ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

Alberni Valley & Bamfield (2019) Community Wildfire Protection Plan

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Community Wildfire Protection Planning

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process was created in BC as a response to the devastating 2003 wildfire year.

The aim of CWPP is to develop strategic recommendations to assist with improving safety and to reduce the risk of damage to property from wildfire.

Our current CWPP was updated in 2019 and provided the framework for our current FireSmart Grant Project.

Summary of CWPP (2019)
Section 2: Local Area Description

This section defines the Area of Interest (AOI) and describes the communities within the ACRD. It also summarizes the current community engagement in wildfire prevention and mitigation and identifies linkages plans and policies with relevance to wildfire planning.

There are 7 recommendations within this section to achieve the following objective:

- Review and amend the current Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and City of Port Alberni regulatory framework to incorporate wildfire mitigation and preparedness considerations

Summary of CWPP (2019) Section 3: Values at Risk

This section provides a description of the extent to which wildfire has the potential to impact the Values at Risk (VAR) within the Area of Interest (AOI). Values at Risk or the human and natural resources that may be impacted by wildfire include human life and property, critical infrastructure, environmental and cultural values, and other resource values. Values at Risk also include hazardous values that pose a safety hazard.

There are 3 recommendations within this section to achieve the following objective:

- Protect critical infrastructure and mitigate post wildfire impacts

Summary of CWPP (2019)
Section 4: Wildfire Threat & Risk

This section summarizes the factors that contribute to the determination of wildfire threat in the Area of Interest (AOI). Factors include the natural fire regime and ecology, the Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis, and the local wildfire risk analysis completed for the AOI.

There is 1 recommendation within this section to achieve the following objective:

- Mitigate wildfire threat on private land

Summary of CWPP (2019) Section 5: Risk Mgt. & Mitigation

This section outlines a wildfire risk management and mitigation strategy that accounts for fuel types present within the community, local ecology, hazard, terrain factors, land ownership, and capacity of Local Government and First Nations.

There are 30 recommendations within this section to achieve the following objectives:

- Undertake Fuel Treatments to Improve Emergence Access
- Reduce Wildfire Threat through Fuel Management
- Reduce Wildfire Hazard on Private Land
- Increase Public Wildfire Awareness
- Reduce Wildfire Risk from Industrial Sources
- Improve Water Availability for Emergency Response
- Improve Access/Egress to Enhance Emergency Preparedness
- Include Wildfire Considerations when Trail Planning

Summary of CWPP (2019) Section 6: Wildfire Response Resources

This section provides a high-level overview of the local government resources accessible for emergency response and preparedness use. Accordingly, in emergency situations when multiple fires are burning in different areas of the Province, resource availability may be scarce. Therefore, local government preparedness and resource availability are critical components of efficient wildfire prevention and planning.

There are 7 recommendation within this section to achieve the following objectives:

- Enhance Wildfire Equipment and Training
- Encourage FireSmart Initiatives
- Enhance Protection of Municipal Infrastructure from Wildfire

Community Wildfire Resiliency Planning

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans are the next generation of wildfire protection plans developed in partnership between BC Wildfire Service and BC FireSmart Committee.

There are seven FireSmart disciplines that represent different aspects of wildfire preparedness, management, response, prevention, mitigation and resiliency:

- Education
- Legislation and Planning
- Development Considerations
- Interagency Cooperation
- Cross-Training
- Emergency Planning
- Vegetation Management

Next Steps

Our current CWPP is due for review and updating in 2025 and will likely be converted into a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.

Our current FireSmart Grant Project ends March 2025, planning work to develop our next FireSmart Grant application is beginning now.

FireSmart Grant applications will now require the following to qualify for funding:

- a FireSmart Position
- participate in a Community FireSmart Resiliency committee
- have an acceptable Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan/Community Wildfire Protection Plan

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Questions?