Salmo (Village)	Salmo	Backup generators – natural gas (pump stations at 2 wells)
Sewer System	Water	Salmo (Village)	Salmo	Backup generator – natural gas (lift station)
Quartz Creek Intake	Water	Regional District of Central Kootenay – Ymir Water System	Ymir	
Reservoir	Water	Regional District of Central Kootenay – Ymir Water System	Ymir	
Water Treatment Plant	Water	Regional District of Central Kootenay – Ymir Water System	Ymir	
<b>Community Assets</b>				
Salmo Elementary School	Community	School District 8	Salmo	
Salmo Secondary School	Community	School District 8	Salmo	
Salmo Valley Recreation And Youth Center	Community	Regional District of Central Kootenay	Salmo	
Ymir Arts & Museum Society	Community	Ymir Arts & Museum Society	Ymir	
Ymir Community Hall	Community	Ymir Community Association	Ymir	Secondary power source planned

### 3.3.2 ELECTRICAL POWER

Wildfires have the potential to impact electrical service by causing disruption in network distribution through direct or indirect processes. For example, heat from flames or fallen trees associated with a fire event may cause power outages. It is important to note that even distant wildfires can result in electrical system disruption, and communities should be prepared for this possibility. For nearly a week in September 2022, the town of Jasper, AB, was running entirely off of a temporary generator system due

**Table 10. Summary of water systems in the WUI**

Water System	Description	Location
RDCK - Ymir	108 active connections, source water from Quartz Creek. 617 m <sup>3</sup> tank reservoir; 16 fire hydrants	Ymir
Village of Salmo	Groundwater from two wells. Pumps into reservoir. Hydranted.	Salmo

There are fire hydrants within Ymir and within Salmo municipal boundaries, and local fire departments expressed that water supply and pressure is satisfactory. For the areas not serviced by hydrants, water is supplied for firefighting by drafting natural water sources, which include the Salmo River, Erie Lake, and Erie Creek. See Section 5.4 for recommendations related to fire department resources.

### 3.3.4 HAZARDOUS VALUES

Hazardous values are defined as values that pose a safety hazard to emergency responders and include large fuel (e.g., propane) facilities, landfills, rail yards, storage facilities containing explosives, and pipelines. Anywhere combustible materials, explosive chemicals, and gas or oil is stored can be considered a hazardous value. Protecting hazardous values from fires is important to prevent interface fire disasters.

Hazardous infrastructure in Electoral Area G includes Porcupine Wood Products (on Highway 6 between Salmo and Ymir) which may store a substantial amount of wood fiber fuel at any given time, and farms that may store fuel or fertilizers. Gas stations can also be considered hazardous infrastructure. Not all hazardous infrastructure is mapped, but a selection is listed in Table 11 below.

**Table 11. Hazardous infrastructure identified within Electoral Area G.**

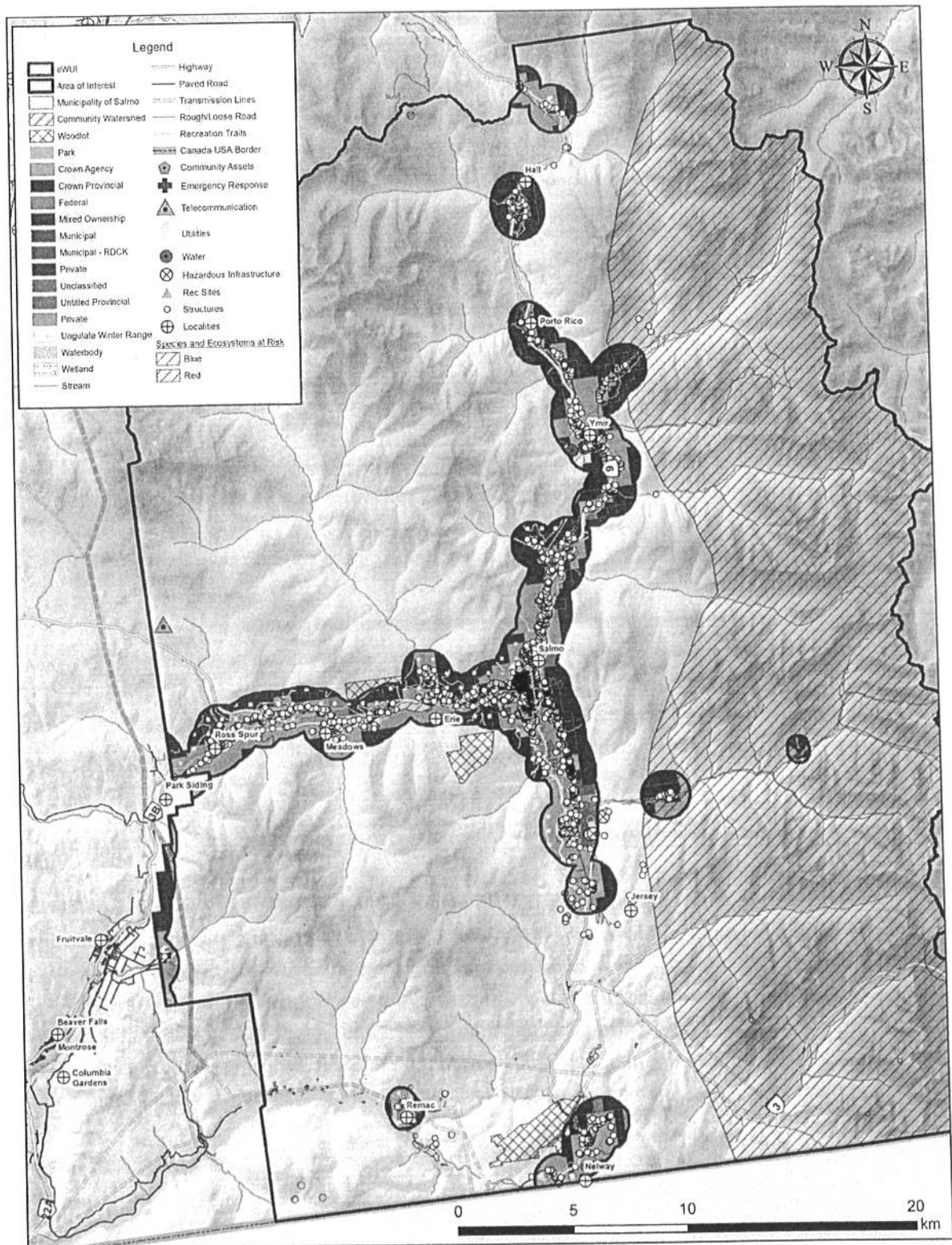
Name	Type	Jurisdiction	Location
Central Transfer Station	Hazardous	Regional District of Central Kootenay	Salmo
Ymir Transfer Station	Hazardous	Regional District of Central Kootenay	Ymir

### 3.3.5 CULTURAL VALUES

Both registered and undocumented historic and archeological sites may be found within the WUI, in addition to locations with high cultural value to local First Nations. Known archeological sites are protected under the Heritage Conservation Act, which applies to both private and public lands.

The 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. Archaeological assessments or cultural use surveys may be required to ensure

English Name	Scientific Name	BC List	Category	Habitat Type
Foxtail Muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia andina</i>	Blue	Vascular Plant	RIVERINE: Riparian; TERRESTRIAL: Seepage
Hairy Paintbrush	<i>Castilleja tenuis</i>	Red	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIAL: Seepage; Grassland/Herbaceous
Henderson'S Aster	<i>Symphotrichum hendersonii</i>	Red	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIAL: Avalanche Chute TERRESTRIAL: Forest Needleleaf,
Lance-Leaved Figwort	<i>Scrophularia lanceolata</i>	Blue	Vascular Plant	Grassland/Herbaceous, Shrubland, Avalanche Chute
Least Bladdery Milk-Vetch	<i>Astragalus microcystis</i>	Blue	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIAL: Forest Needleleaf
Magnum Mantleslug	<i>Magnipelta mycophaga</i>	Blue	Invertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Forest Needleleaf
Monardella	<i>Monardella odoratissima ssp. discolor</i>	N/A	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIAL
North American Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Shrubland, Forest Needleleaf, Cropland/Hedgerow, Grassland/Herbaceous, Roadside
Painted Turtle - Intermountain - Rocky Mountain Population	<i>Chrysemys picta pop. 2</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	LACUSTRINE: Shallow Water
Pygmy Slug	<i>Kootenaia burkei</i>	Blue	Invertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Forest Mixed, Needleleaf; Coarse Woody Debris; RIVERINE: Riparian
Red-Tailed Chipmunk, Simulans Subspecies	<i>Neotamias ruficaudus simulans</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Forest Needleleaf, Subalpine
Saw-Leaved Sedge	<i>Carex scopulorum var. prionophylla</i>	Blue	Vascular Plant	LACUSTRINE: Riparian
Slender Muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia filiformis</i>	Blue	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIAL: Forest Needleleaf, Seepage RIVERINE: Riparian,
Smooth Goldenrod	<i>Solidago gigantea var. shinnensis</i>	Blue	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIAL: Grassland/Herbaceous, Roadside
Umatilla Dace	<i>Rhinichthys umatilla</i>	Red	Vertebrate Animal	BIG RIVER; MODERATE GRADIENT
Vivid Dancer	<i>Argia vivida</i>	Blue	Invertebrate Animal	LACUSTRINE: Beach
Western Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	Yellow	Invertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Forest Needleleaf, Woodland Mixed, Roadside
Western Screech-Owl, Macfarlanei Subspecies	<i>Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Forest Broadleaf; RIVERINE: Riparian



Map 2: Values at Risk in the WUI

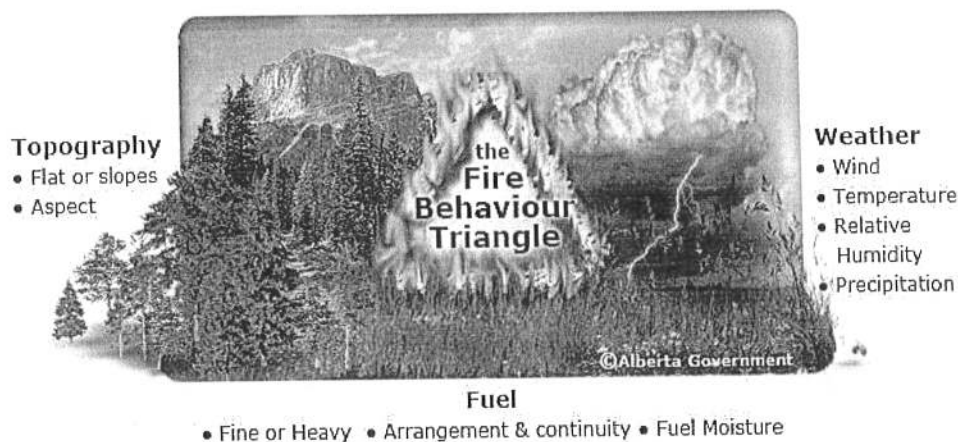


Figure 6. Graphic display of the fire behaviour triangle, and a subset of characteristics within each component.<sup>19</sup>

#### 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. South and southwest-facing slopes are typically the most concerning for heating and solar radiation, which can accelerate fuel drying. Topography also impacts the other aspects of the fire environment. Aspect and slope influences vegetation type and continuity, which is discussed in Section 4.1.2. Also, slope length and form can influence both regional and diurnal wind patterns (e.g., anabatic and katabatic slope winds).

The communities of Electoral Area G are situated at the valley bottom between the Three Sisters Peaks, Siwash Mountain, and Mount Kelly, with Salmo located at the convergence. Homes and other structures are clustered along Highways 3 and 6 and waterways (Salmo River, Beaver Creek, and Sheep Creek), within the flat terrain of the foothills. This development pattern has innate fire resiliency characteristics as most structures are located on flat to gently sloping ground at valley bottom. However, forested slopes above communities pose an access constraint for suppression and fuel mitigation activities, and are associated with accelerated rates of fire spread upslope.

Table 13 presents a breakdown of the WUI based on slope steepness classes, with implications for fire behaviour. Even though structures are located at valley bottom, the steepness of the valleys means that a substantial portion of the WUI (61%) is on greater than 30% slope, where flame tilt and flame and fuel interaction contribute to a higher rate of spread.

<sup>19</sup> Graphic adopted from the Province of Alberta.



Slope Position of Value	Fire Behaviour Implications
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.

#### 4.1.2 FUEL

Understanding the distribution, type, and management of wildland fuels within Electoral Area G'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 Electoral Area G's WUI.

Electoral Area G exhibits a unique mix of vegetative communities that are influenced by human activities and the region's natural geography. Land clearing for agriculture, industrial, and residential development has altered the vegetative landscape in the valley bottom. This process has resulted in expansive swaths of cleared and/or irrigated farmland and lawns intermixed with forested areas. If well-maintained, these clearings effectively reduce the wildfire threat, creating natural firebreaks within the community. Additionally, riparian influence along the waterways results in typically deciduous or mixed vegetation. Deciduous vegetation, with its high moisture content and low volatility characteristics, can reduce fire behaviour and mitigate wildfire risk.

Recent and historic logging has impacted the fire environment of plan area, although most cutblocks are located on upper slopes outside of the WUI. Regardless, continued efforts to reduce accumulations of slash (harvest debris) in harvested areas will further reduce potential wildfire behavior and associated risk to nearby neighbourhoods. BCWS noted that typically forest licensee compliance with hazard mitigation and open burning under the Wildfire Act is good.

The Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) System outlines sixteen fuel types based on characteristic fire behaviour under defined conditions.<sup>22</sup> BC Wildfire Service maintains a provincial fuel type layer that was confirmed and updated for the previous 2017 CWPP. Where there were new areas of WUI that did not exist in 2017, the PSTA fuel type data was used. It should be noted that mixed conifer stands<sup>23</sup> in the interior moist belt, within which Electoral Area G's WUI is located, 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.<sup>24</sup> 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

<sup>22</sup> Forestry Canada Fire Danger Group. 1992. Development and Structure of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System: Information Report ST-X-3.

<sup>23</sup> 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.

<sup>24</sup> Natural Resources Canada. 2018. British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description. Daniel D.B. Perrakis, George Eade, and Dana Hicks

Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Area (ha)	Percent (%) of public land
O-1a/b	moderate dead stems and down woody fuels. Often transition to become more conifer dominated as pioneer deciduous species die out if disturbance is excluded. <sup>26</sup> 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.	high intensity and spread rate (depending on slope and percent conifer and season (in leaf vs leafless)).  Rapid spreading, intense surface fire.	348	5%
S-1/S-3	Continuous and uncompacted slash types with moderate fuel loads and slash depth.	Ranges from surface fire, low to moderate intensity to moderate to high rate of spread and high to very high intensity surface fire.	69	1%
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.	N/A	242	3%
Water	Water and riparian features (e.g., rivers, streams, waterbodies, wetlands)	N/A	147	2%
Private			6604	n/a

<sup>26</sup> Larch was treated as deciduous during fuel typing to account for its high moisture content.  
Regional District of Central Kootenay – Electoral Area G + Salmo Community  
Wildfire Resiliency Plan



### 4.1.3 WEATHER

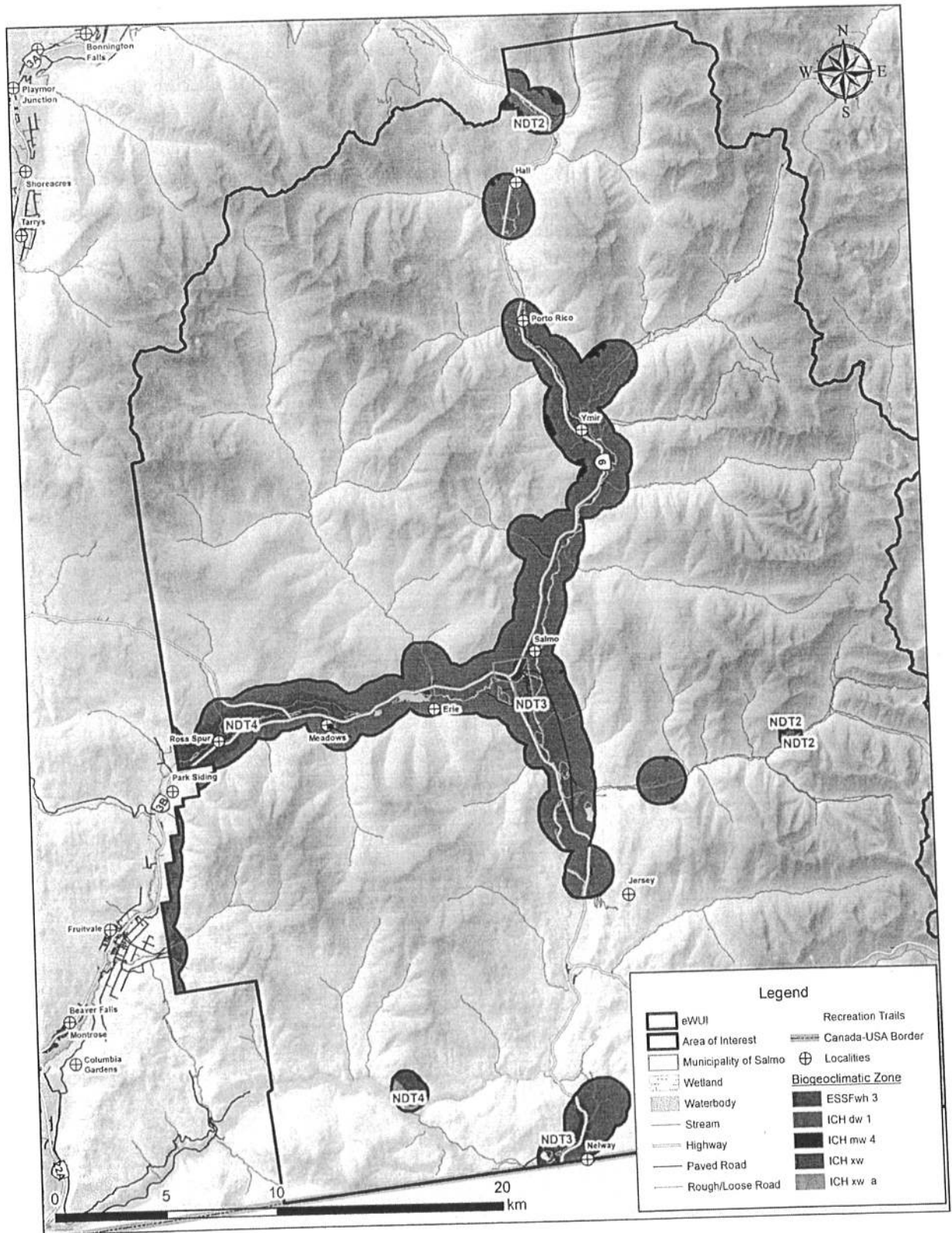
Weather conditions, including relative humidity and wind, along with drought, play pivotal roles in wildfire behaviour. The intricacies of local topography can result in unpredictable and variable weather patterns, further emphasizing the significance of weather as a primary environmental factor influencing fire behaviour. Electoral Area G and Salmo are within the moist climate subregion of south-central BC. Diverse local topography results in variable weather patterns within this subregion.

The regional climate is characterized by warm, dry seasons, with hot summers and mild winters. Moisture deficits are common on submesic and drier sites, and even mesic sites in hot, dry years. Climate change projections suggest these trends will intensify and point toward even hotter summers and more pronounced droughts. These conditions will create an environment conducive to increased wildfire behaviour, particularly in the context of the region's complex topography.

Historical weather data can provide information on the number and distribution of days when Salmo and communities in Electoral Area G 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 Electoral Area G can be determined from representative BC Wildfire Services (BCWS) fire weather stations. The Pend Oreille weather station, located on the south aspect slopes above the Pend Oreille River at 725 m elevation, was selected as the most representative. The weather station is situated within the ICHxw, which covers 12% of the WUI (Table 16 in the next section). Average fire danger class data for the past 14 years is presented in below in Figure 7.

Data from the Pend Orielle fire weather station shows that July, August, and September have the greatest number of High and Extreme fire danger days, with July averaging 15 days, August averaging 23 days, and September averaging 10 days for High and Extreme combined. When combined, 52% of days in those three months exhibit High or Extreme fire danger. It is important to note that High fire danger days are present in May, June, and October, as well.





Map 4. Biogeoclimatic zones and associated Natural Disturbance Types (NDTs) in the WUI.

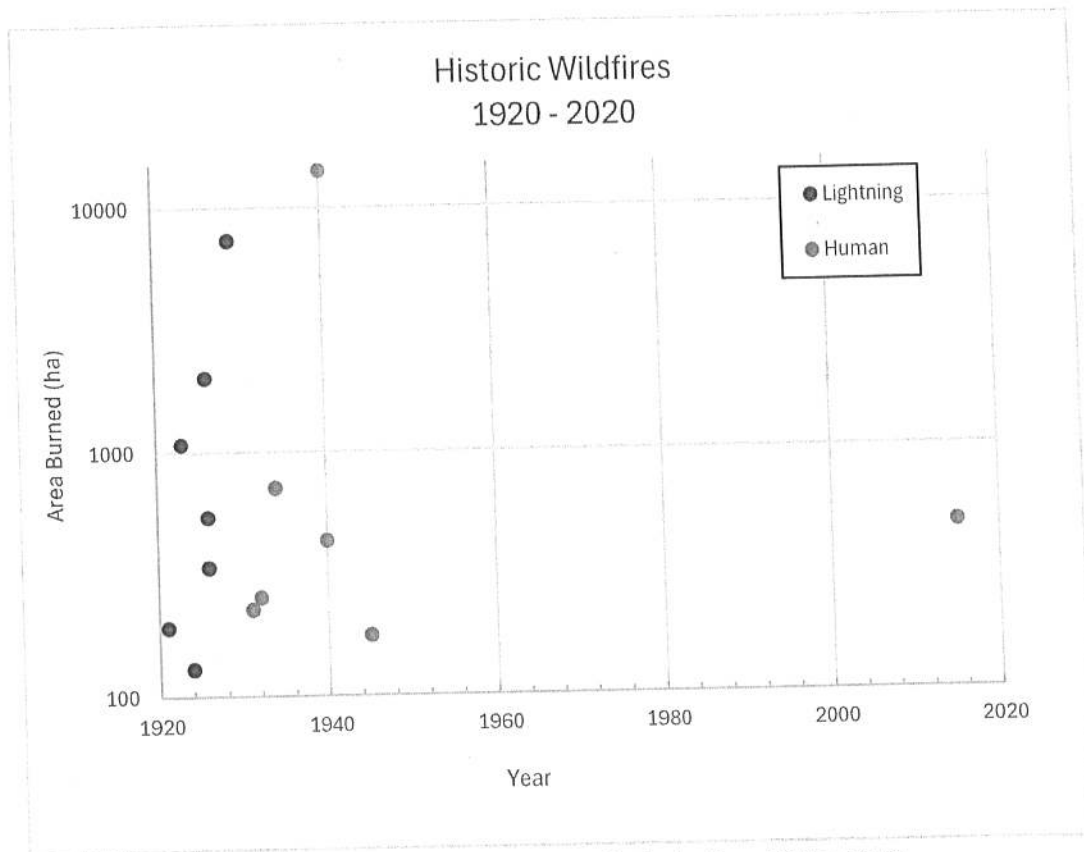
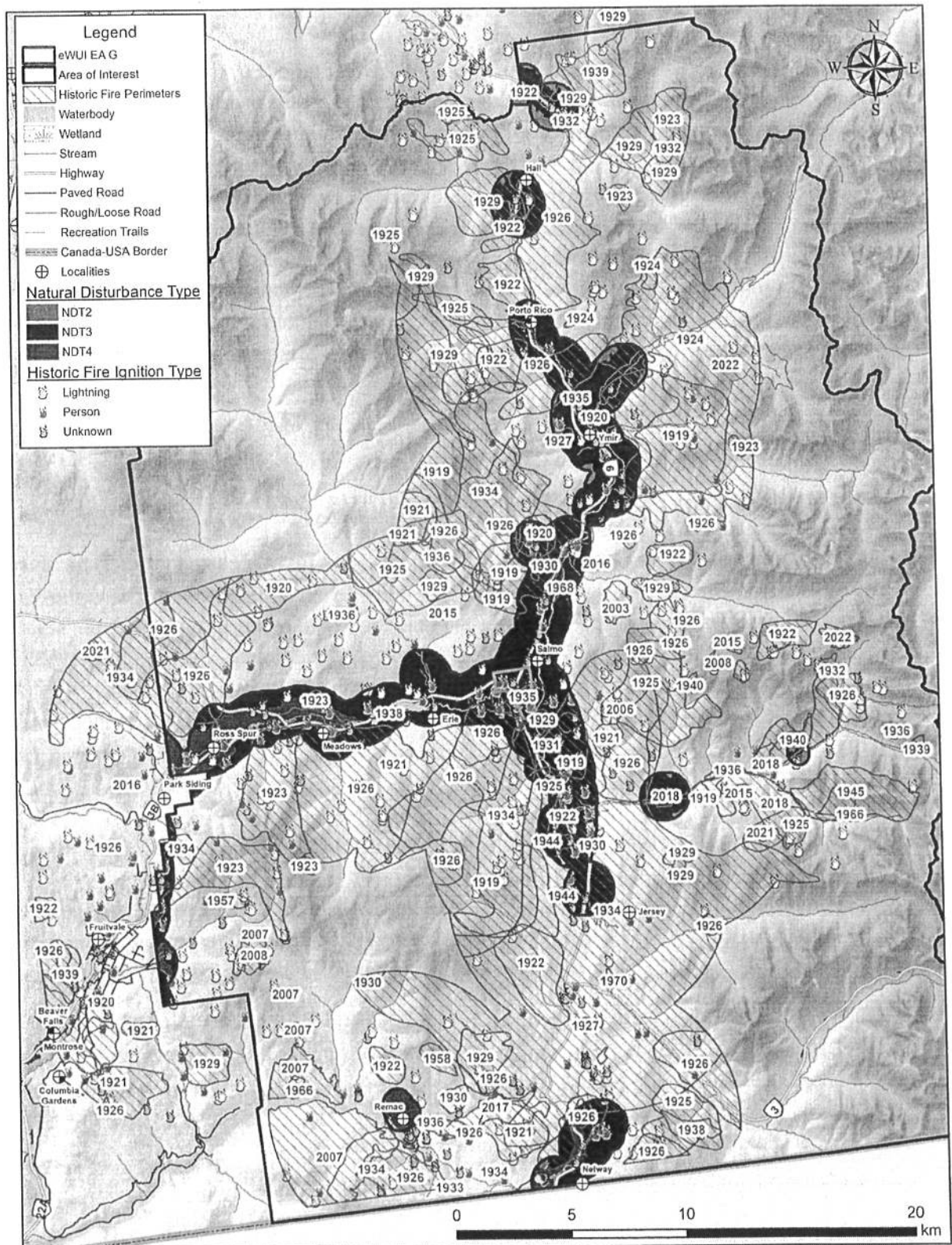


Figure 10. Historic wildfires over 100 ha in size from 1920 to 2020.

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. Lightning strikes account for 44% of ignition starts, 31% are human-caused, and 25% unknown. Figure 11 below displays the frequency of wildfire ignitions, grouped by ignition source, from 1950 to 2023. Historic wildfire perimeters and ignition sources, from 1912-2022, are displayed below on Map 5 for an area within five kilometers of the WUI. BCWS indicated that human-caused ignitions are relatively frequent in Electoral Area G, and that areas of concern include the Salmo River and Pend Oreille River junction and areas along the Salmo River.

Several recent fires that have occurred since the 2017 CWPP include the McCormick Creek fire (N51634), person-caused, that burned 410 ha one kilometer east of Remac in August 2017. An evacuation alert was posted for 23 residential properties, though this never escalated to an order.<sup>27</sup> In 2018, the MacArthur Creek fire (N51557) burned 703 ha 8 km east of Salmo due to a mid-slope lightning strike on Mount Waldie. Evacuation orders were issued for three properties on the Sheep Creek Road, as well as the closure of the Sheep Creek FSR. Suppression efforts involved multiple RDCK fire departments, including

<sup>27</sup> Wadhvani-Smith, A. Trail Times. "Evacuation alert issued for McCormick Creek area." 9 August 2017. <https://www.trailtimes.ca/news/evacuation-alert-issued-for-mccormick-creek-area-5017487>



Map 5: Historical fire perimeters and fire ignitions in the WUI.  
Regional District of Central Kootenay – Electoral Area G + Salmo Community  
Wildfire Resiliency Plan



does not imply “no risk” since the goal is to identify areas where there is higher risk. The PSTA Fire Threat Rating and WUI Risk Class Rating are shown in Map 6 below. Communities in Electoral Area G are all in provincially defined Risk Class 1 Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Class polygons (Salmo, Nelway, Hall Siding), which reflect the highest wildfire risk rating.



## 4.4 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 13 Table 14) - 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.

A fuel type and local wildfire threat and risk update was not within the scope of this CWRP update. However, fieldwork was completed to support the re-prioritization of previously proposed fuel treatment units and identify potential new units. Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) plots were completed in select areas of the WUI in late 2024 (see Appendix B-2: Wildfire Threat Assessment Plots and Map 3) only to support the fuel treatment unit updates.

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).

### 4.4.1 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;

- **Extreme:** The high or extreme threat has potential to directly impact a community or development and is located within 200m from structures.

Table 18 below (and displayed on Map 7) summarizes the risk class ratings within the WUI. Of the 2615 ha assigned a High or Extreme wildfire threat class, 1167 ha (45%) have a High or Extreme WUI risk. This represents 17% of the assessable public land in the WUI. This analysis provides an initial step towards identifying priority areas/neighbourhoods for directing FireSmart education and vegetative/fuel management efforts, if practicable.

**Table 18: WUI risk class ratings within the Eligible WUI of the Electoral Area G**

WUI Risk			
Risk Class	Hectares	% of WUI	% Assessable Public Land
Extreme	217	2%	3%
High	950	7%	14%
N/A (Moderate, Low, Very Low Wildfire Threat Class)	5728	42%	83%
Private / No Data	6604	49%	-

#### 4.5 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.<sup>32</sup>

An HRVA was not noted, 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 Electoral Area G, Salmo (or the RDCK as a whole), the RDCK and Salmo should look to the most recent CWRP and reference their completed wildfire threat class analyses as well as recommendations.

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<sup>32</sup> 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](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)

Community	Vulnerability	Resilience
Ymir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some roads access-egress to Highway (Opal Street, Rose Road in Erie; Archibald Road in Meadows)</li> <li>- Forest intermix, especially outside of community core</li> <li>- Water supply concerns in some areas without hydrants (Wildhorse Road)</li> <li>- Less defensible space around structures</li> <li>- Intermix homes on Porto Rico-Ymir Road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most roads dual access to Highway 3</li> <li>- [Mostly] Serviced by a fire department with hydrants</li> <li>- Dual access to Highway 3</li> </ul>
Porto Rico / Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Riding Road is single access/egress to Highway 6</li> <li>- Water supply concerns (Hall Siding)</li> <li>- Exposed to forested land south of the Canada-US border</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serviced by a fire department</li> <li>- Multiple access/egress options</li> </ul>
Nelway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rosebud Lake Road single access/egress to Highway 6</li> <li>- No fire protection service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Defensible space, large agricultural lots, low structure density</li> </ul>

The sections to follow provide information on each FireSmart discipline as it relates to Electoral Area G. 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 Electoral Area G. 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

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 locally available FireSmart programs. Participating in wildfire risk reduction and resiliency activities can also promote a sense of empowerment and shared responsibility. A successful public education campaign that builds awareness and understanding among residents and visitors can support the implementation of projects related to other FireSmart disciplines.

The RDCK has been actively engaging in Salmo and communities in Electoral Area G through a well-developed FireSmart program which began over 17 years ago with the completion of CWPPs in 2008 for the Village of Salmo and Ymir Fire Protection Areas.<sup>35</sup> Specifically in Electoral Area G and Salmo, there has been 136 FireSmart Assessments and 19 rebates awarded. There are currently six Wildfire Mitigation Specialists across multiple RDCK electoral areas who work to implement the RDCK FireSmart program.

FireSmart education activities that have been completed or are ongoing include:

- FireSmart Home Assessments (136 in Electoral Area G to date; previously the Home Partner Program, now the FireSmart BC Wildfire Mitigation Program);
- FireSmart demonstration house;
- Distribution of FireSmart educational materials to residents at events (e.g. farmer's markets);
- Social media updates with FireSmart information and fire danger ratings, and print advertising, and;
- FireSmart workshops and presentations

Because of the large amount of private property within the WUI and the understanding that homes, landscaping vegetation, and all other manner of flammable and combustible materials are considered fuel in the wildfire triangle, a large emphasis should be placed on existing FireSmart education successes and seeking out new opportunities to engage with residents. This includes tourists that may not be

<sup>35</sup> Regional District of Central Kootenay. 2017. Electoral Area G Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update.  
Regional District of Central Kootenay – Electoral Area G + Salmo Community  
Wildfire Resiliency Plan

The DPA policies and guidelines are robust; however, it was noted that where priority zones are discussed, the distance from the property's forested edge, and not the structure, is referenced. Salmo should review the wording of their Wildfire Hazard DPA to ensure that it provides sufficient clarity to achieve the desired outcome of residents in the interface complying with FireSmart principles. The Village should also consider the pros and cons of expanding the DPA area to cover the entire municipality. Although this would increase administrative burden to the municipality and increase the cost of development, it would also ensure that the entire Village is built towards FireSmart standards. The Village could consider relaxing DPA guidelines accordingly as a compromise; for example, by allowing wood siding.



Figure 12. Screenshot of the Village of Salmo's Schedule K: Natural Hazard Development Permit Areas map. Shaded areas are steep slopes; green highlighted areas are wildfire interface areas.

When it comes to embedding FireSmart practices and considerations into development, the RDCK has opted for an information sharing approach rather than a regulatory approach. A detailed report was completed in 2023 outlining a range of possible Wildfire DPA guidelines and OCP policy options for the RDCK to consider.<sup>37</sup> A lack of staff capacity and poor response from elected officials and residents has tempered interest in a Wildfire DPA throughout most of the RDCK. However, the CFRC indicated that the RDCK is planning to implement a Wildfire DPA in Electoral Area I (between Castlegar and Nelson) as a pilot project. Implementation in other areas of the RDCK is ultimately at the discretion of individual Electoral Area Directors. In the meantime, some development concerns are addressed through the RDCK Bare Land FireSmart assessment program. This free, voluntary assessment is offered throughout the region to residents who are planning to build on undeveloped lots. This program educates residents on FireSmart principles and advises best practices with regards to construction, lot preparation, and landscaping.

Regardless of the challenges involved, it is important to consider that a DPA is currently the most direct option for a local government to impose regulations on development that go beyond the BC Building Code. The purpose of DPAs is to ensure that new development is consistent with the policies of the Official Community Plan (OCP). Especially in areas that may support medium and higher density residential development, like Ymir and rural Salmo, Wildfire Protection DPAs help ensure that new developments are

<sup>37</sup>Urban Systems. 2023. Wildfire Development Permit Area Summary Report. <https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Services/Land-Use-and-Planning/Documents/2023-01-06-Wildfire-DPA-Final-Report-Redacted.pdf>

Water is one of the most important resources for fire suppression. The ability to quickly deliver water to a fire, even outside of fire-hydrant zones, is critical to effective response to an interface wildfire event. There are fire hydrants within the Village of Salmo and within the Ymir water service area. Outside of these areas, fire departments would use a water tender to shuttle water to the fire from the nearest hydrant, standpipe, or natural water source. Salmo Fire indicated that there are two drafting spots west of Salmo that have water year-round. Kootenay River, which runs through the Electoral Area, is a reliable and accessible year-round water source, but designated drafting sites should be established throughout the area.

The Ymir VFD noted that Wildhorse Creek Road has water supply challenges, as drafting sites are limited and not all trucks can access them. Hall Siding (about 12 km north of Ymir on Highway 6) was also identified as a possible concern for water sources. It is recommended that the RDCK assist the Ymir VFD in identifying ways to reduce water supply vulnerability outside of hydranted areas; for example, by installing standpipes or strategically locating water tanks. Neither department owns a Structural Protection Unit (SPU), but the RDCK owns several and they are available upon request.

The ability to quickly communicate key information on water sources during an interface fire event is critical. Software applications like 'I Am Responding' are used by some fire departments to map water sources (e.g., lake access points, standpipes, etc.). Maps are an easy way to share information with BCWS and other fire crews that may be assisting in an interface wildfire situation. It is recommended that local fire departments develop a simple response map showing roads, gates, any fuel-treated areas, and water access points to share with BCWS and/or other response agencies in the event of an interface fire. It can take time to communicate this type of detailed local knowledge, and time is a scarce resource during emergency. Therefore, any pre-planning that can be completed is worthwhile. Pre-planning is further discussed in Section 5.5.

See Table 1 in the Executive Summary for recommended action items that the RDCK can implement to create and continue to develop opportunities for cross-training and improve fire department resources.



Emergency events are not uncommon in the RDCK and the regional EOC was particularly active in response to the 2024 wildfire season (Slocan Lake and Lavina Complexes). However undesirable it may be, exposure to interface wildfire events increases community resiliency by requiring local governments and residents to put their emergency plans into action. The RDCK maintains a well-trained staff and volunteer Emergency Social Services (ESS) team(s) and conducts emergency exercises annually.

Some of the complexities of interface wildfires in Electoral Area G include:

- Evacuation of livestock from farms;
- Several dead-end streets (Wildhorse Creek Road in Ymir, Woodland Drive in Salmo);
- Musical festival site south of Salmo with thousands of attendees mid-fire season, and;
- Adjacency to rural forested land in Washington State requiring coordination with the US Forest Service in a response scenario.

Pre-incident planning can help immensely with wildfire response. A pre-incident plan is a compilation of essential fire management information needed to save valuable time during fire suppression operations. Basic pre-incident wildfire plans have been developed for every Natural Resource District in BC. The Selkirk Resource District Fire Management Plan is a high-level plan to guide BCWS response based on known and mapped values, including human life and safety, critical infrastructure, high environmental and cultural values, and resource values.

The RDCK could consider working with BCWS Structural Protection Coordination Office and the Fire Chief's Association of BC to have additional detailed pre-incident plans (Structure Protection Community Assessments) developed for communities in Electoral Area G with emergency-planning complications. Plans have been developed for the Village of Salmo and Ymir. These plans provide a) basic information on values at risk, available resources, and level of risk, and b) operational information usable by an Incident Management Team or Structural Protection Specialist including structure triage categories, safe zones, and resource requirements. These plans can build off of information already contained within a local government's online GIS platform, such as community evacuation zones.

A vital component of emergency management is recovery. The RDCK provides recovery information on their emergency management webpage, including post-emergency hazard reports and an online Community Recovery Resource Hub was created. The RDCK also opened three in-person Resiliency Centers during the wildfire season to support community recovery.<sup>39</sup>

Recommendations and action items that the RDCK and Salmo can implement to continue productive and effective emergency planning are detailed in Table 1 in the Executive Summary.

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<sup>39</sup><https://www.rdck.ca/information-bulletin-august-14-2024/>

### Residential FireSmart Landscaping

Although there is the potential for large-scale fuel management treatments on both public and private land in the WUI, it is highly recommended that the RDCK and Salmo focus on a structures-out approach for vegetation management, in line with BCWS priorities. This means treating vegetation closest to structures first, before progressing outwards to complete fuel management in the interface and then at the landscape level. Thus, educating (see Section 5.2) and reducing barriers for residents to implement FireSmart landscaping should be the priority.

Some debris disposal opportunities exist for residents managing vegetation on their properties. Open burning is allowed outside of provincial fire bans. Yard debris can be dropped off for free at the Central (Salmo) transfer station and the Ootischenia (Castlegar) landfill during the months of May and October.<sup>40</sup>

FireSmart landscaping is also an eligible activity under the RDCK administered FireSmart rebate program for Area G and Salmo. Provided residents receive a FireSmart Home Assessment beforehand, they can apply to receive compensation for their personal hours and materials or hired contractors. Despite these options, providing more or additional debris disposal options may further incentivize FireSmart vegetation management. Examples include driveway chipping programs and support for communities organizing community clean-up days. Clean-up days are an example of a qualifying event under FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition program. The RDCK supports this program and also has a grant to compensate Neighbourhood Champions for their personal time working towards neighbourhood recognition. No communities in Electoral Area G or Salmo have received recognition to date.

### Fuel Management Treatments

Fuel treatment opportunities may be linear fuel breaks, polygon treatments for discrete areas, or broader forest interventions. 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,<sup>41</sup> 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.

Funding opportunities for fuel treatments on public land exist through the UBCM CRI FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) program, the Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR)

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<sup>40</sup> RDCK. *Yard & Garden Waste – Seasonal Free Tipping*. Retrieved from: <https://www.rdck.ca/environmental-service/environmental-services/waste-recycling/household-hazardous-waste-round-up/yard-garden-waste-seasonal-free-tipping/>

<sup>41</sup> BC Wildfire Service. (2022). *2022 Fuel Management Prescription Guidance*.

plan. Therefore, during any future prescription development it is strongly recommended that contracts allow flexibility for contractors to prescribe differently shaped areas. PTUs are summarized in Table 22.

BC Timber Sales, Atco Lumber Ltd., and Kalesnikoff Lumber Company are the major forest licensees with tenure overlaps in Electoral Area G's WUI. Forest harvesting for timber objectives can act as a form of vegetation management. Forestry activities affect wildfire risk in the WUI, depending on factors like post-harvest slash clean up, pre-harvest stand hazard, and post-harvest stand structure. Harvesting across the AOI has created a heterogeneous patchwork of forest stands with different fuel load characteristics. Generally, even aged second growth stands with a high loading of ladder fuel from stem exclusion processes present the highest fire threat. Selective harvest or commercial thinning may be a good candidate to achieve fuel reduction on a large and socially acceptable scale throughout the area, especially where visual impact is a concern. Interagency collaboration (see Section 5.5) will be key to achieving this scale of vegetation management.

Despite opportunities on public land, the most beneficial location for fuel management is on private land, due to proximity to values. Recommendations in Section 5.1 and 5.2 help address these gaps and this type of 'FireSmart Landscaping' is discussed above. This will be particularly applicable in communities like Salmo and Ymir that have small residential lots. To have the most meaningful influence on the fuel component of the wildfire environment in other parts of Electoral Area G, creative solutions to incentivize forest treatment on private land even outside of the Home Ignition Zone (30 m buffer) may be required. Many properties in Rural Salmo are over 1 hectare in size (100 m x 100 m) and are partly or fully forested. One recommendation is to work with the Ministry of Forests to consider a program or strategy to guide larger-scale forest treatments on private land. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Small Forest Landowner Regulation Assistance Program is a possible framework.

Vegetation management recommendations and action items are listed in Table 1 in the Executive Summary.



PTU Name	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
HALL 5	Moderate	13.7	Provincial Crown land.	Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. PTU is on an east facing aspect with the bottom boundary tied along a powerline. Forest structure is C4 due to the immature regen growing in an old, harvested block. Good access into PTU from Calbeck Rd, and residences are adjacent to PTU. Commercial thinning is recommended since the slope can support machinery.
HALL 6	Moderate	35.9	Provincial Crown land. Northern third overlaps Clearwater Cross Country Ski Trails – Recreation Site/Polygon (RSTBC)	New PTU in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The PTU buffers the Clearwater FSR and is located east of Hall Siding. There are commercial harvest opportunities to remove co-dominant and Cw and Hw while retaining Fd and Lw. Debris should be disposed of through pile burning. The overstory is moderately stocked, with a dense understory present in patches where crown closure is low.
NEL 2	High	41.3	Provincial Crown land. Adjacent to private residents	2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The site has a high wildfire risk and is composed of an intermixed stand of mature hemlock and larch. The fuel strata gap is beginning to close with subdominant species including grand fir and hemlock. Surface fuels consist of herb and shrub layer with scattered fine fuel accumulations. Hand treatment is recommended, focusing on the removal of all conifers with a DBH less than 17.5 centimeters. Debris should then be piled and burned. The treatment unit is adjacent to a community with multiple homes, but no critical infrastructure has been identified nearby.
NEL 3	Low	29.4	Provincial Crown land. Majority overlaps Woodlot W0402 C. Adjacent to private residents	2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The stand consists of 25% deciduous trees and 75% Douglas fir, with good spacing between the trees and minimal understory ladder fuel continuity. The wildfire risk is low, so treatment is not a priority. If treatment does occur, manual thinning is recommended to remove all conifers under 17.5 cm DBH, limbing remaining mature conifers up to 3 meters, and pile burning debris.

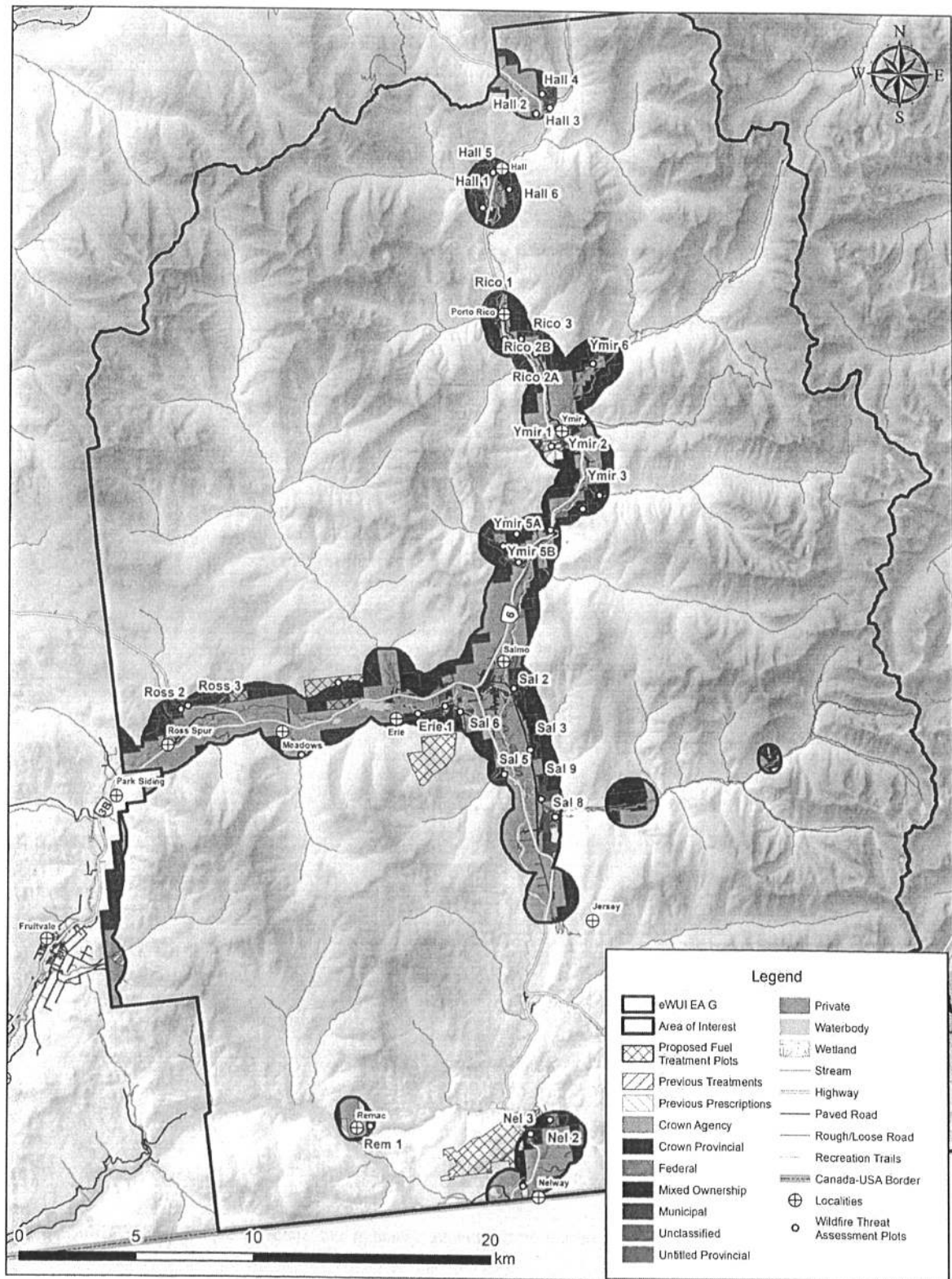


PTU Name	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
ROSS 2	Low	117.6	Provincial Crown land, adjacent to residents and private property	understory of Cw and Bg, with continuous patches of ladder fuels. There is an opportunity to extend the PTU uphill to the east. Residences and private land are located to the east and south of the PTU.  2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. Composed of mature mixed-wood stand with approximately 50% conifers, including Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, and cedar, with paper birch and trembling aspen. The understory is immature conifers and deciduous species scattered throughout the stand. Access to the treatment unit (TU) is limited, with the only viable entry point located on the west side. As a result, the treatment regime lends itself to a commercial thin with recommend pruning of retained trees, and pile and burning ladder and surface fuels.
ROSS 3	Moderate	72.9	Provincial Crown land, adjacent to residents and private property	2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The site has a moderate wildfire risk and consists of a mature deciduous stand dominated by Douglas fir, with some intermixed aspen. Ocean spray and alder are present throughout the stand. Access to the primary treatment unit is available from the east side. Treatment recommendations include selective harvesting, manual limbing, and pile burning. The eastern portion of the treatment unit has a low wildfire risk and is not a priority for treatment. This site also contains a tree plantation composed primarily of Douglas fir and larch, approximately 10 to 15 years old. There is no remaining mature timber in this area. Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The area is composed of mature Douglas fir and cedar, interspersed with aspen and birch. Overstory stems are widely spaced, with low amounts of coarse woody debris. 27The Douglas fir in decay class 3 shows mid-stem failure and has high wildlife value. The stand is generally open, although some sections contain denser Douglas fir stands with low to moderate canopy base height. The terrain is rocky and located near a hiking trail, which provides good access and extends to the upper portion of the treatment unit. Consult with the community before developing a prescription. Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property.
SAL 2	Moderate	42.8	Provincial Crown land. Community hiking trails in proximity of PTU. Within 100m from homes.	The area is composed of mature Douglas fir and cedar, interspersed with aspen and birch. Overstory stems are widely spaced, with low amounts of coarse woody debris. 27The Douglas fir in decay class 3 shows mid-stem failure and has high wildlife value. The stand is generally open, although some sections contain denser Douglas fir stands with low to moderate canopy base height. The terrain is rocky and located near a hiking trail, which provides good access and extends to the upper portion of the treatment unit. Consult with the community before developing a prescription. Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property.
SAL 3	Low	25.8	Provincial Crown land.	The area is composed of mature Douglas fir and cedar, interspersed with aspen and birch. Overstory stems are widely spaced, with low amounts of coarse woody debris. 27The Douglas fir in decay class 3 shows mid-stem failure and has high wildlife value. The stand is generally open, although some sections contain denser Douglas fir stands with low to moderate canopy base height. The terrain is rocky and located near a hiking trail, which provides good access and extends to the upper portion of the treatment unit. Consult with the community before developing a prescription. Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property.



PTU Name	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
YMIR 1	High	31.5	Entirely on Crown Provincial land. PTU is situated within Quartz community watershed uphill from water treatment facility of Ymir. Abuts treated area to the east	Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. This area is considered a high priority due to its proximity to the Ymir water treatment facility. It is recommended to consult with water treatment operators before developing a fuel management prescription. The forest consists of mature Cw and Fd, with patches of dense understory. Past treatments have been completed to the east of the PTU, adjacent to the water treatment facility. A manual thinning is recommended to connect existing access features to improve accessibility.
YMIR 2	High	14.7	Entirely on Crown Provincial land. Clover Bear Dink Golf Course situated within PTU.	Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. Composed of patchy and mature Cw with areas of Bg intermixed. Light surface fuels consisting of fines and leaves. Consult with community of Ymir prior to prescription development since the PTU is adjacent to a disk golf course. As a result, the treatment regime lends itself towards a non-commercial thin, pruning retained trees, and pile and burning ladder and surface fuels. Residence and private land to the east of PTU.
YMIR 3	Moderate to high	25.2	Entirely on Crown Provincial land within RDCK Electoral Area G, approximately 150m from homes.	Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. High priority WTA, very close to extreme threat score which elevates the priority. However, no critical infrastructure is in close proximity PTU. Forest composition is high density and overstocked understory of Bg and Cw creating continuous ladder fuels. Crown base height is low between understory and mature trees consisting of Fd and Cw. Minimal coarse woody debris. The PTU is 150m from residence and there is good access from the adjacent FSR.
YMIR 5A	Moderate	45.8	Entirely on Crown Provincial land. PTU adjacent to Porcupine Wood Products	Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The area has moderate to high levels of coarse woody debris and elevated dead fuels, with rotted Ep stems contributing to ground fuels. The understory is shrubby, dominated by Oregon grape and conifer saplings. Ladder fuels consist of a mix of mostly coniferous and some deciduous vegetation, with variable density. The stand is a mix of wide spacing mature Fd and Bg in some areas and dense thickets in others. Adjacent to the road, there is a thick C-3 stand of dense immature trees that transitions to a more open structure approximately 50-100 meters in. Consult with Porcupine Wood Products before developing a management prescription.
YMIR 5B	Moderate	13.6	Entirely on Crown Provincial land. PTU adjacent to Porcupine Wood Products. Majority overlap UREP 0106342.	Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The area has moderate to high levels of coarse woody debris and elevated dead fuels, with rotted Ep stems contributing to ground fuels. The understory is shrubby, dominated by Oregon grape and conifer saplings.





Map 8: Overview map of prescribed, completed and proposed fuel treatment units within the WUI.

Prior to the first phase, FireSmart BC recommends that three foundational elements are in place:

- A FireSmart Position
- A Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan
- A Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC), or participation in one

The RDCK both for Area G and Salmo, has all three elements in place and is engaging in late-stage activities on the Roadmap, such as Development Permit Areas. Table 1 in the Executive Summary details the Action Plan for the RDCK and the Village of Salmo. Each Action Item is a prioritized recommendation supported with a rationale, suggested lead agency, expected timeframe, resources required (funding, staff capacity), and metric for success.

## **6.2 TRACKING, REPORTING, AND UPDATES**

As the RDCK and the Village of Salmo work towards implementation of this plan, consider scheduling an annual review of progress made towards each action item/recommendation. Tracking and reporting will create accountability and also help with future funding applications. Consider reporting accomplishments and successes of the FireSmart program (for example, number of members trained, number of assessments completed) in a brief annual report that can be shared with the public, and serve to further FireSmart engagement.

The RDCK should prepare for a five-year comprehensive review/update of the entire plan. A current CWRP (typically 5 years or less) is presently a requirement of the FCFS program. The update should review the entire plan and consider how risk has changed based on any recent wildfires, vegetation management works completed, significant changes to the built environment due to growth and development, economic changes, or other factors that would influence the overall success of the plan. This would also include a detailed analysis of all completed fuel management treatments within the planning area with an updated status and/or a maintenance plan.

Item	Priority	2019 CWPP Recommendation	2024 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
<b>Communication and Education</b>			
6	High	Provide a group voice to the Building and Safety Standards Branch and other provincial entities.	There has been some limited work done on this; however this needs provincial leadership
7	High	Develop a coordinated approach to fuel management and hazard reduction within and adjacent to EA-G and Salmo 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.	Some collaboration has occurred
<b>Structure Protection and Planning</b>			
Objective: Enhance protection of critical infrastructure from wildfire.			
8	High	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 EA-G and Salmo. Explore collaboration with other agencies including Columbia Basin Trust, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and Interior Health Authority.	This has not occurred
9	High	Complete a vulnerability assessment of all critical infrastructure (not only RDCK critical infrastructure) including water infrastructure in interface areas with FireSmart recommendations.	This has not occurred
10	High	Develop alternative, back-up water sources for fire protection, and the establishment of standpipes as required.	This has not occurred
11	High	Complete a detailed review of back-up power source options for all critical infrastructure and upgrade as required.	This has not occurred

Item	Priority	2019 CWPP Recommendation	2024 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
<b>Communication and Education</b>			
16	High	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.	As per the questionnaire.  The Village of Salmo has a Wildfire DPA.
17	High	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.	
18	High	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.	As per the questionnaire
19	High	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.	No
20	High	Develop a landscaping standard to be applied in interface / DP areas to ensure that developers leave building setbacks on private land so that there is a minimum of 10 m distance between buildings and forest interface.	No





Item	Priority	2019 CWPP Recommendation	2024 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
<b>Communication and Education</b>			
28	High	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.	There is a 24/7 regional duty officer for the RDCK.
29	Moderate	Conduct fire preplan assessment for key interface areas in EA-G and Salmo. 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.	Some assessments have been completed
<b>Emergency Response Evacuation and Access</b>			
Objective: To improve access and egress to neighbourhoods at risk and natural areas within RDCK.			
30	High	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.	This has not been done
31	High	Require that all new interface developments have access for evacuation and sufficient capacity for emergency vehicles.	As per the questionnaire
32	Moderate	Facilitate completion of emergency planning zones for interface neighbourhoods with limited access	This has not been done
<b>Fuel Management</b>			
Objective: Reduce wildfire threat on public lands through fuel management.			
33	High	Proceed with detailed assessment, prescription development and treatment of hazardous fuel units identified in this CWPP. Collaboration with licensees may facilitate larger projects.	Some has been completed

## APPENDIX B: LOCAL WILDFIRE RISK PROCESS

Wildfire Risk Assessment plot worksheets are provided in Appendix C (separate PDF package) and the field data collection and spatial analysis methodology is detailed in Appendix B-2 and B-3.

### 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.<sup>45</sup> 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.<sup>46</sup> 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.<sup>46</sup> 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.

Fuel types were not updated for this CWRP. Fuel types from the 2017 CWPP were used. Where there were new areas of WUI that did not exist in 2017, the PSTA fuel type data was used.

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<sup>45</sup> Forestry Canada Fire Danger Group. 1992. Development and Structure of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System: Information Report ST-X-3.

<sup>46</sup> 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.



WTA Plot	Geographic Location	Wildfire Threat Rating
SAL2	Salmo	Moderate
SAL5	Salmo	Moderate
SAL6	Salmo	High
SAL8	Salmo Dump	Moderate
SAL9	Salmo Dump	Moderate
SSKL1	Salmo	Low
YMIR1	Quartz Creek (Ymir)	Moderate
YMIR2	Oscar FSR (Ymir)	High
YMIR3	Ymir	High
YMIR5	Ymir	Moderate
YMIR6	Boulder FSR (Ymir)	Moderate

of this project, completion of updated WTA Threat Assessment plots on the entire AOI was not possible, and therefore the output of the analytical model used in 2017 was clipped to the 1-km WUI for this CWRP update. The model was built to assume Fire Threat based on spatially explicit variables that correspond to the WTA Threat Assessment worksheets.

### 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 most recent form, and as per the Wildfire 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 24 below summarizes the components and scores to determine the Fire Behaviour Threat.

**Table 24: 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	20
	M-1/2, >50% conifer	
	C-7	
	M-3/4, <50% dead fir	
	O-1a/b	10
	S-1	

## 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.

## 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).<sup>48,49</sup> Both the HIZ and CIIZ include the structure itself and three concentric, progressively wider Priority Zones out to 30 m from the structure. More details on priority zones can be found in the FireSmart Manual.<sup>50</sup>

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.

Because ignitability of the HIZ 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.<sup>49</sup> Increasing ignition resistance would reduce the number of homes simultaneously on fire; extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result

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<sup>48</sup> 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 \(usda.gov\)](#)

<sup>49</sup> 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 \(oup.com\)](#)

<sup>50</sup> Available for download here: [FireSmartBC HomeownersManual Printable.pdf](#)



## **APPENDIX C: WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT – WORKSHEETS AND PHOTOS**

Provided separately as a PDF package (Appendix C).

## **APPENDIX D: MAPS**

The three submission maps below as required by the CRI FCFS program are provided separately as a PDF package (Appendix D).

- Map 1: Area of Interest (AOI) and Values at Risk (VAR)
- Map 2: Local Fire Risk
- Map 3: Proposed Fuel Treatment Units



## The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

### CAO Report

Report Date: June 6, 2025

Meeting Date: June 10, 2025 (#11-25)

From: CAO Derek Kwiatkowski

Subject: CAO Report, Fire Truck Purchase Update

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#### Background

The Village is working through the procurement process & there is some discussion regarding the type of foam system in the current & potentially new apparatus. The Village has been in contact with a couple of suppliers that have been able to provide staff with extremely useful information.

One supplier uses a computer program that has completed fire truck templates that do not require additional engineering & are able to produce a "stock" fire truck in as little as 12 months. However, these trucks do not meet the requirements of the Village & are meant for smaller uses. Depending on what kinds of changes are required, allows the builder to re-engineer within the computer system, which helps streamline construction.

The main change that the Village Fire Department that requires additional engineering is the foam system on the truck. The current fire truck uses a foam system called CAFS (Compressed Air Foam System).

**This foam system is highly touted by the Fire Department members** but there are complications with the purchase & installation of this foam system.

This system is not commonly used (approximately 5% of trucks sold), therefore components are not stocked & therefore the truck becomes a custom build increasing the cost by approximately \$30,000 and the delivery time from 20-23 months to 34-37 months.

The Fire Chief has provided a response regarding the differences in foam systems outlining that the CAFS:

- a) Improved Fire Suppression Efficiency.
- b) CAFS uses less water compared to traditional systems.
- c) Faster knockdown time.
- d) Increases member safety due to lighter hose weight, better visibility (less steam), less risk of steam burns.
- e) The compressed air in the system propels the foam further.
- f) It reduces water damage.
- g) It is environmentally friendly.
- h) It improves operational versatility, as CAFS can be used effectively on Class A (ordinary combustibles) and Class B (flammable liquids).



## The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

### Request for Decision

Report Date: June 4, 2025

Meeting Date: June 10, 2025 (#10-25)

From: Derek Kwiatkowski, Chief Administrative Officer

Subject: New FortisBC Electric Vehicle Charging Station

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#### OBJECTIVE

For Council to determine the location for FortisBC to install a new electric vehicle charging station.

#### DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FortisBC approached the Village to consider the installation of a new charging station within Village limits looking at Salmo as a good opportunity for more charging infrastructure due to our location within a traffic corridor.

FortisBC must complete the location selection & preparation for the installation must be in 2025, so they are seeking a quick approval. Rather than twinning the current location, this plan would include moving the current charger from Main Street to the new location in 2026 or later. They would prefer a new location to take into consideration their plan to accommodate larger delivery vehicles & vehicles towing campers as a “pull through” possibility & greater accessibility.

FortisBC has some conditions including:

- publicly owned property,
- proximity to Highway 6 & downtown core,
- proximity to 3-phase power &
- the site to be completed with a finished road surface such as pavement or concrete, gravel would not be acceptable.

There are few locations that would work for this, but seemingly best option is on Sayward Avenue, at KP Park, in between the well building & the turnoff to the campground (2<sup>nd</sup> Street), rather than parking lot ball diamond/ lift station.

All 3 locations have potential for this project. The separating factors are that the KP Park location there will be less earthworks needed than the lift station location & less change to the KP Park space prior to developing a master plan. The grant funding won't cover the roadwork necessary but **FortisBC would consider partnering for funding for the road finishing.** Both potential locations may cause parking problems during peak usage times, however the location being closer to the intersection on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street will help with some of these issues. They would also entertain bearing the cost of moving the free charger located at the Village Office to the new location. This would include the installation of payment infrastructure.

The next steps would be to sign an agreement with FortisBC that is like the agreement already in place for the current charger. This will allow them to complete the necessary grant paperwork. The Village would not have any financial requirements for 2025.



## KP Park Electric Charging Station Proposal

### Option #1, KP Park Sayward Avenue:





## The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

### Request for Decision

Report Date: June 4, 2025

Meeting Date: June 10, 2025 (#11-25)

From: Derek Kwiatkowski, Chief Administrative Officer

Subject: RDCK License to Occupy Recycling Depot Agreement Renewal

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#### **OBJECTIVE**

For Council to consider the renewal of the license to occupy agreement Recycling Depot to the RDCK.

#### **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

In early 2025, the Village and the RDCK entered into an agreement to use the space next to the Village storage building in Lion's Park by the RDCK for a recycling depot. The duration of the agreement was from 2020 until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. There is an opportunity to extend or amend the agreement.

As the Village has just completed signing the previous agreement with no significant disagreements in the last years of operation, along with completing an extensive legal review of the contract, administration feels signing a similar 5-year agreement is the best course of action. The only change of note is that the new contract will include yearly revenue increases based on inflation. This was missing in the other agreement.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the 5-year renewal agreement with the RDCK as a license to occupy for the recycling depot.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. That Council direct administration to approach the RDCK to renew the agreement for a different duration.



## The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

### Request for Decision

Report Date: June 6, 2025  
Meeting Date: June 10, 2025 (#11-25)  
From: Derek Kwiatkowski, Chief Administrative Officer  
Subject: Official Community Plan Committee of the Whole Meeting Request

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#### 1. **OBJECTIVE**

For Council to set a time for a Committee of the Whole Meeting to discuss the 2025 Official Community Plan & Zoning Bylaw.

#### 2. **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

##### **June 10, Update**

*Council has prioritized the attendance of all Council members for the COTW Meetings to ensure that all opinions are equally expressed. Administration has sent Council several meeting options for the month of June. The compiled results will be shared at the June 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting.*

The Village is required to complete an Official Community Plan 2025. Administration would like to book a COTW meeting to begin building a 1<sup>st</sup> draft. Mayor Lockwood suggested at the May 13, 2025 Regular Council Meeting that both the OCP & the Zoning Bylaw be completed in tandem to ensure consistency between the two documents.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council book a COTW for the discussion of the Official Community Plan & Zoning Bylaw.

**The Corporation of the Village of Salmo**  
**2024 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO**

**Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION APPROVAL**

We, the undersigned, approve the attached statements and schedules included in this Statement of Financial Information, produced under the Financial Information Act.

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Diana Lockwood  
Mayor

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Nathan Russ, CPA, CMA  
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared as required by *Financial Information Regulation*, Schedule 1, section 9

**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024**



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## THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO MANAGEMENT REPORT

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

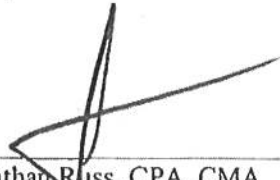
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### RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

Management is responsible for the preparation of the accompanying financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting principles disclosed in Note 1 to the financial statements and include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. Management believes that the financial statements fairly present The Corporation of the Village of Salmo's financial position and results of operations. The integrity of the information presented in the financial statements, including estimates and judgments relating to matters not concluded by fiscal year-end, is the responsibility of management. The financial statements have been approved by Council.

Management has established and maintained appropriate systems of internal control including policies and procedures, which are designed to provide reasonable assurance that The Corporation of the Village of Salmo's assets are safeguarded and that reliable financial records are maintained to form a proper basis for preparation of the financial statements.

The independent external auditors, Childs Chanton Chartered Professional Accountants, have been appointed by Council to express an opinion as to whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, The Corporation of the Village of Salmo's financial position, results of operations, and changes in net financial assets are in conformity with the accounting principles disclosed in Note 1 to the financial statements. The report of Childs Chanton Chartered Professional Accountants, follows and outlines the scope of their examination and their opinion on the financial statements.



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Nathan Russ, CPA, CMA  
Financial Officer

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Village's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Village's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Village to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the Village to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit. We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

April 22, 2025



CHILDS CHANTON  
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Castlegar, BC

**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS**  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	<u>2024 Budget</u> (Note 18)	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Taxes	\$ 502,851	\$ 504,983	\$ 478,272
Sale of services	114,259	134,545	114,635
Other revenue from own sources	168,290	128,263	132,071
Investment income	35,684	86,442	80,070
Government transfers- unconditional	459,000	498,600	459,000
Government transfers - conditional	749,743	416,995	1,453,632
Water user fees	204,461	203,766	190,532
Sewer user fees	<u>344,019</u>	<u>341,681</u>	<u>311,324</u>
	<u>2,578,307</u>	<u>2,315,275</u>	<u>3,219,536</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
General government	947,481	691,046	521,806
Protective services	269,147	113,945	108,340
Transportation services	358,054	266,987	212,228
Environmental health services	118,762	113,503	105,655
Public health and welfare services	15,250	13,002	16,289
Parks, recreation and cultural services	64,650	51,113	40,696
Interest and other debt charges	22,118	22,120	22,542
Water utility operations	157,176	150,423	124,463
Sewer utility operations	418,239	336,483	320,491
Accretion	-	33,095	31,601
Amortization	<u>408,542</u>	<u>445,582</u>	<u>431,877</u>
	<u>2,779,419</u>	<u>2,237,299</u>	<u>1,935,988</u>
Annual surplus	(201,112)	77,976	1,283,548
Accumulated surplus, beginning of the year	<u>11,622,938</u>	<u>11,622,938</u>	<u>10,339,390</u>
<b>Accumulated surplus, end of the year</b>	<u>\$ 11,421,826</u>	<u>\$ 11,700,914</u>	<u>\$ 11,622,938</u>

The accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements

**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>Cash Provided by (Used In)</b>		
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Annual surplus	\$ 77,976	\$ 1,283,548
<b>Items not involving cash:</b>		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	445,582	431,877
Accretion	33,095	31,601
Actuarial adjustments	(15,491)	(14,035)
Initial recognition of asset retirement obligation	<u>-</u>	<u>668,090</u>
	541,162	2,401,081
<b>Increase (decrease) in non-cash working capital balances:</b>		
Accounts receivable	56,065	(51,887)
MFA deposits	(526)	(455)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	92,781	31,699
Deferred revenue	213,257	130,297
Accrued future payroll benefits	6,991	(895)
Inventory	875	(427)
Prepaid expenses	<u>(184)</u>	<u>527</u>
	910,421	2,509,940
<b>Financing Activities</b>		
Debt repayment	<u>(23,832)</u>	<u>(44,972)</u>
<b>Capital Activities</b>		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	<u>(343,399)</u>	<u>(1,353,984)</u>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	543,190	1,110,984
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year</b>	<u>3,341,232</u>	<u>2,230,248</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 3,884,422</u>	<u>\$ 3,341,232</u>

The accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements

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# THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024

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### 1. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(h) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand, balances with banks and highly liquid temporary money market instruments.

(i) Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets, comprised of capital assets and capital assets under construction, are recorded at cost and are classified according to their functional use. Amortization is recorded on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset commencing the year the asset is put in to service. Donated tangible capital assets are reported at fair value at the time of donation. Estimated useful lives are as follows:

Land Improvements	15 to 20 years
Buildings	40 years
Fixtures, Furniture, Equipment and Vehicles	6 to 10 years
Roads and Paving	20 to 40 years
Bridge and Other Transportation Structures	40 to 50 years
Water Infrastructure	20 to 60 years
Sewer Infrastructure	20 to 60 years

(j) Non-Financial Assets

Non-financial assets are not available to discharge existing liabilities and are held for use in the provision of services. They have useful lives extending beyond the current year and are not intended for sale in the ordinary course of operations.

(k) Statutory Reserves

Statutory reserves are funds that have been restricted by council. Formal establishing bylaws have been adopted pursuant to the Community Charter, which define how these reserves are to be used.

(l) Liability for Contaminated Sites

Contaminated sites are a result of contamination being introduced into air, soil, water or sediment of a chemical, organic, or radioactive material or live organism that exceeds an environmental standard. The liability is recorded net of any expected recoveries. A liability for remediation of contaminated sites is recognized when a site is not in productive use and all of the following criteria are met:

- an environmental standard exists;
- contamination exceeds the environmental standard;
- the Village is directly responsible, or accepts responsibility;
- it is expected that a future economic benefit will be given up; and
- a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made.

The liability is recognized as management's estimate of the cost of post-remediation including operation, maintenance, and monitoring that are an integral part of the remediation strategy for a contaminated site.

There are no liabilities to be recorded as at December 31, 2024.

**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
December 31, 2024

**3. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of financial position are comprised of:

	2024	2023
Cash	\$ 3,728,749	\$ 3,192,704
MFA bond and money market funds	<u>155,673</u>	<u>148,528</u>
	<u>\$ 3,884,422</u>	<u>\$ 3,341,232</u>

Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) pooled investment funds are considered equivalent to cash because of their liquidity.

**4. Accounts Receivable**

	2024	2023
Property taxes	\$ 100,845	\$ 105,339
Utility billings	39,705	46,075
Other governments	15,893	30,194
Trade and other receivables	<u>38,299</u>	<u>69,200</u>
	<u>\$ 194,742</u>	<u>\$ 250,808</u>

**5. Municipal Finance Authority Debt Reserve Fund**

The Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia provides capital financing for regional districts and their member municipalities. As a condition of this financing, a portion of the debenture proceeds is withheld by the Municipal Finance Authority as a Debt Reserve Fund. The Municipal Finance Authority must then use this fund if at any time there are insufficient funds to meet payments on its obligations. Upon maturity of the debt issue, the unused portion is discharged to the municipality. The Village recognizes these cash deposits on the financial statements.

The Village also executes demand notes in connection with each debenture whereby the Village may be required to loan certain amounts to the Municipal Finance Authority. These demand notes are contingent in nature and are not recorded in the financial statements.

As at December 31, 2024, the total of the Debt Reserve and Demand Note balances are as follows:

	2024 <u>Cash Deposit</u>	2024 <u>Demand Note</u>	2023 <u>Cash Deposit</u>	2023 <u>Demand Note</u>
General fund	\$ <u>15,638</u>	\$ <u>22,711</u>	\$ <u>15,112</u>	\$ <u>22,711</u>

**6. Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities**

	2024	2023
Trades payable	\$ 242,584	\$ 153,153
Accrued wages and benefits	<u>24,379</u>	<u>21,029</u>
	<u>\$ 266,963</u>	<u>\$ 174,182</u>



# THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024

### 10. Asset Retirement Obligations

Existing laws and regulations require the Village to take specific actions regarding the removal and disposal of certain capital assets at the end of their useful life. Asset retirement obligations related to buildings, sewer, and storm sewer infrastructure capital assets, are amortized over the remaining expected useful life of the related assets.

Estimated costs totaling \$1,852,219 using an inflation rate of 3.5% have been discounted using a present value calculation with a discount rate of 4.73%. The discount rate used was based on borrowing rate for liabilities with similar risks and maturity. The timing of these expenditures is estimated to occur between 2025 and 2048 with the regular replacement, renovation, or disposal of assets. No recoveries are expected at this time.

The following is a summary of asset retirement obligation transactions for the year:

	2024	2023
Opening asset retirement obligation	\$ 699,691	\$ -
Initial recognition of expected discounted cash flows	-	668,090
Increase due to accretion	33,095	31,601
Closing asset retirement obligation	<u>\$ 732,786</u>	<u>\$ 699,691</u>

### 11. Tangible Capital Assets

	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	2024 Net Book Value	2023 Net Book Value
Land	\$ 1,256,899	\$ -	\$ 1,256,899	\$ 1,256,899
Buildings	3,473,821	1,380,577	2,093,244	2,091,355
Vehicles, equipment & furniture	2,526,904	1,915,998	610,906	672,742
Transportation infrastructure	3,845,603	2,045,702	1,799,901	1,821,464
Water infrastructure	2,599,309	1,062,326	1,536,983	1,548,522
Sewer infrastructure	4,051,326	1,714,886	2,336,440	2,345,574
	<u>\$ 17,753,862</u>	<u>\$ 8,119,489</u>	<u>\$ 9,634,373</u>	<u>\$ 9,736,556</u>

See Schedule A - Schedule of tangible capital assets for more information.

### 12. Other Assets

	2024	2023
Property acquired for taxes	<u>\$ 17,317</u>	<u>\$ 17,317</u>

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## THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024

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#### 16. Pension Plan

The Village of Salmo and its employees contribute to the Municipal Pension Plan (a jointly trustee pension plan). The board of trustees, representing plan members and employers, is responsible for administering the plan, including investment of assets and administration of benefits. The plan is a multi-employer defined benefit pension plan. Basic pension benefits provided are based on a formula. As at December 31, 2023, the plan has about 256,000 active members and approximately 129,000 retired members. Active members include approximately 45,000 contributors from local governments.

Every three years, an actuarial valuation is performed to assess the financial position of the plan and adequacy of plan funding. The actuary determines an appropriate combined employer and member contribution rate to fund the plan. The actuary's calculated contribution rate is based on the entry-age normal cost method, which produces the long-term rate of member and employer contributions sufficient to provide benefits for average future entrants to the plan. This rate may be adjusted for the amortization of any unfunded actuarial liability.

The most recent actuarial valuation of the Municipal Pension Plan at December 31, 2021, indicated a \$3,761 million funding surplus for basic pension benefits on a going concern basis.

The next valuation will be as at December 31, 2024 with results available in 2025.

Employers participating in the plan record their pension expense as the amount of employer contributions made during the fiscal year (defined contribution pension plan accounting). This is because the plan records accrued liabilities and accrued assets for the plan in aggregate, resulting in no consistent and reliable basis for allocating the obligation, assets and cost to individual employers participating in the plan.

The Village of Salmo paid \$47,860 (2023 - \$39,143) for employer contributions to the plan in fiscal 2024.

#### 17. Commitments and Contingencies

##### Regional District debt

Regional District debt is under the provisions of the Community Charter of BC a direct, joint and several liability of the District and each member municipality within the District including the Village of Salmo.

##### Claims for Damages

In the normal course of a year the Village is faced with lawsuits and claims for damages of a diverse nature. The outcome of these claims cannot be reasonably determined at this time.

##### Reciprocal Insurance Exchange Agreement

The Village is a subscribed member of the Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia (The "Exchange") as provided by Section 3.02 of the Insurance Act of British Columbia. The main purpose of the Exchange is to pool the risks of liability so as to lessen the impact upon any subscriber. Under the Reciprocal Insurance Exchange agreement, the Village is assessed a premium and specific deductible based on population and claims experience. The obligation of the Village with respect to the Exchange and/or contracts and obligations entered into by the Exchange on behalf of its subscribers in connection with the Exchange are in every case several and not joint and several. The Village irrevocably and unconditionally undertakes and agrees to indemnify and save harmless the other subscribers against liability losses and costs which the other Subscriber may suffer.

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**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

December 31, 2024

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19. **Segmented Information (continued)**

**Public Health and Welfare**

Public Health and Welfare maintains the cemetery grounds and operations for the Village.

**Parks, Culture and Recreation Services**

Parks, Culture and Recreation is responsible for providing, facilitating the development of, and maintaining high quality parks, recreation facilities and cultural services.

**Water and Sewer Utility Operations**

The Water Utility is responsible for planning, designing, building and maintaining the Village's drinking water distribution system including the reservoir, water mains and pump stations. The Sewer and Drainage Utility collects, treats and disposes sanitary sewage and drainage through the wastewater treatment plant and the network of sewer mains and pump stations.

# THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO SCHEDULE B - SCHEDULE OF SEGMENTED INFORMATION

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	General Government	Protective Services	Transportation Services	Environmental Health Services	Public Health Services	Parks & Recreation	Water Utility	Sewer Utility	2024 Total
<b>Revenues</b>									
Taxes	\$ 504,983	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 504,983
Sales of Service	-	-	-	103,771	2,307	-	14,797	13,670	134,545
Other revenue from own services	31,238	20,973	6,242	-	55,152	14,658	-	-	128,263
Investment income	86,442	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	86,442
Government transfers- unconditional	498,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	498,600
Government transfers-conditional	268,731	106,666	17,236	6,802	10,000	7,560	-	-	416,995
Water user fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	203,766	-	203,766
Sewer user fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	341,681	341,681
	<u>1,389,994</u>	<u>127,639</u>	<u>23,478</u>	<u>110,573</u>	<u>67,459</u>	<u>22,218</u>	<u>218,563</u>	<u>355,351</u>	<u>2,315,275</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>									
Wages and benefits	407,493	15,987	146,080	6,792	4,603	17,480	77,985	162,369	838,789
Supplies and services	283,552	97,958	120,906	106,711	8,400	33,633	72,439	174,114	897,713
Interest and other debt charges	-	-	2,208	-	19,912	-	-	-	22,120
Amortization	31,868	59,047	123,185	507	39,059	24,813	59,528	107,575	445,582
Accretion	<u>21,344</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,996</u>	<u>755</u>	<u>33,095</u>
	<u>744,257</u>	<u>172,992</u>	<u>392,379</u>	<u>114,010</u>	<u>71,974</u>	<u>75,926</u>	<u>220,948</u>	<u>444,813</u>	<u>2,237,299</u>
<b>Annual Surplus (Deficit)</b>	\$ <u>645,737</u>	\$ <u>(45,353)</u>	\$ <u>(368,901)</u>	\$ <u>(3,437)</u>	\$ <u>(4,515)</u>	\$ <u>(53,708)</u>	\$ <u>(2,385)</u>	\$ <u>(89,462)</u>	\$ <u>77,976</u>

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**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO**  
**SCHEDULE D - CAPACITY FUNDING RECONCILIATION**  
December 31, 2024

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**Province of BC Capacity Funding for Local Government Housing Initiatives reconciliation**

The following is a summary of fund transactions for the current year:

	<u>2024</u>
Capacity Fund opening balance	\$ -
Initial funds	156,221
Interest earned during the year	-
Less: Eligible use of funds	5,736
Remaining grant	\$ <u>150,485</u>

**Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO**

**Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024**

**SCHEDULE OF DEBT**

Information on all long-term debt is included in the Audited Financial Statements of The Corporation of the Village of Salmo.

Prepared as required by *Financial Information Regulation*, Schedule 1, section 4



**Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO**

**Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024**

**STATEMENT OF SEVERANCE AGREEMENTS**

There were no severance agreements made between The Corporation of the Village of Salmo and its non-unionized employees during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024.

Prepared under the Financial Information Regulation, Schedule 1, subsection 6(8)

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO  
SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS TO SUPPLIERS OF GOODS AND SERVICES  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

**DETAILED SUPPLIERS >\$25,000**

<u>SUPPLIER NAME</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>
Custom Dozing Ltd.	\$ 54,943
First Class Fencing Inc.	70,268
Fortis BC Inc.	90,032
GFL Environmental Inc. 2020	149,498
Imperial Oil Esso	31,721
Linda Tynan Consulting Services	60,272
Manulife Financial	42,915
Municipal Insurance Association of BC	75,070
Municipal Pension Plan	92,121
Ninco Construction Ltd.	26,280
Power Tech Electric Ltd.	81,506
Terus Construction Ltd.	38,973
Wholesale Fire & Rescue Ltd.	30,044
<b>TOTAL DETAILED SUPPLIERS &gt;\$25,000</b>	<hr/> 843,643
<b>TOTAL SUPPLIERS &lt;= \$25,000</b>	663,047
<b>TOTAL SUPPLIERS</b>	<hr/> 1,506,690
<b>GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS &gt;\$25,000</b>	0
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS, GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<hr/> <hr/> \$ 1,506,690

Prepared under the Financial Information Regulation, Schedule 1, section 7(1) and (2)



## OKANAGAN NATION ALLIANCE

101 - 3535 Old Okanagan Hwy, Westbank, BC V4T 3L7  
Phone 250-707-0095 Toll Free 1-866-662-9609 Fax 250-707-0166 www.syilx.org

May 22, 2025

### VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mayor Diana Lockwood  
Village of Salmo  
PO Box 1000  
423 Davies Avenue  
Salmo, BC V0G 1Z0

Dear Mayor Diana Lockwood,

**Re: Syilx Okanagan Briefing Package for Local Governments on US-based Tribes Asserting Rights and Interests in the Arrow Lakes and Boundary/Kootenay Regions of Canada**

The Chief's Executive Council (CEC) of the *Syilx* Okanagan Nation is taking a stand against US-Based Tribes aggressively seeking rights and benefits within Canada.

This issue dates back to the 2021 Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Desautel*, which resulted in imminent complications and challenges that must be addressed by First Nations, the federal and provincial governments. **Importantly, local governments must respect and wait for clear direction from these higher levels of government, prior to engaging with US-based Tribes in the Arrow Lakes and Boundary/Kootenay regions.** For the first time, the Court found that "Aboriginal peoples of Canada" can include Aboriginal groups that are located outside of Canada in the United States.

In the wake of this decision, American-based tribes in Alaska and Washington states have begun asserting rights and title in Canada. Many US Tribes along the length of our border with the United States are now seeking governance roles, and to be consulted and accommodated (including through revenue sharing), on Canadian matters of both national and local interest: natural resource projects, environmental assessments, conservation and restoration initiatives, among others.

In particular, we continue to have grave concerns about the increasingly aggressive assertions of the "Sinixt Confederacy," a society created and funded by the American-based Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) of Washington State, to exclusive rights and title in *Syilx* Okanagan Territory in what is now known as British Columbia. CCT is a United States Federally recognised Tribe, and Canadian governments should not allow double dipping for U.S. tribes like the CCT, who already receive hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. federal funding, including for hydroelectric power impacts on the U.S.-side of the Columbia River.

Enclosed is a backgrounder on the Sinixt Confederacy and CCT, *Syilx* Okanagan Nation's position, and an update on an emerging consensus on engagement and consultation, led by the provincial



## BRIEFING INFORMATION

### BACKGROUND

- Syilx Okanagan Nation have exercised our rights and responsibilities within our territory, including the Arrow Lakes and Columbia River Basin, since time immemorial.
- The truth is the Sinixt have always been part of the Syilx Okanagan Nation, just like other *nsyilxcən*-speaking communities.
- We have one language, one culture, one land, and one people.
- In 2021, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in *R. v. Desautel* that a U.S. citizen and member of the U.S.-half of our previously unified nation, Washington-based Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT), had an Aboriginal right to hunt Elk in Canada.
- There was no finding in *Desautel* that there is a rights-bearing entity known as the “Sinixt Nation,” and no decisions concerning Aboriginal title. The courts found that the Lakes Tribe of the CCT is “a” successor group representing people of Sinixt ancestry and made it clear that there may be other successor groups in Canada.
- The Chiefs Executive Council (CEC) represent the Syilx Okanagan Nation in Canada, including the Sinixt.

### THE PROBLEM

- Following *Desautel*, American-based tribes in Alaska and Washington have begun asserting rights and title in Canada and are now seeking governance roles, and to be engaged, consulted, and accommodated, on Canadian matters of national, provincial, and local interest: natural resource projects, environmental assessments, conservation and restoration initiatives, among others.
- The Syilx Okanagan Nation has always been willing to engage in discussions with CCT to resolve differences, but after years of collaboration and cooperation with Syilx Okanagan, CCT has turned away from our previous Syilx Unity Declaration.
- For a full account, please read Chief Robert Louie’s October 2024 opinion editorial in the Vancouver Sun newspaper.
- CCT now claims some of their members make up a “Sinixt Confederacy” representing a distinct Nation separate from the Syilx Okanagan with its own rights and title in Canada.
- CCT seeks to rewrite history by claiming the Arrow Lakes as its exclusive area and is trying to exclude us from our own territory.
- CCT want consultation, revenue sharing and compensation in Canada, including on significant issues like hydroelectric power impacts (for which they are already compensated on the US-side of the border), and the Big White expansion.

- US-based groups may already have input, through participating in US regulatory processes, into projects that affect their interests and may in fact have a different position, articulated to US governments, than what First Nations in Canada are articulating.
- US-based groups may already be accommodated for impacts on their rights by US government or US-based entities.
- The governance, number, and composition of US-based groups may not be readily known to either the Canadian government or Canadian Aboriginal groups.
- The extent of cumulative effects on a US-based group cannot be known when portions of their territory are within the bounds of the US.
- Any policy should consider the following:
  - While Aboriginal communities outside Canada can assert and hold s. 35(1) Aboriginal rights, it does not follow that their rights are the same as those of First Nations communities within Canada.
  - If a US-based Aboriginal peoples of Canada has or asserts s.35 rights, that does not automatically mean they should be engaged, consulted, or accommodated in the same way First Nations in Canada are.
  - **As recognized by the Supreme Court in *Desautel*, the duty to consult may operate differently as regards those outside Canada. Because groups outside Canada are not implicated to the same degree in the process of fair dealing and reconciliation which arises from the Crown's assertion of sovereignty, the scope of the Crown's duty to consult with them, and the manner in which it is given effect, may differ.**
  - Members of US Tribes do not reside in Canada and are not Canadian citizens, and US Tribes are not impacted by Crown actions in Canada in the same way the First Nations located in Canada are.
  - The Crown must balance interests of Canadian-based Aboriginal groups with interests of US-based groups, and consider the relationship between Canadian and US based Aboriginal peoples, and proportionality of accommodation when considering the extent of its duty to consult US-based groups
  - **As a result of these factors, in most cases, any engagement and consultation with US-based Tribes should be at the notification and information-sharing level only. Co-management and revenue-sharing regimes should not be provided as accommodation measures to US Tribes in areas of First Nations' territories in Canada.**
  - As suggested by the Supreme Court of Canada, the Crown should have discussions with Canadian-based Aboriginal groups regarding consultation with US-based Aboriginal peoples, so that there is clarity about issues such as Indigenous laws and governance.
  - **First Nations located in Canada must always be the priority and primary focus of all levels of government, including local governments.**

**Julie Sills**

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**Subject:** June 10 Agenda Item FW: New Guidebook Empowers Rural BC Communities Through Outdoor Recreation

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**From:** Louise Pedersen <[louisepedersen@orc.bc.ca](mailto:louisepedersen@orc.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** May 28, 2025 1:55 PM

**Subject:** New Guidebook Empowers Rural BC Communities Through Outdoor Recreation

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (ORCBC) is pleased to share a new resource for local governments and community leaders: Outdoor Recreation for Community and Economic Development: A Guidebook for Rural British Columbia Communities.

Developed in partnership with Selkirk Innovates at Selkirk College and made possible through support from the Province of British Columbia's Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program, this guidebook offers practical insights into how rural and smaller communities can use outdoor recreation to strengthen local economies, support community well-being, and foster long-term resilience.

The guidebook is freely available online (both as a web resource and a downloadable PDF) and includes real-world examples from communities such as Tumbler Ridge, Smithers, Cumberland, Chu Chua, Squamish, and Revelstoke. These places are leveraging outdoor recreation to diversify local economies and create new opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

You'll find the full media release below. A recorded webinar introducing the guidebook and featuring the authors from Selkirk College, Sarah Breen and Lauren Rethoret, is available here. It offers a helpful overview of the guide's content and key takeaways.

Local governments or community groups interested in a tailored presentation or discussion about how the guidebook's strategies can align with local planning and economic development goals are welcome to request a session with ORCBC using this form.

We would like to encourage you to share the guidebook with your staff and recreation stakeholders in your community.

Thank you for your leadership in supporting the growth and stewardship of outdoor recreation in British Columbia. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you would like more information about the guidebook or how it could support your community's planning and development efforts.

Best wishes,

Louise Pedersen  
Executive Director | Outdoor Recreation Council of BC

PO Box 763 Revelstoke BC V0E 2S0 Canada



O: 604-873-5546 | D: 250-805-2465 | E: [louisepedersen@orc.bc.ca](mailto:louisepedersen@orc.bc.ca)  
The territories of the Sinixt, Syilx, Secwepemc and Ktunaxa Peoples.

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter for community updates, outdoor recreation news, and event invitations.



## Media Release - For Immediate Release

### New Guidebook Helps Communities Harness the Power of Outdoor Recreation

*Outdoor Recreation Council of BC launches practical new resource for building resilient rural recreation economies.*

**Revelstoke, BC – May 28, 2025:** From Cumberland to Valemount, rural communities in B.C. are harnessing outdoor recreation as a powerful catalyst for community development and economic diversification. The industry is already worth an estimated \$15-billion in economic benefits to British Columbians annually. The launch of a new guidebook published by the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (ORCBC) aims to grow that impact even further, while supporting healthier, more resilient rural communities.

**Outdoor Recreation for Community and Economic Development: A Guidebook for Rural British Columbia Communities** is a new interactive resource designed to help rural communities identify, plan, and develop sustainable outdoor recreation.

"We often hear from rural communities that they're interested in developing outdoor recreation but aren't sure where to start," says Louise Pedersen, Executive Director of ORCBC. "We wanted to create something both practical and inspiring. A tool that helps communities see outdoor recreation not just as a nice-to-have, but as a real driver of economic and community resilience."

Researchers Sarah Breen and Lauren Rethoret, from Selkirk Innovates at Selkirk College, created the 98-page guidebook with guidance from an advisory committee and drawing on interviews and focus groups with 50 outdoor recreation and community development experts. The guidebook includes useful tips for local governments, First Nations, economic development professionals, recreation groups and other nonprofit organizations.

"Every community brings a unique mix of assets and capacities to outdoor recreation development, and every community is at a different stage in their work," says Breen, BC Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development at Selkirk Innovates. "As a result, no two communities will use this guidebook in the same way."

It was designed with that bespoke nature in mind. The guidebook opens with definitions, background information, links to resources and readings, and a questionnaire that helps orient users.

The heart of the guide is **10 core "elements"** for outdoor recreation-based development:

1. Build a core team
2. Understand your context
3. Work toward reconciliation
4. Build relationships and partnerships
5. Fund outdoor recreation
6. Define a vision, goals, and actions
7. Protect the environment
8. Develop and maintain experiences and assets
9. Get the word out
10. Measure progress

"We framed these as elements, rather than steps, because they apply at any stage of a community's outdoor recreation journey," says Rethoret.

Each element includes practical tips, links to more information, and case studies. For example, the first element, *Building a Core Team*, outlines the key traits of an effective group and offers guidance on leadership and succession planning.

A case study highlights the Tumbler Ridge Outdoor Recreation Association (TRORA), an umbrella group of four outdoor recreation clubs in Tumbler Ridge, in the province's northeast. The clubs realized that working together gave them a louder voice for advocating for outdoor recreation in the community, says Jessie Olsen, the director of economic and community development for the District of Tumbler Ridge. That's going to be increasingly important as the community implements a more recreation-focused economic development strategy.

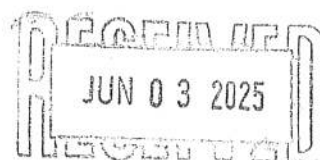
"We're making a plan for the inevitable resource sector downturn," says Olsen. "The key focus is diversification, and outdoor recreation is a huge part of that plan. It will take a group of people with the same vision and goals, all working together, to get it done."

With the ***Outdoor Recreation for Community and Economic Development*** guidebook, rural communities like Tumbler Ridge are no longer on their own navigating an outdoor recreation-focused diversification effort. That's especially important as rural communities across the province face mounting economic and social pressures, says Pedersen.

"We believe the guidebook is a timely resource," she says. "It provides clear, practical guidance for supporting the many benefits outdoor recreation can bring to a community."

Learn more and access the guidebook at: <https://www.orcbc.ca/outdoor-recreation-communities-guidebook>.

Organizations and communities interested in a presentation from the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC about the guidebook and how it can support their outdoor recreation goals are invited to request a session using [this form](#).



May 22, 2025

RDKB: Area G/Village of Salmo  
Attn.: Mayor Diana Lockwood  
PO Box 1000  
Salmo, BC V0G 1Z0

Dear Mayor Lockwood and Council,

It is with much gratitude that we write this letter to thank Area G and Salmo for your generous donation of \$2,000 to the KBRH Health Foundation's Mental Health Matters Campaign. This contribution, allocated through the Columbia Basin Trust – Resident Directed Grants (ReDi) Program, is deeply appreciated.

Your continued prioritization of mental health in our region directly impacts the well-being of countless individuals and families. With your support, we are enhancing access to critical mental health services and resources at Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital, helping to create a healthier, stronger community.

Your donation supports critical upgrades to three key areas: **The Daly Pavilion**, an acute care psychiatric unit, where improved security, enhanced care spaces, and updated furniture will create a safer, more dignified environment; **Harbour House**, a residential rehabilitation facility, where renovations will enhance security, living spaces, and therapeutic resources to aid recovery and reintegration; and **the Pediatric Outdoor Space**, which will provide a secure, private area with recreational equipment and family-friendly spaces to support healing for children and youth under 18.

The \$2 million **Mental Health Matters** Campaign is dedicated to creating safe, supportive spaces for those in need, enhancing mental health services, and building resilience in our community. With your generosity, we can transform these facilities, upgrade equipment, and deliver more accessible, compassionate, and effective care for patients across the region.

On behalf of the KBRH Health Foundation Board of Directors and staff, for being an essential part of this transformative initiative.

Sincerely,

Lisa Pasin  
Executive Director  
KBRH Health Foundation



## **THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO** **REPORT FROM MAYOR/DIRECTOR**

### **MAYOR LOCKWOOD**

Mayor Report for Council Meeting held on June 10, 2025.

**Salmo & Area G Emergency Preparedness Committee:** Next meeting September 29, 2025.

**Fire Department:** I can not say enough times “thank you” to our fire department for their excellence in the measures they go through to respond to emergencies. I would like to pass on condolences to the family’s loss and know the community is here to help.

**Citizen Engagement:** The buzz of Canada Days is in the air, please reach out to the village staff if you would like to be apart of the excitement.

**Salmo & District Arts Council:** Next meeting TBD

### **RDCK:**

**Board:** Next meeting June 19, 2025

**All Recreation:** Next meeting June 25, 2025

**Salmo & Area G Recreation Commission:** Next meeting September 8, 2025

**Economic Trust of the Southern Interior – BC (ETSI-BC):** Next meeting June 19, 2025

**Central/Joint Resource Recovery:** Next meeting is June 18, 2025

**West Kootenay Hospital Board:** Next meeting June 26, 2025.

**Nelson, Salmo, E, F, & G Regional Parks:** Next meeting March 25, 2025, was cancelled.  
Next meeting June 10, 2025

**West Transit:** Next meeting June 10, 2025

### **Other meetings of note:**

**Mayor’s and chair Highway 3 Coalition:** Next meeting September 21, 2025

**Fortis:** They will be updating the natural gas meters in May 2026 here in Salmo and it will take approximately 5 weeks.

get more housing built, and listening to the local governments as they know what their communities need to name a few.

**Five steps to increasing housing stock in your municipality** – this workshop spoke about making way for development process and how to speed it up. Ways of making the building more affordable such as the approved permits quicker, (reduces cost), having infrastructure in place and having a good facilitator when the public needs to be informed (not staff or council).

**On time, on budget: Building tomorrow's infrastructure with today's budgets** – this workshop spoke about the importance we as local government need to work harder to deliver infrastructure projects that are needed by the community and staying on budget while doing so.

I also attended the annual general meeting and the election of officers.

The trade show never disappoints and gives many other learning opportunities.