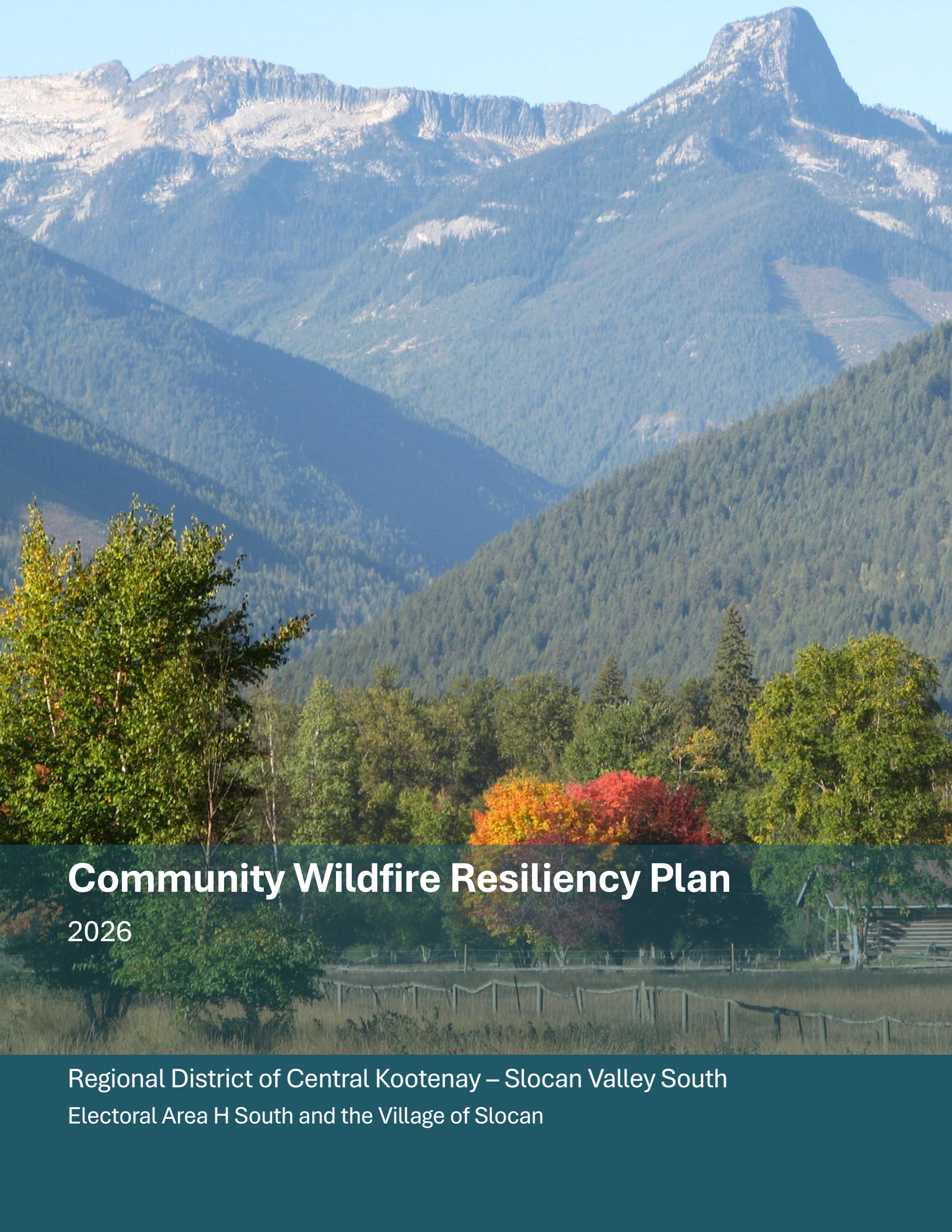




Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan

2026

Regional District of Central Kootenay – Slocan Valley South
Electoral Area H South and the Village of Slocan

Registered Professional Sign and Seal

RPF PRINTED NAME
Debrah Zemanek
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. (Blackwell). 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 South and the municipality of Slocan 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 lead engagement for the project.

The Area of Interest (AOI) of this CWRP encompasses the 1-km Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) around the Village of Slocan and surrounding Slocan Valley communities of Brandon, Lemon Creek, Perrys, Appledale, Winlaw, Lebahdo, Vallican, Passmore, Slocan Park, Crescent Valley, Krestova, Playmore Junction, and South Slocan. Recommendations made within this plan for “Slocan Valley South” are directed at the RDCK and the Village of Slocan, 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. 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 and 93 rebates awarded. SIFCo reports that an additional 18 FireSmart Assessments have been completed in Slocan and 32 FireSmart rebates paid out through the SVWRP program in total. Three neighbourhoods in Slocan Valley South have achieved or are applying for recognition through the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program (FCNRP): Vallican, New Settlement, and one in Slocan.

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 Slocan and an additional 300 properties in Electoral Area H South 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

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

planning. Continuing to appropriately train and equip the Slocan, Passmore, Crescent Valley, and Winlaw fire departments to respond to interface wildfires, and assessing and protecting community infrastructure, remains key priorities.

Fuel management following a values-out approach continues to be a key strategy to mitigate wildfire threat in the plan area. Since 2013, over 530 ha of fuel treatments have been completed in the plan area, largely on SIFCo tenure but also by the Ministry of Forests and the Village of Slocan. Twenty-five 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 Slocan to consider adopting Wildfire DPAs into their Official Community Plan.

The local threat assessment tells a consistent story – substantial portions (32%) 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 80% 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 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 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 South 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 Village of Slocan, staffing may be addressed independently at the municipal level, or through participation in existing regional programs.	Whether full time, 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 Slocan	Annually	Sufficient staff capacity in the RDCK and Village of Slocan 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 Slocan and Electoral Area H South 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 Slocan	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 or Facebook groups (e.g. Slocan Valley Community Web).	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 Slocan	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 W.E. Graham Community School, Winlaw Elementary 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 Slocan, RDCK	2 years	One FireSmart event delivered in school each year (minimum).	CRI FCFS
#5 Assessments and Rebate	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 Slocan	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 Electoral Area H South (Slocan Valley) and/or promoting the Farm & Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Guide & Workbook.	The Slocan Valley has many farms and agricultural properties between Playmor Junction and Slocan. 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 (Winlaw Regional and Nature Park, Krestova Regional Park, Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park), or campgrounds (Slocan - Springer Creek Campground). Consider a QR code that links to the local government FireSmart website(s).	Popular public places throughout the plan area present a good opportunity for public education through signage, and in some cases are also forested interface areas (i.e. Krestova – recommended for treatment).	RDCK, Village of Slocan	2 years	Some public places have signage installed	CRI FCFS – staff time and sign costs
#8 Rooftop Sprinkler Education	Moderate	Conduct public education around the activities of BC Wildfire Structure Protection crews and how resident installation of sprinklers of may impact water systems using BC FireSmart guidance.	Rooftop sprinklers are sometimes used by structural protection crews to protect homes during a wildfire and residents should understand the current FireSmart BC guidance on sprinkler use.	RDCK, Village of Slocan	2 years	A relevant education campaign is conducted	CRI FCFS – staff time
Administrative							
#9 Share CWRP Online	Moderate	Like other recent RDCK CWRPs, make this plan available to the public through the RDCK, Village of Slocan, 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 Slocan website.	RDCK, Village of Slocan	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 Slocan	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 Village of Slocan 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. The Village of Slocan does not currently have FireSmart info online.	RDCK, Village of Slocan	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. All RDCK Fire Halls had an assessment completed in 2024.	RDCK, Village of Slocan	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 DPA	High	Consider incorporating a Wildfire Development Permit Area (WDPA) into the next Village of Slocan OCP update. The DPA should include the entire municipality.	Condition of structures and properties within the Village was cited as a concern by the fire department. Slocan has an OCP policy to develop a Wildfire DPA.	Village of Slocan	5 years	A WDPA is in place in Slocan	CRI FCFS – staff time
#15 Review RDCK Wildfire DPA	Low	The RDCK should review the applicability of the Electoral Area I ‘pilot’ Wildfire Development Permit Area (WDPA) in any part of Electoral Area H at the time of the next OCP update. Likewise, the Village of Slocan should consider a WDPA.	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. The Village of Slocan recently updated their OCP (2022) but did not include a WDPA.	RDCK Village of Slocan	5 years	A WDPA is reconsidered in Electoral Area H prior to the next CWRP	CRI FCFS – staff time



Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source
				(Involved)			
#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 Slocan	5 years	Slocan and Electoral Area H South maintain one or more current and acceptable CWRP(s).	CRI FCFS
Cross Training & Fire Department Resources - Section 5.4							
Training and Equipment							
#17 Fire Department Training	High	Continue providing training opportunities for the Slocan, Winlaw, Passmore, and Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) – the SPP-WFF-1 (Wildland Firefighter Level 1) course, and also SPP-115 (Structural Protection Unit Deployment). 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. The RDCK also offers a training program.	RDCK	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)
#18 FireSmart Training	Moderate	Continue to support RDCK Advanced FireSmart training within RDCK Fire Departments (Slocan, Winlaw, Passmore and Crescent Valley); 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.	RDCK	Annually	Target annual training to departments in Area H	CRI FCFS, UBCM CEPF
#19 Cross Training	High	Continue to support Slocan, Winlaw, Passmore, and Crescent Valley VFDs in holding annual practical training with wildland fire equipment, including structural protection scenarios. Include 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 fire department every 2-3 years.	RDCK	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)
#20 Wildland Equipment	High	Continue to support departments 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, funding should be sought to fill the gap.	RDCK	Annually	Any equipment gaps identified by fire departments are progressively addressed	CRI FCFS, UBCM CEPF
Water / Other							
#21 Response Map	High	Work with Slocan, Winlaw, Passmore, and Crescent Valley VFDs 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.	Water sources in the plan area are known by firefighters or are in physical maps and response books. In an interface wildfire scenario it would be helpful if this information, 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. SIFCo noted the importance of local knowledge during 2021 and 2024 fires; non-local Incident Commanders may not know who to ask.	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
#22 Improve Water Fill Sites	Moderate	Work towards increasing the number and quality of water fill sites outside of the Village of Slocan (non-hydranted areas). Options include strategically stationed above- or below-ground water tanks with standpipes, or improved creek/river access points (signage, parking areas, standpipes).	Local fire departments cited water availability as a concern, especially when Slocan River levels are low.	RDCK	5 years	Improvements are made to water fill sites.	Possibly CRI CEPF, CBT
#23 Assess Water System	Moderate	Evaluate the capacity of the Slocan water system with regards to the delivery of water from hydrants for fire suppression.	The Village of Slocan has a hydrant network. A fire flow analysis would support emergency planning and inform public education around rooftop sprinklers.	Village of Slocan	5 years	A flow analysis is completed for the Slocan water system	CRI FCFS



Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source
				(Involved)			
Interagency Cooperation - Section 5.5							
#24 Interagency Meetings	High	Representatives from Electoral Area H and Slocan should participate in the Slocan Valley Community FireSmart and Resiliency Committee (CFRC) and Regional Wildfire Planning Table to plan, implement, and coordinate FireSmart initiatives, including fuel management treatments.	Both regional and sub-regional FireSmart Committees are valuable. The current Regional Wildfire Planning Table and Slocan Valley CFRC are effective tools for interagency cooperation in the region.	RDCK, Village of Slocan	Annually	CFRC FireSmart meeting takes place at least annually.	CRI FCFS
Emergency Planning - Section 5.6							
#25 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
#26 Emergency Plan Update	High	Complete scheduled updates to the RDCK Emergency Response and Recovery Plan.	An up-to-date emergency plan is a key component of community wildfire resilience.	RDCK	2 years	The RDCK has an up-to-date emergency plan	Funding may be available
#27 Tabletop Exercises	High	As part of the RDCK Emergency Program, which includes the Village of Slocan as a participating municipality, 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, (Village of Slocan)	Annually	Exercises are completed annually	CRI possibly UBCM FCFS; CEPF; CBT
#28 Voyent Alert	High	The RDCK, and Slocan 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, (Village of Slocan)	Annually	Continued uptake of the Voyent Alert! System (can track downloads from app providers).	Local government funding
#29 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. A generator is in place for the Appledale Hall but is still required for other facilities.	RDCK, Village of Slocan	2 years	Fire halls and water systems have back up power	Local government funding
#30 Pre-incident Plans	Moderate	The RDCK should consider requesting one or more Structure Protection Community Assessments for Electoral Area H South through the BCWS Provincial Structure Protection Coordination office.	Intermix communities in the Slocan Valley 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
#31 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 by local VFDs. 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 Slocan	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)			
#32 Local Government Fuel Management	High	Seek funding for the prescription and treatment of CWRP Fuel Treatment Units (FTUs) on local government land.	Several municipal parcels within the Village of Slocan, as well as Krestova Regional Park and areas adjacent to South Slocan water infrastructure have been identified as a High or Very High priority for treatment (FTU #49c, 112ABC, 186, 187, 189).	RDCK, Village of Slocan	2 years	Prescriptions are completed for priority areas and treatment is initiated	Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Program (CL WRR), or CBT
#33 Slocan Greenspace Cleanup	High	Considering using the FCFS Cultural Sites and Green Spaces program or other funding to clean up overgrown lanes on municipal land in the Village of Slocan.	Overgrown lanes, back alleys, and other unoccupied Village properties were identified as a fire department concern due to fire hazard and restricted access. This will also help set an example to residents.	Village of Slocan	3 years	Municipal land is kept clear of vegetation to facilitate structure protection and emergency access.	CRI FCFS
#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 CWRP Fuel Treatment Units (FTUs), starting with those identified as the highest 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 Valley 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 Slocan (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 Slocan (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

Item	Priority	Recommendation	Rationale	Lead	Timeframe	Metric for Success	Funding Source
				(Involved)			
#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 Grohman Narrows (Nelson), and seasonal curbside green waste pickup in Slocan.	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 as local fire departments indicated that green waste dumping is an issue.	RDCK, Village of Slocan	Annually	Free yard waste disposal options are expanded	CRI FCFS funding is available for tipping fee coverage
#41 Local FireSmart Collective Program	High	Promote the new FireSmart BC Local FireSmart Collective Program in Area H and Slocan and work towards increasing the number of recognized neighbourhoods. Prior to 2026, residents could participate in the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program in Electoral Area H and Slocan.	The RDCK provides step-by-step information online and staff capacity for supporting interested neighbourhoods; Slocan, Vallican and New Settlement were recognized in 2025. The number of recognized neighbourhoods is low compared to Slocan Lake North.	RDCK, Village of Slocan	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 southern half of Electoral Area H, including the Village of Slocan (referred to for the purposes of this plan as Electoral Area H South, or Slocan Valley South), and the northern half, including the Villages of Silverton and New Denver (referred to as Electoral Area H North, or Slocan Lake North). 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 South 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 South 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-making tools for evacuation or shelter in place; emergency operation centers (EOC) levels and activation

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](#)

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*.

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

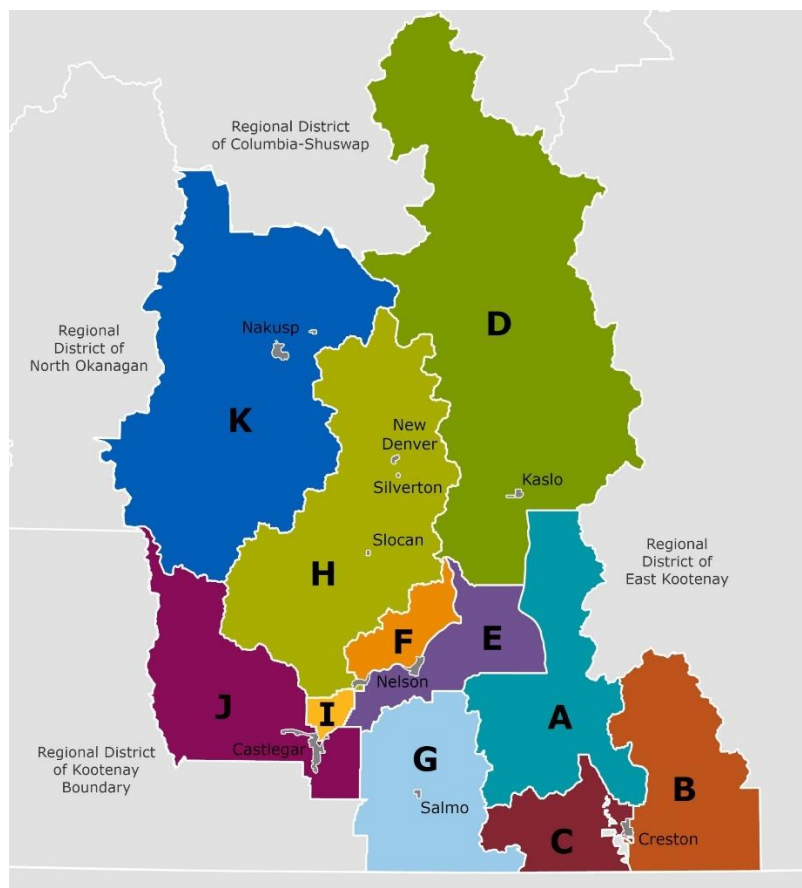


Figure 1. Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Areas. Slovan forms the boundary between Electoral Area H 'North' and 'South'.

Regional District of Central Kootenay Area H South and Village of Slovan Community Wildfire Protection Plan – 2019 (Updated 2020)

Beginning in 2017, Slovan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) developed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan update for the Regional District of Central Kootenay Area H South and the Village of Slovan. A plan for Area H North and the Villages of New Denver and Silverton 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 South / Slocan Valley South that have been involved in community wildfire planning. Strategic opportunities exist between these plans and should be considered.

- RDCK Electoral Area H North, Village of Silverton, and Village of New Denver CWRP 2025 – concurrently in development
- RDCK Electoral Area F CWRP 2023 – completed.
- RDCK Electoral Area E CWRP 2023 – completed.
- RDCK Electoral Area I CWRP 2023 – completed.
- RDCK Electoral Area J (Columbia/Lower Arrow) CWRP 2024 – completed.
- City of Nelson CWRP 2021 – 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 OCP for the Village of Slocan is summarized below in Table 2. Takeaways and recommendations for wildfire risk reduction in the OCP are discussed in Section 5.3.

There is currently no OCP for Electoral Area H South.

Table 2. Village of Slocan Official Community Plan (Bylaw No. 700, 2022) and its relationship to the CWRP

Section	Description & Relationship to CWRP
5.10 Social & Wellness	This section identifies areas for supporting and improving social and wellness concerns, including public safety, healthcare, and accessibility. Policies specific to wildfire risk reduction include: • Developing a Wildfire Emergency Response Plan; • Continuing to complete FireSmart interface work throughout the community; and • Continuing to improve wildfire resilience though: ○ In cooperation with RDCK, amending the Building Bylaw to incorporated FireSmart design guidelines, and ○ Developing a Wildfire Hazard Development Permit Area.
5.15 Climate Change Adaptation & GHG Reductions	This section addresses the potential impacts associated with climate change and identifies increased wildfire probability as one of these hazards. The policies in this section outline strategies for reducing

Section	Description & Relationship to CWRP
	greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and adapting to the changing climate. This includes: • Prioritizing FireSmart tree species for landscaping, and • Promoting xeriscaping that reduces water demands and vulnerability to drought.
6.0 Development Permit Areas	The Village currently has six DPAs already in place, grouped into two categories: Environmental (Riparian Area, Flood Hazard, and Steep Slope), and General Form and Character (Village Core, Village Gateways, and Mill & Waterfront). Identified as part of the General Form DPAs is the policy to promote wildfire resistance in buildings, discouraging the use of cedar shakes (Policy 6.7.20). However, wood is listed as a desired building material within the Core and Gateway DPAs (Policies 6.8.13 and 6.9.13). Takeaway: The framework for reviewing and enforcing DPAs is already in place, facilitating the potential adoption of a Wildfire DPA.
7.0 Implementation and Action Plan	Policy 7.1.18 states that the Village plans to complete a wildfire risk reduction plan, achieved with this CWRP.

2.3.2 Local Bylaws and Policies

Table 3 below summarizes the bylaws and policies relevant to community wildfire resiliency in Slocan Valley South.

Table 3. 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);

Bylaw	Description & Relationship to CWRP
	- 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.
Village of Slocan	
Village of Slocan Building Bylaw No. 2200, 2010	This bylaw authorizes the Village to regulate buildings and structures for the health, safety, and protection of the public and property. Wildfire resiliency is not addressed; opportunities exist to incorporate 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 (see Section 5.3).
Village of Slocan Emergency Measures Bylaw No. 624	In accordance with the <i>Emergency Program Act</i>, this bylaw grants the Council the authority to implement the emergency plan and initiate a state of local emergency, if required.
Sub-division and Development Bylaw No. 411, 1989	This bylaw sets out the requirements for subdivision of land. It does not address fire hazard abatement mechanisms, such as emergency response access or egress, but does state that the Village may require owners of developments outside a subdivision or under the Condominium Act may be required to provide domestic water services and fire hydrants (3.2.1 (2)). Takeaway: Including provisions for that consider emergency vehicle access (e.g., minimum turnaround requirements) can reduce barriers to efficient emergency response.

2.3.3 Other Local Plans

Other local plans relevant to the development process of this CWRP are summarized in Table 4 below.

Table 4. 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.
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,

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>

Plan	Description & Relationship to CWRP
	critical infrastructure, high environmental and cultural values, and resource values.

2.4 Higher-Level Plans and Legislation

Table 5 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, southeast of Slocan.

Table 5. 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.
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	

⁵ BC Wildfire Service. 2023. *Wildland Urban Interface Wildfire Risk Reduction Plan; 2023 Development Standard and Guidance Document*. [wui_wrr_plan_development_standard_and_guidance_document.pdf](#)

⁶ B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. 2019. *Nelson Mapsheet 82F*. [nelson.pdf](#)

Document	Description
Provincial Legislation	
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.

3 Community Description

This section discusses the area of focus for this Plan and provides general demographic information about Electoral Area H South, or Slocan Valley South. 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 Valley South refers to the southern portion of Electoral Area H, from the south tip of Slocan Lake down to the city limits of Nelson. The Slocan Valley is situated between the Selkirk Mountain range to the east and the Valhalla Range to the west. The main transportation corridor is Highway 6, which runs along the eastern shore of Slocan Lake, travelling southwards through the valley until it joins Highway 3A, west of Nelson. The Village of Slocan is located at the south end of the lake. A number of unincorporated communities are clustered along the Highway 6 continuously from Slocan to Nelson, including Brandon, Lemon Creek, Perrys, Appledale, Winlaw, Lebahdo, Vallican, Passmore, Slocan Park, Crescent Valley, Krestova, Playmor Junction, and South Slocan.

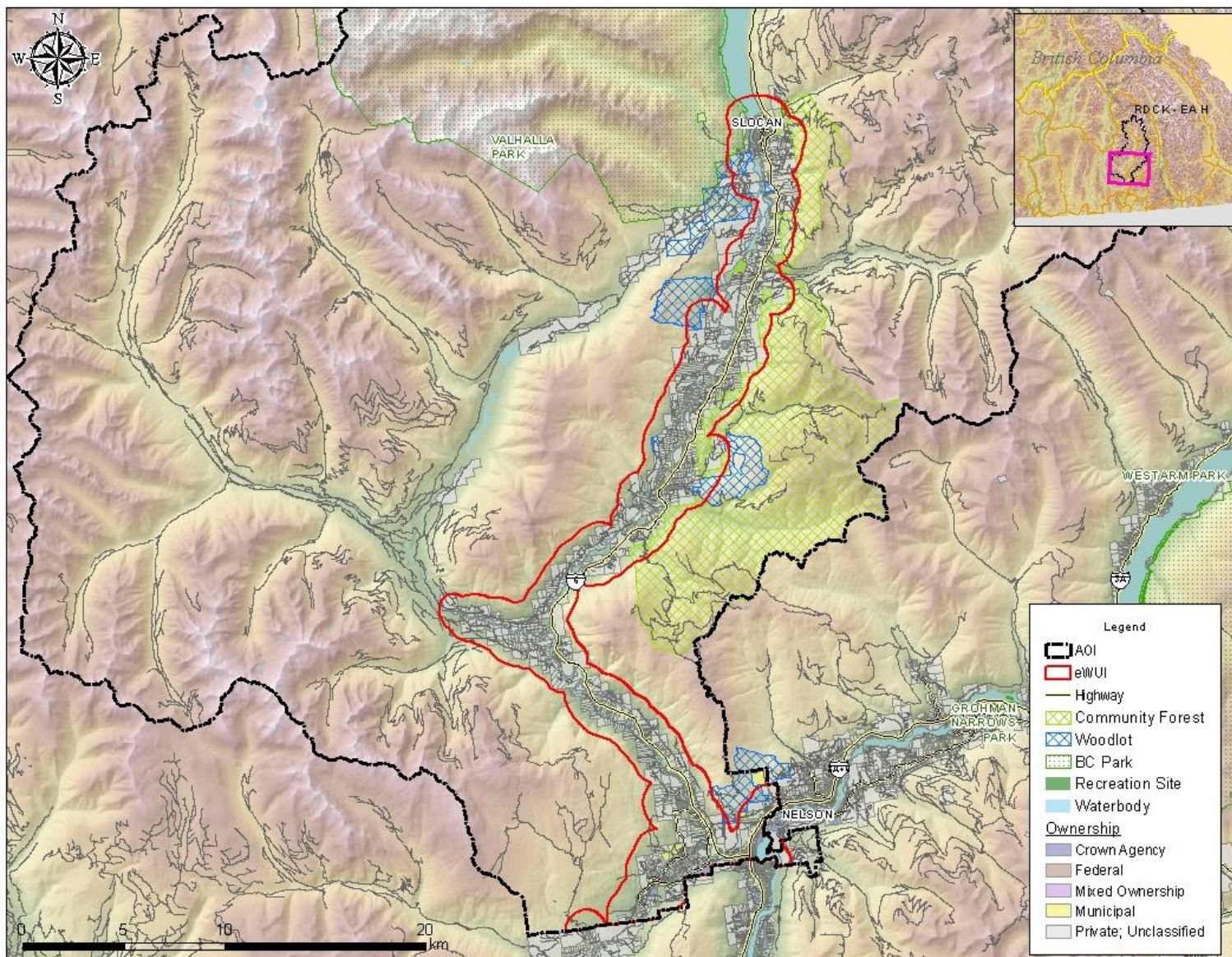
The Area of Interest (AOI) for this CWRP is the entirety of Slocan Valley South (Electoral Area H South), including the municipality of Slocan. However, only a portion of this AOI is within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). The WUI represents the zone where structures and other human development meet 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. Throughout this document, ‘plan area’, ‘Slocan Valley South’, ‘WUI’ and ‘eligible WUI’ are used interchangeably.

Most of the Electoral Area H South eligible WUI is privately-owned (79%), with Crown Agency (1%), Municipal (1%), Untitled Provincial (11%), and Crown Provincial (8%) ownership types comprising the rest. An overview of the plan area is shown below in Map 1. The breakdown of ownership is also shown in Table 6.

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

Table 6. Land ownership in the Electoral Area H South eligible WUI.

Land Ownership	Area (ha)	Percent of Eligible WUI (excluding water)
Crown Agency	104	1%
Crown Provincial	1029	8%
Federal	22	<1%
Mixed Ownership	1	<1%
Municipal	142	1%
Private	9630	79%
Unclassified	28	<1%
Untitled Provincial	1309	11%



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

3.2 Community Information

Relevant socio-economic statistics for Slocan Valley South are shown in Table 7 and Table 8 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 7. 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 8. Socio-economic statistics for the Village of Slocan.¹¹

Metric	Value
Total Population	379
Population percentage change between 2016 - 2021	+31.1%
Population density (people/km ²)	488.6
Average Age (years)	46.6
Average household size	2.1
Employment Rate	32.1%
Median total income of household (2020)	\$28,400
Housing Units (number of private dwellings)	212
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents	184
Single-detached housing units	145
Semi-detached and row houses	30
Moveable dwellings	0

3.2.1 First Responders

Electoral Area H South has effectively seamless fire protection coverage throughout the WUI, provided by the Slocan, Winlaw, Passmore, and Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Departments which serve the area from north to south. These departments are operated by the RDCK and have a fire hall in each of these communities. BC Ambulance Service also maintains a station in Winlaw. 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). All fire departments in the Slocan Valley have mutual aid agreements with adjacent departments, and often respond to calls together (automatic aid).

Electoral Area H South 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 the Shoreacres Fire Base, located at the junction of Highway 6 and Highway 3A. Seven 3- to 4-person initial attack crews and two 20-person unit crews, which are considered a provincial resource, are stationed there seasonally. Deployment of provincial firefighting resources occurs based on the Provincial Coordination Plan for Wildland Urban Interface Fires.¹²

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

¹² 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

3.2.2 Plan Area Communities

Village of Slocan

The Village of Slocan is located at the south end of Slocan Lake and the mouth of the Slocan River, on the west side of Highway 6. The Village has a population of 379 residents, a significant increase from 289 in 2016. Previously to this, there had been a 22.7% decline from 2006 to 2016.¹³ The Village has a community school for K-10, water treatment centre, fitness centre, library, food bank, youth centre, technology centre, community hall, post office, health clinic, RDCK-operated transfer station, and fire hall, as well as a number of small businesses. The Village provides water services and garbage collection. The Village also manages several municipal parks and the Springer Creek RV Park and Campground. The Slocan Volunteer Fire Department, operated by the RDCK, provides fire protection.

Most of the Village is concentrated at the tip of the lake shore between Highway 6 and the Slocan River (Figure 2), with a collection of homes on Slocan West Road, on the west side of the river. While technically outside the municipal boundaries, this area is partially supplied with water from the Village, as well as fire protection from the Slocan Volunteer Fire Department.



Figure 2. Village of Slocan, at the south end of Slocan Lake, looking southeast. Source: Google Earth

Brandon

Brandon refers to properties just outside of Slocan municipal boundaries, east and west of Highway 6. (Figure 3). The community is partially within the Agriculture Lands Reserve (ALR); most properties here are large and spread out, with large swaths of forested land between structures. Properties adjacent to Slocan are on smaller parcels. This is also typical of the properties scattered along Highway 6 between Slocan and Lemon Creek. Most properties are constrained to the foothills and valley bottom; few

¹³ [03_Slocan-Valley-Sub-Regional-Report.pdf](#)

properties exist further upslope. Water is supplied by a local water system operated by the Brandon Waterworks Improvement District.¹⁴ Fire protection is provided by the Slocan Volunteer Fire Department.

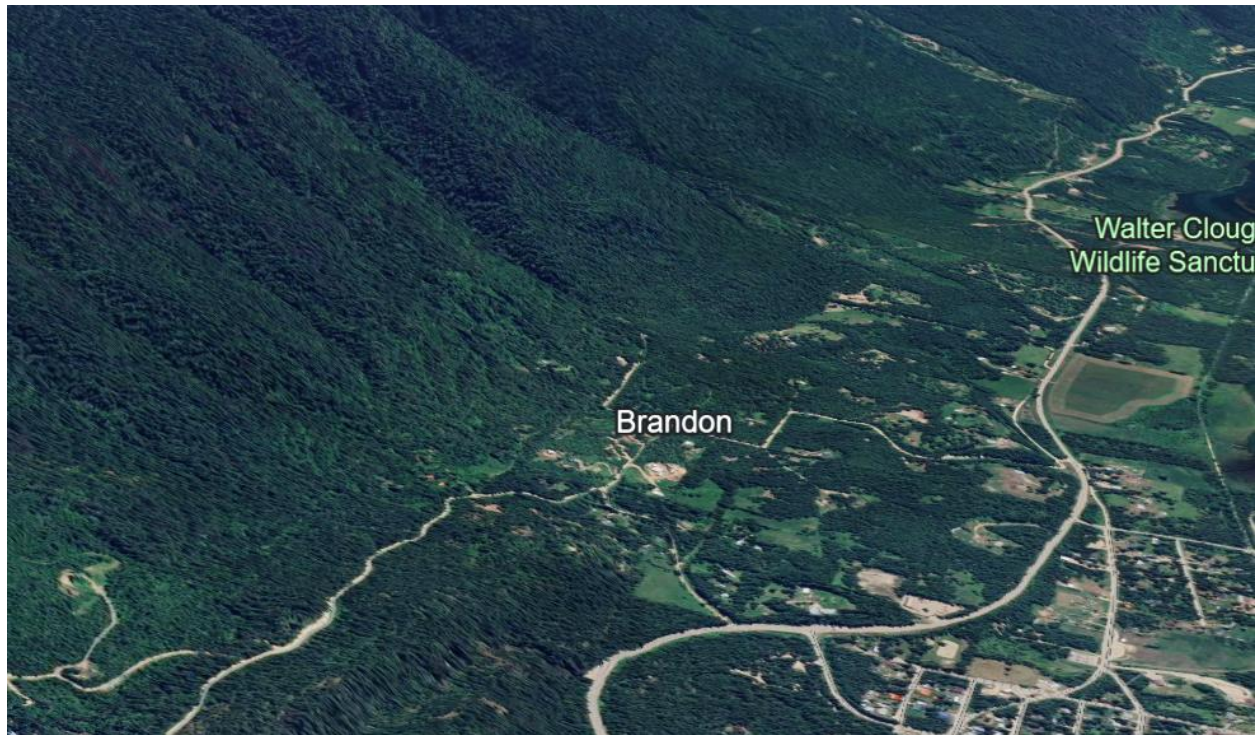


Figure 3. View of Brandon, looking southeast. Source: Google Earth

Lemon Creek

Lemon Creek is located 8 km south of Slocan, where Lemon Creek meets the Slocan River (Figure 4). The community includes a rest area, lodge, restaurant, and the Lemon Creek Pioneer Campground. It is also an access point to Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park. ALR designation stretches from the south end of Lemon Creek to the north end of Winlaw, including the communities of Perrys and Appledale. Fire protection services are provided by the Slocan Volunteer Fire Department.

¹⁴ Regional District of Central Kootenay. 2013. *Final Report Sanca Park Water System Source Assessment*. [Microsoft Word - 2013-02-07-Report Rev 3](#)

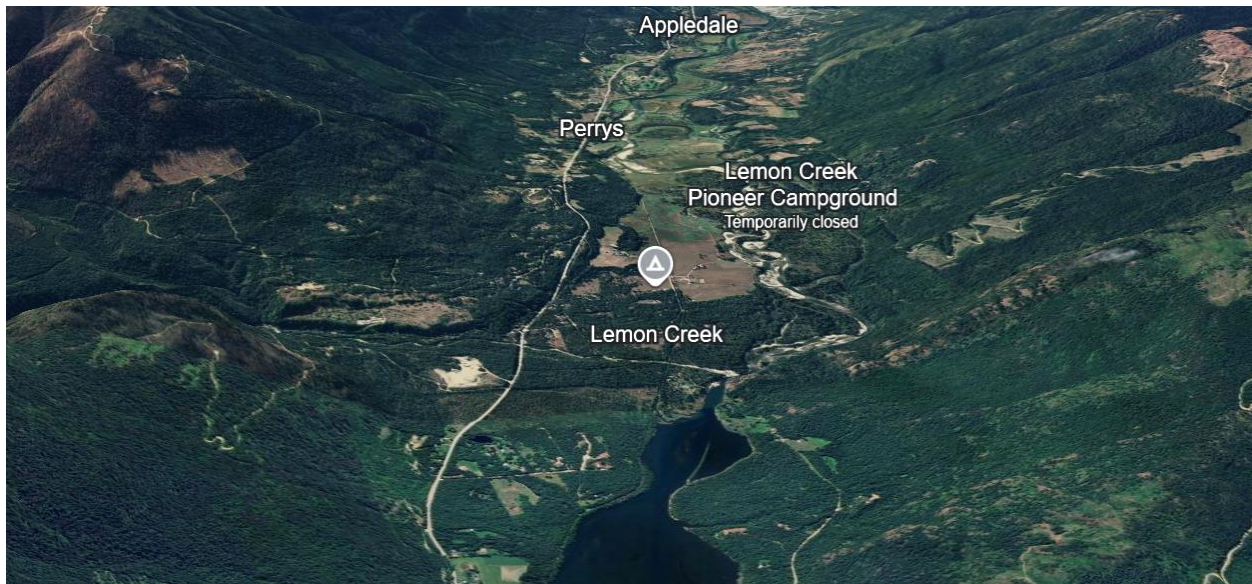


Figure 4. View of Lemon Creek, looking south. Source: Google Earth

Perrys

Perrys refers to properties accessed off Highway 6 halfway between Slocan and Winlaw (Figure 5). It is characterized by large, rural properties along the valley bottom, interspersed by the meandering Slocan River, as well as the highway. Properties are mainly agricultural. Perrys falls within the Winlaw Volunteer Fire Department fire protection area. Homes on Perrys Back Road are on the west side of Slocan River.



Figure 5. View of Perrys, looking south. Source: Google Earth

Appledale

Appledale is a small community on the north side of Winlaw, with residences mostly located west of Highway 6 on both sides of the river. Properties are mainly agricultural or industrial. Amenities include two golf courses, a daycare centre, and a community hall. Fire protection is provided by the Winlaw Volunteer Fire Department.

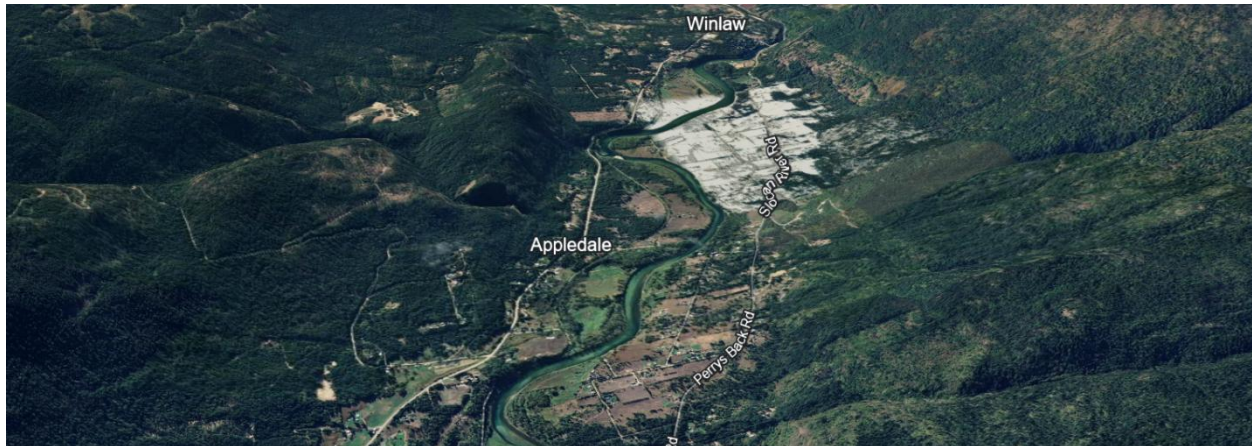


Figure 6. View of Appledale, looking south. Source: Google Earth

Winlaw

Winlaw is an unincorporated community that is located on the east side of Slocan River, bisected by Highway 6, roughly 20 km south of Slocan (Figure 7). Amenities here include a fire hall, daycare centre, post office, elementary school, community hall, gas station, and several small businesses and farm operations. The 2021 census recorded a population of 310, a modest increase from 2011 and 2016.¹⁵ Housing type is mainly single detached private dwellings. Fire protection is provided by the Winlaw Volunteer Fire Department.



Figure 7. View of Winlaw, looking south. Source: Google Earth

Vallican

Vallican is a small community located west of Highway 6 where Little Slocan River meets Slocan River (Figure 8), on Little Slocan South Road. There are no amenities, but the Vallican Whole Community Centre acts as the hub of the community. The area is provided fire protection services by the Passmore Volunteer Fire Department.

¹⁵ 2021 Census of Population. Profile table. Statistics Canada. [Profile table, Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population - Winlaw, Unincorporated place \(UNP\) \[Designated place\], British Columbia](#)



Figure 8. View of Vallican, looking southwest.

Passmore

The community of Passmore is located where the Slocan Valley opens up to meet the Little Slocan River valley and Highway 6 bends around Slocan Mountain (Figure 9). Passmore has a fire station and community hall. Properties are located along Upper Passmore Road, on either side of Little Slocan River. Some water is supplied by a local water system operated by the Passmore Improvement District. Fire protection is provided by the Passmore Volunteer Fire Department.



Figure 9. View of Passmore looking east. Source: Google Earth.

Slocan Park

The unincorporated rural community of Slocan Park is located southeast of Passmore on the valley bottom either side of Highway 6, northeast of Slocan River (Figure 10). As the valley narrows here, the community is denser, with large, cleared agricultural properties abutting each other. The community has a co-op store and gas station, established by the original Doukhobor settlers. There is also a medical clinic and several

small businesses. Some water is supplied by a local water system operated by the Passmore Improvement District. Fire protection services are provided by the Passmore Fire Department.



Figure 10. View of Slocan Park, looking southeast. Source: Google Earth

Crescent Valley

Crescent Valley is located where Highway 6 joins Highway 3A, and continues to Pass Creek Road at the base of Slocan Mountain (Figure 11). The Slocan River, running parallel to Highway 6, also bisects the community. There is a grocery store, gas station, regional park and campground, as well as the Crescent Valley Fire Hall.



Figure 11. View of Creston Valley looking southeast. Source: Google Earth

Krestova

Krestova is located on the gentle slopes south of Crescent Valley where the valley opens up towards Pass Creek (Figure 12). The community is mostly composed of small farms and rural properties. Water is partially supplied by the Krestova water system, managed by the Krestova Improvement District. Fire protection is provided by the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department.



Figure 12. View of Krestova, looking south. Source: Google Earth

New Settlement

New Settlement is west of Krestova and borders Electoral Area I to the south. The portion in Area H is highly intermixed (Reservoir Road and Sorokin Road) and fire protection is provided by Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department. Pass Creek Volunteer Fire Department would respond in Area I.



Figure 13. View of New Settlement, looking southwest. Source: Google Earth.

Playmor Junction

Playmor Junction sits at the intersection of Highway 6 and Highway 3A, just north of Crescent Valley, on the west bank of the Kootenay River (Figure 14). The community is widely spread out and includes a secondary school and a number of small businesses. Playmor Junction falls within the Crescent Valley Fire Department fire protection area.



Figure 14. View of Playmor Junction, looking west. Source: Google Earth

South Slocan

Slocan South is located along Highway 3A just north of Playmor Junction on the west bank of the Kootenay River (Figure 15). It is a small rural community of roughly 50-100 people¹⁶ within the Crescent Valley Fire Department fire protection area. The residents of South Slocan are part of the RDCK-operated South Slocan water system, derived from Watt's Brook as the primary source and Smokey Creek as the secondary.¹⁷



Figure 15. View of South Slocan, looking southwest. Source: Google Earth

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 wildfire 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 Slocan 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.¹⁸

Table 9 (and displayed on Map 2) lists critical infrastructure in the plan area, as identified by the RDCK, Village of Slocan, and local fire departments. The assets operated by the RDCK in Slocan Valley South are

¹⁶ British Columbia Government. *BC Geographical Names*. "South Slocan." [BC Geographical Names](#)

¹⁷ Regional District of Central Kootenay. 2025. *2025 Water System Information South Slocan*. [2025 Billing Insert SSL V3.pub](#)

¹⁸ FireSmart BC. 2024. *Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan Instruction Guide 2024*. [LGPS CRI FCFS 2024 CWRP Instruction Guide 2024-06.pdf](#)

the fire halls for the Crescent Valley, Passmore, Winlaw, and Slocan fire departments and the South Slocan water system. The Village of Slocan operates a Village Office and a water system.

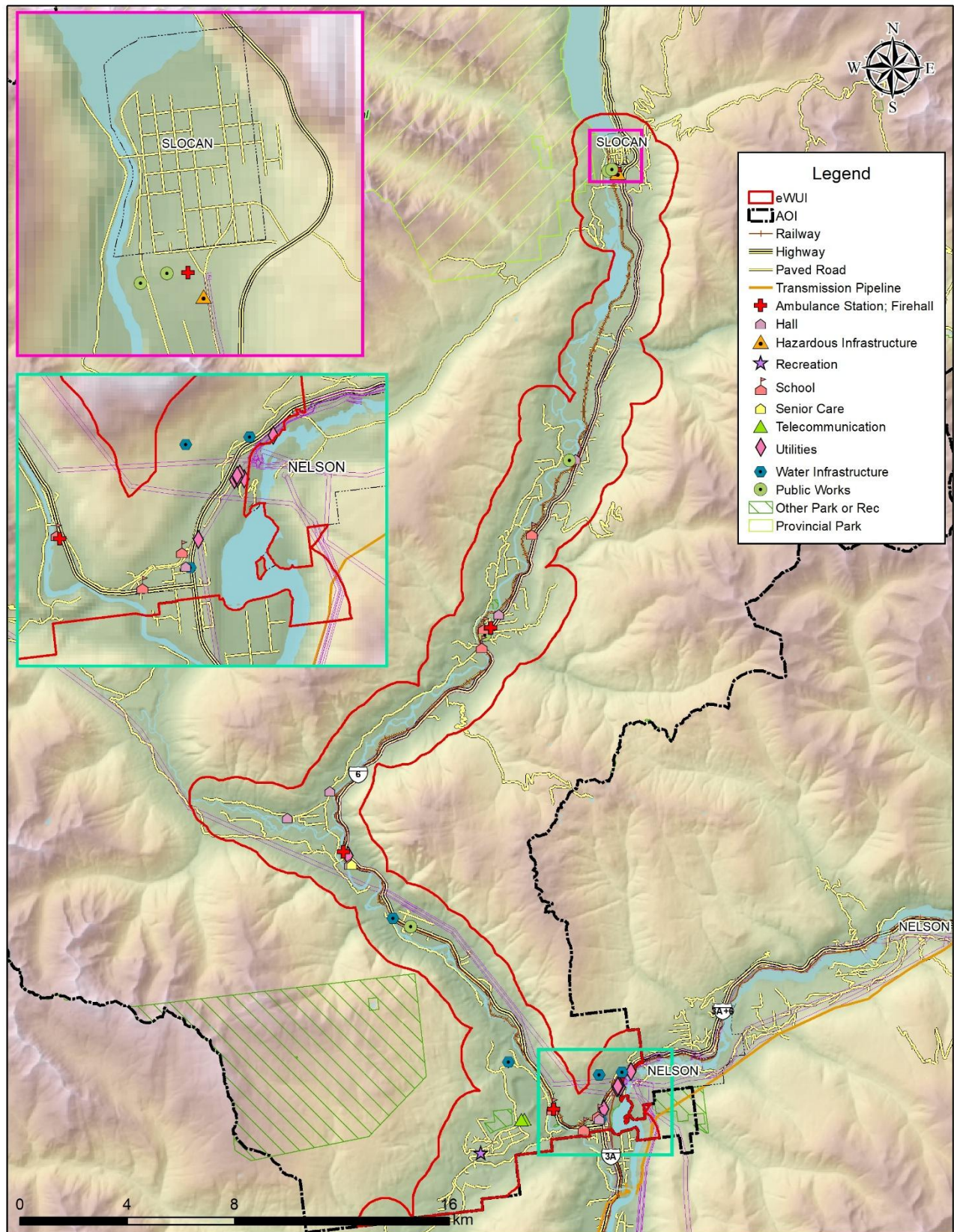
Water and electric systems are discussed in more detail in the next sections.

Table 9. Critical infrastructure and community assets in the plan area.

Name	Type	Jurisdiction	Location	Comments
Critical Infrastructure				
BC Ambulance Station	Safety / Health	BC Ambulance	5741 Hwy 6, Winlaw	
Health and Wellness Center	Medical Clinic	Interior Health	710 Harold St, Slocan	
Winlaw Fire Hall	Safety / First Responders	RDCK	5741 Hwy 6, Winlaw	
Slocan Fire Hall	Safety / First Responders	RDCK	8877 Slocan St South, Slocan	Fire department has done mitigation around hall
Passmore Fire Hall	Safety / First Responders	RDCK	3725 Hwy 6, Slocan Park	
Crescent Valley Fire Hall	Safety / First Responders	RDCK	1365 Hwy 6, Crescent Valley	
Water reservoir (above ground)	Water	Slocan	49.755195, 117.485334	At the edge of the 2024 Mulvey Creek Fire. Encompassed by PTU 116.
Water Treatment Plant + Pump Station	Water	Slocan	8745 Slocan West Rd., Slocan	At the edge of the 2024 Mulvey Creek Fire. Encompassed by PTU 116. 954 m ³ storage capacity
Municipal Hall	Government	Slocan	503 Slocan St, Slocan	
Village Shop	Public Works	Slocan	1004 Harold St, Slocan	
Legion Hall	Private	Slocan	502 Harold St, Slocan	Reception centre
W.E. Graham Community School	School	School District 8	915 Harold St, Slocan	
Winlaw Elementary School	School	School District 8	5604 Winlaw Bridge Rd	Brick siding
Mount Sentinel Secondary School	School	School District 8	1014 Playmor Rd, South Slocan	Brick siding
South Slocan Reservoir 1	Water	RDCK	49.458892, 117.533964	273 m ³ storage capacity; steel
South Slocan Reservoir 2	Water	RDCK	49.460902, 117.521829	300 m ³ storage capacity; steel

Name	Type	Jurisdiction	Location	Comments
South Slocan water treatment plant	Water	RDCK	3257 S Slocan Village Road 49.459421, -117.522666	Cartridge filters, UV and chlorine disinfection.
South Slocan Watt's Brook intake	Water	RDCK	49.460061, -117.536952	
South Slocan Smokey Creek dam and intake	Water	RDCK	49.464739, -117.518429	
Community Assets				
Perrys Siding Bridge	Bridge	Ministry of Transportation and Transit	49.664823, -117.511317	Wood and steel construction. Sole access to west side of Slocan River (Perrys Back Road) north of Vallican
Slocan Park Community Hall	Building	Private	3036 Hwy 6, Slocan Park	Metal roof, wood siding
Vallican Whole Community Centre	Building	Vallican Whole (Private)	3762 Little Slocan South Rd, Vallican	Cedar shake siding, wood interior, asphalt roof. Metal flashing and gravel perimeter installed though FCNRP in 2021.
Appledale Community Hall	Building	Appledale Hall Progressive Association	Appledale Park Rd	Back-up power source; upgrades completed as part of the SIFCo resiliency centre project ¹⁹
South Slocan Transfer Station	Waste	RDCK	8875 Slocan South Road, Slocan	

¹⁹ <https://www.sifco.ca/single-post/renovations-completed-at-the-appledale-hall>



Map 2. Critical infrastructure and values at risk in Electoral Area H South.

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.

Fortis BC provides electrical power to the plan area through a network of transmission and distribution lines. The transmission network extends from Castlegar as far north as Slocan, where there is also a substation, and east along Highway 31A to Nelson. In the event of a wildfire, both BC Hydro and Fortis BC would work with BCWS crews to protect and monitor electrical infrastructure. It is the responsibility of utility companies to manage right-of-way vegetation under the *Wildfire Act*. Fortis BC also operates a natural gas pipeline southeast of Electoral Area H.

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.

Appledale Community Hall has a back up power source as part of upgrades for the SIFCo Resiliency Centre.

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.

Several local water systems serve the residents of Brandon, Slocan Park, Playmor Junction, and Krestova, operated by their respective Improvement Districts. Residents outside of these systems are responsible for their own water.

Just east of Playmor Junction, the RDCK-operated South Slocan water system services 50 active connections.²⁰ The system draws water from two surface water sources, Smokey Creek and Watt's Brook, and includes two reservoirs and a treatment plant. 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.

²⁰ Regional District of Central Kootenay. *South Slocan Water System*. <https://www.rdck.ca/environmental-service/environmental-services/water/rdck-water-systems/south-slocan-water-system/>. Accessed Jan 5, 2025.

The Village of Slocan operates a water system within municipal boundaries. This system is supplied by the Gwillim and Climax Community Watersheds as primary sources and Springer for emergency back-up and for irrigation. Rural residences outside of Slocan are responsible for their own water, drawing from independent surface water and well sources.

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. Doukhobor settlements, too, have left their mark on the land and helped shape the current communities. The culture of the valley today identifies itself as an alternative lifestyle, characterized by arts and music.²¹ No heritage structures or museums were identified in the last CWPP, but cultural assets such as Appledale Hall and the Vallican Whole Community Centre are listed as community assets in Table 9.

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. Valhalla Provincial Park was significantly impacted by the 2024 Slocan Valley wildfires, with closures to some areas due to safety concerns.²² Post-wildfire rehabilitation activities have been ongoing according to a multi-phase recovery plan.²³ Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park, outside of the eligible WUI but within Electoral Area H South, also provides environmental and backcountry recreation values. The 2021 Mt. Ruppel fire burned into the eastern boundary of the park.

²¹ Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission. 2025. "Arts and Culture." [Arts & Culture | Slocan Valley, British Columbia](#)

²² BC Parks. Valhalla Park. <https://bcparks.ca/valhalla-park/>. Accessed December 29, 2025.

²³ Village of New Denver. *Valhalla Park Post-Wildfire Recovery Update*. <https://newdenver.ca/valhalla-park-post-wildfire-recovery-update/>. Accessed December 29, 2025.

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.²⁴ 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*).²⁴ Table 10 lists species and ecosystems at risk in the plan areas as identified through the BC Conservation Data Centre.

Several Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*) Population Units and Management Areas, as well as designated Ungulate Winter Range, also overlap with Electoral Area H South's eligible WUI, occurring mainly along Slocan River. Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA) are prevalent throughout Electoral Area H; some overlap with the WUI exists around Lemon Creek, Passmore, and Slocan Park.

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.

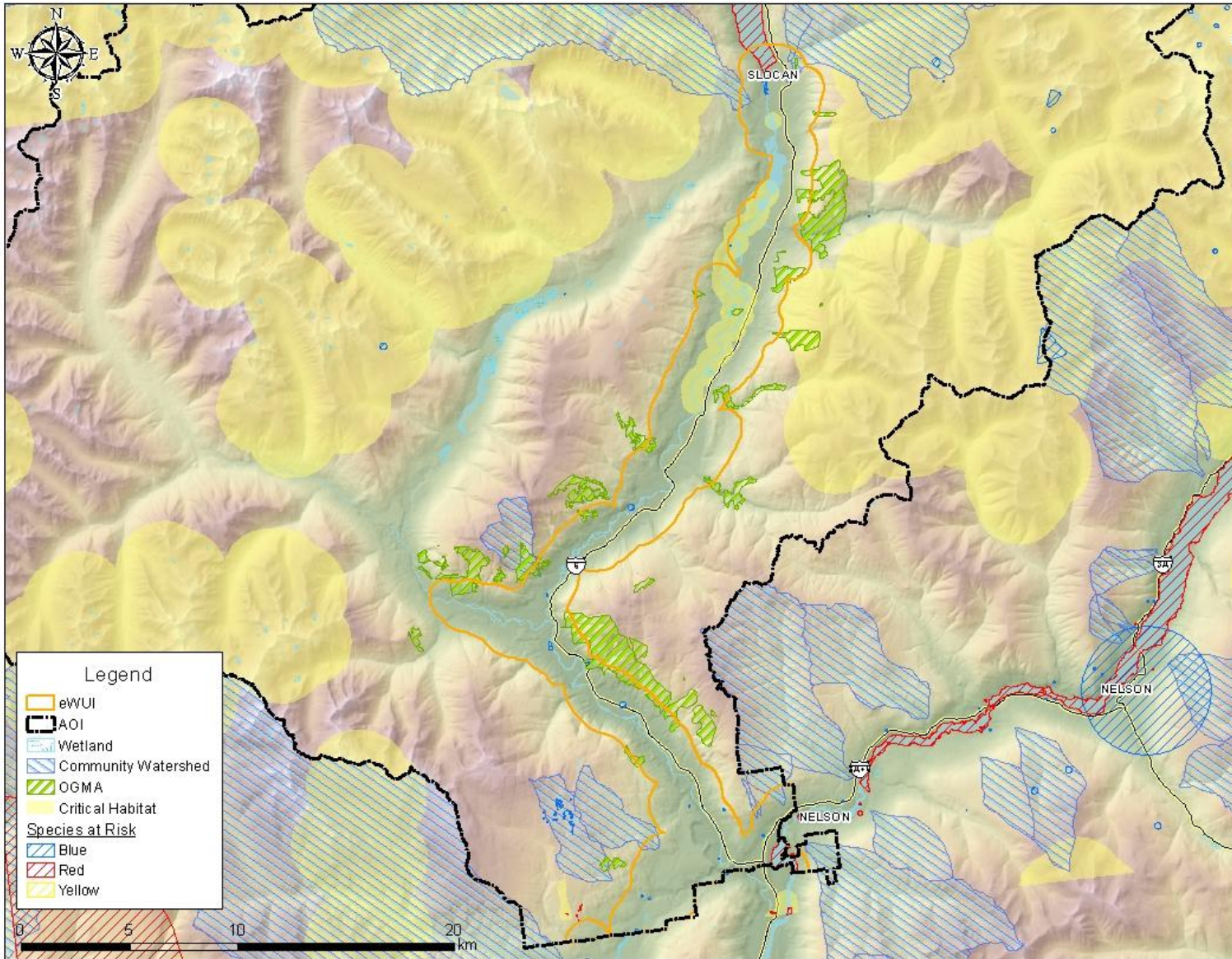
Prioritization, planning, implementation and maintenance of fuel treatments in provincial Parks and Protected Areas would be undertaken by BC Parks.

Table 10. A non-exhaustive list of species and ecosystems at risk within the Electoral Area H South WUI.

English Name	Scientific Name	BC List	Category	Habitat Type
Shorthead Sculpin	<i>Cottus confusus</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	RIVERINE; MEDIUM RIVER
Western Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	Yellow	Invertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Cropland/Hedgerow, Woodland Mixed
Western Screech-Owl, <i>macfarlanei</i> subspecies	<i>Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Woodland Mixed; RIVERINE: Riparian
Western Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	Yellow	Invertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Cropland/Hedgerow
Shorthead Sculpin	<i>Cottus confusus</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	RIVERINE; MEDIUM RIVER
Western Screech-Owl, <i>macfarlanei</i> subspecies	<i>Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Woodland Mixed, Roadside; RIVERINE: Riparian
Western Screech-Owl, <i>macfarlanei</i> subspecies	<i>Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Forest Mixed; RIVERINE: Riparian
Umatilla Dace	<i>Rhinichthys umatilla</i>	Red	Vertebrate Animal	RIVERINE; BIG RIVER; MODERATE GRADIENT
Western Skink	<i>Plestiodon skiltonianus</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: ROCK OUTCROP, COARSE TALUS/BOULDERS,

²⁴ Environment and Climate Change Canada. 2023. *Slocan Watershed SAR and SEI*. [Microsoft Word - Slocan SAR SEI 15March2024 v3_AL.docx](#)

English Name	Scientific Name	BC List	Category	Habitat Type
				GRASSLAND/HERBACEOUS, FOREST NEEDLELEAF
Western Skink	<i>Plestiodon skiltonianus</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: ROCK OUTCROP, COARSE TALUS/BOULDERS, GRASSLAND/HERBACEOUS, FOREST NEEDLELEAF
Great Blue Heron, <i>herodias</i> subspecies	<i>Ardea herodias herodias</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Forest needleleaf
Western Screech-Owl, <i>macfarlanei</i> subspecies	<i>Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Forest Mixed; RIVERINE: Riparian
Columbia quillwort	<i>Isoetes minima</i>	Red	Vascular Plant	TERRESTRIAL: Seepage, Grassland/Herbaceous
Shorthead Sculpin	<i>Cottus confusus</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	RIVERINE; MEDIUM RIVER
White Sturgeon (Upper Columbia River Population)	<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i> pop. 2	Red	Vertebrate Animal	LACUSTRINE: Deep Water
Western Skink	<i>Plestiodon skiltonianus</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: ROCK OUTCROP, COARSE TALUS/BOULDERS, GRASSLAND/HERBACEOUS, FOREST NEEDLELEAF
Banded Tigersnail	<i>Anguispira kochi</i>	Blue	Invertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Woodland Needleleaf
Western Screech-Owl, <i>macfarlanei</i> subspecies	<i>Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei</i>	Blue	Vertebrate Animal	TERRESTRIAL: Woodland Mixed; RIVERINE: Riparian



Map 3. Environmental values within and around Slocan Valley South.

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. Interfor, Kalesnikoff, and BC Timber Sales operate volume-based forest licenses in the Slocan Valley. There are several woodlots in the plan area. Section 5.7 discusses licensee-lead wildfire risk reduction projects in more detail.

The RDCK manages three regional parks in Electoral Area H South. Crescent Valley Beach and Winlaw Regional and Nature Park are waterfront access parks on the Slocan River. Krestova Regional Park is a large forested park in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) with no park amenities currently offered. At 55 ha it is the second largest parcel managed by the RDCK.²⁵ Fuel management in the park is currently being considered by the RDCK and is recommended in this plan.²⁶ Designated Crown land recreation features in the plan area include Lemon Creek Rail Trail camping, south of Slocan, and the entire Slocan Valley Rail Trail (REC 262881) from Slocan to South Slocan. The Springer Creek municipal campground is in Slocan.

Fuel management proponents within Slocan Valley South 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 Valley South. Section 4.1 discusses the wildfire environment, including the projected impacts of climate change for the area. Section 4.2 discusses wildfire history in the area and wildfire response data from local fire crews. Sections 4.3 and 4.4 describe 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.²⁷

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

Wildfire Risk = Probability X Consequence

²⁵ RDCK. *Krestova Regional Park*. <https://www.rdck.ca/community-services/community-services/parks/12-krestova-regional-park/>

²⁶ Personal communication, Nora Hannon, 2026.

²⁷ Community Resiliency Investment. 2023. *FireSmart Community Funding and Supports Supplemental Instruction Guide*. [FireSmart Community Funding and Supports | Union of BC Municipalities](#)

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 16); the ways in which they individually influence the wildfire environment of the eligible WUI are detailed below.



Figure 16. Illustration of the fire behaviour triangle, and a subset of characteristics within each component.²⁸

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

²⁸ Province of Alberta. *Wildfire Prevention and Enforcement*. [Discussion](#) | [Forest Fire Model](#)

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 the Slocan Valley are situated close to Highway 6 and the Slocan River, between the Valhalla Range to the west and the rest of the Selkirk Mountains to the east. 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 can also funnel winds and thus contribute to fire spread.

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 of less than 30% grade, so would not be exposed to increased fire behaviour influenced by topography and slope position alone. Some communities in Slocan Valley South are located mid-slope or on a bench above a slope; this includes Krestova and New Settlement, which are located on benches in the Goose Creek valley, above the Slocan River. 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.

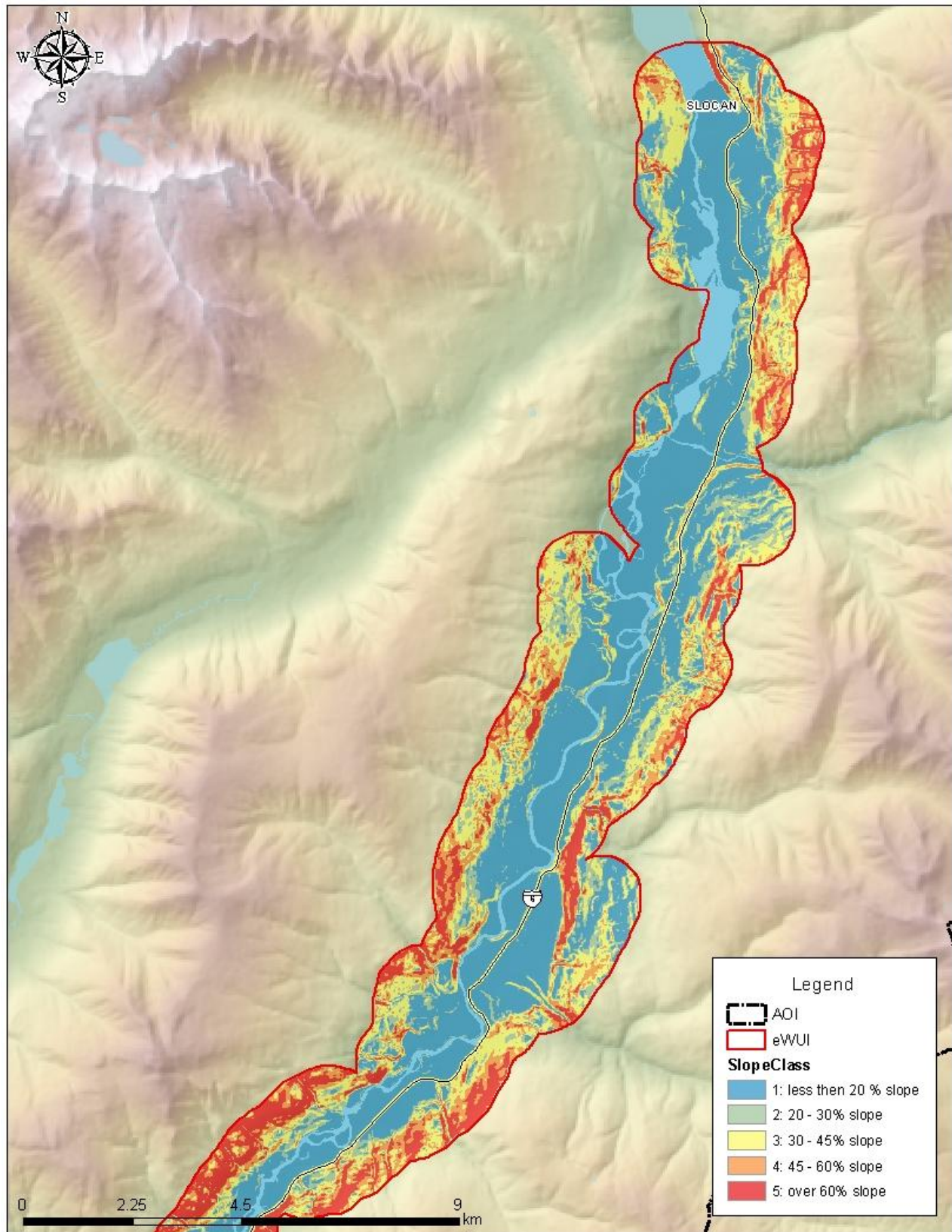
Table 11 below shows the percentage of the Slocan Valley South WUI by slope steepness class, with corresponding fire behaviour implications. Slope classes are displayed below on Map 4 and Map 5.

Table 11. Slope classes, their percent distribution within the Slocan Valley South eligible WUI, and their associated fire behaviour implications.²⁹

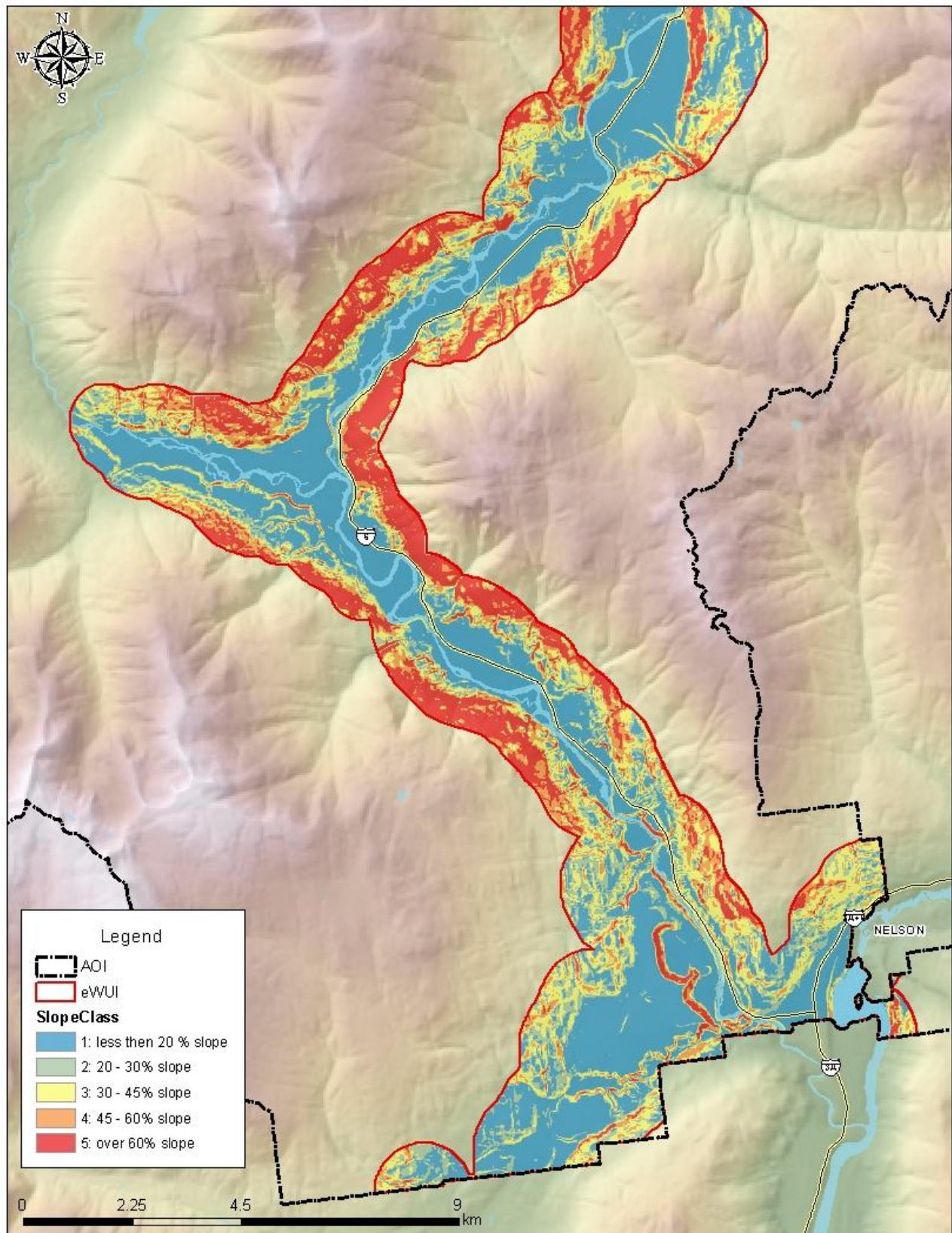
Slope	Percent of Eligible WUI (%)	Fire Behaviour Implications
<20%	47%	Very little flame and fuel interaction caused by slope, normal rate of spread.
21-30%	13%	Flame tilt begins to preheat fuel, increase rate of spread.
31-40%	18%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and begins to bathe flames into fuel, high rate of spread.
41-60%	11%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel, very high rate of spread.

²⁹ 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](#)

Slope	Percent of Eligible WUI (%)	Fire Behaviour Implications
>60%	11%	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel well upslope, extreme rate of spread.



Map 4. Slope steepness classification for north portion of Slocan Valley South.



Map 5. Slope steepness classification for south portion of Slocan Valley South.

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 Valley South 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.³⁰

Historical weather data can provide information on the number and distribution of days when communities in Slocan Valley South 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 25% of the WUI (Table 13 in the next section). Average fire danger class data for the past 14 years is presented in below in Figure 17 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.

³⁰ 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>

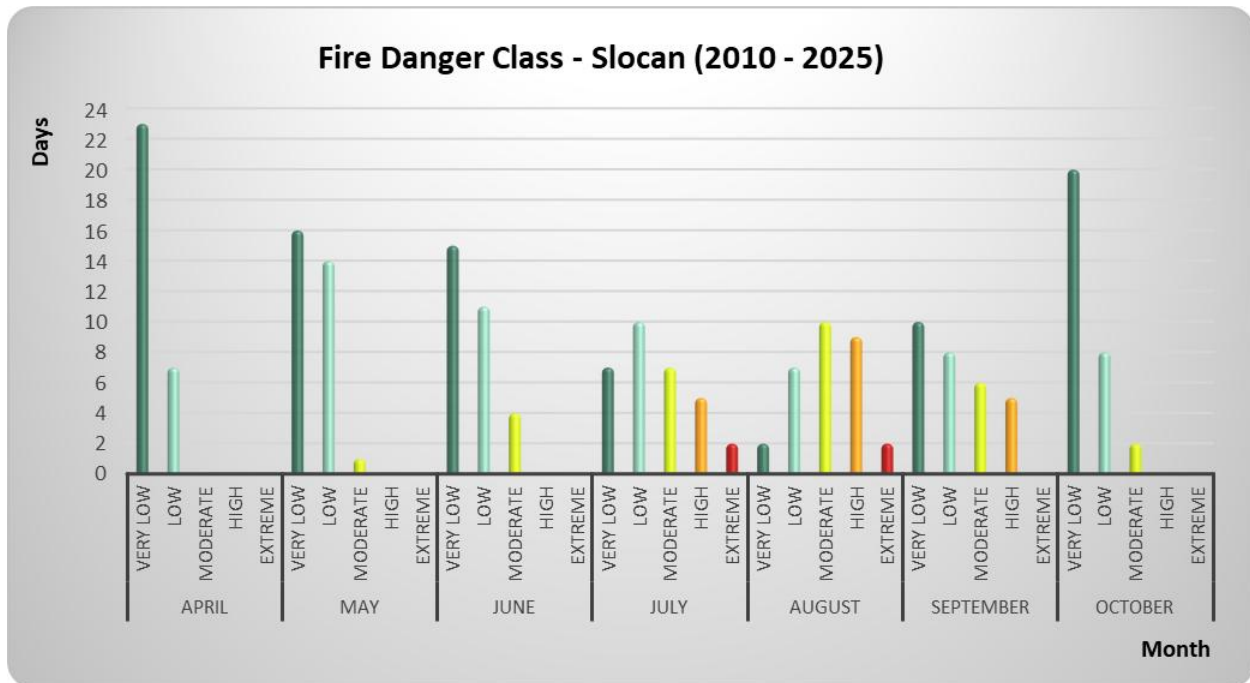


Figure 17. The average number of days by Fire Danger Class for the past 14 years, based on data from the BC Wildfire Services Slocan weather station.

Wind is also a critical weather component that influences fire behaviour. 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 18. 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.³¹ 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 18 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).

³¹Very thin bands of darker orange can be seen in a zoomed-in image.

Finally, the 2020 Slocan Valley South CWPP makes the following observations on weather patterns in the plan area, which are included to reflect local knowledge:³²

- 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.

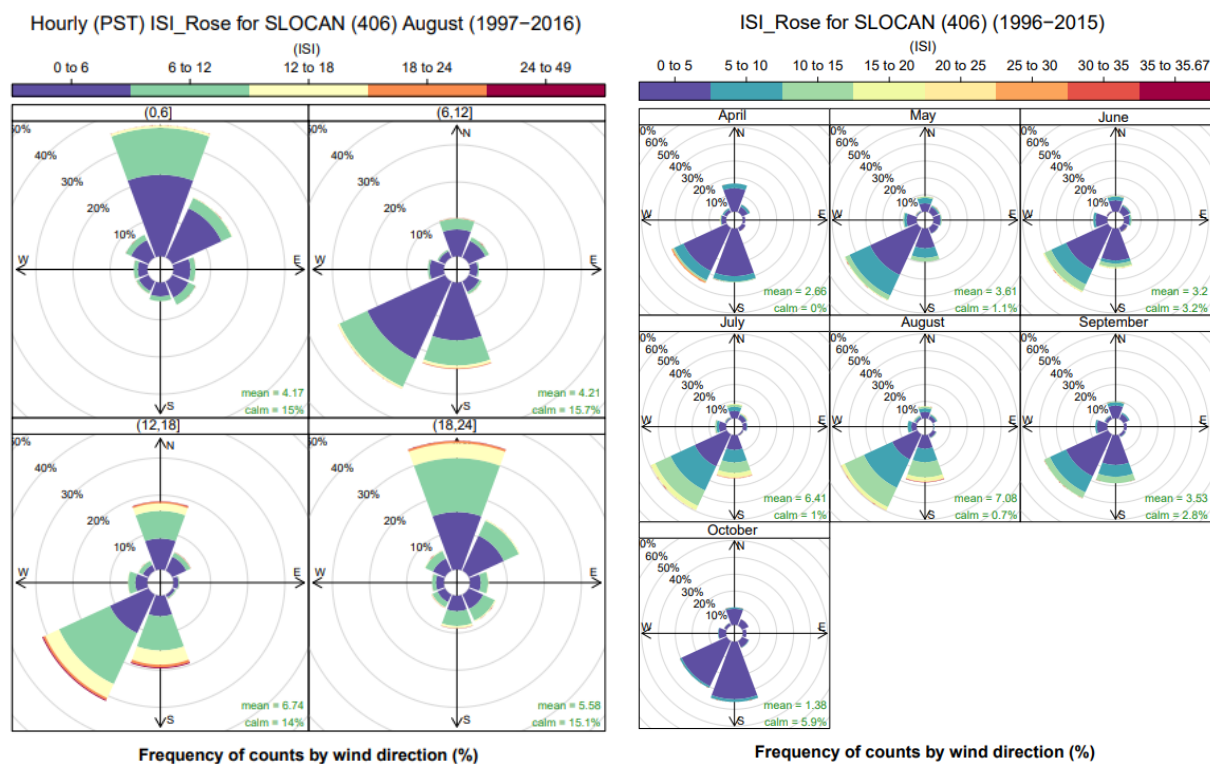


Figure 18. Average hourly ISI values (left, for August) and average monthly values (right, April - October) for the Slocan weather station.

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

³² Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative. 2019 (Revised 2020). Regional District of Central Kootenay Area H South and the Village of Slocan Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

changing climate. Despite the uncertainties, trends within the data are visible. Understanding these trends 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.³³

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.^{34,35}

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:³⁶

- 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.

³³ 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>.

³⁴ 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.

³⁵ Jandt, R. 2013. *Alaska Fire Science Consortium Research Brief*. 2013-3.

³⁶ Slokan Integral Forestry Coop. 2017. *Implementation of Slokan Valley Strategic Landscape Level Wildfire Protection Plan*. Access Jan 12, 2026 from <https://www.sifco.ca/wui-management>

- 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.

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 Valley South WUI.

The Slocan Valley 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 a large impact on the type and distribution of fuel in the plan area, especially around Slocan. The Mulvey Creek and Ponderosa FSR fires burned most of the Crown land in the WUI around Slocan, and as far south as Lemon Creek on the east side. The Slocan Valley is generally drier than Slocan Lake, with more rocky, open slopes, especially on southern aspects.

Farming, 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 Winlaw to Slocan is within 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.³⁷ 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.³⁸

Fuel Type

The Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) System outlines sixteen fuel types based on characteristic fire behaviour under defined conditions.³⁹ BC Wildfire Service maintains a provincial fuel type layer that was confirmed and updated for this plan. It should be noted that mixed conifer stands⁴⁰ in

³⁷ Personal communication, Mark Tallman, 2025.

³⁸ Personal communication, Stephan Martineau, 2025.

³⁹ Forestry Canada Fire Danger Group. 1992. Development and Structure of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System: Information Report ST-X-3.

⁴⁰ 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

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.⁴¹ 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 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 type applied to stands in the eligible WUI was C-7. This fuel type has the lowest threat rating of the conifer-dominated fuel types except for C-5. It is characterized by low horizontal fuel continuity, but high potential for rapid rates of surface fire spread due to a grass component. The C-5 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.

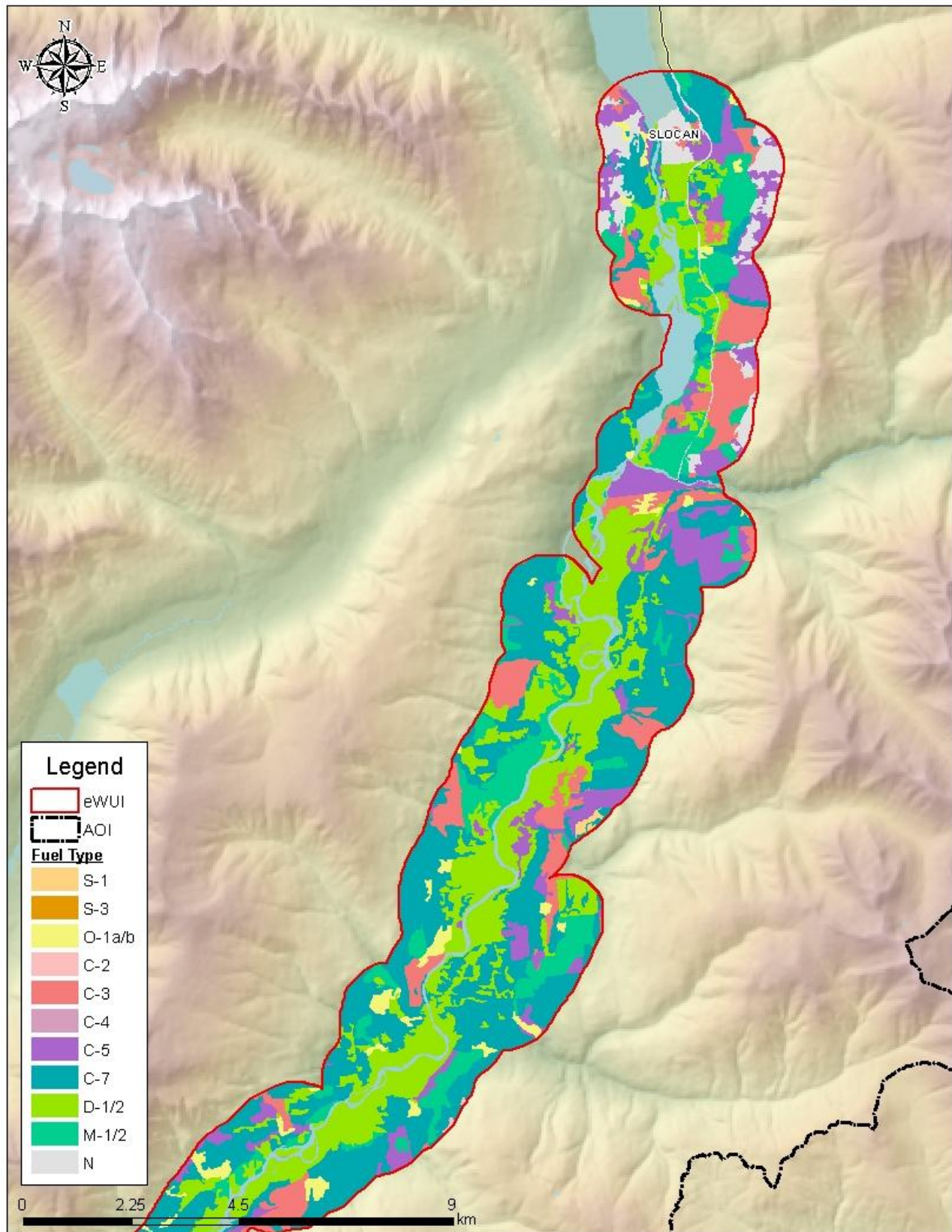
Table 12 lists the percentage of fuel types and associated wildfire behaviour within the WUI; fuel types are displayed on Map 6 and Map 7.

Table 12. Fuel types in public land of the Slocan Valley South eligible WUI.

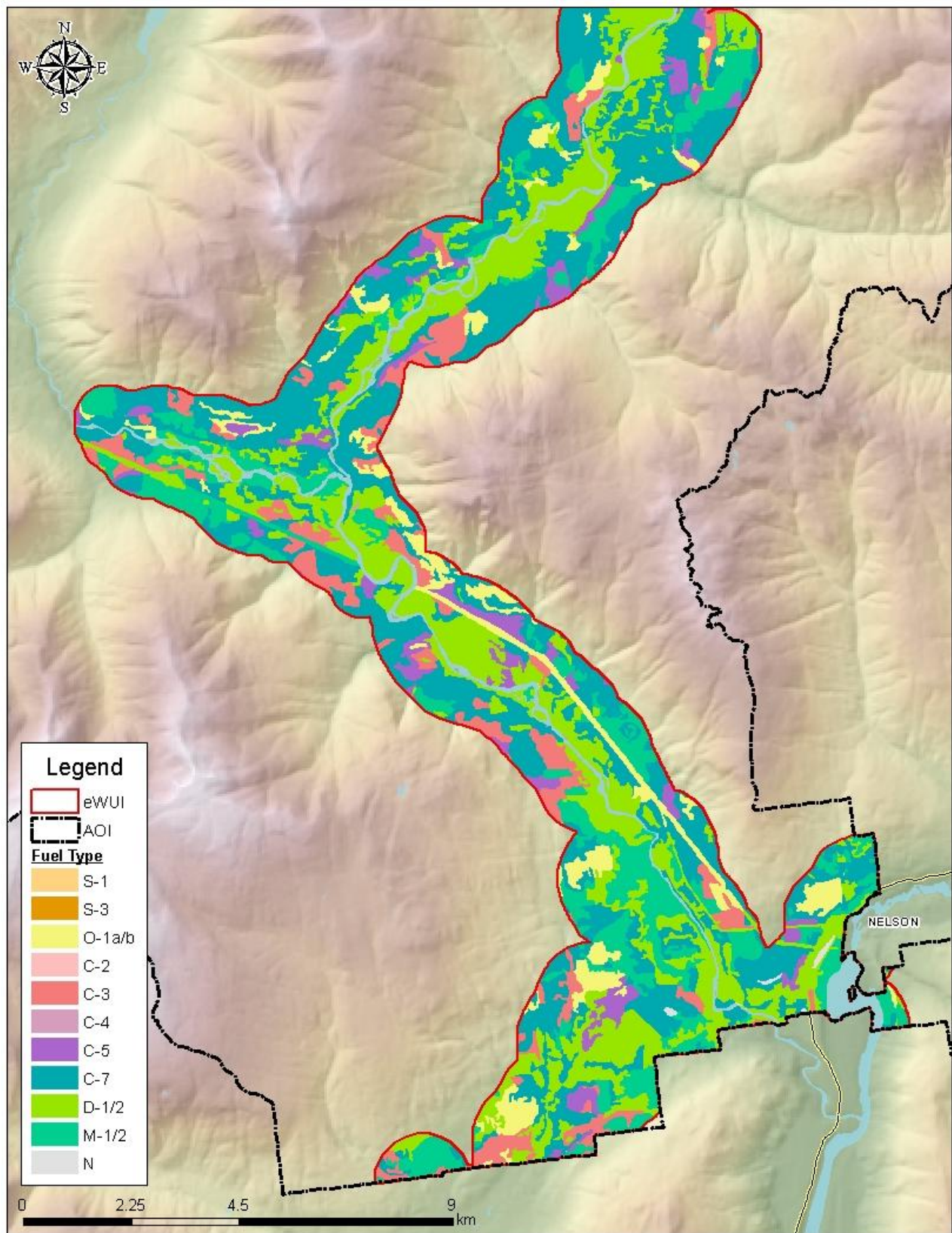
Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Area (Ha)	Percent of Public Land
C-3	Fully stocked, mature conifer stands with crowns separated from the ground.	Surface and crown fire, low to very high fire intensity and rate of spread.	1566	9%
C-4	Dense pole-sapling 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.	2	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.	1281	8%

⁴¹ Natural Resources Canada. 2018. British Columbia Wildfire Fuel Typing and Fuel Type Layer Description. Daniel D.B. Perrakis, George Eade, and Dana Hicks

Fuel Type	Fuel Type Description	Wildfire Behaviour Under High Wildfire Danger Level	Area (Ha)	Percent of Public Land
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.	5511	33%
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.	3914	23%
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)).	2379	14%
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	336	2%
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.	777	5%
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.	13	0%
W	Water and riparian features (e.g., rivers, streams, waterbodies, wetlands)	N/A	893	5%
Private			28	-



Map 6. Verified fuel types in the north portion of Slocan Valley South eligible WUI.



Map 7. Verified fuel types in the south portion of Slocan Valley South 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 13. The largest portion of Slocan Valley South's eligible WUI (60%) is within the Interior Cedar Hemlock dry warm subzone (ICHdw1), West Kootenay variant. This is associated with an NDT3 – ecosystems with frequent stand-initiating fires. According to the BC Biodiversity Guidebook, these ecosystems are characterized by frequent wildfires that range from small spot fires to conflagrations covering tens of thousands of hectares.⁴² 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.

Approximately 25% of the 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.

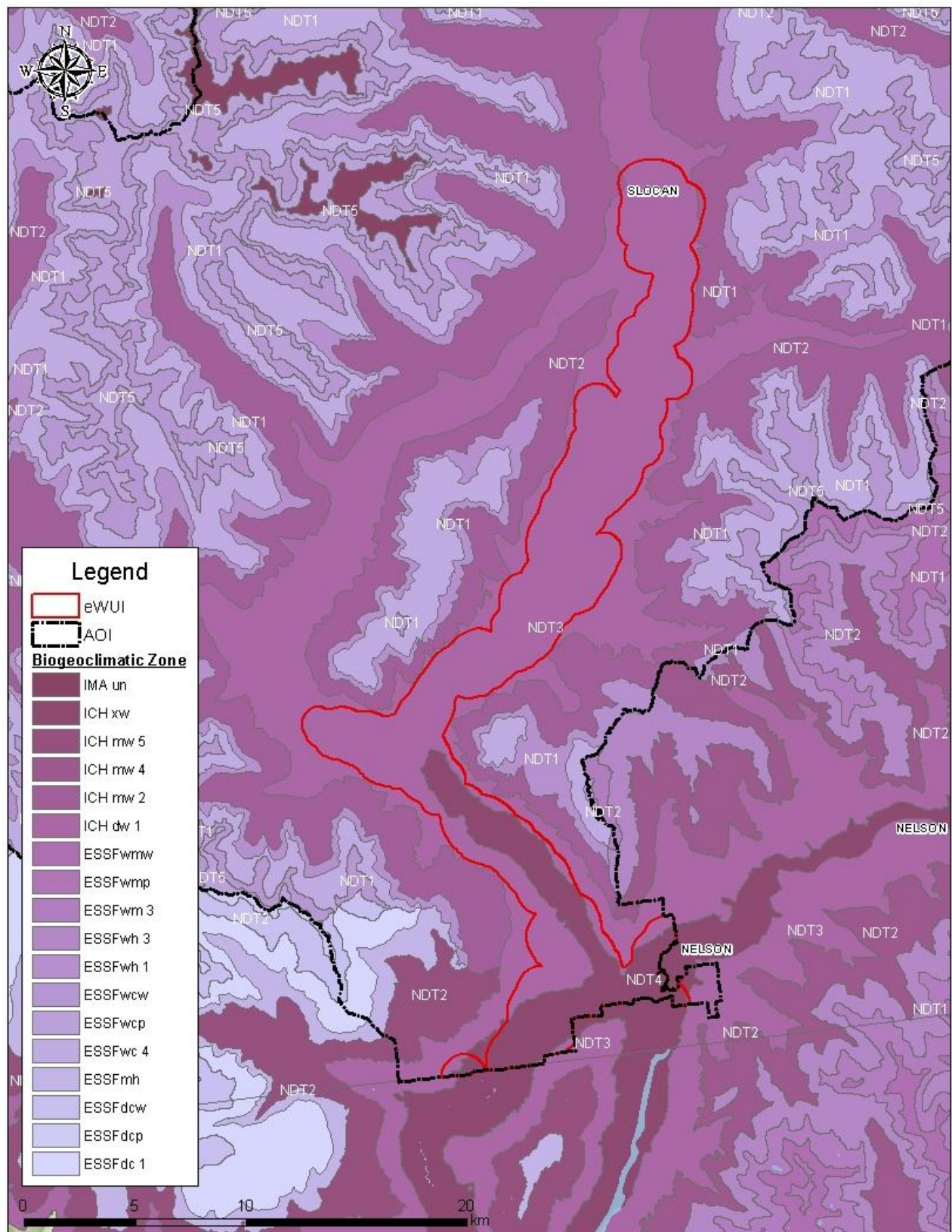
It is important to consider that fire regimes in the region were likely shaped in part by pre-settlement cultural burning practices by First Nations. It is also important to consider that, in the future, BEC (and associated NDT) distributions will likely shift because of climate change.

Table 13. Biogeoclimatic zone and associated natural disturbance type in and surrounding Slocan Valley South.

Biogeoclimatic Zone	Natural Disturbance Type	Area (ha)	Percent of Eligible WUI (%)
Engelmann Spruce Subalpine Fir Wet Cold - Selkirk variant (ESSFwc4)	NDT1	269	1%
Engelmann Spruce Subalpine Fir Wet Hot - Columbia variant (ESSFwh1)	NDT1	861	2%
Engelmann Spruce Subalpine Fir Wet Hot - Salmo variant (ESSFwh3)	NDT2	28	<1%
Interior Cedar Hemlock Dry Warm - West Kootenay variant (ICHdw1)	NDT3	21663	60%

⁴² 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/)

Biogeoclimatic Zone	Natural Disturbance Type	Area (ha)	Percent of Eligible WUI (%)
Interior Cedar Hemlock Moist Warm - Granby variant (ICHmw5)	NDT2	145	<1%
Interior Cedar Hemlock Moist Warm - Slocan variant (ICHmw2)	NDT2	9133	25%
Interior Cedar Hemlock Moist Warm - Ymir variant (ICHmw4)	NDT2	83	<1%
Interior Cedar Hemlock Very Dry Warm (ICHxw)	NDT4	3742	10%



Map 8. Biogeoclimatic (BEC) zone distribution in Slocan Valley South.

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 19 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 in the last 30 years, compared to mid-century, and that the predominant cause of large fires is lightning.

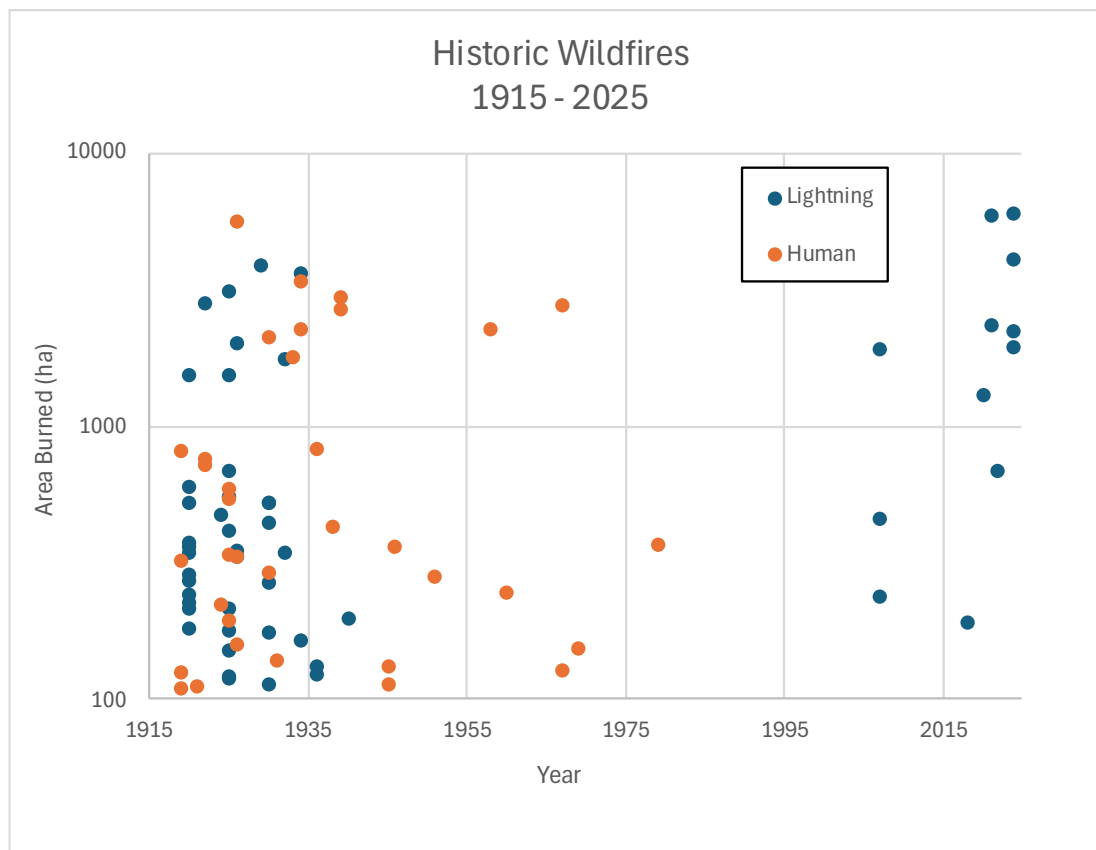


Figure 19. Historic wildfires over 100 ha in size from 1915 to 2025 in the plan area and surrounding 10 km.

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 16 below displays the frequency of wildfire ignitions, grouped by ignition source, from 1950 to 2024. Lighting strikes account for 42% of ignitions, while 39% are human-caused, and 19% are of unknown or undetermined cause. Historic wildfire perimeters and ignition sources, from 1912-2024, are displayed below on Map 9 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.⁴³ Simultaneous fires can challenge resource availability, especially for initial attack. Storms are particularly problematic when the lightning is “dry” – not associated with nearby precipitation.

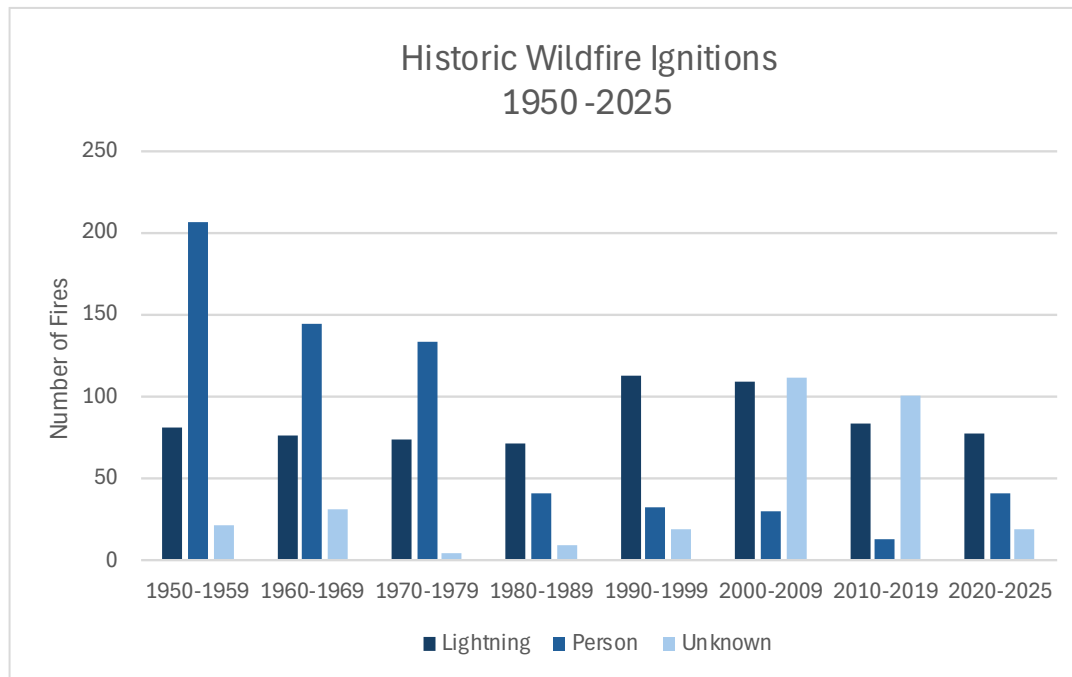


Figure 20. Historic wildfire ignitions from 1950 -2023 by ignition source.

Several wildfires of note have occurred since the last CWPP in 2020, most notably the 2024 Slocan Complex. The complex included five fires that were all discovered within a week of each other following a dry lightning bust over Slocan Lake.^{44,45} The Mulvey Creek (N51117) and Ponderosa FSR (N51069) fires were discovered July 18th and burned 2,235 and 1,931 ha respectively in proximity to the Village of Slocan. Slocan was evacuated for three weeks, along with over 300 properties in Electoral Area H, with structural protection crews stationed in town.⁴⁶ Highway 6 was closed south of Slocan. Planned ignitions were used by BCWS on both fires to remove unburnt fuel between structures and the fire edge.

A similar lightning bust in July 2021 was responsible for several large wildfires that also impacted the Slocan Valley, although due to the distance from values disruptions were mostly limited to smoke and backcountry area restrictions. However, some properties in Electoral Area H South were evacuated.⁴⁷ The Trozzo Creek (N51705) fire burned 6,023 ha on the east side of the Slocan River between Winlaw and Lemon Creek, and the Mt. Ruppel (N51724) fire burned approximately 12 km east of Slocan at the western

⁴³ Personal communication, Adriana Burton, 2025.

⁴⁴ 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.

⁴⁵ Slocan Complex included the Aylwin Creek, Komonko Creek, Nemo Creek (Area H North), Mulvey Creek and Ponderosa FSR (Area H South) fires.

⁴⁶ My Kootenay Now. Evacuation Order issued for Village of Slocan and surrounding areas. July 24, 2024.

⁴⁷ RDCK. Post Wildfire Natural Hazards Risk Analysis – Trozzo Creek and Akokli Creek Wildfires. <https://www.rdck.ca/post-wildfire-natural-hazards-risk-analysis-trozzo-creek-and-akokli-creek-wildfires/> Accessed Jan 12, 2026.

boundary of Kootenay Glacier Park.⁴⁸ And in 2020, the lightning-caused Mt. Talbot fire (N51250) burned 1,302 ha near Vallican, resulting in an evacuation alert for over 300 homes in the Slocan Valley.^{49,50}



Figure 21. Lightning-caused Mulvey Creek wildfire pictured on July 23, 2024.⁵¹

Further north, the three other fires in the 2024 Slocan Complex resulted in just over 10,000 ha burned and the evacuation of hundreds of properties. The Nemo Creek wildfire (N51103) was discovered July 17th and burned 5,980 ha on the west side of Slocan Lake, including in Valhalla Provincial Park. An evacuation order was issued for 21 waterfront parcels on the west shore of Slocan Lake, and a portion of Valhalla Provincial Park.⁵² Five cabins and outbuildings were reportedly destroyed or damaged.⁵³

On the east side of Slocan Lake, 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 North, including Enterprise Creek, Red Mountain Road, and rural Silverton.⁵² Five homes and 13

⁴⁸ BC Wildfire Service. 2021 Wildfire Season Summary. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/about-bcws/wildfire-history/wildfire-season-summary>. Accessed Jan 12, 2026.

⁴⁹ CBC News. Aug 23, 2020. Wildfire prompts evacuation alert for 305 homes in B.C.'s Slocan Valley. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/slocan-valley-wildfire-evacuation-alert-1.5696806>. Accessed Jan 12, 2026.

⁵⁰ BC Wildfire Service. 2020 Wildfire Season Summary. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/about-bcws/wildfire-history/wildfire-season-summary>. Accessed Jan 12, 2026.

⁵¹ BCWS photo accessed from CBC News article. Aug 12, 2024. Slocan, B.C., no longer under wildfire evacuation order. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/slocan-village-evacuation-order-rescinded-1.7292359>

⁵² 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.

other structures were reportedly destroyed or damaged.⁵³ 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 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.⁵⁴

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.⁵⁵ A Reconnaissance (Level 2) report published in September 2024 for the Ponderosa FSR fire identified moderate hazard for debris flow impacts in some drainages due to burn severity or terrain characteristics. A more detailed (Level 3) assessment was recommended to verify the risk to private residences and infrastructure, including Highway 6. The Trozzo Creek report detailed recommendations to address risk of debris flows and water quality impacts in the vicinity of Trozzo, Winlaw, and Lemon Creek, and furthermore, recommended against salvage harvesting in the most impacted drainages.⁵⁶

An interesting outcome of the 2021 and 2024 wildfires 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).⁵⁷

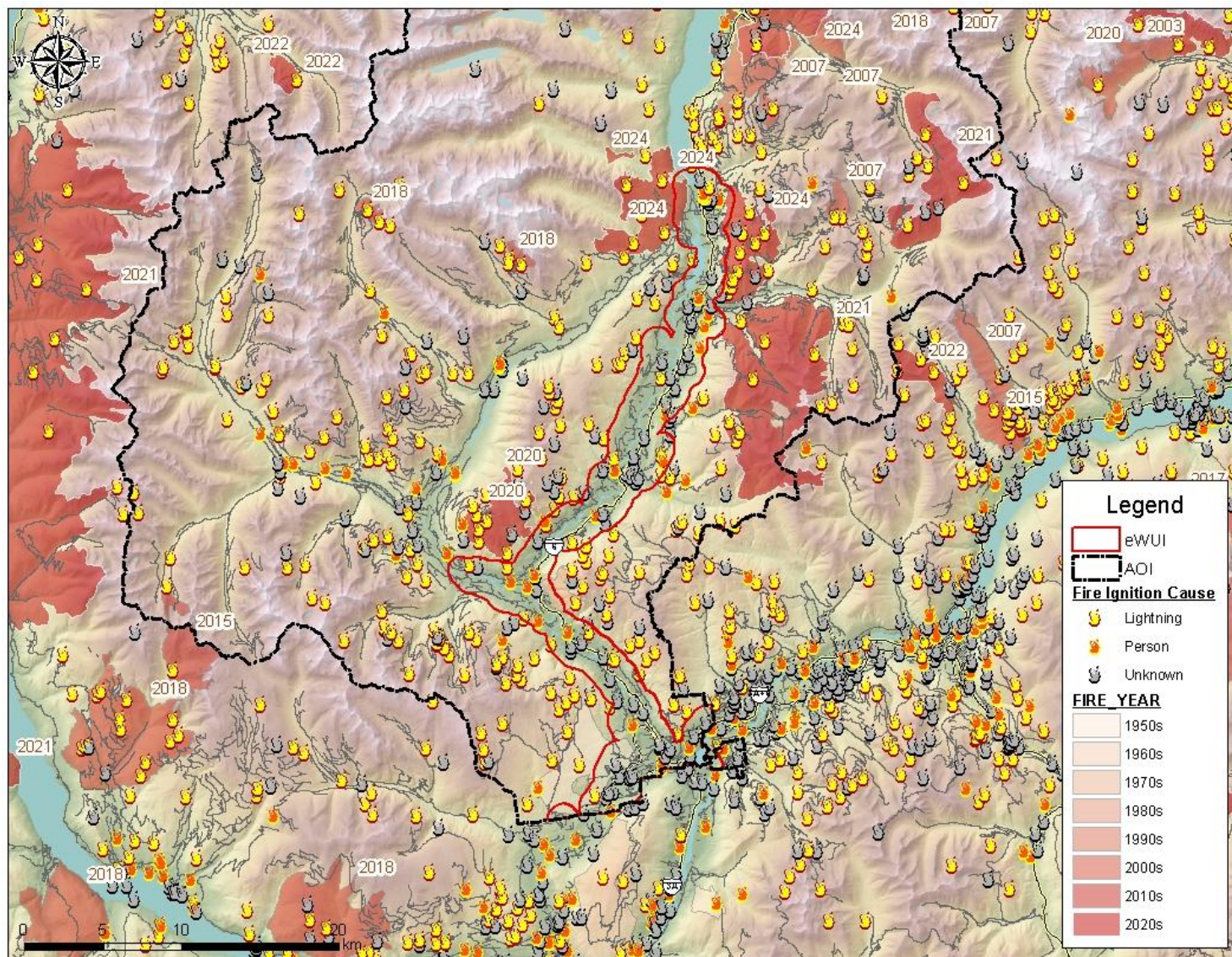
⁵³ The Canadian Press. August 14, 2024. *Focus on recovery after fire's 'heartbreaking' destruction: mayor of Slocan, B.C.* https://www.thecanadianpressnews.ca/prairies_bc/bc/focus-on-recovery-after-fires-heartbreaking-destruction-mayor-of-slocan-b-c/article_b868451a-f239-5416-bac8-c62a4431d2ab.html

⁵⁴ 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.

⁵⁵ RDCK. *Post-emergency hazard reports.* <https://www.rdck.ca/development-sustainability/development-community-sustainability-services/emergency-management/recovery/hazardreports/> Accessed Jan 12, 2026.

⁵⁶ Ministry of Forests. 2024. POST-WILDFIRE NATURAL HAZARDS RISK ANALYSIS TROZZO FIRE (N51705). <https://rdck.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Trozzo%20N51705%20POST-WILDFIRE%20NATURAL%20HAZARDS%20RISK%20ANALYSIS.pdf>

⁵⁷ Personal communication, Stephan Martineau, 2025.



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

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.⁵⁸ 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 14 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.

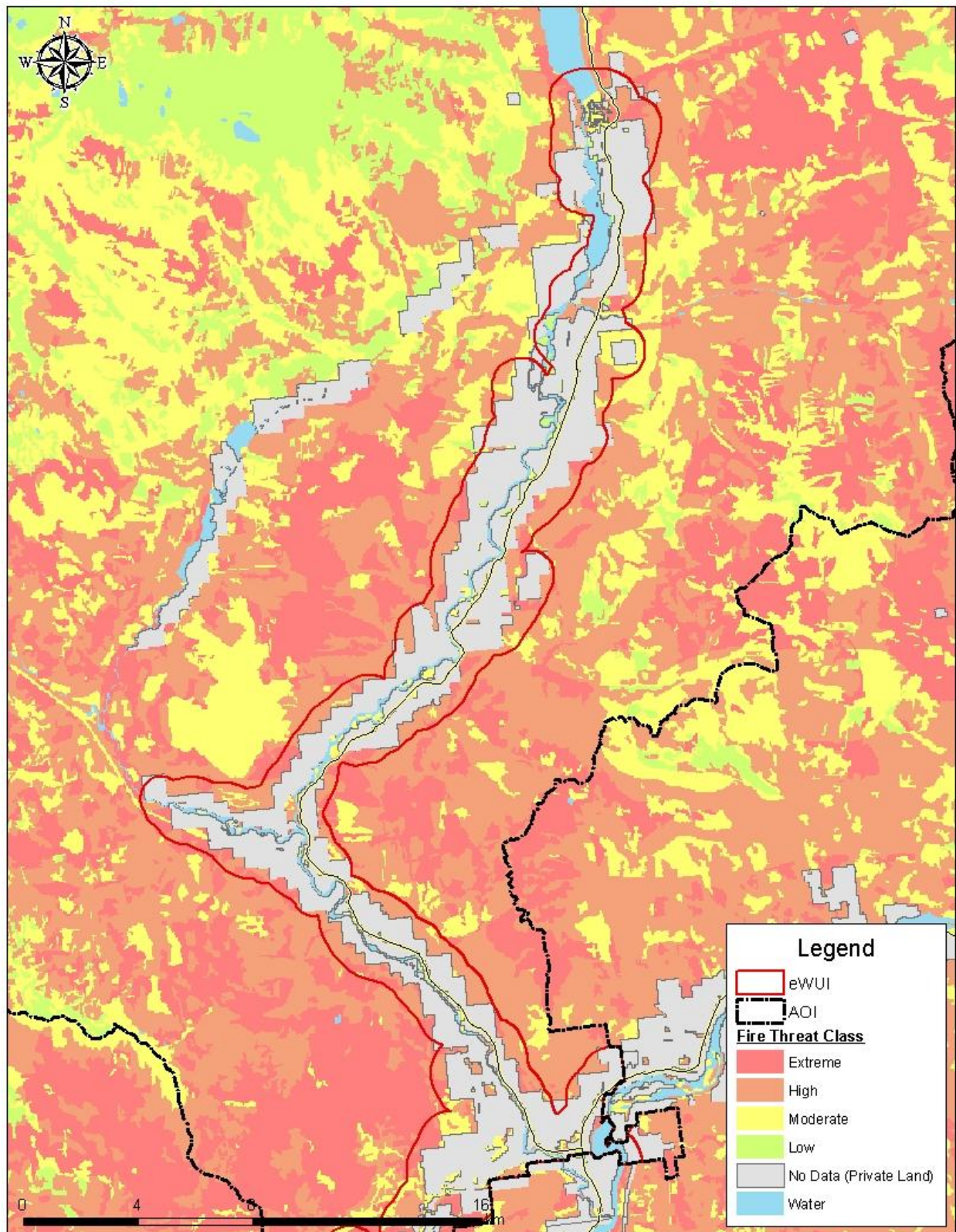
The PSTA Fire Threat rating integrates coarse scale, provincially determined wildfire threat components such as fire likelihood (historical fire occurrence), potential fire severity (fire weather conditions and fuel type), and wildfire propagation potential (spotting). Notably, this threat analysis does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

Table 14. PSTA Fire Threat Rating for Slocan Valley South eligible WUI.

PSTA Fire Threat			
Threat Class	Hectares	Percentage (%) of Eligible WUI	% of Assessable Public Land (excluding water)
Extreme	4888	14%	20%
High	13083	38%	55%

⁵⁸ 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	773	2%	3%
Moderate	5215	15%	22%
No Data (Private Land)	10813	31%	-
No Data (Private Managed Forest Land)	0.5	<1%	-
Water	1151	-	-



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 behavior 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 11): 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 Assessment plots 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. A total of 73 site-level Wildfire Threat Assessments were completed across Electoral Area H, and other field notes (e.g., qualitative notes, fuel type verification, and photos) were made throughout the eligible WUI.

The local wildfire risk assessment quantifies threat as it relates to wildland fuels and does not include the ignition potential of residential landscaping, buildings, 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 (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:

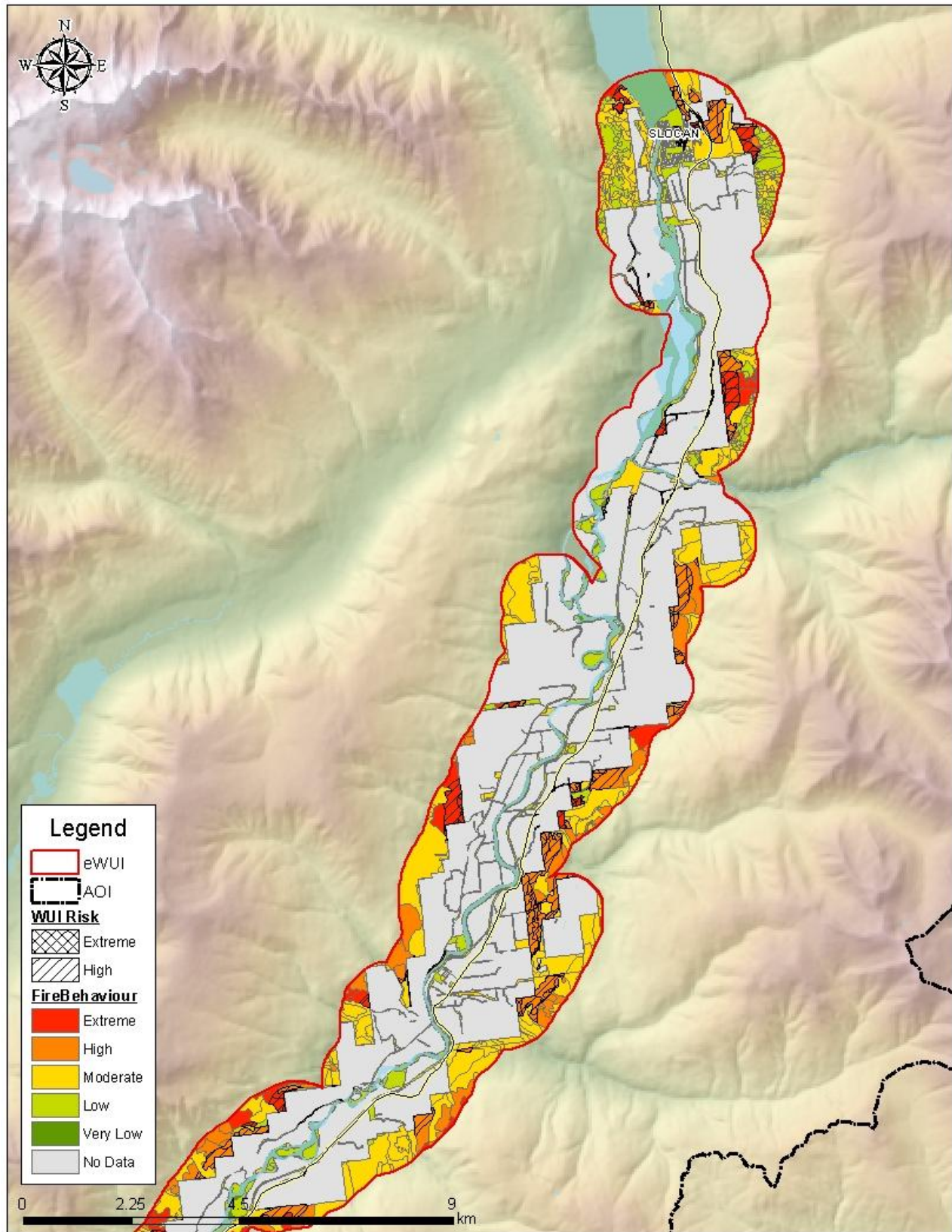
- *Very Low*: Waterbodies with no forest or grassland fuels, posing no wildfire threat.
- *Low*: Developed and undeveloped land that will not support significant wildfire spread.
- *Moderate*: Developed and undeveloped land that will support surface fires that, depending on the level of risk in the Home 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.

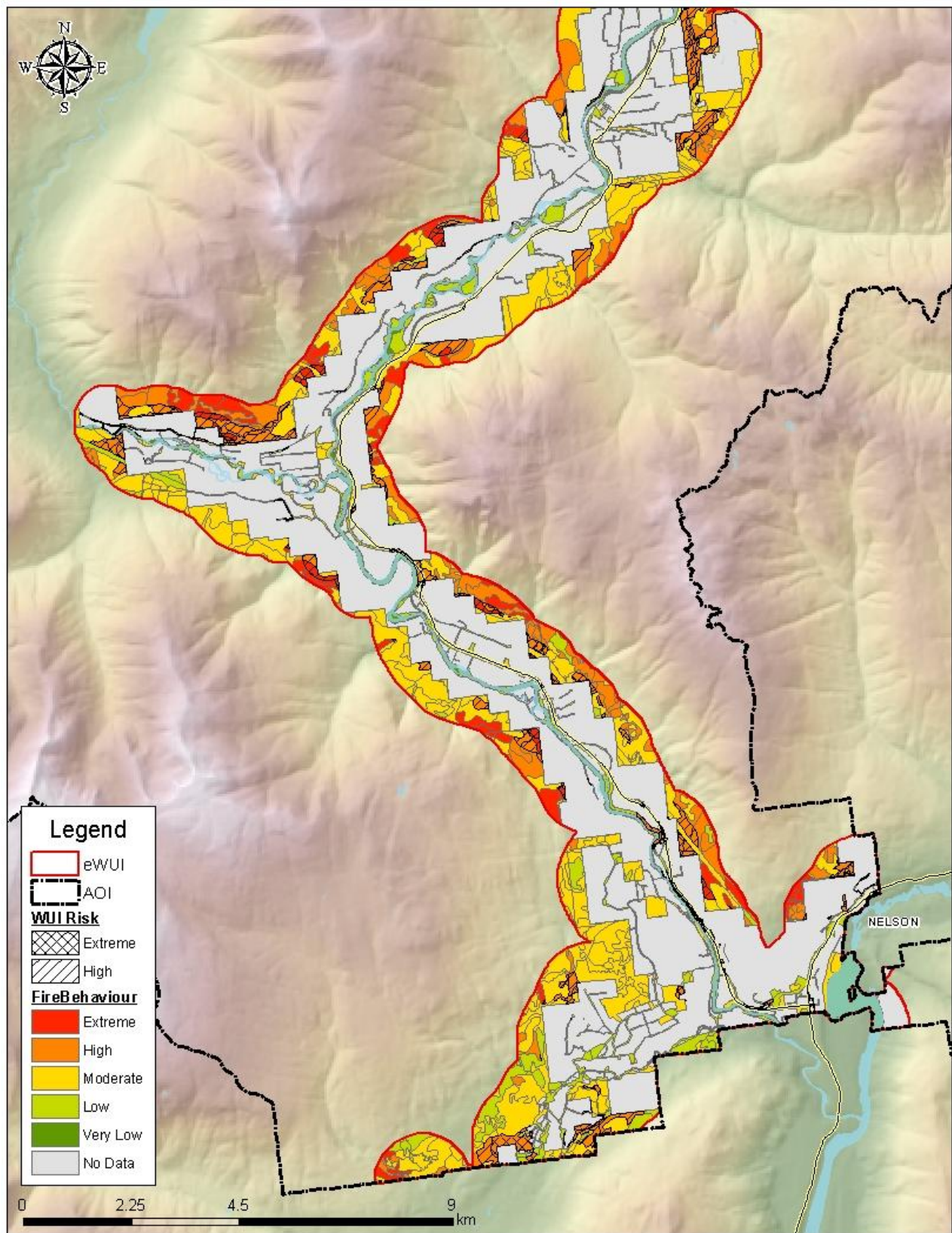
The results of the wildfire threat class analysis are shown on Map 11, Map 12, and in Table 15 below. The local threat analysis shows that 32% of the eligible WUI is classified as extreme or high wildfire threat. 50% of the eligible WUI is classified as moderate threat. The remaining 18% is classified as low threat.

Table 15. Wildfire Threat Class Analysis summary for the Slocan Valley South eligible WUI.

Wildfire Threat Class Analysis			
Threat Class	Hectares	Percentage (%) of Eligible WUI	% of Assessable Public Land (excluding water)
Extreme	578	3%	9%
High	1485	9%	23%
Moderate	3170	19%	50%
Low	1149	7%	18%
Very Low/No Threat (Water)	674	4%	-
No Data (Private Land)	9622	58%	-



Map 11. Local Fire Threat for the north portion of Slocan Valley South eligible WUI.



Map 12. Local Fire Threat for the south portion of Slocan Valley South 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 16 below (and displayed on Map 11 and Map 12) summarizes the risk class ratings within the WUI. Of the 2,063 ha assigned a High or Extreme Wildfire Threat Class, 860 ha (42%) have a High or Extreme WUI Risk Class. This represents 12% of the assessable public land in the Slocan Valley South WUI. This analysis provides an initial step towards identifying priority areas/neighbourhoods for directing FireSmart education and fuel management efforts, if practicable.

Table 16. WUI Risk Class Summary for the Electoral Area H South eligible WUI.

WUI Risk			
Risk Class	Hectares	% of Entire Eligible WUI	% of Assessable Public Land
Extreme	161	1%	2%
High	699	4%	10%
N/A (Moderate, Low, Very Low <i>Wildfire Threat Class</i>)	6196	37%	88%
Private / No Data	9622	58%	-

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.⁵⁹ 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.⁶⁰ 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.⁶¹

An HRVA has not been completed in the RDCK; however, the Emergency Response and Recovery Plan 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 an HVRA in 2026-2027.

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, Cross-Training, 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 and the Village of Slokan 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, many of the 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 of surrounding homes (the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone) combine to provide fire pathways allowing spot surface fires ignited by embers to spread and carry flames or smoldering fire into contact with structures.

⁵⁹ Bill 31: *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*. 2023. First Reading, 2023, 42nd Parliament, 4th Session. [Bill | Legislative Assembly of BC](#)

⁶⁰ Government of BC. 2020. *HRVA Example Report*. [hrva-forms-step-8-anytown-bc-sample-hrva-report.pdf](#)

⁶¹ More information can be found here: [Emergency plan assessment tools - Province of British Columbia](#)

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.⁶² Increasing ignition resistance would reduce the number of homes simultaneously on fire; extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result in WUI fire disasters.⁶³ 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 Valley South were documented (Table 15). This assessment incorporates field and satellite imagery observations, as well as information from project participants. Overall, development outside of Slocan 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 Valley South. 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 and Village of Slocan. 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 17. FireSmart vulnerability and resilience factors for plan area communities.

Community	Vulnerabilities	Resilience Factors
Slocan	Small lots and high structure density Forest interface Some intermix (vegetated properties) Slocan West: isolated by Slocan River (one bridge)	Flat bench at lakeshore Hydrants and good lake, river access Within Slocan fire protection area
Brandon	Forest intermix	Defensible space – larger cleared lots Two access points to Highway 6 Within Slocan fire protection area
Lemon Creek	Forest intermix Some longer single access roads: Rooster Road, Kennedy Road	Within Slocan fire protection area Large farm fields at valley bottom break up fuel continuity

⁶² Cohen, J. Preventing Disaster Home Ignitability in the Wildland-urban Interface. Journal of Forestry. p 15 - 21.

⁶³ Calkin, D., J. Cohen, M. Finney, M. Thompson. 2014. How risk management can prevent future wildfire disasters in the wildlandurban 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
Perrys	Most development is on the west side of Slocan River (limited access)	Within Winlaw fire protection area Some cleared agricultural area
Appledale	Most development is on the west side of Slocan River (limited access)	Within Winlaw fire protection area Some cleared agricultural area
Winlaw	Highly intermixed with some long single access roads: Cedar Creek, Paradise Valley Paradise Valley, Indian Point Roads are mid-slope	Within Winlaw fire protection area Some cleared agricultural area
Vallican	Highly intermixed Isolated between the Slocan and Little Slocan Rivers Some mid-slope development	Within Passmore fire protection area
Passmore	Interface, where valley narrows Smaller lots	Within Passmore fire protection area
Slocan Park	Interface Smaller lots	Cleared area Good access to Highway 6 Within Passmore fire protection area
Crescent Valley	Interface Some development on the west side of Slocan River	Within Crescent Valley fire protection area Cleared area for industry and agriculture, good defensible space
Krestova	Interface; some properties intermixed Mid-slope bench Longer single access roads include Pine Road, Ladybird Road	Within Crescent Valley fire protection area Dual egress to Castlegar
New Settlement	Highly intermixed but dense development on Sorokin Road, Reservoir Road	Within Crescent Valley fire protection area Dual egress to Castlegar
Playmor Junction	Cleared area for industry Intermix development Small lots and mostly single egress: Osachoff Road, Jack's Crescent	Within Crescent Valley fire protection area Access to both Highway 6 and 3A Between Kootenay River and Slocan River
South Slocan	Lower slope development above Highway 3A (South Slocan Village Road) Intermix	Within Crescent Valley fire protection area Two access points to Highway 3A

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 Slocan and the Crescent Valley, Slocan, Passmore, and Winlaw Fire Protection Areas.⁶⁴ 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, including one Slocan Valley resident, employed across the region.

Specifically in Electoral Area H between 2018 and 2025, there was 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.⁶⁵ 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 three recognized FireSmart Neighbourhoods in Electoral Area H South: Vallican, New Settlement, and one in Slocan. 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). RDCK FireSmart staff indicated that there is room for growth of the Neighbourhood Program in the Slocan Valley, and that collaborating further with fire departments and community groups may be beneficial.

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 New Denver and Slocan recognized.

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

- FireSmart Home Assessments (422 in Electoral Area H to date and 18 in the Village of Slocan; 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), Slocan Village Office, Appledale Community Hall (SIFCo Wildfire Resiliency Centre)
- RDCK social media updates with FireSmart information and fire danger ratings, and print advertising;
- Fire danger rating signage installed at entrances to communities;

⁶⁴ RDCK. 2008. Community Wildfire Protection Plans – Risk Assessment and Hazard Mitigation Options for Four Application Areas in the Region (Part 1).

⁶⁵ Personal communication, RDCK FireSmart Coordinator, January 2026.

- 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, landscaped 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.

See Table 1 in the Executive Summary for recommended FireSmart Education actions that the RDCK and the Village of Slokan 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:⁶⁶

- 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

⁶⁶ FireSmart BC. Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan Instruction Guide 2024. Retrieved from: <https://www.ubcm.ca/crj/firesmartcommunity-funding-supports>

- Temporary land uses that determine the type of use and quantity of people.

Section 14 of the Electoral Area H North Official Community Plan 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. However, Area H South does not have an OCP currently. This is a gap, as there is no high-level direction for building community resiliency through a Wildfire Hazard Development Permit Area (DPA) or other policies.

The Village of Slocan OCP recognizes wildfire as a hazard and has several policies relating to assessing and mitigating fire hazard. No Wildfire DPA is in place but there is a policy that expresses the intent to do so.

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.⁶⁷ A lack of staff capacity and limited support 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 and the Village of Slocan were reviewed through a wildfire lens.

The lack of a bylaw regulating open burning in Electoral Area H and Slocan was identified as a potential gap in the last CWPP. An open burning bylaw would have stricter provisions than fire bans set by the

⁶⁷ 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

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, and it was not brought up as a concern by the Slocan VFD. 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 fires left to smoulder overnight in the fall.⁶⁸ Non-compliance with requirements under the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR) was also cited as an issue in the plan area,⁶⁹ 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 9) are constructed or retrofitted to a high FireSmart standard. The Village of Slocan has completed FireSmart Critical Infrastructure Assessments and associated mitigation work on their Village Hall; other community groups, such as the Vallican Whole, have done the same for their community 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 fire departments in the Slocan Valley receive annual wildland-specific training opportunities through the RDCK and are well resourced in wildland specific equipment. Ideally, all fire department members should be 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 also 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.⁷⁰ Table 19 lists the capacity, training level, and wildland firefighting equipment of fire departments in the plan area.

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 program for courses such as:

⁶⁸ Personal communication, Adriana Burton, 2025.

⁶⁹ Personal communication, Amber Cooke, 2025.

⁷⁰ 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 18. Capacity, training, and resources of fire departments in Slocan Valley South.

Department (Service Area)	Personnel	Wildland Training	Wildland Equipment	Comments
Slocan Volunteer Fire Department [RDCK] (Village of Slocan, Brandon, Lemon Creek)	~15 members	~80% trained in S-100 or SPP-WFF1; FireSmart 101 (online, 1hr)	1 4x4 tender (1,000 gal) 1 engine (1,000 gal) 1 One Ton Rescue Truck 2 Hydraulic Supply Pumps	RDCK Department Hydrants within Village.
Winlaw Volunteer Fire Department	~18 members	RDCK Training (SPP-WFF1, SPP-115)	1 tender (1500 gal) 1 engine (1,100 gal) 1 crew transport truck w/ tank and pump 3 portable pumps	RDCK Department In-ground tanks and Slocan River fill sites
Passmore Volunteer Fire Department	~27 members	RDCK Training	1 tender (1,200 gal) 1 engine (800 gal) 1 wildland truck (350 gal)	RDCK Department
Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department	~20 members	RDCK Training	1 tender (3,000gal) 1 engine (750gal) 1 wildland truck (250 gal) 1 utility – high volume hydraulic supply pump	RDCK Department

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 Slocan. 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. Fire departments indicated that in some cases, the lack of suitable fill sites can be an issue. The Village of Slocan had a FireSmart Water System Capacity Assessment completed several years ago.

The ability to quickly communicate key information during an interface fire event is critical. Software applications like ‘I Am Responding’ are used by some fire departments to map water sources and access

features, like gates, creek access points, and standpipes. 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.

See Table 1 in the Executive Summary for recommended action items that the RDCK, and the Village of Slocan 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 Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (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 and Village of Slocan, project participants included the Ministry of Forests, BCWS, BC Parks, SIFCo, Kalesnikoff Lumber, BC Timber Sales, Interfor, and local fire departments.

Slocan Valley South is represented by both a regional and sub-regional Community FireSmart Resiliency Collaborative (CFRC). SIFCo facilitates an active Slocan Valley CFRC 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 groups to achieve different objectives, while striking a balance between staff availability and local knowledge sharing.

Stakeholders who are also land managers, such as utility providers and local forest licensees, are also an important component of interagency cooperation. According to BCWS, powerlines under high winds and escaped open fires are attributed to some human-caused ignitions each year. No problems with utility or road rights-of-way maintenance within the plan area were specifically identified. Project participants 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.⁷¹

See Table 1 for recommended action items that the RDCK and the Village of Slocan 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.⁷² 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 Village of Slocan (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 and the Village of Slocan should continue to 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 Valley South include:

⁷¹ Personal communication, Stephan Martineau, 2025.

⁷² 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

- Evacuation of recreation users in the backcountry
- Single-access roads are prevalent
- Intermix neighbourhoods are prevalent
- Limited, bridge-dependant access to west side of Slocan River;
- Notification to residents without a landline, cell phone, or internet access
- Access to Crown land only through private property (e.g. Slocan Park)
- Gated areas, including Perry Ridge, Sentinel FSR, Ministry of Transportation and Transit gravel pits, Slocan Park BCTS operating area, woodlots

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 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 the Slocan Valley with particular emergency planning complications – such as New Settlement (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.⁷³ 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.⁷⁴

Recommendations and action items that the RDCK and Slocan 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 4.1, 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

⁷³ RDCK. *Information Bulletin – August 14, 2024*. <https://www.rdck.ca/information-bulletin-august-14-2024/>

⁷⁴ Village of New Denver. 2025. "New Denver Emergency Support Services" [public notice]. [2025-05-28_ND-ESS-Open-House-Article.pdf](https://www.newdenver.ca/2025-05-28-ND-ESS-Open-House-Article.pdf)

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:

1. **FireSmart landscaping:** The removal, reduction, or conversion of flammable plants to create more fire-resistant areas in the FireSmart Home Ignition Zones (Figure 22) 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 22. FireSmart Home Ignition Zone.⁷⁵

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 and the Village of Slocan 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

⁷⁵ FireSmart BC. 2025. "The Home Ignition Zone." [The Home Ignition Zone, Remodelled | FireSmart BC](#)

and overall vulnerability of properties in the Slocan Valley. Thus, educating (see Section 5.2) and reducing barriers for residents to implement FireSmart landscaping should be the priority.

There are several good programs in place to facilitate vegetation management on private property. Open burning is allowed in the RDCK and Village of Slocan outside of provincial fire bans. Yard debris can be dropped off for free at the Slocan or Grohman Narrows transfer stations during the months of May and October.⁷⁶ FireSmart landscaping is also an eligible activity under the RDCK FireSmart rebate program, which is also currently offered in the Village of Slocan 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. The RDCK and the Village of Slocan 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, including Vallican, who worked on FireSmart upgrades to the Vallican Whole Community Centre and hosting a community education event.⁷⁷

Demonstration projects also serve as a good education tool for residents interested in conducting FireSmart work on their own property. Through the SVWRP, the Village of Slocan completed a demonstration FireSmart project on their Village Hall in 2023. The project included replacing vinyl facias and soffits with metal, replacing vinyl siding with cement fiber board, screening vents with 3mm metal mesh, clearing a 1.5 m non-combustible zone around the building and installing gravel, and removing a conifer tree from within 10 m of the building.⁷⁸

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, 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

⁷⁶ <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/waste-recycling/household-hazardous-waste-round-up/yard-garden-waste-free-tipping.html>

⁷⁷ RDCK. *RDCK FireSmart Recognized Neighbourhoods*. <https://www.rdck.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/RDCK-FireSmart-Neighbourhoods.pdf>

⁷⁸ SIFCO. *Demonstration Projects*. <https://www.sifco.ca/demo-projects>. Accessed Jan 12, 2026.

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.⁷⁹

Previous Treatments

According to public datasets, approximately 530.5 ha of fuel treatment have been completed within or just outside of the WUI (Table 19).⁸⁰ An additional 69.8 ha has been prescribed but not completed in New Settlement, with the Ministry of Forests stating that additional prescriptions for the area are planned. Note that additional treatments may have been completed on private land or through different funding programs that are not systematically tracked. Other areas may have treatments planned or in progress that are not yet part of public datasets. Map 14 to Map 18 show proposed and completed fuel treatment units within the WUI. It should be noted that recently the 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.⁸¹ BCTS has planned several timber sales in above the interface in Slocan Park (Area H South). Harvesting will take place, followed by a prescription for prescribed burning or other fine fuel clean up. Kalesnikoff has identified a project southwest of Hills 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.^{82, 83} There are several woodlots in the plan area; Smokey Creek woodlot near South Slocan has completed an 18-ha wildfire risk reduction treatment with interface stocking standards and is considering additional areas; Winlaw woodlot is actively exploring prescribed burning in an interface block.⁸⁴

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

⁷⁹ Personal communication, Stephan Martineau, 2025.

⁸⁰ BC Data Catalogue CRI Fuel Treatments and RESULTS - FRE

⁸¹ Personal communication, Mark Tallman, 2025; Gerald Cordeiro, 2025.

⁸² 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>

⁸³ Personal communication, Stephan Martineau, 2025.

⁸⁴ Personal communication, Troy Petrick, 2025; Tom Bradley/Bernie Clover, 2025.

spring 2026.⁸⁵ 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 were 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. Therefore, during any future prescription development it is strongly recommended that contracts allow flexibility for contractors to prescribe differently shaped areas. Twenty-five FTUs were identified and are summarized in Table 20 and Map 13 - Map 18 below.

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, namely Slocan, 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 South, creative solutions to incentivize forest treatment on private land even outside of the Home Ignition Zone (30 m buffer) may be required. Many properties 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.

⁸⁵Union 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>

Table 19. Fuel Treatments completed and prescribed in the Slocan Valley South WUI

Treatment Unit Name / Opening ID	Community (Proponent)	Year	Area (ha)	Comment
CRI232	Slocan (Village of Slocan)	2020	21.1	Completed. WTA-109 completed within. Overlap with 2024 wildfire, area has high amounts of deadfall – could retreat. Proposed from the 2020 CWPP.
SWPI312	Slocan (Village of Slocan)	2013	34.5	Completed. WTA-210 completed within. Buffers both sides of Springer Creek Road. Connects east to a 2020 CWPP Proposed PTU (1-Slocan East).
WR0001357	Slocan (Village of Slocan)	2021	48.5	Completed. Covers the area west of Highway 6 and the Slocan municipality. Overlaps with Springer Creek. Unit SWPI312 starts on the east side of Highway 6, ~50m away.
SWPI972	Slocan (Village of Slocan)	2018	10.1	Completed. Sections of the unit falls within the Slocan municipality. Buffers the Slocan Valley Rail Trail between Gravel Pit Road and Arlington Road.
1682860	Lemon Creek (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2017	32.8	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. North of Lemon Creek and just east of Ursis Road, can be accessed via Ponderosa FSR. Interaction with a 2024 WTA-121 completed within. 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU directly east (5-Ponderosa).
1728195	Lemon Creek (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2019	43.2	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. East of 168260, extending along Ponderosa FSR to outside of eWUI bubble. Overlap with 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU (5-Ponderosa).
1692484	Lemon Creek (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2017	2.7	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. Located between the Slocan Valley Rail Trail and Slocan River.
1743022	Lemon Creek (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2020	10.5	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. Located East of Highway 8 and Rooster Road. Overlap with 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU (8-Anderson, 7-Anderson).
1743065	Lemon Creek (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2020	23.5	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. Adjacent to 1743022. WTA-131 completed within. Overlap with 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU (7-Anderson).
1689626	Lemon Creek (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2017	36.5	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. North of 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU (8-Anderson) and unit 1743022.
1770079	Lemon Creek (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2022	7.9	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. Within CWPP Proposed FTU (7-Anderson).
1759233	Appledale (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2021	31.4	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. North of Trozzo Creek, accessed via Trozzo Creek FSR. Within 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU (10-Trozzo). East of 1759233

Treatment Unit Name / Opening ID	Community (Proponent)	Year	Area (ha)	Comment
1755737	Appledale (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2021	18.3	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. North of Trozzo Creek, accessed off of Trozzo Creek FSR. Within 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU (10-Trozzo). Located to the direct west of 1759233.
1722519	Appledale (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2019	10.3	Completed. Small overlap with SIFCo managed license. Located at the southern end of Fern Road, at the start of Trozzo Creek FSR. WTA-154 completed within.
1786916	Appledale (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2024	27.5	Completed. Prescribed in 2017 (RDCK, SWPI788). Within SIFCo managed license. Located along Trozzo Creek FSR and extends slightly beyond eWUI bubble. Planned SIFCo Fuel Treatments exist directly north of unit. Within 2022 CWPP Proposed FTU (10-Trozzo).
1689388	Winlaw (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2017	55.9	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license, and directly south of a woodlot (W1832). Can be accessed via Woodward Road. Block was broadcast burned in 2018.
1780980	Winlaw (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2023	13.1	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. Located along the Pedro Creek FSR, south of completed unit 1755465. Within 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU (18-Pedro). WTA-52 completed within.
1755465	Winlaw (Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)	2021	9.0	Completed. Within SIFCo managed license. Located along the Pedro Creek FSR, north of completed unit 1780980. Mostly within the 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU (18-Pedro, 17-Pedro). WTA-52 completed within.
TA2325-1	Slocan Park (BCTS)	N/A	10.7	Completed. Located northeast of Upper Slocan Park Road. Auctioned BCTS block.
TA2325-2	Slocan Park (BCTS)	N/A	6.7	Completed. Located northeast to Highway 8. Auctioned BCTS block.
TA2325-3	Slocan Park (BCTS)	N/A	9.6	Completed. Located east of Cunningham Road. Within 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU (22-Cunningham). Auctioned BCTS block.
TA2325-4	Slocan Park (BCTS)	N/A	16.4	Completed. Located east of Highway 6, upslope of Jacob Creek. Within 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU (23-Cunningham). Auctioned BCTS block.
SWPI505	Krestova / Crescent Valley (RDCK)	2016	12.0	Completed – two units. Krestova unit buffers Langill Creek, at the northern end of Chatfield Road and contains WTA-314. The Crescent Valley unit spans a strip between Playmor Road and Highway 6, within a residential area.
PC001	New Settlement (Ministry of Forests)	2022	26.8	Completed. Pass Creek Treatment Units. Three of the four buffer the eastern end of Tower Road and extend north nearing both Elasoff Road and Goose Road. Within 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU (31-Goose Creek). The southern singular unit buffers the western side of Pass Creek Road adjacent to 174435.

Treatment Unit Name / Opening ID	Community (Proponent)	Year	Area (ha)	Comment
1764435	New Settlement (Ministry of Forests)	2023	12.0	Completed. Northern unit located on the southern side of Tower Road, adjacent to PC001 and within the 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU (31-Goose Creek). The southern units extend east off of Pass Creek Road, buffering the completed unit WRSE0025 (1764433). WTA-209 completed within. Unit falls within a 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU (33-Goose Creek).
WRSE0025	New Settlement (Ministry of Forests)	2022	69.8	<i>Prescription unit</i> located directly south of unit 1764435, and extends northeast of Pass Creek Road to Tower Road. Within a 2020 CWPP Proposed FTU (33-Goose Creek).

Table 20. Proposed Fuel Treatment Units in Slocan Valley South

FTU Number	FTU Name	Priority	Total Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
109	Slocan North Road	Mod	2.3	On Crown land just west of the Village of Slocan. Adjacent to Valhalla Provincial Park at the north end. Consult with homeowners, and BC Parks due to park adjacency. Visuals and riparian value (lakeshore). Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for white-tailed deer (U-4-001).	This PTU is within the perimeter of the Mulvey Creek fire (2024). Fallen over trees have created a jackpot of fuel. The treatment recommendation is to cut the trees to the ground so that the trees decay more rapidly and decrease elevated fuel loading. Surface fuels are minimal as fine fuels were consumed in the wildfire. Overstory mortality is >90%. The treatment unit is anchored to the lake to the east and rocky terrain breaks up the continuity of fuel availability. Directly adjacent to homes on Slocan North Road at the south end and a boat access property at the north end. PTU also overlaps part of a 2022 treated area (2020 CWPP Unit #2 – Slocan West). Possibility to extend north past treated area but even lower priority. Low priority due to hazard. Interface treatment.
112A/B/C	Village of Slocan	Very High	0.6	Municipal land within the Village of Slocan. Consult with the Village of Slocan and adjacent residents. Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for white-tailed deer (U-4-001).	This PTU is composed of three municipal parcels characterized by C-3 fuel types within Slocan. Springer Creek runs through them. Residents are located within 100m of the unit in all directions. Recommend manual thin activities to remove surface fuel and thin dead understory stems. Stand is Cw leading. High priority due to municipal jurisdiction and immediate proximity to values. Interface treatment. Fire department priority.
116	Slocan West Road 1	High	11.5	Crown land southwest of the Village of Slocan. Abuts W0498 on the south boundary (private and Crown land) and private residential property on Slocan West Road. Overlaps water infrastructure associated with Gwillim Creek intake (Village of Slocan) and the steep creek draw itself, as well as riparian habitat at the confluence with Slocan River; net outs to be determined at prescription stage. Also partially overlaps recreation reserve tenure UREP 0247475. Small overlap at the north end with Valhalla Provincial Park for anchoring purposes; may be excluded if BC Parks is not interested as it is furthest from values. ⁸⁶ Overlaps conditional harvest zones for white-tailed deer (U-4-001) and mule deer (U-4-001).	This PTU fills a gap of untreated forest between private properties, previously treated areas and the 2024 wildfire. This forest is a C-7 fuel type with mixed overstory species. Understory is Cw and Hw mixed with dead and dying woody shrubs. Slocan West Road / Gravel Pit Road creates a well-established anchor point and a fuel break below homes. The treatment recommendation is to use small equipment or manual thinning from below. Overlap with 2020 CWPP Unit #4 Slocan West. Mix of SIFCo Type 1 and 2 (manual/mechanical) treatment was recommended. Interface treatment.

⁸⁶ 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
118	Slocan West Road 2	Low	2.7	Complete overlap with Woodlot 0498; would be licensee lead. Intersected by Slocan West Road and Little Slocan Road. Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for white-tailed deer (U-4-001); riparian values (Slocan River).	Small 100 m wide PTU south of private property with a C-3 fuel type. Hazardous fuels created by dead and downed debris and ladder fuels are continuous. The Slocan West Road and the Slocan River anchor this PTU. Anchors to Slocan River and 2024 cutblock (W0498). May be extended to the south to encompass more hazardous fuels but should be licensee lead. Low priority, as there is a large gap of forested private land between unit and nearest structures. Landscape treatment.
123	Lemon Creek 1	High	25.7	Almost complete overlap with K2R (SIFCo tenure) and with Lemon Creek Rail Trail camping area (REC202931), which is managed by SIFCo. Flat ground between the Slocan River and Lemon Creek. Intersected by Slocan Valley Rail Trail (REC262881). Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for white-tailed deer (U-4-001); riparian values (Slocan River and Lemon Creek). Access from Kennedy Road. Consult with Rec Sites and Trails BC, nearby residents, and SIFCo.	Part of the PTU was treated in 2017, however, fuel accumulation since then warrants a light surface fuel retreatment. The remaining forest closer to the creeks is heavily fuel-loaded with abundant surface and ladder fuels, and a manual thin is recommended. The area is anchored by the Slocan Valley rail trail, Lemon Creek and Kennedy Road. The forest resembles a C5 fuel type with a relatively open canopy and Cw and Fd leading overstory. High priority due to overlap with recreation polygon and adjacent to values, accessibility and existing treatment. Interface treatment/maintenance.
131	Elliot Creek	Low	81.5	Complete overlap with K2R (SIFCo tenure). Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (U-4-001) and a non-legal OGMA. Steep slope especially to the south and west.	This PTU is comprised of an open stand with Fd and deciduous overstory trees. The fuel type resembles C-7 as the rocky outcrops break up the continuity of fuels and create gaps in the canopy. Two previously completed WRR treatment units (SIFCo 2017, 2020) are located north of this PTU, and homes are 250 m downslope, off Popou Road. Slope limitations and rocky terrain may pose challenges to mechanical thinning, however, the opportunity to remove merchantable timber exists. Would expand upon previously treated area, anchoring to Elliot Creek drainage and Elliot FSR, and make whole area a prescribed fire candidate. Overlaps CWPP Unit #8 Anderson – Type 4 (Ecosystem Restoration thinning and prescribed burning) treatment recommended. Low priority due to distance from values and existing treatment in area. Landscape treatment.
134	Trozzo 1	Low	44.7	Complete overlap with K2R (SIFCo tenure). Overlaps conditional harvest zones for white-tailed deer (U-4-001) and mule deer (U-4-001). Intersected by Prodigal Road. Sloped ground.	This PTU is adjacent to the Trozzo FSR and anchors to completed fuel treatments (2019, 2024) to the south. This PTU covers an area of untreated C-7 forest and is within 170 m of homes. The overstory is Fd and Cw leading with Cw, Hw and Bg understory. Treatment recommendation is to commercial thin where the terrain is favourable. Planned for SIFCo implementation (Type 1, 2). Low priority due to distance from values and existing treatment in area. Landscape treatment.
138	Appledale 1	High	4.1	On Crown land outside of but adjacent to K2R (SIFCo). Overlaps conditional harvest zones for white-tailed deer (U-	This PTU is an isolated Crown land parcel surrounded by private land and anchored to Perry's Back Road. Immature Fd and Py mixed with Act. Large areas are unvegetated (gravel pit), but further upslope is heavily treed with continuous vertical fuels created by immature trees and

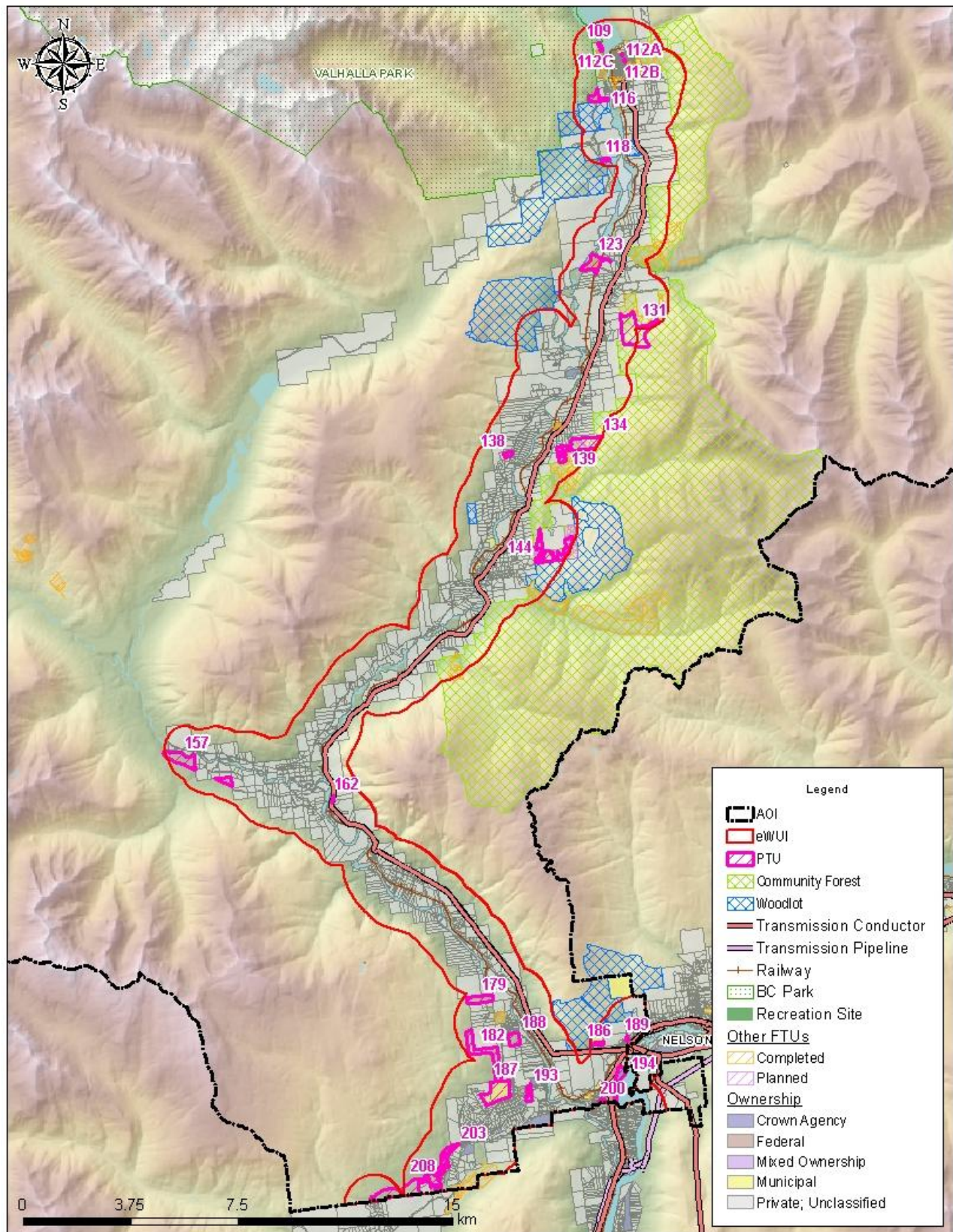
FTU Number	FTU Name	Priority	Total Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
				4-001) and mule deer (U-4-001). Gently sloped ground with good access. No sand and gravel tenure found.	slope. Signs of old fire pits, parties and dirt biking. Potential ignition risk immediately adjacent to values in Appledale. Manual treatment is recommended due to loose and sandy soils. High priority due to adjacency with values, accessibility and ignition risk. Interface treatment.
139	Trozzo 2	High	9.9	On Crown land outside of but adjacent to K2R (SIFCo). Overlaps conditional harvest zones for white-tailed deer (U-4-001) and mule deer (U-4-001). Gently sloped ground with good access.	This two part PTU consists of an Fd and Cw leading forest with C3 and C7 fuel types. Anchors to Prodigal Road, Trozzo FSR, and private land. Fills in the gaps between 2019 treatment and 2026 planned treatment and is closest to values. Trozzo FSR provides a good anchor point. Homes are located immediately adjacent. Overlaps 2020 CWPP Unit #10 Trozzo. High priority due to accessibility and adjacency to values. Landscape treatment.
144	Paradise Valley	Mod	44.3	Complete overlap with K2R (SIFCo tenure). Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (U-4-001). Moderate slope, good access from Paradise Valley Road. Visuals and riparian values (Dumont Creek). Consult with adjacent landowners. Planned for near term SIFCo implementation (Type 1, 2).	This three-part PTU consists of untreated forest characteristic of an M1/2 fuel type. While the terrain provides limited opportunities for mechanical thinning, the undulating slopes and proximity to the creek may make a manual thin-from-below the more suitable treatment approach. Some areas (excluded from this unit) were already treated in 2025. Anchors to selective logging on private land. Overlaps 2020 CWPP Unit 12 – Paradise (High Priority). Moderate priority due to interface location, with work on private land – but not adjacent. Interface treatment.
157	Vallican	Mod	46.2	On Crown land. Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (U-4-001). Riparian values (Little Slokan River, Airy Creek). Consult with adjacent residents, BC Hydro.	Two-part PTU on flat to moderate ground between Little Slokan River and a BC Hydro transmission line. Cw/Fdi (Hw/Pw/Py) stand leading C-3 fuel type with some mixed wood. Densely stocked overstory, low crown base height and ample surface fuels for crown initiation and wildfire spread. Residents on Passmore Upper Road are situated immediately to the north and east with transmission lines to the south, acting as a holding feature for potential prescribed burn or suppression activities. Treatment regime could include commercial overstory thinning where terrain permits. Part of 2020 CWPP Unit #20 Little Slokan (High Priority). Only the portion closest to values identified for this plan, but still a large polygon. Moderate priority due to extent of forested private land around values. Interface treatment. Net outs may occur at prescription stage.
162	Vallican	High	1.0	On Crown land. Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (U-4-001). Road and Fortis BC transmission line intersects unit. Consult with adjacent residents/businesses, Fortis BC, Ministry of Transportation (adjacent to Highway 6).	A C-4 fuel type with patches of M-1/2 with a 75% conifer component. Densely stocked Fdi, PI ingress. Homes, the Passmore Fire Hall and Highway 6 are located near the unit. Treatment is recommended to reduce surface fuels and understory conifers. High priority due to stand hazard, good access and proximity to values, although there is forested private land upslope. Interface treatment.
179	Krestova 1	Mod to High	18.6	On Crown land. Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for elk (U-4-001). Riparian values (overlap with unnamed	The predominant fuel type is M-1/2, composed of approximately 75% conifer and 25% deciduous cover. Conifer ingress occurs in clumped pockets separated by more open, deciduous-leading areas. Access is good via an old road off Langill Road. Nearby homes are

FTU Number	FTU Name	Priority	Total Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
				tributaries to Slokan River). Sloped with complex topography within the unit (knolls and drainages).	located approximately 350 m from the treatment area. Creates a long upslope fuel break on a finger of Crown land between private properties. Ties into lower fuel C-7 sands upslope. Overlaps 2020 CWPP Unit #24 Krestova (High Priority). Mod to high priority due to logical cross slope location and good access, but relatively far from values. Landscape treatment.
182	Krestova 2	Low - Mod	52.2	On Crown land. No current access except through surveyed right of ways (no current road) off Krestova Road. Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for elk (U-4-001). Overlap with riparian values e.g. Sher Creek.	Landscape level PTU; moderate priority due to lack of access and extent of private forested land. The predominant fuel type is M-1/2; however, rocky and open areas share more characteristics with C-7. Overstory trees have low crown base heights, increasing the risk of crown initiation in the event of a wildfire. Surface fuels consist of a conifer needle bed, woody shrubs, grasses and fine woody debris. Residents are located within 300m to the east of the unit. Minimal access and sloped terrain may reduce the extent of mechanical treatment. Overlaps 2020 CWPP Unit #26 Krestova (High Priority). Option to treat a buffer on old road paralleling McDermid Creek instead – WUI WRR plan scope. Low to mod due to distance from values and lack of access, but logical to create landscape break here. Landscape treatment.
186	South Slokan 1	Very High	2.9	On municipal land adjacent to RDCK South Slokan water system infrastructure. Consult with RDCK. Adjacent to woodlot W1458 <i>where WRR treatment is also being considered</i> . Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (U-4-001). Overlaps with WUI WRR Plan BO-FTU-02.	An M-1/2 leading stand dominated by Fd and PI, with dense understory conifer ingress, particularly in open canopy areas. Designed to buffer RDCK operated South Slokan Reservoir (1) and access road. Thick needle cast and surface fuels. High priority due to RDCK jurisdiction and critical infrastructure. Interface treatment.
187	Krestova Park	Very High	54.6	On municipal land – RDCK managed Krestova Regional Park. Flat to gently sloping. Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for elk (U-4-001). The RDCK is exploring funding options to prescribe and treat this unit.	The PTU is a C-7 leading fuel type, with patches of densely stocked conifers and grass leading surface fuels. Residents are located immediately to the south of the unit. Manual thin activities are recommended. Numerous recreation trails and anchor points exist within the unit to establish prescribed burn boundaries to reduce surface fuel loading. High priority due to RDCK jurisdiction and proximity to values. Opportunity for ecosystem restoration treatment, demonstration project. Interface treatment. Net downs may occur at prescription stage.
188	Krestova 3	High	16.2	On Crown land; complete overlap with sand and gravel tenure (0276266). Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for elk (U-4-001). Moderately sloped unit. Net out associated with gravel pit, deciduous can be conducted at prescription stage. Consult with the Ministry of Forests and tenure holder.	An M-1/2 fuel type, with a Py, Fd overstory and high crown base height. The PTU anchors to roads and a gravel pit along the northern boundary and topographical features (slope break and unsanctioned trails) to the south. Immature conifer regenerating stems and surface fuel should be targeted for removal through manual thin activities and pile burning. Prescribed burning could be considered in this unit to remove litter and shrub layers, if holding features and water sources can be established. Overlaps 2020 CWPP Unit #27 Krestova (High Priority). High priority due to access and proximity to values in Krestova. Interface treatment.

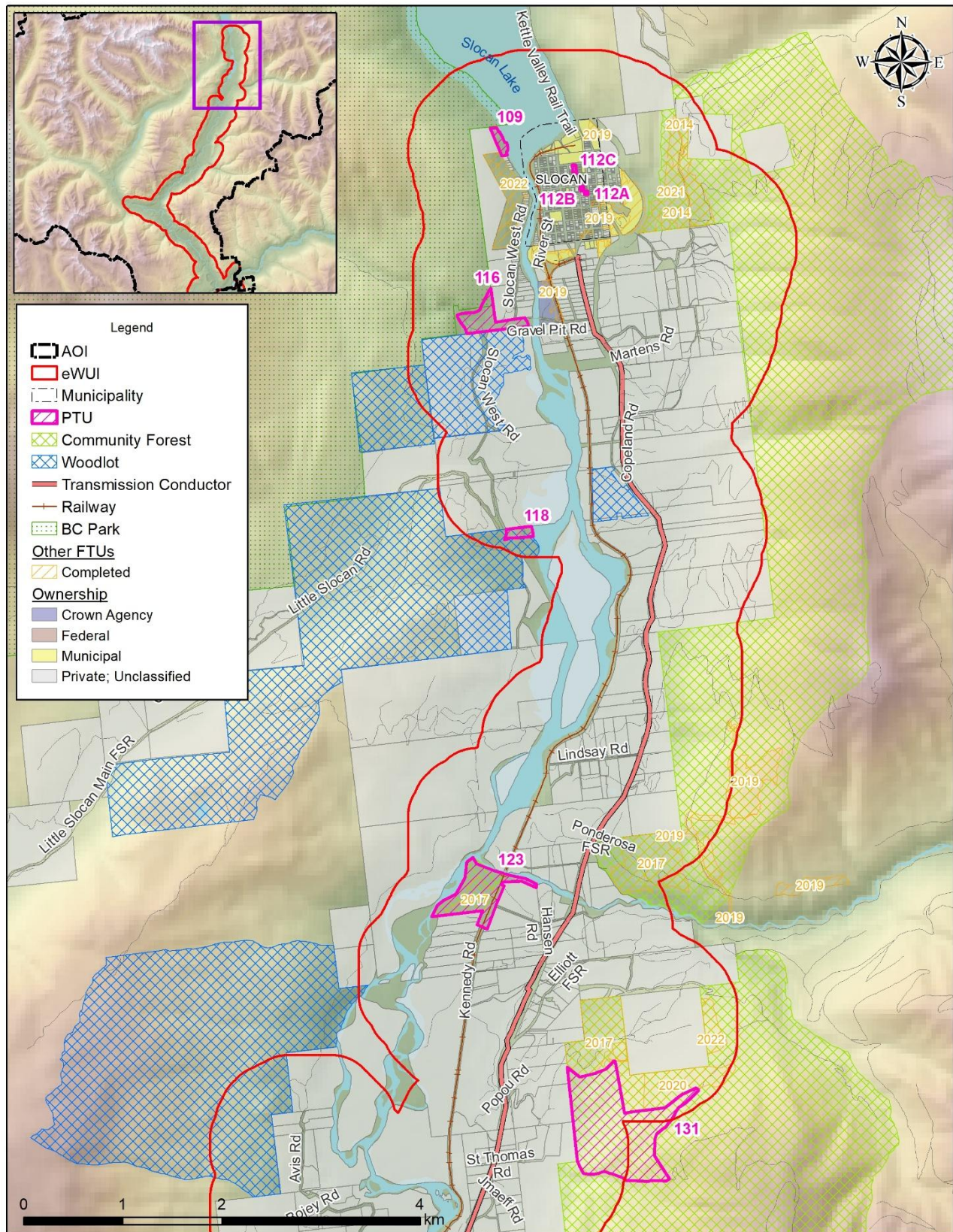
FTU Number	FTU Name	Priority	Total Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
189	South Slocan 2	Very High	1.2	On municipal land adjacent to RDCK South Slocan water system infrastructure. Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (U-4-001). Consult with RDCK.	A Py, Fd leading C-7 stand, with patchy Fd understory ingress, a healthy shrub community and mixed composition of ladder fuels. Surrounds RDCK water infrastructure (reservoir and water treatment plant). High priority due to RDCK jurisdiction and critical infrastructure. Interface treatment.
193	Krestova 4	High	7.8	On Crown land at the end of Gage Road. Adjacent to federal land and private land. Consult with nearby residents. Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for elk (U-4-001). Net out of deciduous and open areas to occur at prescription stage.	A C-3 leading stand with well-drained soils, Fd and Py leading tree species. A well-used recreation trail exists within the unit, residents are located within 100m to the west, south and east, and a communication tower is located within 200m of the PTU. Manual thin activities are recommended, and if holding features can be adequately established, prescribed fire may be suitable to remove Py needle cast. High priority due to hazard and immediate adjacency to values. Interface treatment.
194	Playmor Junction 2	High	18.7	On Crown agency land; overlaps Slocan Pool Recreation Reserve (REC247025). Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (U-4-001). Riparian (Kootenay River) and recreation values. Consult with RSTBC and Columbia Power Corporation.	A mixed species stand with veteran Pw, exhibiting M-1/2 characteristics. Abundant wildlife trees are present throughout the unit and should be prioritized for retention. This area is a valuable green space with trails to access Purdy's Point and the Slocan Pools, maintained by the Columbia Power Corporation. Manual thin activities are recommended to target surface fuel, blow down, and remove ladder fuel through pile burning debris disposal. High priority due to proximity to structural values and recreational value of the area. Interface treatment.
200	Playmor Junction 1	High	1.9	On Crown land. Overlap with sand and gravel tenure (0179103). Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for mule deer (U-4-001). Consult with Ministry of Forests and tenure holder, Ministry of Transportation, and adjacent residences and businesses.	Fd, Py, and Lw leading C-7 stand with adjacent homes within 100m to the east, south and west. Mt. Sentinel school is located less than 500m to the north. The unit is anchored to Highway 6 and Highway 3A, as well as a gravel pit to the south. Manual thin activities are recommended, targeting understory conifer stems for removal. High priority due to immediate adjacency to values. Interface treatment.
203	New Settlement 1	Very High	38.8	On Crown land near the boundary with Electoral Area I. Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for elk (U-4-001). Riparian values (Goose Creek). No overlap with residential tenure but some homes appear on Crown land; consult with RDCK and Ministry of Forests to resolve prior to implementation.	A south-facing C-7 fuel type with a Py leading overstory. Denser clumps are scattered. The unit surrounds homes on Sorokin Road and Reservoir Road at the base of a slope. The unit is anchored to rock bluffs and low-threat fuel types upslope and to riparian areas around Goose Creek. The recommended treatment regime is manual thinning. Partial overlap with 2020 CWPP Units #30 and 32 Goose Creek (High Priority). High priority due to single access neighbourhood, immediacy of structural values, good access and treatable hazard. Potential FireSmart priority neighbourhood. Interface treatment.
208	New Settlement 2	Low	62.3	On Crown land on the boundary with Electoral Area I (not identified in that CWRP). Overlaps conditional harvest UWR for elk (U-4-001). Riparian values (Goose Creek and tributaries). Intersected by REC 6896 at the west end	A mixed wood fuel intermixed with C-3 areas of mixed conifer species. Residents and snowmobile club facilities are located within 200m of the treatment boundary. Treatment activities could include commercial overstory thinning, where terrain and stand conditions permit. Access for operations is via Goose Creek Forest Service Road.



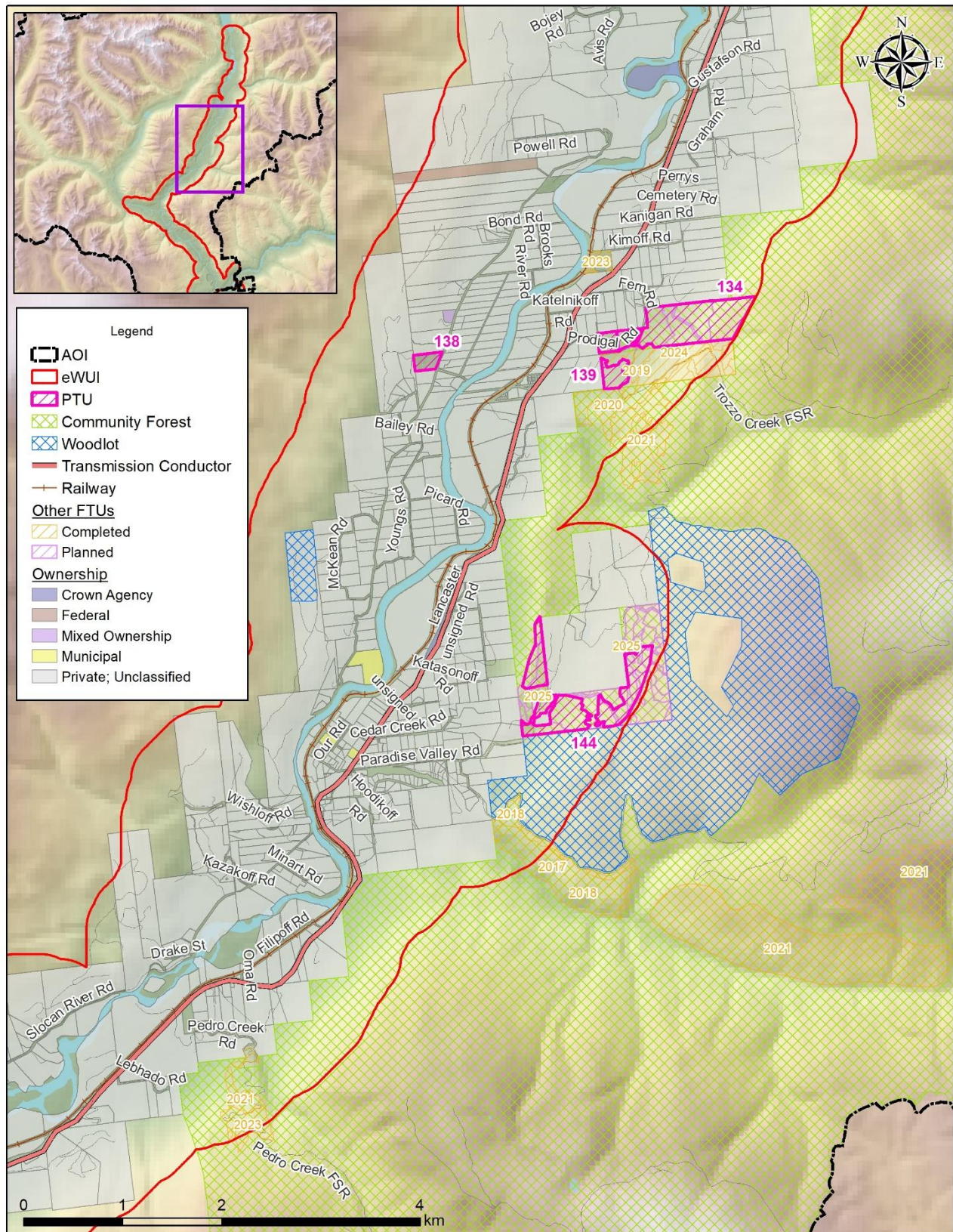
FTU Number	FTU Name	Priority	Total Area (ha)	Overlapping Values / Treatment Constraints	Treatment Rationale
				(Ladybird Norns Snowmobile Access Trail), and Goose Creek Trail. Kalesnikoff is working with BCWS and Ministry of Forests WRR on a block overlapping this area.	Partial overlap with 2020 CWPP Unit #32 Goose Creek (High Priority). Low priority due to size and distance from values, but logical landscape fuel break. Landscape treatment.



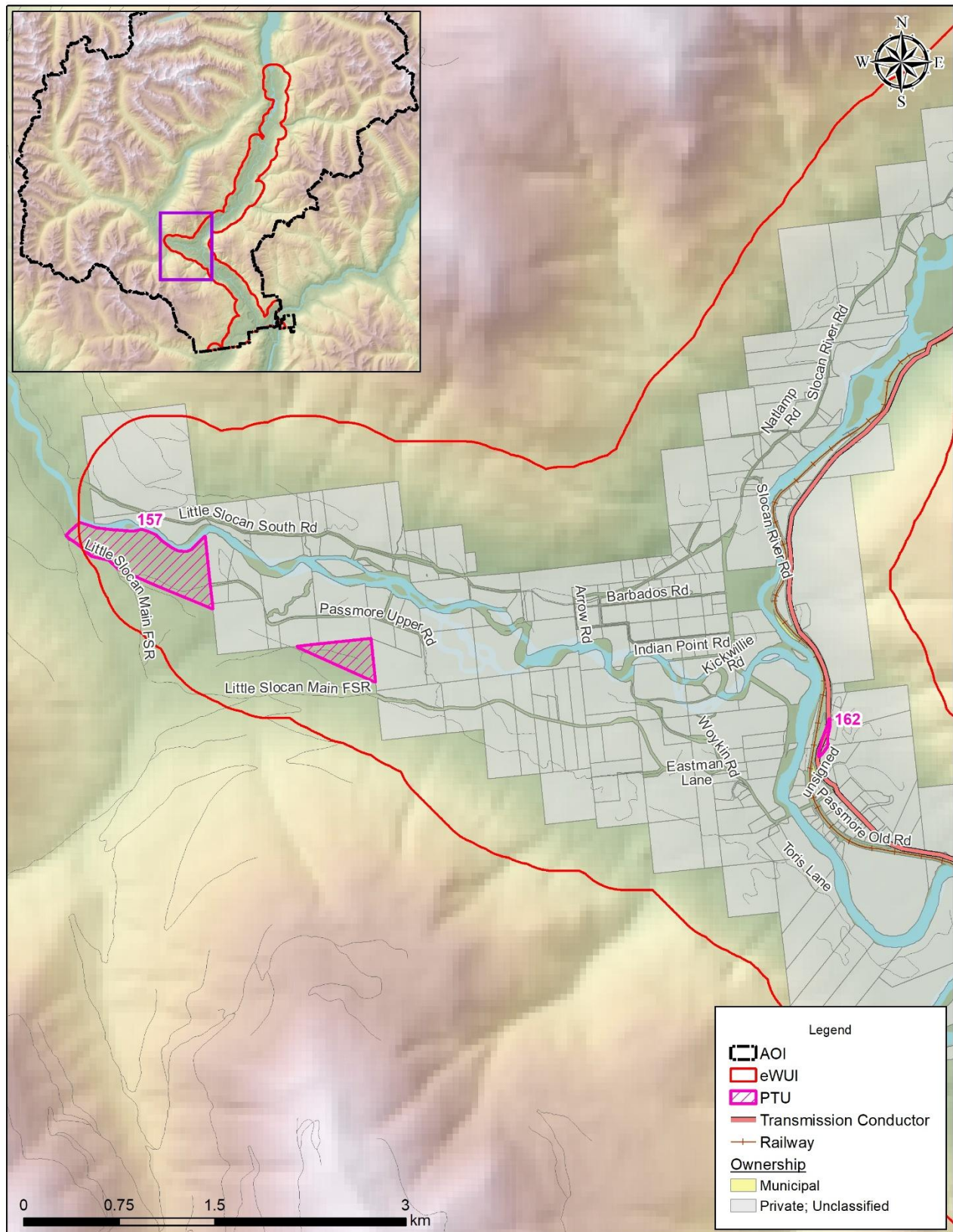
Map 13. Proposed and Completed Fuel Treatment Units Overview.



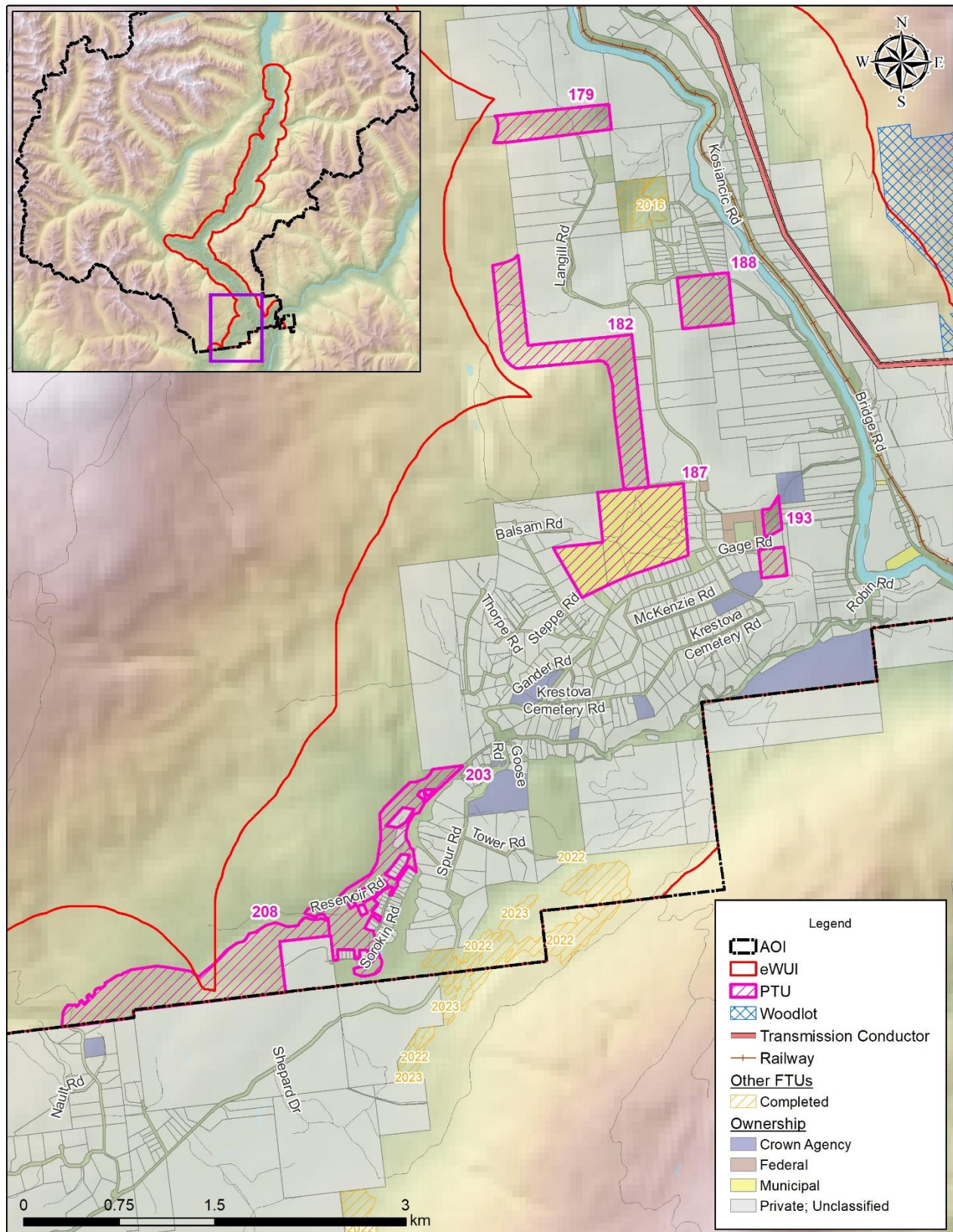
Map 14. Proposed and Completed Fuel Treatment Units around Slocan.



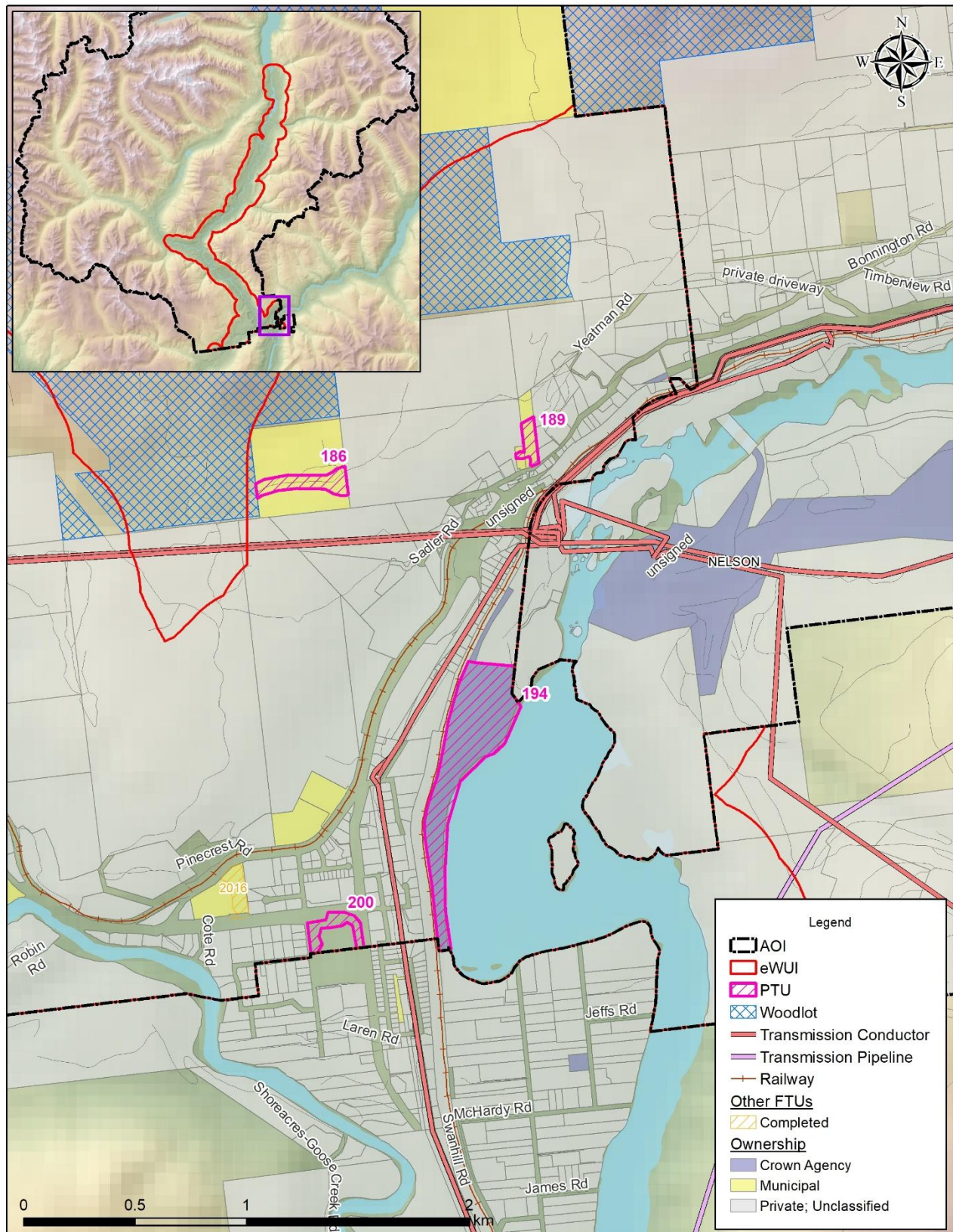
Map 15. Proposed and Completed Fuel Treatment Units south of Slocan (Lemon Creek, Winlaw).



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



Map 17. Proposed and Completed Fuel Treatment Units around Krestova.



Map 18. Proposed and Completed Fuel Treatment Units around Playmor Junction.

6 FireSmart Roadmap and CWRP Action Plan

6.1 FireSmart Roadmap

The FireSmart Roadmap (Figure 23) 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.⁸⁷

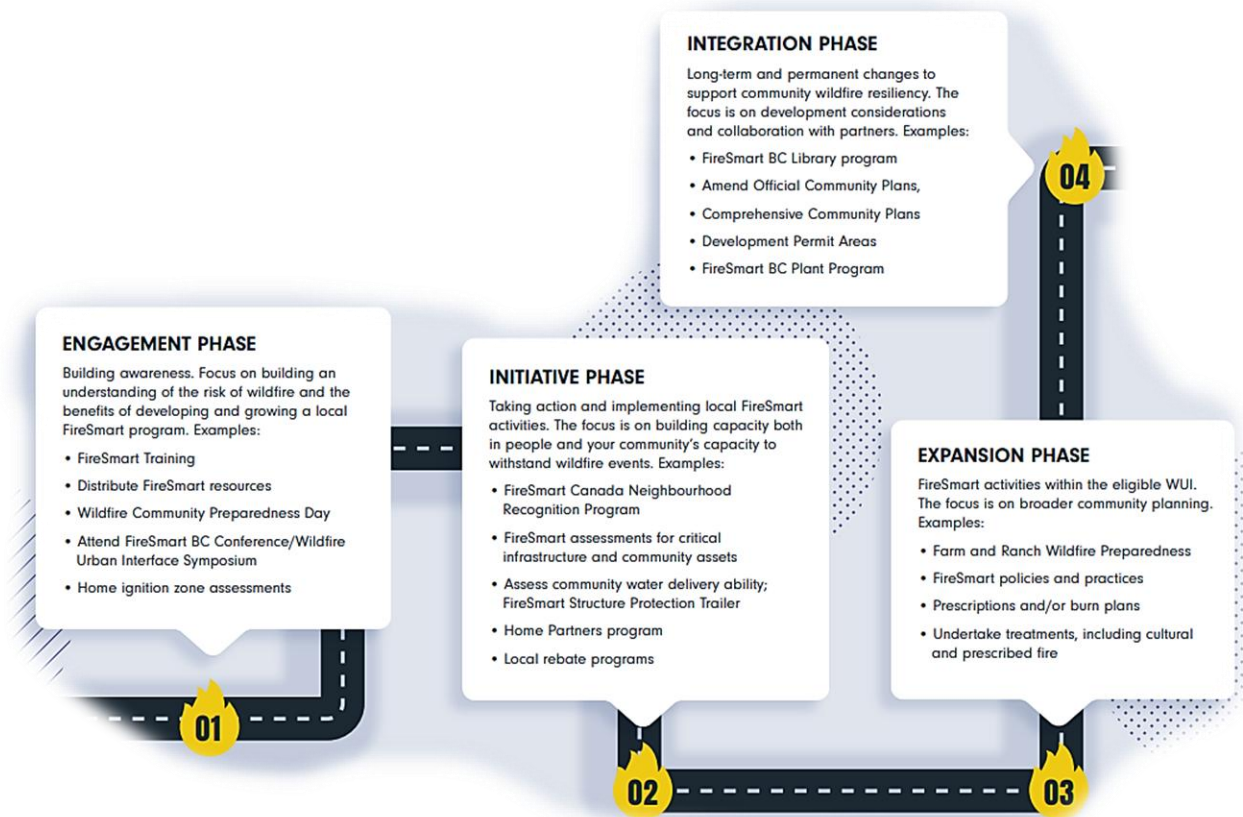


Figure 23. Graphic representation of the FireSmart Roadmap concept.⁸⁸

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

- A FireSmart Position

⁸⁷ 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>

⁸⁸ 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 and the Village of Slocan 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 Valley South. 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 Village of Slocan work 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 21. Review of 2020 RDCK Area H South and Village of Slocan CWPP 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, Village of Slocan, 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. Neither the RDCK or the Village of Slocan has a WDPA in place. Emergency plans are updated. RDCK burning bylaw not feasible; not in place in Slocan.
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, Village of Slocan, fire departments, forest licensees, utility	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);	Complete – Slocan Valley Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee

Item	Responsibility / Funding Source	2020 CWPP Recommendation	2025 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
	companies, BC Parks, BCWS, MOTI	utilities (BC Hydro and Fortis); municipalities (New Denver, Silverton, Slocan); and government agencies (BC Parks, BCWS, MOTI, and FWCP).	
5	RDCK, utility companies, BC Parks	Coordinate wildfire risk mitigation efforts with other agencies, organizations, and across Electoral Area boundaries. Coordinate mitigation efforts around New Settlement, Playmor Junction, South Slocan, Valhalla Park, and along highway right-of-ways.	Underway – forest licensees, Ministry of Forests, local governments
6	UBCM CRI Program, Village of Slocan, RDCK, fire departments	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
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
9	UBCM CRI Program, RDCK, Village of Slocan, 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
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, RDCK, Village of Slocan, consultants preparing prescriptions, UBCM CRI Program, FESBC	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		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		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

Item	Responsibility / Funding Source	2020 CWPP Recommendation	2025 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
Objective: To garner community support for wildfire mitigation efforts			
14	RDCK, Village of Slocan, 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 RDCK1 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, Village of Slocan, forest licensees, utility companies, consultants preparing prescriptions, UBCM CRI Program, FESBC, CBT	Work with licensees (BCTS, Interfor, Kalesnikoff Lumber, SIFCo, Woodlots) and other partners (BC Hydro, Fortis BC, MOTI, and FWCP) to implement fuel treatment as recommended in Table 19. Treatments should increase opportunities for fire suppression, including reducing fuel loads, improving 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).	Partially complete
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 Village of Slocan	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 Village of Slocan	Review, select and implement activities from Table 20 as part of an ongoing FireSmart program. Activities include education and outreach, vegetation management,	Underway

Item	Responsibility / Funding Source	2020 CWPP Recommendation	2025 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
		incorporating FireSmart into community planning and development, and increasing local capacity to defend against interface fires.	
19	UBCM CRI Program, RDCK and Village of Slocan	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
20	RDCK, Village of Slocan, 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, Village of Slocan, 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	Village of Slocan, RDCK, Improvement Districts, fire departments	Work with the Village of Slocan and Improvement Districts to 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.	Complete for the Village of Slocan
23	RDCK, Village of Slocan, fire departments	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	RDCK, Village of Slocan, fire departments, UBCM CRI Program	Develop a detailed evacuation plan for the Village of Slocan and Area H South. 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.	BC Parks is not interested in jointly developing evacuation plans at this time. Underway for the RDCK.
25	RDCK, Village of Slocan, fire departments	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.	
26	RDCK, Village of Slocan, fire departments, 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	Carried forwards as a recommendation in this plan

Item	Responsibility / Funding Source	2020 CWPP Recommendation	2025 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
		• Water access points • Critical infrastructure	
27	RDCK, Village of Slocan	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.	All RDCK fire halls have back up communications systems in the event of a power outage.
28	UBCM CRI Program , RDCK, Village of Slocan, 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	
Objective: To increase local capacity to respond to wildfires			
29	RDCK, Village of Slocan, fire departments, UBCM CRI Program	Incorporate volunteer firefighter recruitment into FireSmart education and outreach initiatives.	This has not occurred
30	RDCK, Village of Slocan, fire departments, 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	RDCK, Village of Slocan, fire departments, BCWS, UBCM CRI Program	Encourage cross-training between the RDCK Fire Departments and the BCWS. Explore opportunities for: annual mock fire exercises, Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface (S-215) training, Structure and Site Preparation (S-115) training, ICS, communications, and after action reviews of past interface fires.	This occurs annually
32	RDCK, Village of Slocan, fire departments, 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.	Include municipalities.
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

Item	Responsibility / Funding Source	2020 CWPP Recommendation	2025 CWRP Follow-Up Discussion
34	RDCK, Village of Slocan, fire departments, 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.^{89,90} 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.⁹¹

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.⁹⁰ Extreme wildfire conditions do not necessarily result in WUI fire disasters.⁹² 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.⁹³ 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 Priority Zone

⁸⁹ 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.

⁹⁰ Cohen, J. *Preventing Disaster Home Ignitability in the Wildland-urban Interface*. Journal of Forestry. p 15 - 21.

⁹¹ [Firesmart Canada | Firesmart Canada and FireSmart - Province of British Columbia](#)

⁹² 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](#)

⁹³ Community Resiliency Investment. 2024. *FireSmart Community Funding and Supports Supplemental Instruction Guide*. [FireSmart Community Funding and Supports | Union of BC Municipalities](#)

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.⁹³ 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.⁹³

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 22 describes the classes associated with proximity of fuels to the interface.

Table 22. Proximity to the Interface.⁹⁴

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.

⁹⁴ 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 23 below.

Table 23. Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) Plots

Wildfire Threat Assessment Plot ID	Geographic Location	Wildfire Behaviour Threat Class
150	Winlaw	High
152	Pedro Creek	Low
156	Vallican	High
162	Vallican	High
146	Benninger Creek	High
318	Little Slocan	Moderate
186	South Slocan	Moderate
184	South Slocan	Moderate
210	Springer FSR	Low
112	Slocan	Moderate
109	Slocan	Low
110	West Slocan road	High
116	Slocan	Moderate
121	Lemon Creek	Low
123	Lemon Creek	Moderate
131	Elliot Creek	Moderate
158	Little Slocan	Moderate
157	Little Slocan	High
189	South Slocan	Moderate
136	Winlaw	High
138	Winlaw	Moderate
154	Trozzo	Low
134	Trozzo	High
144	Paradise Rd	High
208	Goose Creek	Moderate
209	Mt sentinel FSR	Low
203	New Settlement	Moderate
187	Krestova	Moderate
193	Krestova	High
182	Krestova	High
179	Krestova	Moderate
188	Krestova	Moderate

Wildfire Threat Assessment Plot ID	Geographic Location	Wildfire Behaviour Threat Class
314	Krestova	Low
200	South Slocan Junction	High
194	Slocan Pools	Moderate

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 4.4 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 to produce results reported in Section 4.4 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.⁹⁵ 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.⁹⁶

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.⁹⁶

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

⁹⁵ Forestry Canada Fire Danger Group. (1992). *Development and Structure of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System: Information Report ST-X-3*.

⁹⁶ 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 further from the developed areas of the study generally has a lower confidence.
- 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 24 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 24. 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 25 below summarizes the components and scores to determine the Fire Threat.

Table 25. 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	25
	C-6	
	M-1/2, >75% conifer	20
	C-7	
	M-3/4, <50% dead fir	15
	M-1/2, 50-75% conifer	
	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 26.

Table 26. WUI Risk Classes and their associated summed scores.

WUI Risk Class	Score
Very Low	0
Low	0-35
Moderate	35-55
High ⁹⁷	55-65
Extreme	>65

⁹⁷ WUI risk is only assessed for polygons with wildfire threat ratings of high or extreme.