

Nakusp WUI Wildfire Mitigation Project: Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Information Sharing

During the development of the 2018 CWPP for RDCK Area K and Nakusp, NACFOR conducted information sharing with 10 stakeholders and 15 First Nation groups based of the Consultative Area Database, including:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| •Adams Lake Indian Band | •First Nations' Emergency | •Regional District of Central |
| •Akisqnuk First Nation | Services Society | Kootenay |
| •BC Hydro | •Interfor | •Shuswap Indian Band |
| •BC Ministry of Environment | •Ktunaxa Nation Council | •Slocan Integral Forestry |
| and Climate Change/BC Parks | •Lower Kootenay Band | Cooperative |
| •BC Ministry of Forests, | •Lower Similkameen Indian | •Splatsin First Nation |
| Lands, Natural Resource | Band | •St. Mary's Indian Band |
| Operations, and Rural | •Neskonlith Indian Band | •Tobacco Plains Indian Band |
| Development | •Okanagan Indian Band | •Upper Nicola Indian Band |
| •BC Wildfire Service | •Okanagan Nation Alliance | •Village of Nakusp |
| •Columbia Shuswap Regional | •Penticton Indian Band | •Westbank First Nation |
| District | | |

Recipients were provided with a description of the CWPP process, the purpose of the CWPP update, and a map of the proposed study area. Recipients were also invited to respond with questions, concerns, and feedback. In May 2018, community information sharing events were held throughout Area K (and the Village of Nakusp). The draft CWPP was shared with community members who were invited to voice any concerns or questions regarding the proposed plan and potential fuel management work that may result. Additional information sharing will occur prior to operational fuel management treatments.

Project Partners and Support

NACFOR has been in contact with several organizations, agencies, stakeholders, and experts regarding the proposed project – as part of the FESBC application process, including:

- BC Wildfire Service, South East Fire Centre Prevention Officer
- Forests Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Integrated Investment Specialist
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Interfor
- The Village of Nakusp
- The Regional District of Central Kootenays, Fire Mitigation Supervisor
- Zellstoff Celgar

All parties have provided their support for this application and records of correspondence have been included in the Forest Enhancement Society Information Management System electronic application (Proposal ID: WR0000541). Additional project partner details are provided below:

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Unit 13 is located on Crown Land held by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI). MOTI has been contacted regarding the proposed project and has expressed their support for this application.

Zellstoff Celgar

Zellstoff Celgar, a pulp mill located in Castlegar, will be partnering with NACFOR to carry out integrated planning efforts to utilize the fibre that is generated from the treatments and pilot equipment trials. Their partnership will ensure that pulp grade fibre generated from the treatments will be utilized at their facility in Castlegar when possible. For additional details, please refer to the attached “Letter of Support” provided by Zellstoff Celgar.

Interfor

Interfor and NACFOR have been working together to coordinate fuel treatments within the WUI - as recommended in the 2018 CWPP. Interfor holds a Forest Licence (A20192) within the Arrow TSA and operates near Nakusp. A portion of Unit 1 is located in TFL 23 which is also held by Interfor. On-going coordination will continue between NACFOR and Interfor as both parties work to reduce the fuel hazard near Nakusp. Interfor has indicated their support for NACFOR’s proposed project.

Regional District of Central Kootenay and Village of Nakusp

The 2018 CWPP for Area K and Nakusp was developed by NACFOR for the RDCK and Village of Nakusp. This partnership will be ongoing as all parties work together to implement recommendations made in the CWPP - with the goal of reducing the wildfire risk in the WUI.

In addition to the CWPP development, NACFOR has actively coordinated with the RDCK to conduct FireSmart activities within Electoral Area K. Activities include education and outreach to promote fuel management on private land and fire prevention. The proposed fuel treatment projects may act as an educational resource and an opportunity to demonstrate effective fuel treatments to promote FireSmart principles. Conducting education and outreach regarding FireSmart principles is a recommended action outlined in the 2018 CWPP.

The Village of Nakusp intends to complete fuel management prescriptions for 12 sites in 2019 - with the intent of conducting several operational treatments in 2020. If approved, these projects would be made possible with funding provided by the Community Resiliency Investment Program. Coordination between the Village treatments and those proposed by NACFOR in this application will facilitate the efficient use of resources within the Village of Nakusp WUI. Coordinating timing of treatments, equipment, and debris disposal (excess chips) will be part of the treatment planning process.

Slocan Lakes Community Services:

NACFOR and Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services have been working together since 2014 on a revenue-generating social enterprise project to provide paid work experience to people with diverse abilities through the sale of firewood. The firewood project also supports under-employed workers in the Nakusp area by providing opportunities to develop work experience and employment readiness. Each year NACFOR donates up to six truckloads of firewood for ASLCS clients to cut, split and sell locally. In addition, the firewood crew cuts the small tops and other fibre from landing waste piles on accessible sites. A fuel management project near Nakusp could benefit local social enterprise through providing firewood while improving utilization of low value or non-merchantable fibre.