



**REPORT TO THE ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 07 SEPTEMBER 2011**

SUBJECT COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS FOR SOOKE, THE JUAN DE FUCA ELECTORAL AREA AND PIERS ISLAND

ISSUE

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) have been completed for the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area communities and Piers Island (plans can be reviewed on the CRD website at http://www.crd.bc.ca/reports/electoralareaservice_/2011_/09september7_/index.htm) through a grant from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and are ready for review and receipt.

BACKGROUND

The UBCM provides funding for the development of CWPP, to a maximum of \$15,000 per community. The Capital Regional District (CRD) applied for funding to provide a plan for all the communities in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. The application also included the District of Sooke, as there are many similarities in both risk of wildfire and the resources available to reduce the risk. The application for funding was successful, and the reports have now been completed. Piers Island was added during the process and was also able to be completed within the approved grant funding. The grant funding was matched through in-kind contribution by CRD staff and other stakeholders as noted here:

Parks Canada	Otter Point Fire	CRD Building Inspection
Ministry of Forests	Shirley Fire	CRD Protective Services
Sooke Fire department	Port Renfrew Fire	CRD JdF Emergency Program
District of Sooke staff	Piers Island Fire	CRD Parks
Malahat Fire	East Sooke Fire	CRD JdF EA Planning

Blackwell and Associates was successful in the tendering process and was awarded the project. Its team utilized CRD GIS information, along with site visits to each community and community/stakeholder meetings to gather local information, and to customize each community's report.

The result of the project is an individual report for each community along with a summary document of recommendations. 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.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the project was provided by UBCM, matched through in-kind contributions by staff and stakeholders.

INTERAGENCY IMPLICATIONS

Partnering with the District of Sooke in the development of these CWPPs has provided a great opportunity to work jointly on an area of common risk, which often requires common resources. Moving forward, staff and stakeholders will continue to work with Sooke on implementing or

reviewing recommendations included in these reports.

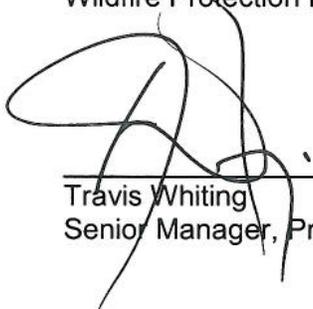
CONCLUSION

The CWPPs provide a realistic analysis of wildfire risk for these communities, along with recommendations on how to minimize those risks. It also references a number of past and current initiatives that have already provided substantial reduction to risk, including building bylaws and the ongoing efforts of the local emergency programs and fire departments.

As with past CWPP projects by the CRD, staff will continue to work with local stakeholders to meet and review the recommendations on a regular basis and to develop strategies on how to best use the consultant's recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Electoral Area Services Committee receive the Juan de Fuca and Sooke Community Wildfire Protection Plans for information.



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Concurrence