



**REPORT TO THE ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 01 SEPTEMBER 2010**

SUBJECT **Community Wildfire Protection Plan for North Pender, South Pender and Saturna Islands**

ISSUE

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) have been completed for the Pender Island(s) and Saturna Island through a grant from Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and are ready for review and receipt.

BACKGROUND

UBCM provides funding for the development of CWPP, to a maximum of \$15,000 per community. The Capital Regional District (CRD) was successful in applying for both Saturna and Pender islands jointly, combining the application to receive \$30,000 to prepare both plans. These funds were matched in-kind, through investment of time by all the involved agencies, including:

- Parks Canada
- Ministry of Forests
- Pender Island Fire
- Saturna Fire
- Islands Trust
- CRD Building Inspection
- CRD Protective Services
- CRD Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) Emergency Program
- CRD Parks

Additionally, Parks Canada provided transportation to and from the islands for meetings, and meeting locations were provided by the fire departments.

Fireweed Consulting, managed by Matthew Tutsch was engaged for the plan. Mr. Tutsch had recently spent two years with Parks Canada, developing a methodology for mapping and analyzing risk in interface areas, focused mainly on the national parks in the SGI. He began the process by producing maps showing risk, and also the individual variables included in his assessment.

The next step included bringing together the stakeholder agencies to review the consultant's findings, analyze works to date within the plan areas, and look at next steps to be taken. Meetings were held on both Saturna Island and Pender Island, and the plans looked both at common areas and situations unique to each community.

The completed plans provide a clear outline of the risk and hazards presented from wildfire in each community, and the role of each stakeholder agency in reducing that risk.

IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

The CWPPs were developed through a grant from UBCM, matched in-kind through the time and energies put in by all stakeholder agencies.

Intergovernmental Implications

The process was very inclusive and brought together federal (National Parks), provincial (Ministry of Forests) and local (CRD and Islands Trust) governments.

Growth Management Implications

The inclusion of CRD Building Inspection and Islands Trust into the process allowed us to look at the implications of continued growth into the interface and how to balance risk with local development.

CONCLUSION

These two CWPPs were the result of collaborative work within the islands, bringing together representatives of Parks Canada, CRD Regional Parks, Ministry of Forests, CRD Building Inspection, Islands Trust, CRD Emergency Management, and local fire departments. The results showcase both the significant work done to date to minimize wildfire risk in these areas, as well as some realistic next steps to be taken.

Once received by committee, staff will circulate the plan to all stakeholders involved in the development. The group will reconvene early next year, to review how to move forward on the recommendations, and how to incorporate the information into future wildfire planning, including emergency management, land use decisions, and fire department planning.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Electoral Area Services Committee:

1. Receive for information the Pender Islands Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the Saturna Island Community Wildfire Protection Plan.



Travis Whiting
Senior Manager, Protective Services



Robert Lapham
GM, Planning and Protective Services
Concurrence

Attachments: Pender Islands CWPP
Saturna Island CWPP