



Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan

2026

Regional District of Central Kootenay – Slocan Lake North

Electoral Area H North, Village of New Denver, & Village of Silverton

Registered Professional Sign and Seal

RPF PRINTED NAME
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DATE SIGNED
February 23, 2026
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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Executive Summary

In September 2025, Blackwell Consulting Ltd. was approached by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) to assist with updating their existing 2020 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Electoral Area H North and the municipalities of Silverton and New Denver to the newest Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) format. A CWRP is both a localized risk assessment and an action plan to improve resiliency within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). This plan has a strong focus on the [seven FireSmart™ disciplines](#)¹ and on interagency collaboration. This plan was completed in partnership with Cathro Consulting Ltd., who conducted fieldwork and led engagement for the project.

The Area of Interest (AOI) of this CWRP encompasses the 1-km Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) around the Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, and surrounding Slocan Lake communities of Summit Lake, Hills, Rosebery, Rural New Denver, Sandon, Red Mountain Road, Rural Silverton, Enterprise Creek and Rural Slocan. Recommendations made within this plan for “Slocan Lake North” are directed at the RDCK, the Village of New Denver, and the Village of Silverton, although some recommendations involve collaboration or partnership with other local governments, agencies, or organizations. Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) holds the community forest tenure in the plan area and is active in managing the land base to achieve community wildfire resilience. SIFCo authored the most recent CWPP for the plan area and currently delivers the Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program (SVWRP) on behalf of the Village of New Denver and the Village of Slocan. As of 2023, the Village of Silverton has been running a separate FireSmart program. Unincorporated communities in the plan area are served by the RDCK regional FireSmart program, which includes a regional FireSmart Coordinator and 6 full-time seasonal Wildfire Mitigation Specialists.

In addition to identifying areas of possible expansion and improvement, this plan serves to recognize the progress made to date since the last CWPP was completed. Across the RDCK between 2018 and 2025, an impressive 2738 FireSmart Assessments have been completed, 32 neighbourhoods have received FireSmart recognition, and 499 FireSmart rebates have been issued. Specifically in Electoral Area H, there have been 422 FireSmart assessments completed and 93 rebates awarded. SIFCo reports that 71 additional FireSmart Assessments have been completed in New Denver and 6 in Silverton, and that a total of 32 FireSmart rebates have been paid out through the SVWRP program. In addition to the small municipalities of Silverton and New Denver, tight-knit communities like Hills, Rosebery, and Summit Lake have taken the initiative to get involved with FireSmart. Six neighbourhoods in Slocan Lake North have achieved or are applying for recognition through the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP) – Rosebery, Rosebery North, Summit Lake, Valhalla Lakeside Resort, Valhalla View Road, and Orchard in New Denver.

There have also been major changes to the landscape since the last CWPP. In July 2024, a lightning storm ignited several fires at once that become known as the Slocan Complex. The Village of Silverton and an

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

additional 140 properties in Electoral Area H between Slocan and Silverton were evacuated. In total, the Slocan Complex wildfires burned over 14,000 ha between four major fires. This highlights the importance of continuing a strong emergency management program and maintaining interagency relationships through the Slocan Valley Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee, the Regional Wildfire Planning Table, and joint emergency planning. Continuing to train and equip the New Denver and Area Volunteer Fire Department to respond to interface wildfires, and assessing and protecting community infrastructure, remain key priorities.

Fuel management following a values-out approach continues to be a key strategy to mitigate wildfire threat in the plan area. Since 2014, over 225 ha of fuel treatments have been completed in the plan area, largely on SIFCo tenure but also by the Ministry of Forests and the municipalities of New Denver and Silverton. Twenty potential fuel treatment units (FTUs) on public land were identified in this plan. The largest, lowest priority 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. The highest priority units are within the scope of local governments to prescribe and implement.

Since the last CWPP was completed for the area, the RDCK has explored implementing a Wildfire Hazard Development Permit Area (DPA) policy and is currently running a pilot project in Electoral Area I. One of the priority recommendations in this plan is for the Village of Silverton and the Village of New Denver to follow through with plans to adopt Wildfire DPAs in their next Official Community Plan updates.

The local threat assessment tells a consistent story – portions (15%) of the plan area have a high or extreme fire behaviour *threat*. Almost half of these areas also have a high interface *risk* due to their proximity to homes and buildings. Although fuel type is one of the factors that goes into calculating fire threat, BCWS representatives noted that wildfires in the Slocan Valley are mainly driven by topography and wind. Note that 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.

Wildfire management requires a multi-faceted approach for the greatest efficacy and risk reduction outcomes. A total of 41 recommendations and action items are presented in a tabularized format (Table 1) and are more thoroughly discussed in their appropriate sections within the plan (FireSmart Principles). Recommendations and action items within this plan should be considered a toolbox of options to help reduce the wildfire threat to communities within the plan's wildland-urban interface. The RDCK and the municipalities of Silverton and New Denver will have to further prioritize implementation based on resources, strengths, constraints, and funding availability, and regularly update the prioritization and course of action as variables change over time.



Table 1. Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Area H North Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan Action Plan

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source
				(Involved)			
Education - Section 5.2							
Residents							
#1 FireSmart Staff	High	Continue to hire and train dedicated FireSmart staff in the plan area. This includes a FireSmart Coordinator and Wildfire Mitigation Specialist (WMS) or Local FireSmart Representatives (LFR) as needed. For the Villages of Silverton and New Denver, staffing may be addressed independently at the municipal level, or through participation in existing regional programs.	Whether fulltime, part-time, or shared, FireSmart Coordinator is a fundamental component of a FireSmart program and a current requirement for local governments to access CRI funding. Wildfire Mitigation Specialists (WMS) and/or Local FireSmart Representatives (LFR) are required to continue to deliver home hazard assessments in the plan area The Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program (SVWRP) plans to train one WMS this year; the RDCK hires 6+ full-time seasonal WMS staff during the fire season.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	Annually	Sufficient staff capacity in the RDCK and municipalities is maintained to support the program	CRI FireSmart Funding and Community Supports (FCFS) for FireSmart staff
#2 FireSmart Events	High	Continue to promote FireSmart to residents of Silverton, New Denver, and Electoral Area H North at community events and through workshops using printed and digital FireSmart BC resources. Include local first responders.	Community events, such as farmers markets and Emergency Preparedness Days, as well as FireSmart-specific workshops, are a great opportunity to increase awareness of FireSmart programming. FireSmart BC resources present a unified message.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	Annually	Continued uptake of FireSmart programs in the plan area (e.g. number of home assessments completed)	CRI FCFS - FireSmart staff time; resources for Education events (banners, brochures, promo items)
#3 FireSmart Advertising	High	Continue to advertise FireSmart through social media (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, Facebook groups (e.g. Slocan Valley Community Web), or bulletin boards.	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, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	Annually	Funding is allocated each year to FireSmart communication in local/social media	CRI FCFS – FireSmart staff and costs
#4 FireSmart in Schools	Moderate	Advocate for the introduction of FireSmart to students at Lucerne Elementary Secondary School using free education resources from FireSmart BC and/or organizing classroom visits by local first responders or forestry staff if possible. Consider hiring a youth FireSmart Educator for the region.	Engaging local students in FireSmart may increase uptake with all residents and has been successful elsewhere in the province. Implementation of the FireSmart Education Program in many schools has been successful.	Village of New Denver, RDCK	2 years	One FireSmart event delivered in school each year (minimum).	CRI FCFS
#5 Home Assessments	High	Continue to offer and promote a free FireSmart Home Assessment and 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. Programs, delivered in the plan area through the RDCK and SVWRP, have been popular to date. The Wildfire Mitigation Program is the recommended standard for Home Assessments.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	Annually	The number of home assessments completed and rebates awarded increases annually	CRI FCFS
#6 Farm and Ranch Preparedness	High	Offer Farm and Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Workshop(s) in agricultural areas of Electoral Area H North (Hills, Summit Lake) and/or promoting the Farm & Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Guide & Workbook.	There is some Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) at the north end of Slocan Lake. Properties with livestock require special considerations during wildfire response and evacuation, and the 2024 Slocan Complex fires were impactful to farmers. Identified by the RDCK as a potential FireSmart program area of growth.	RDCK	2 years	One farm workshop is trialed in Electoral Area H	CRI FCFS – staff time and event costs Columbia Basin Trust [CBT]

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source
				(Involved)			
#7 Signage in Local Parks and Campgrounds	Moderate	Consider installing seasonal FireSmart signage at local parks (Bigelow Bay Regional Park, Rosebery Parklands Regional Park), trailheads (Rosebery to Three Forks Regional Trail), or municipal campgrounds (Silverton Campground, New Denver Centennial Campground). Consider a QR code that links to the local government FireSmart website(s).	Although regional parks in Electoral Area H are waterfront access parks and are not hazardous forested areas, popular public places throughout the plan area present a good opportunity for public education through signage.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	2 years	Some public places have signage installed	CRI FCFS – staff time and sign costs
#8 Rooftop Sprinkler Education	Moderate	Conduct public education around activities of BC Wildfire Structure Protection crews and how resident installation of sprinklers of may impact water systems using BC FireSmart guidance.	Information for residents on sprinkler use is available on the BC FireSmart website. Rooftop sprinklers are sometimes used by structural protection crews to protect homes during a wildfire	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	2 years	A relevant education campaign is conducted	CRI FCFS – staff time
Administrative							
#9 Share CWRP Online	Moderate	Make this plan available to the public through the RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village New Denver, and SVWRP websites and communicate its completion to residents.	Plan implementation will be most successful with buy-in from the public, as substantial action on private land is required. CWRP access may help provide transparency. The previous CWPP was not available on the Silverton or New Denver websites.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	1 year	Plan is available online	CRI FCFS – staff time
#10 Annual Progress Report	Moderate	Consider releasing an annual FireSmart report to elected officials and the public that tracks uptake in various FireSmart initiatives – like number of home assessments completed, rebates recognized, tonnes of yard waste dropped off, attendees at events, etc.	Reporting allows local governments to track challenges and successes, further promote their program or rationalize participation in a regional program, and tailor outreach methods to achieve the most uptake.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	Annual	An annual report is published.	CRI FCFS – staff time
#11 Update Websites	Moderate	Continue to maintain an RDCK FireSmart page with the most recent FireSmart graphics and language. The Villages of Silverton and New Denver should also continue to maintain an easy to find FireSmart page on their websites.	FireSmart information should be easy to find online for residents and be up to date (program names and graphics change frequently). If the Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) Wildfire Resiliency Program (SVWRP) is providing the service for a local authority, their website should also link to SVWRP’s website.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	1 year	Webpages reviewed annually	CRI FCFS – staff time
Legislation, Planning and Development - Section 5.3							
#12 Mitigate Infrastructure	High	Continue to conduct FireSmart assessments and mitigation for critical infrastructure and community assets, and ensure that policies and workplans reflect these considerations.	Protecting water systems and community infrastructure is critical to wildfire response and recovery.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	2 years	Number of sites mitigated; policies updated	CRI FCFS – publicly-owned only
#13 Bare Land Program	Moderate	Continue to offer the voluntary Bare Land FireSmart assessment program in RDCK Electoral Area H (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	Annual	Number of assessments completed	CRI FCFS – staff time
#14 Implement Wildfire DPAs	High	When OCPs for the Village of Silverton and Village of New Denver are updated, include a Wildfire Development Permit Area (WDPA) that encompasses municipal boundaries.	WDPAs are excellent tools to regulate development and increase resilience over time. New Denver and Silverton are small, compact municipalities where a WDPA may be appropriate and enforceable. WDPA text has already been drafted for inclusion in New Denver’s OCP and a WDPA is planned for Silverton’s upcoming planning updates.	Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	5 years	WDPAs are in place in New Denver and Silverton	CRI FCFS – staff time
#15 Review RDCK Wildfire DPA	Low	The RDCK should review the applicability of the Electoral Area I ‘pilot’ WDPA in any part of Electoral Area H at the time of the next OCP update.	A WDPA remains a good tool to regulate development, and lessons learned from Area I may make for more buy-in / smoother roll out in Area H.	RDCK	5 years	A WDPA is reconsidered in Electoral Area H prior to the next CWRP	CRI FCFS – staff time
#16 Schedule CWRP Updates	High	Schedule regular updates of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan: target every 5 years.	A current and acceptable CWRP is required for funding under the CRI FCFS program. CWRPs may continue to be joint or separated by jurisdiction depending on the needs of plan area communities.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	5 years	New Denver, Silverton, and Electoral Area H North maintain one or more current and acceptable CWRP(s).	CRI FCFS

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source
				(Involved)			
#17 Bylaw Updates	Moderate	Update the Silverton Subdivision and Servicing Bylaw (1988) to include requirements for appropriate access for firefighting and water provision for fire suppression.	Many communities use a subdivision and servicing bylaw to ensure that new developments are planned with safety in mind and meet modern standards for emergency access and fire protection.	Village of Silverton	5 years	Bylaw updated	CRI FCFS
Cross Training & Fire Department Resources - Section 5.4							
Training and Equipment							
#18 Fire Department Training	High	Continue providing training opportunities for New Denver and Area Fire Department – SPP-WFF-1 (Wildland Firefighter Level 1) and SPP-115 (Structural Protection Unit Deployment). Ensure New Denver and Area Fire Department maintains their current level of training, and consider additional courses offered by BCWS as the need arises (e.g. Engine Boss, Task Force Leader).	SPP-WFF-1 is specific for structural fire fighters who respond to wildland fires in their service area.	Village of New Denver	Annually	All local firefighters are trained in SPP-WFF1 and most members are trained in WSPP-115, and refresh the course annually	CRI FCFS, UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF)
#19 FireSmart Training	Moderate	Support FireSmart training within New Denver and Area Fire Department; also promote free online courses offered through FireSmart Canada and FireSmart BC (e.g. FireSmart 101, Wildfire Risk Reduction Course).	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.	Village of New Denver	Annually	Target annual training to New Denver and Area Fire Department.	CRI FCFS, UBCM CEPF
#20 Cross Training	High	Look for ways to support New Denver and Area Fire Department and Hills fire brigade in holding annual practical training with wildland fire equipment, including structural protection scenarios. Include other departments from the Slokan Valley and BCWS if possible.	Practical training is essential for fire departments, and BCWS cross-training enhances the abilities of crews to work together on an interface fire. Local BCWS crews aim to train with each RDCK fire department every 2-3 years and indicated that cross training with fire brigades would also be helpful.	Village of New Denver (BCWS) (Hills Emergency Services Society)	Annually	All fire department members participate in a practical training event annually, with or without BCWS.	Local government funding (not currently eligible under CRI FCFS)
#21 Wildland Equipment	High	Continue to support New Denver and Area Fire Department to maintain a sufficient quantity and quality of wildland response equipment. A suggested minimum is a 4x4 water delivery vehicle (engine, tender, or bush truck), portable pumps and accessories, hand tools, and personal protective equipment (Nomex etc.)	Local fire departments have varying inventories of wildland equipment; as a need for other equipment is identified by New Denver and Area Fire Department, funding should be sought to fill the gap.	Village of New Denver	Annually	Any equipment gaps identified are progressively addressed	CRI FCFS, UBCM CEPF
Water / Other							
#22 Response Map	High	Work with New Denver and Area Fire Department to identify and digitally map 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 other key fire response information, like roads, trails, and gates, on a map.	In an interface wildfire scenario, it would be helpful if information on water sources, including notes on access and seasonable reliability was digital (e.g. KMZ) 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. Access for fire suppression was noted as a challenge during recent fires, e.g. the 2021 Alamo mine site fire.	RDCK	5 years	A digital file or PDF response map is produced and shared	Incremental staff time; CRI FCFS or CBT funding may be possible
#23 Improve Water Fill Sites	Moderate	Work towards increasing the number and quality of water fill sites in non-hydranted areas. Options include strategically stationed above- or below-ground water tanks with standpipes, or improved creek/lake access points (signage, parking areas, standpipes).	Water delivery to a fire is slowed when departments have to rely on long distance shuttling or natural sources, which can also impacted by low levels during the summer. The New Denver VFD response area is partially hydranted.	RDCK, Village of New Denver	5 years	Improvements are made to water fill sites.	Possibly UBCM CEPF, CBT
#24 Assess Water System	High	Evaluate the capacity of the Silverton water system with regards to the delivery of water from hydrants for fire suppression.	The Village of Silverton noted that although the municipal water system has a hydrant network, coverage areas have not been calculated. An fire flow analysis would support emergency planning and inform public education around rooftop sprinklers.	Village of Silverton	5 years	A flow analysis is completed for the Silverton water system	CRI FCFS
Interagency Cooperation - Section 5.5							

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source
				(Involved)			
#25 Interagency Meetings	High	Representatives from Electoral Area H, Silverton, and New Denver should participate in the Slocan Valley Community FireSmart and Resiliency Collaborative (CFRC) and Regional Wildfire Planning Table to plan, implement, and coordinate FireSmart initiatives, including fuel management treatments.	Both regional and sub-regional FireSmart Committees, now Collaboratives are valuable. The current Regional Wildfire Planning Table and Slocan Valley CFRC are effective tools for interagency cooperation in the region. The RDCK identified interagency meetings as a priority in Area H North.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	Annually	CFRC FireSmart meeting takes place at least annually.	CRI FCFS
Emergency Planning - Section 5.6							
#26 After Action Review	High	Continue to implement recommendations from the 2024 wildfire season After Action Review.	After Action Reviews are an opportunity to adapt emergency preparedness, response, and recovery procedures using lessons learned.	RDCK	Annually	Recommendations are addressed	Local government funding
#27 Emergency Plan Update	High	Complete scheduled updates to Silverton's Emergency Management Plan, and to the RDCK Emergency Response and Recovery Plan.	An up-to-date emergency plan is a key component of community wildfire resilience.	Silverton, RDCK	2 years	Local governments have an up-to-date emergency plan	Funding may be available
#28 Tabletop Exercises	High	As part of the RDCK Emergency Program, which includes New Denver and Silverton as participating municipalities, 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 and municipalities already have plenty of experience with wildfire evacuations, but tabletop exercises are still valuable.	RDCK (Villages of New Denver and Silverton)	Annually	Exercises are completed annually	CRI FCFS; possibly UBCM CEFP; CBT
#29 Voyent Alert	High	The RDCK, New Denver, and Silverton should continue to promote the Voyent Alert! System to residents and consider options to reach people who don't have cell phones or internet.	Clear, consistent, concise, and quick communication during an emergency event and evacuation are integral to the prevention of loss of life.	RDCK (Villages of New Denver and Silverton)	Annually	Continued uptake of the Voyent Alert! System (can track downloads from app providers).	Local government funding
#30 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.	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. Generators are still required for the Silverton Memorial Hall (ESS facility) and other facilities.	RDCK (Villages of New Denver and Silverton)	2 years	Fire halls and water systems have back up power	Local government funding
#31 Pre-incident Plans	Moderate	The RDCK should consider requesting one or more Structure Protection Community Assessments for Electoral Area H North through the BCWS Provincial Structure Protection Coordination office.	Intermix communities along Slocan Lake i.e. Red Mountain Road, Hills, Rosebery, and Summit Lake are good candidates for a Structure Protection Community Assessment due to reliance on natural water sources and, for some places, lack of fire service provision.	RDCK	5 years	A Structure Protection Community Assessment is completed	Funding may be available from BCWS upon request from 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
#32 Promote Good Civic Addressing	Moderate	Continue to promote the installation of visible and reflective addresses throughout Electoral Area H. Consider including a link to purchase recommended signage on the RDCK Emergency Management webpage.	Address visibility can be poor in rural areas and was noted as an issue in the plan area. Reflective signs help emergency responders find properties during response or evacuation events. Consider providing discounted signs and/or free delivery and installation along with a FireSmart Home Assessment.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	2 years	Most properties have visible addresses	Local government funding
Vegetation Management - Section 5.7							
Fuel Management Treatments							

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source
				(Involved)			
#33 Local Government Fuel Management	High	Seek funding for the prescription and treatment of CWRP Fuel Treatment Units (FTUs) on local government land / jurisdiction.	One municipal parcel within the Village of New Denver (FTU 49c) has been identified as a Very High priority for treatment in this plan.	Village of New Denver (RDCK)	2 years	Prescriptions are completed for priority areas and treatment is initiated	Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Program (CLWRR) or CBT
#34 Crown Land Fuel Management	Moderate	Work with land managers (Ministry of Forests, SIFCo, etc.) to have existing fuel treatment units maintained as necessary and to recce, prescribe, and implement additional Potential Fuel Treatment Units (PTUs), starting with those identified as High priority.	Many strategic areas of Crown land have already been implemented; others were burnt in the 2024 fires. Monitoring and maintenance should be conducted as necessary and additional areas treated. BCWS supports Crown land treatments around communities in the area.	Ministry of Forests SIFCO (RDCK)	5 years	Previously treated areas are maintained in a lower hazard state and additional treatments are completed.	CLWRR, Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC), CBT
#35 Wildfire Resiliency Planning Tool	High	Annually update and look for ways to improve the Wildfire Resiliency Planning Tool that was recently developed by the Regional Wildfire Planning Table to consolidate and track fuel treatments.	A regional fuel treatment dashboard is a valuable tool that integrates information on fuel treatments across multiple funding agencies in a user-friendly format. Many areas in Slocan Lake North have been treated under different funding programs since the first (2008) CWRP.	RDCK	Annual	A useful regional fuel treatment dashboard is maintained.	Possibly CRI FCFS
#36 Support Fuel Treatment on Private Land	Moderate	Engage with the Ministry of Forests, BC Wildfire Service, FireSmart BC, and funders such as UBCM and Columbia Basin Trust to discuss a strategy to enable owners of large forested properties to undertake meaningfully-sized fuel treatments. A strategy could involve piloting education, risk assessments, 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.	Adopting FireSmart principles within the Immediate, Intermediate and Extended zones sequentially should remain the priority for residents, as supported by wildfire science. Even the most dedicated residents will likely have difficulty undertaking fuel treatments beyond the 30 m Home Ignition Zone due to the time and cost involved. However, effectively reducing wildfire risk from structures-out to a landscape level 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.	RDCK (Ministry of Forests, BC Wildfire Service)	5 years	Meetings take place	Local government funding, possibly CRI FCFS
#37 Interpretive Signage	Moderate	As part of fuel treatment implementation, the RDCK, Ministry of Forests, and other land managers should install interpretive signage to demonstrate pre- and post-fuel treatment forest stands conditions.	Many areas have been treated since the last CWPP and the intent may not be known to all residents. Interpretive signage could include text explaining the purpose of the fuel management treatment, connection to the current CWRP, and FireSmart practices residents nearby can take to reduce wildfire hazards around their yards and homes.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver (Land Managers)	5 years	Signage installed during implementation phases.	CRI FCFS
#38 Public Outreach	High	Continue to use prescriptions and treatments as an opportunity to engage the community. Public open houses will help build trust and can also serve as a venue to promote FireSmart and inform on emergency response, as well as potentially enable treatments where access through private land is required.	BCWS indicated that public education and outreach are a high priority for the Slocan Valley as recent fires have exacerbated tensions between community members and BCWS. Land managers and emergency response personnel can be involved. Licensees indicated that some treatments have required access through private lands.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver (Land Managers) (BCWS)	Annual	All wildfire risk reduction projects include at least one open house.	CRI FCFS
Residential and Community FireSmart							
#39 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	Annually	A useful list of qualified contractors is provided online	CRI FCFS
#40 Free Yard Waste Disposal	High	Continue providing options for the free disposal of yard waste. Currently, this includes having tipping fees waived (May and October) for yard waste at the RDCK transfer stations in Slocan and Rosebery. Silverton and New Denver also provide spring and fall yard waste collection.	Having to pay tipping fees is a barrier for residents who wish to conduct FireSmart landscaping, especially during the fire season when burn bans are in place. More scheduled collection opportunities may be beneficial; Village of Silverton staff indicated that green waste dumping is an issue.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	Annually	Free yard waste disposal options are expanded	CRI FCFS funding is available for tipping fee coverage

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source
				(Involved)			
#41 Local FireSmart Collective Program	High	Promote the new FireSmart BC Local FireSmart Collective Program in Area H, Silverton, and New Denver. Prior to 2026 residents could participate in the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program.	The RDCK provides step-by-step information online and staff capacity for supporting interested neighbourhoods; Summit Lake, Valhalla Lakeside Resort (Hills), Orchard (New Denver), and Valhalla View Road (Enterprise Creek) are recognized under the FireSmart Canada Recognition Program for 2025, Rosebery and Rosebery North are applying.	RDCK, Village of Silverton, Village of New Denver	Annually	Additional neighbourhoods in the plan area receive recognition.	CRI FCFS

Frequently Used Acronyms

AOI	Area of Interest
BC	British Columbia
BCWS	British Columbia Wildfire Service
BEC	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification
CBT	Columbia Basin Trust
CEPF	Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (UBCM funding program)
CFFDRS	Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System
CFRC	Community FireSmart Resiliency Collaborative
CRI	Community Resiliency Investment
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
CWRP	Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan
DPA	Development Permit Area
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
FBP	Fire Behaviour Prediction System
FCFS	FireSmart Community Funding and Supports
FTU	Fuel Treatment Unit
HIZ	Home Ignition Zone
ICS	Incident Command System
LFR	Local FireSmart Representative
NDT	Natural Disturbance Type
OCP	Official Community Plan
PSTA	Provincial Strategic Threat Assessment
RDCK	Regional District of Central Kootenay
SIFCo	Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative
SVWRP	Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program
UBCM	Union of British Columbia Municipalities
VAR	Values at Risk
VFD	Volunteer Fire Department
WMS	Wildfire Mitigation Specialist
WRR	Wildfire Risk Reduction (Crown land WRR refers to Stream 2 of the UBCM CRI Program, administered by FOR)
WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

In September 2025, Blackwell Consulting Ltd. (Blackwell) was retained by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) to develop two Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans (CWRP) concurrently for the northern half of Electoral Area H, including the Villages of New Denver and Silverton (referred to for the purposes of this plan as Electoral Area H North, or Slocan Lake North), and the south half, including the Village of Slocan (referred to as Electoral Area H South, or Slocan Valley South). A CWRP is both a localized risk assessment and an action plan to improve wildfire resiliency in a community. The CWRP is the latest evolution in community wildfire planning in British Columbia (BC). A CWRP has its roots in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) framework, which was initially 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 damaging seasons to date.

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, capacity, and unique risk profile. Despite these differences, the goals remain the same: to improve wildfire prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery in the face of ever-increasing wildfire risk. Implementing recommendations in this CWRP will improve public safety and reduce the risk of damage to values at risk from wildfires.

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 2024 CRI template.

1.2 Plan Goals

This CWRP identifies the level of interface wildfire risk within Electoral Area H North and gives a current and accurate understanding of the threats to human life, infrastructure, and values at risk from fire. 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 emergency response,
- 2) Reduce potential impacts and losses to property and critical infrastructure from fire, and
- 3) Reduce the threat of urban conflagration within the community.

To help guide and accomplish the above strategies, this CWRP will provide the RDCK with:

- 1) An assessment of interface fire risk to the community,
- 2) An assessment of values at risk and potential consequences from interface fire,
- 3) Maps of fuel types and recommended areas for FireSmart and fuel mitigation,

- 4) An assessment of emergency response capacity, and
- 5) Options and strategies to reduce fire risk using the seven FireSmart disciplines: education, legislation and planning, development considerations, interagency cooperation, cross-training, emergency planning, and vegetation management.

1.3 Plan Development Summary

The development of this CWRP consisted of five general phases:

- 1) Consultation with members of the Slocan Valley Community FireSmart Resiliency Cooperative (CFRC) and other project participants (see a full list in the Acknowledgements section).
- 2) Review of relevant plans and legislation regarding emergency response and wildfire (Relationship to Other Plans and Legislation).
- 3) Community description and identification of values at risk (Community Description).
- 4) Assessment of the local wildfire risk (Wildfire Risk Assessment).
- 5) Analysis and action plan for each of the seven FireSmart disciplines (FireSmart Principles).

2 Relationship to Other Plans and Legislation

Wildfire resiliency is influenced by all aspects of community planning, from land use decisions to utilities servicing, development policies, parks and trails planning, bylaw enforcement, and more. As a result, there are many plans that pertain to a CWRP. This section reviews laws, policies, plans, and guidelines to identify linkages and content relevant to wildfire emergency 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*, which replaced the *Emergency Program Act* in November 2023.² 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 H North 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 2016 RDCK Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (ERRP)³ outlines structural and organizational requirements for coordinated response and recovery from emergencies in the RDCK, including decision-

² 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)

³ Regional District of Central Kootenay. 2015, revised 2016. *Emergency Response and Recovery Plan*. [RDCK EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PLAN](#)

making tools 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 of the ERRP specifically deals with interface fires and wildfires, indicating that interface fires will be managed using unified command with BC Wildfire Service and local fire department(s) where applicable. The Plan is reviewed annually and the RDCK Emergency Management Program conducts tabletop exercises yearly with staff (and responds to emergencies involving evacuations almost yearly). Local government staff indicated that an ERRP update is tentatively planned for 2027 to reflect the new *Emergency and Disaster Management Act and Regulations*.

The Villages of Silverton and New Denver also maintain their own emergency response plans. New Denver is also currently supporting the development and training of a municipal Emergency Services Society (ESS) team, to further emergency response and recovery capacity. A further discussion of emergency preparedness initiatives in the plan area can be found in Section 5.6.

2.2 Linkages to Other CWPPs / CWRPs

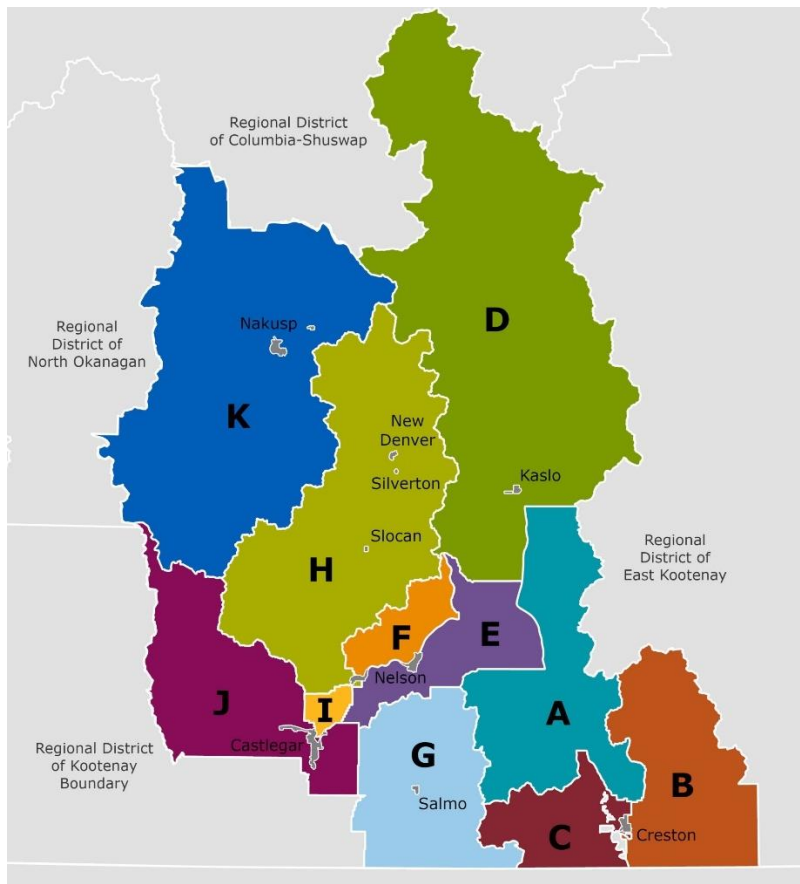


Figure 1. Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Areas. Slovan forms the boundary between Electoral Area H 'North' and 'South'.

Regional District of Central Kootenay Area H North and Villages of Silverton and New Denver Community Wildfire Protection Plan – 2019 (Updated 2020)

Beginning in 2017, Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) developed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan update for the Regional District of Central Kootenay Area H South and the Villages of Silverton and New Denver. A plan for Area H South and the Village of Slocan was concurrently developed. 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 2020 plan recommendations and their implementation status is presented in Appendix A.

Listed below are jurisdictions adjacent to Electoral Area H North / Slocan Lake North that have been involved in community wildfire planning. Strategic opportunities exist between these plans and should be considered.

- RDCK Electoral Area H South + Village of Slocan CWRP 2025 – concurrently in development
- RDCK Electoral Area D CWRP 2023 – completed.
- RDCK Electoral Area K (Arrow Lakes) CWRP 2024 – completed.
- RDCK Electoral Area J (Columbia/Lower Arrow) CWRP 2024 – completed.

2.3 Local Plans and Bylaws

2.3.1 Official Community Plan

An Official Community Plan (OCP) expresses the objectives and policies of local government and provides a long-range (15-20 years) framework for land use and development, public and private investment, adoption and amendment of legislation, electoral and governance processes, and alignment with provincial regulations. All new bylaws and programs must be consistent with the policies outlined within a community's OCP.

The relevant sections of the OCPs for RDCK Electoral Area H North, the Village of Silverton, and the Village of New Denver and summarized below in Table 2 - Table 4. Takeaways and recommendations for wildfire risk reduction in the OCP are discussed in Section 5.3. Note that staff indicated that updates are planned for both the Village of Silverton OCP and the Village of New Denver OCP.

Table 2. Slocan Lake North Official Community Plan (Bylaw 1967, 2009) and its relationship to the CWRP

Section	Description & Relationship to CWRP
15.0 Hazard Lands	This section identifies potential natural hazards, including wildfire, and defines objectives and policies to mitigate risk. Fire management policies include: • Provision for power to Regional Subdivision Approving Authority to require developers to undertake fire hazard assessments and recommend fire hazard mitigation strategies, such as ○ Incorporation of fuel breaks; ○ Non-combustible zones around structures; ○ Utilizing fire proof designs and materials, aligning with FireSmart principles;

Section	Description & Relationship to CWRP
	○ Road designs that allow for egress and emergency response; and ○ Access to fire suppression water sources (e.g., hydrants) and resources (e.g., firefighting equipment). • Advocacy for local volunteer fire departments to work with RDCK to maintain up-to-date emergency preparedness and risk identification. • Advocacy for wildfire mitigation programs, as informed by the FireSmart program. • Support for protection of water source access for fire protection purposes.
10.0 Community Services and Administration	This section defines the land use designation for community services and administration, including cultural and historic sites. This includes the provision for adequate access to development and facilities for fire protection services and emergency response.
19.0 Development Permit Areas	The RDCK has three DPAs already in place in Area H North for Watercourse Development, Residential Cluster Development, and Industrial Development. Takeaway: The framework for reviewing and enforcing DPAs is already in place, facilitating the potential adoption of a Wildfire DPA.

Table 3. Village of New Denver Official Community Plan (Bylaw 611, 2007) and its relationship to the CWRP.

Section	Description & Relationship to CWRP
3. General Form and Character of Existing and Future Land Use	This section promotes land use patterns for the health, safety, convenience, and enjoyment of residents and visitors. • Objective 3.1.4. To encourage and work with other government agencies and the general public to minimize interface fire hazard. • Objective 3.2.9. Council's policy is to provide information and educational opportunities for interface fire hazards to property owners and tourists.
11. Environmentally Sensitive and Hazardous Areas	This section outlines the goals and strategies to prevent or plan for the development in environmentally sensitive or hazardous areas. Wildfire is not identified as a hazard here.
Schedule 'E' Development Permit Area #1 - Building Design Guidelines	New Denver has a Development Permit Area (DPA) in place for building aesthetics. Takeaway: The framework for reviewing and enforcing DPAs is already in place, facilitating the potential adoption of a Wildfire DPA.

Table 4. Village of Silverton Official Community Plan (2010) and its relationship to the CWRP.

Section	Description & Relationship to CWRP
3.2.2 Hazard Areas	This section identifies potential natural hazards, including wildfire. Overall, hazard land ratings are based on flooding and erosion potential, ignoring further exploration of wildfire risk. Takeaway: Wildfire hazard is not explicitly mapped.

Section	Description & Relationship to CWRP
5.1 Land Use Policies	5.1.3 Objective: Allow more density in residential development in the form of small apartments in the village centre above commercial buildings. Takeaway: Densifying population growth can help reduce further development into the WUI. 5.1.7 Objective: Reduce the potential of natural hazards resulting from new developments. Takeaway: Though not stated, the opportunity exists to incorporate FireSmart design principles into this policy.
4.2 Development Permit Area	Silverton has a Development Permit Area (DPA) in place for development in the community core. Takeaway: The framework for reviewing and enforcing DPAs is already in place, facilitating the potential adoption of a Wildfire DPA.

2.3.2 Local Bylaws and Policies

Table 5 below summarizes the bylaws and policies relevant to community wildfire resiliency in Slocan Lake North.

Table 5. Summary of local bylaws and policies related to emergency management and wildfire resiliency.

Bylaw	Description & Relationship to CWRP
Regional District of Central Kootenay	
Regional District of Central Kootenay Emergency Management Regulatory Amendment Bylaw No. 2758, 2021	This bylaw establishes and maintains an emergency management framework by the RDCK to the electoral areas and their communities.
Regional District of Central Kootenay Bylaw No. 2769 and Policy No. 700-01-02 – Regional Volunteer Fire Department Service Level Policy	This bylaw and policy outline the standard requirements for Fire Protection and Associated Services by Regional District Volunteer Fire Departments. This ensures a standard for training and resources and appoints oversight authority and responsibilities to the Board of the Regional District, Chief Administrative Officer, and Regional Fire Chief regarding service levels and budget. It also defines the authority and responsibilities of the Fire Department Chief to enact this bylaw.
Regional District of Central Kootenay Manufactured Home Parks Bylaw No. 1082, 1995	A number of provisions in this bylaw address fire risk, such as: • Emergency vehicle access (i.e., dead-end / cul-de-sac turnaround width requirements); • Vegetation removal for risk reduction; • Maximum density allowance (minimum 4.5m between homes); • Ancillary building setback requirement (i.e., 4.5 m from manufactured home site); • Water distribution requirements for standpipes / hydrants, along with other services (sewage and garbage removal); • Maintenance of properties clear of flammable debris; • Fires restricted to appropriate structures (stoves, incinerators, etc.); and • Where no hydrant is available, a minimum stagnant water supply is necessary.

Bylaw	Description & Relationship to CWRP
Village of New Denver	
Village of New Denver Building Bylaw No. 595	This bylaw authorizes the Village to regulate buildings and structures for the health, safety, and protection of the public and property. Opportunities exist to further embed FireSmart design principles (e.g., construction materials) into legislation. Takeaway: To mandate materials and landscaping beyond the BC Building Code and established bylaws, Development Permit Areas can also be implemented.
Village of New Denver and Area Fire Department Bylaw No. 731, 2020	This bylaw defines the authority and responsibilities of the Fire Chief.
Village of New Denver Outdoor Burning Regulation Bylaw No. 591, 2005	This bylaw regulates outdoor burning for the safety of public and property and grants authority to Fire Department Officers to enforce. Cooking fires (campfires within fire pits) are allowed within the municipality, subject to provincial fire bans; Category 2 and 3 fires require a Village permit. Takeaway: The bylaw provides robust regulation for larger fires within New Denver boundaries but the municipality is seeking a bylaw update.
Village of New Denver Water Regulations Bylaw No. 764, 2025	This bylaw sets out the conditions for water connections, including prohibition of tampering or obstruction of fire hydrants. It also prohibits the use of water for irrigation and grants authority to the Village to discontinue services to a premise if wasteful water usage is observed or there is a want of supplies. Takeaway: Water usage regulations can help the Village maintain adequate water supply for fire suppression during drought periods.
Village of Silverton	
Village of Silverton Water Regulation Bylaw No. 479-2012 & Water Restrictions and Sprinklering Policy No. PW-3, 2013	This bylaw and policy are intended to ensure adequate water supply during summer and early fall by restricting outdoor watering.

2.3.3 Other Local Plans

Other local plans relevant to the development process of this CWRP are summarized in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Summary of other local plans relevant to the CWRP.

Plan	Description & Relationship to CWRP
RDCK Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (2016)	This plan outlines components of emergency management, including EOC activation, hazard planning, evacuation planning, recovery planning, and response and recovery expenses. As mentioned above, Section 3.10 specifically deals with interface wildfire hazard, identifying the lead agencies (fire departments, Ministry of Forests) and potential impacts.
Village of Silverton State of Climate Adaptation (2020)	This plan details the Village's climate change adaptation strategy. It projects an increase wildfire season and annual burn area as an impact of climate change and identifies mitigation actions, such as interface fuel treatments and FireSmart policy implementation.

Plan	Description & Relationship to CWRP
Slocan Valley Strategic Landscape Level Wildfire Protection Plan (2017) ⁴	Implementation plan for 12 landscape-scale fuel breaks located across main fire movement paths as outlined by SIFCo's fire behaviour model.
Selkirk Resource District Fire Management Plan	Internal government document that inventories values at risk in the Selkirk Resource District and provides direction to BC Wildfire Service response based on value categories including human life and safety, critical infrastructure, high environmental and cultural values, and resource values.

2.4 Higher-Level Plans and Legislation

Table 7 lists higher-level plans and legislation relevant to wildfire planning and risk mitigation. These plans help guide where and how activities like resource extraction and infrastructure development occur, which affect both fire 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 Wildfire Risk Reduction (CL 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.⁵ Ministry of Forests staff indicated that a plan has been completed for the Playmor Junction to Nelson area and slightly overlaps Electoral Area H South.

Table 7. Higher-level plans, legislation and their relationship to the CWRP.

Document	Description
Provincial Legislation	
Emergency and Disaster Management Act	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.
Forest and Range Practices Act	The <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> , enacted through the Government Actions Regulation, provides for the establishment of land designations and features that require special management. Ungulate Winter Range is designated in the AOI.
Parks Act	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.
Wildfire Act and Regulation	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.

⁴ Slocan Integral Forestry Coop. 2017. *Implementation of Slocan Valley Strategic Landscape Level Wildfire Protection Plan*. Access Jan 12, 2026 from <https://www.sifco.ca/wui-management>

⁵ 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

Document	Description
Provincial Legislation	
Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation	The Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation governs open burning for land clearing, forestry operations and silviculture, wildlife habitat enhancement, and community wildfire risk reduction. Lower elevations throughout the Slocan Valley are in a High Smoke Sensitivity Zone ⁶ – resulting in the strictest rules and regulations for open burning.
Higher Level Plans	
Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plans	The Kootenay Boundary Land Use Planning process began in 1992 with an Implementation Strategy completed in 1997. Legal and non-legal spatially defined objectives for resource management apply within the AOI. Land use orders provide the legal direction for implementation.
BC Parks and Protected Areas Management Plans	Outlines management objectives for a park / protected area and any special considerations, including for wildfire response. Management plans or purpose statements are available online for parks in Electoral Area H North: • Valhalla Park Management Plan (2012) – Managed primarily for conservation • Summit Lake Provincial Park Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan (2003) – Fishing, boating and camping in Highway 6 travel corridor • Rosebery Provincial Park Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan (2003) – Camping opportunities in Highway 6 travel corridor • Goat Range Park Management Plan (2003) – Managed for wilderness conservation and backcountry recreation • Kokanee Glacier Park Management Plan (2010) – Managed for year-round recreation and tourism opportunities, and wilderness conservation No BC Parks Fire Management Plans have been developed to date for these parks.

3 Community Description

This section discusses the area of focus for this Plan and provides general demographic information about Electoral Area H North, or Slocan Lake North. Understanding population trends, land use patterns, and values at risk can help direct FireSmart outreach and risk mitigation activities.

3.1 Area of Interest and Wildland-Urban Interface

Slocan Lake North is defined as the northern portion of Electoral Area H, from the confluence of Slocan Lake and Slocan River in the south to Summit Lake in the north, roughly 12 km southeast of Nakusp. Slocan Lake is situated between the Selkirk Mountain range to the east and the Valhalla Range to the west. The Villages of New Denver and Silverton are located along the east shore of the lake. The main transportation corridors are Highway 6, which runs along the east side of Slocan Lake, and Highway 31A, which connects New Denver to Kaslo. Other unincorporated communities include Hills, Rosebery, Sandon, and Summit Lake.

⁶ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-policy-legislation/legislation-regulation/open-burning-smoke-regulation/nelson.pdf>

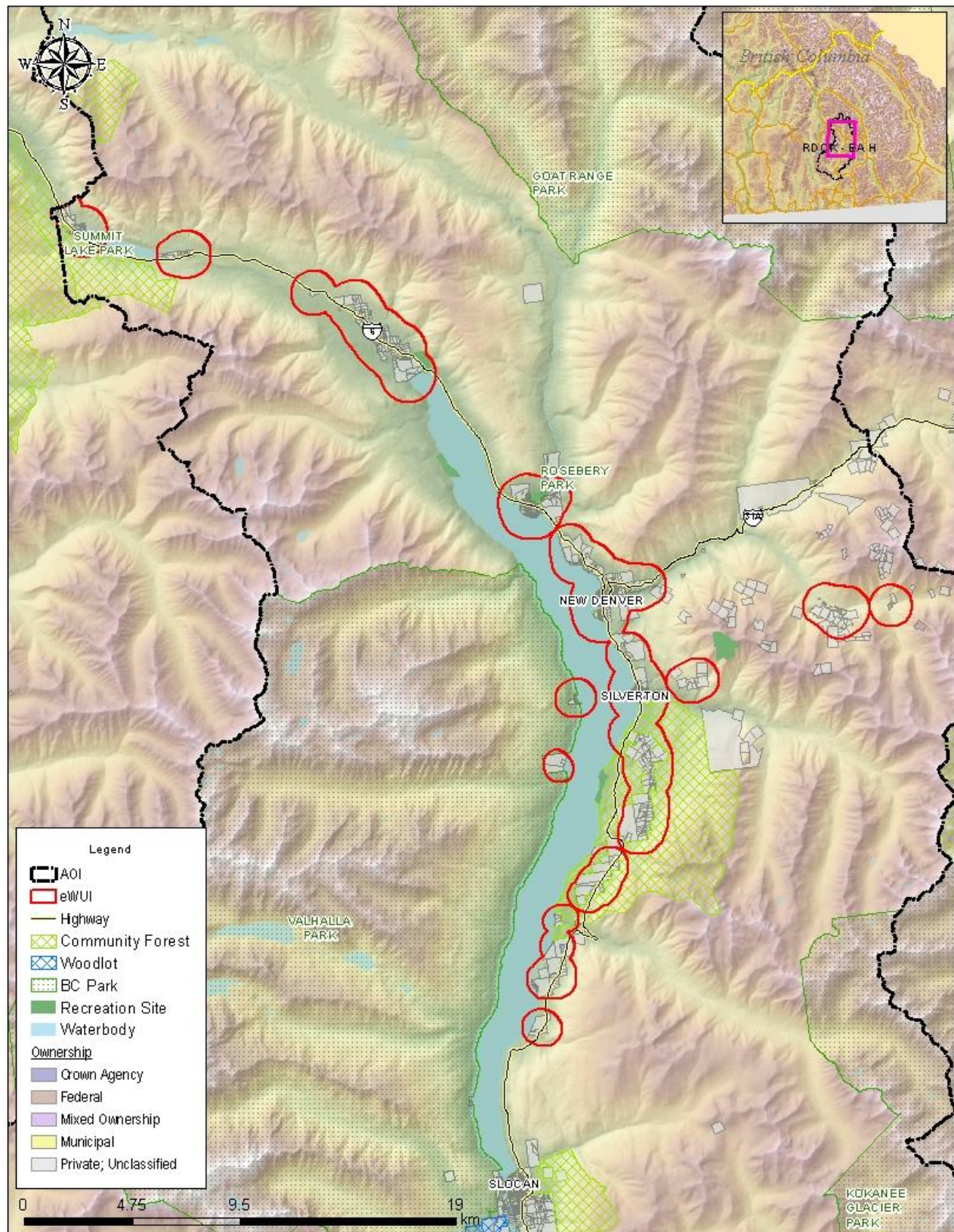
The Area of Interest (AOI) for this CWRP is the entirety of Slocan Lake North (Electoral Area H North), including the municipalities of New Denver and Silverton. However, only a portion of this AOI is within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). The WUI represents the zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.⁷ For the purpose of a CWRP, the ‘eligible’ WUI is defined as a 1-km buffer around a structure density of six or more structures per km² within the AOI. Map 1 illustrates the AOI and the eligible WUI. The eligible WUI is a standard parameter used to define the scope of all CWRPs funded through the Community Resilience Investment (CRI) program’s FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) stream. Through this document, ‘plan area’, ‘Slocan Lake North’, ‘WUI’ and ‘eligible WUI’ are used interchangeably.

Most of the Slocan Lake North eligible WUI is privately-owned (51%), with Untitled Provincial (24%), Crown Provincial (24%), and Municipal (1%) comprising the rest. An overview of the plan area is shown below in Map 1. The breakdown of ownership is also shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Land ownership in the Slocan Lake North eligible WUI.

Land Ownership	Area (ha)	Percent of Eligible WUI (excluding water)
Crown Agency	16	<1%
Crown Provincial	1244	24%
Federal	0	<1%
Mixed Ownership	0	<1%
Municipal	27	1%
Private	2663	51%
Unclassified	13	<1%
Untitled Provincial	1226	24%

⁷ FireSmart Canada. 2025. ‘What is the wildland urban interface?’ [About FireSmart – FireSmart Canada](#)



Map 1. CWRP AOI, eligible WUI (eWUI), and ownership for Electoral Area H North.

3.2 Community Information

Relevant socio-economic statistics for Slocan Lake North are shown in Table 9 - Table 11 below, followed by description of each community in the plan area. Socioeconomic and demographic data can help highlight priorities for, and possible barriers to, emergency preparedness and response for a community. Understanding the economic profile of the population can also develop an understanding of the resources available for FireSmart and other mitigation activities.

According to a 2020 RDCK Housing Needs Report, the population of the Slocan Valley has remained relatively stable, with a 4% increase from 2006 to 2016, largely in the 65+ age group.⁸ The capacity, physically and financially, of an aging population to implement FireSmart activities on private property in an important consideration in FireSmart programming. An increase in renters, which currently make up approximately 18% of households, is also anticipated,⁸ which should also be considered when developing FireSmart incentive initiatives. Though overall vacancy rate is reported as low at 0.5% in 2019, approximately 15% of residences are seasonally occupied.⁸ Typically, homes are older, the majority being built before 1980 and many before 1960.⁸ The number of moveable dwellings has also increased since 2006.⁸ These factors are relevant for community wildfire planning; older and seasonally unoccupied homes are more likely to fall into disrepair, decreasing their structural resistance to embers and flames, and decreasing overall community resiliency.

Table 9. Socio-economic statistics for Electoral Area H (North and South combined).⁹

Metric	Value
Total Population	5,045 ¹⁰
Population percentage change between 2016 - 2021	+8.4%
Population density (people/km ²)	1.5
Average Age (years)	45
Average household size	2.2
Employment Rate	52.4%
Median total income of household (2020)	\$32,000
Housing Units (number of private dwellings)	2669
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents	2280
Single-detached housing units	2070
Semi-detached and row houses	15
Moveable dwellings	170

⁸ Regional District of Central Kootenay. 2020. *Housing Needs Report: Slocan Valley Sub-Regional Report*. [03_Slocan-Valley-Sub-Regional-Report.pdf](#)

⁹ 2021 Census of Population. Profile table. Statistics Canada. [Profile table, Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population - Central Kootenay H, Regional district electoral area \(RDA\) \[Census subdivision\], British Columbia](#)

¹⁰ The Area H North OCP reports the population of Electoral Area H North as 656 full-time residents; 5,045 is the 2021 census population for Area H.

Table 10. Socio-economic statistics for the Village of New Denver.¹¹

Metric	Value
Total Population	487
Population percentage change between 2016 - 2021	+3.0%
Population density (people/km ²)	559.6
Average Age (years)	56.6
Average household size	1.8
Employment Rate	34.1%
Median total income of household (2020)	\$29,200
Housing Units (number of private dwellings)	304
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents	248
Single-detached housing units	210
Semi-detached and row houses	5
Moveable dwellings	10

Table 11. Socio-economic statistics for the Village of Silverton.^{12,13}

Metric	Value
Total Population	181 ¹⁴
Population percentage change between 2016 - 2021	-7.2%
Population density (people/km ²)	420.8
Average Age (years)	58
Average household size	1.8
Employment Rate	34.4%
Median total income of household (2020)	Not published
Housing Units (number of private dwellings)	128
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents	78
Single-detached housing units	80
Duplex housing	10
Semi-detached and row houses	0
Moveable dwellings	0

¹¹ 2021 Census of Population. Profile table. Statistics Canada. [Profile table, Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population – New Denver, Village \(VL\) \[Census subdivision\], British Columbia](#)

¹² 2021 Census of Population. Profile table. Statistics Canada. [Profile table, Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population - Silverton, Village \(VL\) \[Census subdivision\], British Columbia](#)

¹³ Village of Silverton. 2024. [Housing Needs Report. 2024-12-17-HNR-Silverton-Final Report.pdf](#)

¹⁴ A discrepancy between Statistics Canada and the BC Government's population is explained in the footnote on page 13 of the HNR.

3.2.1 First Responders

The New Denver and Area Fire Department provides fire protection services to New Denver, Silverton, and surrounding Electoral Area H communities, including Red Mountain Road and Rosebery. The department maintains two fire halls, one in Silverton and one in New Denver. BC Ambulance Service has a station in New Denver and one in Winlaw. The RDCK-operated Slocan Fire Department provides fire protection and road rescue services just outside of Slocan, at the far southern edge of the plan area. For interface fires outside of fire protection areas, or exceeding the response capacity of local fire departments, response will be coordinated by BC Wildfire Service (BCWS). The community of Hills, at the north end of Slocan Lake, also has a volunteer fire brigade that provides informal fire protection for the surrounding area. The Hills Fire Brigade is not associated with the RDCK, an established fire protection area, or dispatched by 911. RDCK staff are currently looking into the feasibility of establishing a fire protection area in Hills and Summit Lake.¹⁵

Electoral Area H North is in the Arrow Fire Zone of the BCWS Southeast Fire Centre. In the event of a wildfire, initial attack resources would be deployed from crew bases in Shoreacres, at the junction of Highway 6 and Highway 3A, or from the Forward Attack Base in Nakusp. Seven 3- to 4-person initial attack crews and two 20-person unit crews, which are considered a provincial resource, are stationed at Shoreacres during the fire season. Deployment of provincial firefighting resources occurs based on the Provincial Coordination Plan for Wildland Urban Interface Fires.¹⁶

3.2.2 Plan Area Communities

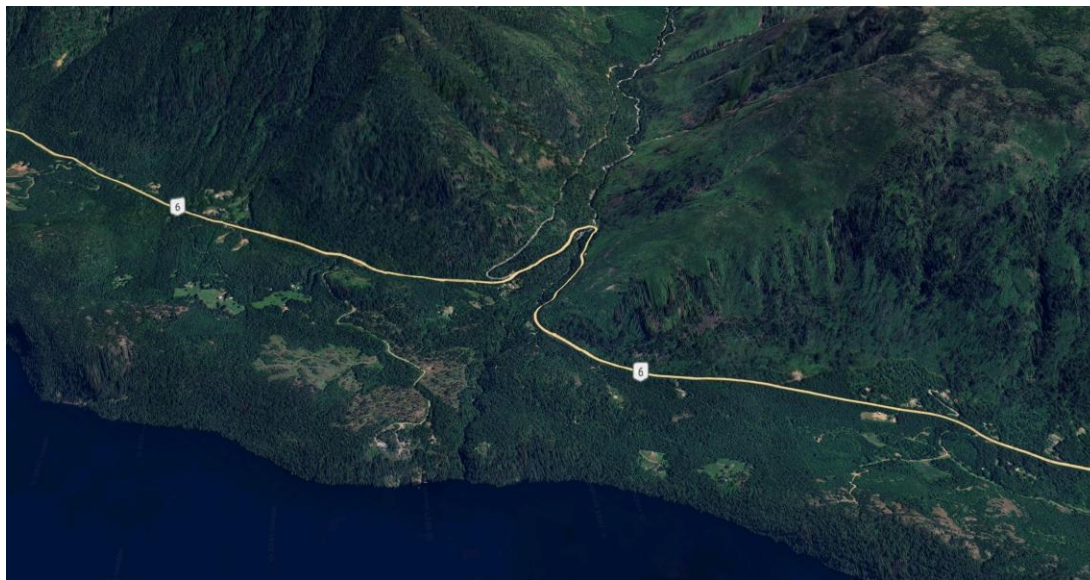


Figure 2. Google Earth image of Enterprise Creek, looking east.

¹⁵ Personal communication, Nora Hannon, January 2026.

¹⁶ 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-wuifire_revised_july_2016.pdf

Enterprise Creek

The Enterprise Creek area refers to rural properties between the Village of Slocan and Red Mountain Road, near the switchback in Highway 6. Most properties are large (>10 acres / 4 ha) and forested, located on gently sloping benches between Highway 6 and Slocan Lake. Structures have defensible space, often for agriculture, but are accessed from long driveways off Highway 6. Only a few properties close to the intersection with Red Mountain Road are in the New Denver Fire Protection Area.

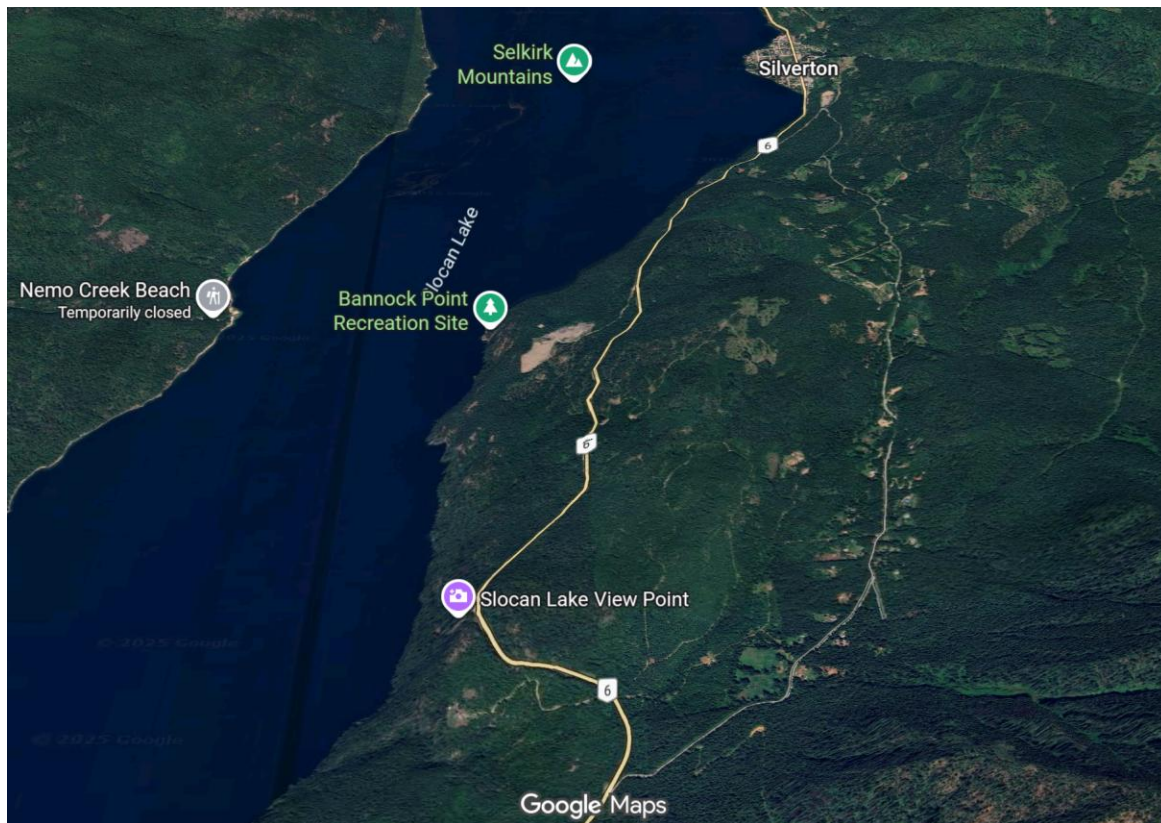


Figure 3. Google Earth image of Red Mountain Road, looking north.

Red Mountain Road

Red Mountain Road is a distinct intermix neighbourhood in Electoral Area H. Properties are located on medium size (2-5 acres / 1-2 ha) forested lots on a bench above Highway 6. Like Enterprise Creek, most properties have some cleared area which creates good defensible space, but forest is continuous between properties. The road has two access points to Highway 6 and homes supply their own water but are within the New Denver fire protection area.

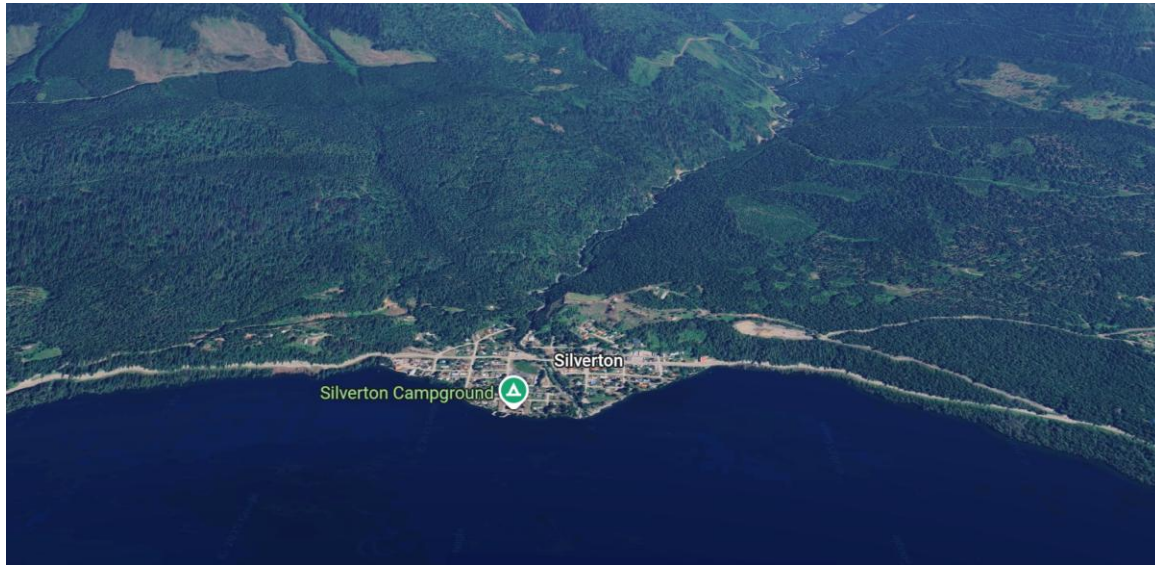


Figure 4. Google Earth image of Silverton, looking east.

Silverton

The Village of Silverton is located on the east shore of Slocan Lake, at the foothills of the Selkirk Mountains. At only 181 residents recorded at the last census, Silverton is the smallest municipality in BC by area, and the second smallest by population.¹⁷ The population is anticipated to grow to 205 by 2031.¹⁸ Housing type is predominately single-detached dwelling occupied by usual residents, typically owner-occupied. Some residents of Electoral Area H live just outside of Silverton (Standard Road, Anderson Pit Road; Highway 6).

The New Denver fire protection area encompasses the municipality and surrounding properties. Services provided at the municipal level include water (including fire hydrants) and garbage collection.

¹⁷ Village of Silverton. *Government*. <https://silverton.ca/government>. Accessed December 31, 2025.

¹⁸ Village of Silverton. 2024. *Housing Needs Report*. [2024-12-17-HNR-Silverton-Final Report.pdf](#)



Figure 5. Google Earth image of New Denver, looking east along Highway 31A.

New Denver

The Village of New Denver is situated on the east shore of Slocan Lake at the intersection of Highway 6 and Highway 31, only 5 km north of Silverton. With a population of just under 500, New Denver serves as the community hub of Electoral Area H North and has a K-12 public school, health care centre, RCMP station, and various commercial amenities. Services provided at the municipal level include water, structural fire protection (New Denver and Area Fire Department) and garbage collection. New Denver has the highest renter population of the plan area, at 35%.¹⁹ Single-detached homes built before 1960s are most common, though more alternative housing options (semi-detached, row, and moveable dwellings) exist than in the rest of the Slocan Valley.

Rural New Denver refers to homes in Electoral Area H outside of municipal boundaries. Most properties are scattered along Highway 6 between New Denver and Rosebery, around the golf course, or above town along Highway 31A towards Kaslo (Denver Siding). A municipal boundary extension was completed in 2021, incorporating homes in the Denver Siding area, which was previously RDCK jurisdiction, into the municipality. This change also saw the integration of the previously RDCK-operated Denver Siding water system into the existing New Denver system.²⁰

¹⁹ Regional District of Central Kootenay. 2020. *Housing Needs Report: Slocan Valley Sub-Regional Report*. 03 [Slocan-Valley-Sub-Regional-Report.pdf](#)

²⁰ Village of New Denver. 2024 *Annual Water Report*. <https://newdenver.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2024-Annual-Water-Report.pdf>

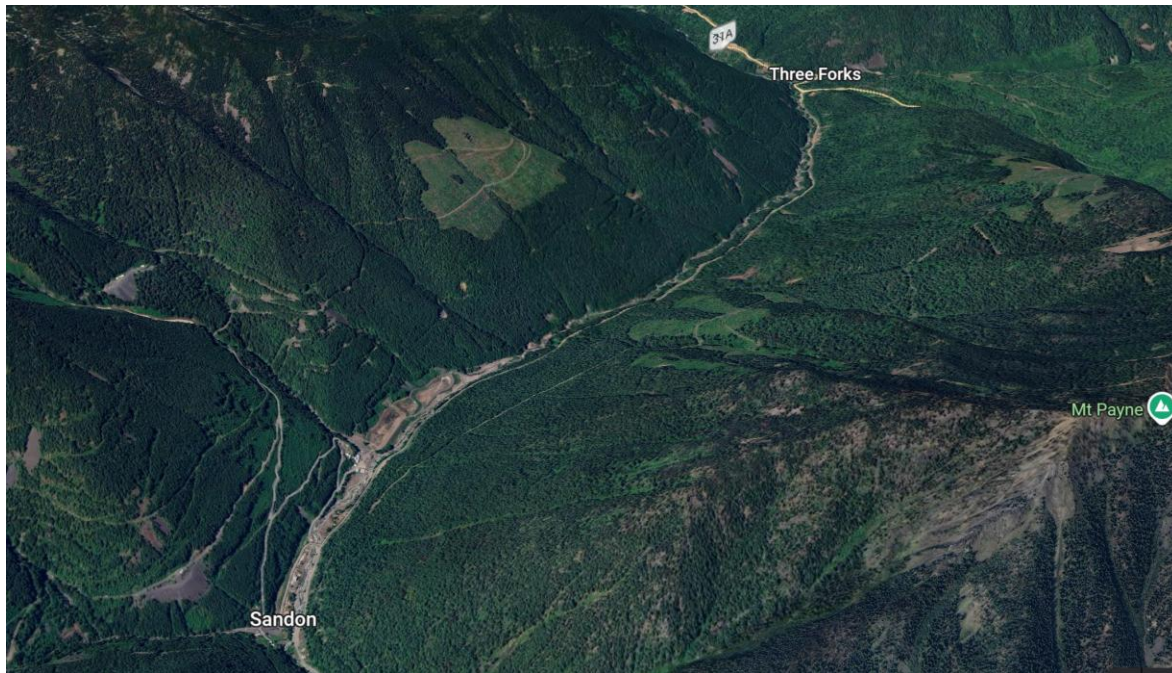


Figure 6. Google Earth image looking west from Sandon towards Highway 31A.

Sandon

Sandon is a small, largely historical community located in the foothills of the Selkirk Mountains off Highway 31A, roughly 14 km east of New Denver. It is situated at the confluence of Sandon Creek and Carpenter Creek, surrounded by old mining ghost towns that give rise to the moniker, the Valley of the Ghosts.²¹

Cody is another ghost town in the Slocan Lake North eligible WUI, located east of Sandon.

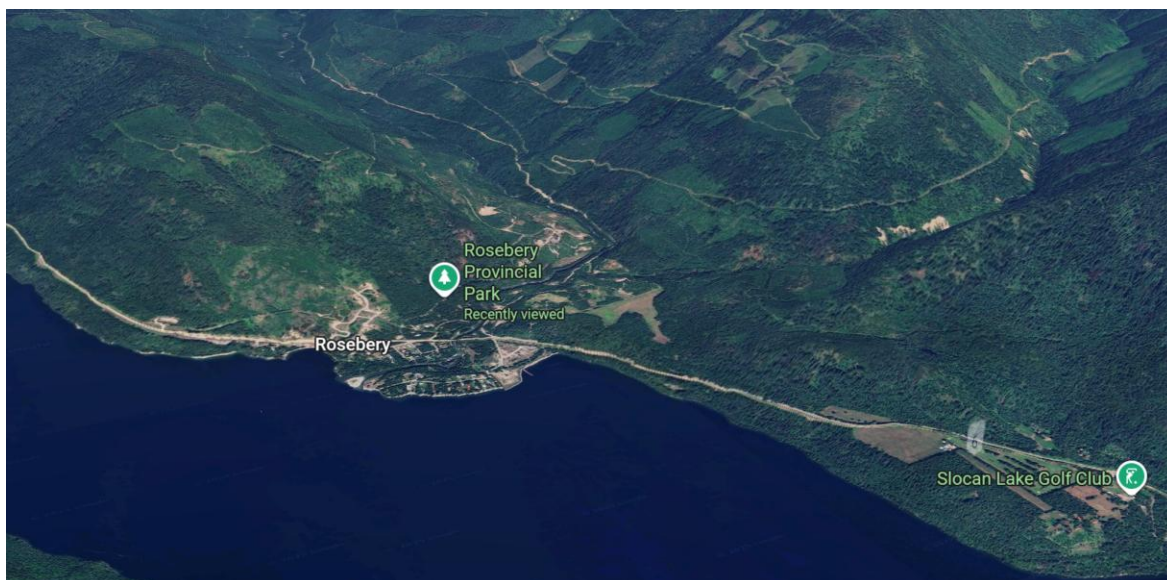


Figure 7. Google Earth image of Rosebery looking northeast.

²¹ Welcome to Sandon, BC [website]. 2015. [Home](#)

Rosebery

Rosebery is an unincorporated community on the east shore of Slocan Lake, 6 km north of New Denver, at the mouth of Wilson Creek. The community formed around a Canadian Pacific Railway ferry terminal, which was relocated to Kaslo in 1913, and now exists as a recreation and retirement community, with some agricultural and resource extraction activity.²² The RDCK operates the Rosebery Highlands community water system (hydrants); fire protection is provided by the New Denver and Area Fire Department. Rosebery is active in FireSmart and has organized prescriptions and treatments on Crown land in the community using Columbia Basin Trust funds.²³ Rosebery Provincial Park and campground is located in the community.

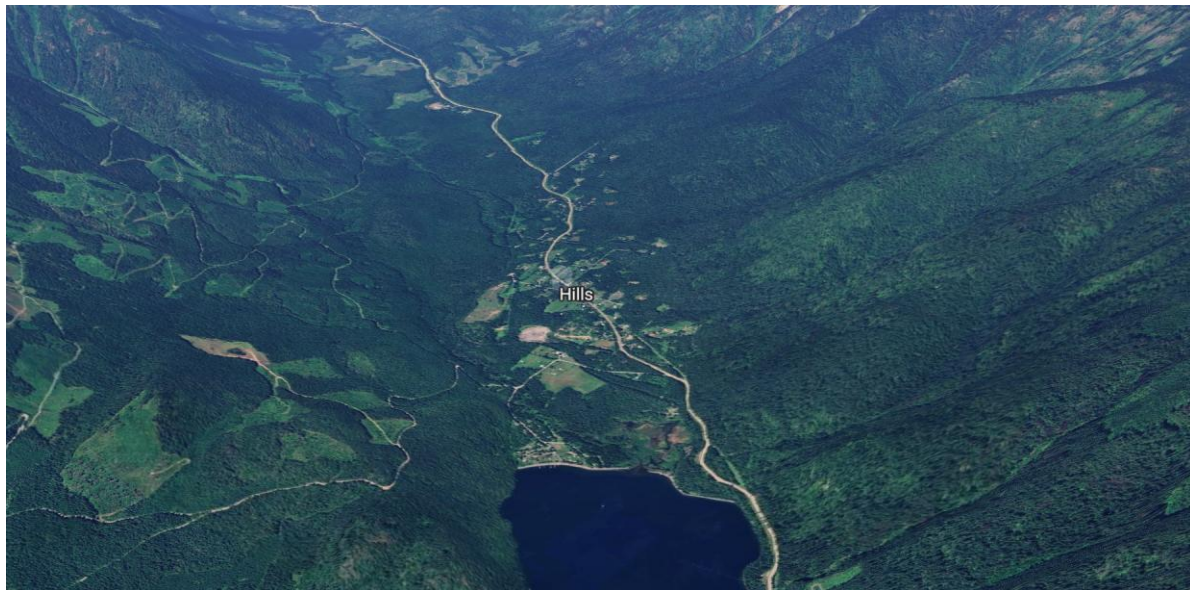


Figure 8. Google Earth image looking northwest from Slocan Lake to Hills.

Hills

Hills is a rural residential community at the north end of Slocan Lake. Properties are medium to large and mostly in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Hills has a volunteer fire brigade, operated independently from the RDCK, and a community hall. The Hills Emergency Services Society has completed a demonstration fuel treatment on private land beside their fire hall, also using Columbia Basin Trust funds.

²² [Rosebery, British Columbia - Wikipedia](#)

²³ Personal communication, Amber Cooke, 2025



Figure 9. Google Earth image looking northwest along Highway 6 towards Summit Lake.

Summit Lake

Summit Lake is a small community at the northern end of Electoral Area H, 15 km northwest of Hills along Highway 6. Properties are on small to medium forested lots. There are two campgrounds, including Summit Lake Provincial Park, and some ALR land at the northern end of the lake. Summit Lake is outside of any fire protection area and is closer to Nakusp (15-minute drive) than New Denver (25-minute drive).

3.3 Values at Risk

Values at risk are the human or natural resources that could be negatively impacted by fire. Protection of these values during a fire event is an important consideration for effective emergency response. Identifying critical infrastructure and values at risk before an emergency event can ensure that essential services can be protected and/or restored quickly. This section describes the values at risk within New Denver, Silverton, and surrounding Electoral Area H communities.

3.3.1 Critical Infrastructure

Protection of critical infrastructure and other values at risk during a wildfire event is an important consideration for emergency response effectiveness, ensuring that coordinated evacuation can occur if necessary and that essential services can be maintained or restored quickly in an emergency. Critical infrastructure is commonly defined as assets that are essential for the functioning of government and society, including the health, safety, security, or economic well-being of the community.²⁴

²⁴ FireSmart BC. 2024. Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan Instruction Guide 2024. [LGPS_CRI_FCFS_2024_CWRP_Instruction_Guide_2024-06.pdf](#)

Table 12 (and displayed on Map 2) lists critical infrastructure in the plan area, as identified by the RDCK, New Denver, and Silverton staff. The Village of Silverton confirmed that they have backup diesel generators in place for their office/shop, firehall, gallery, and water system, and are in the process of obtaining a generator for their Memorial Hall (ESS facility) and campground. The Village of New Denver has backup generators for both of their pumphouses. The only assets operated by the RDCK in Slocan Lake North are associated with the Rosebery Highlands water system.

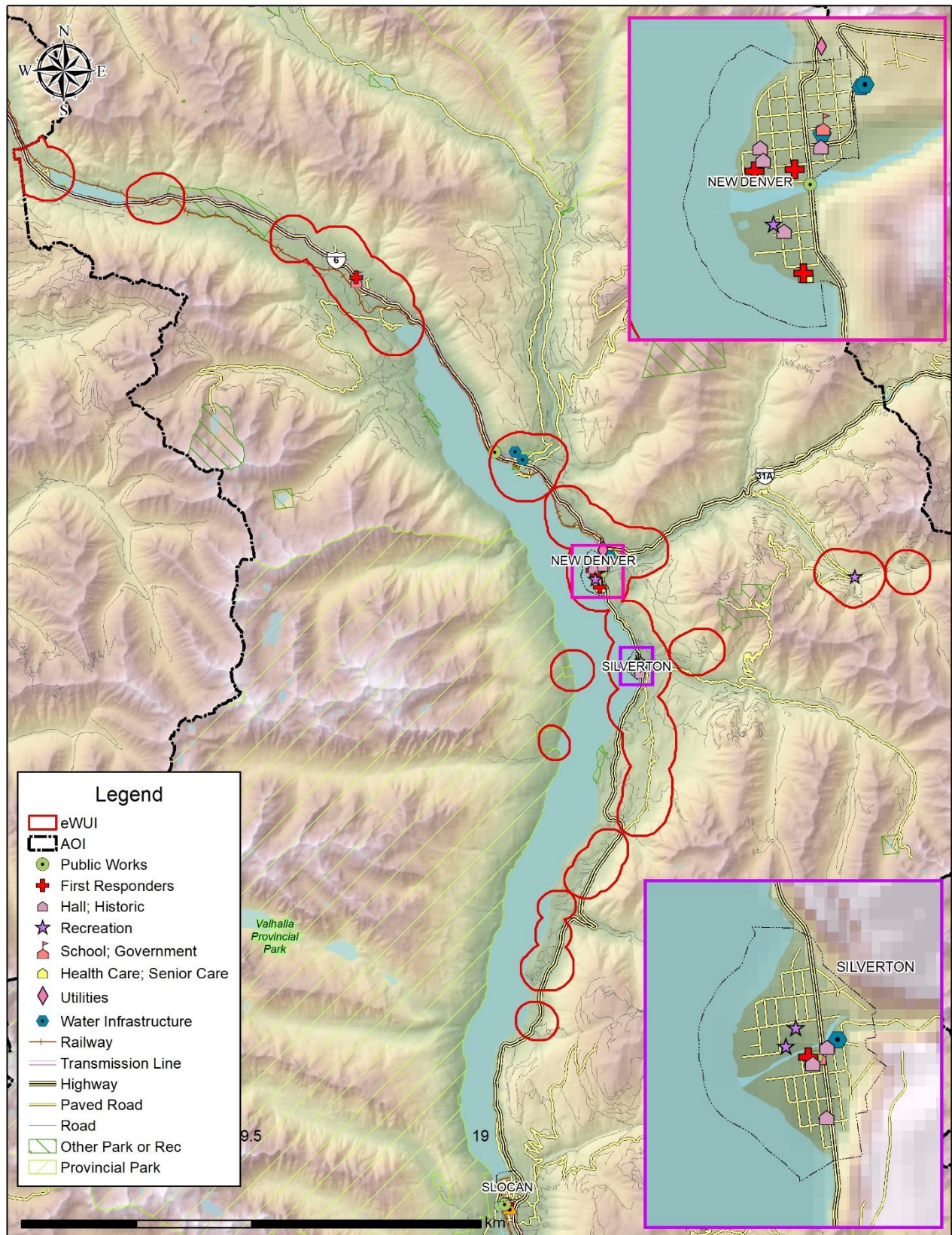
Water and electric systems are discussed in more detail in Sections 3.3.2 - Electrical Power and 3.3.3- Water and Sewage.

Table 12. Critical infrastructure and community assets in the plan area.

Name	Type	Jurisdiction	Location	Comments
Critical Infrastructure				
Pumphouse 1	Water	New Denver	621 Kootenay Street, New Denver BC	Pumps water to main reservoir. Backup generator in place.
Pumphouse 2	Water	New Denver	1045 Vancouver Street, New Denver BC	Pumps water to Denver Siding reservoir. Backup generator in place.
Main Reservoir	Water	New Denver	1045 Vancouver Street, New Denver BC	930-1060m ³ storage
Denver Siding Reservoir	Water	New Denver	New Denver	
Wells (2)	Water	New Denver	New Denver	
New Denver Fire Hall	Safety / First Responders	New Denver	115 Slocan Ave, New Denver BC	
Carpenter Creek Bridge	Transportation	New Denver	Highway 6 / Union Street	Sole bridge between two sides of New Denver
BC Ambulance Station	Safety / Health	BC Ambulance	401 Galena Ave, New Denver BC	
Slocan Lake RCMP Detachment	Safety / First Responders	RCMP	407 Slocan Ave, New Denver BC	
Slocan Community Health Centre	Safety / Health	Interior Health	401 Galena Ave, New Denver BC	
Lucerne Elementary Secondary School	Safety (ESS facility)	School District 10	New Denver	
Reservoirs (2)	Water	Silverton	Silverton BC	
Well Pumps	Water	Silverton	Silverton BC	Backup generator in place.
Wells (2)	Water	Silverton	Silverton BC	
Slocan Village Office	Government	Silverton	421 Lake Ave	Backup generator (shared with fire hall, shop, and gallery)

Name	Type	Jurisdiction	Location	Comments
				Needs FireSmart assessment
Silverton Village Shop	Public Works	Silverton	-	Backup generator (shared with office, fire hall, and gallery) Needs FireSmart assessment
Silverton Fire Hall	Safety	Silverton (New Denver and Area Fire Department)	420 Hume Street, Silverton BC	FireSmart assessment and mitigation work completed. Demo project + Wildfire Resiliency Garden. Backup generator (shared with office, shop, and gallery)
Silverton Memorial Hall	Safety facility) (ESS	Silverton	203 Lake Ave, Silverton BC	Working on getting backup generator. FireSmart assessment completed and mitigation work planned for 2026.
Rosebery Highlands Reservoir	Water	RDCK	50.037654, 117.413004	- 276 m ³ storage capacity; concrete
Rosebery Highlands Well (1)	Water	RDCK	Rosebery Highlands	
Hills Fire Hall	Safety	Hills Emergency Services Society (Private)	4480 Highway 6 (50.109056, 117.492128)	- Fuel treatment completed on private land adjacent to hall with CBT funds
New Denver substation	Electrical	BC Hydro	Highway 6 (49.997359, 117.369812)	-
Community Assets				
Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre	Historic Site	New Denver	306 Josephine Street, New Denver BC	National Historic Site. Cedar shake roof on some buildings
Silvery Slocan Museum	Building	New Denver	202 – 6th Avenue, New Denver BC	Cedar shake roof; also visitor info centre
New Denver Community Gym	Building	RDCK	401 Galena Avenue, New Denver BC	FireSmart demonstration project completed by SVWRP
Bosum Hall	Building	New Denver	710 Bellevue Street, New Denver BC	
Knox Hall	Building	New Denver	521 6th Avenue, New Denver BC	North Slocan Community Library housed in bottom level
Centennial Campground	Campground	New Denver	3 rd Ave, New Denver BC	
Municipal Campground	Campground	Silverton	Leadville Street, Silverton BC	Working on getting backup generator
Silverton Arena and Curling Club	Recreation	Slocan Lake Arena Society	510 Hunter Street, Silverton BC	

Name	Type	Jurisdiction	Location	Comments
Silverton Gallery	Heritage Building	Valhalla Fine Arts Society	408 4th Street, Silverton BC	Backup generator (shared with office, shop, and fire hall)
Fingland Cabin	Heritage Building	Silverton	49.953074, -117.356276	
Rosebery Transfer Station	Waste	RDCK	5250 BC-6, New Denver, BC	PTU identified in vicinity
Hills Doukhobor Hall	Community Hall	Hills Doukhobor Society	4498 Highway 6	
Sandon Museum	Heritage Building	-	Slocan Ave, Sandon BC	



Map 2. Critical infrastructure in Electoral Area H North.

3.3.2 Electrical Power

A large fire has 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. Additionally, vegetation encroachment on powerlines can be a wildfire ignition source - a tree branch lying between two conductors can produce high-temperature electrical arcs.

BC Hydro provides electrical power to the plan area through a network of transmission and distribution lines. The transmission network extends south along Highway 6 from Nakusp to New Denver, where there is also a substation. Overhead distribution lines distribute power along Highway 31A east to Sandon and south along Highway 6 as far as Enterprise Creek. Slocan and everyone south is supplied by Fortis. Vegetation in the rights-of-way are managed by BC Hydro according to integrated vegetation management plans which are renewed and updated periodically.^{25,26} BC Hydro operates various risk management programs for its infrastructure, with an overall emergency management program based on best practices, including the requirements of the provincial *Emergency Program Act*.

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 rely 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, including waters systems and community buildings that could be designated as Local Area Emergency Operations Centres, should have a backup power source.

New Denver staff reported several community water supply pumphouses are fuelled by generators. One concern mentioned by staff was that, in the event of a prolonged power outage, a shortage of fuel could limit the water supply.²⁷ Silverton's Fire Hall and well pumps are also on diesel generators. They are currently working towards acquiring back-up generators for the Memorial Hall, which serves as an Emergency Support Services facility, and campground.

3.3.3 Water and Sewage

Water supply is important for both wildfire response and community recovery. The functionality of water infrastructure can be impacted by an interface wildfire event as a result of disruptions to power supplies, physical damage, or contamination of surface water sources, via disturbance to a watershed.

Silverton's drinking water comes from a municipal-managed water system that draws from two deep-water wells pumped into two reservoirs. It services 151 residential and commercial connections, as well

²⁵ BC Hydro. 2021. Integrated Vegetation Management Plan For Control of Vegetation at BC Hydro Facilities. [Integrated Vegetation Management Plan for facilities](#)

²⁶ BC Hydro. 2021. Integrated Vegetation Management Plan For BC Hydro Transmission and Distribution Power Line Corridors. [Integrated Vegetation Management Plan for transmission and distribution line corridors](#)

²⁷ Personal communication. 2025.

as 23 fire hydrants.²⁸ The Bartlett Community Watershed, upslope from Silverton, serves as an emergency back up supply.

Water in New Denver is provided by a municipal system which is fed by an underground aquifer. A concern was noted by New Denver staff that, during summer months, the aquifer can lower, leading to a depletion of the water supply.²⁹ In the event, fire suppression efforts can draw from Slocan Lake in order to avoid potable water shortages. Additionally, as surface level watercourses, these streams are more susceptible to debris from landslides, debris flow, and sediment intrusion caused by disturbances such as wildfire. Concerns for water supply in Silverton pertain to residential water sprinklers and how these may impact hydrant flow. Funding was recently secured to conduct a water supply analysis.²⁹

North of New Denver, the RDCK-operated Rosebery Highlands water system, located in the community of Rosebery, draws from a deep-water well without direct influence from surface water, and services 9 active connections and another 12 serviceable lots.³⁰ The system was converted from a private utility to a regional-operated utility in 2012.³¹ Rural residences outside of these water systems are responsible for their own water, often from surface water and well intakes. There are no sewer or wastewater treatment systems within Electoral Area H; residents rely on private septic systems.

3.3.4 Hazardous Values

Hazardous values are defined as values that pose a safety hazard to emergency responders. These can include large propane facilities, landfills, rail yards, storage facilities containing explosives, pipelines, etc. Anywhere combustible materials, explosive chemicals, gas or oil are stored can be considered a hazardous value. Protecting hazardous values from fires is important to preventing interface and urban fire disasters.

The RDCK has identified gas stations, transfer stations, and junkyards as hazardous values. These are displayed on Map 2.

3.3.5 Cultural and Heritage Values

Cultural and heritage values have the potential to be impacted by wildfire, wildfire suppression techniques, or vegetation management activities through physical damage or alteration. Archaeological sites and historic sites are recorded by the Archaeology Branch and protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act*, which applies to both public and private lands. Both registered and undocumented sites may be found within the WUI, in addition to locations with high cultural value to local First Nations. Evidence of the original Sinixt and Ktunaxa peoples occupying the Valley remain as petroglyphs, camps, and burial grounds.

The Silverton Gallery and Fingland Cabin in Silverton, the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre and the Silvery Slocan Museum in New Denver, and the Sandon Museum were identified as heritage structures or

²⁸ Village of Silverton. 2024. *Water System Annual Report 2024*. [Accessed Jan 12, 2026](#)

²⁹ Personal communication. 2025.

³⁰ Regional District of Central Kootenay. 2025. *2025 Water System Information Rosebery Highlands*. [2025 Billing Insert ROH V3.pub](#)

³¹ <https://www.rdck.ca/environmental-service/environmental-services/water/rdck-water-systems/rosebery-highlands/>

museums in the last CWPP and are included in Table 12. Additionally, a number of old mining town sites exist along Highway 31A, known as the Valley of the Ghosts.³²

3.3.6 Environmental Values

Environmental values, including parks and protected areas, critical wildlife habitat, and species and ecosystems at risk may be impacted by wildfire, fire suppression activities, or fuel management. Provincial parks in the plan area include Valhalla Provincial Park, Summit Lake Provincial Park, and Rosebery Provincial Park. Valhalla Park was significantly impacted by the 2024 Slocan Valley wildfires, with closures to some areas due to safety concerns.³³ Post-wildfire rehabilitation activities have been ongoing according to a multi-phase recovery plan.³⁴ Goat Range Provincial Park and Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park, outside of the eligible WUI but within Electoral Area H North, also provide environmental and backcountry recreation values.

The Slocan Valley has been identified as a significant area for wildlife corridors, having high connectivity and a diverse range of topography and ecosystems. As such, it is now recognized as a Community Nominated Priority Place by the Canada Nature Fund, established by Environment and Climate Change Canada.³⁵ The area is home to numerous species and ecosystems at risk, as well as designated critical habitat for the Southern Mountain Caribou population (*Rangifer tarandus* pop. 1), whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*), Lewis' woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*), and bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*).³⁵ Table 13 lists species and ecosystems at risk in the plan areas as identified through the BC Conservation Data Centre. Map 3 displays the environmental values within and surrounding Electoral Area H North.

Several Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*) Population Units and Management Areas also overlap with Electoral Area H North's eligible WUI. Conditional Harvest Ungulate Winter Range (UWR) for mule deer occurs along the lower elevations of Slocan Lake from Slocan to Hills. Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA) are prevalent throughout Electoral Area H; some overlap with the WUI exists around Slocan Lake.

As part of due diligence on public land, any prescriptions developed for fuel management treatment (see Section Vegetation Management) should identify and mitigate potential impacts to environmental values. Prescriptions may require rationales and/or mitigation measures for tree removal in some areas, especially where overlapping with designated wildlife areas.

Prioritization, planning, implementation and maintenance of fuel treatments in provincial Parks and Protected Areas will be the responsibility of BC Parks.

³² Regional District of Central Kootenay. 2009. *Slocan Lake North Portion of Electoral Area 'H' Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1967, 2009*. [Slocan Lake North](#)

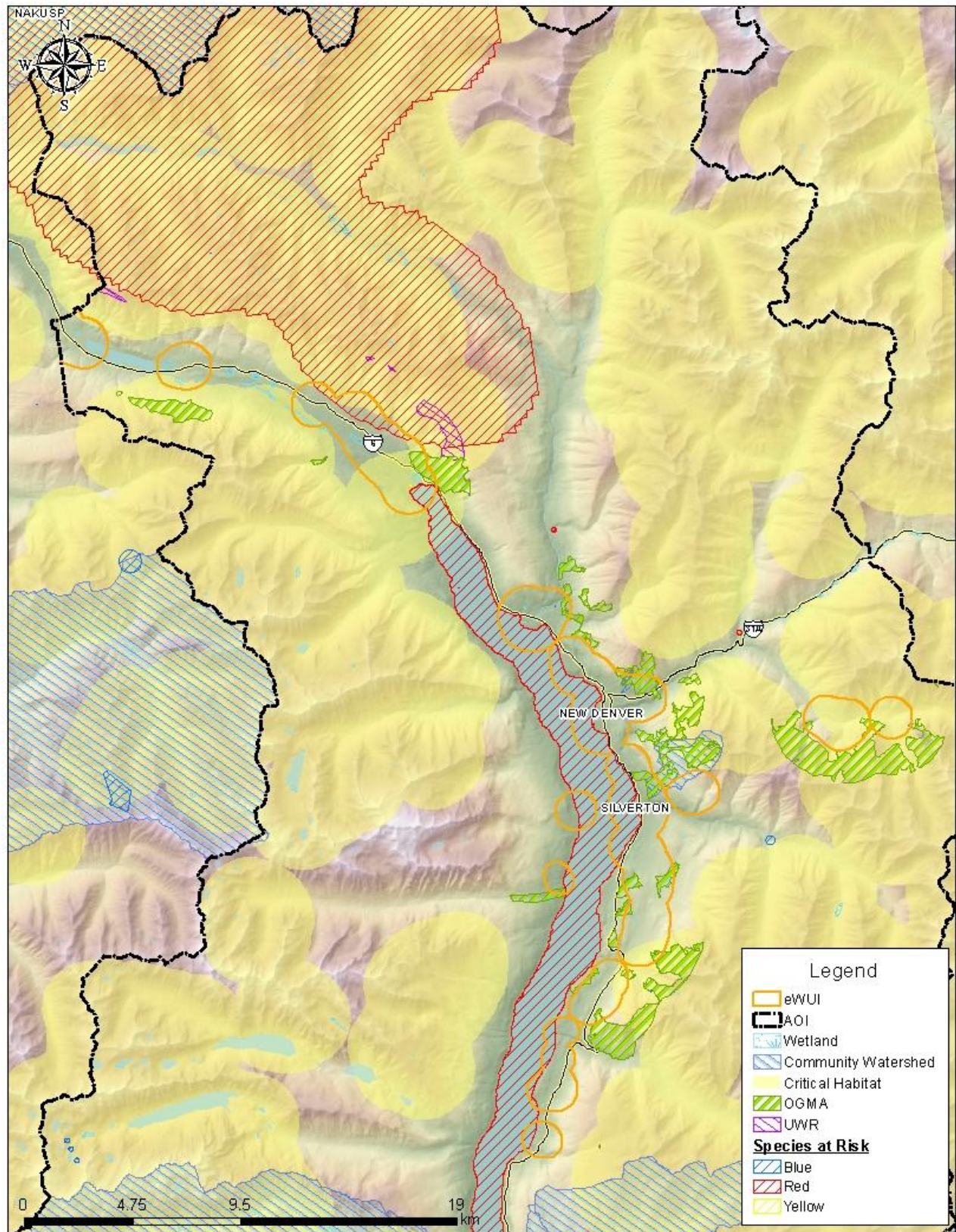
³³ BC Parks. Valhalla Park. <https://bcparks.ca/valhalla-park/>. Accessed December 29, 2025.

³⁴ Village of New Denver. *Valhalla Park Post-Wildfire Recovery Update*. <https://newdenver.ca/valhalla-park-post-wildfire-recovery-update/>. Accessed December 29, 2025.

³⁵ Environment and Climate Change Canada. 2023. *Slocan Watershed SAR and SEI*. [Microsoft Word - Slocan SAR SEI 15March2024 v3_AL.docx](#)

Table 13. A non-exhaustive list of species and ecosystems at risk within the Electoral Area H North WUI.

English Name	Scientific Name	BC List	Category	Habitat Type
Magnum Mantleslug	<i>Magnipelta mycophaga</i>	Blue	Invertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Subalpine
Pygmy Slug	<i>Kootenaia burkei</i>	Blue	Invertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Forest Mixed; RIVERINE: Riparian
Pygmy Slug	<i>Kootenaia burkei</i>	Blue	Invertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Mature Forest
Banded Tigersnail	<i>Anguispira kochi</i>	Blue	Invertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Woodland Mixed; RIVERINE: Riparian
White Sturgeon (Upper Columbia River Population)	<i>Acipenser transmontanus pop. 2</i>	Red	Vertebrate Animal	LACUSTRINE: Deep Water
Western Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	Yellow	Invertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Suburban/Orchard, Woodland Mixed
Caribou (Southern Mountain Population)	<i>Rangifer tarandus pop. 1</i>	Red	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL; FOREST NEEDLELEAF



3.3.7 Other Resource Values

There are other important resource values associated with the land base, including industry, recreation, tourism, and forestry. The Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) is an important resource manager in the WUI, with a large amount of area-based forest tenure between Silverton and Slocan. Nakusp Community Forest (NACFOR) also operates in the plan area; although most of their tenure is around Upper Arrow Lake and Nakusp, their tenure extends to the south side of Summit Lake. Interfor, Kalesnikoff, and BC Timber Sales operate volume-based forest licenses in the Slocan Valley. Section 5.7 discusses licensee-led wildfire risk reduction projects in more detail.

The RDCK manages two regional parks and one regional trail for recreation value in the plan area. Bigelow Bay and Rosebery Parklands are small waterfront access parks. Galena Trail (Rosebery to Three Forks) is a 13-km multi use rail grade trail. Designated Crown land recreation features in the plan area include Bannock Point rec site, on Slocan Lake south of Silverton; Valhalla Hills Nordic Ski area, between Summit Lake and Hills; and the Ranch Ridge trail network in Rosebery. The Nakusp and Slocan railway trail also intersects the plan area, from Summit Lake to New Denver. There are campgrounds at Bannock Point, Summit Lake Provincial Park, and Rosebery Provincial Park. Denver and Silverton also have municipal campgrounds. BC Parks is working with BC Wildfire Service to explore potential treatment locations in Roseberry Provincial Park.

Fuel management proponents within Slocan Lake North should continue to consider the impact on any of these additional values and consult with appropriate land managers, licensees, and stakeholder groups in the area. Recommendations regarding interagency cooperation are discussed in Section 5.4.

4 Wildfire Risk Assessment

This section summarizes the factors that contribute to local wildfire risk in Slocan Lake North. Section Local Wildfire Environment discusses the wildfire environment, including the projected impacts of climate change for the area. Section 4.2 Wildfire History discusses wildfire history in the area and wildfire response data from local fire crews. Sections 4.3 and 4.4 Local Wildfire Risk Assessment describes wildfire threat and eligible WUI risk assessments on a provincial and local scale, respectively.

The local wildfire risk assessment helps identify the parts of the community that are most vulnerable to wildfire so that wildfire and fire risk reduction actions can be implemented effectively. Differing risk levels require tailored risk management to minimize negative impacts from wildfires to communities and high-value critical infrastructure. The intent is to enable cost-effective wildfire risk reduction strategies that will mitigate wildfire threat to communities and values at risk, at local and provincial scales. Through the identification of risk levels, priorities for mitigation and opportunities for increasing community resiliency are both enhanced.³⁶

³⁶ Community Resiliency Investment. 2023. *FireSmart Community Funding and Supports Supplemental Instruction Guide*. [FireSmart Community Funding and Supports | Union of BC Municipalities](#)

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

Wildfire Risk = Probability X Consequence

Where:

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

Consequences are the repercussions associated with fire occurrence in an area. Higher consequences are associated with densely populated areas, critical infrastructure, areas of high biodiversity, etc.

Probability is the threat of wildfire occurring in an area and is expressed by the ability of wildfire to ignite and consume fuel on the landscape. Wildfire threat is driven by three major components of the wildfire environment:

- 1) **Topography:** slope, terrain (increases/decreases rate of spread), and aspect (affects fuel dryness).
- 2) **Fuel:** loading (amount), size and shape, arrangement (horizontal and vertical), compactness, chemical properties, and fuel moisture.
- 3) **Weather:** temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, and precipitation.

4.1 Local Wildfire Environment

There are three environmental components that influence wildfire behaviour: topography, weather, and fuel. These components are generally referred to as the 'fire behaviour triangle' (Figure 10); the ways in which they individually influence the wildfire environment of the eligible WUI are detailed below.



Figure 10. Illustration of the fire behaviour triangle, and a subset of characteristics within each component.³⁷

³⁷ Province of Alberta. *Wildfire Prevention and Enforcement*. [Discussion](#) | [Forest Fire Model](#)

4.1.1 Topography

Topography has a significant influence on fire behaviour. Slope steepness influences a fire's trajectory and rate of spread; slope position relates to the ability of a fire to gain momentum uphill. Other topographic factors that influence fire behaviour include aspect, elevation, and the configuration of features on the landscape that can restrict (e.g., water bodies, rock outcrops) or drive (e.g., valleys, exposed ridges) the movement of 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 4.1.3. Also, slope length and form can influence both regional and diurnal wind patterns (e.g., anabatic and katabatic slope winds).

Most communities in Slocan Lake North are situated close to Highway 6 and the shore of Slocan Lake, at the base of the Selkirk Mountains. New Denver, Silverton and Rosebery are all built on small, flat alluvial fans that protrude into Slocan Lake. This development pattern has innate fire resiliency characteristics as most structures are located on flat to gently sloping ground at valley bottom. However, steep forested slopes above communities pose an access constraint for both suppression and fuel mitigation activities, and are associated with accelerated rates of fire spread upslope. BCWS staff indicated that topography (as well as wind) is the major driver of fire behavior in the region and that inoperable terrain poses a challenge for fire containment. Major drainages, like Carpenter Creek (New Denver / Sandon) and Four Mine Creek (Silverton) can also funnel winds.

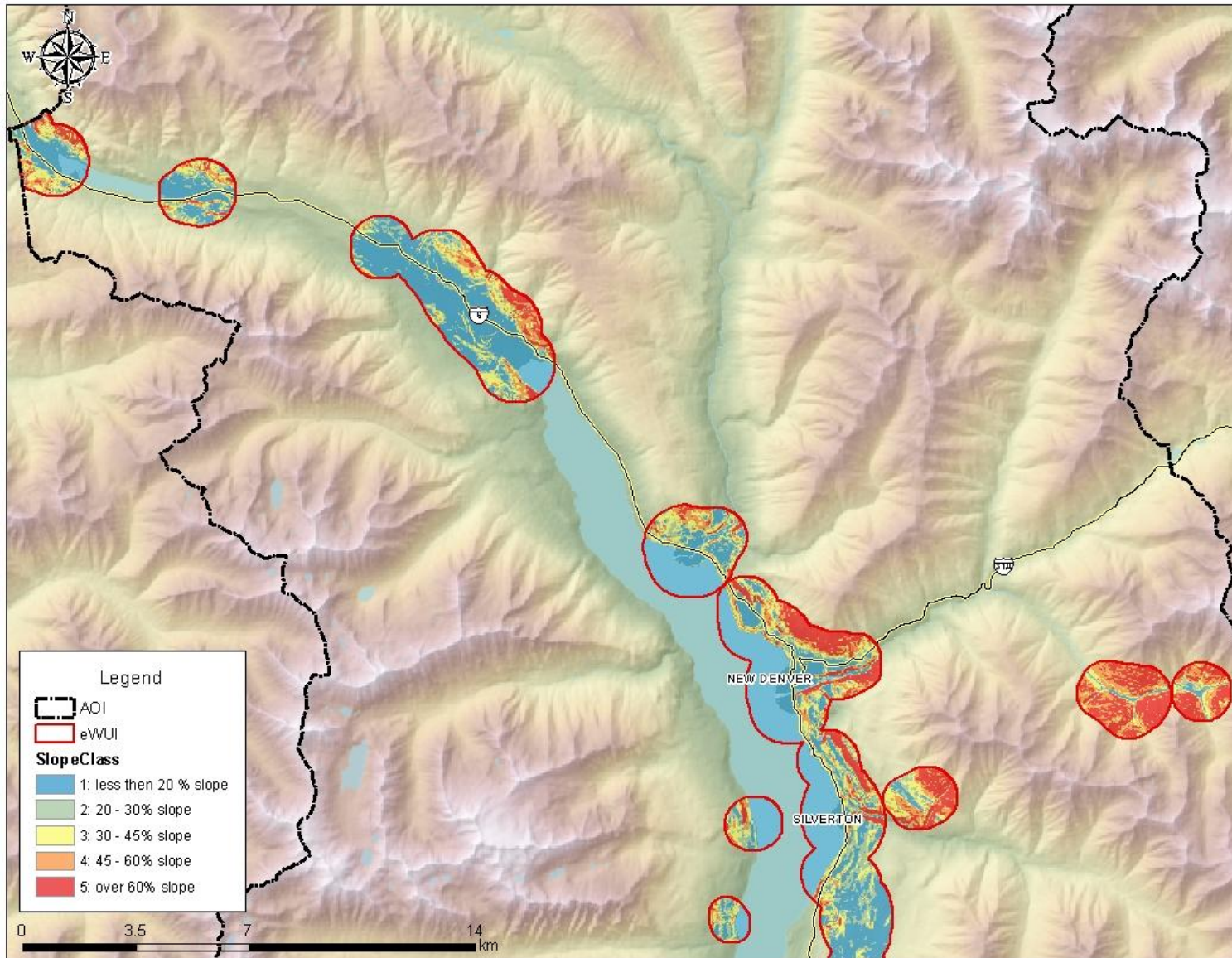
Slope-associated fire *risk* is dependent upon the slope position of values. Values located at mid to upper slope have a heightened wildfire risk due to the pre-heating of fuels from fire below and longer flame lengths reaching uphill. As discussed above, most communities the WUI are located on or near valley bottom, on slopes <30%, so would not be exposed to increased fire behaviour influenced by topography and slope position alone. Some communities in Slocan Lake North are located mid-slope or on a bench above a slope; this includes properties on Red Mountain Road, south of Silverton, and Sandon BC, located in the Selkirk Mountains at the head of Carpenter Creek. These locations could 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.

Table 14 below shows the percentage of the Slocan Lake North WUI by slope steepness class, with corresponding fire behaviour implications. Slope classes are displayed below on Map 4 and Map 5.

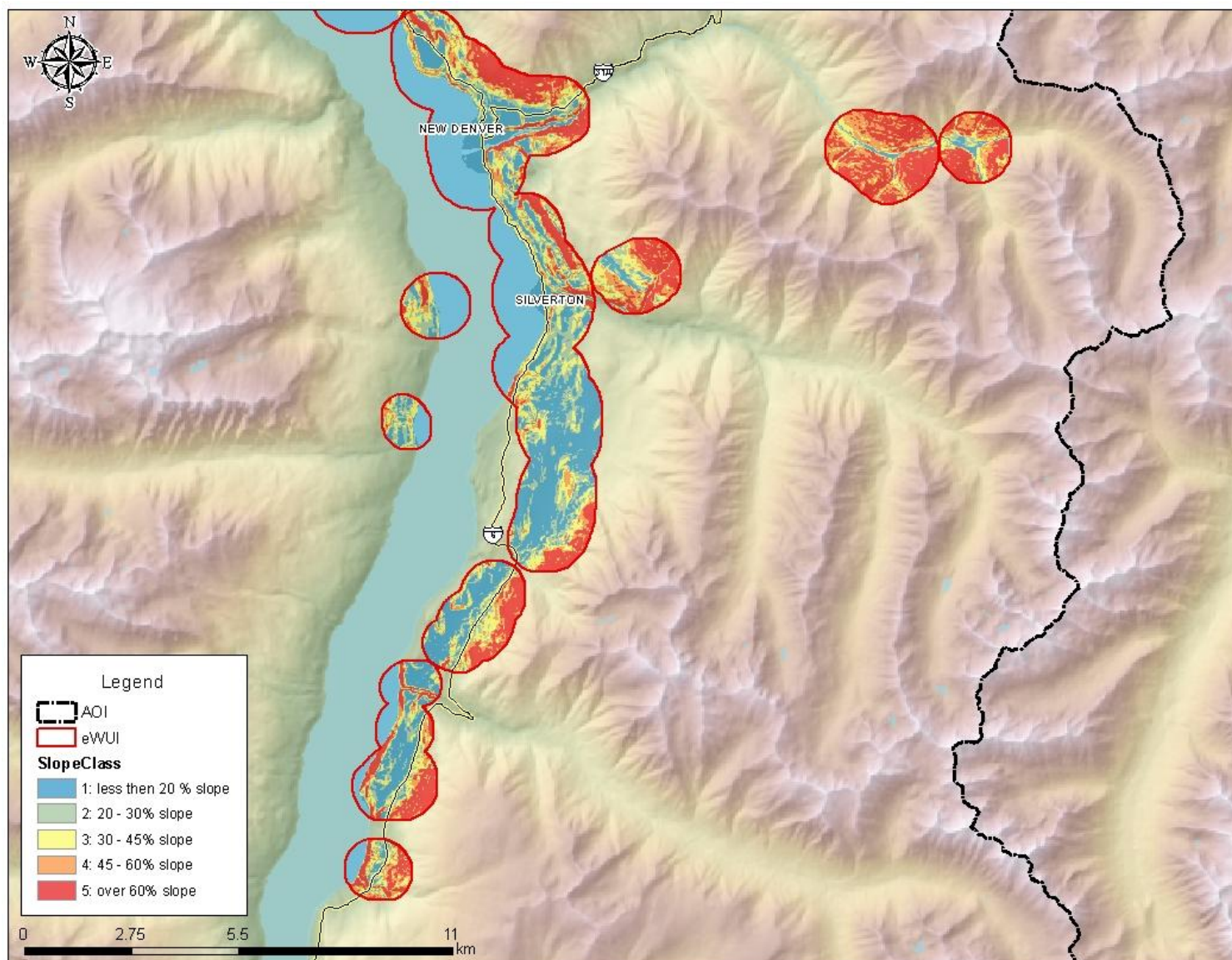
Table 14. Slope classes, their percent distribution within the Slocan Lake North eligible WUI, and their associated fire behaviour implications.³⁸

Slope	Percent of Eligible WUI (%)	Fire Behaviour Implications
<20%	46%	Very little flame and fuel interaction caused by slope, normal rate of spread.
21-30%	13%	Flame tilt begins to preheat fuel, increase rate of spread.
31-40%	15%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and begins to bathe flames into fuel, high rate of spread.
41-60%	12%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel, very high rate of spread.
>60%	15%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel well upslope, extreme rate of spread.

³⁸ Adapted from Table 6: Topography: Slope Percent. Government of British Columbia. 2020. *Wildfire Threat Assessment Guide and Worksheets*. Retrieved from: [Wildfire Threat Assessment Guide and Worksheets](#)



Map 4. Slope steepness classification for north portion of Slocan Lake North.



Map 5. Slope steepness classification for south portion of Slocan Lake North.

4.1.2 Weather

Weather conditions, including relative humidity, wind, and drought, play pivotal roles in wildfire behaviour. The intricacies of local topography can result in unpredictable and variable weather patterns, exacerbating the effects of this primary environmental factor and its potential to influence fire behaviour. For example, as further discussed below, the diverse local topography of Slocan Valley South influences wind speed, direction and timing.

Slocan Lake North is located within the moist climate subregion of south-central BC. 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, with a resulting increase in fire frequency, especially in the West Kootenays.³⁹

Historical weather data can provide information on the number and distribution of days when communities in Slocan Lake North 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). The Canadian Forestry Service developed the CFFDRS to assess fire danger and potential fire behaviour. Danger Class ratings provide a relative index of the ease of wildfire ignition and the difficulty of suppression, and are forecast using four primary inputs: temperature, relative humidity, wind, and precipitation. These inputs can be variable on a small scale based on the specific location of the weather station. Note that the CFFDRS is applied differently across Danger Index Regions, as specified in Schedule 2 of the Wildfire Regulation. Therefore, it is more informative to compare data from one station over time (year-over-year or month-to-month) than to compare one station to another.

Average danger class data for the plan area can be determined from representative BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) fire weather stations. The Slocan weather station, located on the west aspect slopes south roughly 2.5 km northeast of Slocan at 1230 m elevation, was selected as the most representative based on BCWS input. The weather station is situated within the Interior Cedar Hemlock Moist Warm biogeoclimatic subzone (Slocan variant), which covers approximately 66% 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 11 for the Slocan weather station. On average, 25% of days in July, August, and September are assigned a high or extreme fire danger rating.

It is important to note that high fire danger days occur in May, June, and October, as well. Staff from the BCWS Arrow Fire Zone indicated that although July and August are the months with the highest fire weather indices, they are seeing more fire starts and high indices in September and October as well, effectively prolonging the core fire season.

³⁹ Ministry of Forests. 2016. Adapting natural resource management to climate change in the Kootenay Boundary Region: Considerations for practitioners and Government staff. Accessed from <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/nrs-climate-change/regional-extension-notes/kbren160222.pdf>

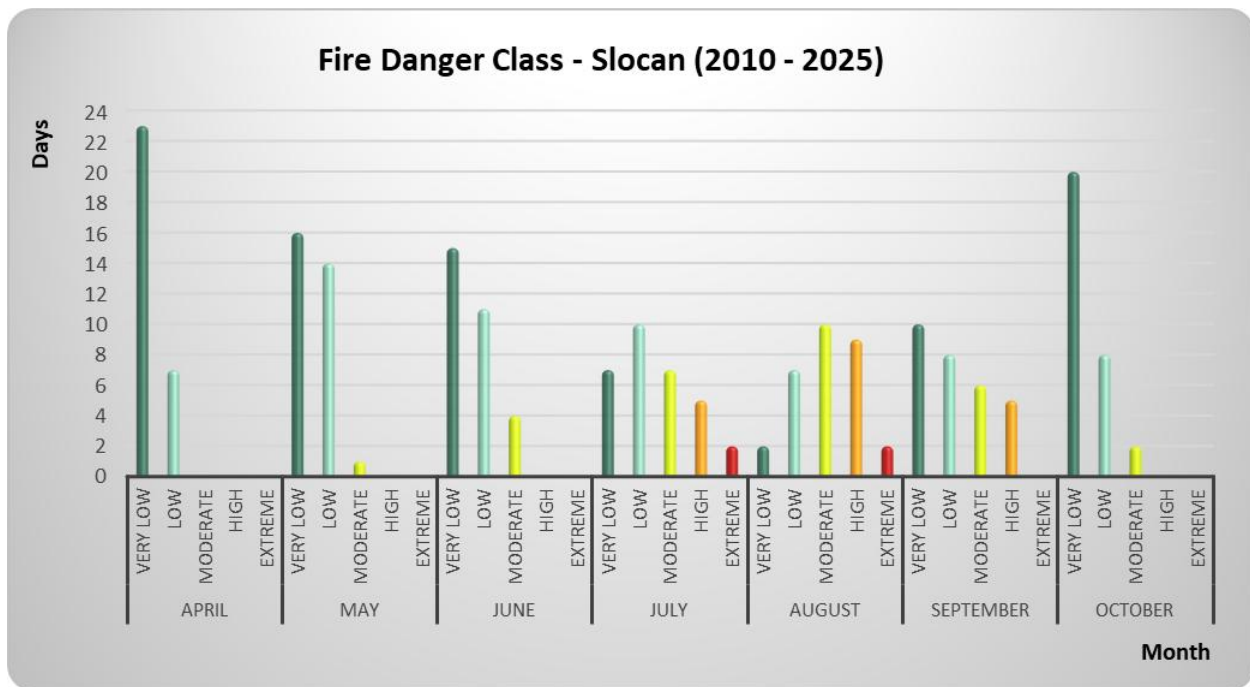


Figure 11. The average number of days by Fire Danger Class for the past 14 years, based on data from the BC Wildfire Service Slocan weather station.

Wind is also a critical weather component that influences fire behavior. Wind speed and direction are recorded at BCWS weather stations, and 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 for the Slocan fire weather station are displayed in Figure 12. The length of each segment on the ISI rose indicates the proportion of hourly counts where winds occur from that cardinal direction; the colour indicates ISI values. Bands representing higher ISI values (i.e., >10) indicate higher potential spread rates.

During the fire season, the Slocan fire weather station's hourly averages indicate that the plan area primarily experiences strong diurnal winds that originate from the southwest during the daytime and shift to northerly winds at night. Though extreme ISI values (orange to red bands) occur infrequently, they are shown from multiple cardinal direction.⁴⁰ Unusually high ISI values could be associated with the passing of a storm front, which can cause high winds to rotate through multiple cardinal directions. Peak ISI values typically occur during the afternoons and nights. As per Figure 12 below, July and August are unsurprisingly peak months for high ISI values (dry and/or windy conditions). Interestingly, very high ISI values are also recorded in April (southwesterly).

⁴⁰Very thin bands of darker orange can be seen in a zoomed-in image.

The 2020 Slocan Lake North CWPP makes the following observations on weather patterns in the plan area, which are included to reflect local knowledge:⁴¹

- Generally, southerly winds can be expected throughout the main valley.
- Upslope daytime winds and downslope evening winds are common.
- Topographical features can influence local winds significantly (i.e. potential funnelling and channeling of wind through drainages or chutes, ridge top winds and eddies).
- Thunderstorm events occur regularly during the fire season. High speed swirling winds and downdrafts from these storms interact with terrain and can blow in any direction, usually for brief periods.

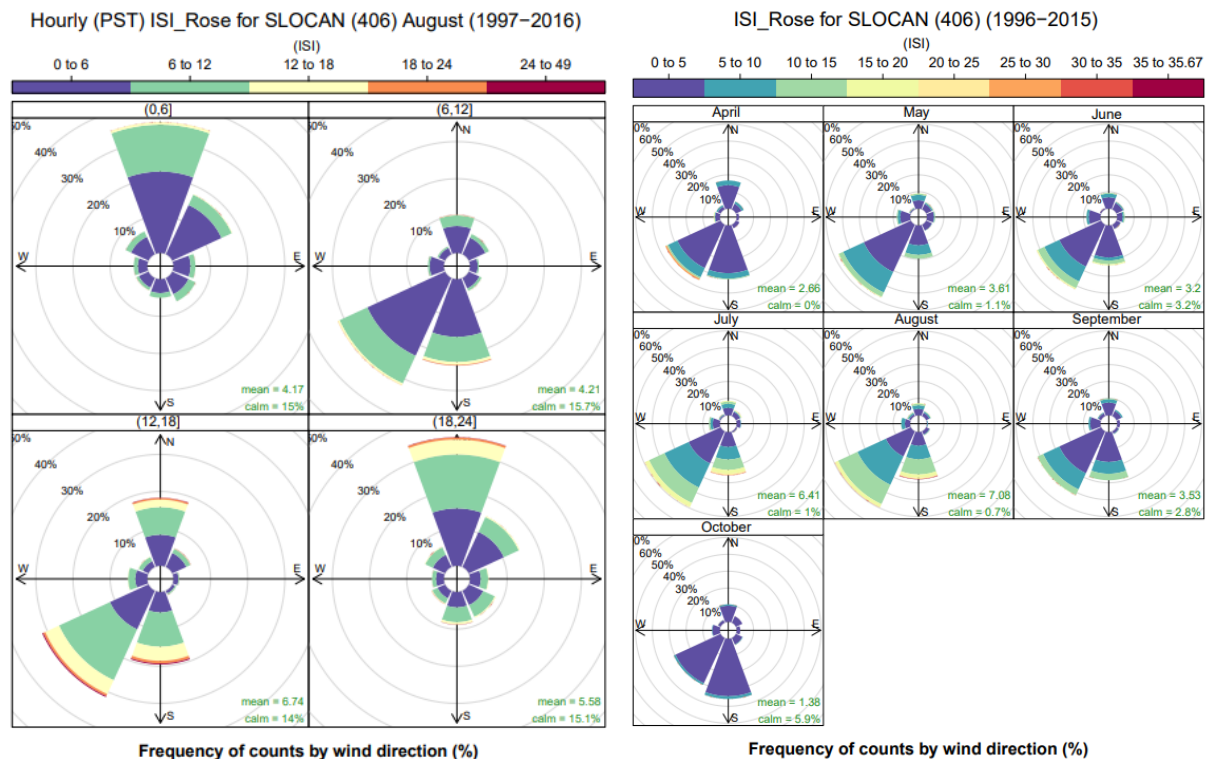


Figure 12. Average hourly ISI values (left, for August) and average monthly values (right, April - October) for the Slocan weather station.

Climate Change

Climate change is a serious and complex aspect to consider in wildfire management planning. Although there are uncertainties regarding the extent of these impacts on wildfire, the frequency, intensity, severity, duration, and timing of wildfire and other natural disturbances are expected to alter significantly with the changing climate. Despite the uncertainties, trends within the data are visible. Understanding these trends

⁴¹ Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative. 2019 (Revised 2020). Regional District of Central Kootenay Area H North and Villages of Silverton and New Denver Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

and their potential impacts is crucial for developing effective wildfire management strategies and ensuring community resilience to climate change.

Climate scientists predict that the warming global climate will trend towards wildfires that are increasingly larger, more intense, and more difficult to control; it is likely that these fires will be more threatening throughout the wildland-urban interface due to increased potential fire behaviour, fire season length, and fire severity. Researchers studying the relationship between climate change and the potential impacts of wildfires on Canadian forests have found that fuel moisture is sensitive to temperature change, and projected spring precipitation increases will be insufficient to counteract the impacts of the projected summer precipitation decreases and increases in temperature. Results conclude that future conditions will include drier fuels and a higher frequency of extreme fire weather days.⁴²

The future daily fire severity rating (a seasonally cumulative value) is expected to have higher peak levels, and head fire intensity is expected to increase significantly in western Canada. The length of fire seasons is expected to increase, and the increase will be most pronounced in the northern hemisphere. Fire season severity seems to be sensitive to increasing global temperatures; larger and more intense fires are expected, and fire management will become more challenging.^{43,44}

Based on findings from the 2010-2010 West Kootenay Resilience and Climate Change research project, SIFCo has integrated the following climate change adaptation concepts into their management planning:⁴⁵

- Climate change will result in dramatic shifts in species composition and vegetation density over the next 60 years.
- Species currently at the edge of their ecological/climate niche (e.g. red cedar in much of the southern portions of the valley) will no longer establish and grow.
- Drought tolerant and fire-resistant species (e.g. ponderosa pine) will become the most ecologically suitable species on many low elevation sites and should be introduced as quickly as possible.
- Current forest density in the ICH subzones will not be supportable under coming moisture and temperature regimes. Forest density will be reduced by management (harvesting, thinning, fuel management) or by wildfire. As temperatures rise and summer moisture inputs decrease, wildfires will be more likely to be catastrophic events that degrade soil and water resources and negatively impact forest structure, composition and function.
- Established large trees of fire-resistant species should be retained in a reduced forest density/ fuel load environment to increase ecosystem resiliency. These trees will have the best chance of surviving the future drought stress and fire events and will maintain forest ecosystem values.

⁴² Flannigan, M.D., B.M. Wotton, G.A. Marshall, W.J. deGroot, J. Johnston, N. Jurko, A.S. Cantin. 2016. *Fuel moisture sensitivity to temperature and precipitation: climate change implications*. Climatic Change (2016) 134: 59-71. Retrieved from: <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs10584-015-1521-0.pdf>.

⁴³ Flannigan, M.D., A.S. Cantin, W.J. de Groot, M. Wotton, A. Newbery, L.M. Gowman. 2013. *Global wildland fire season severity in the 21st century*. Forest Ecology and Management (2013) 294: 54 - 61.

⁴⁴ Jandt, R. 2013. *Alaska Fire Science Consortium Research Brief*. 2013-3.

⁴⁵

4.1.3 Fuel

Understanding the distribution, type, and management of wildland fuels within the plan area 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 the Slocan Lake North WUI.

Slocan Lake exhibits a unique mix of vegetative communities that are influenced by human activities, natural disturbance and the region's geography. On a landscape level, wildfire has had the largest impact on the type and distribution of fuel in the plan area. Approximately 10% of the Slocan Lake North eligible WUI was burnt in the 2024 Slocan Complex wildfires

Mining, residential development, and forestry have also altered the vegetative landscape of the valley. Within the WUI, most harvesting is associated with fuel treatments conducted by SIFCo. Much of the Crown land in the interface from Enterprise Creek to New Denver is in Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) tenure and has been selectively harvested for wildfire risk reduction objectives. Harvesting directly affects fuel type and can alter fire behavior in a stand in the short and long term, depending on factors like post-harvest slash management, planting density, and silvicultural interventions. Licensees in the plan area indicated that slash in most blocks is piled and burned at landings, although BCTS has done some prescribed burning of steeper cable blocks in partnership with BCWS.⁴⁶ Fire management stocking standards have also been adopted in the region.

BCWS explained that like other parts of the RDCK, fire intensity depends more on wind and topography than on fuel composition and structure. However, high fuel-loaded stands regardless of species composition, or immature conifer stands with dense stocking, were cited as issues. Few stands in the plan area are moisture limited, and openings quickly revegetate. SIFCo indicated that manual fuel treatments require re-treatment in 7-10 years due to infill of shade-tolerant conifers.⁴⁷

Fuel Type

The Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) System outlines sixteen fuel types based on characteristic fire behaviour under defined conditions.⁴⁸ BC Wildfire Service maintains a provincial fuel type layer that was confirmed and updated for this plan. It should be noted that mixed conifer stands⁴⁹ in the interior moist belt, within which the WUI is located, have been specifically identified by fire behaviour specialists as an area of uncertainty in the application of the FBP system, and are considered, at best, a poor match with any fuel type.⁵⁰ 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

⁴⁶ Personal communication, Mark Tallman, 2025.

⁴⁷ Personal communication, Stephan Martineau, 2025.

⁴⁸ Forestry Canada Fire Danger Group. 1992. Development and Structure of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System: Information Report ST-X-3.

⁴⁹ 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

⁵⁰ 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. In some areas, aerial imagery is of low spatial resolution and/or ground access was impossible, making fuel type assessment difficult. The provincial fuel type assignment was kept in cases where there was no nearby ground truthing.

The most common fuel types applied to stands in the eligible WUI were C-7 and C-5. C-5 has the lowest threat of the conifer-dominated fuel types and is characterized by low horizontal continuity and a high fuel strata gap. This fuel type was used to characterize treated areas. Creek draws and water receiving areas were classified as D-1/2 or M-1/2 fuel types. However, fuel moisture plays a major part of expected fire behavior, and forest health issues or drought conditions can intensify fire in otherwise lower-hazard forest stands.

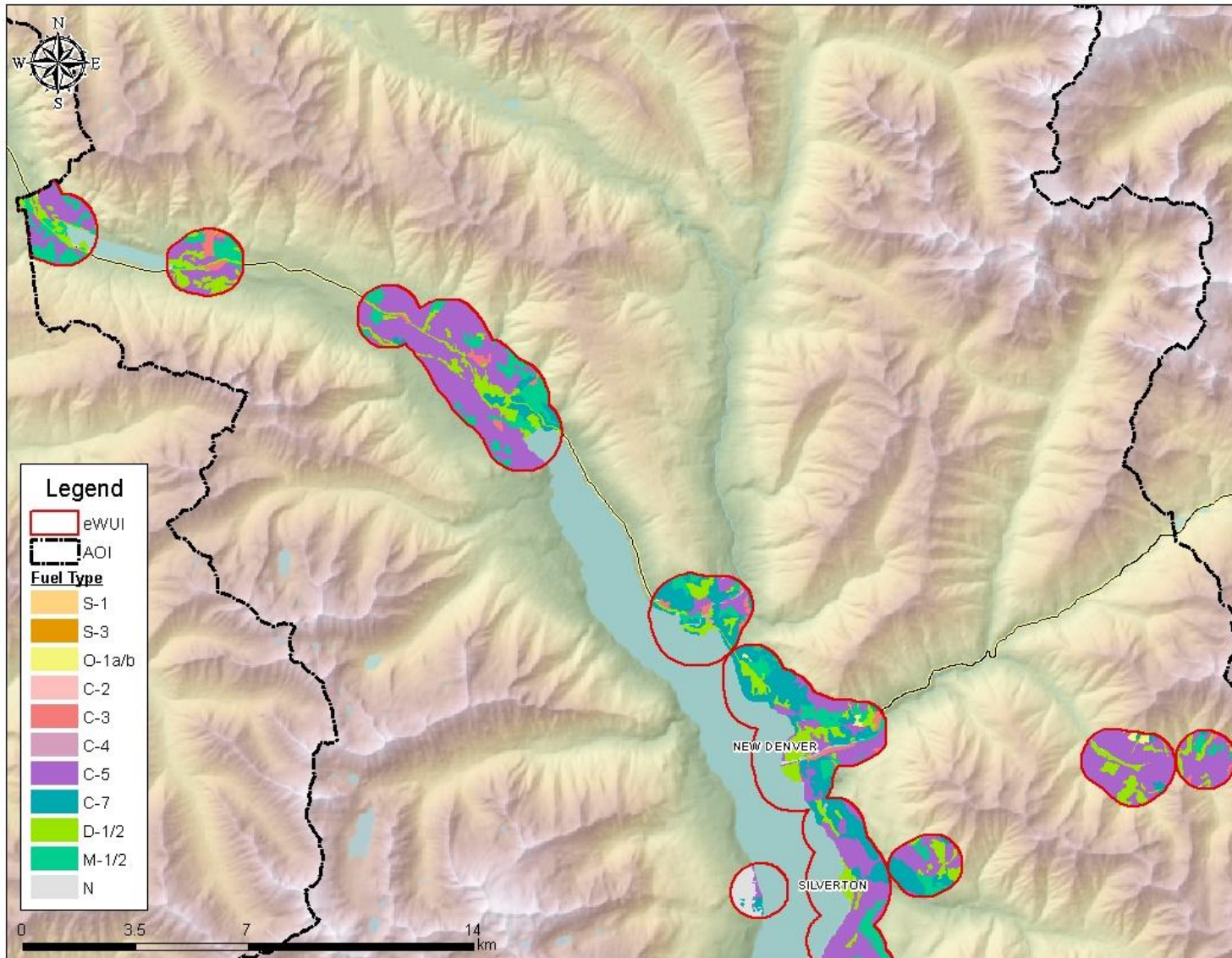
It is important to note that fuel type on private land cannot be classified under the CWRP funding program and has been left out of this analysis. This is a limitation to the analysis; undeveloped or unmaintained private land surrounds most of the individual structures. Private land should not be misconstrued as not susceptible to fire, as these areas still often contain combustible materials and flammable landscaping vegetation. Assessing risk on private property near homes is within the scope of FireSmart assessments.

Table 15 lists the percentage of fuel types and associated wildfire behaviour within the WUI; fuel types are displayed on Map 6 and Map 7.

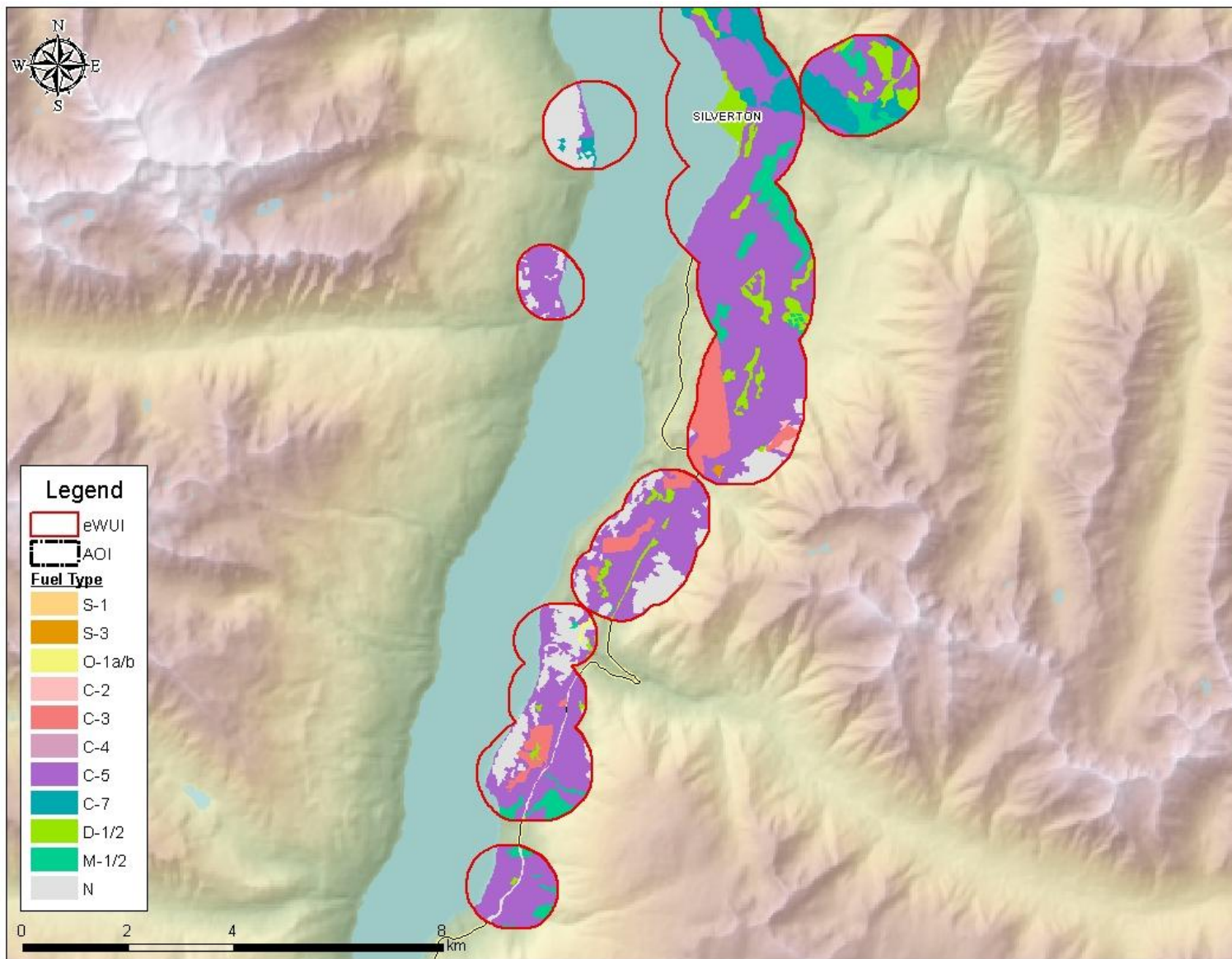
Table 15. Fuel types in public land of the Slocan Lake North eligible WUI.

Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Area (Ha)	Percent of Public Land
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.	370	4%
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.	3	0%
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.	4336	45%
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.	966	10%

Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Area (Ha)	Percent of Public Land
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.	1029	11%
M-1/2	Moderately well-stocked mixed stands of conifer and deciduous, low to moderate dead stems and down woody fuels. Often transition to become more conifer dominated as pioneer deciduous species die out if disturbance is excluded.	Surface, torching and crowning, moderate to very high intensity and spread rate (depending on slope and percent conifer and season (in leaf vs leafless)).	920	10%
N	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	428	4%
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.	30	0%
S-1, S-2, 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.	3	0%
W	Water and riparian features (e.g., rivers, streams, waterbodies, wetlands)	N/A	1566	16%
Private			2663	-



Map 6. Verified fuel types in the north portion of Slocan Lake North eligible WUI.



Map 7. Verified fuel types in the south portion of Slocan Lake North eligible WUI.

4.2 Wildfire History

4.2.1 Natural Disturbance Regime

The ecological context of wildfire and the historic role of fire in the local ecosystem is an important basis for understanding wildfire threat to a community. The plan area can be classified into Natural Disturbance Types (NDT) using the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) system. The BEC system 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 NDTs within the WUI are displayed in Map 8 and summarized below in Table 16. Most of the plan area (66% of the entire WUI) is within the Interior Cedar Hemlock moist warm (ICHmw2) subzone, Slocan variant. This is associated with an NDT2 classification – ecosystems with infrequent, stand-initiating fires. This subzone occurs on the valley bottom and mid-slope, above the ICHdw1, and is characterized by warm, moist summers and cool or mild moist winters with moderate snowfall.

Approximately 20% of the WUI is within the Interior Cedar Hemlock dry warm (ICHmw2) subzone, West Kootenay variant, with an associated NDT3 classification. NDT3 ecosystems are characterized by frequent stand-initiating fires. According to the BC Biodiversity Guidebook, these ecosystems have frequent wildfires that range from small spot fires to conflagrations covering tens of thousands of hectares.⁵¹ 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.

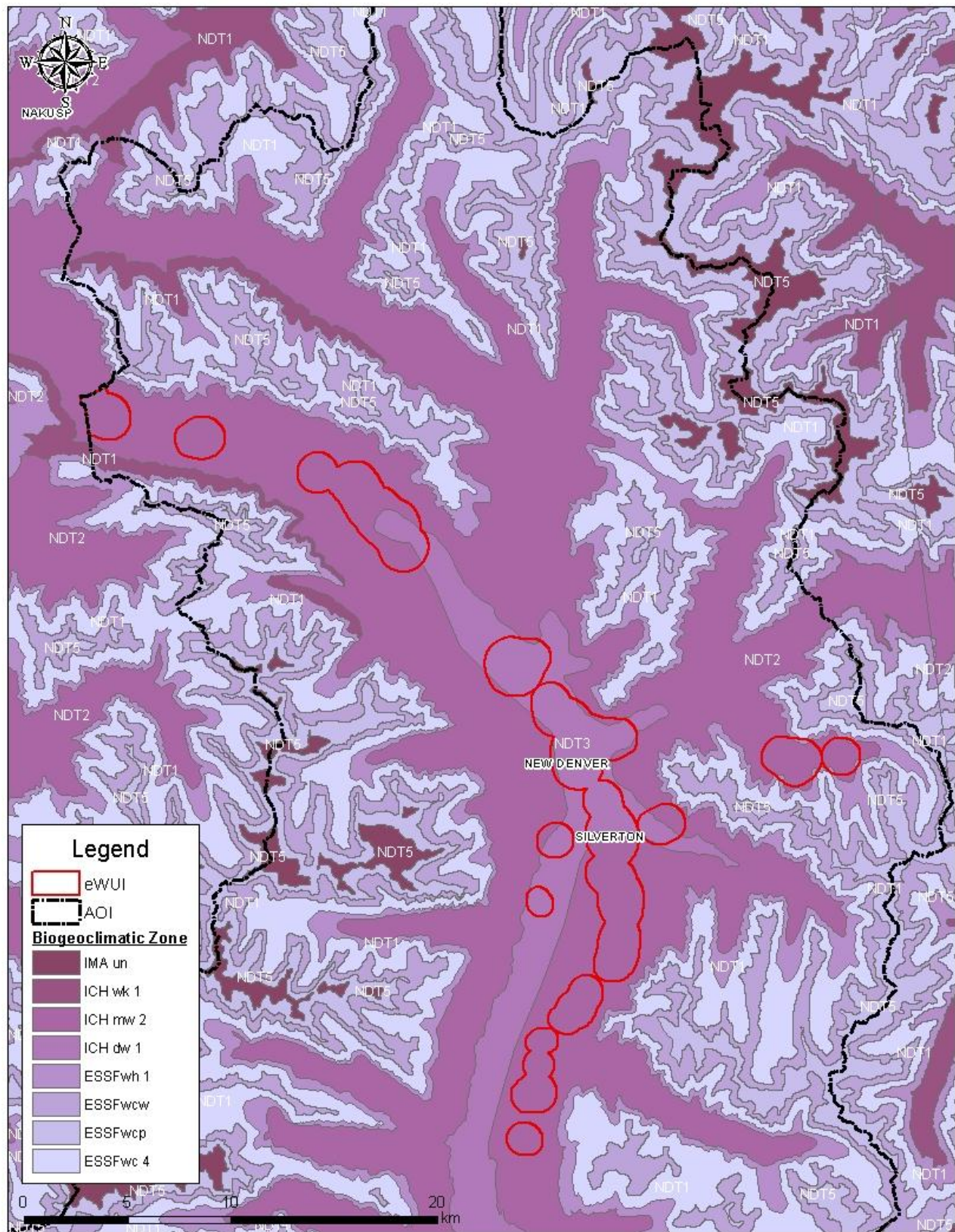
It is important to consider that fire regimes in the region were likely shaped in part by pre-settlement cultural burning practices by First Nations. It is also important to consider that, in the future, BEC (and associated NDT) distributions will likely shift because of climate change.

Table 16. Biogeoclimatic zone and associated natural disturbance type in and surrounding Slocan Lake North.

Biogeoclimatic Zone	Natural Disturbance Type	Area (ha)	Percent of Eligible WUI (%)
Engelmann Spruce Subalpine Fir Wet Cold - Selkirk variant (ESSFwc4)	NDT1	1497	5%
Engelmann Spruce Subalpine Fir Wet Cold - Parkland variant (ESSFwcp)	NDT5	93	0%
Engelmann Spruce Subalpine Fir Wet Cold - Woodland variant (ESSFwcw)	NDT1	482	2%
Engelmann Spruce Subalpine Fir Wet Hot – Columbia variant (ESSFwh1)	NDT1	1763	6%

⁵¹ Forest Practices Code of British Columbia. 1995. *BC Biodiversity Guidebook September 1995*. Retrieved from: [Biodiversity Guidebook \(Forest Practices Code of British Columbia, September 1995\) \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/biodiversity/guidebook/forest-practices-code-of-british-columbia-september-1995/)

Biogeoclimatic Zone	Natural Disturbance Type	Area (ha)	Percent of Eligible WUI (%)
Interior Cedar Hemlock Dry Warm West - Kootenay variant (ICHdw1)	NDT3	6235	20%
Interior Cedar Hemlock Moist Warm – Slocan variant (ICHmw2)	NDT2	20593	66%
Interior Cedar Hemlock Wet Cool - Shuswap variant (ICHwk1)	NDT1	400	1%



Map 8. Biogeoclimatic (BEC) zones and Natural Disturbance Types (NDT) distribution in Slocan Lake North.

4.2.2 Previous Wildfire Occurrences

The Kootenay region has a history of large mixed-severity and stand-replacing fires, predominately due to lightning strikes. 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 and visibility of the underlying geology. Figure 9 below displays ignitions, based on source, resulting in large fires (i.e., greater than 100 ha) from the last century (1915-2025) for the plan area and the surrounding 10 km. It is apparent that there has been an uptick in large fires in the last 30 years, compared to mid-century, and that the predominant cause of large fire is lightning.

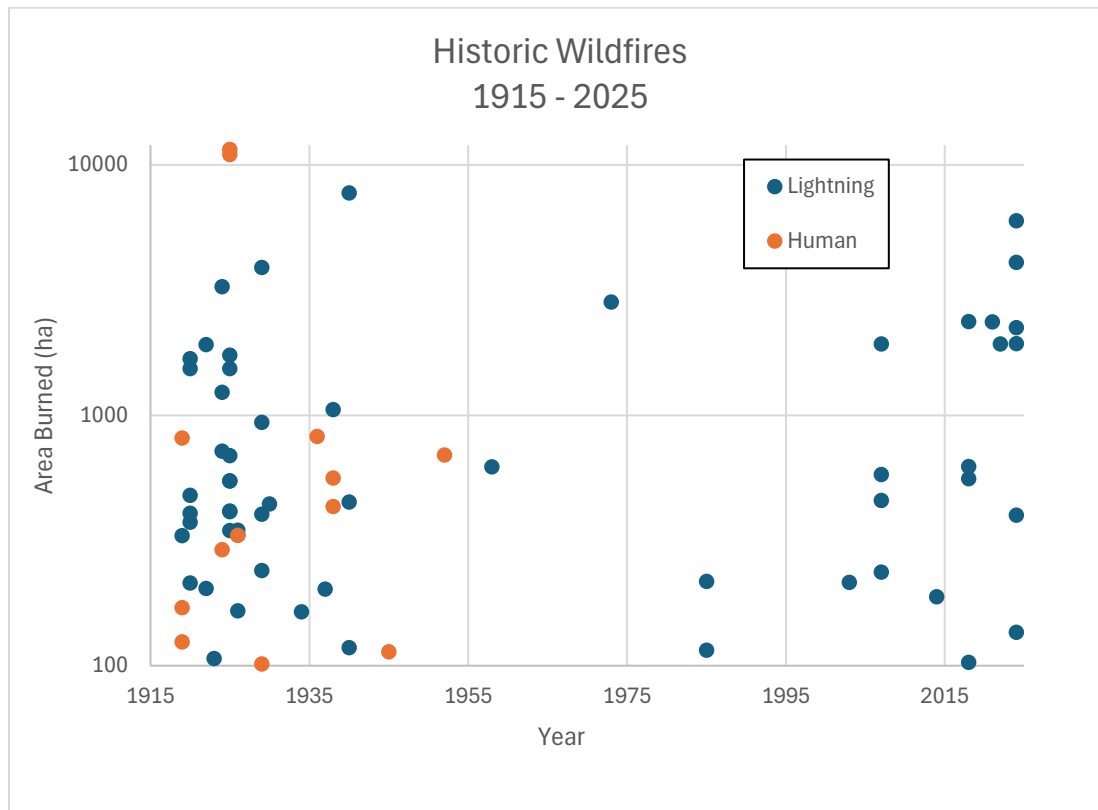


Figure 9. Historic wildfires over 100 ha in size from 1915 to 2025 in the plan area and surrounding 10 km.

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. Figure 10 below displays the frequency of wildfire ignitions, grouped by ignition source, from 1950 to 2024. Lightning strikes account for 70% of ignitions, while 16% are human-caused, and 14% are of unknown or undetermined cause. Historic wildfire perimeters and ignition sources, from 1912-2024, are displayed below on Map 5 for an area within five kilometers of the WUI.

BCWS indicated that lightning is responsible for most fires in the plan area and “lightning busts” are common in July and August, where a thunderstorm rolling across a region starts several fires in a single

day – often 10 or more.⁵² Simultaneous fires can challenge resource availability, especially for initial attack. Storms are especially problematic when the lightning is “dry” – not associated with nearby precipitation.

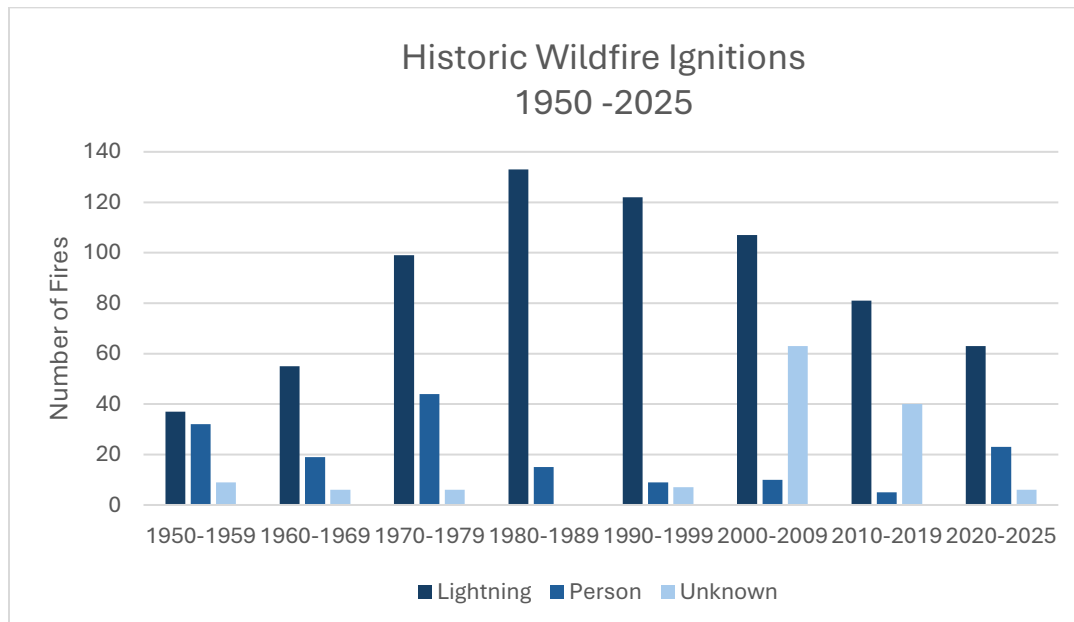


Figure 10. Historic wildfire ignitions from 1950 -2025 by ignition source.

Several wildfires of note have occurred since the last CWPP in 2020, most notably the 2024 Slokan Complex. The complex included five fires that were all discovered within a week of each other following a dry lightning bust over Slokan Lake.^{53,54} The Aylwin Creek fire (N51065) was discovered on July 18th followed by the Komonko Creek fire (N51210) the following day. The fires later merged with a total size of 4,082 ha. Evacuation orders were issued for the entire Village of Silverton and over 140 properties in RDCK Electoral Area H, including Enterprise Creek, Red Mountain Road, and rural Silverton.⁵⁵ Five homes and 13 other structures were reportedly destroyed or damaged.⁵⁶ Part of this fire burned into the perimeter of the 2007 Springer Creek fire (N50372). Highway 6 was also closed south of Silverton, forcing evacuees towards Nakusp and Kaslo. Another smaller interface fire of note in 2020 was the 20.7 ha Wilson Creek fire (N51614), discovered July 24th, that burned just above Highway 6 between Rosebery and New Denver. This fire resulted in the evacuation of 16 properties.⁵⁷

⁵² Personal communication, Adriana Burton, 2025.

⁵³ BC Wildfire Service. 2024 Wildfire Season Summary. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/about-bcws/wildfire-history/wildfire-season-summary>. Accessed Jan 2, 2026.

⁵⁴ Slokan Complex included the Aylwin Creek, Komonko Creek, Nemo Creek (Area H North), Mulvey Creek and Ponderosa FSR (Area H South) fires.

⁵⁵ RDCK. Information Bulletin – Wildfires in the RDCK – July 21 Update. <https://www.rdck.ca/information-bulletin-wildfires-in-the-rdck-july-21-update/>. Accessed Jan 2, 2026.

⁵⁶ The Canadian Press. August 14, 2024. Focus on recovery after fire's 'heartbreaking' destruction: mayor of Slokan, B.C. https://www.thecanadianpressnews.ca/prairies_bc/bc/focus-on-recovery-after-fires-heartbreaking-destruction-mayor-of-slokan-b-c/article_b868451a-f239-5416-bac8-c62a4431d2ab.html

⁵⁷ RDCK. Evacuation Order issued due to Wilson Creek wildfire. <https://www.rdck.ca/evacuation-order-issued-due-to-wilson-creek-wildfire/>. Accessed Jan 2, 2026.

On the other side of Slocan Lake, the Nemo Creek wildfire (N51103) was discovered July 17th and burned 5,980 ha from Indian Creek (across the lake from Enterprise Creek) to the northern boundary of Valhalla Provincial Park, across from New Denver. An evacuation order was issued for 21 waterfront parcels on the west shore of Slocan Lake, and a portion of Valhalla Provincial Park.⁵⁵ Five cabins and outbuildings were reportedly destroyed or damaged.⁵⁶ At the south end of Slocan Lake, the Mulvey Creek (N51117) and Ponderosa FSR (N51069) fires were also discovered July 18th and burned 2,235 and 1,931 ha respectively in proximity to the Village of Slocan. The Trozzo Creek (N51705) and Mt. Ruppel (N51724) fires also burned thousands of hectares south and east of Slocan in 2021.

Post-fire risk analyses for the Slocan Lake Complex and other large fires in the RDCK have been commissioned by the Ministry of Forests to assess burn severity and identify potential hazards, including debris flows, rockfall, flooding, erosion, and sedimentation.⁵⁸ A reconnaissance (Level 2) report published in September 2024 for the Komonko Creek fire identified high hazard in some drainages due to burn severity.⁵⁹ A more detailed (Level 3) assessment recommended to verify the risk to private residences and infrastructure. Assessments have also been conducted for the Mulvey Creek and Ponderosa FSR fires.



Figure 13. Lightning-caused Alywin Creek wildfire pictured from the air on July 19, 2024.⁶⁰

⁵⁸ RDCK. *Post-emergency hazard reports*. <https://www.rdck.ca/development-sustainability/development-community-sustainability-services/emergency-management/recovery/hazardreports/>. Accessed Jan 12, 2026.

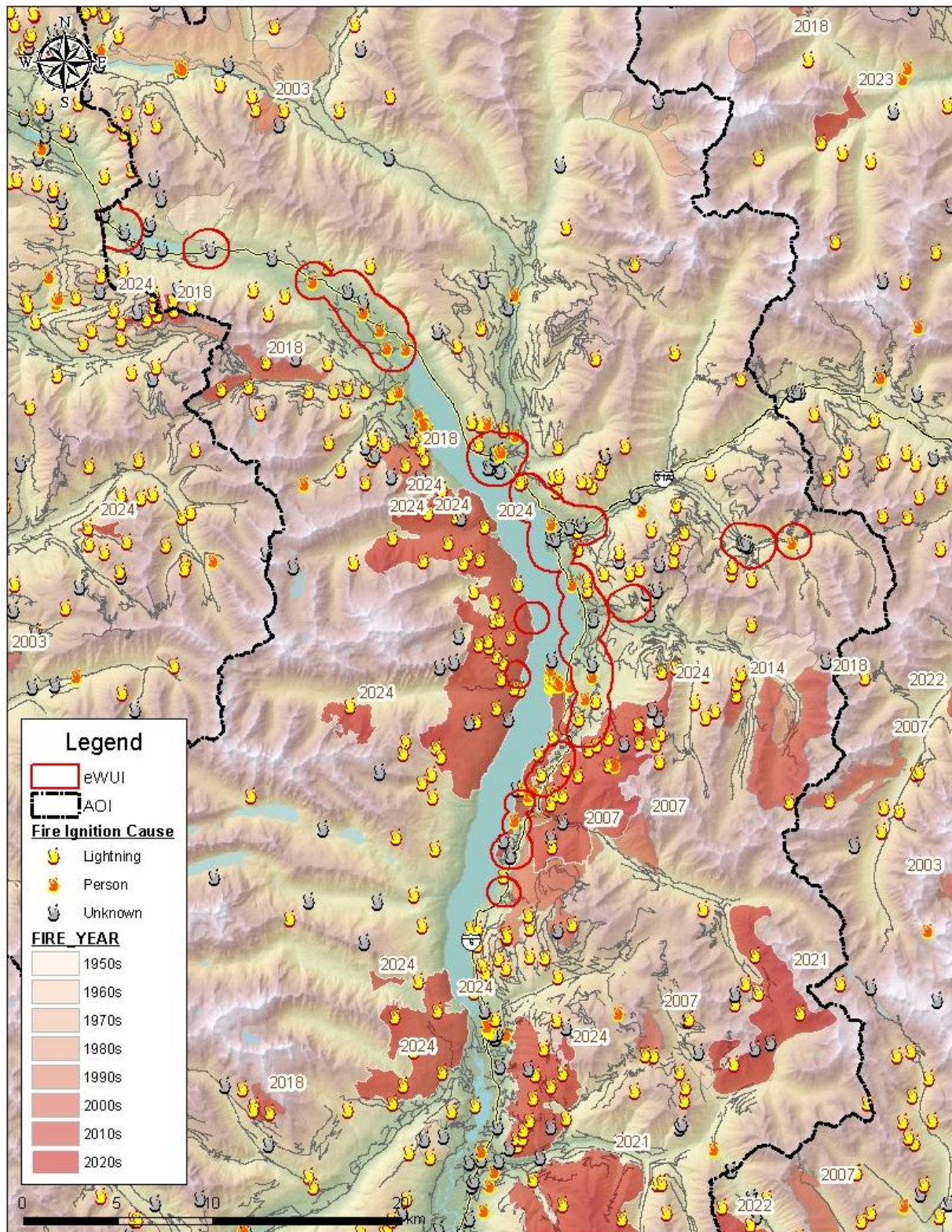
⁵⁹ Ministry of Forests. 2024. MINISTRY OF FORESTS: POST-WILDFIRE NATURAL HAZARD RISK ANALYSIS KOMONKO CREEK - LEVEL 2 RECONNAISSANCE REPORT. https://rdck.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/pwnhra%20level%20report_komonko_signed.pdf

⁶⁰ BCWS photo accessed from CBC News article. July 24, 2024. *Residents of Silverton, B.C., ordered to leave due to wildfire*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/silverton-evacuation-order-wildfire-july-24-1.7274764>

An interesting outcome of the 2024 Slocan Complex was the ‘testing’ of many fuel treatments areas. SIFCo and BCWS indicated that fire behavior in the fuel treated areas was variable, but that in terms of providing anchor points for suppression efforts (backburning, fire guards, safer crew movement), they were largely successful. Many treatment areas still burnt, albeit with altered fire behavior. Anecdotally, lower fire severity but faster rates of spread were observed in ‘Type 2’ treatments (a partial harvest of overstorey trees followed by manual/mechanical ladder and surface fuel abatement).⁶¹

SIFCo indicated that the most successful treatment-wildfire interaction was with the Alywin fire at Bannock Point recreation site and campground. 15 ha had been treated in 2018 and the fire appears to have been held at the point.

⁶¹ Personal communication, Stephan Martineau, 2025.



Map 9. Historical fire ignitions and occurrences around Slocan Lake North, from 1919-2024. Recent fires around Slocan Lake clockwise from top left: Nemo Creek, Komonko Creek, Mt. Ruppel, Trozzo Creek, Ponderosa FSR, and Mulvey Creek.

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 nonprivate land parcels in BC, designed to consistently assess and map different aspects of wildfire threat and risk around the province.⁶² 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 over areas of higher (>6 structures per km²) structure density 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 eligible 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 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 Table 17 and Map 10 below. Communities in the plan area are all in provincially defined Risk Class 1 Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Class polygons (Appledale, New Denver, Sandon, Hills, Summit Lake), which reflect the highest wildfire risk rating.

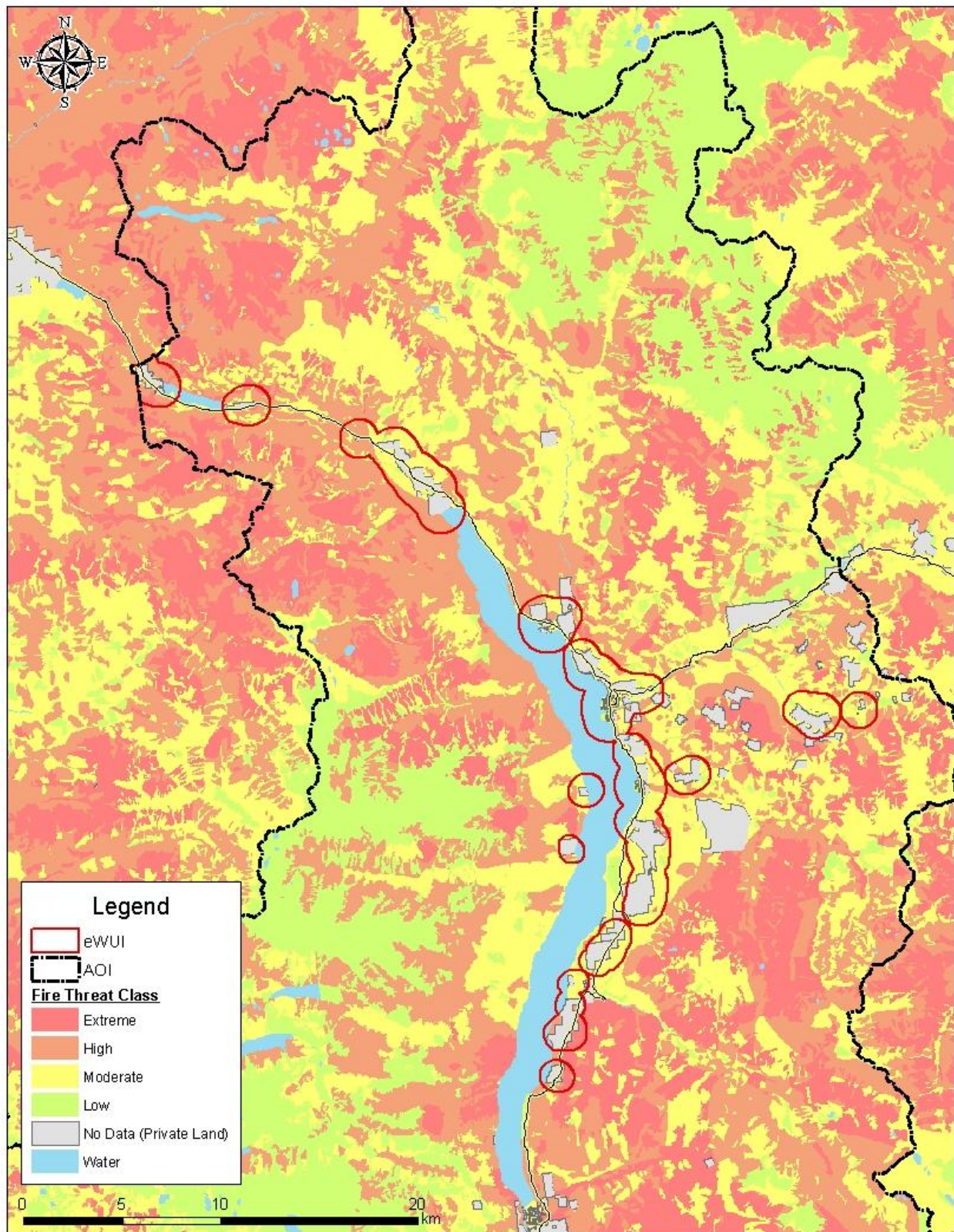
The PSTA Fire Threat rating integrates coarse scale, provincially determined wildfire threat components such as fire likelihood (historical fire occurrence), potential fire severity (fire weather conditions and fuel type), and wildfire propagation potential (spotting). Notably, this threat analysis does not extend onto private land.

Table 17. PSTA Fire Threat Rating for Slocan Lake North eligible WUI.

PSTA Fire Threat			
Threat Class	Hectares	Percentage (%) of Eligible WUI	% of Assessable Public Land (excluding water)
Extreme	3428	13%	15%
High	8831	34%	39%

⁶² Province of BC. 12 May 2023. *2021 Update: Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA)*. [2021 Update: Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis \(PSTA\) - Province of British Columbia](#)

PSTA Fire Threat			
Threat Class	Hectares	Percentage (%) of Eligible WUI	% of Assessable Public Land (excluding water)
Low	692	3%	3%
Moderate	9579	37%	43%
No Data (Private Land)	3340	13%	-
No Data (Private Managed Forest Land)	31	<1%	-
Water	5160	-	-



Map 10. Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) Fire Threat Rating and WUI Risk Class Rating for the eligible WUI in Electoral Area H North.

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 general local wildfire threat assessment process is summarized as follows:

- *Fuel type attribute assessment*: ground truthing/verification and updating as required to develop a local fuel type map.
- *Consideration of the proximity of fuel to the community*: recognizing that fuel closest to the community usually represents the highest hazard.
- *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) (Weather). Wind speed, wind direction, and fine fuel moisture condition influence wildfire trajectory and rate of spread.
- *Consideration of topography in relation to values* (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.

Wildfire Threat Assessments were completed over several days in October 2025 in conjunction with verification of fuel types to support analyses and the development of priority treatment areas. 73 site-level Wildfire Threat Assessments were completed across Electoral Area H, and other field notes (e.g., qualitative notes, fuel type verification, and/or photograph documentation) were made throughout the eligible WUI.

The local threat assessment quantifies threat as it relates to forest/wildland fuels and does 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 Home Ignition Zone of a structure (i.e., the area within 30 m of the principal building on a property and/or its attachments). However, the analyses do provide relevant information regarding wildfire threat that should be considered for FireSmart and emergency management planning and preparedness.

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, depending on the level of risk in the Home Ignition Zone, can pose some threat to homes and structures.
- *High*: Landscapes or stands that are continuous forested fuels that will support candling, intermittent crown fires, or continuous crown fires. These landscapes are often steeper slopes,

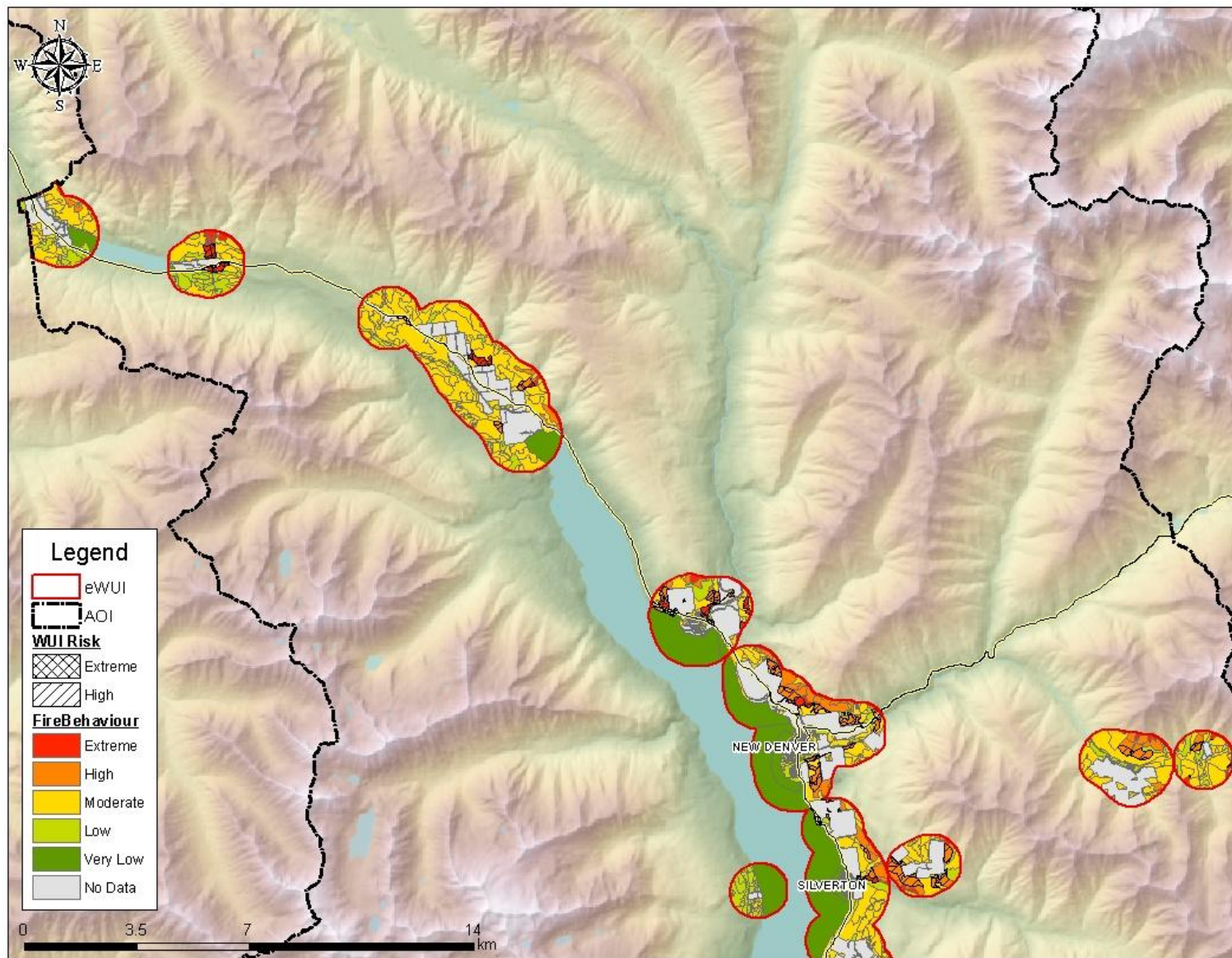
rough or broken terrain, and/or south or west aspects. High behaviour threat polygons may include high indices of dead and downed conifers.

- *Extreme*: Continuous forested land that will support intermittent or continuous crown fires.

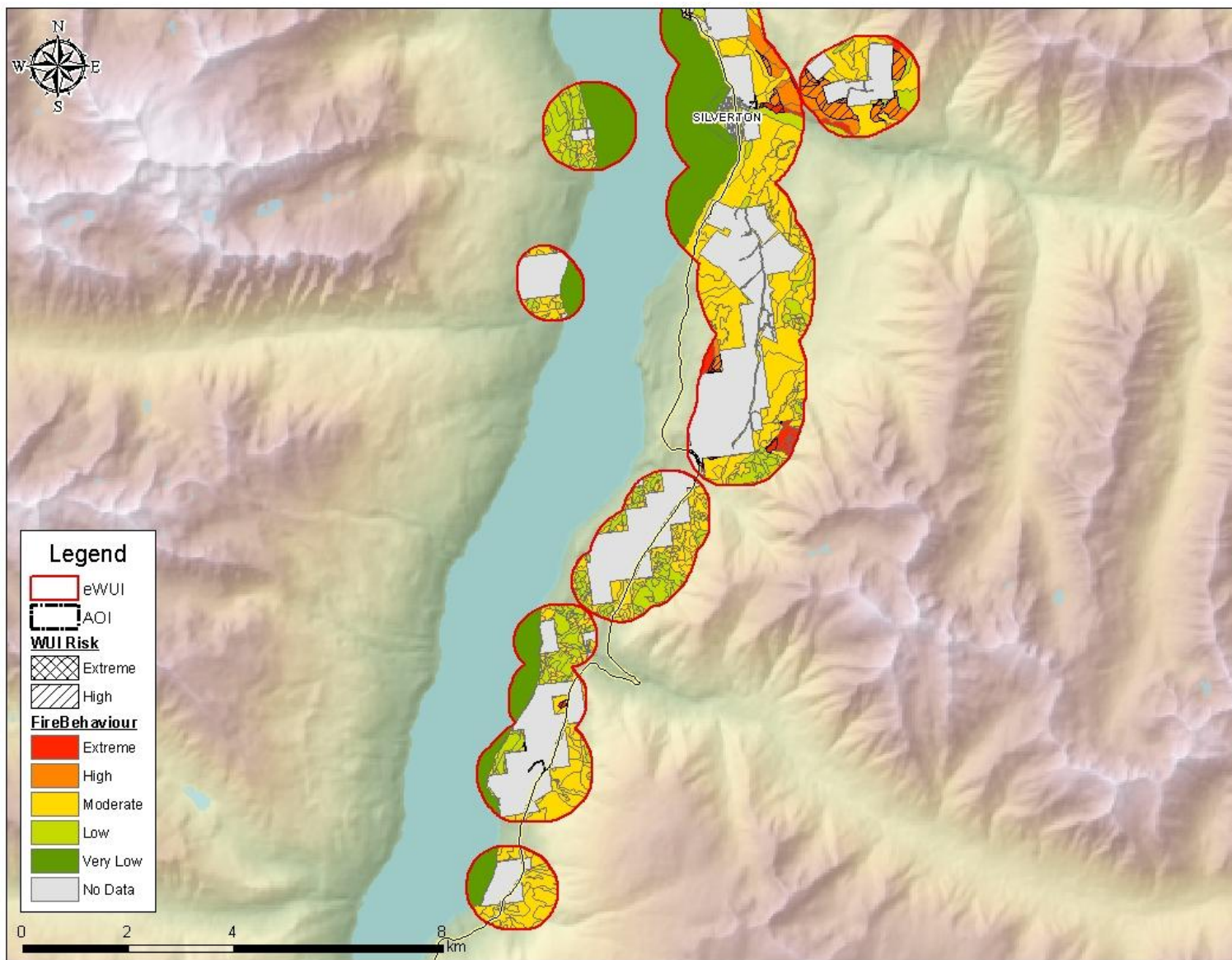
The results of the wildfire threat class analysis are shown on Map 11, Map 12, and in Table 18 below. The local threat analysis shows that 15% of the eligible WUI is classified as extreme or high wildfire threat. 65% of the eligible WUI is classified as moderate threat. The remaining 20% is classified as low threat.

Table 18. Wildfire Threat Class Analysis for the Slocan Lake North eligible WUI.

Wildfire Behaviour Threat			
Threat Class	Hectares	Percentage (%) of Eligible WUI	% of Assessable Public Land (excluding water)
Extreme	193	2%	4%
High	621	6%	11%
Moderate	3567	37%	65%
Low	1069	11%	20%
Very Low/No Threat (Water)	1557	16%	-
No Data (Private Land)	2654	27%	-



Map 11. Local Fire Threat for the north portion of Slocan Lake North eligible WUI.



Map 12. Local Fire Threat for the south portion of Slocan Lake North eligible WUI.

4.4.2 WUI Risk Class Analysis

For this analysis, a WUI Risk Class is quantified when the Wildfire Threat Class (described above) is high or extreme, causing potential 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.
- *Extreme*: The high or extreme threat has potential to directly impact a community or development and is located within 200m from structures.

Table 19 below (and displayed on Map 11 and Map 12) summarizes the risk class ratings within the WUI. Of the 814 ha assigned a High or Extreme Wildfire Threat Class, 367 ha (45%) have a High or Extreme WUI Risk Class. This represents 5% of the assessable public land in the Slocan Lake North WUI. This analysis provides an initial step towards identifying priority areas/neighbourhoods for directing FireSmart education and fuel management efforts, if practicable.

Table 19. WUI Risk Class Summary for the Electoral Area H North eligible WUI.

WUI Risk			
Risk Class	Hectares	% of Entire Eligible WUI	% of Assessable Public Land
Extreme	75	1%	1%
High	292	3%	4%
N/A (Moderate, Low, Very Low <i>Wildfire Threat Class</i>)	6640	69%	95%
Private / No Data	2654	27%	-

It is also important to note that these analyses exclude private land, which is a significant limitation. These numbers should not be used to rationalize a lack of risk in the eligible WUI, as there are large areas for which information is not available. In addition, this risk analysis is concerned with proximity to values; there are many other values that may be impacted by fire that are not accounted for, such as species and ecosystems at risk. Therefore, the risk analysis should be used as a tool to help highlight areas for prioritization of FireSmart education efforts and fuel mitigation activities.

4.5 Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment

The provincial *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* requires local authorities to prepare an Emergency Management Plan, addressing all hazards present to and potential impacts on the

community.⁶³ A Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment (HVRA) is a tool that local governments can use to fulfill this hazard assessment requirement.

The purpose of an HRVA is to help a community make risk-based choices to address vulnerabilities, mitigate hazards, and prepare for response and recovery from hazard events. The process assesses potential harm, their likelihood of occurring, the severity of their possible impacts, and who or what is particularly exposed or vulnerable to these impacts.⁶⁴ Part of the HVRA process is the development of a locally derived inventory of critical infrastructure and community assets. Emergency Management and Climate Readiness BC provides both a Critical Infrastructure Assessment Tool and an online HVRA tool to assist communities with this process.⁶⁵

An HRVA has not been completed in the RDCK; 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 H and the Villages of New Denver and Silverton (or the RDCK as a whole), the RDCK should look to the most recent CWRP and reference the completed wildfire threat class analyses as well as recommendations. The RDCK is planning to update their HVRA is 2026/2027, and Silverton is currently working on an HVRA.

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, CrossTraining, 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, the Village of Silverton, and the Village of New Denver have or participate in active FireSmart programs that are well staffed and funded to complete residential education activities. Since the development of the 2020 CWPP, most recommendations have been wholly or partially implemented (see Appendix A: Review of 2020 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 and surrounding homes (the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone) combine to provide fire pathways allowing

⁶³ Bill 31: *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*. 2023. First Reading, 2023, 42nd Parliament, 4th Session. [Bill | Legislative Assembly of BC](#)

⁶⁴ Government of BC. 2020. *HRVA Example Report*. [hrva-forms-step-8-anytown-bc-sample-hrva-report.pdf](#)

⁶⁵ More information can be found here: [Emergency plan assessment tools - Province of British Columbia](#)

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.⁶⁶ Increasing ignition resistance would reduce the number of homes simultaneously on fire; extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result in WUI fire disasters.⁶⁷ It is for this reason that the key to reducing structure loss in the WUI during interface fires is to reduce the ignitability of structures themselves. The primary responsibility for mitigation lies with property or 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 FireSmart Community Overview

During CWRP development, FireSmart risk and resiliency factors for the communities in Slocan Lake North were documented (Table 18). This assessment incorporates field and satellite imagery observations, as well as information from project participants. Overall, development outside of New Denver and Silverton is intermixed into the forest. Where defensible space (e.g. cleared land) exists, it is rarely continuous. Additionally, there are many single access and egress roads.

The sections to follow provide information on each FireSmart discipline as it relates to Slocan Lake North. 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 the RDCK, Village of New Denver, and Village of Silverton. Most actions are fundable through the CRI FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program, or the Columbia Basin Trust. Each recommendation includes a rationale, lead agency, timeline, and estimated resources to complete.

Table 20. FireSmart vulnerability and resilience factors for plan area communities.

Community	Vulnerabilities	Resilience Factors
Enterprise Creek	Long forested driveways Forested bench between Highway 6 and Slocan Lake Highly intermixed Majority outside of New Denver Fire Protection Area	Some structures have cleared defensible space (farm fields)
Red Mountain Road	Highly intermixed Forested bench above Highway 6 No hydrants	Two access points to Highway 6 Shorter driveways Structures have cleared defensible space

⁶⁶ Cohen, J. Preventing Disaster Home Ignitability in the Wildland-urban Interface. Journal of Forestry. p 15 - 21.

⁶⁷ 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 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3896199/>.

Community	Vulnerabilities	Resilience Factors
		Within New Denver Fire Protection Area
Silverton	Dense development (especially commercial core) Rural Silverton: most homes are mid-slope Forest interface	Flat bench at lakeshore Hydrants and good lake access Within New Denver Fire Protection Area (including Rural Silverton)
New Denver	Dense development Forest interface Carpenter Creek bridge separates town Denver Siding / Highway 31A: mid-slope development	Flat bench at lakeshore Hydrants and good lake access Access/egress via Hwy 6 or Hwy 31A Within New Denver Fire Protection Area (including rural New Denver)
Sandon	One way in/out Sandon Road Mid-slope position in forested drainage	Potential creek access
Rosebery	Forest interface and intermix Small lots Rosebery Highlands: cleared	Flat bench at lakeshore Hydrants (Highlands) and good lake access Within New Denver Fire Protection Area
Hills	Forest intermix Outside of New Denver Fire Protection Area	Defensible space (farm fields) Independent fire brigade Close to lake
Summit Lake	Forest intermix Outside of New Denver Fire Protection Area	Close to lake

5.2 Education

Public education and outreach play a critical role in helping a community prepare for and prevent a wildfire emergency, and also build trust in emergency responders. Awareness of wildfire risk is important, but this needs to be paired with an understanding 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 communities in Electoral Area H through a well-developed FireSmart program which began over 18 years ago with the completion of a CWPP in 2008 for communities and fire protection areas, including the Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, and New Denver/Silverton Fire Protection Area.⁶⁸ The RDCK hires staff annually to implement the FireSmart program. During the 2025 fire season, there was one FireSmart Coordinator and six full-time Wildfire Mitigation Specialists across the region, including one resident of Slocan Lake North.

⁶⁸ RDCK. 2008. Community Wildfire Protection Plans – Risk Assessment and Hazard Mitigation Options for Four Application Areas in the Region (Part 1).

Specifically in Electoral Area H between 2018 and 2025, there were 422 FireSmart Assessments completed and 93 rebates awarded. Electoral Area H is one of the most engaged in the RDCK, with 1 in 7 properties having an assessment completed.⁶⁹ Although demand for the program has grown every year, especially since the 2024 fires, the RDCK is able to deliver assessments when requested and no capacity issues were identified. In 2025 alone, RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Specialists spent over 60 hours at public events in Electoral Area H.

There are currently six recognized FireSmart Neighbourhoods in Area H North: Rosebery, Rosebery North, Valhalla Lakeside Resort, Valhalla View Road/Kokanee Falls Strata, Summit Lake, and the Orchard in New Denver. In 2026 the RDCK is moving towards supporting the new FireSmart BC Local FireSmart Collective Program – a provincial iteration of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP).

SIFCo has administered a FireSmart program – the Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program (SVWRP) – on behalf of the Villages of Slocan, Silverton, and New Denver since 2019. FireSmart home assessments and rebates, critical infrastructure FireSmart assessments and mitigation work, FireSmart demonstration projects, public education events, and fuel treatments have completed through the program. SVWRP has also supported the FCNRP, with one neighbourhood each in Slocan and New Denver recognized.

FireSmart Education activities that have been completed or are ongoing include:

- FireSmart Home Assessments (422 in Electoral Area H to date, 71 in the Village of New Denver, and 6 in the Village of Silverton; previously the Home Partner Program, now the FireSmart BC Wildfire Mitigation Program);
- Distribution of FireSmart educational materials to residents at markets and events;
- FireSmart demonstration projects: FireSmart house (RDCK), New Denver Community Gym, Silverton Fire Hall + Wildfire Resiliency Garden
- RDCK social media updates with FireSmart information and fire danger ratings, and print advertising;
- Fire danger rating signage installed at entrances to community (Silverton, through SVWRP);
- FireSmart workshops and presentations;
- Neighbourhood FireSmart days in support of the FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition Program.

Because of the large amount of private property within the WUI and the understanding that homes, landscape vegetation, and all other manner of flammable and combustible materials are considered fuel in the wildfire triangle, a strong 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 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.

⁶⁹ Personal communication, RDCK FireSmart Coordinator, January 2026.

See Table 1 in the Executive Summary for recommended FireSmart Education actions that the RDCK, the Village of Silverton, and the Village of New Denver can implement in the plan area.

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 its immediate surroundings. This tenant forms the basis of the ‘Home Ignition Zone,’ which FireSmart BC defines as the area within 30 m of homes and structures. Legislation, planning, and development standards all play a 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:⁷⁰

- 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 14 of the Electoral Area North Official Community Plan (OCP) 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. No gaps with OCP language as it related to wildfire risk reduction were identified for the RDCK.

The Village of New Denver OCP has a general policy to inform residents on interface fire hazards but does not explicitly recognize wildfire as a hazard in Section 11. The Village of Silverton OCP does recognize wildfire as a hazard in Section 3. Neither municipality has a Wildfire Hazard Development Permit Area

⁷⁰ FireSmart BC. Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan Instruction Guide 2024. Retrieved from: <https://www.ubcm.ca/crj/firesmartcommunity-funding-supports>

(DPA) in place, but New Denver has text drafted. Staff from both Villages expressed plans to adopt a Wildfire DPA as part of upcoming OCP updates. New Denver has already had Wildfire DPA text drafted for OCP integration.

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.⁷¹ A lack of staff capacity and limited interest from elected officials and residents has tempered interest in a Wildfire DPA throughout most of the RDCK. However, staff indicated that the RDCK has implemented 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 have been identified as supporting medium and higher density residential development, Wildfire Protection DPAs help ensure that new developments are designed to minimize wildfire hazard and contribute to the fire safety of the neighbourhood, thus limiting property damage should a wildfire occur. However, an increase in upfront building costs are a common concern for residents due to the higher cost of many FireSmart construction materials.

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, the Village of Silverton, and the Village of New Denver were reviewed through a wildfire lens.

The lack of a bylaw regulating open burning in Electoral Area H and Silverton (anywhere outside of the Village of New Denver) 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. When it comes to industrial burning, BCWS staff indicated that there are several fire escapes from Category 2, 3, or resource management fires every year, usually associated with underestimates of fire danger indices or

⁷¹ Urban 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_ReportRedacted.pdf

fires left to smoulder overnight in the fall.⁷² Non-compliance with requirements under the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR) was also cited as an issue in the plan area,⁷³ which can lead to poor air quality, complaints from the public, and an eroded sense of trust in prescribed burning activities.

Part of the Development Considerations discipline is ensuring that all critical infrastructure (described in Section 3.3.1 and listed in Table 12) are constructed or retrofitted to a high FireSmart standard. The Village of Silverton and the Village of New Denver has completed FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments and associated mitigation work on some publicly-owned infrastructure; other community groups, such as the Hills Emergency Services Society, have done the same for their 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.

All local fire departments should maintain a level of wildland-specific training and equipment. New Denver and Area Fire Department indicated that their members are well trained and have adequate wildland firefighting equipment. Ideally, members are trained annually in SPP-WFF1 (Wildland Firefighter Level 1) and WFF-115. Additional course opportunities include Engine Boss and structural protection courses. Regular in-person cross-training between BCWS and structural fire crews can facilitate joint responses to interface wildfires. Local fire departments indicated that cross-training with BCWS occurs regularly; structural fire departments also worked with BCWS on evacuations and structure protection during the 2024 fires.⁷⁴

Table 19 lists the capacity, training level, and wildland firefighting equipment of New Denver and Area Fire Department. Fire brigades that may operate in the plan area (i.e. Hills) are not included as these societies operate independently of the RDCK. Nonetheless, BCWS representatives suggested that some level of cross-training might increase the resilience of these communities, as access is difficult, and BCWS crew response times can be delayed as a result.

FireSmart training for fire departments is also an important consideration to increase community resilience. In 2023 the RDCK initiated an Advanced FireSmart Training Program for RDCK fire department members which is now offered annually. This customized program includes aspects of the three-day Wildfire Mitigation Program workshop. Free FireSmart training courses are also offered online and have been leveraged by some fire departments. Funding to train fire department members is available under the UBCM FCFS program for courses such as:

⁷² Personal communication, Adriana Burton, 2025.

⁷³ Personal communication, Amber Cooke, 2025.

⁷⁴ Personal communication, Adriana Burton, 2025.

- Wildfire Risk Reduction Basics (free and online intro to fuel treatments)
- Fire Life & Safety Educator
- ICS-100 (Incident Command system)
- SPP-WFF1 (Wildland Firefighter Level 1, includes S-100, S-185, ICS-100)
- S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety
- S-185 Fire Entrapment Avoidance and Safety
- S-231 Engine Boss
- WSPP-115 Wildland Structure Protection
- WSPP-FF1 (Train the Trainer)
- TFL-1 & TFL-Advanced (Task Force Leader for structure defense)
- Structure Division / Group Supervisor (for structure defense)
- Local FireSmart Representative Training (free, online)
- Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Training (32 hours)

Table 21. Capacity, training, and resources of fire departments in Slocan Lake North.

Department (Service Area)	Personnel	Wildland Training	Wildland Equipment	Comments
New Denver and Area Fire Department ⁷⁵ (New Denver, Silverton, Red Mountain Road, Rosebery)	~18 members	Some with S-100, S-215	1 4x4 water tanker (2,000 gal.) 1 water tanker (1,500 gal.) 1 four-wheel drive engine (800 gal.) 2 water bladders Portable pumps and hand tools 1 Type 3 SPU trailer, 1 boat	Operated by the Village of New Denver Two fire halls – one in New Denver and one in Silverton

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 in New Denver, Rosebery and Silverton. 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. This reduces the level of fire protection provided, with insurance implications for residents, unless certain requirements (Superior Tanker Shuttle Service; STSS) are met.

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.

⁷⁵ Information carried forwards from the 2020 CWPP.

See Table 1 in the Executive Summary for recommended action items that the RDCK, Silverton, and New Denver 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, multiagency 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, 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 by SIFCo or the Ministry of Forests, 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, representatives from multiple agencies were engaged through email, phone call, and virtual meetings to answer questions and provide feedback. In addition to the RDCK, Village of Silverton, and Village of New Denver, project participants included the Ministry of Forests, BCWS, BC Parks, SIFCo, Kalesnikoff Lumber, BC Timber Sales, and Interfor.

Slocan Lake North is represented by both a regional and sub-regional FireSmart Committee. SIFCo facilitates an active Slocan Valley Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee with membership from the RDCK and Villages of Slocan, New Denver, and Silverton. Meetings occur several times a year. There is also a 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, but nonetheless, escaped resource management fires are responsible for some fires every year. No problems with utility or road rights-of-way maintenance within the plan area were specifically identified. New Denver and Silverton staff both indicated that lines of communication with BC Hydro and the Ministry of Transportation and Transit are open.

Local knowledge, good relationships, and an understanding of activities taking place on the land base is a critical component of emergency response and thus community resilience. On the response side, BCWS works with local companies to source heavy equipment, low beds, and equipment operators ahead of a fire season. These agreements are usually arranged on a contractual basis with the Arrow Fire Zone. BCWS also has good working relationships with both area and volume-based forest licensees in the plan area. SIFCo described how local BCWS Incident Management Teams worked well with SIFCo during the 2021

and 2024 fires to obtain up-to-date information on roads and features on the landscape, and to use existing mapping rather than duplicate it.⁷⁶

See Table 1 for recommended action items that the RDCK, Silverton, and New Denver 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.⁷⁷ 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 Villages of Silverton and New Denver (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, Village of Silverton, and Village of New Denver should promote this notification system, recognizing that there is a portion of Slocan Valley residents who choose to be disconnected on purpose and may be reticent to sign up. Ministry of Forests staff cited communication as a concern during the 2024 fires - residents without cell phones or internet take more time to contact in an emergency.

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 Slocan Lake North include:

- Evacuation of recreation users in the backcountry (Valhalla Provincial Park) and from campgrounds, both vehicle and boat-access;
- Single-access roads and communities, like Sandon
- Access to some Crown land only though private property

⁷⁶ Personal communication, Stephan Martineau, 2025.

⁷⁷ 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-wuifire_revised_july_2016.pdf

- Notification to residents without a landline, cell phone, or internet access

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, government-facing 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 a type of detailed pre-incident plan called a Structure Protection Community Assessment developed for communities in Slocan Lake North with particular emergency planning complications – such as Sandon (single access-egress). 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: one at the Silverton Memorial Hall, one at the Argenta Community Hall, and one at the W.E. Graham Community Service Society in Slocan.⁷⁸ New Denver has recently received a grant to create a local Emergency Support Services (ESS) team and purchase equipment for emergency reception centre operations within the Village and surrounding area.⁷⁹

Recommendations and action items that the RDCK, Silverton, and New Denver can implement to continue productive and effective emergency planning are detailed in Table 1 in the Executive Summary.

5.7 Vegetation Management and Other FireSmart Activities

As discussed in Section Local Wildfire Environment, fuel is the only aspect of the fire behaviour triangle that can be modified to reduce wildfire threat. Fuel or vegetation management reduces potential wildfire intensity and ember 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 fire suppression effectiveness and reduce damage to property and to values.

Vegetation management can largely be accomplished through two different activities:

⁷⁸ RDCK. *Information Bulletin – August 14, 2024*. <https://www.rdck.ca/information-bulletin-august-14-2024/>

⁷⁹ Village of New Denver. 2025. "New Denver Emergency Support Services" [public notice]. [2025-05-28_ND-ESS-Open-House-Article.pdf](#)

1. **FireSmart landscaping:** The removal, reduction, or conversion of flammable plants to create more fire-resistant areas in the FireSmart Home Ignition Zones around residential structures, and critical infrastructure.
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 the likelihood of successful suppression.



Figure 14. FireSmart Home Ignition Zone.⁸⁰

5.7.1 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, the Village of Silverton, and the Village of New Denver focus on a structures-out approach for vegetation management, in line with general 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, encouraging residents to implement FireSmart landscaping should be the priority. Several project participants expressed concern for the lack of FireSmart mitigation and overall vulnerability of properties in the Slokan Valley. Thus, educating (see Section 5.2) and reducing barriers for residents to implement FireSmart landscaping should be the priority.

⁸⁰ FireSmart BC. 2025. "The Home Ignition Zone." [The Home Ignition Zone, Remodelled | FireSmart BC](#)

There are several good programs in place to facilitate vegetation management on private property. Open burning is allowed in the RDCK and Silverton outside of provincial fire bans, and seasonally in the Village of New Denver with a permit. Yard debris can be dropped off for free at the Slocan or Rosebury transfer stations during the months of May and October.⁸¹ Silverton and New Denver run yard waste collection days in spring and fall. FireSmart landscaping is also an eligible activity under the RDCK FireSmart rebate program, which is also offered in Silverton, and in the Village of New Denver through the Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program (SVWRP). Provided residents receive a FireSmart Home Assessment beforehand, they can apply to receive compensation (up to \$5,000 per property in 2025) for their personal hours and materials or hired contractors.

Despite these programs, providing more debris disposal options and continuing to promote collective action may further incentivize residents to undertake FireSmart landscaping on private property. An example, which is usually eligible for UBCM funding, is a driveway chipping program, where yard waste is picked up and removed for free on specific days. New Denver indicated that an application to fund the purchase of a wood chipper had been submitted to Columbia Basin Trust (CBT).⁸² The RDCK and the Villages of Silverton and New Denver can also continue to provide instruction and staff support for neighbourhoods interested in organizing clean-up events. These events are often a part of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition program (FCNRP) and, new as of 2026, the FireSmart BC Local FireSmart Collective Program. Several neighbourhoods in Electoral Area H were recognized in 2025 under the FCNRP.

The SVWRP has been heavily involved with demonstration FireSmart projects, which also serve as an education tool for residents interested in conducting FireSmart work on their own property. The Silverton Fire Hall, New Denver Community Gym, and the SIFCo Wildfire Resiliency Garden are three completed demo projects. Upgrades to the Silverton Fire Hall included replacing vinyl facias and soffits with metal ones; vinyl siding with metal; adding 3mm metal vent screens; replacing old wooden stairs; cleared a 1.5 m non-combustible zone around the building; and installed low density fire resistant and non-combustible rock mulch landscaping within 10 m of the building (Figure 15).⁸³

⁸¹ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/waste-recycling/household-hazardous-waste-round-up/yard-garden-waste-free-tipping.html>

⁸² Personal communication, Jessica Raynor, 2025.

⁸³ Village of Silverton. 2023. "The Silverton Fire Hall and Wildfire Resiliency Garden Project." [SILVERTONFIREHALL | sifco](#)



Figure 15. Silverton Fire Hall. Source: SIFCo website.

5.7.2 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,⁸⁴ 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. Manual fuel treatments in the plan area are typically maintained 7-10 years post-treatment due to infill of shade-tolerant conifers.⁸⁵

Previous Treatments

According to public datasets, 226.8 ha of fuel treatments have been completed within or just outside of the WUI since 2014 (Table 22).⁸⁶ An additional 110.7 ha has been prescribed but not completed on the west side of Hills (Bonanza Creek), with start-up planned for 2026. Note that additional prescriptions and treatments may have been completed on private land or through different funding programs that are not

⁸⁴ BC Wildfire Service. (2022). [2022 Fuel Management Prescription Guidance](#).

⁸⁵ Personal communication, Stephan Martineau, 2025.

⁸⁶ BC Data Catalogue CRI Fuel Treatments and RESULTS – FRE; additional spatial data provided by the Ministry of Forests

systematically tracked. For example, CBT has funded community-lead prescriptions and fuel treatments in Hills and Rosebery that are not included in available datasets.⁸⁷ Map 13 to Map 18 show the known locations of planned and completed fuel treatment units within the plan area. It should be noted that recently the RDCK Regional Wildfire Planning Table used grant funding to build a pilot map dashboard of completed fuel treatments across the region, referred to as the *Wildfire Resiliency Planning Tool*. 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.

Major forest licensees are also collaborating with BCWS and the Ministry of Forests on interface blocks with a wildfire risk reduction objective.⁸⁸ BCTS has planned several timber sales in and above the interface in Slocan Park. Harvesting will take place, followed by a prescription for prescribed burning or other fine fuel clean up. Kalesnikoff has identified a project in Goose Creek and is exploring options to conduct cultural and prescribed burning in a variety of blocks. When it comes to area-based licensees, all of Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) operational planning is intended for wildfire risk reduction, and the community forest is gradually working towards implementing their Strategic Landscape Level Wildfire Protection Plan across their tenure.^{89,90} Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) has similar objectives for their tenure, which extends from Arrow Lake to Summit Lake. New Denver is working with the Sinixt Confederacy to explore the creation of a New Denver Community Forest that would have a similar wildfire risk reduction focus.⁹¹

Proposed Treatments

Funding opportunities for fuel treatments on public land currently exist through the Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) program (administered by the Ministry of Forests), the Forest Enhancement Society of BC, and the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT). The UBCM CRI FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) program may offer funding for fuel treatments in future years but this has been discontinued as of spring 2026.⁹² Identifying and characterizing Fuel Treatment Units (FTUs) in a CWPP or CWRP is an important first step for a local government's fuel management program and can be integral to accessing funding.

Many FTUs from the last CWPP are carried forwards but revised in minor ways. FTUs that were completely outside of the 1 km WUI or had significant access issues were not incorporated into this plan. Using field notes and satellite imagery, features were removed or boundaries updated to exclude harvested or treated areas and aligned with private property, roads, or other mapped features where possible. FTU 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 plan.

⁸⁷ Personal communication, Amber Cooke, 2025.

⁸⁸ Personal communication, Mark Tallman, 2025; Gerald Cordeiro, 2025; Taylor Frehr-Smith, 2025.

⁸⁹ Slocan Integral Forestry Coop. 2017. *Implementation of Slocan Valley Strategic Landscape Level Wildfire Protection Plan*. Access Jan 12, 2026 from <https://www.sifco.ca/wui-management>

⁹⁰ Personal communication, Stephan Martineau, 2025.

⁹¹ Personal communication, Jessica Raynor, 2025.

⁹² Union of BC Municipalities. Jan 28, 2026. *Lack of funds drive changes to FireSmart program*. <https://www.ubcm.ca/about-ubcm/latest-news/lack-funds-drive-changes-firesmart-program>

Therefore, during any future prescription development it is strongly recommended that contracts allow flexibility for contractors to prescribe differently shaped areas. Twenty FTUs were identified and are summarized in Table 23.

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 the core of denser communities like Silverton, New Denver, and Rosebery 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 H North, 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 the Slocan Valley 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.

A summary of recommendations related to vegetation management is detailed in Table 1 of the Executive Summary.

Table 22. Fuel Treatments completed and prescribed in the Slocan Lake North WUI

Treatment Unit Name / Opening ID	Community (Proponent)	Year	Area (ha)	Comment
WRSE0185 (1799480)	Hills (Ministry of Forests)	2025	110.7	<i>Bonanaza Creek Prescriptions – start up planned 2026.</i> Southern unit overlaps with the Nakusp Summit Lake Rail Trail. Northern buffers Highway 6. Overlap with 2020 CWPP FTU (6-Hills). WTA-22 completed within the northern unit.
SWPI645	New Denver (Village of New Denver)	2016	43.6	Completed. Sections of the unit fall within the New Denver municipality boundaries. Buffers the northeastern section of the municipality, and the southern shore of Carpenter Creek. WTA-645 and WTA-646 completed within. Proponent
CRI359	New Denver (Village of New Denver)	2021	7.0	Completed. Most of the unit is within the New Denver municipality boundaries, one section near the New Denver water reservoirs, one along the lakeshore and another section along the southern shoreline of Carpenter Creek. WTA-180 completed within.
SWPI461	Silverton (Village of Silverton)	2014	39.3	Completed. Located NE of Silverton, surrounding a private property parcel. Overlap with Bartlett Creek. WTA-62 completed within.
SWPI851	Silverton (Village of Silverton)	2018	18.2	Completed. Within the SIFCO managed license. Northern unit located between two WR0000314 units, on the east side of Red Mountain Road, and the southern unit buffers Highway 6.
1704088	Bannock Point (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2018	13.1	Completed. Within the SIFCo managed license area. West of Highway 6 along the shoreline of Slocan Lake.
1709514	Red Mountain Road (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2018	17.0	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license area. Located northwest of Ome Road.
WR0000042	Red Mountain Road (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2017	7.0	Completed. Unit is within the SIFCo managed license. Located north of Hasty Creek, and adjacent to a 2020 CWPP proposed FTU (16-Hasty). A 9.6ha planned SIFCo fuel treatment unit (East TU) is located at the end of the unit, fully outside of the eWUI.
1755736	Red Mountain Road (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2021	13.5	Completed. Most of unit falls outside of WUI, but relevant as it buffers the east side of Highway 6. Unit is within the SIFCo managed license. Overlap with a 2020 CWPP proposed FTU (13- Bannock, 15- Bannock).
1755736	Red Mountain Road (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2021	8.1	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. Buffering the southern end of Red Mountain Road and Highway 6. Overlap with 2020 CWPP proposed FTUs (18-Vevey, 19-Aylwin). WTA-81 completed within.
1799998	Red Mountain Road (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2025	16.6	Completed. Within SIFCO managed license. Buffering the southern end of Red Mountain Road, just south of Congo Creek. Adjacent to unit with an opening ID of 1755736. Within a 2020 CWPP proposed FTU (18-Vevey).

Treatment Unit Name / Opening ID	Community (Proponent)	Year	Area (ha)	Comment
1723389	Enterprise Creek (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2019	22.9	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. Surrounding Brahms Creek, north of Enterprise Creek.
1722158	Enterprise Creek (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2019	8.5	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. North of Enterprise Creek, surrounding private residences west of Highway 6.
1652957	Enterprise Creek (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2019	12.0	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. Located west of Brahms Creek adjacent to the Slocan Lake shoreline. Partially beyond eWUI bubble.

Table 23. Proposed Fuel Treatment Units in Slocan Lake North

FTU Number	FTU Name	Priority	Total Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
94	Enterprise Creek	Low	7.5	On Crown land in K2R (SIFCo). Mostly flat ground that anchors to a steep stream gully to the north. Overlap with conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (u-2-004).	A C-3 stand with densely stocked mixed conifer species and continuous ladder fuels situated adjacent to Highway 6 and the 2024 wildfire boundary. Fire guards have been placed for suppression efforts resulting in heavy fuel loading along machine guards. Treatment activities should consider mechanical fuel removal, overstory thinning and manual thin where appropriate. Homes 200m to northeast and 800m to southwest. Adjacent to highway and abuts 2024 wildfire boundary; 2007 wildfire burned on other side of highway. Treatment here could include some salvage harvesting to the east. Low priority due to distance from values and adjacent burnt areas. Landscape treatment.
85	Aylwin Creek	Low	6.3	On Crown land in K2R (SIFCo). Northwest facing slope. Riparian values (Aylwin Creek draw), adjacent to non-legal OGMA upslope.	Previously treated area (2021 manual SIFCo treatment – 2020 CWPP PTU #19 Aylwin) overlaps the PTU; largely C-5 fuel type with Hw, Cw, and Fd as the main tree species. 2024 fire burned through untreated and treated area with mixed severity, resulting in overstory mortality and increased fuel loading with reburn potential. Opportunity to conduct post-wildfire selective harvesting salvage activities to remove dead and downed trees to restore a fuel break anchored to Highway 6. Access unit from north via Red Mountain Road and mine road. Closest homes are on Red Mountain Road to the north, and across Highway 6 to the west. Abuts a 2025 SIFCo Type 2 mechanical treatment across Aylwin Creek to the north (2020 CWPP PTU #18 Vevey (High Priority)). Low CWRP priority due to distance from values and adjacent burnt areas. Landscape treatment.
82	Red Mountain 1	Mod	55.0	On Crown land in K2R (SIFCo). Access from Red Mountain Road. Some steep slopes to the northwest may be netted out at prescription stage. Riparian values (Hasty, Baby Ruth, Fingland Creeks).	This PTU covers a forested gap between private land and the 2024 wildfire. The fuel type is C-5 leading with mature Hw and Cw, and dense pockets of understory trees, contributing to ladder fuels. The unit meets 2024 Komonko Creek fire to the southeast. Slopes are mostly favourable for equipment. Homes are located within 100m. Overlaps 2020 CWPP PTU #17 Fingland (High Priority). Moderate CWRP priority due to nearby homes on Red Mountain Road, but limited access and not immediately adjacent. Landscape treatment.
80	Red Mountain 2	Low	60.1	On Crown land in K2R (SIFCo). Non-legal OGMA overlap to the south and north. Moderate to steep slopes.	This PTU encompasses untreated forest immediately east of a 2014 SIFCo Type 2 treatment and south of a 2020 SIFCo Type 1 treatment (2020 CWPP PTU #13 Bannock), between Highway 6 and Red Mountain Road. The fuel type is C-5, with Cw and Hw understory creating continuous ladder fuels. Dead and down coarse woody debris and fine fuels create approximately 70% coverage. Access via road from Highway 6 and via Oma Road at north end. Overlaps 2020 CWPP PTU #14 Bannock (High Priority) and #15 Bannock (Moderate Priority). Low CWRP priority due to distance from values. Landscape treatment.

FTU Number	FTU Name	Priority	Total Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
78	Red Mountain 3	Mod	19.3	On Crown land in K2R (SIFCo). Overlap with non-legal OGMA (major overlap) Planned for near term SIFCo implementation.	A C-5 leading fuel type with dense Cw, Hw understory that creates continuous horizontal and vertical ladder fuels. Overstory species are Hw and Cw with some pockets of Ep. Surface fuels are patchy with coarse woody debris and scattered fine fuels. Moss and herbs are present throughout the understory. The PTU helps to create a fuel break from possible upslope fires and is currently a gap in the larger landscape fuel break above Red Mountain Road. Access to unit from Branch 200 Road from north, along rights of way through private land, and/or through cooperation with neighbouring landowners. Overlaps and expands upon 2020 CWPP PTU #16 Hasty (Moderate Priority). Anchors to SIFCo fuel break along private land to the north. Moderate CWRP priority due to nearby homes on Red Mountain Road (adjacent to two properties), but limited access. Landscape treatment.
63	North Silverton	Low	2.3	On Crown land outside of managed license. Riparian values (Harris Creek, lakeshore), visuals. Overlap with conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (u-2-004).	Anchored between the highway and the lake, this area is heavily fuel-loaded with dead and downed woody debris. Continuous forest with C-5 fuel type and high canopy cover. There is access along the old road from the highway down to the lake. Manual thinning is recommended due to proximity to the lake and steeper slopes below the highway. Highway adjacent. Homes within 200m. Fuel treatment in place to the south (SWPI461 – 2014 Silverton OFTP). Low priority due to distance from homes. Landscape treatment.
49c	New Denver	Very High	0.4	On Crown land within New Denver municipal boundaries. Overlap with conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (u-2-004).	A C-3 leading stand within the Village of New Denver boundary. Residents are located to the immediate south and north of the unit. Consult adjacent residents on maintaining visual barriers to Highway 31A. Manual thin treatment activities are recommended. Homes to south. 2022 SIFCo manual treatment polygons to the north and south. High priority due to direct interface location and stand hazard.
37	Rosebery 1	High	15.2	On Crown land in Rosebery. Moderate to steep slope, riparian values (Slocan Lake). Lakeshore area intersected by Galena Trail (Rosebery to Three Forks Regional Trail). Overlap with conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (u-2-004), adjacent to BC Hydro transmission line. Consult with adjacent residents, BC Hydro and the RDCK regarding trail.	Two-part PTU. Above highway, a C-4 fuel type with steep slopes and densely stocked Fd, with patches of C-7 intermixed. Below highway, PTU encompasses the bank between Slocan Lake and Highway 6 (conifer with some deciduous). Forest health problems identified in 2020 CWPP. The unit is tied to Highway 6, Slocan Valley Rail Trail, and private property. Homes located immediately to the north. Due to steep slopes and limited access, manual thin is recommended. Strategic connection with golf course to the south. Overlaps 2020 CWPP PTU #10 Rosebery (High Priority). High priority for treatment based immediate adjacency to homes. Interface treatment. Operable portion to be determined at prescription stage.
34	Rosebery 2	High	5.5	On Crown land in Rosebery. Overlap with conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (u-2-004), BC Hydro	A densely stocked C-3 fuel type with dominant species of Fd, Cw, Pw, and Lw. An RDCK transfer station is located within the PTU. Treatment will reduce fuel loading around hazardous

FTU Number	FTU Name	Priority	Total Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
				transmission line. Consult with RDCK regarding transfer station, BC Hydro.	infrastructure / community assets. Rosebery Highlands water system is nearby but on private land. High priority due to adjacency to values. Interface treatment.
31	Rosebery Park	High	32.2	Majority on Crown land in Rosebery Provincial Park; also overlaps campground. ⁹³ Overlap with Ranch Ridge Recreation Reserve (REC267244) and associated trails above Rosebery Park including REC205625 (Butter). Small overlap with municipal land to the west. Adjacent to Highway 6. Overlap with conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (u-2-004), BC Hydro transmission line, recreation values, riparian (Wilson Creek and tributaries). Consult with RDCK, BC Parks, BC Hydro, Rec Sites and Trails BC. BC Parks is working with BC Wildfire Service to explore potential treatment locations in Roseberry Provincial Park.	C-5, C-3, and M-1/2 fuel types. Park is mainly a mature stand with moderate crown base height, thick duff and low to moderate surface fuel loading, but edge-effect areas have denser fuels. PTU overlaps Roseberry Park, and residents are situated to the south. The unit is bounded by private land to the east, west and southwest, and is anchored to Dennis Creek along the southern boundary. Manual thinning recommended. Overlaps 2020 CWPP PTU #9 Rosebery (High Priority). High priority due to immediate adjacency to homes and overlap with recreation values. Interface treatment.
28b	Hills South 2	Low	62.1	On Crown land in Hills. Moderate to steep ground. Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (Canada's Nature Fund Community-nominated priority place). Overlap with conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (u-2-004) and intersects REC241144, Rosebery Summit Lake Trail. Kalesnikoff is working with BCWS and Ministry of Forests WRR on a block overlapping this area. Consult with Kalesnikoff, Rec Sites and Trails BC.	The PTU is designed as a landscape level buffer on Shannon Creek FSR (50-90 m) and should be considered for an eventual WUI WRR plan due to its extension outside the 1 km eligible WUI. Mature Fd and Hw leading forest composed of a C-3 fuel type with areas of C-5. Some overlap at the edge of the eligible WUI with harvested 25–30-year-old stands. Minimal understory structure and surface fuels. Bonanza Creek provides an anchor point downslope, with prescribed area on other side. Predominantly moderately sloped, conventionally operable terrain. Partially overlaps 2020 CWPP PTU #6 Hills (High Priority). Low CWRP priority due to distance from values. Landscape treatment.
28a	Hills South 1	Moderate	19.6	On Crown land in Hills. Mostly steep ground. Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (Canada's Nature Fund Community-nominated priority place). Overlap with conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (u-2-004). Kalesnikoff is planning a project partially within this area.	Small PTU bordering Hills to the southwest; anchors to Slocan Lake and adjacent to Valhalla Resort. Unit boundary extends upslope to the west and meets a branch of Shannon Creek FSR. Anchors to 2011 harvested blocks. Mature Fd and Hw leading forest composed of a C-3 fuel type with areas of C-5. Overlaps 2020 CWPP PTU #6 Hills (High Priority). Moderate priority due to distance from values but good anchoring options. Landscape treatment.

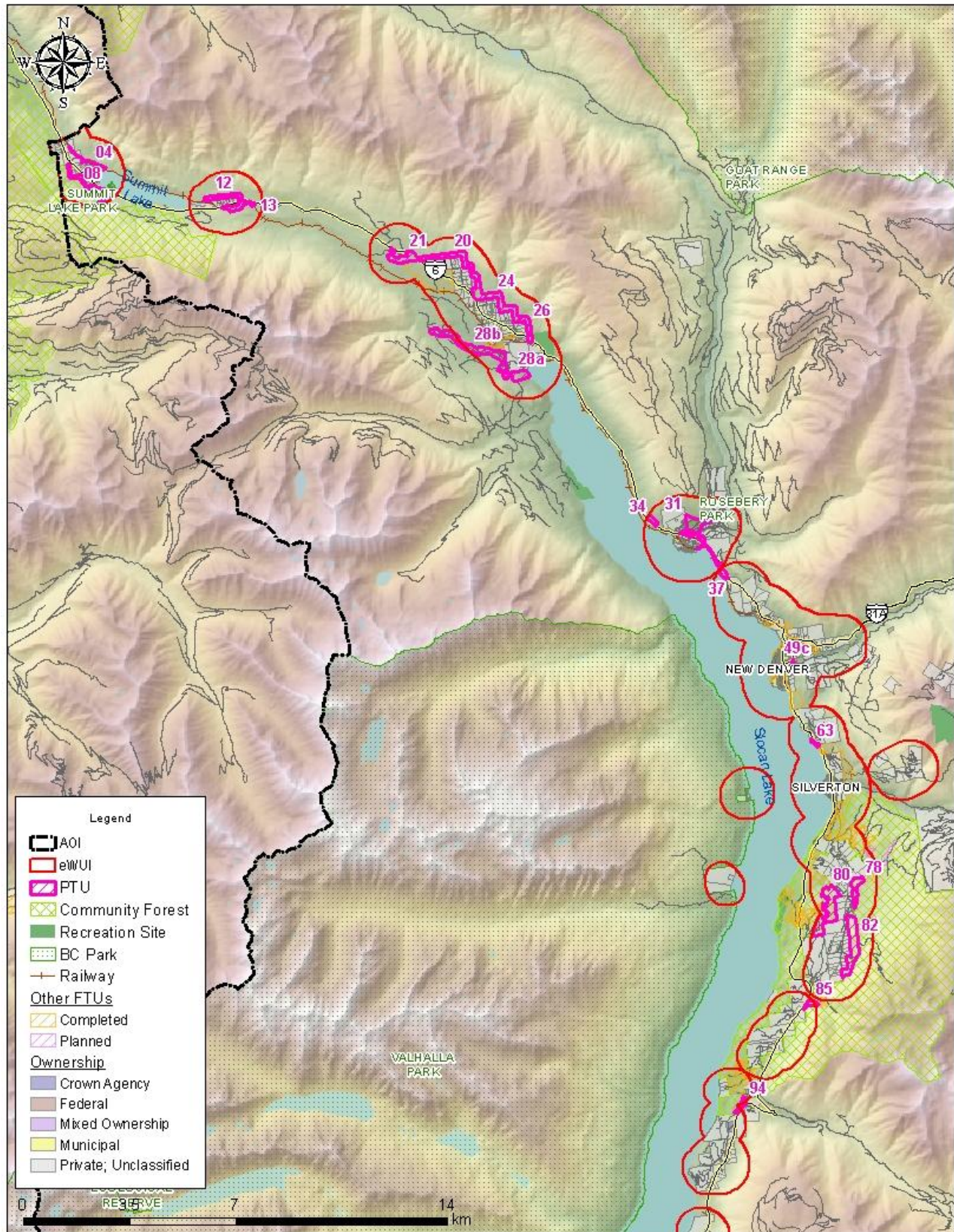
⁹³ Prioritization, planning, implementation and maintenance of fuel treatments in provincial Parks and Protected Areas will be the responsibility of BC Parks.

FTU Number	FTU Name	Priority	Total Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
26	Hills North 1	Mod	17.4	On Crown land in Hills. Moderate to steep slope, riparian values (Arthur Creek and tributaries), Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (Canada's Nature Fund Community-nominated priority place). Overlap with BC Hydro transmission line, Slocan Valley Rail Trail, non-legal OGMA, conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (u-2-004). Meets Snk'mip Marsh Sanctuary (private land) to the south and overlaps Hills Recreation Reserve (REC 258575) to the south. Consult with adjacent residents, BC Hydro, Rec Sites and Trails BC.	A steep-sloped PTU that is M-1/2 leading and is notably drier with more sun exposure than nearby PTUs. Surface fuel accumulation is high and ladder fuels create more of a risk due to the slope. Manual treatment is recommended. Lw and aspen more dominant. Largely a buffer on forested private land but immediately adjacent to homes off Laktin Road. Moderate CWRP priority due to location relative to values. Landscape treatment. Further field verification and polygon refinement will be required prior to planning activities (e.g., prescription development) to ensure alignment with a potential control line feature.
24	Hills North 2	Moderate	57.6	On Crown land in Hills. Moderate to steep slope, riparian values (Cadden Creek). Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (Canada's Nature Fund Community-nominated priority place). Overlap with conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (u-2-004). Consult with adjacent residents, Hills Recreation Society (adjacent to fire hall).	This PTU is C3 leading with areas of C-5. High end of moderate threat. The overstory trees are mature Fd, Cw, Hw, Lw stand with sparse understory and a moderate crown base height. Surface fuels are highly accumulated and jackpots of fallen over trees are common throughout the area. This PTU covers a large swath of untreated forest upslope of private land containing homes, the Hills fire hall and park. The polygon anchors to a treated area on private land around the fire hall and park. Machine operable at lower elevations, however, manual treatment may be more suitable where the slope increases at higher elevation. The area closest to values should be prioritized. Overlaps 2020 CWPP PTU #5 Hills (High Priority). Moderate CWRP priority due to location relative to values. Landscape treatment. Further field verification and polygon refinement will be required prior to planning activities (e.g., prescription development) to ensure alignment with a potential control line feature.
21	Hills North 4	High	24.6	On Crown land in Hills. Flat ground. Intersected by two tributaries to Bonanza Creek. Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (Canada's Nature Fund Community-nominated priority place). Overlap with conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (u-2-004).	Immature forest with a continuous understory layer and a C-4 leading fuel type with areas of C5. Dead accumulated woody debris is present in patchy cover with moss. Homes are located within 100m. This PTU is anchored to Highway 6 to the north and east, while a 2014 cutblock creates the western boundary. Meets WRSE0185 – Bonanza Creek CLWRR prescribed area (FTU 2) to the south. The terrain is favourable for equipment with some merchantable timber. Low priority due to distanced from values.
20	Hills North 3	Low	27.0	On Crown land in Hills. Moderate slope, riparian values (Owl Creek). Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (Canada's Nature Fund Community-nominated priority place). Overlap with conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (u-2-004). Consult with adjacent residents.	A mixed-species, C-5 stand with Fd, Lw and Cw leading overstory with a moderate crown base height and sparse ladder fuels. High fine fuel accumulation with a high presence of decaying Ep coarse woody debris. This unit creates a 200 m treatment buffer on private, forested land. Anchored to Highway 6 to the west, however, minimal anchor points exist to the north. Values

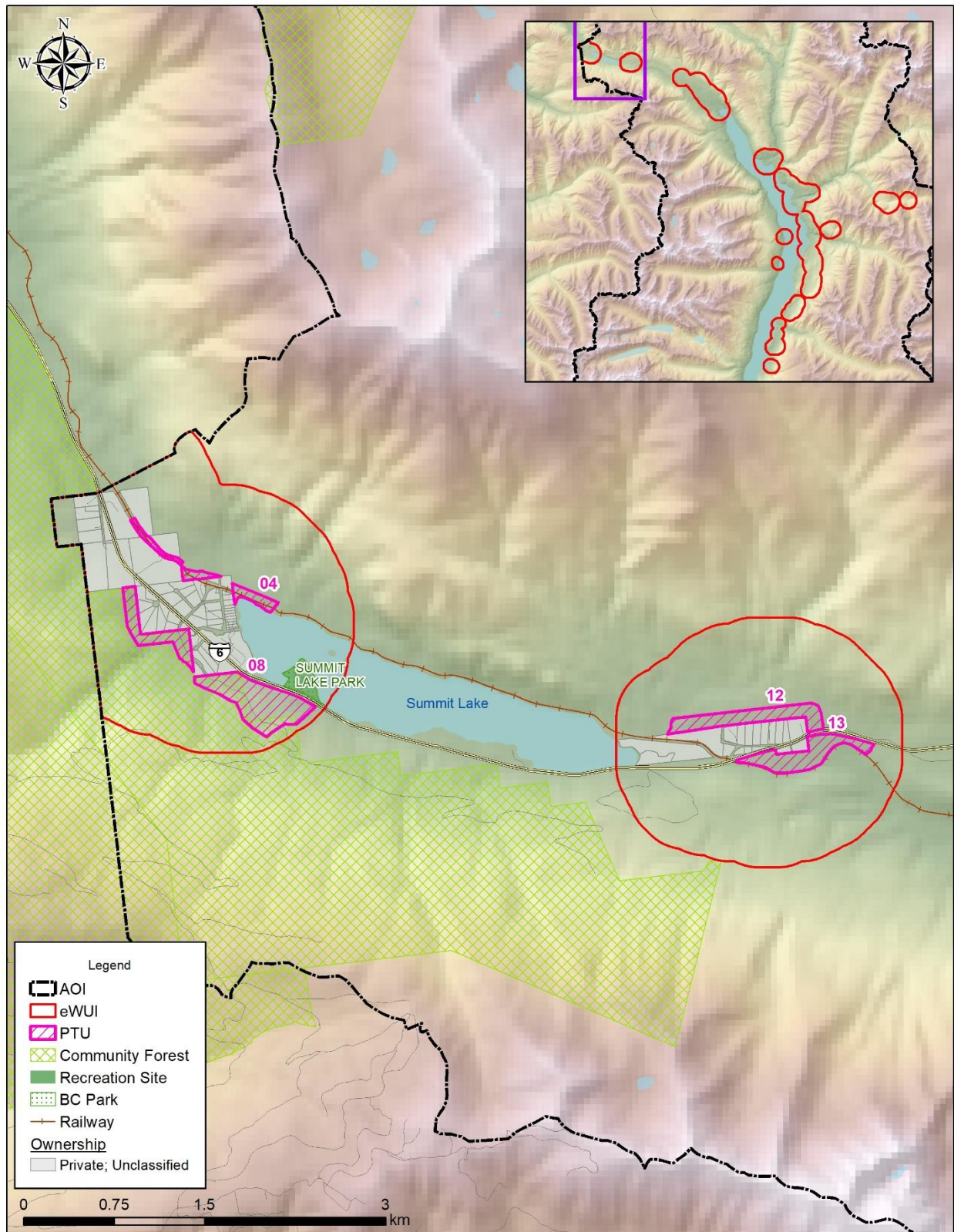
FTU Number	FTU Name	Priority	Total Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
					at risk are homes within 100m downslope. The recommended treatment regime is a thin from below with equipment as most of the PTU is machine operable. Overlaps 2020 CWPP PTU #4 Hills (High Priority). Low CWRP priority due to location relative to values. Landscape treatment. Further field verification and polygon refinement will be required prior to planning activities (e.g., prescription development) to ensure alignment with a potential control line feature.
13	East Summit Lake 1	High	14.4	On Crown Land. Fairly flat ground. Good access from Highway 6. Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (Canada's Nature Fund Community-nominated priority place). Overlap and adjacency with riparian values (Bonanza Creek tributaries), BC Hydro transmission line. Visuals – visible from Summit Lake and Summit Lake Provincial Park. Overlap with Valhalla Hills Nordic rec site to the east (REC 206166), Naskusp Summit Lake Rail Trail to the south (REC 185531). Consult with adjacent residents, BC Hydro, Rec Sites and Trails BC.	This PTU is comprised of a high stem per hectare, C-3 fuel type with continuous crown cover. Overstory tree species are Hw with Cw as codominant. Understory trees are sparse, and the forest floor is largely denuded of vegetation with a high accumulation of dead and fine fuels. The unit is located within 100m of homes and is anchored between the highway and the rail trail that follows Bonanza Creek. The terrain is favourable for equipment to support a commercial thin. Overlaps 2020 CWPP PTU #3 Summit Lake East. Mix of mechanized and manual thinning recommended (SIFCo Type 2 / Type 1).
12	East Summit Lake 2	Mod	15.3	On Crown Land. Moderately sloped ground. Poor access except from Highway 6 to the east – may require cooperation with private landowners. Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (Canada's Nature Fund Community-nominated priority place). Overlap and adjacency with riparian values (Bonanza Creek tributaries, wetland to west). Very slight overlap with Valhalla Hills Nordic rec site to the east (REC 206166). Consult with adjacent residents, Rec Sites and Trails BC.	This PTU is an M-1/2 fuel type with a 75% conifer and 25% deciduous component. Fd is the leading coniferous overstory with Pw, Cw and Lw as codominant. Ep and At copses are scattered throughout the unit and are more dominant further upslope. Conifer regeneration is predominantly discontinuous patches of L4-L3 layers and are Pw and, Cw leading. Surface fuels are minimal with fine fuel and large woody debris scattered and discontinuous. A heathy shrub, moss and herb layer is present throughout the unit. This PTU is anchored to and accessible from Highway 6. Values at risk are homes within 100m, and a weather station adjacent to the highway. Captures the flat to moderately sloped ground between residents on Summit Lake Road and steeper, south facing slopes above. Anchors to tributaries of Bonanza Creek. Overlaps 2020 CWPP PTU #3 Summit Lake East (High Priority). High CWRP priority due to strategic location at entrance to community, accessibility, and adjacency to values.
08	Summit Lake West 1	Mod	34.6	Mostly within K2S (Nakusp Community Forest). Across Highway 6 from Summit Lake Provincial Park (water access and campground). Moderate to steep slope. Access via Highway 6, Summit Lake FSR. Adjacent to BC Hydro transmission line along highway. Riparian values (creeks),	A two-part unit above private land and Highway 6, anchored to 2018 cutblocks. C-5 dominant fuel types, with deciduous patches intermixed, with M-1/2 fuel types in the southern and western portions of the PTU. Moderate surface fuel loading, primarily fine fuels and coarse wood contribute to threat. Commercial thin activities could be considered where access and terrain permit. On the high end of moderate WTA rating.



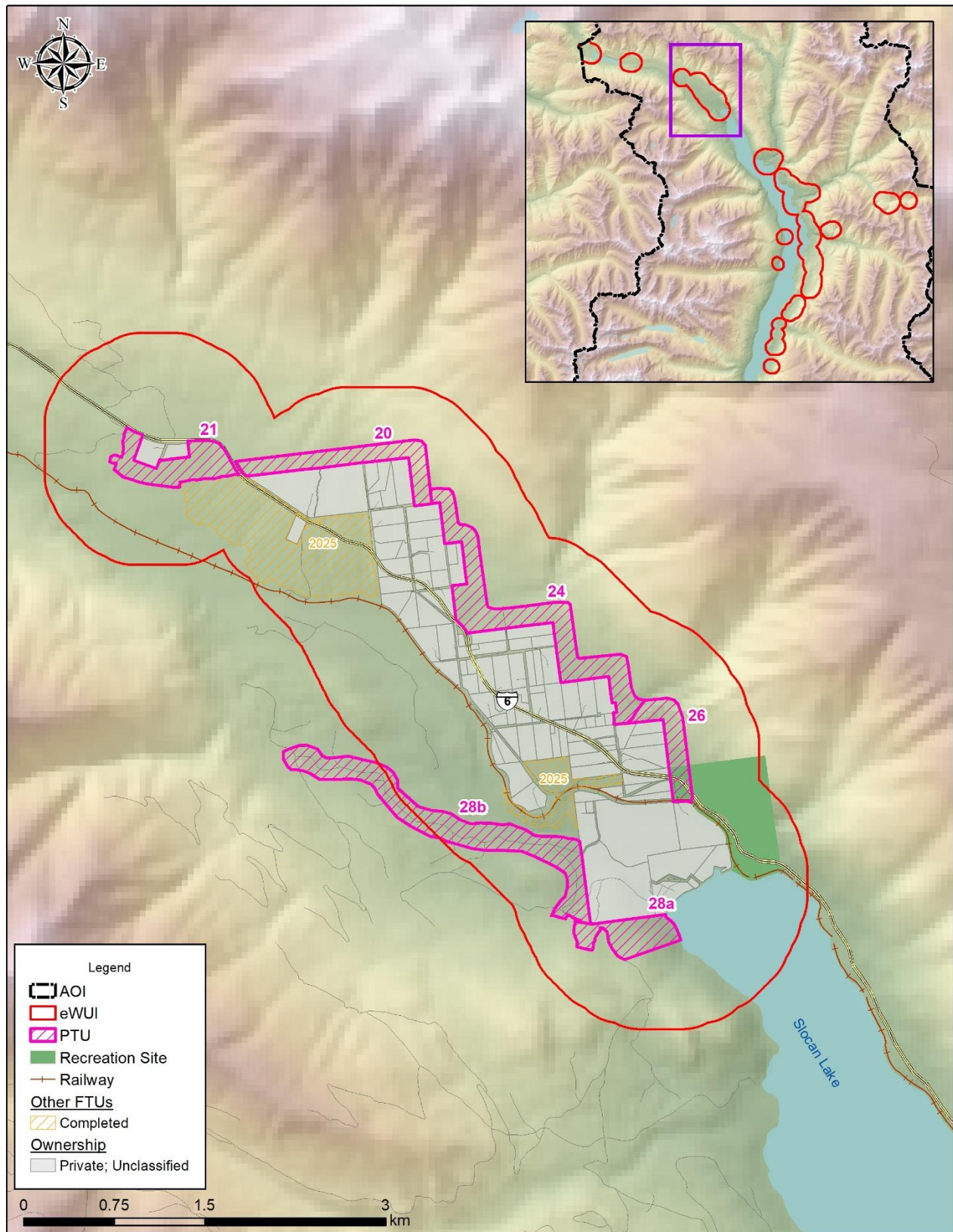
FTU Number	FTU Name	Priority	Total Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
				visuals, recreation values (Arrow Lakes ATV Trails REC 107237, Rosebery Summit Lake Trail REC241144). Consult with Rec Sites and Trails BC, BC Hydro, NACFOR.	Overlap with 2020 CWPP Unit #2 Summit Lake West (High Priority). High CWRP priority due to proximity to values, lack of other treatments in area, and strategic location. Landscape / interface (north polygon only) treatment.
04	Summit Lake West 2	High	7.1	On Crown land at the west end of Summit Lake. Overlap with riparian values (wetland/streams, Summit Lake) and recreation values (Nakusp Summit Lake Rail Trail REC 185531 to the south. Consult with adjacent residents, Rec Sites and Trails BC.	Multi part unit overlapping the Nakusp – Summit Lake rail trail right of way. Buffers the trail by 10 - 50 m each side; meets private land above and below right of way. Anchors to multiple features, including a field, Summit Lake, and a wetland. Intended to bolster the feature as an anchor line. Mixed species present but C-5 leading fuel type, with patches of C-4 intermixed where dense understory conifer patches are present. The surface fuels are minimal, with scattered blowdown and coarse woody debris. Flat to moderate slope. Partially overlaps 2020 CWPP PTU #1 Summit Lake West (High Priority). High CWRP priority due to proximity to values. Interface treatment.



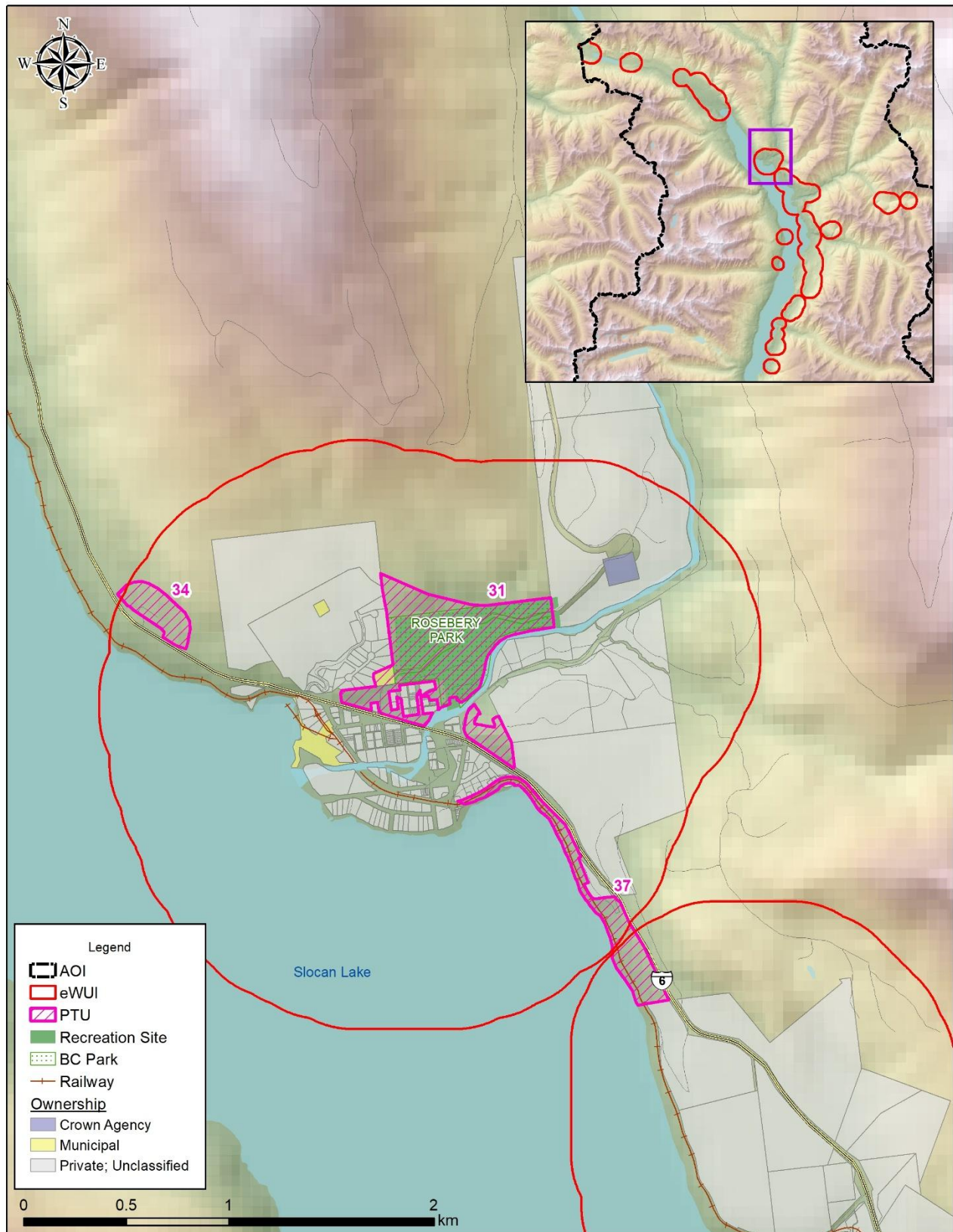
Map 13. Proposed and Completed Fuel Treatment Units Overview.



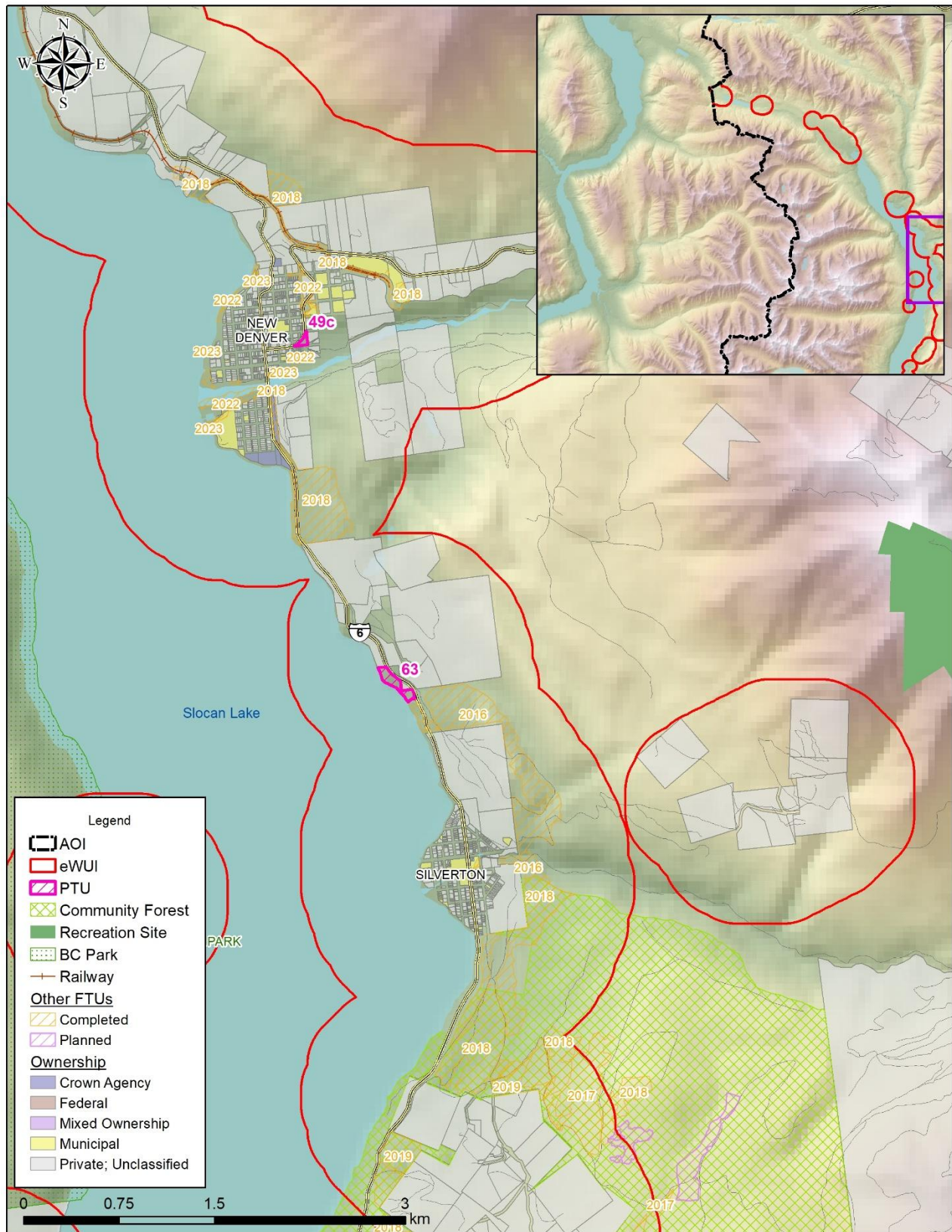
Map 14. Proposed and Completed Fuel Treatment Units around Summit Lake.

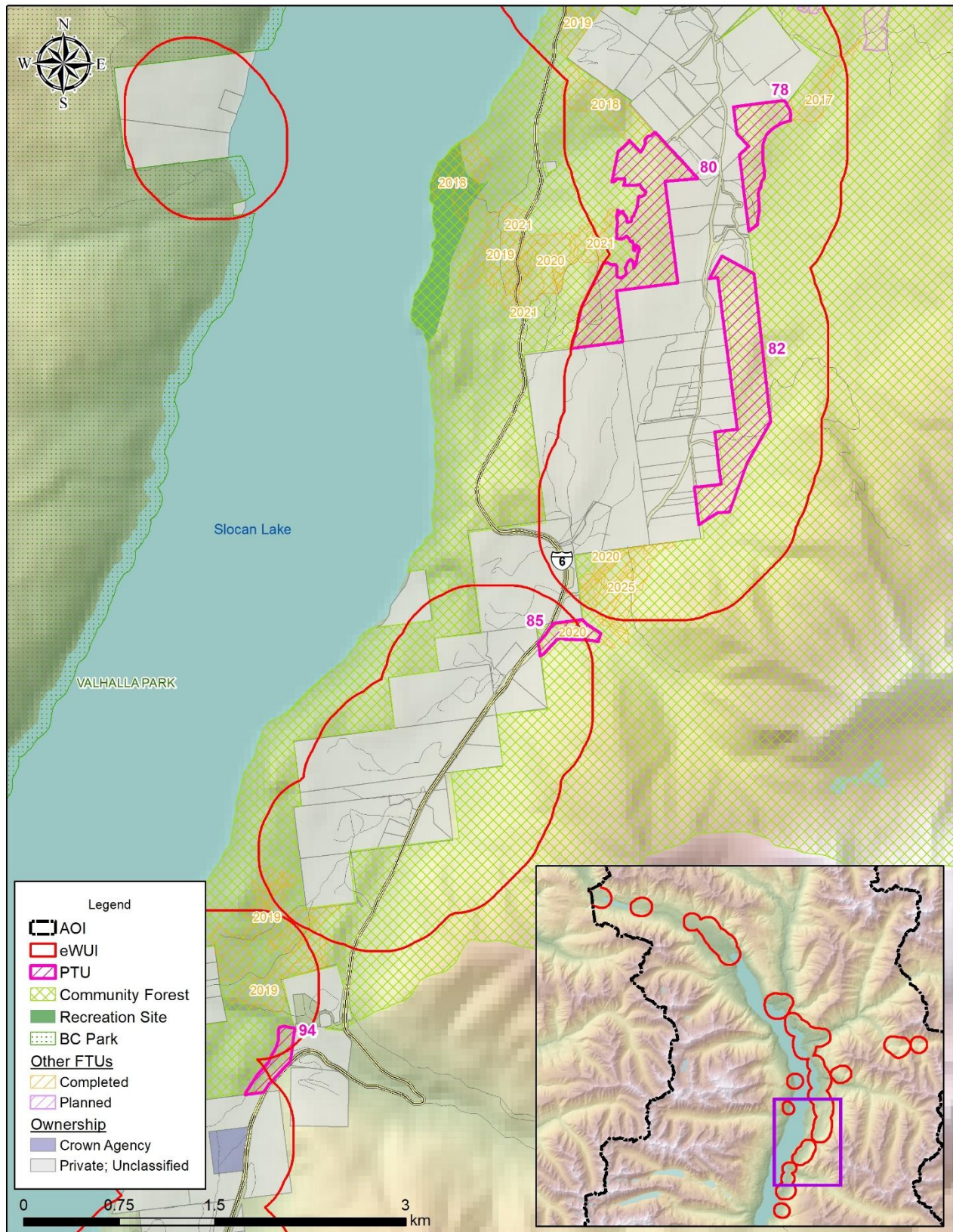


Map 15. Proposed and Completed Fuel Treatment Units around Hills.



Map 16. Proposed and Completed Fuel Treatment Units around Rosebery.





6 FireSmart Roadmap and CWRP Action Plan

6.1 FireSmart Roadmap

The FireSmart Roadmap (Figure 16) 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.⁹⁴

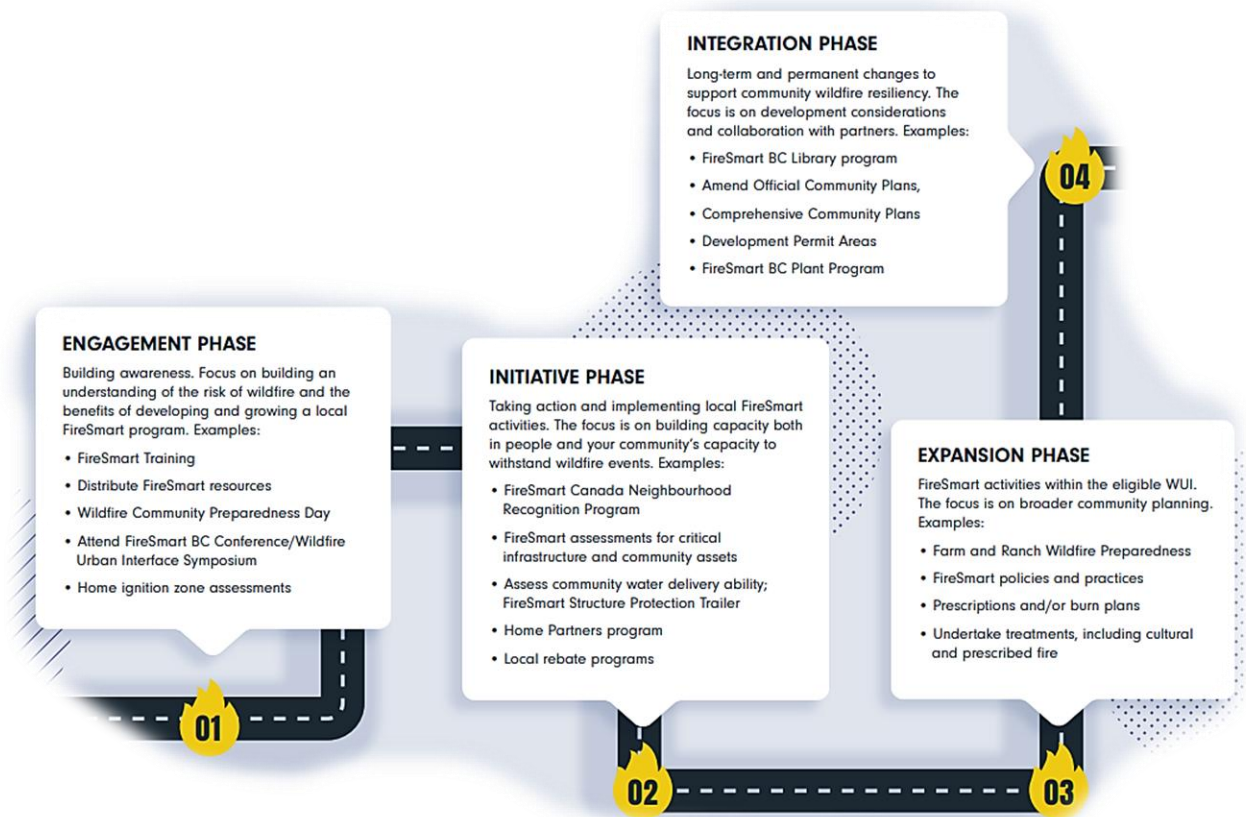


Figure 16. Graphic representation of the FireSmart Roadmap concept.⁹⁵

Prior to the first phase, FireSmart BC recommends that three foundational elements are in place:

- A FireSmart Position

⁹⁴ 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>

⁹⁵ Copied from FireSmart BC – The FireSmart Roadmap. https://firesmartbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/09.13.23_FSBC_RoadMap.pdf

- A Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan
- A Community FireSmart Resiliency Collaborative (CFRC), or participation in one

Both the RDCK, the Village of Silverton, and the Village of New Denver have all three elements in place and are engaging in late-stage activities on the Roadmap, such as fuel treatments and Development Permit Areas. Table 1 in the Executive Summary details the Action Plan for Slocan Lake North. 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 Villages of New Denver and Silverton works 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 to serve 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 a requirement of the UBCM CRI FCFS program. The update should review the entire plan and consider how risk has changed based on any recent fires, 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.

The RDCK has been provided with this 2025 CWRP Action Plan as a separate document in table format. This will allow for easy updating and tracking, with new columns and rows added as necessary. This spreadsheet can form the basis for the next CWRP update and assist the RDCK in reporting on progress to elected officials and the public, as well as for future grant applications.

7 Appendices

Appendix A. Review of 2020 CWPP Recommendations

Table 24. Review of 2020 CWPP for Area H North / Village of Silverton / Village of New Denver Recommendations with 2025 status update

Item	Responsibility / Funding Source	2020 CWPP Recommendation	2025 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
Objective: To incorporate wildfire risks into local government policies, bylaws and plans			
1	RDCK, Villages of New Denver and Silverton, UBCM CRI Program	Ensure that existing and future planning documents, policies and bylaws consider wildfire risks, evacuation routes, and emergency response. This includes: • Reviewing the OCP and bylaws to evaluate their effectiveness at mitigating wildfire risks. • Exploring the use of Development Permit Areas requiring FireSmart landscaping practices, fire resistant external construction materials, and vegetation/debris management in high fire hazard areas. • Exploring the use of a RDCK outdoor burning bylaw to restrict burning during high fire hazard. • Continuing current efforts to update and develop emergency planning documents - including emergency evacuation plans.	Partially complete – RDCK Wildfire DPA review conducted in 2023; New Denver Wildfire DPA guidelines drafted but not adopted. Emergency plans are updated. RDCK burning bylaw determined not feasible to enforce. Silverton plans to establish wildfire DPA and review OCP/Zoning to reflect FireSmart principles in 2026-2027.
2	Forest licensees, FESBC, RDCK, BC Parks	Consider undertaking additional landscape-level wildfire planning for areas outside of the WUI. A comprehensive landscape-level wildfire plan should complement existing CWPPs, evaluate wildfire threat, and identify strategic areas for fuel treatment outside of the WUI.	May be completed by Ministry of Forests (WUI WRR plan)
3	RDCK, UBCM CRI Program	Review progress on fire mitigation efforts and update wildfire planning documents and CWPPs every 7 years.	Complete
Objective: To increase wildfire mitigation efficiency through collaborative efforts			
4	UBCM CRI Program, RDCK, Villages of New Denver and Silverton, New Denver	Establish a Wildfire Preparedness Working Group for the Slocan Valley. The group should work to identify wildfire related issues, resource deficiencies, and opportunities for improvement. Potential Working Group representatives may include the RDCK, fire departments, licensees (Interfor, Kalesnikoff, SIFCo, NACFOR, BCTS and Woodlots); utilities (BC Hydro and Fortis); municipalities (New Denver, Silverton, Slocan); and government agencies (BC Parks, BCWS, MOTI, and FWCP).	Complete – Slocan Valley Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee

Item	Responsibility / Funding Source	2020 CWPP Recommendation	2025 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
	VFD, Hills Fire Brigade, forest licensees, utility companies, BC Parks, BCWS, MOTI		
5	RDCK, utility companies, BC Parks	Coordinate wildfire risk mitigation efforts with other agencies, organizations, and across Electoral Area boundaries. Coordinate mitigation efforts around the community of Summit Lake, Valhalla Park, and along highway right-of-ways.	Underway – forest licensees, Ministry of Forests, local governments
6	Villages of New Denver and Silverton, New Denver VFD, UBCM CRI Program, RDCK	Review, maintain and upgrade back-up power sources for critical infrastructure and emergency services. A review should identify any gaps in back-up power and recommend upgrades to existing power sources to meet potential extended outages.	Partially complete; back up power to New Denver and Silverton water systems, and Silverton fire hall.
7	RDCK, utility companies, forest licensees, FESBC, UBCM CRI Program	Prioritize fuel management treatments that protect electrical power, communications, transportation and water critical infrastructure. Review, prioritize, and implement fuel management treatments in areas identified in Table 19.	Partially complete
8	RDCK, Fortis BC, BC Hydro, MOTI, UBCM CRI Program	Coordinate with Fortis, BC Hydro, and MOTI to conduct vegetation management and danger tree removal along distribution lines, transmission lines, and right of ways. Explore utilizing existing right of ways as landscape-level fuel breaks through an ongoing fuel treatment program.	Complete – communication in place. No Fortis in Area H North.
9	UBCM CRI Program, RDCK, Villages of New Denver and Silverton, New Denver VFD	Complete FireSmart and vulnerability assessments of critical infrastructure. Undertake any necessary corrective actions to meet FireSmart standards for critical infrastructure, local government buildings, and emergency services infrastructure.	Partially complete

Item	Responsibility / Funding Source	2020 CWPP Recommendation	2025 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
10	RDCK, forest licensees	Identify areas likely to suffer post-fire terrain, water flow and stream channel stability issues. Create draft plans for post-fire stabilization work.	Completed by the Ministry of Forests for 2021, 2024 fires
Objective: To ensure values at risk are sufficiently considered during fuel management activities			
11	Forest licensees,	Carry out information sharing with First Nations during the fuel management prescription development process prior to any on the ground fuel management activities.	This has occurred
12	RDCK, Villages of New Denver and Silverton,	Carry out consultation with local communities during fuel management prescription development to ensure local concerns are addressed and to cultivate social licence to operate in the WUI.	This has occurred
13	consultants preparing prescriptions, UBCM CRI Program, FESBC	Incorporate multiple objectives into fuel treatment projects when possible. Fuel management activities can address forest health concerns, enhance wildlife habitat, rehabilitate low value stands, and utilize low value fibre. Where feasible, wildfire threat reduction should be combined with biodiversity and habitat enhancement prescribed by a qualified professional.	This has occurred
Objective: To garner community support for wildfire mitigation efforts			
14	RDCK, Villages of New Denver and Silverton, UBCM CRI Program, forest licensees	Undertake education and outreach with the goal of obtaining community support to implement CWPP recommendations. Consider: • Making summaries of this report and associated maps publicly available through web pages, social media, and public FireSmart meetings. This includes posting this CWPP on the RDCK and SIFCo websites. • Integrating this CWPP into existing and proposed FireSmart education and outreach initiatives – at both local and regional levels. • Distribute a CWPP summary package to households through bulk mail or newspaper insert. • Adding wildfire threat spatial data to the RDCK interactive web-map - allowing residents to view the threat of wildfire adjacent to their property. • Creating a position based in the Slocan Valley to implement CWPP recommendations and FireSmart programs.	Ongoing – RDCK FireSmart program, Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program
Objective: To reduce wildfire threat through fuel treatment			
15	RDCK, Villages of New Denver and Silverton,	Work with licensees (BCTS, Interfor NACFOR, SIFCo) and other partners (BC Hydro, MOTI, and FWCP) to implement fuel treatment as recommended in Table 19. Treatments should increase opportunities for fire suppression, including reducing fuel loads, improving	Partially complete

Item	Responsibility / Funding Source	2020 CWPP Recommendation	2025 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
	forest licensees, utility companies, consultants preparing prescriptions, UBCM CRI Program, FESBC, CBT	firefighter access and treating areas that are continuous and anchored to strategic locations (such as water bodies, roads, or gravel pits) when possible. Consider funding streams provided by the CRI and Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC).	
16	Forest licensees, RDCK, UBCM CRI Program, FESBC	Continue to monitor previously treated areas and re-treat as required to maintain a moderate or low fire threat.	Underway
Objective: To reduce wildfire risk through FireSmart programs			
17	UBCM CRI Program, RDCK and Villages of New Denver and Silverton	Maintain FireSmart programs throughout Area H and municipalities. Coordinate activities between the RDCK and municipalities to reduce program costs and increase efficiencies.	Underway
18	UBCM CRI Program, RDCK and Villages of New Denver and Silverton	Review, select and implement activities from Table 20 as part of an ongoing FireSmart program. Activities include education and outreach, vegetation management, incorporating FireSmart into community planning and development, and increasing local capacity to defend against interface fires.	Underway
19	UBCM CRI Program, RDCK and Villages of New Denver and Silverton	Explore rebate programs to create incentives for FireSmart on private land. Continue to advance proposal that public funds should be invested in fuel management on private land that forms part of a strategic, landscape level fuel break.	Underway

Item	Responsibility / Funding Source	2020 CWPP Recommendation	2025 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
20	RDCK, Villages of New Denver and Silverton, BCWS, MOTI, BC Parks, Rec Sites and Trails BC, community and recreation groups, UBCM CRI Program	Maintain sufficient signage at high-use recreational areas and completed fuel treatment sites. Signage should include fire danger ratings, information on fire prevention, emergency contact information, and evacuation procedures on trails. Explore opportunities to work with other agencies to maintain and increase fire prevention signage at trailheads, forestry roads, along the highway, and within communities.	Underway Signage in provincial parks would have to comply with BC Parks standards and interests.
21	RDCK, Villages of New Denver and Silverton, BCWS, BC Parks, Rec Sites and Trails BC, community and recreation groups, UBCM CRI Program	Coordinate trail development and maintenance with wildfire mitigation efforts in high-risk areas. Information regarding trail development should be shared with response agencies and incorporated into evacuation and emergency response plans.	Undetermined status
Objective: To improve the efficiency of emergency evacuation, preparedness, and response			
22	Villages of New Denver and Silverton, RDCK, New Denver VFD	Conduct a water availability assessment that considers: • An assessment of water sources, access points, and hydrants/standpipes for fire suppression needs. • A vulnerability assessment of water sources particularly to summer drought conditions and reliance on electrical power. • The identification of settlement areas that may have insufficient or unreliable water supplies.	Carried forwards as a recommendation in this plan.
23	Villages of New Denver and Silverton, RDCK, New Denver VFD	Continue to identify and map alternate water sources for fire suppression. Create designated access points to natural water sources and ensure access points are clear and usable in the event of an emergency. If necessary, seek emergency access permission from landowners. Develop additional alternate and backup water sources as necessary.	Carried forwards as a recommendation in this plan.

Item	Responsibility / Funding Source	2020 CWPP Recommendation	2025 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
24	Villages of New Denver and Silverton, RDCK, New Denver VFD, UBCM CRI Program	Develop a detailed evacuation plan for New Denver, Silverton and communities of Area H – including the west-shore of Slocan Lake. A detailed evacuation plan should consider: • Maps of evacuation routes, safety zones, marshaling points, and Emergency Support Services Reception Centers. • Designating and communicating pre-determined primary and secondary evacuation routes. • A feasibility review of FSRs as alternate evacuation routes. • Agreements and contact information with local transportation (busses, rotary-wing, and boats). • A communications and traffic control plan to be implemented in the event of an evacuation. • Information on residents who cannot self-evacuate, and current phone lists. • Collaboration with other agencies. This should include working with BC Parks to develop an evacuation plan for the west-side of Slocan Lake and other high-use recreational areas. • Communicating a summary of the plan and the administration framework of the evacuation process to residents to reduce confusion and delay when an evacuation is implemented.	Underway - RDCK and Silverton. BC Parks is not interested in jointly developing evacuation plans at this time.
25	Villages of New Denver and Silverton, RDCK, New Denver VFD	Explore opportunities to address emergency access and evacuation constraints throughout the AOI. This should include: • Connecting dead-end roads and ensuring new developments consider emergency access and evacuation routes. • Communicating access constraints to homeowners and the implications on emergency response. • Exploring opportunities to coordinate with Fortis BC, BC Hydro, and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to create/maintain fuel breaks adjacent to roads, highways, and bridges.	Silverton intends to update their Subdivision Bylaw. Carried forwards as a recommendation in this plan. No Fortis BC in Area H North.
26	Villages of New Denver and Silverton, RDCK, New Denver VFD, UBCM CRI Program,	Continue to collect data on firefighting resources. Develop and maintain a wildfire suppression data set for use by BCWS and Fire Departments, including • Firefighting resources • Current access roads and trails • Old overgrown roads • Access blockages (washouts, bridge failures) • LiDAR terrain data • Water access points	Carried forwards as a recommendation in this plan.



Item	Responsibility / Funding Source	2020 CWPP Recommendation	2025 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
		• Critical infrastructure	
27	RDCK, Villages of New Denver and Silverton	Consider installing satellite internet service equipment with generator at fire halls to provide redundant backup communications abilities if conventional communications systems are impacted by wildfire activity.	Silverton may seek funding for this in 2026
28	UBCM CRI Program, RDCK, Villages of New Denver and Silverton, fire departments	As part of a FireSmart program, encourage members of the public to develop personal evacuation plans. This may include: • Registering with the RDCK's Emergency Notification System • Notifying friends and family of evacuations • Pre-identifying evacuation routes and accommodations outside of the valley • Ensuring vehicles are regularly fueled • Developing a readily available evacuation kit with cash, medication, food, water and other necessities	Undetermined status
Objective: To increase local capacity to respond to wildfires			
29	RDCK, Villages of New Denver and Silverton, New Denver VFD, Hills Volunteer Fire Brigade, UBCM CRI Program	Incorporate volunteer firefighter recruitment into FireSmart education and outreach initiatives.	This has not occurred
30	RDCK, Villages of New Denver and Silverton, New Denver VFD, Hills Volunteer Fire Brigade, UBCM CRI Program	Explore funding opportunities to acquire community fire caddies (small trailer with water tank and pump) and water trucks where there are gaps in fire response coverage. Consider purchasing additional wildland specific firefighting equipment including two-stroke pumps (Wajax Mark 3 or similar) pump kits, and quick connect 1.5" wildland fire hose.	Fire departments are resourced in wildland specific equipment
31	Villages of New Denver and	Encourage cross-training between the RDCK Fire Departments and the BCWS. Explore opportunities for: annual mock fire exercises, Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban	This occurs annually

Item	Responsibility / Funding Source	2020 CWPP Recommendation	2025 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
	Silverton, RDCK, New Denver VFD, Hills Volunteer Fire Brigade, BCWS, UBCM CRI Program	Interface (S-215) training, Structure and Site Preparation (S-115) training, ICS, communications, and after-action reviews of past interface fires.	
32	RDCK, Villages of New Denver and Silverton, New Denver VFD, UBCM CRI Program	Offer Basic Fire Suppression and Safety S-100 training for interested community members throughout Area H at a reduced rate or free of charge.	Undetermined status. Municipalities should also be included.
33	RDCK	Maintain RDCK SPUs and continue to acquire additional units. Continue SPU deployment training for firefighters and monitor SPU needs.	There is a regional SPU
34	RDCK, Villages of New Denver and Silverton, New Denver VFD, UBCM CRI Program	Explore opportunities to assist homeowners and community groups to develop their own sprinkler kits. Consider coordinating initiatives with other municipalities and electoral areas to increase cost effectiveness.	This is no longer recommended by FireSmart BC.

Appendix B. Home Ignition Zone

Home and Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zones

Multiple studies have shown that the principal factors that contribute to structure loss by wildfire are the structure's characteristics and immediate surroundings. The area that determines the ignition potential of a structure is referred to (for residences) as the Home Ignition Zone or (for critical infrastructure) the Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone.^{96,97} Both the Home Ignition Zone and Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone include the structure itself and four concentric, progressively wider zones out to 30 m from the structure. More details on can be found in the FireSmart Manual.⁹⁸

During extreme wildfire events, most home destruction results from low-intensity surface fires, usually ignited by embers. Embers can be transported long distances ahead of the wildfire, across fire guards and fuel breaks, and accumulate within the Home Ignition Zone or Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone in densities that can exceed 600 embers per square meter. Combustible materials found within the Home Ignition Zones or Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zones to create fire 'pathways', allowing surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames into contact with structures.

Because the ignitability of the Home Ignition Zone or Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone is the main factor driving structure loss, the intensity and rate of spread of wildfires beyond the community does not always correspond to a high potential of loss or damage. 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.⁹⁷ Extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result in WUI fire disasters.⁹⁹ 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.

Community Zone

The Community Zone encompasses all non-Provincial Crown public land within the municipal boundary, that is beyond 30 meters from private structures.¹⁰⁰ Vegetation management planning and implementation on most Community Zone lands should be directed through a formal fuel management prescription developed by a forest professional with wildfire vegetation management within their scope of practice. Depending on the results of FireSmart Structure Ignition Zone assessments on individual structures, vegetation management may be required beyond 30 meters and up to 100 meters (FireSmart

⁹⁶ 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.

⁹⁷ Cohen, J. *Preventing Disaster Home Ignitability in the Wildland-urban Interface*. Journal of Forestry. p 15 - 21.

⁹⁸ [Firesmart Canada | Firesmart Canada and FireSmart - Province of British Columbia](#)

⁹⁹ 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. [How risk management can prevent future wildfire disasters in the wildland-urban interface - PMC](#)

¹⁰⁰ Community Resiliency Investment. 2024. *FireSmart Community Funding and Supports Supplemental Instruction Guide*. [FireSmart Community Funding and Supports | Union of BC Municipalities](#)

Priority Zone 3) on larger private parcels. Municipal parks, trails, and outdoor event spaces are all part of the Community Zone. Often Community Zone lands see high use by the public, which increases accidental ignition potential and risk to properties surrounding them.

Landscape Zone

The Landscape Zone encompasses provincial Crown lands that are located outside the municipal boundary. Vegetation (fuel) management planning and implementation is primarily the responsibility of the provincial government, working collaboratively to align landscape objectives with the CWRP objectives.¹⁰⁰ Vegetation management planning and implementation in the Landscape Zone and on all forested provincial Crown lands must be directed through a formal fuel management prescription developed by a forest professional with wildfire vegetation management within their scope of practice.¹⁰⁰

Fire hazard in the eligible WUI is partly dictated by the proximity of fuel to developed areas. Fuels closest to the community pose a higher hazard, compared to fuels that are further from values at risk. It is recommended that fuels closest to structures or developed areas are prioritized for treatment first, in order to reduce the risk closest to the community. Continuity of fuel treatment is an important consideration, which can be ensured by reducing fuels from the edge of the community outward. Table 25 describes the classes associated with proximity of fuels to the interface.

Table 25. Proximity to the Interface.¹⁰¹

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 1000 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.

¹⁰¹ Adapted from Table 3: Proximity to the Interface. Government of British Columbia. 2020. *Determining Wildfire Threat and Risk at a Local Level*. [2020 determining wildfire threat and risk at a local level.pdf](#)

Appendix C. Wildfire Theat Assessment – Worksheets and Photos

All Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) plot forms and photos completed for the development of this CWRP are provided separately as a PDF package. A summary of the WTA plot locations and hazard level can be found in Table 26 below.

Table 26. Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) Plots

Wildfire Threat Assessment Plot ID	Geographic Location	Wildfire Behaviour Threat Class
35	Roseberry	Low
31	Roseberry	Moderate
36	Roseberry	Low
37	Roseberry	High
34	Roseberry	High
645	New Denver	Low
646	New Denver	Low
49	New Denver	Low
50	New Denver	Low
47	New Denver	High
49	New Denver	High
85	Alwyn Creek	Low
94	Enterprise Creek	Moderate
103	Van Tuyl Creek	Moderate
12	East Summit Lake	Moderate
13	East summit lake	High
4	Summit Lake	High
3	Summit Lake	High
8	Summit Lake	Moderate
5	Summit Lake	Moderate
21	Hills	High
20	Hills	High
22	Hills	Moderate
24	Hills - 24a	Moderate
1	Hills Community Park PP	Low
25	Hills - 24b	Moderate
28	Hills	High
26	Hills	Moderate
62	Silverton North	Moderate
63	North Silverton	Moderate
180	New Denver Campground	Low

Wildfire Threat Assessment Plot ID	Geographic Location	Wildfire Behaviour Threat Class
48	New Denver East	Moderate
51	New Denver	Moderate
317	Red Mountain Road	Low
80	Red mountain Rd	High
78	Red mountain Rd	High
82	Red Mountain Rd	High
81	Red Mountain Rd	Low

Appendix D. Required Maps for Submission

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

Appendix E: Local Wildfire Risk Assessment Process

The Wildfire Threat Assessment results that are described in Section 4 were obtained through a process consisting of the following steps:

- Updating fuel typing through in-situ verification (field work) and orthophotography.
- Updating structural data using in-situ verification, spatial data, and orthophotography.
- In-situ observations of wildland fuels and completion of Wildfire Threat Assessment worksheets.
- Wildfire threat spatial analysis to produce mapping and statistics, using updated fuel typing, updated structural data, and Wildfire Threat Assessment worksheet results.

This appendix provides methodological information for each of the above steps to produce the Wildfire Threat Assessment, as follows:

- Further details on fuel typing update methodology are provided in Appendix D-1
- Wildfire Risk Assessment plot worksheets are provided in Appendix B.
- Wildfire threat spatial analysis methodology is detailed in the following sections:
 - Appendix D-3: Wildfire Fire Threat Spatial Analysis Methodology, and
 - Appendix D-4: WUI Risk Spatial Analysis Methodology.

Appendix E-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.¹⁰² 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.¹⁰³

There are significant limitations with the fuel typing system which should be recognized:

- The fuel typing system is designed to describe fuels which sometimes do not occur within the area of interest
- Fuel types cannot fully, and accurately capture the natural variability within a polygon
- The data used to create initial fuel types, also has limitations.¹⁰³

Given these limitations, the following should be considered when using fuel type maps and information, to plan community wildfire resiliency projects:

- Fuel typing further from the developed areas of the study generally has a lower confidence.

¹⁰² Forestry Canada Fire Danger Group. (1992). *Development and Structure of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System: Information Report ST-X-3*.

¹⁰³ 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.

- 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 updated assessments.

Fuel types found within the WUI were listed and discussed in in Section 4.1.3.

Appendix E-2: Wildfire Fire Threat Spatial Analysis Methodology

Source Data

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 (2Km 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

As part of the program, proponents completing a CWRP are provided with a supplementary Structure point dataset from BC Wildfire Service. 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.

Spatial Analysis

Not all attributes on the WUI Threat Assessment form can be determined using a GIS analysis on a landscape/polygon level. To emulate as closely as possible the threat categorization that would be determined using the Threat Assessment form, the variables in Table 27 were used as the basis for building the analytical model. The features chosen are those that are spatially explicit, available from existing and reliable spatial data or field data, and able to be confidently extrapolated to large polygons.

Table 27. Description of variables used in spatial analysis for WUI wildfire risk assessment.

WUI Threat Sheet Attribute	Used in Analysis?	Comment
Fuel Subcomponent		
Duff depth and Moisture Regime	No	Many of these attributes assumed by using 'fuel type' as a component of the Fire Threat analysis. Most of these components are not easily extrapolated to a landscape or polygon scale, or the data available to estimate over large areas (VRI) is unreliable.
Surface Fuel continuity	No	
Vegetation Fuel Composition	No	
Fine Woody Debris Continuity	No	
Live and Dead Coniferous Crown Closure	No	
Live and Dead Conifer Crown Base height	No	
Live and Dead suppressed and Understory Conifers	No	
Forest health	No	
Continuous forest/slash cover within 2 km	No	
Weather Subcomponent		
BEC zone	Yes	Although included, these are broad classifications, meaning most polygons in the Study Area will have the same value
Historical weather fire occurrence	Yes	
Topography Subcomponent		
Aspect	Yes	Elevation model was used to determine slope.
Slope	Yes	
Terrain	No	
Landscape/ topographic limitations to wildfire spread	No	
Structural Subcomponent		
Position of structure/ community on slope	No	Too difficult to quantify – this is a relative value.
Type of development	No	Too difficult to analyze spatially.
Position of assessment area relative to values	Yes	Only distance to structures is used in this analysis, being above, below or sidehill too difficult to analyze spatially.

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 wildfire threat class. Table 28 below summarizes the components and scores to determine the Fire Threat.

Table 28. Fire Threat Class scoring components.

Attribute	Indicator	Score
Fuel Type	C-1	35
	C-2	
	C-3	
	C-4	
	M-3/4, >50% dead fir	
	C-6	25
	M-1/2, >75% conifer	20
	C-7	
	M-3/4, <50% dead fir	
	M-1/2, 50-75% conifer	15
	M-1/2, 25-50% conifer	10
	C-5	
	O-1a/b	
	S-1	
	S-2	
	S-3	
	M-1/2, <25% conifer	5
	D-1/2	0
	W	0
	N	0
Weather - BEC Zone	AT, irrigated	1
	CWH, CDF, MH	3
	ICH, SBS, ESSF	7
	IDF, MS, SBPS, CWHsds1 & ds2, BWBS, SWB	10
	PP, BG	15
Historical Fire Occurrence Zone	G5, R1, R2, G6, V5, R9, V9, V3, R5, R8, V7	1
	G3, G8, R3, R4, V6, G1, G9, V8	5
	G7, C5, G4, C4, V1, C1, N6	8
	K1, K5, K3, C2, C3, N5, K6, N4, K7, N2	10
	N7, K4	15
Slope	<16	1
	16-29 (max N slopes)	5
	30-44	10
	45-54	12
	>55	15
Aspect (>15% slope)	North	0
	East	5

Attribute	Indicator	Score
	<16% slope, all aspect	10
	West	12
	South	15

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 Wildfire Threat 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 CRI program.

Appendix E-3: WUI Risk Spatial Analysis Methodology

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 the previous, assessment. To determine WUI Risk, polygons within 200 m of structures are rated as 'extreme', within 500 m are rated as 'high', and within 2 km are 'moderate'. Distances over that are rated 'low.' WUI Risk Classes and associated assumed scores are summer below in Table 29.

Table 29. WUI Risk Classes and their associated summed scores.

WUI Risk Class	Score
Very Low	0
Low	0-35
Moderate	35-55
High ¹⁰⁴	55-65
Extreme	>65

¹⁰⁴ WUI risk is only assessed for polygons with wildfire threat ratings of high or extreme.