



REQUEST FOR DECISION

To: ACRD Board of Directors

From: Dan Holder, Fire Services Coordinator/
Wendy Thomson, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Meeting Date: July 12, 2017

Subject: **Fire Departments Ability to Deploy Resources Out of District**

Recommendation:

THAT the ACRD Board of Directors provide the following direction for local fire departments:

- i. Direction to respond out of district under authority of BC Wildfire Service;
- ii. Discretion granted to fire chiefs to deploy resources out of district without BC Wildfire Service authority where the opinion of the fire chief that response is in the best interest of the community;
- iii. Direction to enforce provincial burning restrictions within the District.

THAT the ACRD Board of Directors delegate the following to the Acting CAO or her designate:

- i. Ability to close any regional district park or trail;
- ii. Ability to assign resources for promotion and education of any closures.

Background:

With the extreme weather conditions in the region, staff recommend that the above resolutions be put in place in the event of a wildfire.

On July 8, 2015 the ACRD Board of Directors approved similar resolutions due to the Dog Mountain Fire. The resolutions were required by the ACRD in order for the AV Emergency Operations Centre to work with and provide support to various agencies to battle and contain the wildfire.

The Valley Fire Chiefs met on July 9, 2017 and discussed the situation in the Interior of B.C. and the extreme dry conditions in the region. The Valley Fire Chiefs request that the ACRD Board of Directors grant permission to the departments of Bamfield, Sproat Lake and Beaver Creek to respond out of their jurisdiction. In addition, if the Office of the Fire Commissioner requests resources to the Interior of the Province that a combined resource of volunteers and apparatus would be considered and approved by the Board.

Summary

In summary, the above resolutions will:

- a. Grant permission to the ACRD Volunteer Fire Departments to respond outside of their jurisdiction.
- b. Ability to enforce provincial burning regulations in the region.
- c. Cover ACRD volunteers under our insurance when responding outside of district.
- d. Provide the AV Emergency Operations the ability to provide support.
- e. Authorize the Acting CAO or her designate to close any or all Regional District owned park and trails.

Time Requirements – Staff & Elected Officials:

Minimal at this point, dependent on circumstances.

Financial:

Cost recovery is available if tasked out by the BC Wildfire Service.

Policy or Legislation:

Bylaw PS1006 – AV Emergency Planning.

Submitted by:



Dan Holder, Fire Services Coordinator

Approved by:



Wendy Thomson, Acting Chief Administrative Officer