



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) **Unsightly Premises Amendment Bylaw**

Pg.9

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the "*Village of Salmo Unsightly 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:

- That Council receive the CAO Report for information. Pg.35
- (2) **CAO Report- Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan**
- STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**
- That Council accepts the CAO Report for information. Pg.143
- (3) **CAO Report- Fire Truck Purchase Update**
- STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**
- That Council accept the CAO Report for Information. Pg.145
- (4) **New FortisBC Electric Vehicle Charging Station**
- STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**
- That Council approve the location of a new charging station along Sayward Avenue north of the Sayward well building. Pg.149
- (5) **RDCK License to Occupy- Recycling Depot**
- STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**
- That Council approve the 5-year renewal agreement with the RDCK as a license to occupy for the recycling depot. Pg.151
- (6) **Committee of the Whole Meeting Request- Official Community Plan**
11. **Accounts Payable** Pg.153
- STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**
- That Council receive for information the list of accounts payable cheques and electronic fund transfers from May 23 to May 27, 2025 totaling \$7,499.08.
12. **Correspondence Requiring a Council Decision**
13. **Correspondence for Information Only**
- STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**
- That Council receive for information the following correspondence from:
- (1) **Okanagan Nation Alliance Re: Sylix Okanagan Briefing Package for Local Governments on US-based Tribes Asserting Rights and Interests in the Arrow Lakes and Boundary-Kootenays Regions of Canada - #23** Pg.187
- (2) **Outdoor Recreation Council of BC Re: New Guidebook Empowers Rural BC Communities Through Outdoor Recreation** Pg.193
- (3) **KBRH Health Foundation- Contribution Gratitude Letter** Pg.199
14. **Member Reports & Inquiries**
- (1) **Councillor Heatlie**
- (2) **Councillor Lins**
- (3) **Councillor Neil**
- (4) **Mayor Lockwood- Appendix A** Pg.201

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:

R5-10-25
Fire Department
Remuneration
Amendment Bylaw
#764, 2025 – Adoption

Moved and seconded, that the "*Fire Department Remuneration Amendment Bylaw #764, 2025*", having had three readings, be reconsidered and adopted.

Carried.

R6-10-25
Fire Prevention
Amendment Bylaw
#765, 2025 – Adoption

Moved and seconded, that the "*Fire Prevention Amendment Bylaw #765, 2025*", having had three readings, be reconsidered and adopted.

Carried.

R7-10-25
Village of Salmo
Volunteer Fire
Department
Amendment Bylaw
#766, 2025 – Adoption

Moved and seconded, that the "*Village of Salmo Volunteer Fire Department Amendment Bylaw #766, 2025*", having had three readings, be reconsidered and adopted.

Carried.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS:

R8-10-25
Public Works

Moved and seconded, that Council receive for information the written report as presented by Public Works Foreman Fred Paton for the period of May 2025. (see *Appendix A*).

Carried.

R9-10-25
Fire Department

Moved and seconded, that Council receive for information the written report dated May 1, 2025 provided by Fire Chief David Hearn for the period of April 2025. (see *Appendix A*).

Carried.

R10-10-25
Bylaw Enforcement

Moved and seconded, that Council receive for information the written report on bylaw enforcement for the period of April 2025. (see *Appendix A*).

Carried.

R11-10-25
CAO Report – General
Updates

Moved and seconded, that Council accepts the CAO report for information. (see *Appendix A*).

Carried.

R12-10-25
Official Community Plan
Committee of the
Whole Meeting Request

Moved and seconded, that Council book a COTW for the discussion of the Official Community Plan & Zoning Bylaw for June 13 at 7:00 p.m. (see *Appendix A*).

Carried.

R13-10-25
Strategic Plan

Moved and seconded, that Council accepts the strategic plan for information. (see *Appendix A*).

Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

R14-10-25
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
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 Appendix B.*

R17-10-25
Verbal & Written
Reports of Mayor &
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 *Community Charter* 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.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved and seconded, that the meeting be adjourned.
R19-10-25 Carried @ 8:40 p.m.

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer/CO



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

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 32nd 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 31st 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."

- 2.5. Removal of any reference to gender specific pronouns & replaced with gender-inclusive language in line with the Government of Canada's Legislative Drafting guidelines.

3. ENACTMENT

- 3.1. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Bylaw is for any reason held to be invalid by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalid portion shall be severed and the part that is invalid shall not affect the validity of the remainder.

- 3.2. This Bylaw shall come into full force and effect on final adoption.

READ A FIRST TIME

this ___ day of ___, 2025

READ A SECOND TIME

this ___ day of ___, 2025

READ A THIRD TIME

this ___ day of ___, 2025

RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED

this ___ day of ___, 2025

Mayor

CAO/Corporate Officer

I HEREBY CERTIFY THIS TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE "VILLAGE OF SALMO UNSIGHTLY PREMISES BYLAW AMENDMENT BYLAW #767, 2025".

CAO/Corporate Officer

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;

"Unightly" 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 32nd 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 31st 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~~ fines 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 28th day of May, 2013.
Read a second time this 12th day of November, 2013.
Read a third time this 24th day of June, 2014.
Reconsidered and Adopted this 8th 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 31st 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 31st 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 31st 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

Background

On May 27th, 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

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 4th, 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 mountainous region. In the foreground, a river flows through a dense forest. A small town or village is situated in the middle ground, surrounded by more forest and some cleared areas. In the background, steep mountains rise, with a small lake visible in a valley. The overall scene is a mix of natural wilderness and human settlement.

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan 2025

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

May 2025

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL SIGN AND SEAL


RPF PRINTED NAME	
Louis Orioux	RPF #5147
DATE SIGNED	
May 14, 2025	
I certify that the work described herein fulfills the standards expected of a member of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals and that I did personally supervise the work.	
Registered Professional Forester Signature and Seal	
	

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Nora Hannon	Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Senior Advisor	RDCK
David Hearn	Fire Chief	Salmo

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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™ disciplines¹ 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.² 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.

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

²Urban Systems. 2023. *Wildfire Development Permit Area Summary Report*.

The RDCK, Village of Salmo and its residents are well-versed in emergency preparedness and response. Flooding and wildfires frequently affect the Central Kootenays, and the 2024 wildfire season in particular had widespread impacts in the region, though outside of Electoral Area G. This CWRP recognizes the importance of continuing a strong emergency management program, including tabletop exercises (Action Item #) and the importance of expanding interagency cooperation at both regional and subregional levels. Although Electoral Area G and Salmo are represented in the Regional Wildfire Planning Table, there is currently no local FireSmart Committee in the plan area (Action Item #20).

Communities in Electoral Area G are all in a provincially defined Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Class polygon that has a Risk Class of 1 (Salmo and Nelway), which reflects the highest wildfire risk rating. The Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis assigns a moderate or higher threat rating to much of the surrounding area. *As the scope of this plan was limited to that of an update, fieldwork focused only on verifying treatment units proposed in 2017, proposing additions or reductions to them, or creating new standalone treatment units, rather than updating fuel types and collecting wildfire threat assessments to support a local wildfire threat reassessment.*

The local threat assessment (completed in 2017 for the 2 km WUI and clipped to the 1 km Eligible WUI for this plan update) tells a consistent story – substantial portions (43%) of the plan area have a high or extreme fire behaviour threat due to a combination of topography, fire weather, and fuel type. Local BCWS representatives also highlighted concerns with the buildup of fuel in the plan area, due to a relative lack of large fires in the Salmo area over the last 100 years. However, it was also noted that steep topography and high-speed wind events are more significant drivers of fire behavior in the plan area than fuel type.

It is beyond the scope of the CWRP to analyze local threat on private land, which covers approximately 50% of the WUI. This highlights the need to implement risk mitigation programs on both public and private land if community resilience is to be achieved. Since the last CWPP, fuel treatments have been completed around Ymir and Nelway, with additional areas prescribed around the Salmo Ski Hill and Whitewater Resort. However, there is more work to do (Action Item #26). *Although detailed field reconnaissance was not in the scope of this plan update, 28 potential fuel treatment units (PTUs) on public land identified in the 2017 plan were visited and re-prioritized, clipping boundaries to the 1-km Eligible WUI where appropriate. These units should be seen as wildfire risk reduction (WRR) focus areas that will require further assessment by the appropriate land manager prior to prescription development, or may be best managed by a licensee with WRR as one objective.*

A total of 32 CWRP action items are presented in Table 1 below. Ultimately, these items should be considered as a toolbox of options to help increase the wildfire resiliency of communities in Electoral Area G and the Village of Salmo. The RDCK and Salmo will have to further prioritize implementation based on resources, strengths, constraints, and availability of funding, and regularly update the prioritization and course of actions over the lifetime of this plan.



Table 3: Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Area G and Salmo - Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan Action Items

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead (Involved)	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source
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
#2 FireSmart Events	High	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.	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	Funding is allocated each year to FireSmart communication in local/social media	CRI FCFS - FireSmart staff and costs
#4 FireSmart in Schools	Moderate	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.	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
#7 Share CWBP Online	Moderate	Like other CWBPs, 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	Moderate	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
#9 Update website(s)	Moderate	Coordinate FireSmart information on the RDCK website – a link to the RDCK FireSmart page should be provided on the Emergency Preparedness > Wildfires page in addition to where it is currently on the Fire Services > Fire Prevention page. Continue to update the FireSmart webpages for both the RDCK and the Village of Salmo with the most recent FireSmart graphics and language.	FireSmart information should be easy to find online and be up to date (program names and graphics change frequently).	RDCK FireSmart, Village of Salmo	1 year and annually	FireSmart webpages are reviewed annually	CRI FCFS – staff time
Legislation, Planning and Development - Section 5.3							
#10 Critical Infrastructure	High	Continue to conduct FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments for public works and community/government buildings. Conduct FireSmart mitigation as soon as possible (vegetation management, material upgrades). Encourage community hall societies and water utilities to follow suit. Continue to offer the voluntary Bare Land FireSmart assessment program for undeveloped land where residents are planning to build). Ensure that the program is promoted through the planning department as well.	Protecting water systems and community infrastructure is critical to wildfire response and recovery. Assessments have already been completed for the Ymir fire hall (RDCK) and for multiple buildings in Salmo.	RDCK FireSmart, Village of Salmo (Community Groups)	Ongoing	Number of assessments completed and mitigation hours/investment	CRI FCFS – publicly-owned only
#11 Bare Land Program	Moderate	Continue to offer the voluntary Bare Land FireSmart assessment program for undeveloped land where residents are planning to build). Ensure that the program is promoted through the planning department as well.	The free bare land assessment by Wildfire Mitigation Specialist is an excellent educational tool to regulate construction and landscaping without a Wildfire Hazard DPA.	RDCK FireSmart (Development)	Ongoing	Number of assessments completed	CRI FCFS – staff time
#12 Review RDCK Wildfire DPA	Low	After the implementation of a Wildfire DPA in Electoral Area 1 (RDCK "pilot"), the RDCK should review its applicability in any part of Electoral Area G.	A Wildfire Hazard DPA remains a good tool to regulate development, and lessons learned from Area 1 may make for more buy-in / smoother roll out in other areas. The Village of Salmo already has a Wildfire Hazard DPA.	RDCK FireSmart (Planning/Development)	3 years	A Wildfire DPA in Electoral Area G is reconsidered prior to the next CWRP	CRI FCFS – staff time
#13 Review Salmo Wildfire DPA	Moderate	Salmo should review their Wildfire Hazard DPA to ensure that it provides sufficient clarity and covers enough area to achieve the desired outcome of residents in the interface complying with FireSmart principles.	The limited extent of Salmo's Wildfire DPA does not take into account spotting risk – the distance embers could fall in an interface wildfire event. A larger DPA with potentially relaxed guidelines (e.g. focus only on rated roofing and the Immediate Zone) may improve community resilience.	Village of Salmo Planning/Development	2 years	The Wildfire DPA in the Village of Salmo is reviewed	CRI FCFS – staff time
#14 Schedule CWRP Updates	High	Schedule regular updates of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan: target every 5 years. Apply for enough funding so that the Eligible WUI can be reassessed.	A current and acceptable CWRP is required for funding under the CRI FCFS program. Even if this plan is updated (<5 years old), the budget should reflect the large plan area and the need for field work and spatial analysis throughout the Eligible WUI.	RDCK FireSmart (Consultant)	5 years	Area G and the Village of Salmo maintains a current and acceptable CWRP.	CRI FCFS funding
Cross Training & Fire Department Resources - Section 5.4							
#15 Fire Department Training	High	Support fire departments to train all members in SPP-WFF1 (Wildland Firefighter – Level 1) or S-100/1-185 and work towards training members in WSP-115 (Structural Protection Unit Deployment) or other courses as capacity permits. Local weekend courses are a good option for volunteer departments.	SPP-WFF-1 is specific for structural fire fighters who respond to wildland fires in their services area. Neither Salmo (Village of Salmo) or Ymir (RDCK) fire departments currently have all their members trained in SPP-WFF1.	RDCK / Village of Salmo (Fire Departments)	Annually	All local firefighters are trained in SPP-WFF1 and some members are trained in WSP-115, and refresh the course annually	Compensation for course Instructor/facilitation of spring training courses; CRI FCFS funding
#16 FireSmart training	Moderate	Encourage FireSmart training within local fire departments: FireSmart 101, Local FireSmart Representative (LFR), and Wildfire Mitigation Specialists (WMS). This may be encompassed by the Advanced FireSmart Program for RDCK fire chiefs and fire services staff started in 2023.	Fire department members are often also community leaders. FireSmart training can help achieve public education objectives, coordinate messaging across a fire department, and expand the reach of a FireSmart program, especially if additional local WMS are needed (see Rocc. #1). Consider compensation for member time.	RDCK / Village of Salmo (Fire Departments)	Annually	Target 1 WMS and 1-2 LFRs specific to Area G	CRI FCFS funding



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
Water/Other							
#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). Ymir VFD expressed concerns with the availability of /access to drafting sites in Wildhorse Road and Hall Sliding. The siting of water tanks and or standpipe installation may mitigate some issues.	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		RDCK Emergency Services, Ymir VFD	3 years and ongoing	Adequacy of water supply for fire suppression is reviewed	Incremental staff time; funding possible
Interagency Cooperation - Section 5.5							
#20 FireSmart Committees	High	Continue to engage the regional Wildfire Planning Table to plan, 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
Emergency Planning - Section 5.6							
#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 Vovent Alert	Moderate	RDCK should continue to promote the Vovent 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 Vovent 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



Regional District of Central Kootenay
In Association With

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead (Involved)	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source
#24 Pre-Incident Plan	Moderate	The RDCK should consider requesting one or more Structure Protection Community Assessments through the BCWS Provincial Structure Protection Coordination office.	Small, intermixed communities would benefit from these. Assessments have been completed for Ymir and Salmo.	RDCK (BCWS) (OFC) (Fire Departments)	5 years	A Structure Protection Community Assessment is completed	Can be requested through the Structure Protection Coordination office. There may also be funding through the Fire Chief's Association of BC or the Office of the Fire Commissioner
#25 Promote Good Civic Addressing	Moderate	Continue to promote the installation of visible and reflective addresses throughout Electoral Area G and the Village of Salmo. Consider including a link to purchase recommended signage on the RDCK Emergency Management webpage.	The CFRC noted that address visibility was poor. Reflective signs help emergency responders find properties during response or evacuation events. Consider selling signs as a fire department fundraiser (e.g. Riondel VFD in Area A) and/or offering free delivery and installation along with a FireSmart Home Assessment.	RDCK FireSmart / Village of Salmo	2 years	Most properties have visible addresses	Promotion campaign; consider selling signs as a fundraiser
Vegetation Management - Section 5.7							
Fuel Management Treatments							
#26 Fuel Management on Public Land	High	Work with land manager(s) as part of the Regional Wildfire Planning Table to have existing fuel treatment units maintained as necessary and to recon, prescribe, and implement additional Potential Fuel Treatment Units (PTUs), starting with those identified as high priority. Annually update and look for ways to improve the pilot mapping tool that was recently developed by the Regional Wildfire Planning Table to consolidate and track fuel treatments.	Some strategic areas of Crown land have already been implemented but there are more areas to treat. Monitoring (as part of the next CWRP update) and maintenance should be conducted as necessary and additional areas treated. BCWS supports Crown land treatments around communities in the area. A regional fuel treatment dashboard is a valuable tool that integrates information on fuel treatments across multiple funding agencies in a user-friendly format.	Ministry of Forests (RDCK)	5 years	Previously treated areas are maintained in a lower hazard state and additional treatments are completed.	CRI (FCFS, WRR) or CBT
#27 Pilot Map	Moderate	Engage with the Ministry of Forests to discuss a strategy to enable owners of large forested properties to undertake meaningfully-sized fuel treatments. A strategy could involve education, free guidance and potentially an incentive program. Look to Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Small Forest Landowner Regulation Assistance Program for a possible framework.	Even the most dedicated residents will likely have difficulty (time, cost) undertaking fuel treatments beyond the 30 m Home Ignition Zone. However, effectively reducing wildfire risk from structures-out will involve forest treatments on private land on a broad scale. Residents may benefit from a program that helps them plan and undertake such treatments in compliance with local and provincial legislation, and in a cost-effective and possibly income generating manner. Some areas close to communities have been treated – for example, at the end of Quartz Creek Drive in Ymir. Interpretive signage could include text explaining the purpose of the fuel management treatment, connection to the CWRP, and FireSmart practices residents nearby can take to reduce wildfire hazards around their yards and homes.	RDCK / Planning Table	Annual	A useful regional fuel treatment dashboard is maintained.	Funding may be available.
#28 Support Fuel Treatment on Private Land	Moderate	As part of fuel treatment implementation, the RDCK should consider developing interpretive signage to demonstrate pre- and post-fuel treatment forest stands conditions.		RDCK (Ministry of Forests)	4 years	Meetings take place	Incremental staff hours; possibly part of ongoing interagency communications
#29 Interpretive Signage	Moderate			RDCK FireSmart	5 years	Signage installed during implementation phases.	CRI FCFS
Residential and Community FireSmart							
#30 Contractors List	Moderate	Continue to provide a FireSmart Contractors list on the RDCK FireSmart website and offer the RDCK FireSmart Contractors Info Session for applicants.	Connecting residents with contractors who are qualified to complete FireSmart mitigation work (contractors for the home, landscapers, or arborists and forest fuel mitigation) removes a barrier to mitigation action.	RDCK FireSmart	Ongoing	A useful list of qualified contractors is provided online	CRI FCFS, FireSmart staff



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

FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS

AOI	Area of Interest
BC	British Columbia
BCWS	British Columbia Wildfire Service
BEC	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification
CFFDRS	Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System
CRI	Community Resiliency Investment
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
CWRP	Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan
DPA	Development Permit Area
EA	Electoral Area
FBP	Fire Behavior Prediction System
FCFS	FireSmart Community Funding and Supports: Stream 1 of the UBCM CRI Program
FNESS	First Nations Emergency Services Society
HIZ	Home Ignition Zone
MOF	Ministry of Forests
MOTI	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
NDT	Natural Disturbance Type
PSTA	Provincial Strategic Threat Assessment
RDCK	Regional District Central Kootenay
UBCM	Union of British Columbia Municipalities
WRR	Wildfire Risk Reduction (Crown Land WRR refers to Stream 2 of the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program, administered by the Ministry of Forests)
WTA	Wildfire Threat Assessment
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

In 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:

- 1) An assessment of values at risk and potential consequences from wildfire,
- 2) Maps of fuel types and recommended areas for fuel treatments (2017 fuel types and revised or additional fuel treatment areas),
- 3) An assessment of emergency response capacity, and
- 4) Options and strategies to reduce wildfire risk through the seven FireSmart disciplines.

1.2 PLAN DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

The CWRP development process consisted of five general phases:

- 1) Formation of the plan-level Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee. Consultation with the CFRC and information sharing occurred throughout.
- 2) Review of relevant plans and legislation regarding emergency response and wildfire (Section 2)
- 3) Description of the community and identification of values at risk (Section 3)
- 4) Assessment of the local wildfire risk (Section 4)
- 5) Analysis and action plan for each of the seven FireSmart disciplines (Section 5)

SECTION 2: RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS AND LEGISLATION

Wildfires can affect all aspects of a community. As a result, numerous RDCK plans, and neighboring jurisdictions relate to this CWRP. This section reviews all relevant plans, policies, bylaws, guidelines and provincial legislation to identify sections within that are relevant to community wildfire planning and response.

2.1 LOCAL AUTHORITY EMERGENCY PLAN

Emergency preparedness and response planning in BC is guided by the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA), which replaced the Emergency Program Act in November 2023.³ This Act defines the various roles and administrative duties of the province and local governments regarding the implementation of higher-level emergency planning; the processes of declaring a state of emergency; and the coordination of post-disaster relief. The Act emphasizes the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery.

Emergency planning in Electoral Area G and Salmo is provided under the RDCK Emergency Management Program. The RDCK Emergency Management Program encompasses all 11 Electoral Areas in the RDCK as well as the participating municipalities of Kaslo, Nakusp, New Denver, Salmo, Slocan and Silverton. The RDCK Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (2015)⁴ outlines structural and organizational requirements for coordinated response and recovery from emergencies in the RDCK, including decision-making tools

³ More information can be found at [Modernized emergency management legislation - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/modernized-emergency-management-legislation-province-of-british-columbia)

⁴ https://rdck.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2015-04-31_RDCK_Emergency_Response_Recovery_Plan%20V22.pdf

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 – 2017⁵

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

2.3 LOCAL PLANS AND BYLAWS

The sections and policies of the Electoral Area G Comprehensive Land Use Bylaw No. 2452, 2018⁷ and the Village of Salmo Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 687, 2020⁸ 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.

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

⁶ By B.A. Blackwell & Associates Ltd and Cathro Consulting Ltd.

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

⁸ Sustainable Salmo - Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 687, 2020

No gaps with OCP language as it related to wildfire risk reduction were identified for either the RDCK or the Village of Salmo (see also Section 5.3).

Table 2: Summary of Electoral Area G Official Community Plan and its relationship to this CWRP.

Section [Salmo River Valley Electoral Area G Land Use Bylaw No. 2452,2018] ⁹	Relevant Policies
3.0 Residential	<p>General Objectives: c. <i>susceptibility to natural hazards including but not limited to flooding, slope instability or wildfire risk;</i></p>
5.0 Community Services	<p>Community Services Objectives: 10. <i>Investigate and support the expansion of fire protection services to all communities within the Plan area.</i></p> <p>11. <i>Ensure that land use decisions accommodate emergency response through provision of adequate access to developments and facilities for fire protection services and emergency first response where such services are provided.</i></p>
10.0 Hazard Lands Fire Management	<p>Fire Management Objectives 9. <i>Reduce wildfire hazards and risk, particularly in and around communities and other high value areas.</i></p> <p>Fire Management Policies 10. <i>Supports protection of access to water sources such as hydrants, standpipes, lakes, and streams to remain free of obstructions for fire protection purposes.</i> 11. <i>Encourages local volunteer fire departments to work with the RDCK to keep up to date with emergency preparedness and with the identification of increased risk as a result of natural or man-made events.</i> 12. <i>Encourages voluntary efforts to reduce fire risk to existing buildings and new developments through educational materials and appropriate Fire Smart programs.</i> 13. <i>Supports the development and implementation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans and associated adjacent forest management strategies in areas of high to moderate wildfire risk.</i> 14. <i>Will evaluate opportunities to assist in Interface Fire Fuel Reduction treatment.</i> 15. <i>Will evaluate land development proposals with consideration to hazard mitigation, need for and ability to provide for year-round access and emergency and protective services.</i> 16. <i>Will undertake on-going efforts to identify areas for safe refuge from wildfire events, evacuation routes, supply of water for fire suppression activities and the location of critical infrastructure and community assets as identified on Schedule A.2.</i></p>

⁹ https://www.rdck.ca/assets/Government/Bylaws/Land~Use-Planning/2452-G-CLUB_Consolidated_2957.pdf

Section	
[Salmo River Valley Electoral Area G Land Use Bylaw No. 2452,2018] ⁹	Relevant Policies

15.0 Community Specific Policies

Rosebud Lake/Nelway

43. *Encourages investigation into the establishment of a community-based fire department to support fire protection and first response within the area.*

16.0 WATERCOURSE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT (WDP) AREA

14. *[Exemption] Land alterations involving emergency measures to prevent or reduce immediate threats to life or property including:*
c. 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;

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] ¹⁰	Section	Relevant Policies
3.0 Natural Environment	3.1.1	<i>b) 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>
		<i>(d) Reduce the risk of wildfire through awareness, prevention, regulation, and other mitigation measures;</i>
	3.1.2	<i>(c) To manage the trees and vegetation cover on Village-owned properties in order to minimize wildfire risk</i>
		<i>(d) Continue to promote the measures outlined in provincial and federal programs, such as WaterSmart, FireSmart, WildSafe and BearSmart;</i>

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

Section	Section	Relevant Policies
[Salmo Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 687, 2020] ¹⁰		
Natural Hazards & Flood Plain Management Permit Objectives	6.6.	<p>(a) Minimize the risks to residents and property posed by the natural hazards of floods, steep slopes, and interface forest fires (see Schedule K: Natural Hazards Development Permit Areas);</p> <p>(h) Should the Village acquire any properties through tax sale that are on a high-risk flood path or in the wildfire interface zone, remove existing development and undertake natural hazard prevention measures as applicable to the property;</p> <p>(i) Work with the RDCK to develop and implement community wildfire management plans for Salmo and area;</p>
	6.8.3	<p>(b) Minimize injury, loss of life, and damage to property and structures in areas identified as being at risk of slope instability and wildfire;</p> <p>The objective of DPA 5 is to protect the property located within that interface area and thus to protect the Town from wildfire spreading from this fringe area.</p>
6.9 DPA 5 – Wildfire Risk Permit Area	6.9.1 6.9.2 6.9.3 6.9.4 6.9.5	<p>The Villages Wildfire Interface Hazard Policies are as follows:</p> <p>(a) Continue to encourage property owners to use the “BC Homeowners FireSmart Manual”, and other information from the BC Forest Service;</p> <p>(b) Encourage property owners to consider FireSmart building materials when renovating existing buildings and to follow recommendations in the FireSmart Home Partners program;</p> <p>(c) Continue to use development permits, building regulations and public education as tools to ensure that developments incorporate fireguards, defensible space and appropriate fire-resistant building materials in wildfire interface areas;</p> <p>(d) Reduce the risk of wildfire by following the BC FireSmart program to promote awareness, prevention, regulation, and other mitigation measures;</p> <p>(e) Continue to work in cooperation with the Fire Department and the RDCK’s Emergency Management team to achieve an integrated Wildfire Protection Plan;</p> <p>(f) Work with the RDCK and property owners in Area G and the Village to consider</p> <p>(g) To protect future development from natural events such as wildfire by periodically reviewing Wildfire Interface design guidelines to ensure they continue to provide the necessary guidelines for construction within the wildfire interface areas;</p>
7.0 Infrastructure	7.1.13	<p>(d) When preparing a land use regulation bylaw, and when considering amendments to the land use regulation bylaw and in designing or amending other bylaws, fire safety and firefighting efficiency will be encouraged through such provisions as:</p> <p>i. Ensuring that no building is approved where the height would exceed the limit imposed by the effective two-story capacity of the Village’s firefighting equipment;</p>

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

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"> - 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. - Campfires are permitted within municipal boundaries under most conditions
Village of Salmo Emergency Measures Bylaw No. 643 (1996)	4.4.e 4.4.g	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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; - Assigns ICS structure in the community of Salmo for an emergency or disaster
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"> - Addresses need for fire protection in new construction.

Bylaws	Section	Description and Relevant Policies
		- To mandate materials and landscaping beyond the BC Building Code and established bylaws, Development Permit Areas can be implemented (see Section 5.3)
Emergency Management Regulatory Use Bylaw No. 2210 (amended by Bylaw No. 2758 in 2021)		Outlines administrative structure and roles of Emergency Program
	5.1	- Provides structure and guidelines in times of emergency.
	Amended Bylaw No. 2758	Adds "mitigation" into the description of the Emergency Program and Emergency Management Plan
		- RDCK to develop, coordinate and manage emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. This would include from wildfires.
Manufactured Home Parks Bylaw No. 1082 (1995)		Fires shall be made only in stoves, incinerators, or other structures designed for that purpose.
	8.8.3	- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks in structures made largely from ignitable and combustible materials.
		If no approved fire hydrant is available to provide protection, a minimum of one (1) stagnant water supply at a minimum of 15,539 litres (6000 lgal) shall be provided on site in order to be accessed in case of emergency for fire protection purposes on properties serviced by Fire Protection.
	8.8.4	- Increases assurance of useful water supply systems in the event of a fire to responding fire departments.
Parks Regulation – Consolidated Bylaw No. 2173		No person shall start or maintain a fire in a park, except in facilities provided at a park for that purpose.
	22	- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.
		No person shall use any vegetation within a park to start or maintain a fire in a park, except firewood that is either brought on-site or provided by a campground operator for fire purposes
	23	- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.
		No person shall leave a fire in a park unattended.
	24	- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.
		No person shall burn any unsuitable materials including but not limited to organic yard waste, household waste, plastic, rubber, flammable or combustible liquid, or any treated lumber or construction debris, or toxic waste.
	25	- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.

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><i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
	8 (15)	<p>No person other than the Site Operator or Service Personnel or their representative shall start any fires at any Resource Recovery Facility.</p> <p><i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>
	4.1	<p>Jurisdiction of each Fire Department, and the powers granted to each Fire Department and its Fire Chief and Members under this Bylaw, is restricted to the boundaries of the Fire Department's particular Fire Protection Service set out in its establishment bylaw. A Fire Department shall not respond to any Incident under this Bylaw outside of the boundaries of its Fire Protection Service Area except as specified in Section 4(2)(a) to (f) of this Bylaw.</p> <p><i>- Outlines jurisdictional limits of fire departments, which may impact rural communities with no immediate fire service (see Section 5.6).</i></p>
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><i>- Outlines jurisdictional limits of fire departments, which may impact rural communities with no immediate fire service (see Section 5.6).</i></p>
	9.4	<p>No person shall grow shrubs, hedges, plants or trees to obstruct the visibility or use of a fire hydrant, standpipe or sprinkler connection.</p> <p><i>- Provides linkage to FireSmart activities and property preparedness.</i></p>
	10.1	<p>Where this bylaw applies within a municipality the Regional District is authorized to enforce municipal open burning regulations.</p> <p><i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i></p>

Bylaws	Section	Description and Relevant Policies
Water Bylaw No. 2894	12.2	The Occupier of a Public Building in which any of the Alarm System, Fire Protection Equipment, or emergency power system is not operating must institute and maintain a Fire Watch until those systems or equipment are operational. <i>- Limits fire ignition and propagation risks.</i>
	10.4.1	All fire hydrants and standpipes directly connected to Regional District Water Mains are the property of the Regional District. <i>- Outlines RDCK ownership and responsibility relating to water sources.</i>
	11.6.2 (f)	Notwithstanding the prohibitions in this Section, the Manager may authorize in writing the discharge of Regional District supplied water for the purposes of training programs for fire fighters. <i>- Supports training opportunities for local fire fighters (see Section 5.4).</i>

2.4 HIGHER-LEVEL PLANS AND LEGISLATION

Table 5 lists higher-level plans and legislation that are relevant to wildfire planning and risk mitigation within Electoral Area G and Salmo. These plans help guide where and how activities like resource extraction occur on the landscape, which can affect both wildfire threat and consequence. Depending on the location of any proposed fuel management treatments, fuel management prescriptions and prescribed / cultural burn plans may need to address these plans as they relate to on-the-ground restrictions and policies for forest modification.

To date there has been no Wildfire Urban Interface Wildfire Risk Reduction (WUI WRR) Plan completed for the plan area. WUI WRR plans are led by the Ministry of Forests Crown Land WRR program. They are the next generation of Tactical Plan and serve as the primary wildfire risk reduction planning mechanism for Crown land in the interface.¹¹

¹¹ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/fuels-management/wui_wrr_plan_development_standard_and_guidance_document.pdf

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

Plan/Legislation	Description and Relationship to CWRP
The Forest and Range Practices Act & Government Action Regulations (GARs)	<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"> - <i>Non-legal Old Growth Management Areas</i> - <i>Ungulate Winter Range partial-harvest</i> - <i>Significant fish streams and rivers</i> - <i>Community watersheds</i> - <i>Regionally significant visual areas</i>
BC Provincial Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation	<p>The Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation came into effect in September 2019 and governs open burning relating to land clearing, forestry operations and silviculture, wildlife habitat enhancement, and community wildfire risk reduction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The majority of the wildland-urban interface is within a High Smoke Sensitivity Zone.</i>
Kootenay Boundary Higher Level Plan	<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>
Wildfire Act and Regulation	<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>
Parks Act	<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>
BC Parks and Protected Areas Management Plans and Strategic Statements	<p>Outlines management objectives for a park / protected area and any special considerations. Would provide strategic direction for proposed</p>

Plan/Legislation	Description and Relationship to CWRP
<p>The Forest Act</p> <p>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</p>	<p>activities in park, including fuel management. Management plans are available for parks in the WUI:</p> <p>Erie Creek Provincial Park Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan (2003)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect a mature cedar hemlock forest and black cottonwood ecosystem <p>Establishes the framework for managing forest resources, including provisions that can influence wildfire management. Key aspects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provincial Forest and Wilderness Areas: The Act allows for the designation of Provincial forests and wilderness areas, facilitating coordinated management strategies that can include wildfire prevention and response measures. - Timber Supply Areas and Allowable Annual Cut: By designating timber supply areas and determining allowable annual cuts, the Act ensures sustainable forest harvesting, which can reduce fuel loads and mitigate wildfire risks. - Removal of Dead or Damaged Timber: The Act provides mechanisms for the timely removal of dead or damaged timber, such as that affected by insect infestations, to prevent significant value loss and minimize wildfire hazards. - Prohibited Timber Cutting: Unauthorized cutting, removal, or destruction of Crown timber is prohibited under the Act, helping to maintain forest health and reduce activities that could increase wildfire risks. <p>The Act provides the necessary legal authority and organizational structure to effectively manage emergencies and disasters, inclusive of wildfire risks through mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts</p>

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

This section defines the planning area for this CWRP and provides general demographic information about Electoral Area G and Salmo. An understanding of population trends, land use patterns, and values at risk can help effectively direct FireSmart outreach and risk mitigation activities.

3.1 AREA OF INTEREST AND WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE

The Area of Interest (AOI) for this CWRP is defined by the boundaries of Electoral Area G, including the Village of Salmo. Only a portion of this is within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). The WUI is defined by FireSmart Canada as the zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. For the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) program, the 'Eligible WUI' is considered as the area 1 km from a structure density class greater than six structures per square kilometer. This is a departure from the 2017 CWPP, which used a 2-km buffer on

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.¹²

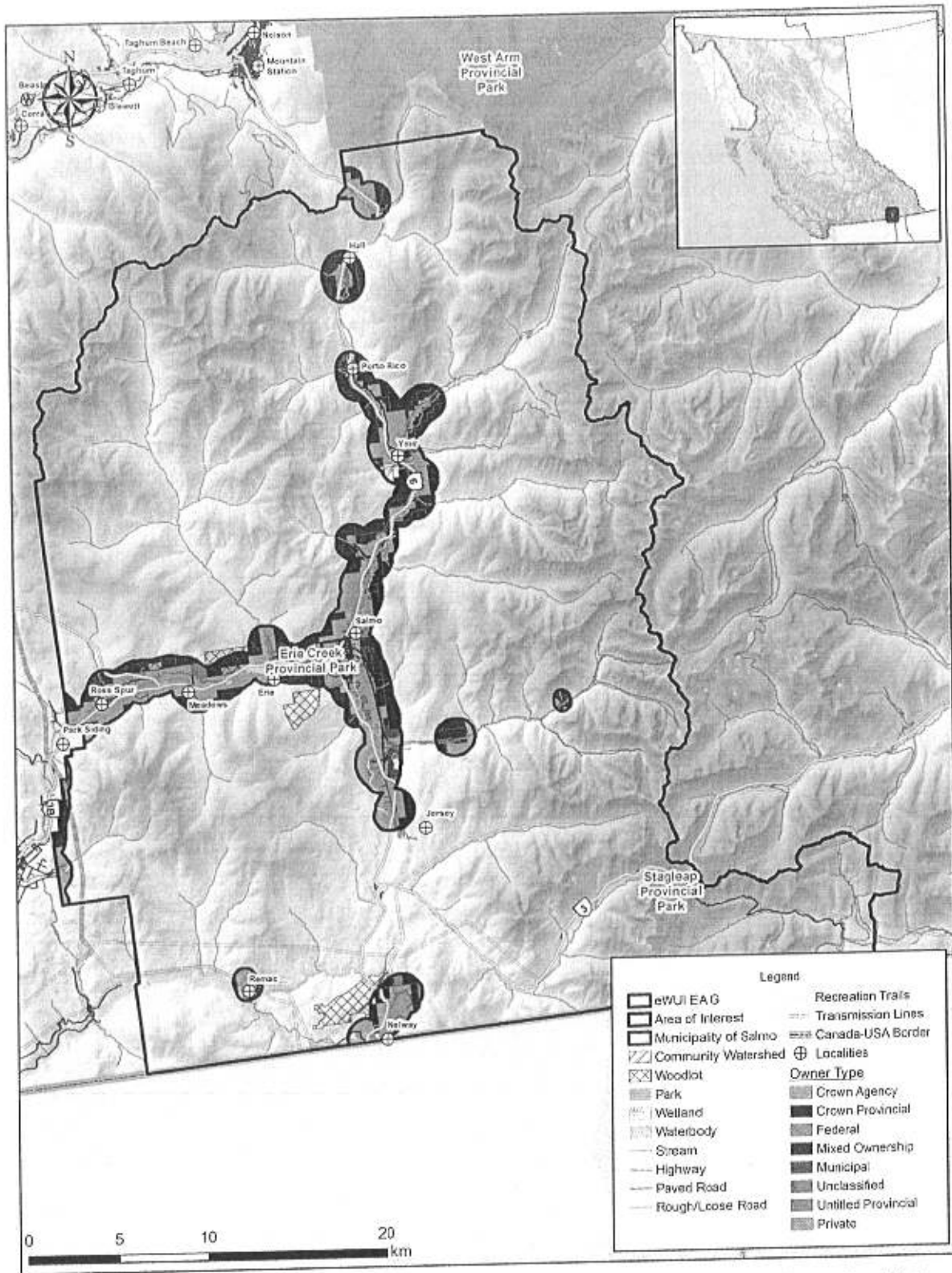
The Eligible WUI was clipped to the boundaries of Electoral Area G, which encompasses the Village of Salmo and forms the Area of Interest (AOI) for the CWRP. Field work, GIS analysis, and the recommendations for this CWRP cover only this one kilometer 'Eligible WUI' which covers a total of 13,579 hectares. 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%

¹² [Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class Maps - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/preparedness-response-recovery/wildfire-resiliency-plans/wildland-urban-interface-risk-class-maps)
Regional District of Central Kootenay – Electoral Area G + Salmo Community
Wildfire Resiliency Plan



Map 1: CWRP Area of Interest (AOI) and Eligible Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) for Electoral Area G and Salmo.

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 2021.¹³ 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 census¹³

Metric	Value
Population	
Total Population	1,650
Population Density (people/km ²)	1.1

¹³ 2021 Canadian Census Data.

Metric	Value
Population percentage change between 2016 and 2021	+1.7%
Number of people <14 years old (% of total population for the area)	16.1%
Number of people 15-64 years old (% of total population for the area)	66.1%
Number of people >65 years old (% of total population for the area)	17.9%
Median Age (years)	43.5
Housing	
Total private dwellings (year)	740
Private dwellings permanently occupied	79.9%
Ownership	85.8%
Income and Employment	
Median Total Income of Households	\$58,800

Table 8. Socio-economic statistics for the Village of Salmo as per the 2021 census.¹³

Metric	Value
Population	
Total Population	1,140
Population Density (people/km ²)	466.4
Population percentage change between 2016 and 2021	-0.1%
Number of people <14 years old (% of total population for the area)	14.0%
Number of people 15-64 years old (% of total population for the area)	57.9%
Number of people >65 years old (% of total population for the area)	27.6%
Median Age (years)	47.6
Housing	
Total private dwellings (year)	570
Private dwellings permanently occupied	71.9%
Ownership	70.2%
Income and Employment	
Median Total Income of Households (2020)	\$50,000

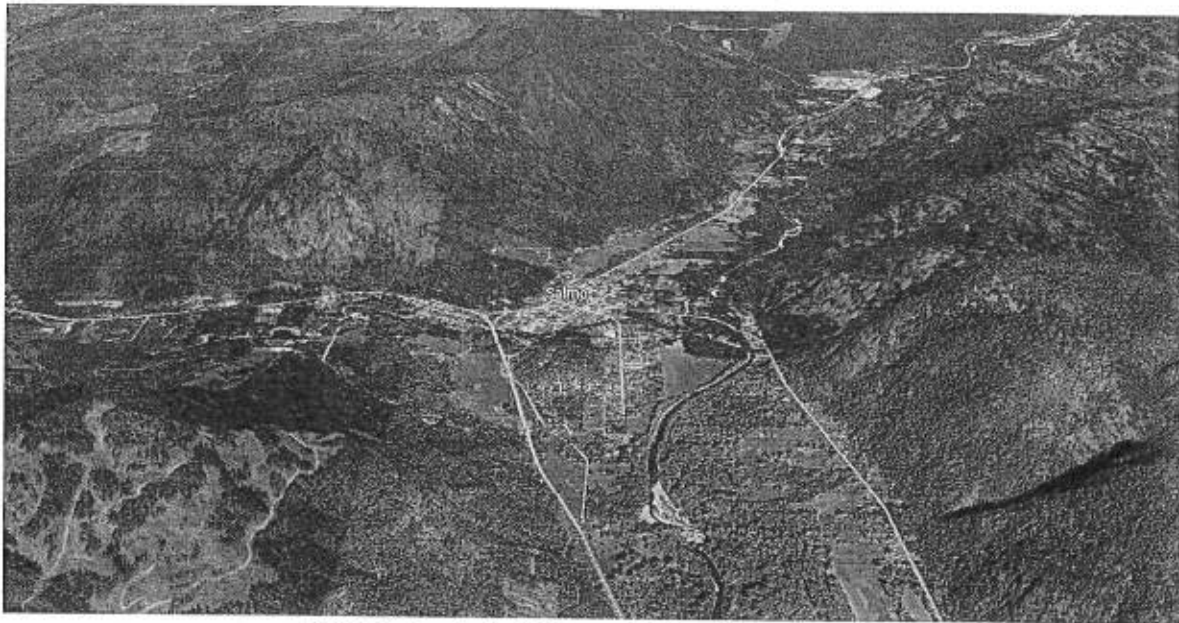


Figure 1. Google Earth image of Salmo (looking north).

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.

Ross Spur – Erie

West of Salmo, several small communities are spread along Highway 3. Ross Spur and Meadows are 10-15 km west of Salmo at the far edge of Electoral Area G, near the junction of Highway 3 and Highway 3B. Properties are mainly rural residential, with some agricultural lots and light industrial development. Just west of Salmo is Erie, where Erie Creek meets the Salmo River. Fire protection in Meadow, Erie, and part of Ross Spur is provided by the Salmo Fire Department. The portion of Ross Spur is protected under contract by the Regional District Kootenay Boundary.

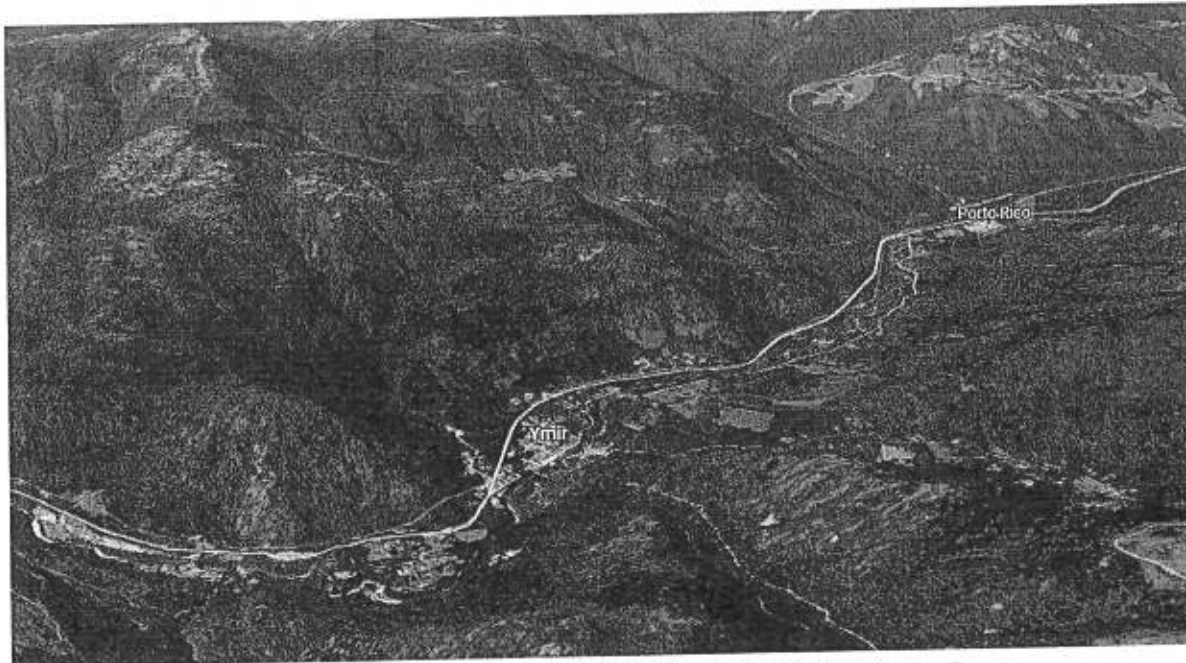


Figure 3. Google Earth image of Ymir, looking NNW

Ymir

Ymir is a small community approximately 13 km north of Salmo on Highway 6. As of the 2021 census the population was 214. There is a relatively dense community center with small residential lots and some commercial amenities. Drinking water is provided by an RDCK-operated system on Quartz Creek that also includes fire hydrants. Fire protection is provided by the Ymir Volunteer Fire Department.

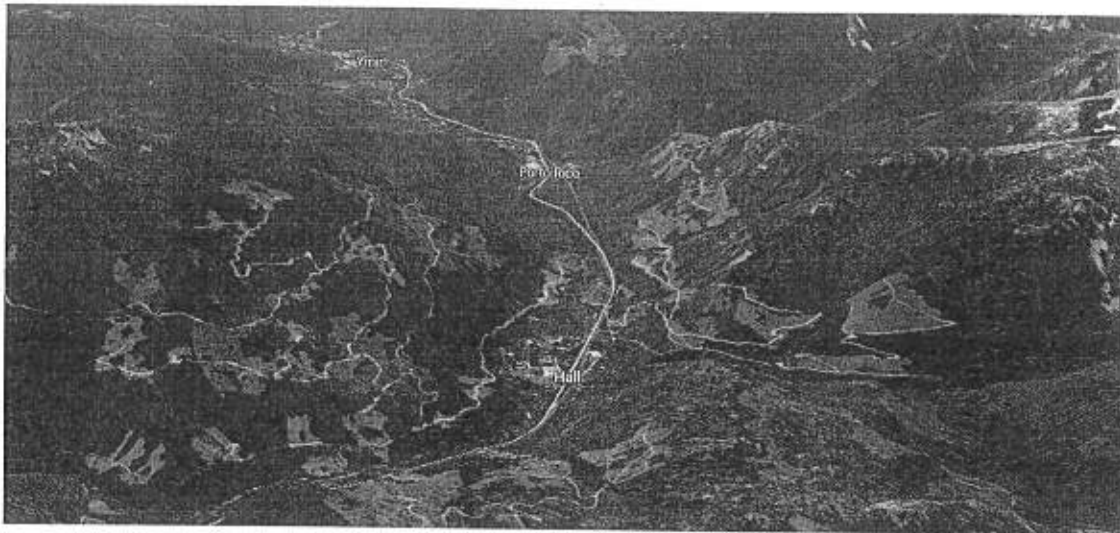


Figure 4. Google Earth image of Hall and Porto Rico, looking south towards Ymir.

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.

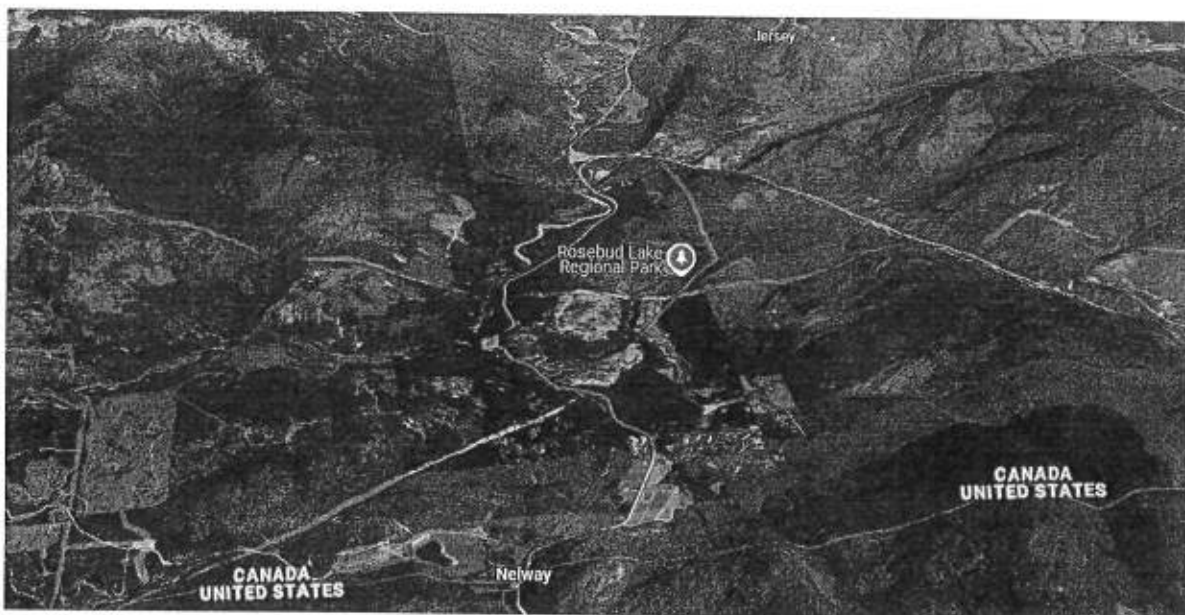


Figure 5. Google Earth image of Nelway, looking north to Rosebud Lake and Salmo.

Nelway

Nelway is located just north of the Canada-US border on Highway 6. The Salmo River flows west into the Pend Oreille River just north of Nelway. Most properties are rural residential with some larger farms and ranches. Rosebud Lake Regional Park just north of Nelway is a large, RDCK-operated park that provides waterfront access and wildlife habitat protection. Nelway is outside of any structural fire protection areas.

3.3 VALUES AT RISK

Values at risk are the human, natural, or cultural resources that could be negatively impacted by wildfire. Protection of these values during a wildfire event is an important consideration for effective emergency response. Pre-identifying critical infrastructure and values at risk before an emergency event can ensure that essential services can be protected and/or restored quickly.

3.3.1 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Critical infrastructure includes buildings and structures that are essential to the health, safety, security, or economic wellbeing of the community and the effective functioning of government.¹⁴ Table 9 (and displayed on Map 2) lists critical infrastructure in the plan area as identified by the RDCK.¹⁵ The assets operated by the RDCK are the Ymir water system, fire hall, and Salmo & Area Recreation Centre. The Village of Salmo operates a water system, sewer system, and fire hall. Water and electric systems are discussed in more detail in Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3. FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments have been conducted on both fire halls in the plan area. The CFRC stated that all critical infrastructure in the Village of Salmo had a FireSmart assessment within the last 5 years.

Table 9. Critical Infrastructure and community assets within Electoral Area G.

Name	Type	Jurisdiction	Location	Comment
<i>Critical Infrastructure</i>				
Ambulance Station	Emergency Response	Salmo (Village)	Salmo	
Salmo Fire Hall	Emergency Response	Village of Salmo – Salmo Fire Department	Salmo	Backup generator – natural gas
Salmo Village Office	Emergency Response / Administration	Village of Salmo	Salmo	
Ymir Fire Hall	Emergency Response	Regional District of Central Kootenay -	Ymir	FireSmart assessment

¹⁴ FireSmart BC. Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan Instruction Guide 2023. November 2023. LGPS_CRI_FCF52023CWRPInstructionGuideV1.pdf

¹⁵ RDCK maintains a comprehensive database of critical infrastructure GIS point data and was provided as part of this Plan's development.

Name	Type	Jurisdiction	Location	Comment
Communication Tower	Telecommunication	Ymir Volunteer Fire Department Crown Provincial	Electoral Area G	completed, mitigation pending
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	
Community Assets				
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

to wildfire-damaged transmission lines kilometers north of town. It took ATCO, the power authority in the region, approximately 10 days to fully restore power to the town.¹⁶

FortisBC provides electrical service in the plan area through a network of transmission and distribution lines. Several transmission lines intersect the WUI, from Trail to Nelson (Fortis BC) and from Creston west along Highway 3 and the Pend Oreille River, where there is also a substation. In the event of a wildfire, both BC Hydro and Fortis BC will work with BCWS crews to protect and monitor electrical infrastructure. The CFRC indicated that there is communication between the RDCK and utility providers on right-of-way maintenance; however, it is ultimately the responsibility of the utility companies to manage under the Wildfire Act. Fortis BC also operates natural gas pipelines in Electoral Area G.

Communities can increase their resilience to an emergency that cuts power for days, or even weeks, through robust emergency planning and back-up power for key systems, especially water. Residents on private well systems would be relying on electrical generators to obtain drinking water in the event of a power outage. Vulnerabilities for secondary power sources include mechanical failure, potentially insufficient power sources should a wide-scale outage occur, and diesel fuel shortage in the event of long outages or road closures. Critical infrastructure in the plan area, including water systems and community buildings that could be designated as Local Area Emergency Operations Centres under the RDCK Emergency Response and Recovery Plan, should have a backup power source.

3.3.3 WATER AND SEWAGE

Drinking water supply in Electoral Area G is provided by a combination of community water systems and private wells or surface water intakes. The RDCK operates one water system (Ymir) in Electoral Area G. Source water is from Quartz Creek. Detailed information on each RDCK water system is provided on the RDCK website and is summarized below in Table 10.¹⁷ There are no sewer or wastewater treatment systems within Electoral Area G outside of Salmo; residents rely on private septic systems. The Village of Salmo operates a water and sewer system within municipal boundaries. An engineering study on the Village's water supply was completed in 2024.

There are two designated community watersheds in Electoral Area G:

- Kelly Community Watershed (Kelly Creek, surface water for Fruitvale [RDCK Area A])
- Quartz Community Watershed (Quartz Creek, just east of Ymir)

¹⁶ <https://globalnews.ca/news/9129496/jasper-chetamon-wildfire-power-restored-september-14/>

¹⁷ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/water/rdck-water-systems.html>

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 ³ 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

that known or unknown cultural resources are not inadvertently damaged or destroyed, and that First Nations strategies for land management in their traditional territory are complied with.

3.3.6 HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

There are numerous environmental values at risk throughout Electoral Area G. Protected areas include Erie Creek Provincial Park. The RDCK-managed Rosebud Lake Regional Park is also managed as a wildlife area for Western Painted Turtle and was recently expanded in collaboration with the BC Parks Foundation.¹⁸ The RDCK has also designated a Watercourse Development Permit (WDP) Area in Electoral Area G which applies to all riparian areas. Vegetation removal specifically for wildfire risk mitigation is exempt (see Table 2 in Section 2.3).

There are significant overlaps with species and ecosystems at risk identified through the B.C. Conservation Data Center (Table 12). As part of due diligence on public land, any prescriptions developed for fuel management treatment (see Section 5.7) should identify and mitigate potential impacts to ecosystems or species at risk. Prescriptions may require rationales and/or mitigation measures for tree removal in some areas, especially where overlapping with designated wildlife areas. There is no overlap with Ungulate Winter Range or Wildlife Habitat Areas in the WUI, but there is overlap with federally-mapped critical habitat for species at risk.

Table 12: Species and Ecosystems at Risk in the WUI – BC Conservation Data Center.

English Name	Scientific Name	BC List	Category	Habitat Type
Alkali-Marsh Butterweed	<i>Senecio hydrophilus</i>	Red	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIAL
Banded Tigersnail	<i>Anguispira kochi</i>	Blue	Invertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Woodland Mixed; RIVERINE: Riparian
Beardless Wildrye	<i>Elymus curvatus</i>	Blue	Vascular Plant	RIVERINE: Riparian
Caribou (Southern Mountain Population)	<i>Rangifer tarandus pop. 1</i>	Red	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL; FOREST NEEDLELEAF
Columbia Quillwort	<i>Isoetes minima</i>	Red	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIAL: Seepage
Common Clarkia	<i>Clarkia rhomboidea</i>	Blue	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIA: Forest Needleleaf, Roadside
Common Clarkia	<i>Clarkia rhomboidea</i>	Blue	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIAL: Roadside, Forest Needleleaf, Seepage Slope
Cusick'S Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum cusickii</i>	Blue	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIAL: Forest Needleleaf, Rock Outcrop, Roadside; Riverine: Sand/Gravel Bars
Dwarf Hesperochiron	<i>Hesperochiron pumilus</i>	Red	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIAL: Seepage, Grassland/Herbaceous

¹⁸ <https://www.mykootenaynow.com/60464/news/kootenay-news/rosebud-lake-regional-park-bigger-and-better/>

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>Symphyotrichum 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</i> <i>ssp. discolor</i>	N/A	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIAL TERRESTRIAL: Shrubland, Forest Needleleaf,
North American Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	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

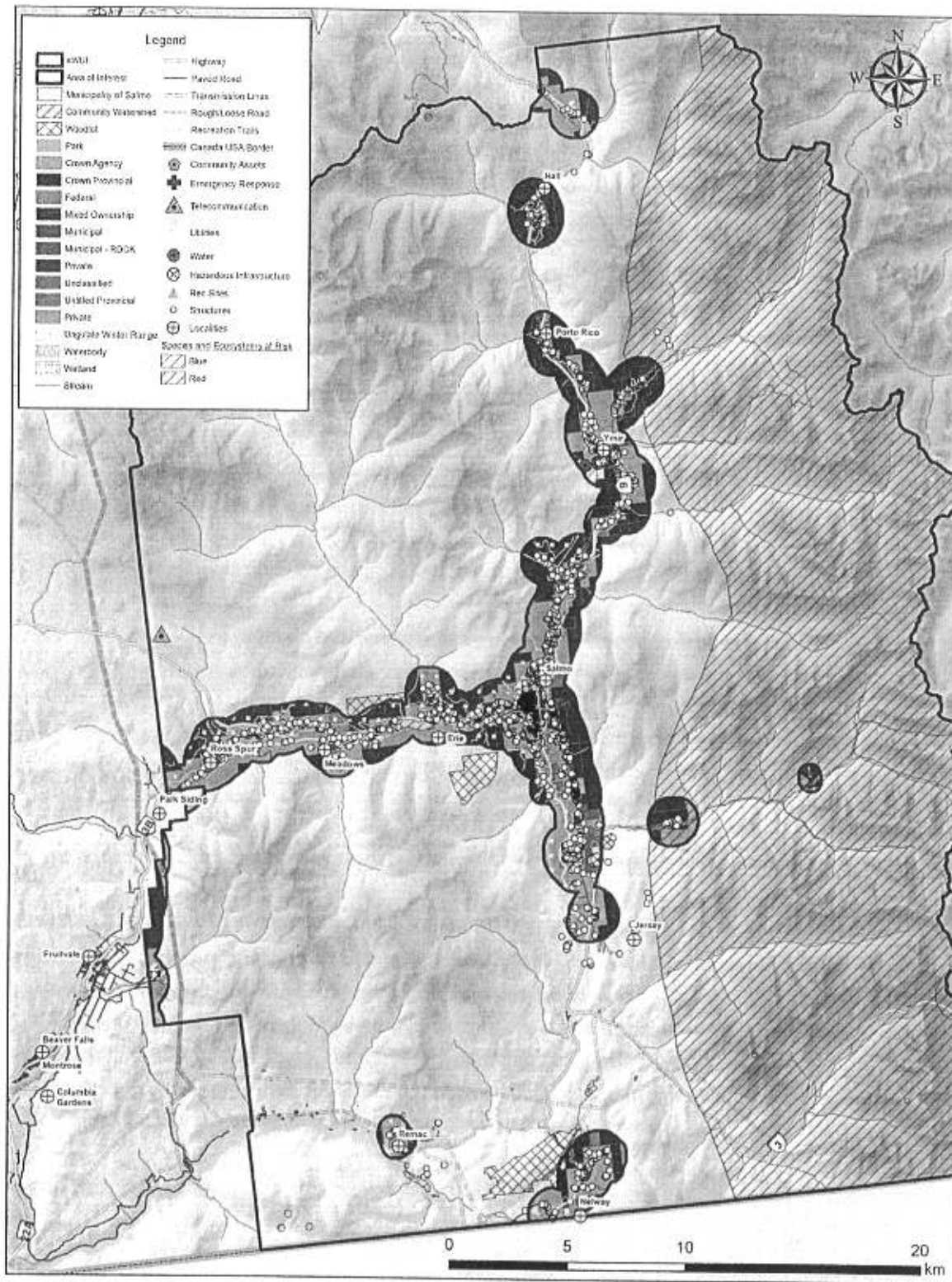
English Name	Scientific Name	BC List	Category	Habitat Type
Western Skink	<i>Plestiodon skiltonianus</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Rock Outcrop, Forest Needleleaf PALUSTRINE: Herbaceous Wetland, Pond;
Whitebark Pine	<i>Pinus albicaulis</i>	Blue	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIAL: Subalpine, Forest Needleleaf, Grassland/Herbaceous
Wild Licorice	<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i>	Blue	Vascular Plant	RIVERINE: Riparian, TERRESTRIAL: Forest Needleleaf, Roadside
Yellowseed False Pimpernel	<i>Lindernia dubia</i> var. <i>dubia</i>	Blue	Vascular Plant	RIVERINE: Riparian, Floodplain; LACUSTRINE: Beach

3.3.7 OTHER RESOURCE VALUES

There are other important resource values associated with the land base, including forestry, agriculture (commercial and hobby farms), recreation and tourism. Most Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) polygons are south of Salmo in the Salmo River valley. Most forest harvesting takes place outside the WUI.

Large areas around Salmo are managed as provincial recreation areas (Recreation Sites and Trails BC). Controlled Recreation Areas (CRAs) managed by the Ministry of Forests Mountain Resorts Branch also overlap the WUI; these are associated with the Salmo Ski Hill as well as Whitewater Ski Resort (Whitewater has only a small overlap with Area G; the majority is in Area E). The Delaurentiis trail east of town is also a provincially managed recreation feature, as is a cross-country skiing area close to Whitewater managed by the Nelson Nordic Ski Club. The Bonnington Range and Kootenay Pass are popular backcountry skiing areas within Electoral Area G (but outside the WUI).

Any fuel management within Electoral Area G should consider the impact on any of these additional values and consult with appropriate land managers, licensees, and stakeholders groups in the area. Recommendations regarding interagency cooperation are discussed in Section 5.5.



SECTION 4: WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

This section summarizes the factors that contribute to local wildfire risk in Electoral Area G. Section 4.1 discusses the wildfire environment in the WUI: focusing on topography, fuel, and weather. Section 4.2 and 4.2.3 discuss wildfire history in the area and wildfire response data from local fire crews. Section 4.3 summarizes the local risk assessment conducted for the last CWPP in 2017, clipped to the 1 km Eligible WUI. A full update of fuel types and local wildfire threat was outside the scope of this CWRP update.

The relationship between wildfire risk and wildfire threat is defined as follows:

$$\text{Wildfire Risk} = \text{Probability} \times \text{Consequence}$$

Where:

Wildfire risk is defined as the potential losses incurred to human life and values at risk within a community in the event of a wildfire.

Probability is the threat of wildfire occurring in an area and is expressed by the ability of a wildfire to ignite and then consume fuel on the landscape. An area's *wildfire threat* is controlled primarily by:

- Topography: Slope and terrain features can influence rate of spread; aspect can affect pre-heating and other fuel properties
- Fuel: Amount, vertical and horizontal arrangement, type, and dryness
- Weather: Temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, precipitation

Consequences refer to the repercussions associated with fire occurrence in a given area. Higher consequences are associated with densely populated areas, presence of values at risk, etc.

4.1 WILDFIRE ENVIRONMENT

There are three environmental components that influence wildfire behavior: topography, weather, and fuel. These components are generally referred to as the 'fire behaviour triangle' (Figure 6); the ways in which they individually influence the wildfire environment of the area will be detailed below. Fuel is the only component of the fire triangle that can be reasonably managed through human intervention. It is important to recognize that in WUI fires, wildland fuels (trees, shrubs, branches, etc.) are not the only fuel available to the fire – houses and their exterior construction materials and landscaping vegetation, cars, barbeque propane tanks, and more (anything that is flammable or combustible) is available fuel.

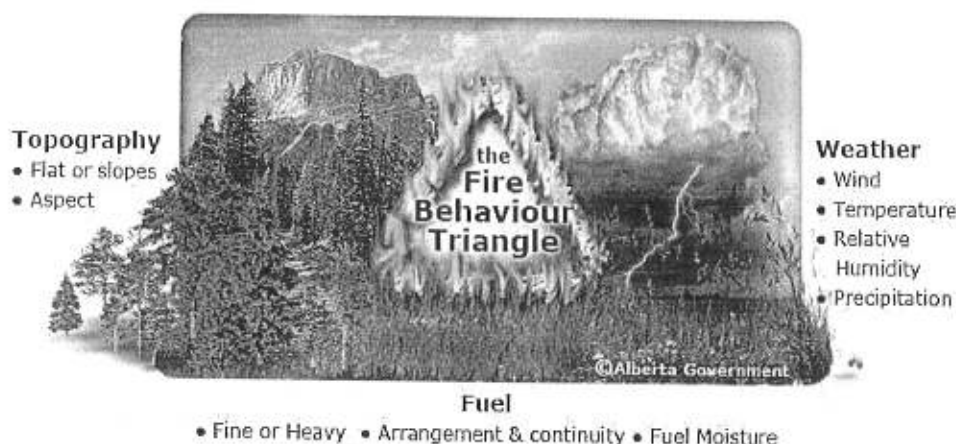


Figure 6. Graphic display of the fire behaviour triangle, and a subset of characteristics within each component.¹⁹

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.

¹⁹ Graphic adopted from the Province of Alberta.

Table 13: Slope Percentage and Fire Behaviour Implications.²⁰

Slope	Percent of Eligible WUI	Fire Behaviour Implications
<20%	25%	Very little flame and fuel interaction caused by slope, normal rate of spread.
21-30%	14%	Flame tilt begins to preheat fuel, increase rate of spread.
31-45%	26%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and begins to bathe flames into fuel, high rate of spread.
46-60%	21%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel, very high rate of spread.
>60%	14%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel well upslope, extreme rate of spread.

Slope-associated *fire risk* is dependent upon the slope position of values (Table 14). Values located at mid to upper slope have a heightened wildfire risk due to the pre-heating of fuels from fire below and longer flame lengths reaching uphill. As discussed above, most communities in Electoral Area G are located on or near valley bottom, on slopes <30%, so would not have increased fire behaviour influenced by topography and slope position alone. However, there are some structures that are mid-slope (e.g. homes on Wildhorse Road), and these would be threatened by faster rates of slope-driven fire spread. It should be noted that fires can also spread downhill, due to downslope winds or rolling debris.

For Electoral Area G, the key topographical feature affecting potential fire behaviour is the presence of continuous forested slopes on either side of the Salmo River Valley. There is little alpine terrain in proximity to communities in Electoral Area G, so natural topographic breaks to fire spread are limited.

Table 14: Slope Position of Value and Fire Behaviour Implications.²¹

Slope Position of Value	Fire Behaviour Implications
Bottom of Slope/ Valley Bottom	Impacted by normal rates of spread.
Mid Slope - Bench	Impacted by increase rates of spread. Position on a bench may reduce the preheating near the value. (Value is offset from the slope).

²⁰ Adapted from Table 3: Slope Percentage and Fire Behavior Implications; "Determining Wildfire Threat and Risk at a Local Level"; Tools for Fuel Management website. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/fuel-management>

²¹ Copied from Table 5: Slope Position of Value and Fire Behavior Implications; "Determining Wildfire Threat and Risk at a Local Level"; Tools for Fuel Management website. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/fuel-management>

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.²² 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 stands²³ 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.²⁴ 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

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

²³ 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.

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

Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) data, which is gathered and maintained to inform timber management objectives, not fire behaviour prediction. Although a subjective process, the most appropriate fuel type was assigned based on research, experience, and practical knowledge; this system has been successfully used within BC, with continual improvement and refinement, for 25 years.²⁵ In some areas, aerial imagery is of low spatial resolution and/or ground access was impossible, making fuel type assessment difficult. Table 15 lists the percentage of fuel types and associated wildfire behaviour within the WUI; fuel types are displayed on Map 3.

Local BCWS representatives indicated that like many other parts of the RDCK, fuel volatility (observed fire behavior) depends more on wind and topography than fuel type. However, M-1/2 and C-5 forests with high amounts of surface fuel, ladder fuels, and moderate proportion of standing dead stems were cited as the highest concern. The relative lack of large fires in the area over the last 100 years has contributed to a buildup of fuel in these forests. Open C-7 stands found in some parts of Electoral Area G were also identified as conducive to rapid fire spread.

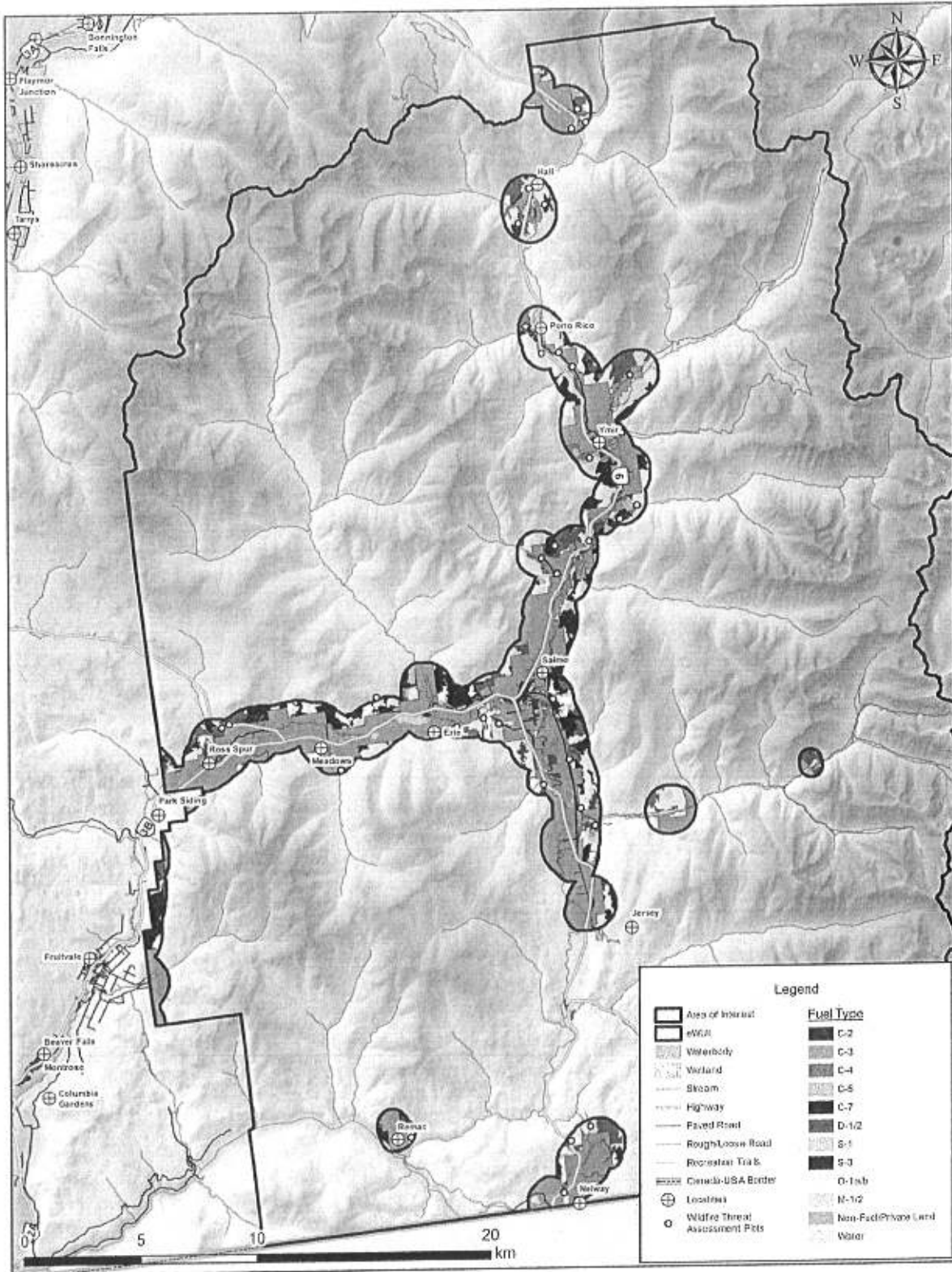
Table 15: Fuel types in Electoral Area G's WUI

Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Area (ha)	Percent (%) of public land
C-2	Plantations older than 20 years. High density with high canopy and low crowns.	Almost always crown fire, high to very high fire intensity and rate of spread.	77	1%
C-3	Fully stocked, mature conifer stands with crowns separated from the ground.	Surface and crown fire, low to very high fire intensity and rate of spread.	243	3%
C-4	Dense pole-sapling forest, heavy dead and down, dead woody fuel, vertical crown fuel continuity.	Almost always crown fire, high to very high fire intensity and rate of spread.	190	3%
C-5	Well-stocked mature forest, crowns separated from ground. Moderate understory herbs and shrubs. Little grass or surface fuel accumulation.	Low to moderately fast spreading, low to moderate intensity surface fire.	713	10%
C-7	Mature and open forest stands with a mix of flashy grass fuels and lower flammability shrubs.	Surface fire spread, torching of individual trees, rarely crowning (usually limited to slopes > 30%), moderate to high intensity and rate of spread.	1543	22%
D-1/2	Deciduous stands/forest. Hazard increases with the amount of deadfall and/or establishment of a flammable shrub layer.	Always a surface fire, low to moderate rate of spread and fire intensity.	1261	18%
M-1/2	Moderately well-stocked mixed stands of conifer and deciduous, low to	Surface, torching and crowning, moderate to very	2142	31%

²⁵ Perrakis, D, G. Eade and D. Hicks. 2018. Canadian Forest Service Pacific Forestry Centre. British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description

Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Area (ha)	Percent (%) of public land
	moderate dead stems and down woody fuels. Often transition to become more conifer dominated as pioneer deciduous species die out if disturbance is excluded. ²⁶	high intensity and spread rate (depending on slope and percent conifer and season (in leaf vs leafless).		
O-1a/b	Grassland fuels ('a' refers to matted grasses, 'b' refers to standing). The volatility of this fuel type depends on the percentage of grass that is cured.	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

²⁶ 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



Map 3. Updated fuel types in Electoral Area G's WUI.

4.1.3 WEATHER

Weather conditions, including relative humidity and wind, along with drought, play pivotal roles in wildfire behaviour. The intricacies of local topography can result in unpredictable and variable weather patterns, further emphasizing the significance of weather as a primary environmental factor influencing fire behaviour. 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.

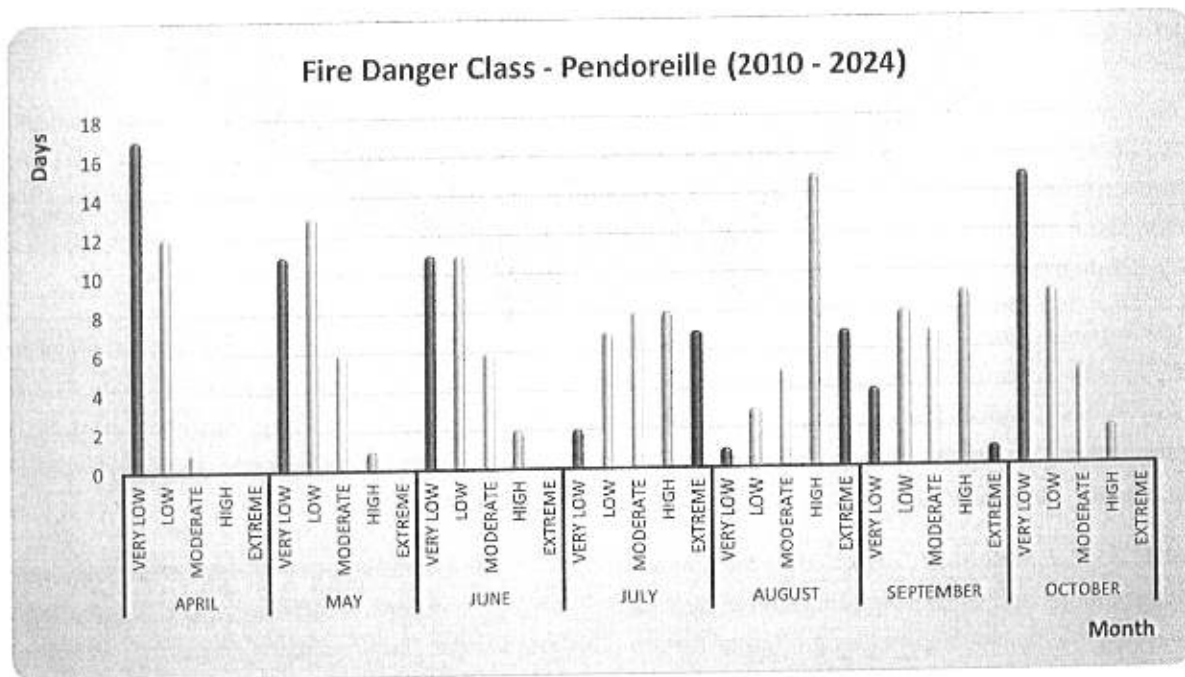


Figure 7. The average number of days by Fire Danger Class for the past 14 years, based on data from the BC Wildfire Services Pend Oreille weather station.

Wind speed and direction are also critical weather components influencing fire behavior, and wind speed and direction are also recorded at BCWS weather stations. Data is publicly available in the form of average Initial Spread Index (ISI) roses. The ISI is a numeric rating of the expected rate of fire spread that combines the effects of wind speed and fine fuel moisture (which is controlled by temperature and relative humidity). ISI roses can be used to help plan the location of fuel treatments on the landscape to protect values at risk based on the predominant wind direction and frequency of higher ISI values. Wildfire that occurs upwind of a value poses a more significant threat to that value than one which occurs downwind.

During the peak fire season (July to September), the Pend Orielle fire weather station's hourly averages indicate that the plan area primarily experiences strong diurnal winds that originate from the southwest and southeast during the daytime and shift to north and east winds at night. Peak ISI values typically occur during the afternoon. As per Figure 8 below, May to September are peak months for high ISI values (dry and/or windy conditions).



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& Associates Ltd.

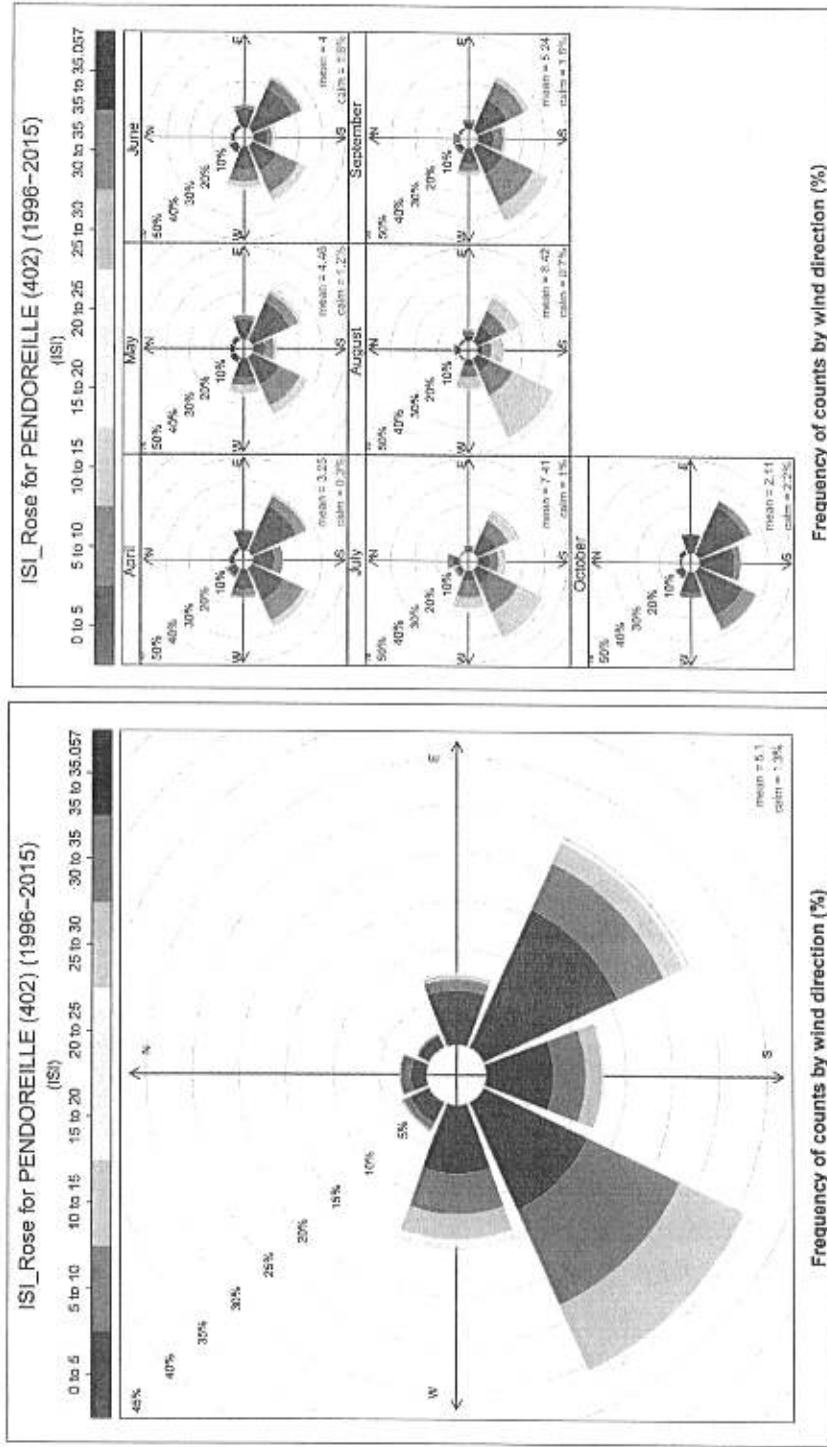


Figure 8. Average daily (right) and monthly (left) ISI values during the fire season (April to October) for the Pend Orielle weather station.

4.2 WILDFIRE HISTORY

4.2.1 HISTORIC FIRE REGIME

The plan area can be classified using the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) system, which categorizes the province into zones by vegetation, soils, and climate. Regional subzones are derived from relative precipitation and temperature.

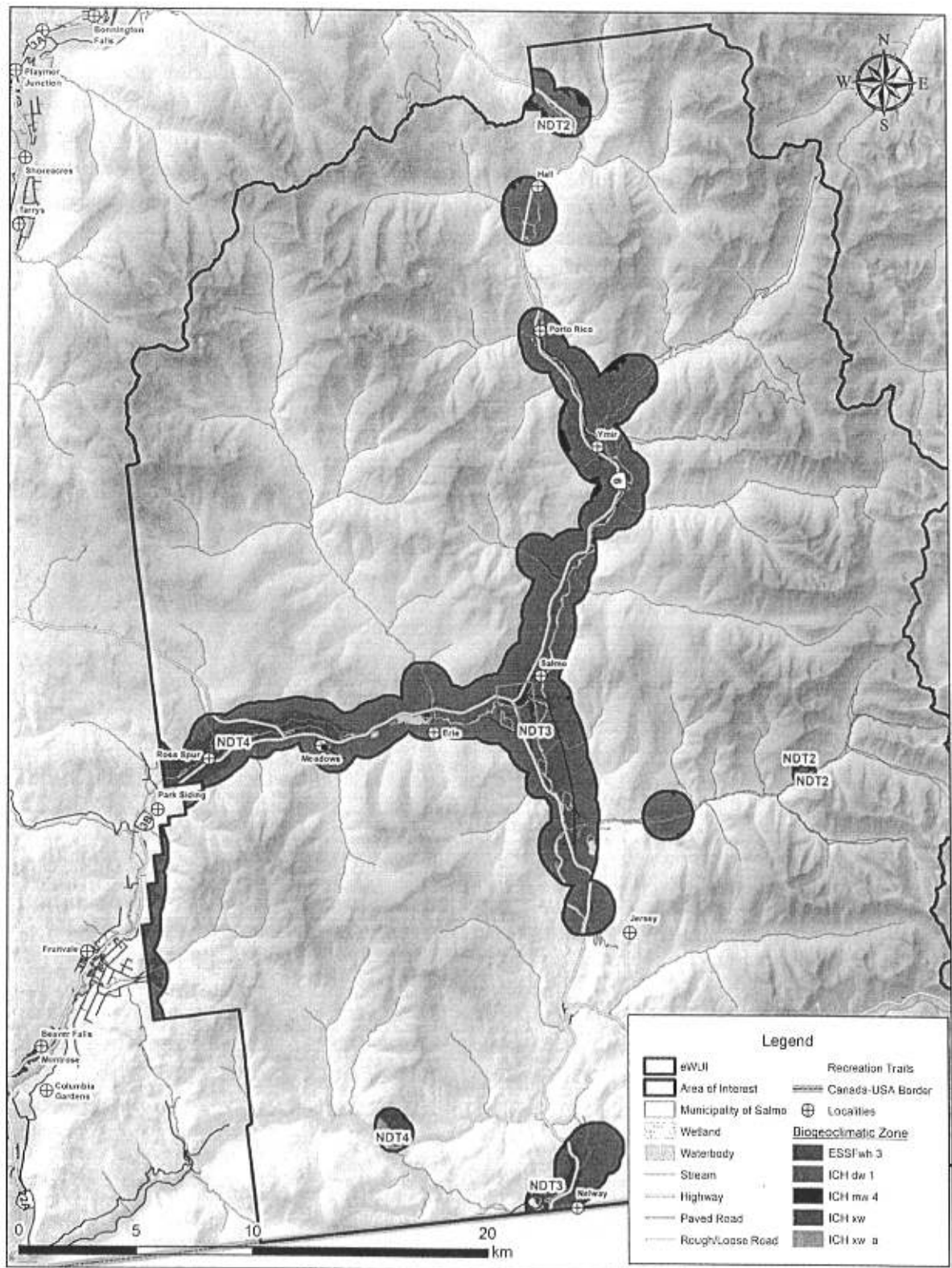
The distribution of Biogeoclimatic zones and associated Natural Disturbance Types (NDT) within the WUI are displayed in Map 4 and summarized below in Table 16. Situated mainly in the valley bottom at lower elevation, the WUI is predominantly (86%) within the Interior Cedar Hemlock dry warm (ICHdw1) subzone. This is associated with an NDT3 regime – ecosystems with frequent stand-initiating fires. According to the BC Biodiversity Guidebook, these ecosystems are characterized by frequent wildfires that range from small spot fires to conflagrations covering tens of thousands of hectares. This results in a landscape mosaic of stands of different ages with individual stands being even-aged. Larger fires often occurred and could grow to enormous sizes if no topographical-limiting features were present. The mean return interval for fire in the ICH NDT3 is approximately 150 years.

A small portion (12%) of the WUI is within the Interior Cedar Hemlock very dry warm (ICHxw) subzone with an associated NDT4 – ecosystems with frequent, stand-maintaining fires. This occurs mostly west and south of Salmo, also at valley bottom, but on warmer aspects. This low-severity fire regime maintains existing forest structure, while modulating surface fuel build-up and understory saplings that would otherwise allow wildfire to move from surface to crown. 3% of the WUI is within the Interior Cedar Hemlock moist warm (ICHmw) subzone, associated with an NDT2 regime – ecosystems with infrequent stand-initiating events.

It is important to consider that fire regimes in the region were likely shaped in part by pre-settlement cultural burning practices by First Nations. It is also important to consider that, in the future, BEC (and associated NDT) distributions will likely shift because of climate change.

Table 16. Biogeoclimatic Zone and associated Natural Disturbance Types (NDTs) of Electoral Area G's WUI.

Biogeoclimatic Zone	Natural Disturbance Type	Area (ha)	Percent of Eligible WUI (%)
ESSFwh3	NDT2	<0.1	<0%
ICHdw1	NDT3	11610	86%
ICHmw4	NDT2	365	3%
ICHxw	NDT4	1604	12%



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

4.2.2 HISTORICAL WILDFIRE OCCURRENCES

The Kootenay region has a history of large mixed-severity and stand-replacing fires. Settlement, particularly logging and mining practices, resulted in an increase in human-caused fires in the late 1800's to early 1900's. During the 1920's to 1940's, miners burned much of the landscape for increased access to and visibility of the underlying geology. Few wildfires over 500 ha have occurred since the 1940's, with the exception of a lightning-caused fire in 2007 that burned 2308 ha near Remac. Figure 10 below displays wildfire occurrences, by size, from 1920 to 2020.

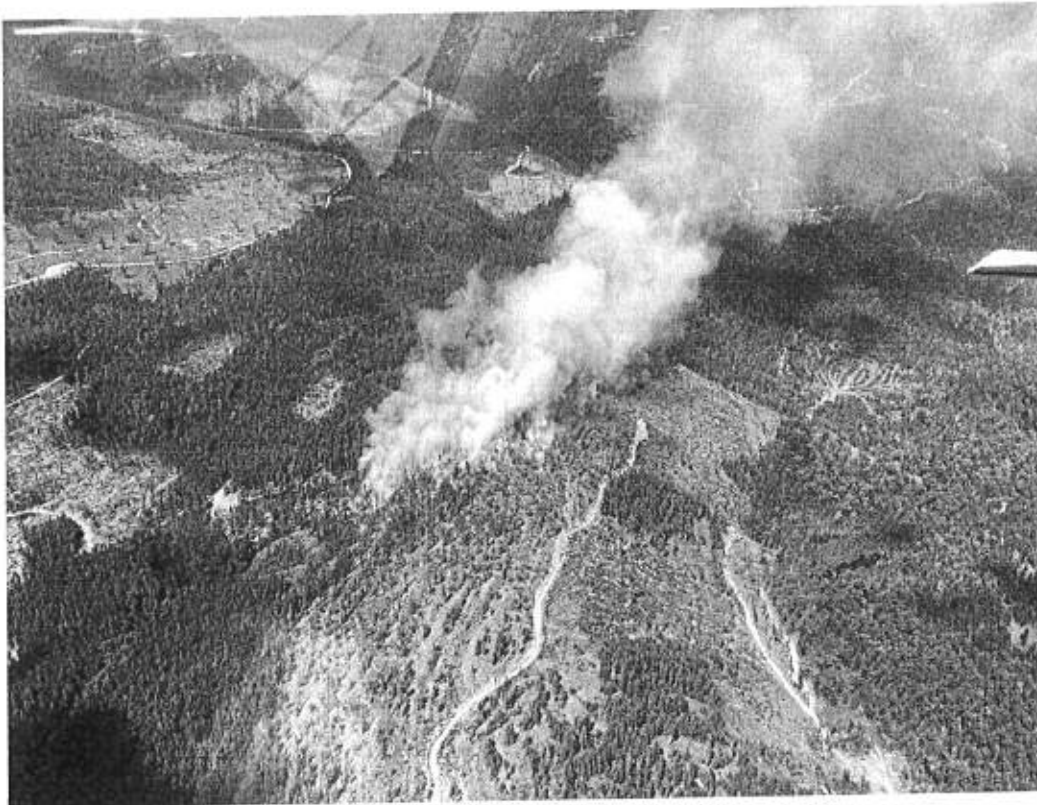


Figure 9. Image of the Six Mile Creek wildfire (N71011) in August 2022. Source: BC Wildfire Services.

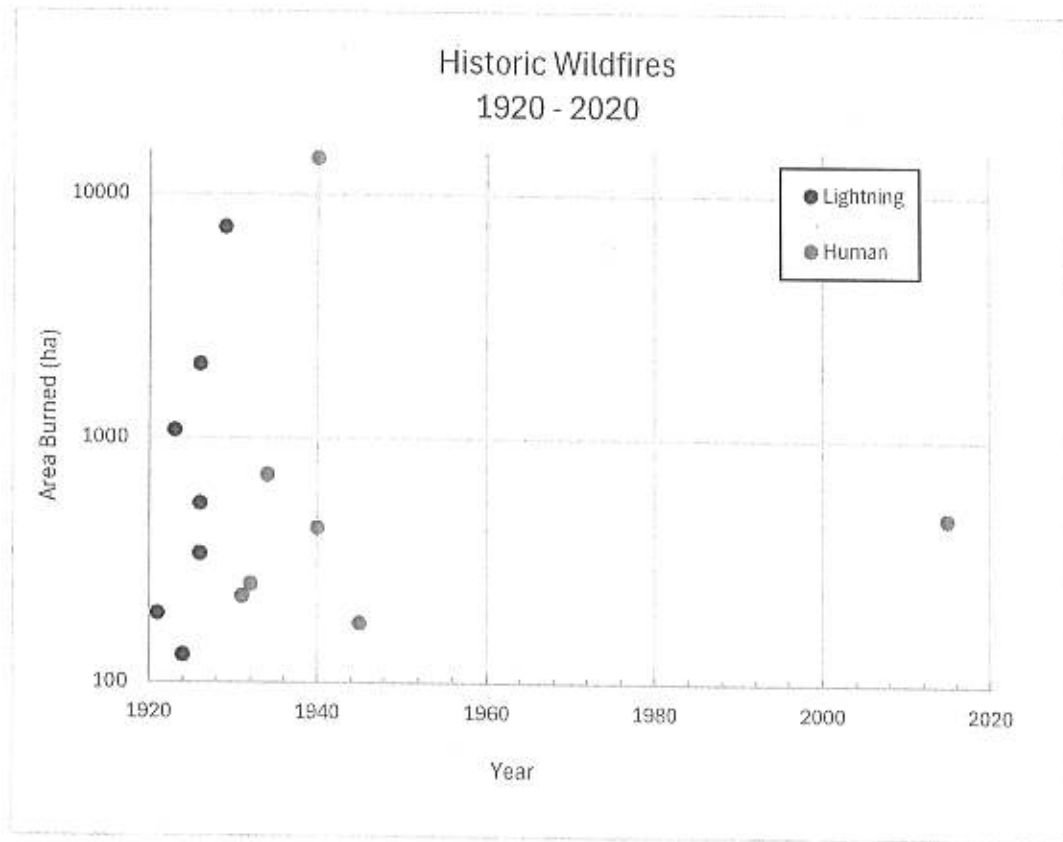


Figure 10. Historic wildfires over 100 ha in size from 1920 to 2020.

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.²⁷ 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

²⁷ 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>

Balfour, Beasley, Ootischenia, and Tarrys through structure protection efforts in conjunction with BCWS.²⁸ The Beaverville Creek / Bombi Summit lightning-caused fire (N51756) burned 32.3 ha, including half a cutblock, roughly 750m south of Highway 3 near Castlegar in July 2021. Aggressive suppression efforts included a full perimeter containment line and water bombing.²⁹

In July 2024, BCWS published a bulletin that noted an increase in wildfire activity in the Southeast Fire Centre, citing 1600 lighting strikes, resulting in 126 fires, in a single week, mid-July. Contributing to this increase are atmospheric instability, resulting in increased winds, low relative humidity, and heavy fuel-loading.³⁰

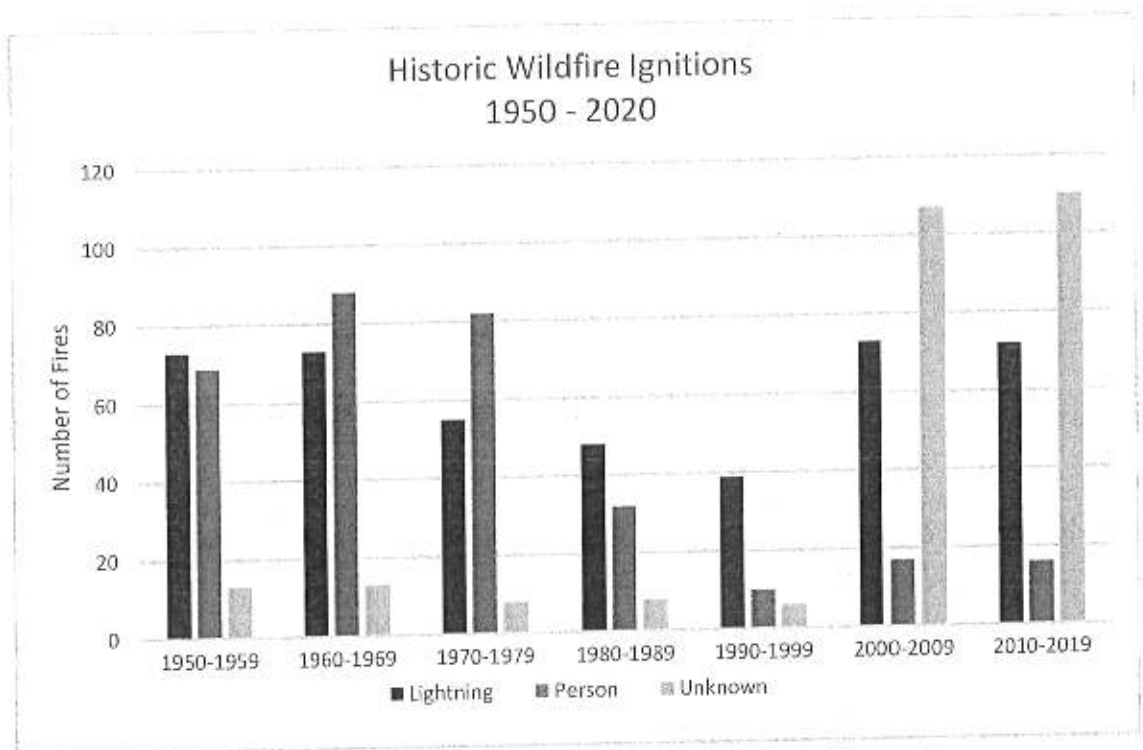
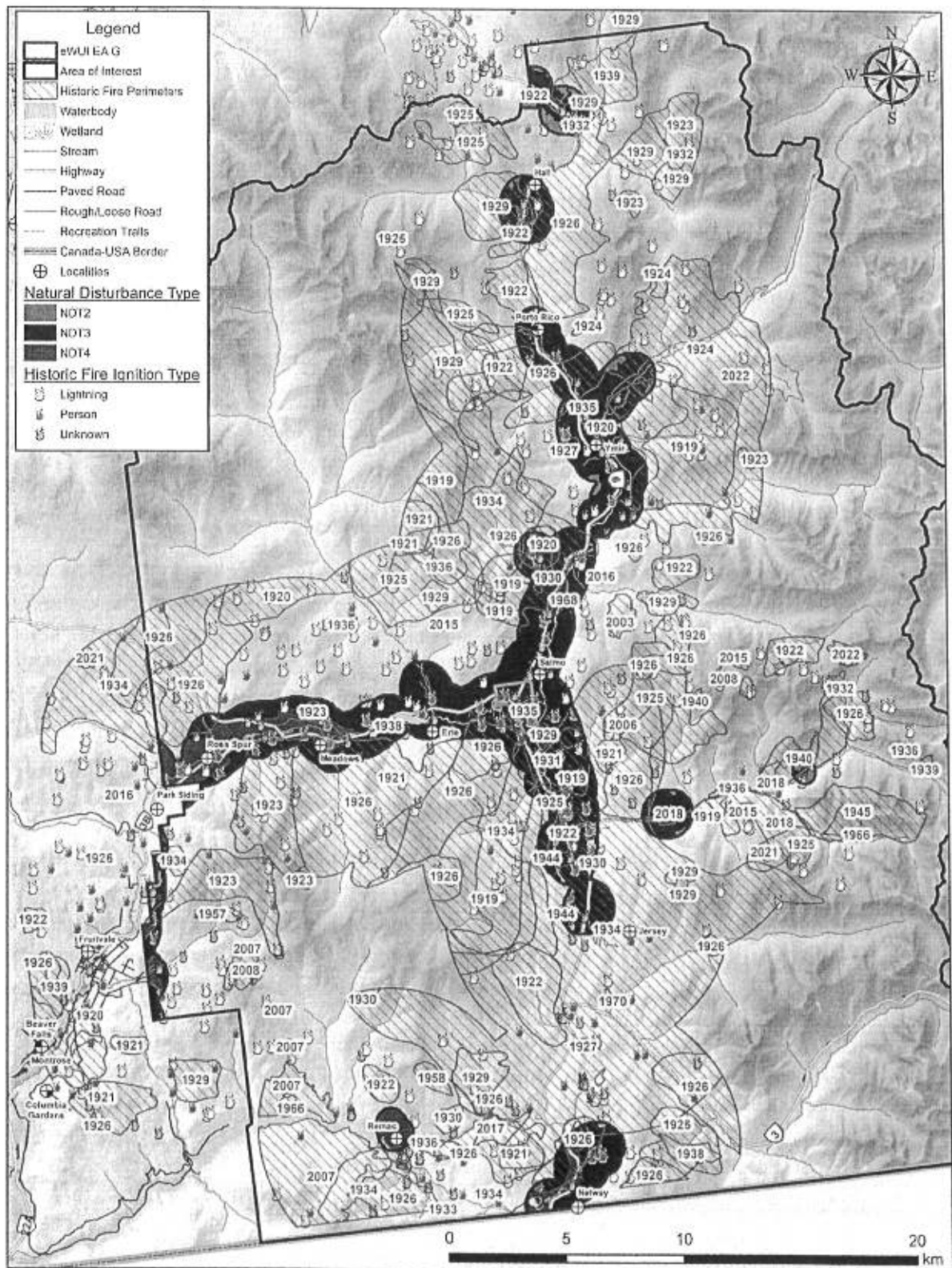


Figure 11. Historic wildfire ignitions from 1950 -2020 by ignition source.

²⁸ Crawley, T. Castlegar News. "Evacuation Order issued for Sheep Creek wildfire." 10 August 2018. <https://www.castlegarnews.com/news/evacuation-order-issued-for-sheep-creek-wildfire-4713199>

²⁹ Kline, B. Castlegar News. "Containment lines laid around perimeter of Bombi Summit fire near Castlegar." 14 July 2021. <https://www.castlegarnews.com/news/containment-lines-laid-around-perimeter-of-bombi-summit-fire-near-castlegar-4742117>

³⁰ BC Wildfire Services. "Increased activity in the Southeast Fire Centre." 23 July 2024. <https://blog.gov.bc.ca/bcwildfire/increased-activity-in-the-southeast-fire-centre/>



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

4.2.3 WILDFIRE RESPONSE

Structural and interface fire response within much of the WUI is provided by the Salmo Fire Department (Village of Salmo) and Ymir Volunteer Fire Department (RDCK). There is a mutual aid agreement between the departments. Part of the Ross Spur area is under contract for protection with the Regional District Kootenay Boundary. Although response patterns vary from year to year, there is typically just as many wildland fires as structure fires in Electoral Area G. Salmo Fire Department reported an average of 4.1 wildland and 4.3 structure fire calls annually since 2013. This is also reflected in the level of preparation to respond to wildland fires – as summarized in Section 5.4, both Salmo and Ymir fire departments have wildland/brush truck, portable pumps, and wildland-specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for their members. This response data demonstrates the importance of wildfire-specific training and equipment and public fire education - wildfires can just as easily begin from a house fire igniting the adjacent forest and wildland fuels. See Section 5 for related recommendations.

4.3 RISK FRAMEWORK AND RISK CLASS MAPS

4.3.1 PROVINCIAL STRATEGIC THREAT ANALYSIS

The Province of BC produces a Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA, updated in 2021) for all non-private land parcels in BC, designed to consistently assess and map different aspects of wildfire threat and risk around the province.³¹ This high-level assessment of relative wildfire threat throughout the province is largely based on Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) data, fire occurrence patterns, potential fire intensity, and spotting potential. The PSTA ranks threat on a scale of 1 (lowest) through 10 (extreme). The PSTA is a high-level geographic information system (GIS) raster analysis that is suitable for wildfire threat information across the land base; appropriate land management activities need to be determined at the local level using site-specific stand-level information.

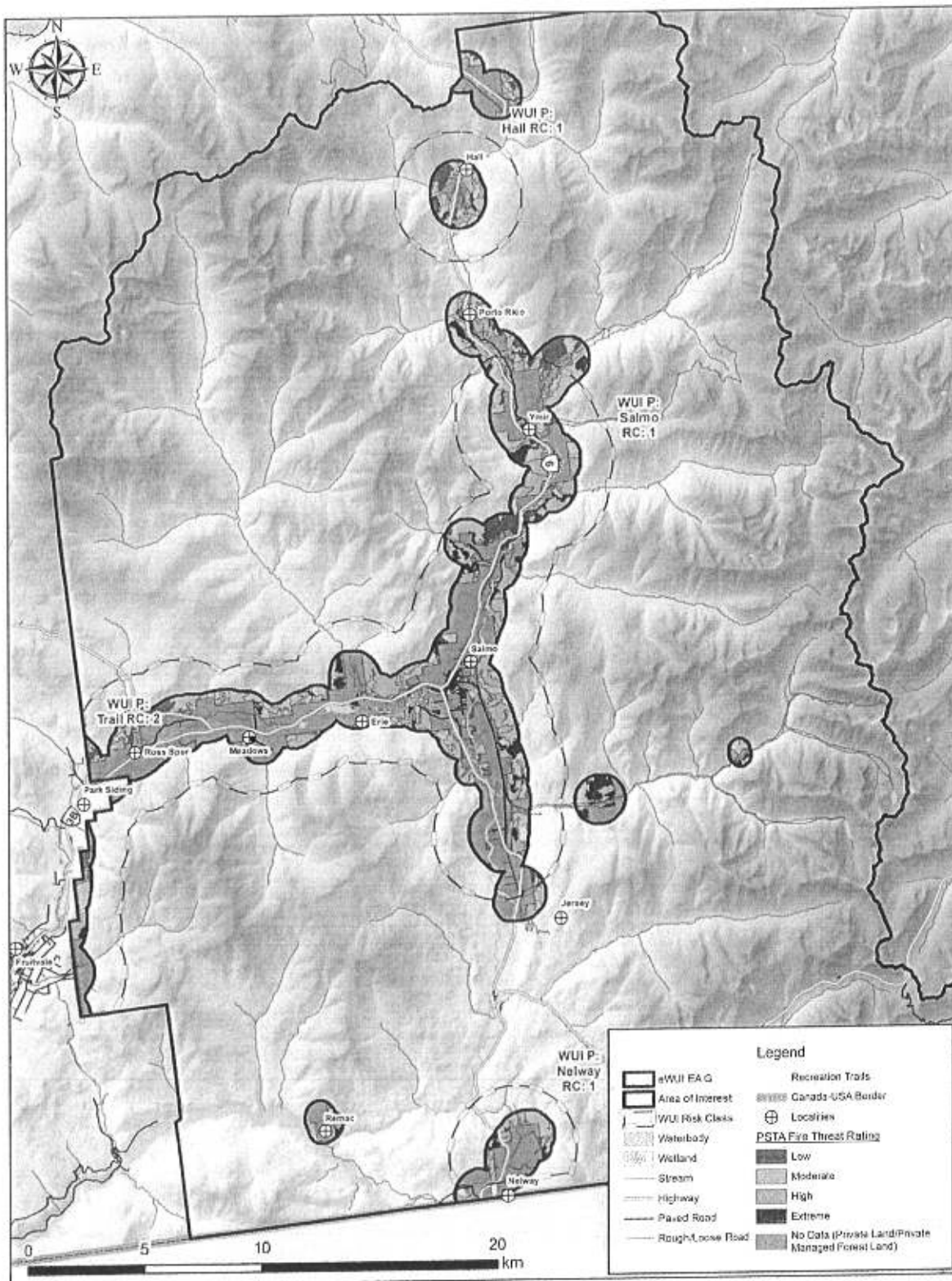
The PSTA also forms the basis for the identification of the wildland-urban interface (WUI) in BC. Structure densities are used to define areas of human development. A 1-km buffer is applied on these areas to represent a reasonable maximum distance that embers can travel from a wildfire to ignite a structure. Notably, this threat analysis does not extend onto private land, nor does it account for non-structural values that may be considered values at risk for a community, highlighting the importance of local community wildfire planning.

Once the WUI is defined, it is combined with the PSTA Fire Threat Rating to delineate discrete 'WUI Risk Class' polygons throughout BC. This framework can be used to prioritize risk reduction initiatives, categorizing WUI polygons by a risk class of 1 (highest) through 5 (lowest). The application of relative risk

³¹ Province of BC. 12 May 2023. 2021 Update: Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA). <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/psta>



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.



Map 6. Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) Fire Threat Rating and WUI Risk Class 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;

- **Moderate:** Developed and undeveloped land that will support surface fires that can pose little threat to homes and structures;
- **High:** Landscapes or stands with continuous forested or grassland fuels that will support candling, intermittent crown fires, or continuous crown fires. These landscapes often contain steeper slopes, rough or broken terrain and/or south or west aspects. High polygons may include high indices of dead and downed conifers; and
- **Extreme:** Continuous forested land that will support intermittent or continuous crown fires.

The results of the wildfire threat class analysis carried forwards from the 2017 CWPP and clipped to the 1 km WUI are shown on Map 7 and summarized in Table 17 below. The local threat analysis shows that, for the assessable area (i.e., not private land and removing large water bodies like Kootenay River), a large proportion – 43% - is in a High or Extreme wildfire threat class. Overall, private land totals 54% of the [2017] WUI – this area was not allocated fire threat data. Conditions on private land can often result in the fire hazard being much higher than in the forest adjacent if there is low compliance with FireSmart vegetation and structure principles.

Table 17: Wildfire threat summary for Electoral Area G's Eligible WUI

Threat Class	Wildfire Threat		
	Hectares	% of WUI	% of Assessable Public Land
Extreme	118	1%	2%
High	2497	18%	41%
Moderate	1575	12%	26%
Low	1860	14%	31%
Very Low/No Threat (Water)	134	1%	-
No Data (Private Land)	7316	54%	-

4.4.2 WUI RISK CLASS ANALYSIS

WUI risk classes are quantified when the Wildfire Threat (the above) is assessed as High or Extreme, potentially causing unacceptable wildfire risk when near communities and developments. WUI risk classes are described below:

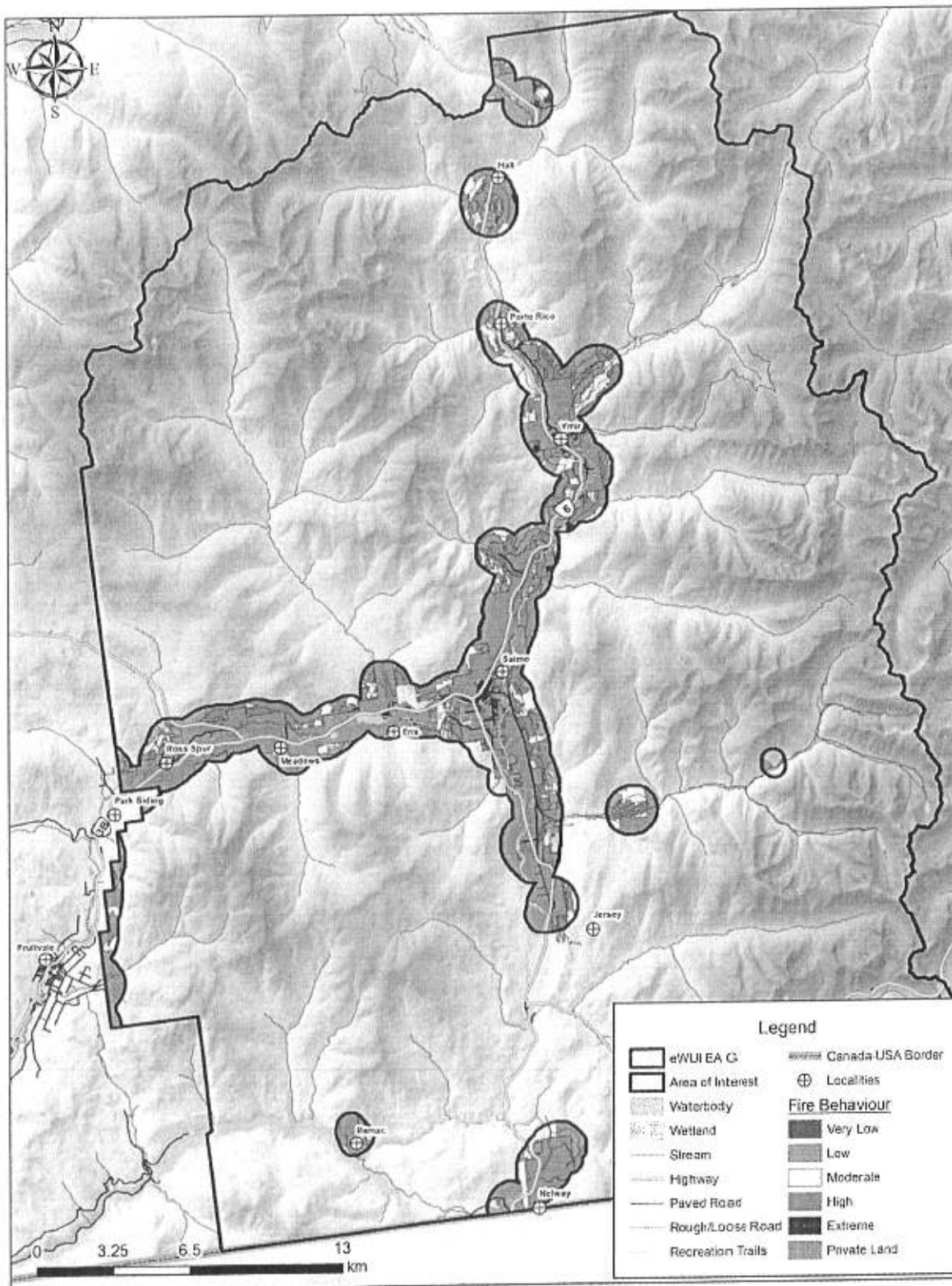
- **Low:** The high or extreme threat is sufficiently distant from developments, having no direct impact of the community and is located over 2 km from structures;
- **Moderate:** The high or extreme threat is sufficiently distant from developments, having no direct impact of the community and is located 500m to 2 km distance from structures;
- **High:** The high or extreme threat has potential to directly impact a community or development and is located 200m to 500m from structures; and

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

Table 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%	-



Map 7: Local wildfire threat assessment within the WUI

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.³²

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.

³² Government of BC, HRVA Example Report, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/local-government/hrva/hrva-forms-step-8-anytown-bc-sample-hrva-report.pdf>

SECTION 5: FIRESMART PRINCIPLES

FireSmart™ is the leading program in Canada aimed at empowering the public and increasing neighbourhood resilience through wildfire mitigation measures. It has been formally adopted by almost all Canadian provinces and territories, including British Columbia in 2000. The FireSmart program covers a wide breadth of preventative measures, which are founded in the seven FireSmart disciplines: Education, Legislation and Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-Training, and Vegetation Management. These seven disciplines and the guiding principles behind FireSmart can be applied at a number of spatial scales and are not restricted to any type of land ownership, forest type or property type. The RDCK has an active FireSmart program that is well staffed and funded to complete residential education activities.

Since the development of the 2017 CWPP, 19 of 34 of its recommendations have been wholly or partially implemented. See Appendix A: Review of 2017 CWPP Recommendations.

It has been found that during extreme wildfire events, most home destruction has been a result of low-intensity surface fire flame exposures, usually ignited by embers (firebrands). Firebrands can be transported long distances ahead of the wildfire, across fire guards and fuel breaks, and accumulate in densities that can exceed 600 embers per square meter. Combustible materials found on the exterior of and surrounding homes (the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone) combine to provide fire pathways allowing spot surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames or smoldering fire into contact with structures.

Because ignitability of structures and landscaping vegetation is the main factor driving structure loss, the intensity and rate of spread of wildland fires beyond the community has not been found to necessarily correspond to loss potential. For example, FireSmart homes with low ignitability may survive high-intensity fires, whereas highly ignitable homes may be destroyed during lower intensity surface fire events.³³ Increasing ignition resistance would reduce the number of homes simultaneously on fire; extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result in WUI fire disasters.³⁴ It is for this reason that the key to reducing WUI fire structure loss is to reduce structure ignitability. Mitigation responsibility must be centered on structure owners. Risk communication, education on the range of available activities, and prioritization of activities should help homeowners to feel empowered to complete simple risk reduction activities on their property.

5.1 COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

During CWRP development, FireSmart risk and resiliency factors for different communities were noted (Table 19). This incorporates field observations, the local risk assessment, and information from local government meetings and consultation.

Table 19: FireSmart vulnerability and resilience factors by neighbourhood.

Community	Vulnerability	Resilience
Salmo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forested interface - Dense residential development increases risk of structure-to-structure fire transmission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serviced by a fire department w/ hydrants - Some defensible space due to riparian vegetation, agricultural lots in valley bottom - Access to two arterial access/egress routes (Highway 3 or Highway 6)
Ross Spur – Erie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some roads are intermix (e.g. Balsalm Road) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serviced by a fire department (Salmo and RD Kootenay Boundary) - Defensible space – cleared lots

³³ Cohen, J. Preventing Disaster Home Ignitability in the Wildland-urban Interface. *Journal of Forestry*. p 15 - 21.

³⁴ Calkin, D., J. Cohen, M. Finney, M. Thompson. 2014. *How risk management can prevent future wildfire disasters in the wildland-urban interface*. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U.S.A.* Jan 14; 111(2): 746-751. Accessed online 1 June, 2016 at <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3896199/>

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

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.³⁹ 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

³⁹ 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

knowledgeable on FireSmart and the wildfire risks their actions may carry. Not all efforts will be successfully received by the public, but understanding what activities are not suitable for the community is still valuable information that can be used to refine and improve programming moving forwards.

See Table 1 in the Executive Summary for recommended FireSmart Education actions that the RDCK can implement in Electoral Area G and the Village of Salmo.

5.3 LEGISLATION, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Legislation and regulation are effective tools for reducing wildfire risk, although they can be less effective in large, rural regional districts like the RDCK. The preference of elected officials in many regional districts is for information sharing rather than enforcement as a policy tool, due to limited bylaw officers and staff capacity. Regardless, how RDCK policies relate to wildfire are still important, as they set the tone for risk recognition and community resilience. Consideration of wildfire at the development planning stage is also a key step in protecting neighbourhoods from wildfire. A summary of RDCK bylaws, policies, and plans relevant to wildfire risk and emergency planning was provided earlier in Section 2.3.

Post-fire studies, experiments, and models have shown that homes ignite due to the condition of the structure and everything around it. This tenant forms the basis of the 'Home Ignition Zone,' which FireSmart BC now defines as the area within 30 m of homes and structures.³⁶ Legislation, planning, and development standards all play a significant role in building and maintaining FireSmart structures. Factors that can be planned for (and regulated through the land use planning and development process) that affect public safety during a wildfire include:³⁶

- Location of development (including hazardous or vulnerable land uses) in relation to high hazard forested vegetation, steep slopes, and other geographical features that contribute to extreme fire behaviour
- Evacuation and egress;
- Availability and adequacy of water supply for firefighting;
- Type of construction materials on structures and attachments;
- Lot size and structure density;
- Design guidelines and architectural standards;
- Addressing and street signage;
- Landscaping, screening, and buffering; and
- Temporary land uses that determine the type of use and quantity of people.

Section 10 of the Electoral Area G Official Community Plan contains policies to manage interface fire risk, including protecting access to water sources, encouraging FireSmart efforts, and evaluating opportunities to assist in interface forest fuel mitigation treatments. The RDCK also reserves the right to request a fire hazard risk assessment to accompany subdivision applications. Section 6 of the Village of Salmo OCP also recognizes interface fire risk. No gaps with OCP language as it related to wildfire risk reduction were identified in either plan.

The Village of Salmo has a Wildfire Hazard DPA that applies to narrow interface areas at the edge of town mapped in Schedule K of the OCP (Figure 12). For development within the identified area, a fire risk assessment and fuel management strategy must be submitted. The three areas of concern to which the DPA applies (Figure 12) are described in the OCP as:

- The wooded hills on the west side of Highway 3/Railway Avenue;
- Around the bottom of the hill in the middle of the Village; and
- Property along the north-east edge of the Village boundary and Riverside Avenue.

³⁶ FireSmart BC. Community WildFire Resiliency Plan Instruction Guide 2023. Retrieved from: <https://www.ubcm.ca/cr/firesmart-community-funding-supports>

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.³⁷ 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

³⁷Urban 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>

designed to minimize wildfire hazard and contribute to the fire safety of the neighbourhood, thus limiting property damage should a wildfire occur.

FireSmart principles can also be incorporated into other local bylaws. Several jurisdictions, including the District of Squamish and the City of Nelson, have implemented Wildfire Landscaping Bylaws to prohibit the planting of new flammable conifer shrubs next to residences. Even without much enforcement, such a bylaw can a) educate the public on FireSmart best practices, b) set the tone for FireSmart recognition at the local government scale, and c) be implemented for public infrastructure. All bylaws applicable to the RDCK and specifically to Electoral Area G were reviewed through a wildfire lens.

The lack of a bylaw regulating open burning across the RDCK, outside of the Village of Salmo, was identified as a potential gap in the last CWPP. An open burning bylaw would have stricter provisions than fire bans set by the province, which local fire departments do not have the authority to enforce. The recommendation was not renewed in this plan as the RDCK and BCWS determined that a local burning bylaw would not be effective or feasible for the RDCK to enforce.

Part of the Development Considerations discipline is ensuring that all critical infrastructure (described in Section 3.3 and listed in Table 9) are constructed or retrofitted to a high FireSmart standard. Performing FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments on all publicly owned infrastructure will help inform further mitigation actions by the RDCK and the Village of Salmo. Assessments have already been completed for the Ymir Fire Hall and most Salmo municipal buildings. Recommendations regarding planning and development are detailed in Table 1 in the Executive Summary.

5.4 CROSS-TRAINING AND FIRE DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

All staff and agency partners who are expected to participate in the development and implementation of this plan, or participate in a wildfire response and recovery, should be appropriately trained. This includes municipal Emergency Management staff, other municipal staff that could play a role in an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and local fire departments.

Regular in-person cross-training between BCWS and structural fire crews can facilitate joint responses to interface wildfires. Crews are likely to work together and may want to use each other's equipment. There are BCWS crews stationed in Nelson, only a 30-minute drive from Salmo, which reduces barriers for crews to complete cross-training. Salmo Fire Department cited a strong relationship with BCWS; crews work together on fires once or twice per season and complete training together about every 3 years. Interagency meetings also take place semi-annually.

Local fire departments should maintain a level of wildland-specific training and equipment. Both Ymir and Salmo Fire Departments indicated that they have adequate wildland firefighting equipment and try to train members in S-100 or SPP-WFF1 annually. Challenges include cost and time to undertake training, especially as members are volunteers and structural firefighting training is a priority. Ymir Fire Department also expressed concerns with high personnel turnover, leading to a lack of senior members able to provide in-house training. Table 20 lists the capacity, training level, wildland firefighting equipment, and deficiencies of fire departments that provide fire protection services in Electoral Area G.

Table 20. Capacity, training, and resources of fire departments in Electoral Area G.

Fire Department	Personnel	Wildland Training	Wildland Equipment
Ymir Fire Department	21 volunteers	Members trained to SPP-WFF1 and, BCWS courses (S-100, SPP-115)	Tender, Old tender, engine, squad vehicle, and rescue vehicle (pickup with water skid); wildland PPE; 1-2 portable pumps
Salmo Fire Department	26 volunteer	SPP-WFF1 - 13 members S-100 annual course	1 tender (1800 gal), 2 engines (1000 gal, 1060 gpm), 1 brush truck (250 gal), 1 rescue van; 3 portable pumps, 2000' hose, 2 portable tanks, wildland PPE

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.

5.5 INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

The goal of interagency cooperation is to approach wildfire resilience through a collaborative, multi-agency approach. This increases the ability of local governments to plan and respond to emergencies effectively. For a large regional district like the RDCK, interagency cooperation is especially crucial. Depending on location, regional district residents may identify more with a member municipality than they do with the regional district. The small amount of regional district-owned land also means that the activities of other land managers may have a stronger influence on the risk profile of a specific community than RDCK actions. Examples include fuel treatments under the Ministry of Forests or BC Parks Wildfire Risk Reduction programs, development on private land, and logging on Crown land.

Engagement can be formal or informal and can take place through existing communication channels, or stand-alone committees. For the development of this CWRP, an informal, plan-level Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC) was formed with membership from the RDCK, local fire departments, and BC Wildfire Service. Individuals were contacted to answer questions relating to this plan.

There is currently no local FireSmart Committee in the plan area, but Salmo and Electoral Area G are represented on the RDCK's Regional Wildfire Planning Table. The Planning Table includes local government representatives and provincial land managers and response agencies, including the Ministry of Forest, BC Parks, BCWS, and FNESS. The RDCK noted the benefits of both regional and sub-regional committees to achieve different objectives, while striking a balance between staff availability and local knowledge sharing.

External land-based stakeholders, such as utility providers and local forest licensees, are also an important component of interagency cooperation. According to BCWS, forest industry compliance with the Wildfire Act regarding slash hazard mitigation and open burning prohibitions are good. Likewise, no problems with utility or road rights-of-way maintenance within the plan area were specifically identified. BCWS also works with local companies to source heavy equipment, low beds, and equipment operators for potential wildfire response. These agreements are usually arranged on a contractual basis with the fire zone.

See Table 1 in the Executive Summary for recommended action items that the RDCK can implement to continue growing interagency relations and increase interagency cooperation.

5.6 EMERGENCY PLANNING

When several wildfire emergencies are taking place throughout the province, BCWS resource availability may become scarce. Deployment of provincial resources occurs based on the Provincial Coordination Plan for Wildland Urban Interface Fires.³⁸ Therefore, local government and community preparedness and resource availability are critical components of community wildfire resilience – individuals and agencies need to be ready to act. Plans, mutual aid agreements, resources, training, and emergency communications systems make for effective wildfire response. Emergency planning is provided by the RDCK Emergency Management Program, which includes all Electoral Areas and several participating municipalities including the Village of Salmo (see Section 2.1).

Clear, consistent, concise, and quick communication during an emergency event and evacuation are integral to the prevention of loss of life. The RDCK has upgraded to a new notification system for emergency alerts and water advisories powered by "Voyent Alert!". Downloadable as an app to a smart phone, the user can receive a detailed map of the affected area. The system also supports text messaging, emails, or landline calls. The RDCK should promote this notification system to residents as much as possible.

³⁸ Province of British Columbia. 2016. *Provincial Coordination Plan for Wildland Urban Interface Fires*. 2016. Retrieved from: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/provincial-emergency-planning/bc-provincial-coord-plan-for-wui-fire_revised_july_2016.pdf

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.³⁹

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.

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

5.7 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND OTHER FIRESMART ACTIVITIES

As discussed in Section 4.1, fuel is the only aspect of the fire behavior triangle that can be realistically modified to reduce wildfire threat. Fuel or vegetation management reduces potential wildfire intensity and ember, flame, and radiant heat exposure to people, structures, and other values through manipulation of both natural and cultivated vegetation within or adjacent to a community. A well-planned vegetation management strategy can greatly increase first responder safety, fire suppression effectiveness, and reduce damage to property and to values.

Vegetation management can largely be accomplished through two different activities:

1. **Residential FireSmart landscaping:** The removal, reduction, or conversion of flammable [landscaping] plants to create more fire-resistant areas in the FireSmart Immediate, Intermediate, and Extended Zones (i.e., the area within 30m of a structure; see Figure 13 below).
2. **Fuel management treatments:** The manipulation or reduction of living or dead forest and grassland fuels to reduce the rate of spread and head fire intensity and enhance likelihood of successful suppression.

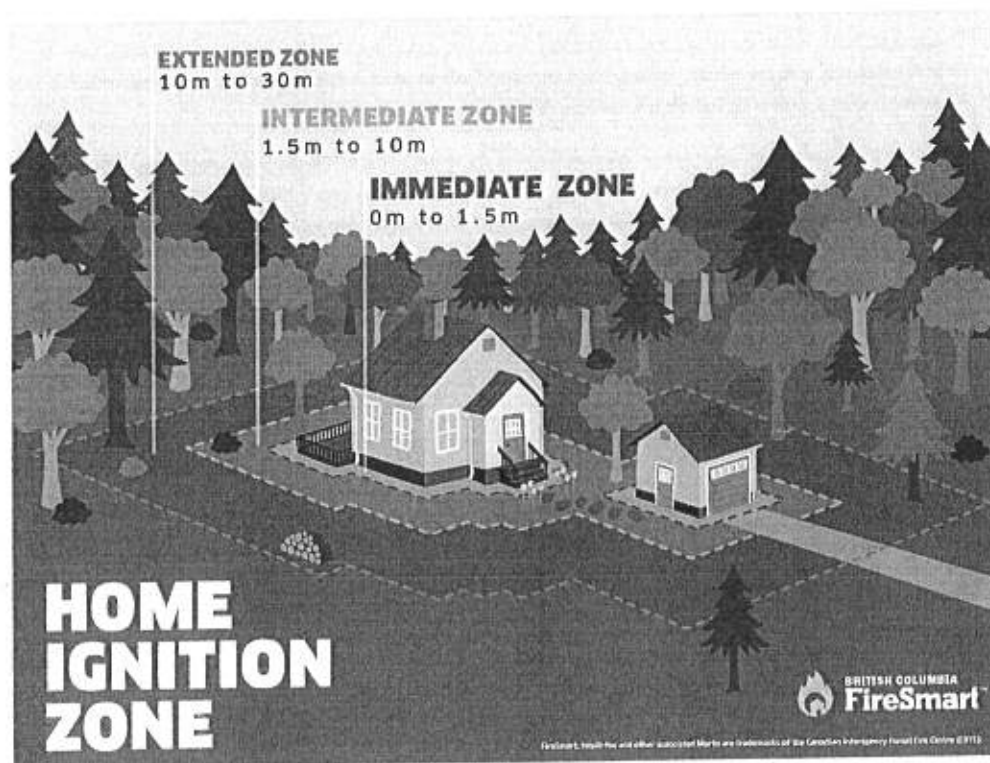


Figure 13: FireSmart Home Ignition Zone

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.⁴⁰

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,⁴¹ 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)

⁴⁰ 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/>

⁴¹ BC Wildfire Service. (2022). *2022 Fuel Management Prescription Guidance*.

program (administered by the Ministry of Forests), the Forest Enhancement Society of BC, and the Columbia Basin Trust. Map 8 below shows proposed and completed fuel treatment units within the WUI.

Between 2008 – 2024, at least 33 ha of fuel treatment has been completed in the plan area (Table 18), with about 58 additional hectares prescribed. Note that additional treatments may have been completed on private land and are not systematically tracked. Other areas may have treatments planned or in progress that are not yet part of public datasets. For example, Ministry of Forests staff indicated that a fuel treatment project was completed in Nelway in 2024 but is not yet uploaded in RESULTS (12 ha). Fuel management work has also taken place at the Salmo Ski Hill.⁴²

It should be noted that recently the Regional Wildfire Planning Table used grant funding to build a pilot map dashboard of completed fuel treatments across the region. This dashboard is not currently available to the public, but if maintained, will serve as an excellent tool for both interagency collaboration and coordinated wildfire risk reduction work in the region.

Table 21. Prescribed and completed treatment units in the plan area.

Treatment Unit Name	Community	Year	Area (ha)	Comment
CBTSE022	Ymir	2023	13.5	2024: Treated (part of YMIR 1 – 2017 CWPP PTU).
WRSE0043	Salmo [Rural]	N/A	20.2	Prescribed (2021) Salmo Ski Hill
WRSE0015 / WRSE0024	Whitewater	N/A	37.3	Prescribed (2020, 2022) Whitewater Ski Hill Road
YMI1	Ymir south	2011	10.9	Confirmed completed in 2017.
YMI2	Ymir south	2011	3.6	Confirmed completed in 2017.
YMI3	Ymir south	2011	2.2	Confirmed completed in 2017.
YMI5	Ymir south	2011	1.1	Confirmed completed in 2017.
YMI6	Ymir south	2011	1.3	Confirmed completed in 2017.

A full reconnaissance of the WUI was not in the scope of this plan update, so most proposed treatment units (PTUs) are carried forwards from the 2017 plan and then clipped to the 1-km Eligible WUI or otherwise altered in minor ways. Boundaries were updated using satellite imagery to exclude harvested or treated areas and aligned to private property, roads, or other mapped features where possible. PTU boundaries are intended to show the shape, size, and location of strategic WRR areas but are not intended to be usable prescription boundaries. Additionally, identifying net-out areas was beyond the scope of this

⁴² <https://wildsight.ca/2024/06/20/beloved-local-ski-hill-gains-wildfire-protection-thanks-to-youth-climate-corps/>

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.



Table 22: Summary of Proposed Fuel Treatment Units

PTU Name	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
ERIE 1	Moderate	29.3	Provincial Crown land. Salmo ski hill overlap at eastern end, and overlap with Controlled Recreation Area – Mountain Resorts Branch) and residents within 500m. Pipeline right of way to the north and abuts prescribed area to the east.	Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The area is predominantly composed of hemlock, with an understory of thick cedar creating continuous ladder fuels. Surface fuels consist of scattered large woody debris and fine materials, with minimal herbaceous and shrub layers. Logging and treatment have already been completed within the PTU. Consult with Salmo Ski Hill before developing the prescription. The northern end of the PTU has steep slopes, with evidence of past cable yarding operations. The southern slopes are also steep, with gradients up to 60%. Hand treatment is recommended to remove all trees under 17.5 cm DBH, then pile and burn the debris. Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. Good access, with a private residence nearby, and no critical infrastructure is at risk. The timber type is mixed deciduous and coniferous and is considered less volatile, and portions of the PTU have already been harvested. The PTU hangs off of Hall Creek FSR and ties to recent cut locks to the south and private land to the north and east. Areas with higher percentage of conifers should be considered for a commercial thinning treatment and areas with more than 20% deciduous components, is better suited for manual treatment Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. Low to moderate priority due to high crown base height of mature Cw and Hw and its location on a 45% slope. There has been a recent harvest directly north of the PTU. It is recommended to consult with the Nordic ski club before developing a prescription. Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The PTU buffers the Clearwater FSR and requires a manual thinning treatment due to limited machine operability. Forest is predominantly mature Cw and Hw with sparse understory. There is a large creek draw and mountain bike trails running through the PTU, and consultation with the local recreation club should be done prior to developing a prescription. Residences and private land are situated to the west of the PTU. Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. PTU is assessed to be a high risk and located above the Whitewater Road and is close proximity to residents, the Nordic ski club and the highway. The forest is densely stocked overstory and understory, predominantly Cw and Hw. West of the PTU has been recently harvested. Overstory thinning may be limited near the powerlines that run below the PTU. Understory manual thinning up to 17.5 is recommended.
HALL 1	Moderate	40.8	Provincial Crown land with private property to the northeast. NE corner overlaps UREP 0248029.	
HALL 2	Moderate	9.9	Provincial Crown land. Accessible through Nordic Ski Trails. Abuts Nelson Salmo Great Northern Trail (Rail Trail) Regional Park to the east.	
HALL 3	Moderate	16.5	Provincial Crown land. Mountain bike trails within PTU.	
HALL 4	High	33.1	Provincial Crown land. Nordic ski club, homes and powerlines to the west.	



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
REM 1	Low	7.7	Provincial Crown land.	2017 PTU. Boundary adjusted in 2024 update to be included in new WUI 1 km buffer. Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The site has a low wildfire threat and is predominantly composed of mature Douglas fir. Due to the C7 fuel type, with minimal understory and good crown separation, treatment is not high priority. The treatment regime recommended to manual thin all conifers less than 17.5 cm dbh and pile burn surface debris. Mature trees should be limbed to a height of up to 3 meters.
RICO 1	High	63.6	Entirely on Crown Provincial land within RDCK Electoral Area G, approximately 200m from homes. Shooting range (NRGC) and rec trails within PTU.	Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update. Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The PTU is located off Porto Rico Road and surrounds the shooting range. There is an opportunity for commercial thinning in areas with enough volume and preferred species exist throughout the unit. Manual thinning in low-volume areas would also be beneficial. The PTU has a dense understory of Cw and Bg, with continuous patches of ladder fuels. Residences and private land are located to the south.
RICO 2A	Moderate	44.7	Provincial Crown land, approximately 200m from homes. Slight overlap with Stewart Creek Rest Area.	Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update. Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The PTU is located off Stewart FSR, with opportunities for commercial thinning in areas where benches allow for machine operations. Patch cuts are recommended along operable ground through stands of Cw and Hw while retaining existing Fd. Manual thinning in retention areas may also be beneficial. The understory is dense with western Cw and Bg, with continuous patches of ladder fuels. Residences and private land are situated to the north and east.
RICO 2B	Moderate	4.2	Provincial Crown land, approximately 200m from homes.	Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update. Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The PTU is located off Stewart FSR, with opportunities for commercial thinning in areas where benches allow for machine operations. Patch cuts are recommended along operable ground through stands of Cw and Hw while retaining existing Fd. Manual thinning in retention areas may also be beneficial. The understory is dense with western Cw and Bg, with continuous patches of ladder fuels. Residences and private land are situated to the north and east.
RICO 3	Moderate	44.9	Provincial Crown land, approximately 100m from homes.	Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update. Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The PTU is located next to residences along Porto Rico-Ymir Road. Treatment should involve manual thinning, connecting to the private land boundaries and the maintained road. The area has a dense



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	<p>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.</p> <p>2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024</p> <p>Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property.</p> <p>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.</p>
ROSS 3	Moderate	72.9	Provincial Crown land, adjacent to residents and private property	<p>2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024</p> <p>Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update</p> <p>Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update</p> <p>Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property.</p> <p>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</p>
SAL 2	Moderate	42.8	Provincial Crown land. Community hiking trails in proximity of PTU. Within 100m from homes.	
SAL 3	Low	25.8	Provincial Crown land.	



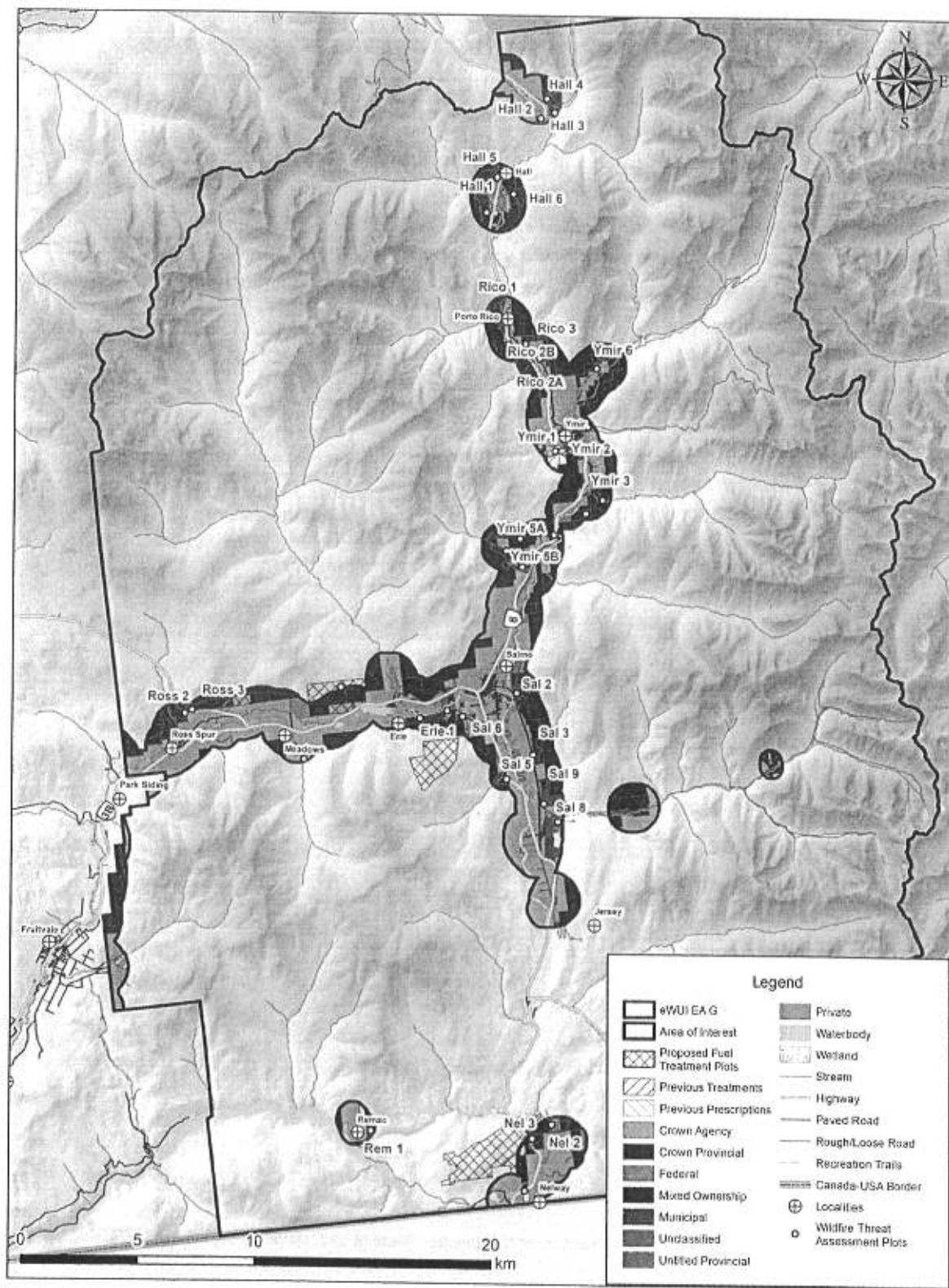
PTU Name	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
SAL 5	Moderate	24.2	Provincial Crown land. Within 100m of homes and highway	Douglas fir stands with low to moderate canopy base height. The terrain is rocky. Consult with the community before developing a prescription. Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The area consists of a mixed deciduous stand with a high proportion of larch and birch. The stand structure is classified as M1/2, with a significant amount of coarse woody debris elevated off the ground. Some sections contain large regeneration patches within the treatment unit. There are numerous dead spruce and fir stems, along with a high volume of dead, partially downed material. The site is located off the highway, with no suitable alternate road access to the TU. As a result, the treatment regime lends itself towards a non-commercial thin, pruning retained trees, and pile and burning ladder and surface fuels.
SAL 6	High	32.5	Provincial Crown land. Biking and hiking trails within PTU. PTU adjacent to Salmo ski hill. Western edge overlaps Controlled Recreation Area – Mountain Resorts Branch).	Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The area consists of a mixed deciduous stand with a high proportion of larch and birch and continuous. The stand structure is classified as C5, with a significant amount of coarse woody debris elevated off the ground. Understorey is juvenile cedars creating patchy ladder fuels. Some sections contain large regen patches within the treatment unit. Salmo ski hill is adjacent and will require consultation before prescription development. Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted in 2024 update Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The stand is a mixed fir-pine forest with a moderate to high density of codominant trees. Coarse woody debris on the ground is minimal. The stand's structure is variable, with patches of dense thickets containing Bg and Cw ladder fuels, interspersed with open areas. The site is easily accessible by road and machinery, making it suitable for commercial thinning. Recommended treatments include pruning retained trees and piling and burning ladder and surface fuels.
SAL 8	Moderate	46.9	Majority overlaps municipal land – RDCK. Community waste transfer station adjacent to PTU.	Existing 2017 PTU. Boundaries adjusted to stay within 1km WUI buffer. Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property. The stand is an open mixed wood forest with rocky terrain to the northeast and a steep slope exceeding 60% to the east. The site has minimal surface fuels, which are mostly composed of herbs and shrubs. The recommended treatment includes non-commercial thinning, pruning of retained trees, and piling and burning of ladder and surface fuels.
SAL 9	Low	32.3	South end overlaps municipal land – RDCK. Community waste transfer station southeast of the PTU. Residences adjacent to the west.	



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 understorey. 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. 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. 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 understorey of Bg and Cw creating continuous ladder fuels. Crown base height is low between understorey 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. 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 understorey 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. 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 understorey is shrubby, dominated by Oregon grape and conifer saplings.
YMIR 2	High	14.7	Entirely on Crown Provincial land. Clover Bear Dink Golf Course situated within PTU.	
YMIR 3	Moderate to high	25.2	Entirely on Crown Provincial land within RDCK Electoral Area G, approximately 150m from homes.	
YMIR 5A	Moderate	45.8	Entirely on Crown Provincial land. PTU adjacent to Porcupine Wood Products	
YMIR 5B	Moderate	13.6	Entirely on Crown Provincial land. PTU adjacent to Porcupine Wood Products. Majority overlap UREP 0106342.	



PTU Name	Priority	Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
YMIR 6	Moderate	10.7	Entirely on Crown Provincial land, approximately 500m from homes.	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>New PTU in 2024 update</p> <p>Treat to reduce wildfire threat within the WUI adjacent to private property.</p> <p>Composed of a heterogeneous stand of C7 intermixed with C5 leading areas. Dead standing Fd through PTU due to bark beetle. High potential for commercial thin targeting Cw and removing dead standing, and blow down. Areas of the PTU has steep slopes therefore, manual thinning is recommended to prune retained trees, and pile and burn ladder and surface fuels. The community of Ymir is located west to PTU and extending the boundaries to the values should be considered if slope permits.</p>



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

SECTION 6: FIRESMART ROADMAP AND CWRP ACTION PLAN

6.1 FIRESMART ROADMAP

The FireSmart Roadmap (see Figure 14 below) is a concept that visually demonstrates how no two communities will follow the same path towards increased community wildfire resiliency, but that actions progress along four sequential phases. Some activities, including education, may appear in multiple phases but should reflect progression in terms of the community's understanding and adoption of FireSmart principles.⁴³

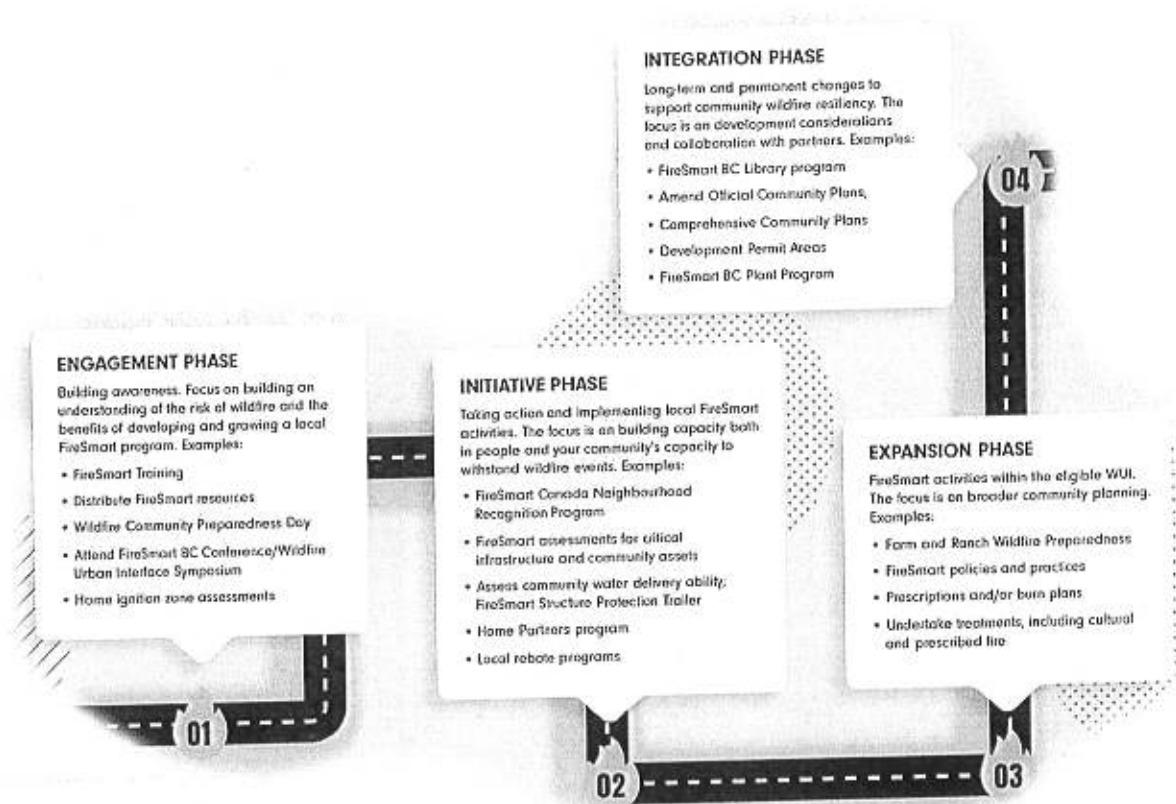


Figure 14. Graphic representation of the FireSmart Roadmap concept.⁴⁴

⁴³ Community Resiliency Investment. 2023. *FireSmart Community Funding and Supports Supplemental Instruction Guide*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ubcm.ca/funding-programs/local-government-program-services/community-resiliency-investment/firesmart-0>

⁴⁴ Copied from FireSmart BC – The FireSmart Roadmap. <https://firesmartbc.ca/resource/the-firesmart-roadmap/>

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.



APPENDIX A: REVIEW OF 2017 CWPP RECOMMENDATIONS

Item	Priority	2019 CWPP Recommendation	2024 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
Communication and Education			
Objective: To improve public understanding of fire risk and personal responsibility by increasing resident awareness of the wildfire threat in their community and to establish a sense of homeowner responsibility.			
1	High	<p>Establish a school education program to engage youth in wildfire management. Consult ABCFP, BCWS (the zone) and RDCK Fire Service to facilitate and recruit volunteer teachers and experts to help with curriculum development to be delivered in elementary and/or secondary schools.</p> <p>Educational programming can be done in conjunction with any currently running fire prevention education programs.</p>	<p>This has not been done</p> <p>The CWPP was posted on the RDCK website. Fire threat spatial data is not currently available on the RDCK public webmap.</p>
2	High	<p>Make summaries of this report and associated maps publicly available through webpage, social media, and public FireSmart meetings. Add fire threat spatial data to the interactive web-mapping tool to allow residents to find their property and the associated threat of wildfire.</p>	<p>The RDCK Participates in this</p>
3	Moderate	<p>Participate in the National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, typically in May each year.</p>	<p>This has been expanded successfully</p>
4	High	<p>Expand door-to-door FireSmart assessment and/or Home Partner Program within the EA-G and Salmo interface to educate residents and to quantify the level of risk in the interface.</p>	<p>As per the response in the questionnaire</p>
Objective: To enhance the awareness of elected officials and stakeholders regarding the resources required to reduce fire risk.			
5	High	<p>Develop regional development permit standards and align local government bylaws.</p>	

Item	Priority	2019 CWPP Recommendation	2024 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
Communication and Education			
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
Structure Protection and Planning			
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
Communication and Education			
12	High	Complete more detailed hazard assessments and developing, in collaboration with other available government funding, response plans for stabilization and rehabilitation of burn areas in watersheds that are vulnerable to post-wildfire debris flows and floods.	The completion of hazard assessments and rehab of burns areas is provincial responsibility. The RDCK does conduct further hazard assessments where there is a public safety risk
13			The RDCK and Salmo work collaboratively in the delivery of FireSmart.
	High	Establish a Joint Responsibility Area around the Village of Salmo in which Salmo and the RDCK will collaborate for wildfire response and initiatives.	Salmo provides fire protection under contract in the surrounding Area G, there is a mutual aid agreement in place for firefighting purposes between Salmo and Ymir Fire Departments
Objective: Encourage private homeowners to voluntarily adopt FireSmart principles on their properties.			
14	High	Support homeowners with professionals to provide the Home Partners Program or WUI Site and Structure Hazard Assessments for interface homes and provide information to homeowners on specific steps that they can take to reduce fire hazards on their property. Homeowners should not be charged for these assessments.	This program is being delivered
Local Government Policy			
Objective: To reduce wildfire hazard on private land and increase FireSmart compliance.			
15	High	Complete OCP review and implement and / or strengthen zoning to expand reach of the existing.	Not as it pertains wildfire / Salmo review questionnaire

Item	Priority	2019 CWPP Recommendation	2024 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
Communication and Education			
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
Communication and Education			
21	High	Consider developing an outdoor burning bylaw specifying requirements for and limitations to outdoor burning and, in conjunction with the Fire Chief, implement the bylaw at times of high fire danger when provincial bans are not in place. The bylaw should consider effective and efficient enforcement measures and powers.	This has not been applied in the rural electoral area. In consultation with BC Wildfire it has not been deemed feasible of effective to do this.
22	Moderate	Work with the Building and Safety Standards Branch to provide input into the Building Code revisions that would apply within the interface to prevent the spread of wildfire.	No
Emergency Response and Planning			
Objective: To improve structural and wildfire equipment and training available to RDCK Fire and Rescue.			
23	High	Conduct annual mutual aid training with MFLNRD and BCWS including completion of a mock wildfire simulation in coordination with BCWS and safety training specific to wildland fire and risks inherent with natural areas. As part of the training, conduct annual reviews to ensure PPE and wildland equipment resources are complete, in working order, and the crews are well versed in their set-up and use. Wildfire training should follow Office of the Fire Commissioner standards.	This occurs annually
24	High	Ensure RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator act as liaison between the RDCK Collaborative Planning Group and the Emergency Preparedness Committee for EA-G and Salmo. Coordination and information sharing are crucial to the development of a community well prepared for wildfire.	There is collaboration on this within the emergency program
25	Moderate	Review and clarify SPU request procedures with RDCK fire Chiefs and ensure robust SPP115 training for fire fighters.	This is in place
26	Moderate	Develop Regional Service to fund additional SPUs and maintain existing SPUs.	This is in place
27	Moderate	Explore opportunities to collaborate with BCWS and within RDCK fire service to coordinate discount volumes of hose for interface fires, reducing costs and logistics to local fire departments	This has not been explored

Item	Priority	2019 CWPP Recommendation	2024 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
Communication and Education			
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
Emergency Response Evacuation and Access			
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
Fuel Management			
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

Item	Priority	2019 CWPP Recommendation	2024 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
Communication and Education			
34	High	Prioritize Areas of Interest across Electoral Areas with updated CWPPs to ensure effective and objective treatment	Some prioritization has been done
Objective: Maintain treated areas under an acceptable level of wildfire fire threat (moderate).			
35	Moderate	As treatments are implemented, complete monitoring within 10 years of treatment (subject to site conditions) and maintenance every 15-20 years (subject to prescription and site conditions) on previously treated areas. Treated areas should be assessed by a Registered Professional Forester, specific to actions** - required to maintain treated areas in a moderate or lower hazard.	There has been no assessment for re treatment

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.⁴⁵ 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.⁴⁶ 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.⁴⁶ 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.

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

⁴⁶ 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.

APPENDIX B-2: WILDFIRE THREAT ASSESSMENT PLOTS

Table 23 displays a summary of all Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) plots completed during CWRP field work. WTAs were completed only to support the fuel treatment unit updates. The most recent 2020 WTA threat plot worksheets and methodology were used.⁴⁷ The plot forms and photos will be submitted as a separate document. The following ratings are applied to applicable point ranges:

- Wildfire Behaviour Threat Score (Coast and Mountains Ecoprovince)
 - 0 – 41 Low
 - 42 – 57 Moderate
 - 58 – 69 High
 - 70 – 100 Extreme

Table 23. Summary of WUI Threat Assessment Worksheets (2020).

WTA Plot	Geographic Location	Wildfire Threat Rating
ERIE1	Salmo	Moderate
ERIE2	Salmo	Moderate
HALL1	Hall Creek FSR	Moderate
HALL2	Hall Siding	Moderate
HALL3	Clearwater FSR	Moderate
HALL4	Whitewater Road	High
HALL5	Hall Creek FSR	Moderate
HALL6	Hall Siding	Moderate
NEL2	Nelway	High
NEL3	Nelway	Low
REM1	Remac	Low
RICO1	Porto Rico Road	High
RICO2	Stewart FSR	Moderate
RICO3	Porto Rico Road	Moderate
RICO4	Porto Rico Road	Moderate
ROSS2	Ross Spur	Low
ROSS3	Ross Spur	Moderate
ROSS4	Ross Spur	High

⁴⁷ MFLNRORD.2020 Wildfire Threat Assessment Guide and Worksheets

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

APPENDIX B-3: FIRE RISK THREAT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The Wildfire Threat Assessment Methodology used in the development of the 2017 Electoral Area G CWPP was as follows:

As part of the CWRP process, spatial data submissions are required to meet the defined standards in the Program and Application Guide. Proponents completing a CWRP can obtain open-source BC Wildfire datasets, including Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) datasets from the British Columbia Data Catalogue. Wildfire spatial datasets obtained through the BC Open Data Catalogue used in the development of the CWRP include, but are not limited to:

- PSTA Spotting Impact
- PSTA Fire Density
- PSTA Fire Threat Rating
- PSTA Lighting Fire Density
- PSTA Human Fire Density
- Head Fire Intensity
- WUI Human Interface Buffer (1436m buffer from structure point data)
- Wildland Urban Interface Risk Class
- Current Fire Polygons
- Current Fire Locations
- Historical Fire Perimeters
- Historical Fire Incident Locations
- Historical Fire Burn Severity
- Fuel Type
- Eligible WUI (1 km buffer of structure density classes >6).

The required components for the spatial data submission are detailed in the Program and Application Guide Spatial Appendix – these include:

- AOI
- Proposed Treatment
- WUI (1 km buffer of structure density classes >6)

The provided PSTA data does not transfer directly into the geodatabase for submission, and several PSTA feature classes require extensive updating or correction. In addition, the Fire Threat determined in the PSTA is fundamentally different than the localized Fire Threat feature class that is included in the Local Fire Risk map required for project submission. The Fire Threat in the PSTA is based on provincial scale inputs - fire density; spotting impact; and head fire intensity, while the spatial submission Fire Threat is based on the components of the Wildland Urban Interface Threat Assessment Worksheet. For the scope

of this project, completion of 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	10
	O-1a/b	
	S-1	

Attribute	Indicator	Score
Weather - BEC Zone	S-2	
	S-3	
	M-1/2, <50% conifer	
	C-5	5
	C-6	
	D-1/2	0
	W	0
	N	0
	AT, irrigated	1
	CWH, CDF, MH	3
	ICH, SBS, ESSF	7
	IDF, MS, SBPS, CWHsds1 & ds2, BWBS, SWB	10
	PP, BG	15
	G5, R1, R2, G6, V5, R9, V9, V3, R5, R8, V7	1
	G3, G8, R3, R4, V6, G1, G9, V8	5
Historical Fire Occurrence Zone	G7, C5, G4, C4, V1, C1, N6	8
	K1, K5, K3, C2, C3, N5, K6, N4, K7, N2	10
	N7, K4	15
	<16	1
	16-29 (max N slopes)	5
Slope	30-44	10
	45-54	12
	>55	15
	North	0
Aspect (>15% slope)	East	5
	<16% slope, all aspect	10
	West	12
	South	15

These attributes are summed to produce polygons with a final Fire Behavior Threat Score. To determine the WUI Risk score, only the distance to structures is used. Buffer distance classes are determined; <200m, 200m-500m and >500m) but only for polygons that had a 'high' or 'extreme' Fire Threat score from previous assessment. In order to determine WUI Risk; those aforementioned polygons within 200m are rated as 'extreme', within 500m are rated as 'high', within 2km are 'moderate', and distances over that are rated 'low'.

Limitations

There are obvious limitations in this method, most notably that not all components of the threat assessment worksheet are scalable to a GIS model, generalizing the Fire Behaviour Threat score. The WUI Risk Score is greatly simplified, as determining the position of structures on a slope, the type of development and the relative position are difficult in an automated GIS process. Structures are considered, but there is no consideration for structure type (also not included on threat assessment worksheet). This method uses the best available information to produce accurate and useable threat assessment across the study Area in a format which is required by the UBCM FCFS program.

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).^{48,49} 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.⁵⁰

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.⁴⁹ Increasing ignition resistance would reduce the number of homes simultaneously on fire; extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result

⁴⁸ 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 \(usda.gov\)](#)

⁴⁹ 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 \(oup.com\)](#)

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

in WUI fire disasters.⁵¹ It is for this reason that the key to reducing WUI fire structure loss is to reduce structure ignitability. Mitigation responsibility must be centered on structure owners. Risk communication, education on the range of available activities, and prioritization of activities should help homeowners to feel empowered to complete simple risk reduction activities on their property.

Table 25. Proximity to the Interface.⁵²

Proximity to the Interface	Descriptor*	Explanation
WUI 100		
HIZ/CIIZ and Community Zones	(0-100 m)	This Zone is always located adjacent to the value at risk. Treatment would modify the wildfire behaviour near or adjacent to the value. Treatment effectiveness would be increased when the value is FireSmart.
WUI 500		
Community and Landscape Zones	(100-500 m)	Treatment would affect wildfire behaviour approaching a value, as well as the wildfire's ability to impact the value with short- to medium- range spotting; should also provide suppression opportunities near a value.
WUI 2000		
Landscape Zone	(500-1000 m)	Treatment would be effective in limiting long - range spotting but short-range spotting may fall short of the value and cause a new ignition that could affect a value.
Landscape Zone	> 1000 m	This should form part of a landscape assessment and is generally not part of the zoning process. Treatment is relatively ineffective for threat mitigation to a value, unless used to form a part of a larger fuel break / treatment.

*Distances are based on spotting distances of high and moderate fuel type spotting potential and threshold to break crown fire potential (100m). These distances can be varied with appropriate rationale, to address areas with low or extreme fuel hazards.

⁵¹ Calkin, D., J. Cohen, M. Finney, M. Thompson. 2014. *How risk management can prevent future wildfire disasters in the wildland-urban interface*. Proc Natl Acad Sci U.S.A. Jan 14; 111(2): 746-751. Retrieved from: [How risk management can prevent future wildfire disasters in the wildland-urban interface \(nih.gov\)](http://www.nih.gov)

⁵² Copied from Table 3: Slope Percentage and Fire Behavior Implications; "Determining Wildfire Threat and Risk at a Local Level"; Tools for Fuel Management website. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-fuel-management/fuel-management>

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

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).

- i) It provides easier clean-up.

The CAO and the Fire Chief are working on providing Council with more information prior to the finalization of the procurement process. The deadline for submission on BCBid is July 11, 2025.

Staff Recommendation:

That Council accept the CAO Report for information.



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

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 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 (2nd 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 2nd 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.

RECOMMENDATION

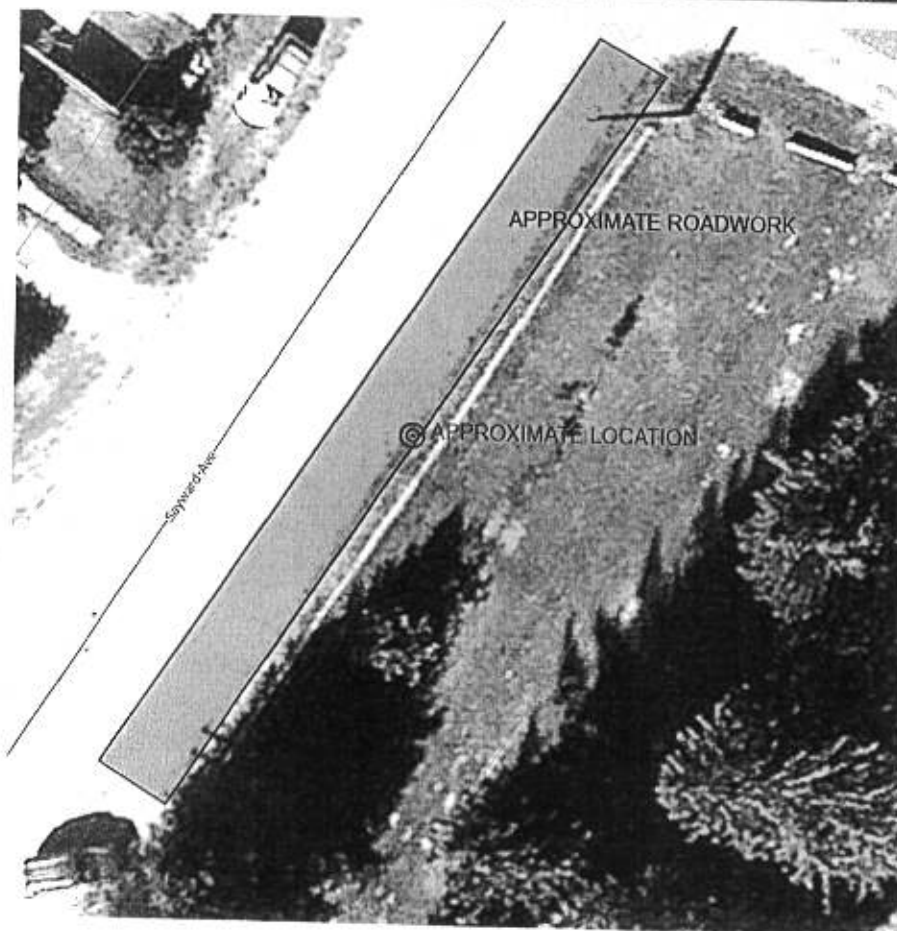
That Council approve the location of a new charging station along Sayward Avenue north of the Sayward well building.

ALTERNATIVES

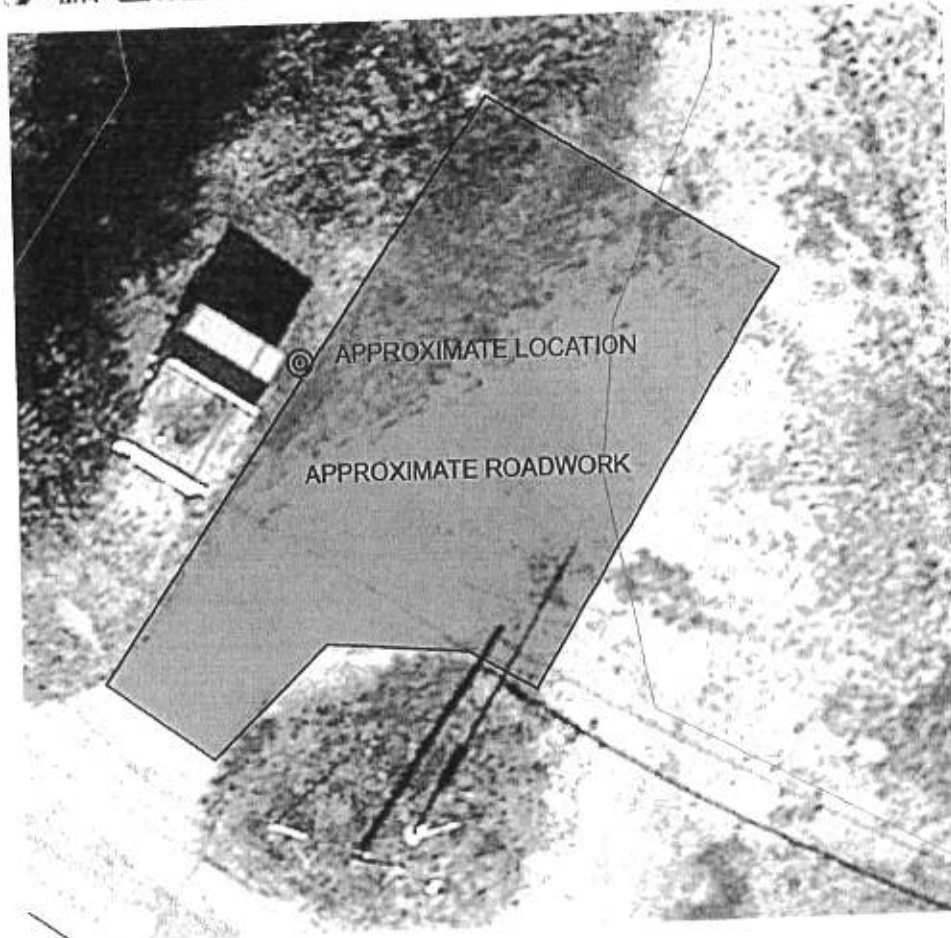
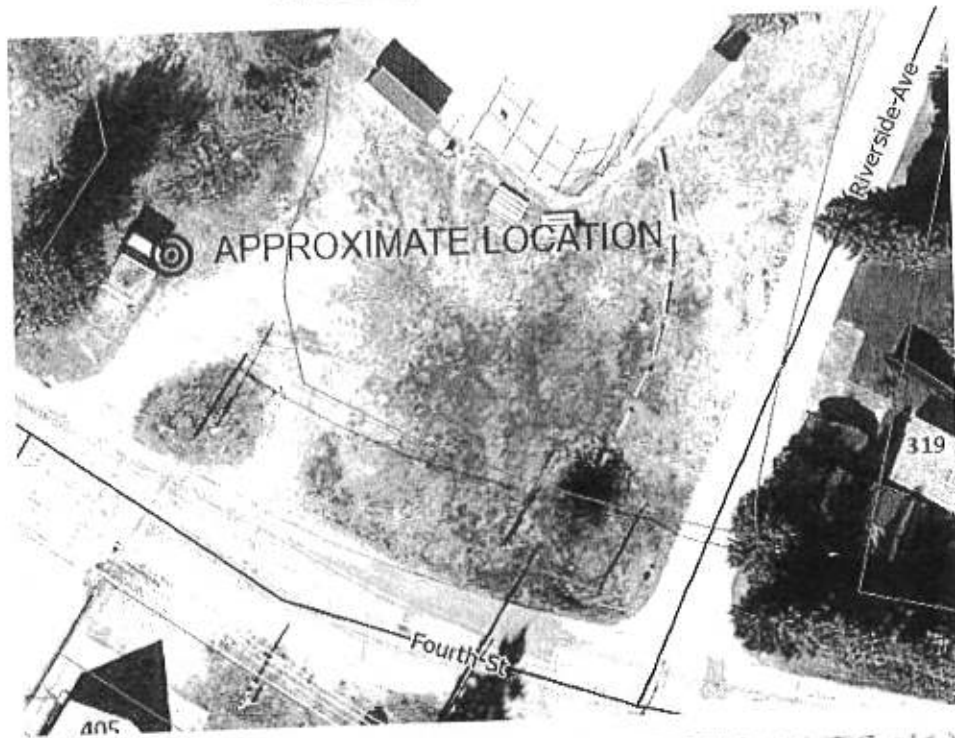
1. That Council approve the location of a new charging station along 4th Street adjacent to the Village lift station.
2. That Council approve the twinning of the current charging station located on Main Street.
3. That Council deny the installation of a new charging station within Village limits.

KP Park Electric Charging Station Proposal

Option #1, KP Park Sayward Avenue:



Option #2, KP Park 4th Street:





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

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 30th, 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

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 10th Meeting.

The Village is required to complete an Official Community Plan 2025. Administration would like to book a COTW meeting to begin building a 1st 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
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3. Audited Financial Statements
4. Schedule of Debt
5. Schedule of Guarantee and Indemnity Agreements
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7. Schedule of Remuneration and Expenses
8. Schedule of Payments for the Provision of Goods and Services
9. Explanation of Differences to Audited Financial Statements

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.

Diana Lockwood
Mayor

Nathan Russ, CPA, CMA
Chief Financial Officer

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

Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Financial Statements contained in this Statement of Financial Information under the *Financial Information Act* have been prepared by management in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and the integrity and objectivity of these statements are management's responsibility.

Management is also responsible for all other schedules of financial information and for ensuring this information is consistent, where appropriate, with the information contained in the financial statements and for implementing and maintaining a system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that reliable financial information is produced.

The Mayor and Council are responsible for ensuring that management fulfils its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control and for approving the financial information included in the Statement of Financial Information.

The external auditors, Childs Chanton, Chartered Professional Accountants, conduct an independent examination, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and express their opinion on the financial statements. Their examination does not relate to the other schedules of financial information required by the *Financial Information Act*. Their examination includes a review and evaluation of the Village's system of internal control and appropriate tests and procedures to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are presented fairly.

On behalf of The Corporation of the Village of Salmo



Nathan Russ, CPA, CMA
Chief Financial Officer
June 3, 2025

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

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

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO
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For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

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Schedule D - Capacity Funding Reconciliation

Exhibit 1 - Province of BC Grant Reconciliations (Unaudited)

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO MANAGEMENT REPORT

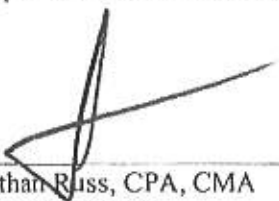
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

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.



Nathan Russ, CPA, CMA
Financial Officer

CHILDS CHANTON

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS*

* Denotes Professional Corporation

Jeremy J. Childs, CPA, CA
Marie C. Chanton, CPA, CA

241 Columbia Avenue, Castlegar, BC V1N 1G3 Phone: (250) 365-7287 Fax: (250) 365-6066

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Mayor and Council of
The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Corporation of the Village of Salmo, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024 and the statements of operations, change in net debt and cash flow for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation of the Village of Salmo (the Village) as at December 31, 2024 and the results of its operations, changes in net debt, and its cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Village in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Matter

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. Exhibit 1 is presented for the purposes of additional information and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information has not been subject to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly we express no opinion thereon.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Village's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Village or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Village's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users make on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- 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

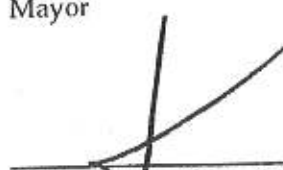
Castlegar, BC

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 3)	\$ 3,884,422	\$ 3,341,232
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	194,742	250,808
MFA deposits (Note 5)	<u>15,638</u>	<u>15,112</u>
	<u>4,094,802</u>	<u>3,607,152</u>
Financial Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 6)	266,963	174,182
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	446,586	233,329
Accrued future payroll benefits (Note 8)	36,600	29,609
Debt (Note 9)	594,305	633,628
Asset retirement obligations (Note 10)	<u>732,786</u>	<u>699,690</u>
	<u>2,077,240</u>	<u>1,770,438</u>
Net Financial Assets	2,017,562	1,836,714
Non-Financial Assets		
Tangible capital assets (Note 11)	9,634,373	9,736,556
Inventory	8,498	9,373
Other assets (Note 12)	17,317	17,317
Prepaid expenses	<u>23,164</u>	<u>22,978</u>
	<u>9,683,352</u>	<u>9,786,224</u>
Accumulated Surplus (Note 13)	<u>\$ 11,700,914</u>	<u>\$ 11,622,938</u>
Trust Funds (Note 14)		
Commitments and Contingencies (Note 17)		


Diana Lockwood
Mayor


Nathan Russ, CPA, CMA
Financial Officer

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

	2024 Budget (Note 18)	2024	2023
Revenue			
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	344,019	341,681	311,324
	<u>2,578,307</u>	<u>2,315,275</u>	<u>3,219,536</u>
Expenses			
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	408,542	445,582	431,877
	<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>
Accumulated surplus, end of the year	\$ <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 CHANGES IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Annual surplus	\$ (201,112)	\$ 77,976	\$ 1,283,548
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(363,650)	(343,399)	(1,353,984)
Amortization of capital assets	<u>408,542</u>	<u>445,582</u>	<u>431,877</u>
	(156,220)	180,159	361,441
Acquisition (consumption) of prepaid expenses	-	(186)	527
Acquisition (consumption) of supply inventory	<u>-</u>	<u>875</u>	<u>(427)</u>
	-	689	100
Increase (decrease) in net financial assets	(156,220)	180,848	361,541
Net financial assets, beginning of year	<u>1,836,714</u>	<u>1,836,714</u>	<u>1,475,173</u>
Net financial assets, end of the year	\$ <u>1,680,494</u>	\$ <u>2,017,562</u>	\$ <u>1,836,714</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>
Cash Provided by (Used In)		
Operating Activities		
Annual surplus	\$ 77,976	\$ 1,283,548
Items not involving cash:		
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
Increase (decrease) in non-cash working capital balances:		
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>
	<u>910,421</u>	<u>2,509,940</u>
Financing Activities		
Debt repayment	<u>(23,832)</u>	<u>(44,972)</u>
Capital Activities		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	<u>(343,399)</u>	<u>(1,353,984)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	543,190	1,110,984
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>3,341,232</u>	<u>2,230,248</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<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

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024

1. Significant Accounting Policies

The Corporation of the Village of Salmo (the "Village") is a local government in the Province of British Columbia. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

The following is a summary of the Village's significant accounting policies:

(a) Basis of Presentation

The Village's resources and operations are segregated into general, water and sewer funds and statutory and non-statutory reserve funds and reserves for future capital expenditures for accounting and financial reporting purposes. These financial statements include the accounts of all the funds of the Village. Inter-fund transactions and balances have been eliminated.

(b) Revenue Recognition

Sources of revenue are recorded on the accrual basis and include revenue in the period in which the transactions or events occurred that give rise to the revenues. Taxation revenues are recognized at the time of issuing the property tax notices for the fiscal year. Sale of services and user fee revenues are recognized when the service or product is rendered by the Village.

Grant revenues are recognized when the funding becomes receivable. Revenue unearned in the current period is recorded as deferred revenue.

(c) Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue represents funds received for specific purposes which are externally restricted by legislation, regulation or agreement and are not available for general municipal purposes as well as licenses, permits, other fees and grants which have been collected, but for which the related services have not been performed and or projects have not been constructed. These amounts will be recognized as revenues in the fiscal year in which they are used for the specified purpose, the services are performed and or the projects are constructed.

(d) Government Transfers

Government transfers are recognized in the financial statements as revenue in the period in which events giving rise to the transfer occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met and reasonable estimates can be made.

(e) Financial Instruments

The Village's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, accrued future payroll benefits and debt. It is management's opinion that the Village is not exposed to significant interest, currency, liquidity, or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values.

(f) Accrued Future Payroll Benefits

The Village records the cost of future payroll benefits over the employee's term of employment.

(g) Interest and Actuarial Gains on Long Term Debt

The Village records interest expense on long-term debt on an accrual basis and actuarial gains when realized as a reduction of the principal balance.

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

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

1. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(m) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Significant areas requiring estimates include the useful lives of tangible capital assets for amortization, future employee benefits, allowance for doubtful accounts, provision for contingencies, and timing and extent of future asset retirement obligations. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

(n) Budget

Budget data presented in these financial statements is based on the Village's Five Year Financial Plan for the years 2024-2028, adopted by Council on May 6, 2024.

(o) Segments

The Village conducts its business through a number of reportable segments. These operating segments are established by senior management to facilitate the achievement of the Village's long-term objectives to aid in resource allocation decisions, and to assess operational performance.

(p) Asset retirement obligations

An asset retirement obligation is a legal obligation associated with the retirement of a tangible capital asset that the Village will be required to settle. The Village recognizes asset retirement obligations when there is a legal obligation to incur retirement costs in relation to a tangible capital asset, the past transaction or event giving rise to the liability has occurred, it is expected that future economic benefits will be given up, and a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made.

Asset retirement obligations are initially measured at the best estimate of the amount required to retire a tangible capital asset at the financial statement date. The estimate of a liability includes costs directly attributable to asset retirement activities.

Asset retirement obligations are recorded as liabilities with a corresponding increase to the carrying amount of the related tangible capital asset. The obligation is adjusted to reflect period-to-period changes in the liability resulting from the passage of time and for revisions to either the timing or the amount of the original estimate of the undiscounted cash flows or the discount rate.

2. Change in accounting policy

On January 1, 2024, the Village adopted new Public Sector Accounting Standard Section PS 3400 Revenue. This section establishes standards on how to account for and report on revenue. The standard was applied prospectively and had no impact on the comparative figures.

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	2024	2023	2023
	<u>Cash Deposit</u>	<u>Demand Note</u>	<u>Cash Deposit</u>	<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

7. Deferred Revenue

	Opening Balance	Contributions Received	Revenue Recognized	Ending Balance
Federal Gas tax grant*	\$ -	\$ 115,320	\$ (115,320)	\$ -
Other grants and contributions	204,254	333,308	(123,124)	414,438
Prepaid taxes, licenses, & fees	29,075	26,523	(23,450)	32,148
	<u>\$ 233,329</u>	<u>\$ 475,151</u>	<u>\$ (261,894)</u>	<u>\$ 446,586</u>

* The Federal Gas tax grant and the Growing Communities Fund is recognized into revenue and immediately transferred into the Community Works fund and the Growing Communities Fund reserve, respectively.

8. Accrued Future Payroll Benefits

	2024	2023
Holiday Pay	\$ 12,612	\$ 10,581
Sick Leave	17,741	15,667
Banked Overtime	6,247	3,361
	<u>\$ 36,600</u>	<u>\$ 29,609</u>

The Village accrues holiday pay and banked overtime as they are earned by the employee, however, it is expected that these substantially funded liabilities will be met on a continuous basis over the long-term. Payment of these amounts will be funded from revenues of the period in which they are settled.

9. Debt

Debt Bylaw #	Purpose of Bylaw	Interest rate %	Year of Maturity	Original Issue	2024 Balance	2023 Balance
General Purposes:						
311	John Deere loader	2.60%	2023	\$ 137,000	\$ -	\$ -
549	Wellness centre	2.25%	2039	885,000	569,035	596,360
610	Public works shop	1.47%	2026	150,000	25,270	37,268

Total Debt \$ 594,305 \$ 633,628

Principal payments and expected actuarial additions for the next 5 years and thereafter are as follows:

	Total
2025	\$ 40,836
2026	42,407
2027	30,737
2028	31,967
2029	33,245
Thereafter	<u>415,113</u>
	<u>\$ 594,305</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>

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

13. Accumulated Surplus

	2024	2023
Reserves		
Ambulance service	\$ 12,953	\$ 12,728
Community works fund	472,450	416,906
Curling rink	19,176	18,858
Employee sick leave	10,000	10,000
Fire department equipment	185,012	138,857
Growing communities reserve	703,596	829,098
Jaws of life	272,254	243,069
Machinery & equipment	218,630	160,899
Parks	17,984	15,848
Sewer infrastructure	51,305	3,605
Water infrastructure	343,408	332,731
Wellness centre	<u>134,921</u>	<u>123,257</u>
	2,441,689	2,305,856
Operating surplus	952,746	913,846
Invested in tangible capital assets	<u>8,306,479</u>	<u>8,403,236</u>
Total Accumulated Surplus	<u>\$ 11,700,914</u>	<u>\$ 11,622,938</u>

14. Trust Funds

The Cemetery Care Trust Fund is not reported in these financial statements. The following is a summary of Trust Fund transactions for the year:

	2024	2023
Balances, beginning of year	\$ 26,925	\$ 26,034
Contributions received	455	445
Interest earned	<u>456</u>	<u>446</u>
Balances, end of year	<u>\$ 27,836</u>	<u>\$ 26,925</u>

15. Taxes Levied For Other Paid Authorities

In addition to taxes levied for municipal purposes, the Village is legally obligated to collect and remit taxes levied for the following authorities. These collections and remittances are not recorded as revenue and expenses.

	2024	2023
Provincial Government - School taxes	\$ 395,630	\$ 380,846
Provincial Government - Police taxes	69,835	65,595
Regional District of Central Kootenay	366,022	337,295
West Kootenay Boundary Hospital District	37,449	37,727
British Columbia Assessment Authority	9,362	8,982
Municipal Finance Authority	<u>48</u>	<u>47</u>
	<u>\$ 878,346</u>	<u>\$ 830,492</u>

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024

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.

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

18. Budget Data

The reconciliation of the approved budget for the current year to the budget figures reported in these financial statement is as follows:

	2024
Budget surplus per Statement of Operations	\$ (201,112)
Less: Capital expenditures	363,650
Debt principal repayments	23,832
Budgeted transfers to reserves	339,199
Add: Budgeted transfers from surplus & reserves	519,251
Amortization	408,542
Debt proceeds	-
Net annual budget	\$ -

19. Segmented Information

The Village is a diversified municipal government institution that provides a wide range of services to its citizens. Village services are provided by departments and their activities are reported in these service areas. Departments disclosed in the segmented information, along with the services they provide, are as follows:

General Government Services

The Departments and Divisions within General Government Services are responsible for adopting bylaws & administrative policy; levying and collecting taxes and utilities; acquiring, disposing and managing Village assets; ensuring effective financial management and communication; administering Village grants; emergency planning; economic development; preparing land use plans, bylaws and policies for sustainable development of the Village; monitoring and reporting performance; and ensuring that high quality Village service standards are met. The general revenue reported under the department includes revenues associated with taxation, business tax revenues and senior government payments in lieu of taxes. These revenues have not been apportioned to other departments supported by the general fund.

Protective Services

Protective Services comprises of fire protection and bylaw enforcement. Bylaw is responsible for parking and other bylaw enforcement, as well as domestic animal control. The mandate of the Fire and Rescue Services is to protect life, property and the environment through the provision of emergency response, inspections, code enforcement and public education, ensuring safety for the public.

Transportation Services

Transportation Services is responsible for planning, building, operating and maintaining the Village's physical infrastructure including roads and sidewalks, civic buildings and facilities. In addition, the divisions provide services for storm sewer services, and fleet services.

Environmental Health

Environmental Health is responsible for the Village's solid waste collection services.

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

December 31, 2024

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 A - SCHEDULE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	Opening Balance	Additions & Reallocation of Assets Under Construction	Disposals	Closing Balance	Accumulated Amortization Opening Balance	Amortization Expense	Reduction on Disposals	Accumulated Amortization Closing Balance	Net Carrying Amount End of year
Tangible Capital Assets									
Land	\$ 1,256,899	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,256,899	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,256,899
Buildings	3,377,002	96,819	-	3,473,821	1,285,647	94,930	-	1,380,577	2,093,244
Vehicles, equipment & furniture	2,495,318	31,586	-	2,526,904	1,822,576	93,422	-	1,915,998	610,906
Transportation infrastructure	3,777,039	68,564	-	3,845,603	1,955,575	90,127	-	2,045,702	1,799,901
Water infrastructure	2,551,320	47,989	-	2,599,309	1,002,798	59,528	-	1,062,326	1,536,983
Sewer infrastructure	3,952,885	98,441	-	4,051,326	1,607,311	107,575	-	1,714,886	2,336,440
Total	\$ 17,410,463	\$ 343,399	\$ -	\$ 17,753,862	\$ 7,673,907	\$ 445,582	\$ -	\$ 8,119,489	\$ 9,634,373

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
Revenues									
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>
Expenditures									
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>
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	\$ <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>

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO
SCHEDULE C - GROWING COMMUNITIES FUND RECONCILIATION
December 31, 2024

Province of BC Growing Communities Fund reconciliation

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

	<u>2024</u>
Growing Communities Fund opening balance	\$ 829,731
Interest earned during the year	14,904
Less: Eligible use of funds	140,406
Remaining grant	\$ <u>704,229</u>

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

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>

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO
EXHIBIT 1 - PROVINCE OF BC GRANT RECONCILIATIONS (UNAUDITED)
December 31, 2024

Province of BC COVID-19 Restart Grant reconciliation

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

	<u>2024</u>
COVID-19 Restart Grant received opening Balance	\$ 120,467
Less grant recognition:	
Revenue shortfalls	-
Facility reopening & operating costs	3,779
Emergency planning & response costs	-
Computer & other electronic technology costs	<u>14,747</u>
Remaining grant	<u>\$ 101,941</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

SCHEDULE OF GUARANTEE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENTS

The Corporation of the Village of Salmo has not given any guarantees or indemnities under the Guarantees and Indemnities Regulation.

Prepared under the Financial Information Regulation, Schedule 1, section 5

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 REMUNERATION AND EXPENSE
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

NAME		REMUNERATION	EXPENSE
ELECTED OFFICIALS	POSITION		
Cox, Melanie	Councillor	\$ 7,264	\$ 3,437
Heatlie, Jonathon	Councillor	5,854	1,460
Lins, Jennifer	Councillor	7,264	
Lockwood, Diana	Mayor	12,341	932
Neil, Kenzie	Councillor	7,024	
TOTAL ELECTED OFFICIALS		<u>39,747</u>	<u>5,829</u>
DETAILED EMPLOYEES > \$75,000			
Dejong, Maxwell		88,274	903
Paton, Fred		87,695	188
		<u>175,970</u>	<u>1,091</u>
TOTAL EMPLOYEES <= \$75,000		<u>398,353</u>	<u>7,555</u>
TOTAL		<u>\$ 614,069</u>	<u>\$ 14,475</u>
TOTAL EMPLOYER PREMIUM FOR CPP/EI			\$ 42,397

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

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

TOTAL DETAILED SUPPLIERS >\$25,000	843,643
--	---------

TOTAL SUPPLIERS <= \$25,000	663,047
---------------------------------------	---------

TOTAL SUPPLIERS	1,506,690
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GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS >\$25,000	0
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TOTAL PAYMENTS, GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 1,506,690
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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 background 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

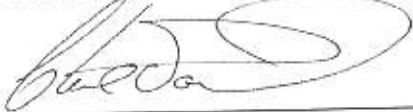


and federal governments. **Considering CCT's stated positions and goals, the way local governments respond to CCT's claims can set harmful precedents with far-reaching implications and further feed family conflict by choosing sides.** In addition to engagement, providing territorial and other acknowledgement in recognition or support of the Sinixt Confederacy or CCT territorial rights is incorrect, dismissive of Syilx Okanagan Nation's rights, and creates division. **Now is the time to pause and carefully reflect on what level of recognition and engagement is appropriate when considering a US group's claims on local governments and regions, while continuing to prioritize reconciliation with First Nations located in Canada.** Remember, Canada is not, and will never be, the 51st state!

To discuss further, please contact Chief Robert Louie, the CEC's designated lead on Sinixt Issues (rlouie@wfn.ca).

liml̓amt,

OKANAGAN NATION ALLIANCE



ki law na Ylmixwm Clarence Louie
xaʔtus, Tribal Chair

CC: Chiefs Executive Council, Okanagan Nation Alliance
Okanagan Nation Alliance, Executive Director Pauline Terbasket, (Director@syilx.org)
Councillor Melanie Cox, Village of Salmo
Councillor Jonathon Heatlie, Village of Salmo
Councillor Jennifer Lins, Village of Salmo
Councillor Kenzie Neil, Village of Salmo
Derek Kwiatkowski, Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Salmo

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.

SYILX OKANAGAN POSITION

- Our history and position are clear: the Sinixt people are part of the *Syilx Okanagan Nation*, and we are the legal and political representatives of Sinixt people in Canada.
- We support the limited right of our CCT relatives to hunt for Elk in parts of B.C. as recognized in *Desautel*, but when it comes to engagement, consultation, rights and title, *Syilx Okanagan Nation* in Canada must always be the priority and primary focus of governments – including local governments - in Canada.
- Contrary to the Sinixt Confederacy narrative that they have been excluded from the Columbia River Treaty negotiations between Canada and the US, CCT representatives in fact participate as part of the United States' delegation in those negotiations. CCT already receives hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. federal funding, including for hydroelectric power impacts on the U.S.-side of the Columbia River which are supported by CRT flows.
- There should be no opportunity for US-Tribes like the CCT to “double dip” by seeking engagement, consultation, revenue sharing and compensation north of the Border. **Furthermore, local governments should not legitimize such claims or further exacerbate existing conflict by engaging with US-Tribes, at the expense of Canadian First Nations whose Territory includes the Arrow Lakes and Kootenay/Boundary regions.**

A PATH FORWARD – NEED FOR A UNIFIED FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLICY AND ACTION

- *Syilx Okanagan Nation* has urged the government of Canada to adopt a principled policy approach that prioritizes Canadian-based First Nations and protects Canadian interests while remaining consistent with the limited judicial guidance offered by the SCC in *Desautel*. **This approach is already being adopted and implemented provincially and is receiving a favourable response federally. Local governments must apprise themselves of these developments and manage their own engagement efforts accordingly, or risk further exacerbating conflict by appearing to choose sides.**
- In a joint statement with Chief Robert Louie, Premier Eby committed to a shared policy process with *Syilx Okanagan Nation* to address the issues posed by *Desautel*, and affirmed that First Nations in BC must always be the priority and primary focus of *all levels* of government. The Province of BC is working with the *Syilx Okanagan Nation* and other BC First Nations to develop a provincial policy framework regarding consultation with US-based groups. This policy is expected to be finalized later this year.
- The BC government recognizes that the Federal government has an important role to play in addressing the challenges of *Desautel*, which have significant national implications.
- The reality is that there are important differences between Canadian and US-based Aboriginal peoples:
 - US-based groups are not subject to Canadian law outside the territorial bounds of Canada.

- 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.**

As stated previously, in addition to engagement, providing territorial and other acknowledgement in recognition or support of the Sinixt Confederacy or CCT territorial rights is incorrect, dismissive of Syilx Okanagan Nation's rights, and creates division. **Now is the time to pause and carefully reflect on what level of recognition and engagement is appropriate when considering a US group's claims on local governments and regions, while continuing to prioritize reconciliation with First Nations located in Canada.**

We include here a backgrounder, a map of our Territory, and a fact-checking document, all of which can be downloaded for future reference:

- [Duty to Consult & Accommodate the Syilx Okanagan Nation](#)
- [Syilx Okanagan Nation Territory Map^{\[i\]}](#)
- [Fact-Checking the "Sinixt Confederacy"](#)

To discuss further, please contact Chief Robert Louie, the CEC's designated lead on Sinixt Issues (rlouie@wfn.ca).

Liml̓əmt,

OKANAGAN NATION ALLIANCE

^[i] The boundaries of this map were compiled in 1998 and submitted to BC Supreme Court in a protective *Writ of Summons*, on December 10, 2003, more than 20 years ago. They have not changed since.

Julie Sills

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

From: Louise Pedersen <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

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.

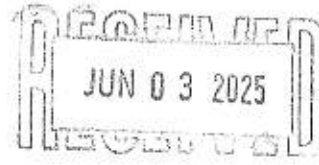
"We're making a plan for the inevitable resource sector downturn," says Olsen. "The key focus is diversification, and outdoor recreation is a huge part of that plan. It will take a group of people with the same vision and goals, all working together, to get it done."

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.

FCM (Federation Canadian Municipalities)

I would like to thank the residents in making it possible for me to attend FCM in Ottawa the week of May 29 - June 1. I had the opportunity to have a behind the scenes look of parliament. MP Morrison gave eight of us a tour on Saturday giving up his and our lunchtime and we got to ask many questions and see where the work happens.

Regional Caucus Meeting for *British-Columbia* started off our week along with the Mayors welcome and reception.

Equipping municipal leaders to combat misinformation – this workshop was very informative. Misinformation is unintentionally spread of false or misleading information whereas disinformation is deliberate spread of false information. Where a rumor is neither confirmed nor denied.

Making sure everyone in the room is allowed to be heard sets the tone for the community. Always invest the same amount of time into communication as you do into making policy.

5 Trends:

1. Weak Mental Models – gives weak understanding and narratives.
2. Rising Sense of unfairness – feel they have no choice.
3. People Shape Information – no longer passive recipients.
4. Declining Trust – in media, government, and advocacy groups.
5. Rising Fatalism – people feel unsafe and insecure. (when you can't control your emotions, people try to control the information)

5 Traps:

1. Focusing only on targets and plans
2. Over relying on politicians
3. Burying the issue
4. Talking to "the public"
5. Fighting with Facts

10 Strategies to build understanding and support plus BONUS:

1. Listening first
2. Invest in narrative and frames - Narrative Structure (choice, challenge, opportunity)
3. Increase message frequency
4. Invest in relationships
5. Fill the vacuum (share accurate, timely content before misinformation takes root)
6. Deal with bad actors (some people will suck up all your time and you need to be okay with not responding to them)
7. Talk to people not "the public"
8. Activate trusted voices (non-partisan)
9. Retelling the store
10. Use sticky facts (help to understand easily)
11. BONUS – Repeat the correct information many times!

We heard from all the political parties and their thoughts on how to help municipalities such as treating us like partners instead of children of the country, helping with infrastructure costs to

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.

