



# AGENDA

## Regular Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street  
 Monday April 27, 2026, at 6:00 pm

### CALL TO ORDER

*"Mayor and Council wish to acknowledge that the meeting today is held within the traditional territory of the Nlaka'pamux people."*

### 1. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

### 2. MINUTES

2.1	<b>Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday March 23, 2026</b> M/S <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, March 23, 2026, be adopted as presented.</i>	P.1 - 7
2.2	<b>Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held Monday April 13, 2026</b> M/S <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on Monday April 13, 2026, be adopted as presented.</i>	P. 8 - 9
2.3	<b>Minutes of the Community Forum held Monday April 13, 2026</b> M/S <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Community Forum held Monday, April 13, 2026, be adopted as presented.</i>	P. 10 - 13

### 3. DELEGATIONS

3.1	<b>Doane Grant Thorton LLP – Shawn Birkenhead</b>	P. 14
3.2	<b>Dawson Road Maintenance – Caroline Slade</b>	P. 15

### 4. PUBLIC INPUT

*All questions and comments will be addressed through the Chair and answered likewise. Please state your name and address prior to asking a question or commenting, no more than 2 minutes per question.*

### 5. BYLAWS/POLICIES

5.1	<b>CFO Report – First Three Readings of the Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw and Tax Rate Bylaw</b> PURPOSE:	P. 16 - 17
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# AGENDA

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 Monday April 27, 2026, at 6:00 pm

	To initiate approval of the Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw and Tax Rate Bylaw by granting first three readings, enabling the processing of 2026 property taxes.	
<b>5.2</b>	<p><b>Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 884, 2026</b></p> <p>PURPOSE:          Give first three readings of the Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 884, 2026:</p> <p>M/S</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>THAT, the Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 884, 2026 be introduced and read a first time by title only.</i></li> </ol> <p>M/S</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <i>THAT, the Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 884, 2026 be read a second time.</i></li> </ol> <p>M/S</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <i>THAT, the Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 884, 2026 be read a third time.</i></li> </ol>	P. 18 - 22
<b>5.3</b>	<p><b>Tax Rate Bylaw No. 885, 2026</b></p> <p>PURPOSE:          Give first three readings of the Tax Rates Bylaw No. 885, 2026</p> <p>M/S</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>THAT, the Tax Rates Bylaw No. 885, 2026 be introduced and read a first time by title only.</i></li> </ol> <p>M/S</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <i>THAT, the Tax Rates Bylaw No. 885, 2026 be read a second time.</i></li> </ol> <p>M/S</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <i>THAT, the Tax Rates Bylaw No. 885, 2026 be read a third time.</i></li> </ol>	P. 23 - 24

### 6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
<b>6.1</b>	<p><b>CAO Report – Adoption of the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan</b></p> <p>PURPOSE:          To present the completed Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) for the Village of Ashcroft and request Council’s adoption of the plan.</p> <p>M/S</p> <p><i>THAT Council adopt the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) as presented;</i></p>	P. 25 - 159



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Monday April 27, 2026, at 6:00 pm

	<i>AND THAT the CWRP be submitted to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to satisfy the Village's Community Resiliency Investment funding requirements.</i>	
<b>6.2</b>	<b>CFO Report - Adoption of the 2025 Audited Financial Statements</b> PURPOSE: To request adoption of the 2025 Financial Statements as presented by Shawn Birkenhead, Partner, Doane Grant Thornton LLP. M/S <i>THAT, Council adopt the Audited Financial Statements for 2025 as presented by Shawn Birkenhead, Partner at Doane Grant Thornton LLP.</i>	P. 160
<b>6.3</b>	<b>EDTC Report - NDIT Marketing Initiatives Grant Application</b> PURPOSE: To request Council endorse a grant application of up to \$10,000.00 to NDIT under the Marketing Initiative funding stream to offset the cost of marketing initiatives as identified by the EDT Working Group for 2026. M/S <i>THAT, Council for the Village of Ashcroft extends its full support for the submission of an application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust's (NDIT) Marketing Initiatives funding stream seeking financial assistance of up to \$10,000.</i>	P. 161 - 162
<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>		
<b>6.4</b>	<b>EDTC Report - Quarterly Report</b> PURPOSE: To provide Council with a brief update regarding Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator (EDTC) position.	P. 163 - 164
<b>6.5</b>	<b>FireSmart™ Report - Community Chipping Event</b> PURPOSE: The purpose of this report is to provide Council with highlights and stats from our first FireSmart™ chipping event.	P. 165

### 7. CORRESPONDENCE

<b>FOR ACTION</b>		
<b>7.1</b>	<b>HAWC - Permission to use the Village Account Number for a Mass Mail Drop</b> PURPOSE: HAWC is requesting permission to use the Village's Canada Post account number, which allows bulk mail delivery to all post office boxes in Ashcroft, Cache Creek, Clinton, and Spences Bridge—including those that have opted out of receiving flyers.	P. 166



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## Regular Meeting of Council

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Monday April 27, 2026, at 6:00 pm

	On behalf of Interior Health, HAWC proposes a one-time mail-out to promote that the Ashcroft UPCC is now able to attach patients as their primary care provider. There is no cost to the Village. M/S	
7.2	<b>TNRD – Regional Search &amp; Rescue AAP</b> PURPOSE: To offer Council an informational presentation on the proposed regional Search and Rescue AAP prior to public launch.	P. 167 - 182
<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>		
7.3	<b>NDIT – Community Spaces Program – Funding Approval Notification</b>	P. 183
7.4	<b>Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Re: Bill 17 Housing and Municipal Affairs Statutes (Codes of Conduct) Amendment Act, 2026, and Bill 18 Housing and Municipal Affairs Statutes (Parental Leave) Amendment Act, 2026</b>	P. 184 - 186
7.5	<b>HVC Teck – Construction Workforce Accommodations Plan Quarterly Report</b>	P. 187 - 195
7.6	<b>Enviro Ex-Contracting – Sackum Overhead Construction Replacement HWY 1</b>	P. 196
7.7	<b>Min of Health – Farmers Market Response</b>	P. 197
7.8	<b>City of Langford – Permanent Daylight Savings Time Impacts on Safe Routes to School</b>	P. 198 - 202
7.9	<b>SD#74 – April Board Bulletin</b>	P. 203- 204
7.10	<b>REDIP – Revitalizing Downtown Ashcroft – Regrets Letter</b>	P. 205
7.11	<b>BC Utilities Commission – Regulatory Timetable and Public Hearing Process</b>	P. 206-209
7.12	<b>Cycling for Courage – Update 11</b>	P. 210-212
7.13	<b>TNRD – Parks &amp; Trails Strategic Plan Implementation</b>	P. 213-214
7.14	<b>MHMA – Ministers Statement RE: Bill M216</b>	P. 215

### 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	<b>Task Manager</b>	P. 216-217
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### 9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1	<b>Notice of Motion – Councillor Tedford – RE: Public Questions Following Delegations</b> Purpose: To consider a Notice of Motion from Councillor Tedford regarding public questions following Council delegation presentations. M/S	P. 218
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# AGENDA

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Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street  
 Monday April 27, 2026, at 6:00 pm

	<i>THAT, following a presentation to Council by a delegation, members of the public in attendance (including those participating electronically) be provided the opportunity to ask questions of the delegation prior to the delegation being dismissed and prior to the call for public input.</i>	
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### 10. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, COTW, and COMMISSIONS

10.1	Enhancing Parks, Re., & Culture WG Minutes	P. 219-222
10.2	Ec. Dev. WG Minutes	P. 223-224

### 11. COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1	Mayor Roden	
11.2	Councillor Anstett	
11.3	Councillor Clement	
11.4	Councillor Davenport	
11.5	Councillor Tedford	

### 12. RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED MEETING

*Motion to move to a closed meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1*

12.1	N/A	
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### 13. RESOLUTIONS RELEASED FROM CLOSED MEETING

13.1	N/A	
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### 14. ADJOURNMENT



# MINUTES

## Regular Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street  
Monday March 23, 2026, at 6:00 pm

**PRESENT:** Mayor, Barbara Roden  
 Councillor, Jonah Anstett  
 Councillor, Jessica Clement  
 Councillor, Nadine Davenport  
 Councillor, Cam Tedford

CAO, Daniela Dyck  
 CFO, Yoginder Bhalla  
 DPW, Brian Bennewith

**EXCUSED:**

**MEDIA - 1**

**PUBLIC - 2**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Roden called the Regular Meeting of Council for Monday March 23, 2026, to order at 6:00 pm

*"Mayor and Council wish to acknowledge that the meeting today is held within the traditional territory of the Nlaka'pamux people."*

**1. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA**

***Late Item - AAC Application from Cliff Marsh - to be discussed under 6.1 CAO Report - AAC Committee Member Appointment***

M/S Roden / Clement

*THAT, the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council for Monday March 23, 2026, be adopted as amended.*

CARRIED-Unanimous-R-2026-47

**2. MINUTES**

<b>2.1</b>	<b>Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday March 9, 2026</b> M/S Davenport / Clement <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, March 9, 2026, be adopted as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-48
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council held Monday March 9, 2026</b> M/S Clement / Tedford <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council held Monday, March 9, 2026, be adopted as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-49



# MINUTES

## Regular Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street  
Monday March 23, 2026, at 6:00 pm

### 3. DELEGATIONS

<b>3.1</b>	<p><b>RCMP – Denise Harris – Update</b></p> <p>Sgt. Harris provided an overview of RCMP activity within the Ashcroft detachment area, noting an increase of approximately 100 calls for service in 2025, for a total of 1,690 files. Ashcroft accounts for approximately one-third of total detachment files. An increase in repeat offenders and mental health-related incidents was also noted, with mental health calls requiring significant member time, including transport to hospital for assessment.</p> <p>The detachment is currently experiencing staffing shortages, with approximately 1.5 positions below full complement. All traffic enforcement positions remain vacant, and traffic services are currently supported on a limited basis by regional units from Kamloops and Merritt. Council was advised that these units attend the community periodically, based on availability.</p> <p>Q&amp;A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion included ongoing recruitment efforts, including the use of force housing to attract members and current leasing arrangements for RCMP housing in the community.</li> <li>• Council inquired about the duration of vacancies and potential changes to traffic service delivery.</li> <li>• Council discussed the process for responding to mental health-related calls.</li> <li>• Council asked whether there are opportunities for advocacy at the political level to support Highway Patrol and RCMP recruitment.</li> <li>• It was noted that while cost of living pressures may contribute to broader social challenges, there is currently no known homeless population in Ashcroft.</li> </ul> <p>Mayor Roden thanked Sgt. Harris for attending the meeting and providing Council with the policing update.</p>	
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### 4. PUBLIC INPUT

*All questions and comments will be addressed through the Chair and answered likewise. Please state your name and address prior to asking a question or commenting, no more than 2 minutes per question.*

No public input was received



# MINUTES

## Regular Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street  
Monday March 23, 2026, at 6:00 pm

### 5. BYLAWS/POLICIES

5.1	N/A	
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### 6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
6.1	<p><b>CAO Report – AAC Committee Member Appointment</b> Purpose: To consider the appointment of Ms. Tami Jones and Cliff Marsh to the Village of Ashcroft Accessibility Advisory Committee.</p> <p>M/S Anstett / Davenport <i>THAT, Council appoint Ms. Tami Jones and Mr. Cliff Marsh to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for a term of up to two (2) years.</i></p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-50
6.2	<p><b>CAO Report – TNRD Invasive Pat Program</b> Purpose: To provide Council with information on the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) Invasive Plant Program and seek direction on whether the Village of Ashcroft wishes to participate in the service.</p> <p>M/S Clement / Roden <i>THAT, Council indicate its intent to participate in the TNRD Invasive Plant Program, with implementation anticipated in 2027, subject to amendment of the service establishment bylaw by the TNRD.</i></p> <p>Discussion: Council discussed program costs, anticipated benefits and scope of the program, limitations related to enforcement, as well as the value of education, available support resources, and opportunities to increase community awareness and participation in invasive plant management and option to withdraw from the program at a future date.</p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-51
FOR INFORMATION		
6.	N/A	

### 7. CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ACTION		
7.1	Susan Joyce -Request for Inter Community Business Licence –	

	Council directed staff to contact the CAO's from Cache Creek and Clinton to determine interest in a potential inter-community business licence framework for mobile vendors.	
7.2	<p><b>B.O.S.S. Enrichment Centre – Request to participate in Village BBQ –</b> M/S Roden / Anstett <i>THAT, Council invite the B.O.S.S. Enrichment Centre to participate in the Community BBQ, subject to the date selected being conducive with their program schedule requirements.</i></p> <p>Discussion: Council discussed timing considerations for the Community BBQ, noting that the date is to be determined and may not align with B.O.S.S. program delivery. Council also discussed inviting community groups, including B.O.S.S. and the TNRD Invasive Plant Program, to participate by setting up information tables to promote volunteerism and community connection.</p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-52
7.3	<p><b>SILGA – Request for Gift Basket Donation</b> M/S Clement / Anstett <i>THAT, Council approve staff to prepare a gift basket of Village promotional items and local products, to a value of up to \$200.</i></p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-53
7.4	<p><b>Blueprint for the Coast – Seeking support for motion to legislate the BC Coastal Marine Strategy</b> M/S Tedford / Clement <i>THAT the Blueprint for the Coast – Request for Support be received and filed.</i></p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-54
7.5	<p><b>Town of View Royal – Judicial Review Coalition Update Bill M216 &amp; Request to join coordinated Judicial Review coalition.</b> M/S Roden / Tedford <i>THAT, the Town of View Royal – Judicial Review Coalition Update Bill M216 &amp; Request to join coordinated Judicial Review coalition be received and filed.</i></p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-55
<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>		
7.6	<p><b>Billy Barker Day – Invitation to participate in Parade</b> Councillor Tedford noted that he is unable to attend due to a prior commitment and offered the use of the mini Zamboni or the miniature Old Fire Hall to anyone wishing to participate.</p>	
7.7	<b>DSCS – Medicine Run/Walk Marathon</b>	
7.8	<b>UBCM – Compass</b>	
7.9	<b>Service Restoration Update – Savona, Ashcroft, Cache Creek (Fibre Cut)</b>	
7.10	<b>March 1- Snow Survey and Water Supply Bulletin</b>	
7.11	<b>Municipal Yard Waste Clean-Up Event – 2026 Fee Waiver Offer</b>	



# MINUTES

## Regular Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street

Monday March 23, 2026, at 6:00 pm

7.12	<b>Environment and Climate Change Canada – Heavy Rainfall Warning – Atmospheric River Event</b>	
7.13	<b>School District 74 – March Bulletin</b>	
7.14	<b>Corporation of the Village of Pouce Coupe – NCLGA Resolution Submission – Protection of Fee Simple Property Rights</b>	
7.15	<b>Corporation of the Village of Pouce Coupe – NCLGA Resolution Submission – Transparency in Indigenous Negotiations</b>	
7.16	<b>TNRD – News Release- Updates</b> Council noted concerns regarding the increase in tipping fees for commercial yard waste and the potential impact on small landscape businesses. Discussion also included clarification on upcoming waste management events, including the scheduled annual community spring clean-up, requested TNRD free tipping days, and FireSmart chipping days in Ashcroft.	

### 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	<b>CAO Report – GIA Follow up – B.O.S.S Enrichment Centre</b> Purpose: To provide Council with the requested budget and financial information for the B.O.S.S. Enrichment Centre Backpack Giveaway Event and to confirm eligibility for Grant-in-Aid funding. M/S Clement / Anstett <i>THAT, Council receive the budget and financial information for the B.O.S.S. Enrichment Centre Backpack Giveaway Event;</i> <i>AND THAT Council approve the \$500 Grant-in-Aid contribution as previously endorsed in principle.</i>  Council noted the confirmation from B.O.S.S. that the GIA funding will be used for backpacks and school supplies.	CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-56
8.2	<b>Task Manager</b>	

### 9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1	N/A	
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### 10. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, COTW, and COMMISSIONS

10.	N/A	
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### 11. COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1	<p><b>Mayor Roden</b></p> <p>Mayor Roden thanked members of Council who attended the recent meeting with MP Caputo, noting the opportunity to outline Village funding priorities, including the North Ashcroft reservoir project as the primary advocacy item.</p> <p>Mayor Roden also provided updates on upcoming community events noted below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 10 – Rotary Citizen of the Year</li> <li>• April 16–19 – WRAPS production of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</li> <li>• April 17 – Community Art Show</li> <li>• April 17 – Lions Dinner and Talent Show</li> <li>• Next Week – TNRD Board Meeting (morning) and Hospital Board Meeting (afternoon)</li> </ul>	
11.2	<p><b>Councillor Anstett</b></p>	
11.3	<p><b>Councillor Clement – LGLA Forum Report</b></p> <p>Councillor Clement provided a brief update on attendance at the LGLA Forum and her first EV trip</p>	
11.4	<p><b>Councillor Davenport</b></p>	
11.5	<p><b>Councillor Tedford – Verbal Report &amp; Notice of Motion</b></p> <p>Councillor Tedford noted increased interest from the Seniors Centre, seniors in the broader community, and Thompson View Manor in accessing Council meetings online and participating in the process. Councillor Tedford also advised that he met with the CAO and the Seniors Centre Chair to discuss accessibility considerations at the Village Office building.</p> <p>A Notice of Motion was introduced for consideration at a future Regular Council meeting to allow members of the public to ask questions following delegation presentations prior to them leaving the meeting.</p>	

### 12. RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED MEETING

*Motion to move to a closed meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1*

12.1	<p>M/S Roden / Clement</p> <p><i>THAT, Council adjourn to a Closed Meeting under the provisions in the Community Charter Section 90.1</i></p> <p><i>(c)labour relations or other employee relations</i></p> <p><i>(e)the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2026-57</p>
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# MINUTES

## Regular Meeting of Council

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Monday March 23, 2026, at 6:00 pm

### 13. RESOLUTIONS RELEASED FROM CLOSED MEETING

13.1	N/A	
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### 14. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Roden adjourned the Regular Meeting of Council for Monday March 23, 2026, at 8:21 pm.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, March 23, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniela Dyck,  
Chief Administrative Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Roden,  
Mayor



# MINUTES

## Special Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street  
 Monday, April 13, 2026, at 6:30 pm

**PRESENT:** Mayor, Barbara Roden  
 Councillor, Jonah Anstett  
 Councillor, Jessica Clement  
 Councillor, Nadine Davenport  
 Councillor, Cam Tedford

CAO, Daniela Dyck  
 CFO, Yoginder Bhalla  
 DPW, Brian Bennewith

**EXCUSED:**  
 Public - 1  
 Media - 1

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Mayor Roden called the meeting to order at 6:30**

*"Mayor and Council wish to acknowledge that the meeting today is held within the traditional territory of the Nlaka'pamux people."*

**1. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA**

**2. MINUTES**

All Minutes are adopted at a Regular Meeting of Council.

**3. DELEGATIONS**

4.1	NONE	
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**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS / QUESTIONS**

**5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5.1	<b>Staff Report - Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) - 2026          FireSmart™ Funding Application</b> PURPOSE:	
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# MINUTES

## Special Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street  
 Monday, April 13, 2026, at 6:30 pm

	<p>To seek Council approval to submit a grant application to the 2026 intake of the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) FireSmart™ program.</p> <p>M/S Clement / Davenport</p> <p><i>THAT, Council authorize staff to submit an application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) – 2026 FireSmart™ Community Funding intake;</i></p> <p><i>AND THAT, Council support the continuation of FireSmart™ programming in the Village of Ashcroft, with program scope to be aligned with approved grant funding.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED          Unanimous          S-20260-01</p>

### 6. BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION

6.1	NONE	
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### 7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1	NONE	
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### 8. CLOSED MEETING

*Motion to move to a closed meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1*

9.1	N/A	
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### 9. TERMINATION

Mayor Roden adjourned the Special Meeting of Council for Monday April 13, 2026, at 6:41 pm.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held Monday, April 13, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Daniela Dyck,  
 Chief Administrative Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Barbara Roden,  
 Mayor



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT  
COMMUNITY FORUM  
MINUTES

FOR MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM – Council Chambers

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**PRESENT:** Mayor, Barbara Roden  
Councillor, Jonah Anstett  
Councillor, Jessica Clement  
Councillor, Nadine Davenport  
Councillor, Cam Tedford  
  
CAO, Daniela Dyck  
CFO, Yoginder Bhalla  
DPW, Brian Bennewith

**EXCUSED:**  
Public – 1  
Media – 1

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Roden called the Community Forum for Monday April 13, 2026, to order at 7:00 pm.

*“Mayor and Council wish to acknowledge that the meeting today is held within the traditional territory of the Nlaka’pamux people.”*

2. **ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA**

N/A

3. **PRESENTATION OF THE 2026 BUDGET**

Mayor Roden welcomed everyone to the Community Forum meeting and handed the meeting over to CFO Bhalla inviting him to begin his 2026 budget presentation.

CFO Bhalla noted this is the third public budget meeting and the final opportunity for residents to provide feedback and input on the proposed 2026 budget and project list.

- Presented a PowerPoint overview of the proposed 2026 budget and upcoming projects
- Confirmed Council is seeking input and feedback on proposed initiatives
- Noted ongoing pressures from commodity price increases, supply chain disruptions, inflation, and global uncertainty (including impacts of conflict in the Middle East)



- Advised these factors are not significantly impacting the current budget at this time due to controlled spending measures
- Confirmed proposed tax increase remains at 3.5% over the previous year's taxes (not in addition to BC Assessment increases)
- Reported Water/Sewer/Garbage rates have increased by only 5% over the past five years
- Provided a breakdown of how property taxes are calculated, including the Village's portion and noted the Village's portion of the taxes are only 50% the remaining taxes collected are forwarded to other levels of government such as School District, Regional District, Police, BC Assessment Authority and Municipal Finance Authority

#### **Capital Projects and Initiatives**

- Water Meter Program: Indoor meters to be installed where feasible; outdoor meters permitted where physical limitations exist
- Property owners requesting pit meters will be responsible for the cost difference (approximately \$10,000)
- FireSmart program to continue – CRI funding application to be submitted
- Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) upgrades underway, funded through COVID savings and reserves
- Planning for future garbage truck replacement through reserve contributions
- Economic Development/Grant Writer position funded through Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT)
- Inter-Community Bylaw Enforcement service – ongoing shared service with Clinton and Cache Creek
- Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP): projects include doors and EV purchase
- North Ashcroft reservoir project subject to grant funding; potential need to reassess if funding does not keep pace with inflation

#### **Financial Context**

- Noted provincial deficit of approximately \$13 billion
- Projects categorized as critical, high, medium, and low priority
- Highlighted projects currently underway and to be reassessed throughout the year
- Estimated grant funding: \$888,000; additional \$192,000 identified

#### **Planning and Governance**

- CFO Bhalla noted that two other open meetings have been held as Council worked through the budget process
- New ideas arising after budget adoption will be added to the project list and considered in future planning cycles to support balanced decision-making

#### **Financial Position**

- Village remains debt-free
- Strong financial management and treasury position
- Book value of assets approximately \$19 million (cost less depreciation)



- Estimated replacement value exceeds \$70 million
- Total reserves approximately \$5.5 million, with 80% restricted
- Noted that, given its size, the Village is asset-heavy
- Overall financial position remains strong compared to similar municipalities

CFO Bhalla concluded his presentation and invited comments and questions from Council, participants online and members in the gallery.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS / QUESTIONS**

**The following process will be followed during Public Comments and Questions:**

- Individuals must state their name and address for identification purposes;
- Public Input shall be addressed through the Chair and answers given likewise;
- Input should be limited to 2 minutes per question or point each and respect equal opportunity for other community members in the gallery.

Warren Wall, 1314 Heustis Dr

- **Q:** In regards to the garbage truck replacement project, how much is set aside annually, when do we anticipate purchasing and receiving delivery of the new truck?
- **A:** Approximately \$350,000 has been set aside in reserve. Timing will depend on the procurement process (RFP or RFQ) and the equipment selected. Once ordered, delivery is typically around three months, but may take up to a year.

Councillor Tedford

- **Q:** With the Province in a deficit position, is there an opportunity for federal funding to support the twinning project?  
**A:** Yes. The funding stream applied to includes a federal component, with a significant portion potentially coming from federal sources.
- **Comment:** Noted that while asset values have depreciated from approximately \$70 million to \$19 million, this reflects a favourable position from a business perspective and demonstrates strong asset management and long-term stewardship by the Village.

Mayor Roden thanked CFO Bhalla for his presentation and fiscal prudence in maintaining Ashcroft's excellent financial position.

#### **5. RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED MEETING**

M/S Roden / Clement

*THAT, Council adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1*

- *(c)labour relations or other employee relations*



- *(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality*

**6. TERMINATION**

Mayor Roden adjourned the Community Forum for Monday April 13, 2026, at 8:16 pm.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of  
the Minutes of the Community Forum  
held Monday, April 13, 2026.

---

Daniela Dyck,  
Chief Administrative Officer

---

Barbara Roden,  
Mayor



## INFORMATION FOR DELEGATIONS

In order to appear before Council as a delegation, please take the time to complete this form. It will help you in providing Council and staff with an overview of your presentation and the key points you wish to bring to their attention. We ask that you keep your presentation to a MAXIMUM of ten (10) minutes so that there will be a reasonable amount of time for Council to address any questions that may arise. Delegations are scheduled on an as needed basis; however, senior staff will limit delegations to no more than two per meeting.

1. Name of Organization or Group (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name(s) and title(s) of Person(s) making presentation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The topic of your presentation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What are you seeking from Council as a result of your delegation's presentation? (i.e. funding, a letter of support, a change in a bylaw or policy, to provide information only):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If you or your group are seeking some form of financial assistance, please explain why you feel that the Village should be funding your request:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. If seeking financial assistance please attach a budget for your project and expected sources of revenue.
7. If you require a power-point projector or other presentation tool, please advise staff in advance. Paper copies of your presentation should be brought as back up in case of system failure.
8. If you have additional printed materials that you would like Council to read as support for your presentation, please have 7 copies delivered to the office NO LATER THAN the Thursday morning prior to your date of presentation. This will ensure that all Council members receive your materials prior to the meeting and can be better informed as to the background of your presentation.
9. Date requested to make presentation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate date (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_
10. You should not expect a decision from Council the same night as your presentation unless it is a time sensitive item.

Thank you for taking the time to prepare yourself and Council members for your presentation. This form and attachments can be dropped off at the Village Office or emailed to [admin@ashcroftbc.ca](mailto:admin@ashcroftbc.ca)



## INFORMATION FOR DELEGATIONS

In order to appear before Council as a delegation, please take the time to complete this form. It will help you in providing Council and staff with an overview of your presentation and the key points you wish to bring to their attention. We ask that you keep your presentation to a MAXIMUM of ten (10) minutes so that there will be a reasonable amount of time for Council to address any questions that may arise. Delegations are scheduled on an as needed basis; however, senior staff will limit delegations to no more than two per meeting.

1. Name of Organization or Group (if applicable): Dawson Road Maintenance
2. Name(s) and title(s) of Person(s) making presentation: Caroline Slade
3. The topic of your presentation: Seasonal update
4. What are you seeking from Council as a result of your delegation's presentation? (i.e. funding, a letter of support, a change in a bylaw or policy, to provide information only):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If you or your group are seeking some form of financial assistance, please explain why you feel that the Village should be funding your request:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. If seeking financial assistance please attach a budget for your project and expected sources of revenue.
7. If you require a power-point projector or other presentation tool, please advise staff in advance. Paper copies of your presentation should be brought as back up in case of system failure.
8. If you have additional printed materials that you would like Council to read as support for your presentation, please have 7 copies delivered to the office NO LATER THAN the Thursday morning prior to your date of presentation. This will ensure that all Council members receive your materials prior to the meeting and can be better informed as to the background of your presentation.
9. Date requested to make presentation: April 27, 2026  
Alternate date (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_
10. You should not expect a decision from Council the same night as your presentation unless it is a time sensitive item.

Thank you for taking the time to prepare yourself and Council members for your presentation. This form and attachments can be dropped off at the Village Office or emailed to [admin@ashcroftbc.ca](mailto:admin@ashcroftbc.ca)

**TO:** Mayor and Council **MEETING DATE:** April 27, 2026  
**FROM:** Yoginder Bhalla, CFO  
**SUBJECT:** First three reading of the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw & Tax Rate Bylaw, 2026

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Give first three readings of the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 884, 2026:

M/S

1. *THAT, the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 884, 2026 be introduced and read a first time by title only.*

M/S

2. *THAT, the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 884, 2026 be read a second time.*

M/S

3. *THAT, the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 884, 2026 be read a third time.*

Give first three readings of the Tax Rates Bylaw No. 885, 2026

M/S

1. *THAT, the Tax Rates Bylaw No. 885, 2026 be introduced and read a first time by title only.*

M/S

2. *THAT, the Tax Rates Bylaw No. 885, 2026 be read a second time.*

M/S

3. *THAT, the Tax Rates Bylaw No. 885, 2026 be read a third time.*

**PURPOSE:**

To initiate approval of the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw and Tax Rate Bylaw by granting first three readings, enabling the processing of 2026 property taxes.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

**Approved for Submission to Council:**

Yoginder Bhalla,  
Chief Financial Officer

Daniela Dyck,  
Chief Administrative Officer

**BACKGROUND:**

The Statutory deadline for adoption of Financial Plan and Tax Rate Bylaws are as follows:

- First Three readings of both Bylaws – On or before Tuesday, May 12, 2026
- Final adoption of both bylaws – On or before Thursday, May 14, 2026

**DISCUSSION:**

The bylaws reflect the increase in taxes of 3.5%, utility increase of 5% and operational and project considerations. Section 165 of the Community Charter requires municipalities to adopt the Financial Plan Bylaw before the Tax Rate Bylaw. However, these two bylaws may be adopted at the same meeting provided the Financial Plan Bylaw is adopted first.

**Strategic/Municipal Objectives**

**Legislative Authority**

**Financial Implications**

**Attachment Listing:**

---

**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT**

**BYLAW NO. 884**

---

Being a bylaw for the Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft to adopt the Five Year Financial Plan commencing the year 2026.

---

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the “Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 884, 2026.”
2. Schedule “A” and Schedule “B” attached hereto and made part of this bylaw are hereby adopted and are the Five Year Financial Plan of the Village of Ashcroft commencing January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS	27 <sup>th</sup>	DAY OF	APRIL	, 2026
READ A SECOND TIME THIS	27 <sup>th</sup>	DAY OF	APRIL	, 2026
READ A THIRD TIME THIS	27 <sup>th</sup>	DAY OF	APRIL	, 2026
ADOPTED THIS		DAY OF	MAY	, 2026

---

Barbara Roden, Mayor

---

Daniela Dyck, Chief Administrative Officer

Certified to be a true and correct copy  
of Bylaw No.884 as adopted by Council.

---

Daniela Dyck, Chief Administrative Officer

YSB

**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT**  
**BYLAW NO. 884 - SCHEDULE "A"**  
**FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN 2026 – 2030**

	<b>Year 1 2026</b>	<b>Year 2 2027</b>	<b>Year 3 2028</b>	<b>Year 4 2029</b>	<b>Year 5 2030</b>
<b>Revenues</b>					
Property Taxes	1,989,139	2,058,758	2,130,815	2,205,393	2,282,582
Parcel Taxes	166,000	166,000	166,000	166,000	166,000
Fees and Charges					
Sales of Services	309,000	326,800	326,800	326,800	326,800
Other					
User Fees	1,060,900	1,010,000	1,010,000	1,010,000	1,010,000
Borrowing Proceeds - MFA	0	0	0	0	0
Other Revenue					
Interest	136,000	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000
Grants/Other Govts.	3,239,272	2,250,000	850,000	850,000	850,000
Other	59,650	101,000	101,000	101,000	101,000
Services to Other Govts.	35,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Transfers from Funds					
Reserve Funds	2,484,000	0	0	0	0
DCC	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer from Equity	774,000	662,000	662,000	662,000	662,000
Accumulated Surplus	22,829	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>10,275,790</b>	<b>6,718,558</b>	<b>5,390,615</b>	<b>5,465,193</b>	<b>5,542,382</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Debt Interest	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Principal	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Expenditure	5,020,000	1,682,620	517,795	517,686	466,266
Deficiency	0	0	0	0	0
Other Municipal Purposes	0	0	0	0	0
General Municipal	2,419,230	2,512,657	2,575,473	2,639,860	2,705,857
Fire Protection	377,502	377,000	175,000	180,000	185,000
Water	603,727	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
Sewer	565,400	505,000	505,000	505,000	505,000
Transfer to					
Reserve Funds	508,421	311,771	287,836	293,137	350,749
Amortization Expense	774,000	722,000	722,000	722,000	722,000
Accretion Expense	7,510	7,510	7,510	7,510	7,510
Accumulated Surplus	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>10,275,790</b>	<b>6,718,558</b>	<b>5,390,615</b>	<b>5,465,193</b>	<b>5,542,382</b>

**Village of Ashcroft  
2026-2030 Financial Plan  
Statement of Objectives and Policies  
Schedule 'B' of Bylaw No. 884**

In accordance with Section 165(3.1) of the *Community Charter*, the Village of Ashcroft (Town) is required to include in the Five Year Financial Plan, objectives and policies regarding each of the following:

1. The proportion of total revenue that comes from each of the funding sources described in Section 165(7) of the *Community Charter*;
2. The distribution of property taxes among the property classes, and
3. The use of permissive tax exemptions.

**Funding Sources**

Table 1 shows the proportion of total revenue proposed to be raised from each funding source in 2026. Property taxes form the greatest proportion of revenue. As a revenue source, property taxation offers a number of advantages, for example, it is simple to administer and it is fairly easy for residents to understand. It offers a stable and reliable source of revenue for services that are difficult to fund on a user-pay basis. These include services such as general administration, fire protection, police services, bylaw enforcement and street lighting.

User fees and charges form the second largest portion of planned revenue. Many services can be measured and charged on a user basis. Services where fees and charges can be easily administered include water and sewer usage, building permits, business licenses, and sale of services – these are charged on a user pay basis. User fees attempt to apportion the value of a service to those who use the service.

**Objective**

- Over the next five years, the Village of Ashcroft will balance the proportion of revenue that is received from user fees and charges with the projected funds operations require.

**Policies**

- The Village will review all user fee levels to ensure they are adequately meeting both the capital and delivery costs of the service.
- Where possible, the Village will endeavor to supplement revenues from user fees and charges, rather than taxation, to lessen the burden on its limited property tax base.

**Table 1: Sources of Revenue**

<b>Revenue Sources</b>	<b>% of Total Revenue</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
Property Taxes *	19%	\$ 1,989,139
Parcel Taxes	2%	\$ 166,000
Sales of Service	13%	\$ 1,369,900
Grants/Transfers	64%	\$ 6,555,101
Borrowing Proceeds	0%	\$ -
Other Sources	2%	\$ 195,650
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$10,275,790</b>

\* contains \$290,148 Capital Replacement Reserve funds

**Village of Ashcroft  
2026-2030 Financial Plan  
Statement of Objectives and Policies  
Schedule 'B' of Bylaw No. 884**

**Distribution of Property Tax Rates**

Table 2 outlines the distribution of property taxes among the property classes. The residential property class provides the largest proportion of property tax revenue. This is appropriate as this class also forms the largest portion of the assessment base and consumes the majority of Town services.

**Objectives**

- Maintain the property tax rate as low as possible while still providing for future needs.

**Policies**

- Continue to maintain and encourage economic development initiatives designed to attract more retail and commercial businesses to invest in the community. New investment from these areas will help offset tax increases while providing more revenue for the Village.
- Align the distribution of tax rates among the property classes with the social and economic goals of the community, particularly to encourage a range of employment opportunities.
- Regularly review and compare the Village of Ashcroft's tax burden relative to other municipalities in British Columbia.

**Table 2: Distribution of Property Tax Rates**

<b>Property Class</b>	<b>% of Total Property Taxation</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
Residential (1)	47%	\$ 941,056
Utilities (2)	8%	\$ 166,546
Light Industrial (5)	21%	\$ 420,990
Business and Other (6)*	22%	\$ 441,673
Recreation/Non-profit (8)	0%	\$ 774
Farmland (9)	1%	\$ 18,099
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 1,989,139</b>

**Permissive Tax Exemptions**

- The Annual Municipal Report for 2025 contains a list of permissive exemptions granted for the taxation year and the amount of revenue foregone. The list demonstrates the policy of council that permissive exemptions are granted to not-for-profit institutions that form a valuable part of our community. These include religious institutions and some recreational facilities and service organizations.

**Objective**

- To ensure permissive tax exemptions are utilized to maximize the benefit to the municipality and citizens.

**Policy**

- To maintain permissive exemptions for religious institutions, recreational facilities, and service organizations.

**Village of Ashcroft  
2026-2030 Financial Plan  
Statement of Objectives and Policies  
Schedule 'B' of Bylaw No. 884**

***Capital Asset Reserve***

- In 2011 the Village recognized the need to accumulate funds to pay for future replacement of infrastructure. Accordingly, a separate tax was established and funds collected are accounted for separately from general municipal taxes.

***Objective***

- To establish a reserve to fund future infrastructure replacement.

***Policy***

- To supplement revenues from government grants wherever possible to lessen the amount of funds utilized from the reserve fund.
- To seek out projects which will reduce the operating costs of the Village enabling them to repay funds back into the reserve over time.

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT

BYLAW NO. 885

Being a bylaw for the levying of rates for municipal, hospital, and regional district purposes for the year 2026.

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. The following rates are hereby imposed and levied for the year 2026:
  - a. For all lawful general purposes of the municipality on the assessed value of land and improvements taxable for general and municipal purposes, rates appearing in column "A" of the schedule attached hereto and forming a part hereof.
  - b. For capital asset reserve purposes on the assessed value of land and improvements taxable for general municipal purposes, rates appearing in column "B" of the schedule attached hereto and forming a part hereof.
  - c. For hospital purposes on the assessed value of land and improvements taxable for hospital district purposes, rates appearing in column "C" of the schedule attached hereto and forming a part hereof.
  - d. For Thompson-Nicola Regional District purposes on the assessed value of land and improvements for hospital district purposes, rates appearing in column "E" of the schedule attached hereto and forming a part hereof.
2. The minimum amount of taxation upon a parcel of real property shall be one dollar (\$1.00).
3. This bylaw may be cited as "Tax Rates Bylaw No. 885, 2026".

READ A FIRST TIME THIS	27 <sup>th</sup>	DAY OF	APRIL	, 2026
READ A SECOND TIME THIS	27 <sup>th</sup>	DAY OF	APRIL	, 2026
READ A THIRD TIME THIS	27 <sup>th</sup>	DAY OF	APRIL	, 2026
ADOPTED THIS		DAY OF	MAY	, 2026

Barbara Roden, Mayor

Certified to be a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 885 as adopted by Council.

Daniela Dyck, Chief Administrative Officer

Daniela Dyck, Chief Administrative Officer

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT

BYLAW NO. 885

SCHEDULE A - TAX RATES 2026

Property Class	Tax Rates (dollars of tax per \$1000 taxable value)					
	A General Municipal	B Capital Reserve	C Regional Hospital District	D Improvement District	E Regional District	F Specified Area
1. Residential	2.8289	0.4993	0.3125		0.6615	0.0000
2. Utility	23.2073	4.0961	1.0938		2.3152	0.0000
2. Utility (Tax Limit Area)	2.5924	0.4576	1.0938		2.3152	0.0000
5. Light Industry	15.8769	2.8023	1.0626		2.2490	0.0000
6. Business	11.3003	1.9945	0.7657		1.6206	0.0000
8. Rec/Non Profit	5.1782	0.9139	0.3125		0.6615	0.0000
9. Farm	11.4154	2.0148	0.3125		0.6615	0.0000

# REGULAR MEETING



**TO:** Mayor and Council

**MEETING DATE:** April 27, 2026

**FROM:** Daniela Dyck, CAO,

**SUBJECT: Adoption of the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP)**

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

*THAT Council adopt the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) as presented;*

*AND THAT the CWRP be submitted to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to satisfy the Village's Community Resiliency Investment funding requirements.*

**PURPOSE:**

To present the completed Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) for the Village of Ashcroft and request Council's adoption of the plan.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

---

Daniela Dyck,  
Chief Administrative Officer

---

**BACKGROUND**

The CWRP was prepared by Landscape Consulting in consultation with the FireSmart™ committee and has been reviewed by the BC Wildfire Service and meets all provincial requirements. This plan represents the final deliverable under the Village's first-year funding through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program.

Wildfire risk continues to increase across British Columbia, particularly in communities located within the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The development of a CWRP is a proactive step in strengthening community resilience and preparedness.

**DISCUSSION:**

The CWRP provides a comprehensive assessment of wildfire risk in and around the Village of Ashcroft and establishes a clear, actionable roadmap to reduce those risks. Key highlights include:

- Identification of moderate to high wildfire threat levels within the community's WUI area
- Assessment of risks to life, property, and critical infrastructure
- Development of 45 recommended action items aligned with FireSmart™ disciplines
- Identification of priority fuel treatment areas, including 29 proposed treatment units
- Recommendations to enhance emergency planning, public education, and interagency coordination

# REGULAR MEETING



The plan emphasizes ongoing FireSmart™ initiatives, including public education, vegetation management, and continued coordination through a FireSmart™ Committee and dedicated resources.

Adoption of the CWRP enables the Village to apply for the next round of funding and will guide the Village's wildfire preparedness efforts and support long-term community resilience. Remaining funds from the current CRI funding intake may be utilized to advance FireSmart™ initiatives while awaiting notification on second-round funding.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The CWRP fulfills the requirements of the Village's current CRI funding. Remaining funds are eligible to support FireSmart™ initiatives identified within the plan and enables future funding applications under the CRI program.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

The adopted CWRP must be submitted to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities by April 30, 2026 to complete funding obligations.

Village of Ashcroft

# Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan



---

April 2026



**Prepared For:**

VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT

PO Box 129  
Ashcroft, BC, V0K 1A0

**Prepared by:**

LANDSCOPE CONSULTING CORPORATION

6-1749 Menzies Street  
Merritt, BC, V1K 1A5



April 2026

# Signature Page

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Roden, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonah Anstett, Councillor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Clement, Councillor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nadine Davenport, Councillor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cam Tedford, Councillor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## Frequently Used Acronyms

Aoi	Area of Interest
BCWS	British Columbia Wildfire Service
BEC	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification
CFFDRS	Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System
CFRC	Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee
CI	Critical infrastructure
CRI	Community Resiliency Investment
CLWRR	Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction
CSSGS	Culturally Significant Sites and Green Spaces
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
CWRP	Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
EMCR	Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
EMP	Emergency Management Plan
FBP	Fire Behavior Prediction System
FCFS	FireSmart Community Funding and Support
FESBC	Forest Enhancement Society of BC
FMP	Fire Management Plan
FNESS	First Nations Emergency Services Society
FRPA	Forest and Range Practices Act
FSCNRP	FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program
GAR	Government Action Regulation
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HIZ	Home Ignition Zone (also see Structure Ignition Zone)
HRVA	Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Analysis
LRMP	Land and Resource Management Plan
MOF	Ministry of Forests
MOTI	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
MOEP	Ministry of Environment and Parks
MOWLRS	Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
NRCAN	Natural Resources Canada
OCP	Official Community Plan
PSOE	Provincial State of Emergency
PSTA	Provincial Strategic Threat Assessment
SAR	Species at Risk

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SOLE	State of Local Emergency
SPU	Structure Protection Units
SWPI	Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative
TNRD	Thompson-Nicola Regional District
UBCM	Union of British Columbia Municipalities
VAR	Values at Risk
VOA	Village of Ashcroft
WHA	Wildfire Habitat Area
WRR	Wildfire Risk Reduction
WRRP	Wildfire Risk Reduction Plan
WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface

## Executive Summary

Wildfire is an integral part of British Columbia's (B.C.) ecosystems and landscapes, including areas where citizens settle and communities grow. Due to an increasing population and expanding rural development, more communities and developments in B.C. are situated in areas of potentially increased wildfire risk.

Resiliency is the ability to withstand and recover from adverse events. In the context of wildfires, resilient communities are equipped to respond, absorb, adapt to, and recover from wildfire events. Fire has always been part of the natural ecosystem, and it is inevitable that wildfires, including those of an extreme event, will continue to occur within the region. As we enter a new era of climate change, the occurrence of wildfires is not a matter of if, but when.

The development of a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) will support individuals, communities, and organizations in proactively planning and preparing for these escalating challenges, thereby strengthening their ability to become more resilient to wildfires.

This CWRP determines the level of, and resulting steps to manage, wildfire risk within and surrounding the Village of Ashcroft residential areas. The CWRP will assist the Village of Ashcroft staff and community as a whole in identifying priority wildfire risks in and around the Ashcroft community, describe potential consequences from the impacts of wildfire, and provide mitigation recommendations based on current information that should be considered for implementation to reduce the identified risks.

Specifically, the CWRP

- Delineates the community Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area around inhabited areas at risk of wildfire, including the locations of homes and essential community infrastructure.
- Identifies the threat to human life, property, and critical infrastructure within this area.
- Determines wildfire risk throughout the WUI Area.
- Provides wildfire community resiliency recommendations and Best Management Practices (BMP) using current information and science.
- Identifies recommendations to reduce the identified threats. The CWRP planning process will provide a detailed framework to guide the implementation of specific actions that results in:
  1. Reduced likelihood of a wildfire entering the community
  2. Increased community wildfire preparedness
  3. Reduced impacts and losses to property and critical infrastructure
  4. Reduced negative economic and social impacts to the community
- Identifies any priority areas within the WUI for fuel reduction treatments, develops a Treatment Plan, and provides recommendations to further support and enhance the community's efforts to be FireSmart.

The focus area of the CWRP is the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) which is the area of land within 1 kilometre of a community and is where human development meets and intermixes with natural vegetation. There was one WUI area delineated for the Ashcroft community that encompasses the homes, businesses, critical infrastructure and emergency response services in both North and South Ashcroft, including the Mesa Vista Drive residential area. A wildfire risk analysis completed for the WUI area indicates that the majority of the area falls within the moderate to high wildfire threat, dominated by the grassland fuel type of blue bunch wheatgrass and big sage. The wildfire threat ratings were developed by analyzing the natural disturbance regime, fuel types, wildfire history, topography, and weather patterns in the WUI area. Wildfire threat assessments were completed in the field at 35 plot locations, contributing to

local threat attribute data supporting the ratings determined through the wildfire risk analysis. The provincial-level WUI risk class assessment has the Ashcroft community within a Risk Class 1 polygon.

Many values are at risk during a wildfire event that require consideration, but first and foremost is human life and the safety of all residents. Other important values that are considered during resiliency planning include homes where people live, community buildings where people gather, critical infrastructure including energy sources, water and sewage systems, communication infrastructure, cultural and spiritual sites and features, green spaces and naturalized gathering areas, wildlife and the many species at risk, and parks and protected areas. The CWRP provides recommendations in efforts to minimize the effects to these values from a wildfire event, and are based on the following seven FireSmart disciplines to increase community resilience in the event of a wildfire:

- Education
- Legislation and Planning
- Development Considerations
- Interagency Cooperation
- Cross Training
- Emergency Planning
- Vegetation Management

Processes that are presented in this document that support the resiliency efforts include the ongoing position of a FireSmart Coordinator, participating in a Community FireSmart and Resiliency Committee, actively promoting the FireSmart program through education outreach and events, conducting FireSmart home and critical infrastructure assessments, and mitigating wildfire risks around homes, critical infrastructure and within the adjoining forested and grassland areas of the WUI. Twenty-nine new individual fuel treatment units have been proposed for the Village of Ashcroft. Also provided in the CWRP are additional recommendations that enhance emergency planning and the cross-training of firefighters.

Regular monitoring, reviewing and updating of the CWRP ensures that the plan does more than “sit on a shelf”. An annual review of the CWRP action plan considers whether any significant changes have occurred, such as the adoption of a new planning process that could affect CWRP implementation. In addition, columns can be added to the Summary of Recommendations and/or the action planning table to form the CWRP workplan. This enables tracking and reporting on whether actions have been completed, if they are in progress, any changes to priority levels, and any comments that apply. A five-year comprehensive review would cover the entire plan and consider how risks may have changed based on any recent wildfires, completed vegetation management work, significant changes to the urban environment due to growth and development, government legislation or program funding changes, and other factors that would influence the overall success of the plan.

This CWRP is grounded in local knowledge and incorporates community priorities. By embracing the process outlined in the FireSmart Roadmap and implementing the 45 recommended action items presented in this plan, the Village of Ashcroft will be able to take the necessary steps to prepare for wildfires and be able to respond and recover from a wildfire event safely, quickly, and effectively to emerge stronger and more resilient.

## Summary of Recommended Activities

Section 5.2 FireSmart Program Coordination						
Action Item	Recommended Activity	Description	Timing	Priority	Responsibility	Output
1	Continue to employ a dedicated FireSmart Coordinator to oversee the FireSmart program within the Ashcroft community.	To work with the Village of Ashcroft administration and community members to implement the identified wildfire resiliency objectives and goals. Funding for the position can be accessed through the UBCM CRI FCFS program.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft Administration	Continued funding for the community FireSmart Coordinator.
2	Continue to employ or acquire the services of a Local FireSmart Representative for the Ashcroft community (if not included in the role of FireSmart Coordinator).	To work with the Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator to complete FireSmart assessments and assist in the implementation of the overall Village of Ashcroft FireSmart program. Funding can be accessed through the UBCM CRI FCFS program.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft Administration	Continued funding for a community Local FireSmart Representative (if not included in the role of FireSmart Coordinator).
3	Establish a local Village of Ashcroft CFRC to guide and implement the FireSmart and wildfire resiliency initiatives within the Ashcroft community.	To provide an opportunity for collaboration between organizational departments within the community to fully explore and comprehensively implement FireSmart principles and wildfire resiliency initiatives.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator Village of Ashcroft Administration	CFRC established; funding secured to support ongoing meeting logistics.

<b>Section 5.3 Local Level FireSmart Initiatives</b>						
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Recommended Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Output</b>
<b>4</b>	That the FireSmart Coordinator continues to work with local community members to implement FireSmart and wildfire resiliency initiatives in the Ashcroft community.	Improved community engagement on FireSmart initiatives.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	Implement FireSmart initiatives.
<b>5</b>	Complete Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessments for all homes and buildings within the community whose property owners have made the request to have one done.	Increase community member education about current wildfire risks and how to reduce them around their home using the FireSmart principles.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator and Qualified LFR	Completion of HIZ assessments for homes and buildings.
<b>6</b>	Implement a residential FireSmart rebate program within the Village of Ashcroft, with emphasis on the removal of highly flammable vegetation within the ignition zone.	Create an annual program that provides rebates to homeowners for completion of recommended FireSmart activities. This will provide an incentive for residents to reduce the wildfire risks on their properties.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator Village of Ashcroft administration	A fully funded rebate program.

7	Complete FireSmart Assessments for identified Critical Infrastructure within the community that have not had an assessment completed to date, and implement recommendations.	Identify at-risk critical infrastructure and implement recommended FireSmart actions to increase infrastructure resiliency to wildfire.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator and Qualified LFR	Completion of assessments for all critical infrastructure. Completion of priority recommendations from assessments.
8	Complete FireSmart CSSGS Assessments for identified culturally-sensitive sites (through collaboration with local First Nations and other stakeholders) and green spaces within the community and implement recommendations	Identify at-risk culturally significant sites and/or green spaces within the community and implement recommended FireSmart actions to increase resiliency to wildfire.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator and Qualified LFR	Completion of assessments for culturally significant sites and green spaces. Completion of priority recommendations from assessments.
9	Complete a neighbourhood wildfire hazard assessment for each of the identified high-risk neighbourhoods in the Ashcroft community.	Using the current FireSmart Canada assessment form, complete Neighbourhood Wildfire Hazard Assessments for the high-risk neighbourhoods to identify wildfire risks.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator and Qualified LFR	Completion of a neighbourhood wildfire hazard assessment for each of the identified high-risk neighbourhoods.

<p><b>10</b></p>	<p>Complete a FireSmart Neighbourhood Plan for each of the identified high-risk neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>Complete the FireSmart Neighbourhood Plan using information from the completed Wildfire Hazard Assessment Form to propose action items to address the identified wildfire risk within the neighbourhood.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator Qualified LFR</p>	<p>Completion of a FireSmart Neighbourhood Plan for each of the identified high-risk neighbourhoods.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p>Promote the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program within the Ashcroft community. Encourage and support those neighbourhoods, especially those that are high-risk, to consider pursuing recognition.</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator to provide support with completing the neighbourhood plan, hosting events and submitting documents to FireSmart Canada for the candidate neighbourhood.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator Neighbourhood community members</p>	<p>The Village of Ashcroft obtains FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition for an identified neighbourhood within the Ashcroft community.</p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p>That the FireSmart Coordinator engage with and support local, eligible community farmers and ranchers in determining their interest in having a Farm and Ranch FireSmart Assessment and subsequent Wildfire Plan completed with a qualified FireSmart Farm and Ranch Assessor.  Support the efforts by local, eligible community farmers and ranchers through the implementation of a Farm and Ranch FireSmart rebate program.</p>	<p>Provide farmers and ranchers with information on Farm and Ranch wildfire preparedness planning and mitigation.  Assist a qualified FireSmart Farm and Ranch Assessor in completing a Farm and Ranch Assessment and subsequent Wildfire Plan.</p>	<p>Mid Term (1-3 years)</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator  Qualified FireSmart Farm and Ranch Assessor</p>	<p>Engagement with all community farmers and ranchers.  A fully funded FireSmart Farm and Ranch Assessment and rebate program.</p>

<b>Section 5.4 FireSmart Discipline: Education</b>						
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Recommended Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Output</b>
<b>13</b>	Continue to promote and implement the FireSmart program within the Ashcroft community through the distribution of information and educational materials, and holding education sessions and events for community members.	Continued education, information distribution and knowledge sharing through events such as Community cleanup events, FireSmart information sessions and emergency preparedness days.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	At least two community events held annually.
<b>14</b>	Increase public messaging and outreach during the spring months and throughout the wildfire season.	Increased public messaging reminding people of the importance of implementing FireSmart principles and about emergency preparedness and readiness through the use of social media, websites and newsletters.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator Village of Ashcroft administration	Increased messaging frequency and targeted topic selection to coincide with appropriate preparedness activities.
<b>15</b>	Integrate fire prevention, safety, and FireSmart education into presentations and events for preschool and school-aged children by supporting the FireSmart BC Education Program.	To provide school aged children with information about FireSmart principles, fire prevention and fire safety.	Mid Term (1-3 years)	Moderate	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator SD74 administration and teaching staff	Introduction and awareness of basic wildfire prevention and safety to school-aged children.

<p><b>16</b></p>	<p>Support the FireSmart BC Library program at the Ashcroft Library.</p>	<p>Provide children’s literacy resource kits to the Ashcroft Library to help children understand what it means to live with wildfires and the role they can play in mitigating the impacts of wildfires on their homes and community.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator Ashcroft Public Library staff</p>	<p>BC Library FireSmart resource kits ordered and provided to the Ashcroft Library.</p>
<p><b>17</b></p>	<p>Support the FireSmart BC Plant Program at the local Ashcroft Home Building Centre.</p>	<p>Provide information to gardening and landscaping customers on which plants and trees are considered more fire-resistant through the placement of plant tags and other FireSmart advertising.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator Ashcroft Home Building Centre staff</p>	<p>Order and provide FireSmart plant tags and other advertising materials to the Ashcroft Home Building Centre.</p>

<b>Section 5.5 FireSmart Discipline: Legislation and Planning</b>						
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Recommended Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Output</b>
<b>18</b>	Complete the update to the Official Community Plan for the Village of Ashcroft, incorporating FireSmart principles and wildfire resiliency measures where applicable.	Include FireSmart principles in the OCP to strengthen requirements for wildfire resiliency during new residential development, home builds and renovations, and landscaping.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	Completed OCP for the Village of Ashcroft.
<b>19</b>	Complete regular reviews of the existing bylaws and update/amend if necessary, to reflect changes in the knowledge base and implementation of FireSmart principles and wildfire resiliency measures.	To ensure that bylaws and regulations remain current in the application of up-to-date FireSmart and wildfire resiliency measures.	Ongoing	Moderate	Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	Updated bylaws.

Section 5.6 FireSmart Discipline: Development Considerations						
Action Item	Recommended Activity	Description	Timing	Priority	Responsibility	Output
20	<p>Complete a review of the existing bylaws to determine if amendments are required that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourages the use of FireSmart materials in building plans for new construction and renovations, and</li> <li>• includes wildfire prevention, suppression and vegetation management considerations in the design of new residential developments.</li> </ul>	<p>Strengthen the requirements for wildfire resiliency and emergency response capability during new residential development, home builds and renovations, and/or landscaping.</p>	<p>Mid Term (1-3 years)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator</p>	<p>Updated bylaws.</p>
21	<p>Consider expanding the current Development Permit Area (DPA) classifications to include a Wildfire DPA.</p>	<p>Strengthen the requirements including FireSmart building materials, vegetation management, water supply/delivery, and landscaping design in efforts to make new residential developments proposed in high-risk areas more resilient to the impact of a wildfire.</p>	<p>Mid Term (1-3 years)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator</p>	<p>Establishment of a Wildfire DPA.</p>

<p><b>22</b></p>	<p>Consider upgrading the existing water system infrastructure in the upper Government Street and far end of Mesa Vista Drive areas to improve and stabilize the sustained water supply and delivery in these locations during a fire response.</p>	<p>Improved water supply and delivery for the upper Government Street and Mesa Vista Drive residential areas.</p>	<p>Mid Term (1-3 years)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration Village of Ashcroft Public Works</p>	<p>Upgraded community water system infrastructure.</p>
<p><b>23</b></p>	<p>Complete annual testing and flushing of fire hydrants.</p>	<p>To ensure that sufficient water is supplied at all fire hydrants within the community for firefighting purposes and all hydrants are functioning correctly.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration Village of Ashcroft Public Works</p>	<p>Completed inspection, flushing and testing of hydrants.  Repairs made to hydrants if required to confirm sufficient water delivery for firefighting activities.</p>

<b>Section 5.7 FireSmart Discipline: Interagency Cooperation</b>						
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Recommended Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Output</b>
<b>24</b>	Continue to attend the regional Thompson-Nicola Regional District CFRC meetings.	Continued coordination and collaboration with organizations involved in FireSmart, wildfire response and preparedness initiatives within the area.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management Coordinator	Participation in interagency Committee meetings.
<b>25</b>	Continue to participate in joint ESS/EOC training and emergency response tabletop exercises with local communities and key agencies including the TNRD, the Village of Cache Creek, Ashcroft Indian Band, BCEHS, RCMP and SD74.	To ensure that the Village of Ashcroft administration, ESS/EOC and emergency response personnel are functionally prepared for all types of emergency events and situations.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management staff	Participation in at least one training initiative annually.
<b>26</b>	Meet with CN and CP Rail staff to review the logistics of a coordinated response effort to wildfires that are on or adjacent to the railway rights-of-way and rail yards in the Ashcroft community.	To clarify and fully understand each organization's response capabilities and resources for wildfire response on or adjacent to the railway rights-of-way and rail yards.	Short Term (1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management staff Village of Ashcroft Fire Department	Complete an engagement and update meeting with identified organizations each spring prior to wildfire season.

<p><b>27</b></p>	<p>Meet with local BC Hydro staff to review the logistics of a wildfire response effort by the Ashcroft Fire Department to wildfires that are on or adjacent to the Ashcroft Substation property.</p>	<p>To clarify and fully understand each organization's response capabilities and resources for wildfire response on or adjacent to the Ashcroft Substation.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management staff Village of Ashcroft Fire Department</p>	<p>Complete an engagement and update meeting with identified organizations each spring prior to wildfire season.</p>
<p><b>28</b></p>	<p>Engage with the BCWS – Kamloops Fire Zone and confirm the wildfire response roles and responsibilities on municipal and provincial crown lands within and adjacent to the Village of Ashcroft.</p>	<p>To fully understand each organization's role and responsibility for wildfire suppression within and adjacent to the Ashcroft community. This meeting would also include the review of sensitive areas or features to be aware of during fire suppression activities.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management staff Village of Ashcroft Fire Department</p>	<p>Complete an engagement and update meeting with identified organizations each spring prior to wildfire season.</p>
<p><b>29</b></p>	<p>Engage and collaborate with the CLWRR program staff in the Thompson Rivers Natural Resource District to ensure that a coordinated approach to future wildfire resiliency measures is taken for any land-based fuel treatment activities proposed on provincial crown land within the WUI area.</p>	<p>To create a consistent and coordinated approach to wildfire resiliency and fuel reduction initiatives on the provincial crown land base within the Village of Ashcroft WUI area.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator</p>	<p>Complete an introductory meeting with CLWRR staff to identify high risk areas.</p>

<p><b>30</b></p>	<p>Attend the annual Wildfire Resiliency Summit.</p>	<p>To keep informed of existing and upcoming FireSmart initiatives, events and information.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator</p>	<p>Attendance at the annual Wildfire Resiliency conference.</p>
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<b>Section 5.8 FireSmart Discipline: Cross Training</b>						
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Recommended Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Output</b>
<b>31</b>	<p>Fund and coordinate wildland fire suppression training for any Ashcroft Fire Department members that require it, and ensure all certifications are kept current.</p> <p>Consider funding and supporting wildland fire suppression training courses for other interested first responding agencies and community members.</p>	To increase the community capacity in basic fire suppression through training of community members and on-the-ground crews.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration</p> <p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator</p> <p>Village of Ashcroft Fire Department</p>	Secure funding to provide basic firefighting courses such as those outlined in Section 5.8.
<b>32</b>	Fund, support and provide additional emergency response training and education, including basic EOC and ICS training for Village of Ashcroft administration staff, Ashcroft Fire Department members, local first responders, and interested community members.	To increase community awareness and knowledge about the standardized Incident Command Systems that are used during emergencies.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft Emergency Program Coordinator	Fund and coordinate training sessions.

<b>Section 5.9 FireSmart Discipline: Emergency Planning</b>						
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Recommended Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Output</b>
<b>33</b>	Secure ongoing funding for the Emergency Program Coordinator and/or an Emergency Program Assistant.	Continued implementation of the Village of Ashcroft emergency management program.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration	Funding secured for the Emergency Program Coordinator and/ or Emergency Program Assistant.
<b>34</b>	<p>Complete the updating of the current 2023 Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management Plan to the 2026 content requirements, including the completion of an updated Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) if necessary.</p> <p>Present updated information in the Emergency Management Plan to community members.</p> <p>Review the Emergency Management Plan annually, and update where necessary.</p>	To ensure the Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management Plan is updated with current emergency preparedness information and procedures, and that the information is presented to community members for emergency events.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft Emergency Program Coordinator	<p>Updated Emergency Management Plan for 2026.</p> <p>Updated EMP made available to community members.</p> <p>Schedule set for annual EMP review and updating.</p>

<p><b>35</b></p>	<p>Develop and conduct various table-top emergency and evacuation scenarios with the Village of Ashcroft administration, the Ashcroft fire department, and other first responder agencies and community members.</p>	<p>That an all-hazard planning approach and exercise design is taken to ensure that emergency management staff and first responders are functionally prepared for all types of emergency situations.</p>	<p>Mid-term (1-3 years)</p>	<p>Moderate to High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft Emergency Program Coordinator</p>	<p>All-hazard table-top planning and exercise scenarios are held to ensure that emergency management staff and first responders are prepared for all types of emergency situations.</p>
<p><b>36</b></p>	<p>Complete an evaluation of the Mesa Vista residential area for possible locations and resulting construction of an alternate access and evacuation route.</p>	<p>Establish an alternate access and evacuation route for the Mesa Vista residential area in the event that Mesa Vista Road is compromised during an emergency.</p>	<p>Mid-term (1-3 years)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration</p>	<p>Evaluation completed for alternate access routes.  Construction of selected alternate access route completed.</p>
<p><b>37</b></p>	<p>Encourage the Ashcroft community to download and subscribe to the Voyent Alert! app (<a href="https://voyent-alert.com/community/">https://voyent-alert.com/community/</a>) if they have not already done so.</p>	<p>To ensure that residents are able to receive notifications from the Village of Ashcroft, TNRD and other agencies for all types of emergency situations.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft Emergency Program Coordinator</p>	<p>Voyent Alert! app link communicated to all Ashcroft community members.</p>

38	Evaluate for and install backup power systems for the critical infrastructure and essential assets in the Ashcroft community that currently do not have them.	To ensure that critical services can continue to function even if the electrical grid system is compromised by a wildfire or other event.	Mid-term (1-3 years)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration	Secure funding for back-up power systems.
39	Share community structure, critical infrastructure and water supply data with first responder agencies such as the BC Wildfire Service to assist in preparedness and strategic planning for effective emergency and wildfire suppression response and resource allocation during a wildfire emergency.	The community structure, critical infrastructure and water supply and availability information will play a crucial pre-organizational role for wildfire preparedness by ensuring that adequate fire suppression resources are identified and strategically placed prior to a wildfire event impacting the community.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	Map(s) and data transferred to emergency response agencies.
40	Expand the current structural protection equipment capacity of the Ashcroft Fire Department to include a Type 2 Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailer.	Expansion of the Village of Ashcroft structure protection equipment to include a full structural protection trailer (SPU) that can be deployed by trained members of the community during wildfire events.	Mid-term (1-3 years)	Moderate	Village of Ashcroft administration Village of Ashcroft Fire Department	Acquisition of further structural protection equipment and ultimately a SPU trailer.

<b>Section 5.10 FireSmart Discipline: Vegetation and Fuels Management</b>						
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Recommended Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Output</b>
<b>41</b>	Secure funding to complete identified vegetation reduction recommendations identified in Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone Assessments and/or Culturally Significant Site and Green Space Assessments.	Reduction of high hazard fuels/vegetation adjacent critical infrastructure and culturally-significant sites and green spaces within the community.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	Identify priority areas and secure vegetation/fuel mitigation funding.
<b>42</b>	Develop an annual vegetation management program to ensure that vegetation located in common areas throughout the community is maintained and/or watered throughout the wildfire season.	The maintenance plan would outline the frequency and type of vegetation maintenance required (i.e. weed whacking, pruning, or watering) for the common areas throughout the community.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration Village of Ashcroft Public Works Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	Vegetation maintenance plan is developed and implemented.
<b>43</b>	Consider securing funding for a seasonal FireSmart Crew to assist in the mitigation work recommended for Village of Ashcroft assets, including structures, critical infrastructure, common areas and green spaces.	Crew members would be responsible for completing vegetation management work around Village of Ashcroft structures, critical infrastructure, common areas and green spaces.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration Village of Ashcroft Public Works Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	2 or more crew members hired.

<p><b>44</b></p>	<p>Secure funding from sources such as the Community Resiliency Investment Program to complete eligible fuel reduction treatments and cultural/prescribed burns for the proposed treatment areas identified on municipal and provincial crown land within the WUI zone.</p> <p>Coordinate with Thompson Rivers Natural Resource District staff to secure funding through the provincial CLWRR program to complete fuel reduction treatments and cultural/prescribed burns for proposed treatment areas identified on provincial crown land that are not eligible for funding through other sources.</p>	<p>Continued reduction of high hazard fuels/vegetation adjacent to and within the community.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator</p> <p>Thompson Rivers Natural Resource District WRR staff</p>	<p>Identify priority areas and secure treatment funding.</p>
<p><b>45</b></p>	<p>Perform maintenance actions on the existing fireguards within and immediately adjacent to the Ashcroft community.</p> <p>Expand the existing network by constructing additional fireguards in efforts to increase wildfire resiliency.</p>	<p>Maintenance activities are completed for the existing fireguard network ensuring their continued effectiveness in the event of a wildfire. Additional fireguards are constructed in high-risk areas to further increase wildfire resiliency within and adjacent to the Ashcroft community.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration</p> <p>Village of Ashcroft Public Works</p>	<p>Maintenance work completed on existing fireguards.</p> <p>Additional fireguards constructed.</p>

## SECTION 1: Introduction

### 1.1 Plan Overview

Wildfire is an integral part of British Columbia's ecosystems and landscapes, including areas where citizens settle and communities grow. Due to an increasing population and expanding rural development, more communities and developments in B.C. are situated in areas of potentially increased wildfire risk.

Resiliency is the ability to withstand and recover from adverse events. Within the wildfire context, resilient communities will be able to respond, absorb, adapt to, and recover from wildfire events. Fire has always been part of the natural ecosystem and it is inevitable that wildfires, including those of an extreme event, will continue to occur within the region. As we enter a new era of climate change, it is not if a wildfire will happen, it is when. The development of a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) will assist individuals, communities and organizations in becoming more wildfire resilient.

This Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) determines the level of and resulting steps to manage wildfire risk within and surrounding the Village of Ashcroft residential areas. The plan also provides background information and links to supplementary information required to ensure that factors contributing to wildfire risk are well understood. The recommendations and Best Management Practices (BMP) included in this plan are considered relevant for a general timeframe of 5 years unless changes and improvements to FireSmart initiatives, fuel reduction efforts, community development, community involvement and/or wildfire or other environmental events alter the needs and resiliency of the local area, which may prompt updating components of this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.

The Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan is organized into the following six major sections:

Section 1 Introduction: introduces the purpose of a CWRP and the plan development process.

Section 2 Relationship to Other Plans: identifies linkages to overlapping CWPPs, CWRPs, and WRRPs for other communities and local governments, as well as other plans that warrant consideration in the CWRP development process.

Section 3 Community Description: defines the Area of Interest (Aoi) for the CWRP; provides a description of the community including culturally-significant sites, green spaces, and its local fire response capacity; provides a description of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area of the community, and identifies values that are at risk within identified WUI and the extent to which wildfire has the potential to impact those values.

Section 4 Wildfire Risk Assessment: describes the process that was undertaken to identify and summarize the fuel hazard and other factors that contribute to the wildfire threat within the WUI.

Section 5 FireSmart Disciplines and Mitigating Wildfire Risk: outlines the FireSmart strategies that can be implemented to help reduce the risk and the impact of a wildfire that includes a summary of completed FireSmart initiatives, identifying priority areas for future FireSmart activities, and identifying and prioritizing any forest fuel reduction treatments, including prescribed burning. This section also includes other suggested preventative measures that identify local actions and strategies which can further reduce the threat of wildfires.

Section 6 FireSmart Roadmap and CWRP Action Planning: presents the FireSmart Roadmap and outlines how it helps to understand where to start and what steps to take on the way to community wildfire resiliency. The section also includes the CWRP Action Planning Summary Table and the process for monitoring, tracking and updating the plan.

## 1.2 Plan Goals

The purpose of the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan is to:

- 1) assist the Village of Ashcroft identifying priority wildfire risks in and around the Ashcroft community,
- 2) describe potential consequences from the impacts of wildfire, and
- 3) provide mitigation recommendations based on current information that should be considered for implementation to reduce the identified risks.

Specifically, the CWRP will:

- Delineate the community Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area around inhabited areas at risk of wildfire, including the locations of homes and essential community infrastructure
- Identify the threat to human life, property, and critical infrastructure within this area
- Determine wildfire risk throughout the WUI Area,
- Provide wildfire community resiliency recommendations and Best Management Practices (BMP) using current information and science.
- Identify recommendations to reduce the identified threats. The CWRP planning process will provide a detailed framework to guide the implementation of specific actions that will result in:
  5. Reduced likelihood of a wildfire entering the community
  6. Increased community wildfire preparedness
  7. Reduced impacts and losses to property and critical infrastructure
  8. Reduced negative economic and social impacts to the community
- Identify any priority areas within the WUI for fuel reduction treatments, develop a Treatment Plan and provide recommendations to further support and enhance the community's efforts to be FireSmart. The recommendations are based on the seven FireSmart disciplines to increase community resilience in the event of a wildfire.

## 1.3 Plan Development Summary

The Village of Ashcroft acquired the services of Landscape Consulting Corporation to develop a CWRP for the community.

The following key steps were undertaken during the development of the CWRP:

Phase 1 – Initial planning, preparation, and information gathering for the development of the CWRP with Landscape and Village of Ashcroft administration and community members. This phase also included communicating with and obtaining information from adjacent First Nation communities, local governments (municipalities, cities and regional districts) and other government agencies and organizations where required to complete the CWRP.

Phase 2 – Field and office data collection by Landscape technical and Village of Ashcroft staff; the data collection for the structure/critical infrastructure inventory was completed in May 2025. The data collection was completed at 35 wildfire threat assessment plot locations in October 2025.

Phase 3 – Development of the draft Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan document, maps and spatial data files by Landscape staff.

Phase 4 – Review of completed draft CWRP document by the Village of Ashcroft and BC Wildfire Service – Wildfire Prevention staff, comments/feedback provided and revisions completed.

Phase 5 – Submission of completed CWRP document and supporting files.

## SECTION 2: Relationship to Other Plans

### 2.1 Linkage to CWPPs/CWRPs/WRRPs

The following First Nation communities, local governments and organizations have completed CWPPs, CWRPs or WRRPs that overlap or are adjacent to the Village of Ashcroft Aol and WUI area:

- Ashcroft Indian Band CWRP (2023)
- Bonaparte Indian Band CWPP (2010)
- Oregon Jack Indian Band CWPP (2011)
- Thompson Nicola Regional District (TNRD) Electoral Area “I” CWRP (2024)

### 2.2 Linkage to Other Plans

The intent of this section is to identify the sources and linkages to other planning documents to minimize duplication, while still identifying the relevance of other plans, legal requirements, objectives, strategies and policies that will influence the development of the CWRP.

Table 1: Key Plans and Relationship to CWRP

Plan Type	Description and Relationship to CWRP	Links
<b>Community Plans</b>		
Village of Ashcroft Official Community Plan 2018, Bylaw No. 822 (update in progress)	The Official Community Plan (OCP) is a policy document used by local governments to guide land use decisions and to establish policies and goals regarding community development. It is a general statement of the collective desires of a community, identified through public consultation and expressed through broad goals and policy statements. The Village of Ashcroft developed their OCP to prepare the community for the challenges and opportunities that will be encountered in the future.	<a href="#">Official-Community-Plan-2018-Bylaw-No.-822.pdf</a>
Village of Ashcroft Bylaws and Policies	Village of Ashcroft bylaws are municipal legislation that is used to protect the welfare, safety, and health of the residents and promote community standards. Policies provide direction to staff and Council on a variety of issues in municipal operations.	<a href="#">governance/reports-plans-documents/bylaws/</a>
Village of Ashcroft Strategic Plan 2024-2026	The Village of Ashcroft Strategic Plan provides a structured approach to setting priorities, managing limited resources, directing staff efforts, and communicating with citizens. By engaging in strategic planning, the village can effectively address current challenges, capitalize on opportunities, and work towards its long-term vision. The plan identifies new areas of focus and prioritizes ongoing work that the Council has deemed essential during its term in office.	<a href="#">Village-of-Ashcroft-Strategic-Plan-2024-2026.pdf</a>
TNRD Ashcroft-Cache Creek Fringe Area Official Community Plan, Bylaw No. 1445 (updated in 2011)	The Official Community Plan (OCP) is a policy document used by local governments to guide land use decisions and to establish policies and goals regarding community development. It is a general statement of the collective desires of a community, identified through public consultation and expressed through broad goals and policy statements.	<a href="#">tnrd.civicweb.net/document/60548/</a>

<b>Emergency Plans</b>		
Village of Ashcroft Emergency Response and Evacuation Plan (2024) (update in progress)	The Emergency Response Plan and Evacuation Plan guides the operations, organization, responsibilities and coordination necessary for effective response to and recovery from major emergencies or disasters, which includes evacuation routes, distances and time considerations.	<a href="#">emergency-response-plan-revised-2022-2/</a>
Village of Cache Creek Emergency Response and Evacuation Plan (2013)	The Emergency Response Plan and Evacuation Plan guides the operations, organization, responsibilities and coordination necessary for effective response to and recovery from major emergencies or disasters, which includes evacuation routes, distances and time considerations.	<a href="http://tnrd.civicweb.net/document/4857/">tnrd.civicweb.net/document/4857/</a>
Ashcroft Indian Band Emergency Plan and Evacuation Plan (2019)	The Ashcroft Indian Band community Emergency Plan and Evacuation Plan detail the emergency management organization, response and recovery structure, critical infrastructure, EOC structure, hazards and risks, evacuation routes, muster points, and evacuation protocols within the communities.	Internal Documents
TNRD Loon Lake-20 Mile-16 Mile-Hat Creek-Venables Valley Evacuation Plan (2013)	An evacuation plan has been prepared for the Loon Lake - 20 Mile -16 Mile - Hat Creek - Venables Valley areas (Electoral Area "I") that identifies the population at risk, the potential frequency and severity of hazards and the process involved in conducting a safe, orderly evacuation.	<a href="http://tnrd.civicweb.net/document/4972/">tnrd.civicweb.net/document/4972/</a>
<b>Higher Level Plans</b>		
Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan (KLRMP) – Legal (updated in 2024)	The Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) is a sub-regional land use plan covering 2.2 million hectares of south-central B.C. It is the result of a two-year shared decision-making process that includes management objectives and strategies for land, water, riparian, biodiversity, fisheries, range, recreation, wildlife, minerals, visuals, timber, sensitive areas, cultural and heritage sites and special resource management zones. The B.C. government approved and published the plan in 1995.	<a href="#">Kamloops Land &amp; Resource Management Plan - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)</a>
Management Direction Statement for Elephant Hill Provincial Park (1999)	Park Management Plans and Direction Statements are developed to outline the vision and direction for a park or protected area. They include direction on the appropriate types, locations, and thresholds of uses and activities. They also describe protected area values management issues and concerns; management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies; and, directional statements from other planning processes.	<a href="#">elephant_hill_pk_mds_19990601_949705e029.pdf</a>
NNTC Resource and Land Use Decision Making Policy and Process	The Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) resource and land use decision-making policy and process is based upon and guided by the principles of the Nlaka'pamux Nation Resolution on Natural Resources and the Principles of their Management, with a responsibility to protect, manage and conserve their territory, as well as care for its land and resources for future generations.	<a href="#">Land Use Decision Making Process Resolution on Natural Resources</a>
Kamloops Timber Supply Review and Analysis (May 2021)	The BC Ministry of Forests regularly reviews the timber supply for all timber supply areas (TSA) and tree farm licenses (TFL) in the province. The review examines the impacts of current legal requirements and demonstrated forest management practices on the timber supply, economy, environment, and social conditions of the local area and province.	<a href="#">allowable-annual-cut-timber-supply-areas/kamloops-tsa</a>

<p>Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Species at Risk (SAR)</p> <p>Government Action Regulations (GAR)</p>	<p>To identify and include specific considerations for SAR or species of concern when considering wildfire reduction measures. Include pertinent habitat considerations for SAR species in all wildfire reduction operational treatment projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spotted Bat (<i>Euderma maculatum</i>)</li> <li>• Western Low Hawksbeard (<i>Crepis modocensis ssp. rostrata</i>)</li> <li>• Poverty Weed (<i>Iva axillaris</i>)</li> <li>• Lewis’s Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)</li> <li>• Western Rattlesnake (<i>Crotalus oreganus</i>)</li> </ul> <p>There are several designated Lewis’s Woodpecker Wildlife Habitat Areas that are adjacent to the Village of Ashcroft Aol including WHA 3-076, 3-077, 3-078, and 3-106 to 3-108.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/Species%20at%20Risk/act/act.html">Species at Risk Act (justice.gc.ca).</a></p>
<p><b>Other Plans</b></p>		
<p>Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction Program</p>	<p>Fuel management planning and treatment activities focusing on provincial Crown land located around communities, which includes the use of prescribed fire. Risk reduction activities also target provincially identified critical infrastructure, beginning with critical response infrastructure such as government-owned radio repeaters, weather stations, and air tanker bases.</p> <p>There is currently no WUI Wildfire Risk Reduction Plan (WRRP) completed for the Ashcroft area.</p>	<p><a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public/clwrr/2026-27_planning_guide.pdf">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public/clwrr/2026-27_planning_guide.pdf</a></p>
<p>Climate Action and Sustainability Plan</p>	<p>Climate action, sustainability, or resiliency plans address actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air and water quality, and implement a range of social, environmental, and economic issues that are critical to the long-term health, vibrancy, and well-being of a community. Actions of climate plans and CWRPs can be aligned to achieve multiple and mutual goals, such as increasing green infrastructure projects.</p>	<p><a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/plan/climate/2021-2025-climate-change-strategy.pdf">toen160222.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://climatebc.ca/map">climatebc.ca/map</a></p> <p><a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/plan/climate/2021-2025-climate-change-strategy.pdf">20212025 climate change strategy.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://climate-change/adaptation/cpas.pdf">climate-change/adaptation/cpas.pdf</a></p>
<p>Forest Stewardship Plans</p>	<p>A forest stewardship plan (FSP) is a map-based, landscape-level plan of potential forest development activities that are intended to take place in the plan area. Forest agreement holders must prepare, and have approved by government, a forest stewardship plan before harvesting or road building activities can begin. The forest stewardship plan has a term of five years and may be renewed for additional terms.</p> <p>Licensees in the general area include BCTS (Kamloops Business Area), Aspen Planers, West Fraser Mills and Tk’Emlupsemc Forestry Development Corporation (Ashcroft Indian Band and Neskonlith Indian Band).</p>	<p><a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/plan/forestry/forest-stewardship-plans">Forest Stewardship Plans – Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)</a></p>
<p>Woodlot and Community Forest License Holders</p>	<p>Woodlot and community forest license holders should consider integrating wildfire reduction planning components, such as reduced volumes or densities in key areas, increased inter-crop tree spacing, reduction of ladder fuels and strategic road placement which can be integrated into fire suppression planning within the WUI areas.</p> <p>There are currently no woodlots or community forests that overlap with the Village of Ashcroft WUI Area.</p>	

<p>Fraser River Action Plan (FRAP)(1991)</p>	<p>Jointly sponsored by the federal Departments of the Environment and Fisheries and Oceans, the FRAP contributed to restoring the environmental health of the Fraser River and the Basin including the development of best management practices and pollution prevention plans for business and industry.</p>	<p><a href="#">En4-263-1997-eng.pdf</a></p>
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## SECTION 3: Community Description

### 3.1 Local Area of Interest

The local Area of Interest (Aoi) for the purposes of the development of the CWRP is the geographic scope of the plan. For the Village of Ashcroft CWRP, it is the extent of the municipal boundary of the Village of Ashcroft. The Aoi encompasses

- the North Ashcroft residential area bound by Highway 97C, Government Street, Elm Street and the CN rail line,
- the South Ashcroft residential area along Highway 97C, Bancroft Street and the CP Rail line,
- the Ashcroft Terminal,
- the Mesa Vista Drive residential and rural area, and
- the Ashcroft Ranch land along the Highway 1 corridor south of Cornwall Creek.

The Aoi for the Village of Ashcroft CWRP is 5,274 hectares and is shown on Figure 1.

### 3.2 Wildland Urban Interface

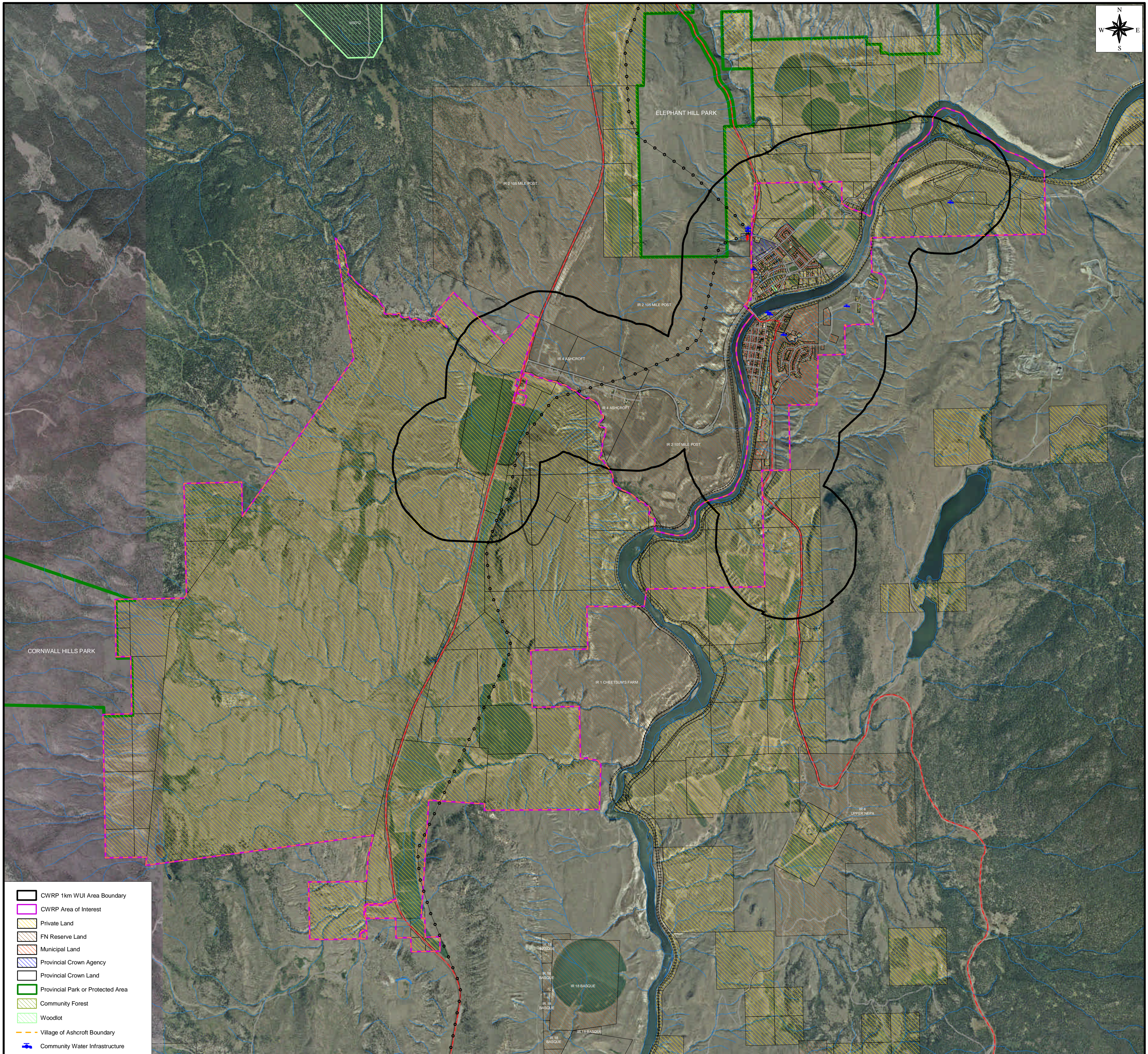
The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is generally defined as any area where combustible forest and/or grassland vegetation (fuel) is found adjacent to homes, farm structures or other outbuildings. This may occur at the interface, where development and fuel meet at a well-defined boundary, or in the intermix, where development and fuel intermingle with no clearly defined boundary. The WUI areas, as defined by the Community Resiliency Investment program and used for analysis in this plan were created by applying a buffer to a maximum of one kilometre from the structure density class greater than six. This represents a reasonable distance that embers can travel from a wildfire to ignite a structure. One WUI area was identified for the Village of Ashcroft community, with the area summary shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Village of Ashcroft WUI Area Summary

WUI	Total WUI area (ha)	Private land (ha)	Municipal land (ha)	First Nation reserve land (ha)	Provincial Crown land (ha)	Provincial Crown Agency land (ha)	Water (ha)
Village of Ashcroft	2,865	1,450	122	614	579	10	90

The single WUI area encompasses the homes, businesses, critical infrastructure and emergency response services in both North and South Ashcroft, including the Mesa Vista Drive residential area. The WUI area also includes the Ashcroft Terminal complex in its northeast section, the Desert Hills Farm/Ranch and Cactus Country Farm lands in its northern section, a small portion of the Elephant Hill Provincial Park, the Ashcroft Indian Band community in its central section, the Ashcroft Ranch and Ashcroft Manor properties in the southwest section and the Bar M Ranch properties in the southeast section. Primary access routes through the WUI Area are Highway 97C, Cornwall Road and the TransCanada Highway 1.

The WUI area also includes both the CN and CP Rail lines, the BC Hydro Ashcroft Substation and 60L29 69kV transmission line, the FortisBC Ashcroft Substation and Bonaparte 500 ASH LOP 88 and ASH LTL 60 high-pressure natural gas pipelines. The Thompson River flows in a northeast-to-southwest direction through the WUI area.



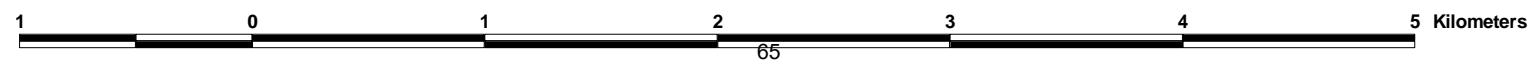
- CWRP 1km WUI Area Boundary
- CWRP Area of Interest
- Private Land
- FN Reserve Land
- Municipal Land
- Provincial Crown Agency
- Provincial Crown Land
- Provincial Park or Protected Area
- Community Forest
- Woodlot
- Village of Ashcroft Boundary
- Community Water Infrastructure

- Structure
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Railway
- BC Hydro Transmission Line
- BC Hydro Substation
- Streams

**WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE MAP**

**Village of Ashcroft CWRP**

**1:32,500**



Mapping Project: Vol CWRP  
 Datum: NAD83  
 Map Projection: NAD83 UTM Zone 10  
 Drawn By: E.Senger  
 Production Date: January 9, 2026



## 3.3 Community Information

### 3.3.1 Village of Ashcroft Community Information

The Village of Ashcroft is situated along the Thompson River, in an arid grassland environment that is considered one of the hottest and driest regions in the province of British Columbia and Canada as a whole. Incorporated in 1952, the historic community is 10 kilometres south of Cache Creek, 90 kilometres west of Kamloops and is within the traditional territories of the Nlaka'pamux and Secwepemc Nations.

The Ashcroft community is known for its role as a transportation hub, an agricultural producer and its popularity as a location for filming movies and TV series. There is also a significant industrial component within the municipality including the trans-loading facility at the Ashcroft Terminal complex. The residential areas of the community are a mix of urban and suburban single family and multiple family homes, with a mix of commercial and residential development in the downtown core. The Village of Ashcroft provides both community water and sewage treatment services to its residents. Other available services include the Ashcroft Community Health Centre (UPCC) and BCEHS ambulance station, the Ashcroft RCMP detachment, medical and dental clinics, a pharmacy, gas stations, motels, restaurants, a grocery store, and a home building supply store.

The population of Ashcroft, as reported in the 2021 census, is 1,670 people. Additional community information is presented below in Table 3.

Table 3: Village of Ashcroft Community Information

Village of Ashcroft	Year				
	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021
Total Population by year	1,788	1,664	1,628	1,558	1,670
Population Density (per sq. km)	-	32.3	32.0	30.6	32.8
Median Age (years)	47.2	53.1	55.2	58.6	58.4
Occupied Housing Units	785	770	758	755	793
Median Home Value	\$113,241	\$145,787	-	\$237,637	\$300,000
Median Household Income	\$40,318	\$43,479	-	\$61,248	\$63,600
Unemployment Rate	6.7%	9.8%	-	7.9%	3.4%

[\(Statistics Canada - Census of Population\)](#)

### 3.3.2 Local Fire Department and Response Capacity

The Village of Ashcroft provides fire protection services to the Ashcroft community within the Ashcroft Fire Protection Area (municipal boundary shown in Figure 1). The Ashcroft Volunteer Fire Department has a single firehall staffed by volunteer fire chief, two deputy chiefs, four captains and 17 on-call firefighters that provide fire suppression and emergency response including:

- Fire Suppression
- Rescue and Safety
- Medical Assistance
- Fire Investigations
- Fire Prevention
- Public Education

Available resources include two engines, one tender, and supporting equipment specifically for wildfire response including bladders, hoses and tools. The Ashcroft Fire Department will respond to structural fires (and wildfires if structures are at risk) within the Ashcroft Indian Band community, as well as the adjacent lands within the Thompson-Nicola Regional District including Evans Road, Highway 97C (Highland Valley Road) and the Highway 1 corridor.

The Village of Ashcroft tests, flushes and performs required maintenance work on the fire hydrants in the community ensuring the required water supply is delivered at each hydrant for firefighting purposes.

The Ashcroft Fire Department supports the BC Wildfire Service in responding to interface wildfires on Provincial Crown land outside of the Village of Ashcroft Fire Protection Area, while the BC Wildfire Service is available to provide assistance to the Ashcroft Fire Department on wildfires occurring within the Fire Protection Area.

### 3.4 Culturally-Significant Sites

Indigenous cultural heritage resources include any recorded or known archaeological sites, traditional use sites or features, historic buildings and artifacts, heritage trails, burial sites, culturally-modified trees or any other objects or places of historical, cultural, or archaeological significance to a community, Indigenous people or to British Columbia. Important cultural heritage can also include intangible resources such as spiritual and ceremonial sites, and hunting and gathering areas. All of these resources can be significantly impacted by wildfire and take years to recover, or be completely destroyed and lost.

Archaeological sites in British Columbia that date to 1846 or earlier are protected from alteration of any kind by the Heritage Conservation Act (HCA). The provisions of the HCA apply to archaeological sites located on both public and private land, known and unknown, and are binding on government. It is extremely important that agencies involved in the implementation of fire suppression or wildfire preparedness initiatives that may include ground disturbing activities such as mechanical fire guard construction or tree felling, collaborate with Indigenous communities to identify and mitigate for archaeological and cultural values at all project stages. It is also extremely important to engage with Indigenous communities at the very early planning stages of fuel reduction projects to identify and mitigate for culturally significant features prior to treatment work commencing.

There are several cultural, historical and archaeologically significant features within the Village of Ashcroft that warrant special protection from the impacts of wildfire or suppression and preparedness activities.

### 3.5 Green Spaces

Green spaces and gathering areas within a community include parks, gardens, arbors, cemeteries, trails and pathways, rights-of-way and other naturalized spaces, and other vegetated locations such as along roadsides, drainage ditches and other waterways.

Identified green spaces within the Ashcroft community that may warrant a FireSmart Culturally Significant Sites and Green Spaces (CSSGS) assessment and subsequent treatment activities to increase their resilience to wildfire include:

- Ashcroft Cemetery
- Ashcroft Chinese Cemetery
- Ashcroft Pool Park
- Heritage Place Park
- Mesa Vista Park
- Ashcroft Legacy Park and Campground

## 3.6 Values at Risk

Wildfire has the potential to impact values within a community which include human life, property, critical infrastructure, high environmental and cultural values, and resource values. Updating Values at Risk (VAR) data is critical for effective mitigation planning. The intent of this section is to identify and understand where values are located within the WUI to effectively determine the wildfire risk and identify mitigation activities. This data should be reviewed minimally on an annual basis and can be updated through the Critical Infrastructure assessment process or during the updating of the Local Authority Emergency Response Plan.

### 3.6.1 Human Life and Safety

An evacuation is the process of moving persons and/or domestic animals from an area that may pose a threat to life and limb to an area of safety. Depending on the nature and scope of the threat, an evacuation may involve a single building, a group of buildings or an entire community. Ordering residents to evacuate is one of the most difficult decisions a Local Authority is likely to make. Timing is critical. Safety is the most important consideration when ordering an evacuation and should only be done after careful consideration of all the factors involved. The majority of evacuee movement will take place via roadways; however, consideration should also be given to alternative methods (air, boat, rail), especially in locations with single or limited exit routes. When determining evacuation routes, several key considerations should include, but are not limited to:

- Number and geographic distribution of evacuees
- Available transportation resources
- Capacities and vulnerabilities of transportation infrastructure and network
- Potential for congestion, bottlenecks
- Areas vulnerable to damage
- Available facilities, e.g. fuel supplies
- Vehicle breakdown contingencies
- Access control and security of evacuated area

Wildfires can move quickly and unpredictably. When an evacuation order is authorized, it means that evacuating the area is mandatory and the impacted population must leave the specified area immediately. The evacuation order should provide pertinent details such as designated evacuation routes, identification of closed routes, and the location of ESS Reception Centres. It takes time for people to evacuate an area and safe egress can be blocked by the fire itself or by vehicle congestion or accidents.

As detailed in the Village of Ashcroft Emergency Plan, the primary evacuation routes leading out of the Ashcroft community residential areas is either north or south on Highway 97C. Heading west on Cornwall Road is an alternative option to connecting up with the Highway 1 corridor. Depending upon the magnitude of the evacuation, evacuees will go to an Emergency Support Services (ESS) reception centre in Ashcroft, Cache Creek or Logan Lake if only a portion of the community is impacted. Kamloops would be the designated reception centre if the entire community is ordered to evacuate during an emergency event due to more services being available for the evacuees. The ESS also arranges transportation for the community during an evacuation order, and there is an arrangement with the local school district office that their buses can be utilized if necessary.

Evacuation route planning and tabletop exercises should be developed and implemented on an annual basis for the Ashcroft community. Executing the logistics of an evacuation as part of a preparedness exercise will help to identify any gaps in the process, as well as provide wildfire readiness and

preparedness knowledge to first responders and residents before each wildfire season. These planning exercises, along with increased coordination and information exchange with neighbouring communities including the Ashcroft Indian Band and Village of Cache Creek, as well as applicable organizations such as the Thompson Nicola Regional District, BC Wildfire Service, RCMP, BC Emergency Health Services, School District 74, and the Ministry of Transportation and Highways will ensure that the community is well prepared for an emergency event and that evacuation routes and protocols will be functional and effective.

### 3.6.2 Critical Infrastructure and Essential Assets

Critical infrastructure (CI) is identified as assets owned by the Provincial government, local government, public institution (such as health authority or school district), private organization (such as a communication company cellular tower or forest company radio repeater), First Nation or Treaty First Nation that are essential to the health, safety, security or economic wellbeing of the community and the effective functioning of the organizations. Assets may be identified in an Emergency Plan Hazard, Risk & Vulnerability and/or through a Critical Infrastructure assessment. Critical infrastructure is susceptible to damage or becoming inoperable from a wildfire:

- through direct ignition from the head of the fire itself,
- through ignition from firebrands landing on a flammable surface, material or vegetation on or near the structure, or
- the wildfire impacting power, electrical or other utilities/services that maintain the operation of the critical infrastructure such as hydro, gas, water, etc.

Other businesses and services that typically provide day-to-day routine services, such as fueling stations, grocery stores and financial institutions, also fill an essential service role during and after emergency events. Gas stations provide fuel to vehicles during an evacuation and to emergency responders in the ongoing firefighting efforts. Grocery stores provide food and water to emergency responders in the ongoing firefighting efforts as well as to the community during a shelter in place situation. Banks and credit unions provide financial support to the community. These identified essential services in communities must also be protected from the impacts of wildfire as much as possible so they can remain functional during times of emergency for residents, and would serve a pivotal role during recovery efforts. An overview of the current critical and essential community infrastructure and assets within the Ashcroft community that warrant consideration during emergency response and recovery planning are listed in Appendix 2.

Several of the critical infrastructure identified within the Ashcroft community currently have back-up power systems in place in the event of a power outage. These include the Village of Ashcroft municipal office, the community water system infrastructure, the sewage treatment infrastructure, the firehall and communication repeaters, and the public works operations and maintenance buildings. Other identified critical infrastructure including the Ashcroft Community Health Centre complex also have back-up power systems in place. It is recommended that back-up power sources be considered for the remaining critical infrastructure.

### 3.6.3 Electrical Power

Ashcroft residents receive their electrical power through BC Hydro services and infrastructure primarily supplied through a distribution line with wooden pole supports originating from the Ashcroft Substation. The 60L29 69kV transmission line originating from Cache Creek runs through Elephant Hill Park and down to the Ashcroft Substation, then southwest to the TransCanada Highway corridor and south to the

Spences Bridge Substation. The 5L87 500kV high-voltage transmission line runs in a southeast-northwest direction to the east of the Village of Ashcroft WUI area, connecting the Nicola Transmission Substation near Douglas Lake to the Kelly Lake Transmission Substation at Kelly Lake.

BC Hydro has implemented several strategies to reduce the likelihood of wildfire impacting electrical infrastructure and power supply to communities. Annual patrols are completed by ground and by helicopter along the high-voltage transmission line rights-of-way to assess vegetation conditions and clearances to the lines, and vegetation management treatments including brushing and mowing are then prioritized in their annual vegetation maintenance plan for those areas identified to be at risk. Their existing vegetation management plan includes the use of herbicides to control surface vegetation growth around the various infrastructure. A fire services agreement between BC Hydro and BC Wildfire Service has been established for transmission infrastructure protection outside existing Fire Protection Service Areas during wildfire events.

### 3.6.4 Pipelines

The right-of-way for the FortisBC Energy - Bonaparte 500 ASH LOP 88 and ASH LTL 60 high-pressure natural gas pipelines runs in a southwest-northeast direction through the northern portion of North Ashcroft, connecting the Ashcroft distribution substation to the to the primary Spectra Energy (Enbridge) natural gas transmission pipeline at Criss Creek. The right-of-way has become established in bunchgrass and big sage.

### 3.6.5 Communications

Cellular reception, internet and landline services are available to residents within the Ashcroft community. Telus provides cellular reception through the establishment of two cell towers situated near Ashcroft, one in North Ashcroft off Highway 97C and a second tower south of Cornwall Road and Highway 1. Both Telus and Rogers provide extended cellular coverage through cell towers situated on Campbell Hill northwest of Ashcroft. Major internet service providers include Telus and Shaw (Rogers), with satellite internet communication available from providers such as XploreNet and Starlink. The Ashcroft community is covered by 911 emergency call service.

Both the Thompson-Nicola Regional District and the Village of Ashcroft issue emergency notifications through the free, downloadable Voyent Alert! app (<https://voyent-alert.com/community/>) and post emergency information and updates online on their websites (<https://eoc.tnrd.ca/> and <https://ashcroftbc.ca/service/alerts/> respectively), and on social media including Facebook and Instagram. The Village of Ashcroft will also post notifications on the door of the Village office, at the local Canada Post office, and on the LED display sign that is visible when entering the community.

During an emergency event, the Village of Ashcroft fire department and emergency management staff utilize local 2-way radio communication (handheld and truck radios) to coordinate activities with other responding agencies including the BC Wildfire Service, RCMP, BC Ambulance Service, BC Conservation Officer Service, and Kamloops Search and Rescue.

### 3.6.6 Community Water Sources and Infrastructure

Downstream water supply is generally expected to be affected when about 20 percent of a watershed is burned (2022, Canadian Institute of Forestry). An intense fire can consume vegetation and soil which will affect the ability to absorb and more evenly distribute precipitation or melting snow. This could lead to flash floods and flowing debris, which could in turn affect how much drinking water is available to a

community. Post-wildfire impacts may also alter the ability of the ecosystem to naturally filter sediment and toxins before the water reaches a community's drinking-water source (2021, Jingyi Cheng). Any vegetation management/fuel reduction activities proposed within a designated community watershed area would follow best management practices wherever possible to meet the objectives of the watershed designation. Currently, the Cornwall Creek community watershed overlaps the extreme western portion of the Village of Ashcroft Aol and WUI Area.

The community of Ashcroft sources its water through a community water system. Water is pumped from an intake on the Thompson River to the adjacent water treatment plant on Riverview Crescent, and then pumped to three reservoirs:

- Highway 97C - North Ashcroft, 1 million litre capacity
- Highway 97C/Highland Valley Road – South Ashcroft, 1.5 million litre capacity
- Mesa Vista Road – South Ashcroft, 1.38 million litre capacity

The water is then distributed to homes, businesses and fire hydrants within the Ashcroft community through an underground network of pipes. Two additional pumpstations and a chlorine booster station also form part of the Village of Ashcroft community water system. For the southwestern portion of the community along the Highway 1 corridor, including Ashcroft Ranch, Ashcroft Manor, water for firefighting purposes is transported by tender, or sourced from the ranch irrigation system during the months that the irrigation system is active.

Two areas of concern in water supply and delivery for firefighting response were identified within the Village of Ashcroft community water system: maintaining a sustained, stable water pressure at the hydrants at the upper end of Government Street, and the need to use a fire engine as a water pressure booster during a fire response at the rural end of Mesa Vista Drive. Both of these concerns warrant consideration by the Village of Ashcroft administration for possible upgrades to the existing water system infrastructure in these two locations to improve water supply and delivery during a fire response.

### 3.6.7 Hazardous Values

Hazardous values are those that may cause significant harm to people or the environment if they are impacted by a wildfire. These include fueling stations, large propane tanks, oil/gas and electrical power storage and distribution facilities, landfills, rail yards, industrial sites, sewage treatment facilities, and manufacturing and storage facilities that contain chemicals and explosives.

The hazardous values that were identified in the Ashcroft community that require special consideration and awareness during an emergency response to a wildfire event are listed in Appendix 3. Notable values include the two gas stations, the BC Hydro and FortisBC substations, the Ashcroft Terminal and CP/CN rail yards, and the railway tie manufacturing plant.

### 3.6.8 Ecological Values

There are a number of important ecological considerations that have been identified within and immediately adjacent to the Village of Ashcroft Aol, including notable species, Species at Risk and other features that require inclusion during land-based planning activities. Noted considerations include:

- Spotted Bat (*Euderma maculatum*)
- Western Low Hawksbeard (*Crepis modocensis ssp. rostrata*)
- Poverty Weed (*Iva axillaris*)
- Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)
- Western Rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus*)

- Steep slopes and erosion processes resulting in soil and land movement
- Invasive plant species identification and mitigation
- Fish-bearing streams
- Water quality impacts

### **3.6.9 Parks and Protected Areas**

The Village of Ashcroft WUI area overlaps the southeast corner of Elephant Hill Provincial Park. The provincial government issued a Management Direction Statement in 1999 that outlines the vision and management direction that must be considered if fuel reduction treatments are being proposed in the park, in efforts to protect the unique grassland habitats found in some of the driest conditions in the province.

### **3.6.10 Other Resource Values**

Other resource values and sectors that should be considered during planning activities within the WUI include agriculture, fisheries, tourism, historical buildings and places, mining, forestry, and recreation.

## SECTION 4: Wildfire Risk Assessment

Current wildfire trends in both B.C. and Canada are showing increased impacts to multiple values from wildfire events: increased threats to communities and infrastructure; increased losses of natural resources including mid-term timber supply; increased losses to cultural heritage including impacts to wildlife, gathering and hunting grounds; short and long term impacts to riparian areas and community watersheds, and increased wildfire suppression costs. The following table summarizes wildfire statistics for the past 10 years, demonstrating a generalized upward trend in the number of total fires recorded, total hectares burnt and fire suppression costs. The 2023 fire season was the most challenging and destructive fire season recorded in recent history.

Table 4: Ten-year Average Statistics of Wildfire Activity in BC

Year	Total Fires	Total Hectares	Total Cost (millions)	Person-caused	Person-caused (%)	Lightning-caused	Lightning-caused (%)
2024	1,697	1,081,159	\$769.4	511	(30%)	1,186	(70%)
2023	2,245	2,840,545	\$817.0	561	(25%)	1,684	(75%)
2022	1,801	135,235	\$411.9	578	(32%)	1,200	(66%)
2021	1,647	869,300	\$718.8	633	(38%)	970	(59%)
2020	670	14,536	\$193.7	395	(59%)	275	(41%)
2019	825	21,138	\$182.5	450	(55%)	375	(45%)
2018	2,117	1,354,284	\$615.0	628	(30%)	1,489	(70%)
2017	1,353	1,216,053	\$649.0	580	(43%)	773	(57%)
2016	1,050	100,366	\$129.0	564	(54%)	486	(46%)
2015	1,858	280,605	\$277.0	621	(33%)	1,237	(67%)
<b>10-year average</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>791,322</b>	<b>\$552.1</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>(40%)</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>(60%)</b>

[\(Wildfire Averages - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/wildfire/averages/)

Communities can be threatened by wildfires in two basic scenarios: The first is a landscape-level (large) wildfire starting outside of and moving into the community, and the second is a wildfire starting within the community and quickly threatening adjacent structures. The volatility and aggressive wildfire behaviour being observed in recent years is being driven by the effects of climate change and increased fuel loading on the forested land base. With expanding residential and commercial development comes an expanded wildland urban interface area that must be pre-emptively managed to reduce potential impacts from future wildfires. Assessing the wildfire risk to communities takes into consideration the likelihood and consequences of an unwanted wildfire. The risk is measured as the product of the likelihood and the consequences of a wildfire. Assessing the overall risk factors supports the establishment of priority mitigation activities that focus on reducing the ability of a wildfire to ignite and spread, such as FireSmart

activities, fuel reduction treatments, and other locally driven opportunities that contribute to increasing community resiliency.

## 4.1 Wildfire Environment

### 4.1.1 Fire Regime

The Village of Ashcroft community is situated entirely within the Bunchgrass (BG) biogeoclimatic zone along the terraces of the Thompson River valley, although the WUI area does capture a small component of the Ponderosa Pine (PP) zone at the higher elevations. The Bunchgrass and Ponderosa Pine zones are generally found at low elevations along valley bottoms and are some of the driest and hottest biogeoclimatic zones in BC. The Bunchgrass biogeoclimatic zone is essentially a grassland zone, dominated by blue bunch wheatgrass and big sage with Ponderosa Pine and Douglas-fir found in moist draws and on cooler sites. The entire area of the Village of Ashcroft WUI is also located in the Natural Disturbance Type (NDT) 4 Zone, which indicates that these ecosystems should naturally experience frequent, low intensity, stand-maintaining fires. Surface fire return intervals for the Bunchgrass (BG) and Ponderosa Pine (PP) biogeoclimatic zones historically ranged from 4 to 50 years, with stand-initiating crown fires occurring at intervals ranging from at least 150 to 250 years or more in the IDF.



Figure 2: British Columbia Biogeoclimatic Zones

Table 5: Village of Ashcroft WUI BEC and NDT Zones

WUI Area	BG (NDT4)		PP (NDT4)	
	ha	%	ha	%
Village of Ashcroft	2,564	89	301	11

Fire exclusion, forest health and timber harvesting practices have significantly altered the forest ecosystems in the NDT4. Enhanced fire suppression efforts have allowed mature pine stands to grow past the ecological rotation age, providing vast areas with a suitable host for the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB). This contributed to the MPB outbreak that swept through the area in the 1980's (primarily impacting Lodgepole Pine forests at the higher elevations) and again in the years 2006 through 2011 (which included significant areas of Ponderosa Pine along the valley bottoms). Douglas-fir leading-stands along the mid and upper slopes were also extensively defoliated by the Western Spruce Budworm in 2006 through 2008, and are showing increased defoliation once again suggesting the start of another outbreak is underway in these stands.

Given its grassland environment, the Village of Ashcroft WUI has been healthy and free of major pests, diseases and other factors, as observed from the provincial aerial overview forest health survey data over the last five years.

### 4.1.2 Climate Change

As a whole, British Columbia has become warmer and wetter over the last century. The most notable changes are warmer winters, more frequent extreme rainfall events, drier conditions in the summer and decreasing snowpacks. Due to the existing effects of greenhouse gas emissions, climate scientists agree that these warming trends will continue. Over the period from 1940 to 2016, B.C.’s average annual temperature has increased by 1.9°C, with winter temperatures rising the most. Province-wide average annual precipitation has already increased by an average of 12% (ranging from 10 to 21% by region) over the past century, with more heavy, sporadic rainfall events in the spring, and increases in extreme wet and extreme dry conditions in summer (Ministry of Environment, Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy 2022-25). During the heat dome of 2021, temperatures across BC set all-time records with the community of Lytton experiencing a high of 49.6°C – exceeding the highest temperature ever recorded in Canada by almost 5°C. The extreme temperatures were then followed by one of the most destructive wildfire seasons on record in the province, which was then followed by significant and destructive atmospheric river flooding events on record in many areas of the southern interior and south coast in the fall of 2021.



Figure 3: Climate Projections and Impacts in BC

The most profound changes to BC’s ecosystems in this century are expected to be the result of more frequent and severe natural disturbances. In the Southern Interior, the area influenced by natural disturbances could double over the next century, with forest and grassland drought, fire and insects expected to be primary disturbance agents.

The increased prevalence of disturbance will vary by climatic sub-regions, elevation and forest type, with the biggest changes projected for dry forested ecosystems at low elevations. Drought will increase in all but the coolest, wettest ecozones; drought is expected to increase mortality in many tree species, including lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, spruce, subalpine fir and trembling aspen.

Fires are projected to be larger, more intense and more frequent, with the risk of large wildfires being particularly high in dry ecozones with lodgepole pine. Fire intensity will increase with more intermittent to full crown fires and the frequency of such fires will increase; in the Thompson-Okanagan, the area

experiencing fires every 50 years or less may expand from 34% to over 90% by 2085. Fire refugia (areas where organisms can survive unfavourable conditions) are expected to decrease; in the Thompson-Okanagan, refugia may decrease from 41% to 2% of the landscape by 2085 (Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, 2016).

Natural disturbance dynamics will also likely change including increased fire and drought in southern and coastal BC, increased storms and windthrow on the coast, and more frequent and extensive tree mortality due to bark beetles, defoliators and diseases across BC. The establishment and expansion of invasive species will increase. Hydrological regimes will shift due to increased evaporation, altered vegetation communities, increased storm frequency and magnitude, decreased snow accumulation, seasonal changes to precipitation, and accelerated ice melt followed by diminished glacier extent (Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, 2016).

Grassland ecosystems we see today have an extensive history of human activity including burning, hunting, crop production, livestock grazing, and urban development. In response to these activities, many native grasslands and grassland species are in decline and climate change is expected to exacerbate the stressors that threaten these ecosystems. Extreme weather conditions, such as increasingly severe and frequent droughts, floods, and fires are all likely to affect grassland ecosystems. These events can induce a rapid and severe response that alters both ecosystems and human communities. Drought exacerbates soil erosion and aquifer depletion. Fires are a natural element in grassland ecosystems, but under extreme conditions combined with other land use variables, can encourage wildfires that impact very large areas in a short period of time, as well as encourage the establishment of invasive species post-fire (Bagne, K. et.al, 2012).

An important ecological function of fire in grasslands is to suppress the growth of forests and woody shrubs, such as big sagebrush (Gayton, 2003). As forests and shrublands encroach, grassland areas disappear and are replaced by forested ecosystems with different wildfire regimes. When fires occur less frequently than is natural, they tend to burn more destructively due to a buildup of fuels (Gayton, 2003). In forests that historically experienced frequent, low-intensity fires (such as the PP and IDF BEC Zones), changes to the fire regime have led to densification of forests and the increased likelihood of high-severity stand-replacing fires (Gedalof, 2020).

Natural disturbance dynamics will also likely change including increased fire and drought in southern and coastal BC, increased storms and windthrow on the coast, and more frequent and extensive tree mortality due to bark beetles, defoliators and diseases across BC. The establishment and expansion of invasive species will increase. Hydrological regimes will shift due to increased evaporation, altered vegetation communities, increased storm frequency and magnitude, decreased snow accumulation, seasonal changes to precipitation, and accelerated ice melt followed by diminished glacier extent (Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, 2016).

As a result, wildfires are generally predicted to increase in frequency, become more intense and more difficult to control which will likely result in increased tree mortality, detrimental impacts to soils and hydrology, and increased threat to the community and interface areas.

### **4.1.3 Wildfire Behaviour Factors**

#### **Forest Fuels**

There are three major factors of the wildfire environment that influence wildfire behaviour: fuel, topography and weather. These factors are known as the Fire Behaviour Triangle, which is shown in Figure 4.

Fuels in a wildfire context are defined as any organic matter, living or dead, in the ground, on the ground, or in the air that can ignite and burn. This can include dry grass, dead leaves and tree needles, brush and small trees. Light fuels ignite quickly and cause rapid spread of the fire. Heavier fuels are typically logs, stumps, branch wood and deep duff layers. The fuels take longer to ignite, spread slower, burn longer and throw off large volumes of heat when dry. Fuel continuity is also an important factor in the behaviour of fire because it indicates how quickly and where a fire may spread. A wide range of horizontal and vertical fuel continuity conditions is typically found in most forested areas. When fuels are scattered or separated by natural barriers such as rock outcroppings, streams, or areas of bare ground, the fire will be irregular and spread more slowly. A common method used in fire suppression is to break the continuity of the fuel by separating burning fuels from unburned fuels. When fuels are closely spaced and intertwined vertically, fire is able to spread rapidly upwards into the upper tree crowns as these fuels will be pre-heated prior to ignition. When fuels are spaced far apart vertically, the heat is less able to ignite the fuels above.

Since fuel is the only fire behaviour driver that can be modified by people and is a critical input of the PSTA Fire Threat Analysis, considerable time has gone into classifying British Columbia's ecosystems according to the Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) fuel types. For each of the different fuel classifications, there has been a prediction generated of fire behaviour in each of these types of forests. For fire behaviour prediction, the FBP system categorizes fuel into 17 distinct types, which are detailed in Appendix 4.

The amount, type and continuity of fuel and its moisture content directly influence fire behaviour. The fuel load determines the potential amount of heat that can be released during a burn, whereas the type and distribution of fuel elements affect their combustibility. Fine fuels (diameter <6 mm) burn more readily than coarse ones. Fuel characteristics differ among ecosystems, resulting in differences in fire behaviour and hence in damage to plants. To manage fire, it is therefore important to understand the variability in fire behaviour in different ecosystems (Gambiza, Campbell, Moe & Frost, 2005).

### ***Village of Ashcroft WUI***

The Village of Ashcroft WUI area is situated at an elevation range of 245m at the valley bottom (Thompson River) to almost 700m upslope above the community on both the east and west sides of the river valley, and is almost entirely grassland within the Bunchgrass biogeoclimatic zone. The community core is situated on tiered benches on both sides of the river, with the wildland-urban interface dominated by blue bunch wheat grass and big sage. In most areas, the component of big sage is significant with very robust growth (up to 0.5m in height). Within the sloped interface between Highland Valley Road and the Mesa Vista residential area, dense stands of the highly invasive elm species are found growing in the draws below the homes, creating a significant fuel hazard and potential for severe wildfire behaviour.

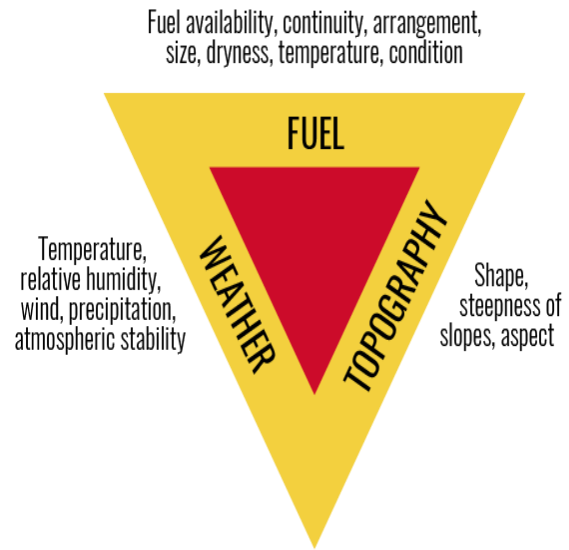


Figure 4: Wildfire Behavior Factors

Along the shoreline of the Thompson River, a dense brush layer including willow, Russian olive, and an invasive elm species (Siberian Elm) grows under a sparse mature cottonwood overstory. The brush layer also contains a significant amount of accumulated dead material, and the cottonwood trees are in various states of health with some having sustained damage over the years and potentially containing heart rot.

Table 6: Village of Ashcroft WUI Fuel Types and Crown Fire/Spotting Potential

Fuel Type	FPB/CFDDRS Fuel Type Description	WUI Fuel Type Description	Area (ha) of Fuel Type in WUI	Area (%) of Fuel Type in WUI	Crown Fire/Spotting Potential
C-7	Ponderosa Pine – Douglas-fir	Uneven-aged stands of Ponderosa pine and Douglas-Fir in various proportions found along the western slopes above Ashcroft Ranch.	29	1	Moderate
D-1/2	Green/Leafless Aspen	Pure Trembling Aspen or cottonwood stands with a well-developed medium to tall shrub layer consisting of willow, Russian olive, & Siberian Elm found within seepage or shaded draws and along the Thompson River.	243	9	Very Low
O-1a/b	Matted or Standing Grass	Continuous bunch grass with a significant big sage component.	2,100	73	Low
N	Non-fuel	Non-fuel areas identified as gravel pits, waste areas, and developed (urban) areas within the community.	403	14	Very Low
W	Water	Thompson River.	90	3	Very Low

## Topography

Topography, or the ‘lay of the land,’ is an important factor in how the rate and direction of fire spread. Topography is typically broken into three categories: slope, aspect and terrain. Terrain includes features such as hills, mountains, lakes, rivers, and other natural topographic characteristics. Each of these items can significantly influence where wind flows as it will always try to follow the path of least resistance. The places where wind flows will influence where fire travels. Bodies of water like lakes and rivers can also serve to limit the spread of surface fires by providing a natural break in flammable fuels. Values that are located downslope and in the path of prevailing wind directions are at greatest risk.

Slope is the steepness of the land and has the greatest influence on a fire's trajectory and rate of spread. Fire generally moves faster uphill than downhill, with fire spreading faster on steeper slopes. On the uphill side, flames are closer to the fuel, and the fuel becomes drier and ignites more quickly than if on level ground. Wind currents typically flow uphill and this tends to push the heat from flames into new fuels. Although typical fire behaviour is to spread uphill, an additional concern on steep slopes is that burning embers and ‘chunks’ of burning fuel may roll downhill into unburned fuels below, increasing the spread and starting new fires. Slope position relates to the ability of a wildfire to gain momentum during an uphill run and affects the potential impact to the value. A value at the bottom of

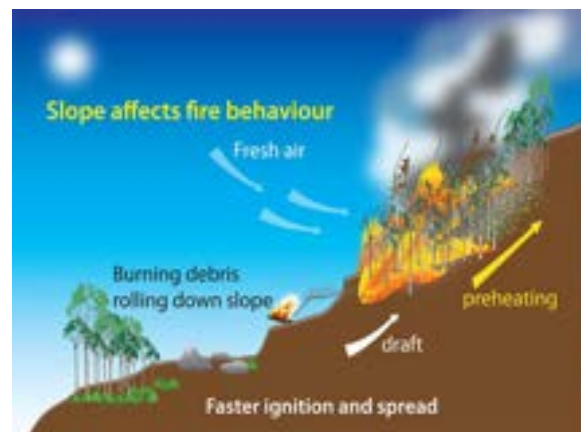


Figure 5: Slope Affects on Fire Behaviour

the slope is equivalent to a value on flat ground; a value on the upper 1/3 of the slope would be impacted by faster rates of spread than that of a value located on flat ground. The range of slopes observed across the Village of Ashcroft WUI Area is shown on the Slope Class map in Appendix 7.

Aspect is the direction the land faces - north, south, east or west and can influence fire behaviour in several ways. North-facing slopes tend to receive more shade, have heavier fuel loading levels, higher humidity, and fuel moisture. North-facing aspects will also typically have less intense fire activity than a south-facing slope. Southern aspects

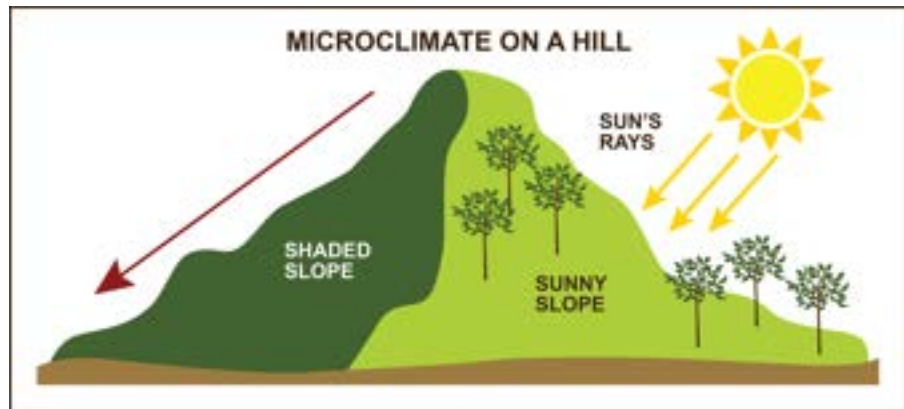


Figure 6: Solar Radiation and Aspect

receive more direct heat from the sun, generally are hotter, have drier vegetation and soils, and support more flash fuels such as grasses and shrubs. These combined factors make southern aspects more susceptible to fires than those of northern slopes. In the northern hemisphere, eastern-facing slopes experience earlier heating and cooling patterns as the sun moves from east to west, whereas west-facing slopes will have later heating and cooling times.

**Village of Ashcroft WUI**

The homes and structures of the primary residential areas of the Village of Ashcroft are situated on flat benchland along the Thompson River. Slopes within the community are mild, ranging between 0-20% with steeper slopes found between the lower bench and the upper bench of the Mesa Vista residential area and above the residential areas on both the east and west sides of the river.

With the WUI area extending to both sides of the valley, all aspects are represented.

Table 7: Village of Ashcroft WUI Slope Classes

Slope Class	Area (ha) of Slope Class	Area (%) of Slope Class	Fire Behaviour Implications
<20%	1,743	62	Very little flame and fuel interaction caused by slope, normal rate of spread.
21-30%	461	16	Flame tilt begins to preheat fuel, increase rate of spread.
31-45%	444	16	Flame tilt preheats fuel and begins to bathe flames into fuel, high rate of spread.
46-60%	141	5	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel, very high rate of spread.
>60%	36	1	Flame tilt preheats fuel and bathes flames into fuel well upslope, extreme rate of spread.

## Fire Weather

Fires spread in hot, dry, and windy conditions. Warmer temperatures and lower relative humidity make the fuels more receptive to ignition by reducing the fuel moisture content. Wind supplies oxygen to the fire, preheating the fuels in the path of the fire and transporting embers well ahead of the actual fire front. Wind speeds also affect flame heights and rates of spread. When hot, dry, and windy conditions occur simultaneously, wildfires can spread very quickly. Fire weather information such as wind speed, wind direction, temperature, relative humidity, and precipitation are all factors incorporated into fire prevention, preparedness, and suppression decisions.

The BC Wildfire Service operates approximately 260 weather stations across the province that generate weather reports for specific weather indices including wind speed, precipitation, wind direction, Fine Fuel Moisture Content (FFMC) and Buildup Index (BUI) on an hourly basis. The closest representative BC Wildfire Service weather station for the Ashcroft community is the “McLean Lake” weather station 311, located northwest of Ashcroft on Campbell Hill.

### Windspeed and Direction

Topographic features, including hills, valleys, slopes, and ridges, can affect wind in three ways. Terrain obstacles can result in diverting the wind flow through a process called mechanical forcing. Examples of mechanical forcing include directional channelling through drainages as shown in Figure 7. Terrain can influence not only the direction of airflow but also its speed. For example, if the terrain constricts the flow of air as a valley narrows, the air flow will accelerate in a process known as the Venturi effect (2009, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research).

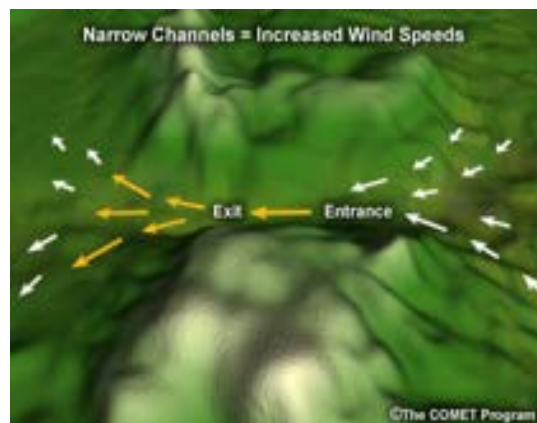


Figure 7: Mechanical forcing and Venturi Effect



Figure 8: Examples of diverted air patterns

Diverted air (Figure 8) can also result in small-scale fluctuations called turbulence, and lastly, frictional drag slows down winds nearest the Earth’s surface. Eddies can form at the confluence of stream tributaries during strong canyon or valley wind events, or on the lee side of spur ridges extending down into a main canyon. Winds eddying along spur ridges are most pronounced in the afternoon when local upslope winds are at their peak. (2009, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research). The diagrams that are generated from

the data collected at the BCWS weather stations for wind speed and direction are termed Initial Spread Index (ISI) roses. The ISI Rose in Figure 9 for the McLean Lake weather station 311 (generated by BC Wildfire Predictive Services, July 2016) shows that the general prevailing wind direction approaches primarily from an easterly direction. This prevailing wind direction is observed through all recorded months from April to October, but wind speeds are observed to increase through the summer peak wildfire

season. Locally within the Ashcroft community, the prevailing wind direction is more from the south and strongly influenced by the north-south orientation of the Thompson River valley.

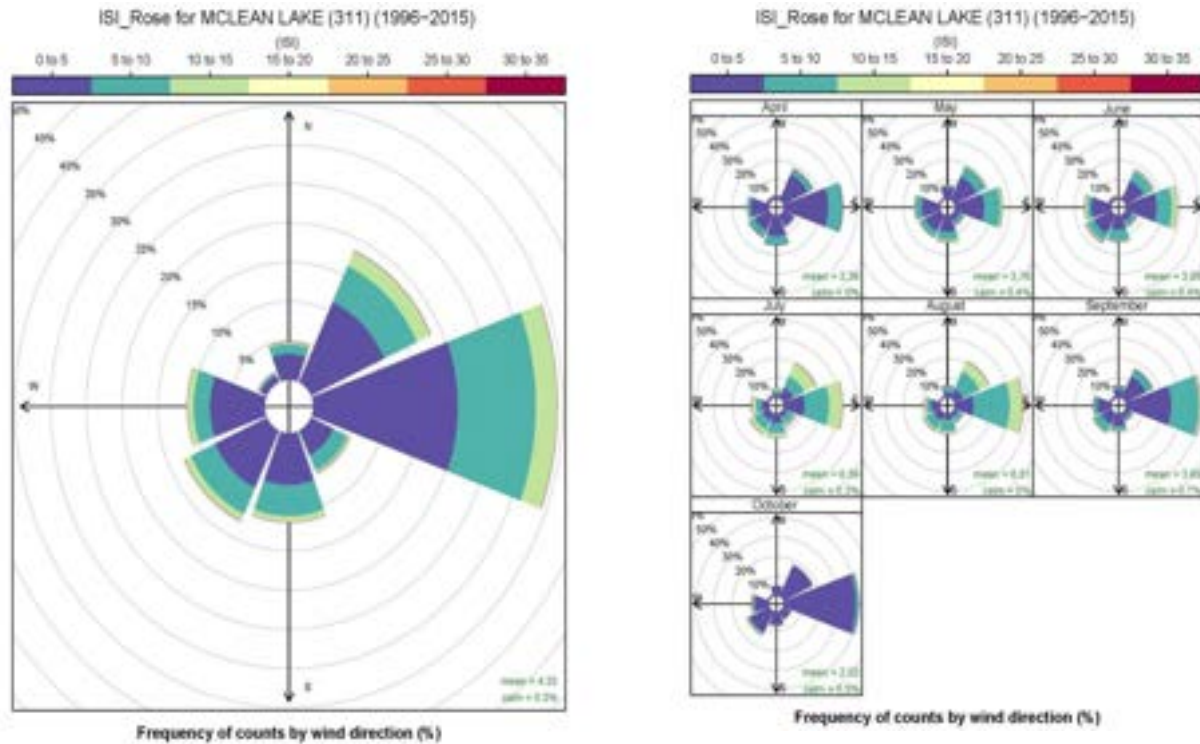


Figure 9: McLean Lake Weather Station 311 ISI Rose

**Temperature**

Average monthly temperatures from June through August from 2019-2023 for the McLean Lake weather station ranged between 15.2 and 25.2 degrees Celsius. It is noted that the years with the highest recorded monthly temperatures during peak wildfire months directly correlate with notable wildfire seasons. Typically, the warmest temperatures are experienced during July-August with the recent exception of the heat dome of June 2021, where daily recorded temperatures

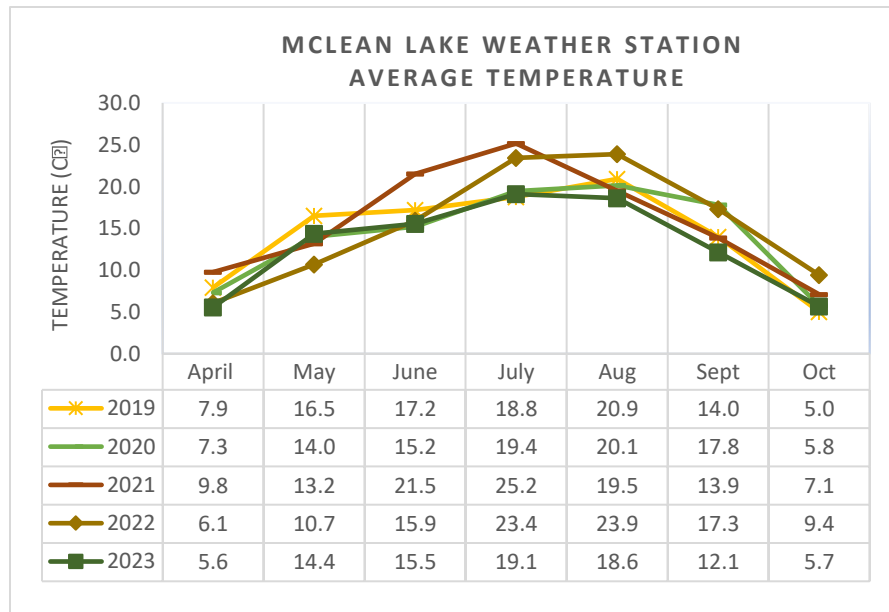


Figure 10: McLean Lake Weather Station Average Temperature (2019-2023)

approached or exceeded 40 degrees for five consecutive days, with a peak temperature of 41 degrees. Trends are showing that higher temperatures are extending later into the wildfire season months.

**Relative Humidity**

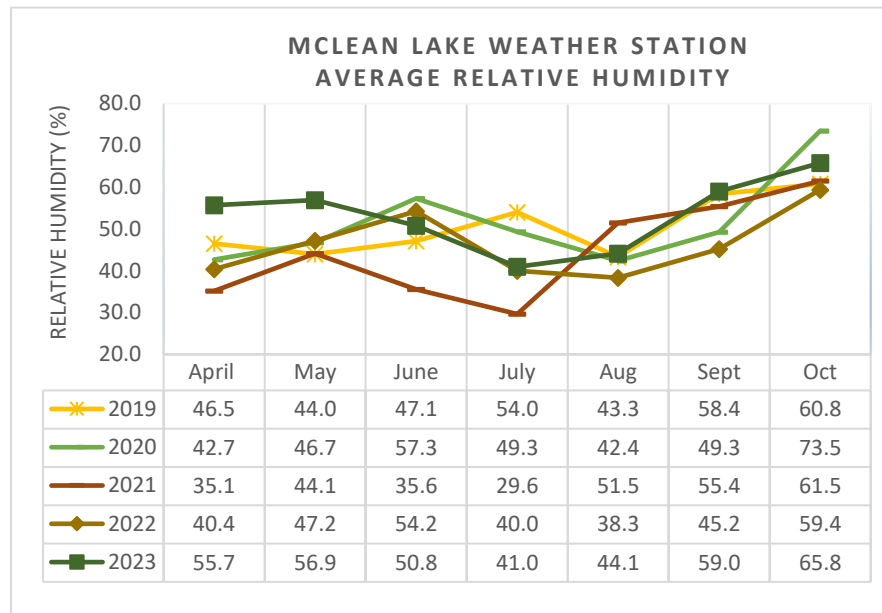


Figure 11: McLean Lake Weather Station Average Relative Humidity (2019-2023)

Average relative humidity levels for the McLean Lake weather station ranged between 38.3% and 57.3% during the peak fire season months of June through August. There is a direct correlation noted between years with drastically reduced relative humidity levels and notable wildfire seasons, such as that observed in 2021. Trends indicate that relative humidity levels are fairly consistent throughout the wildfire season, with the lowest levels typically seen during July-August, with the exception being during the

June 2021 heat dome where recorded relative humidity values dropped below 15% during the afternoon and early evening.

**Precipitation**

Average precipitation for the McLean Lake weather station ranged between 0 mm and 3.1mm during the peak fire season months of June through August. Once again there is a direct correlation noted between years with drastically reduced precipitation levels and notable wildfire seasons. In 2021, weather station readings show that the months of April, May, June and into July preceding the significant wildfire season received little to no precipitation. Trends indicate that the general area is gradually receiving less precipitation during the summer months and most of the precipitation in the fall, winter and spring months.

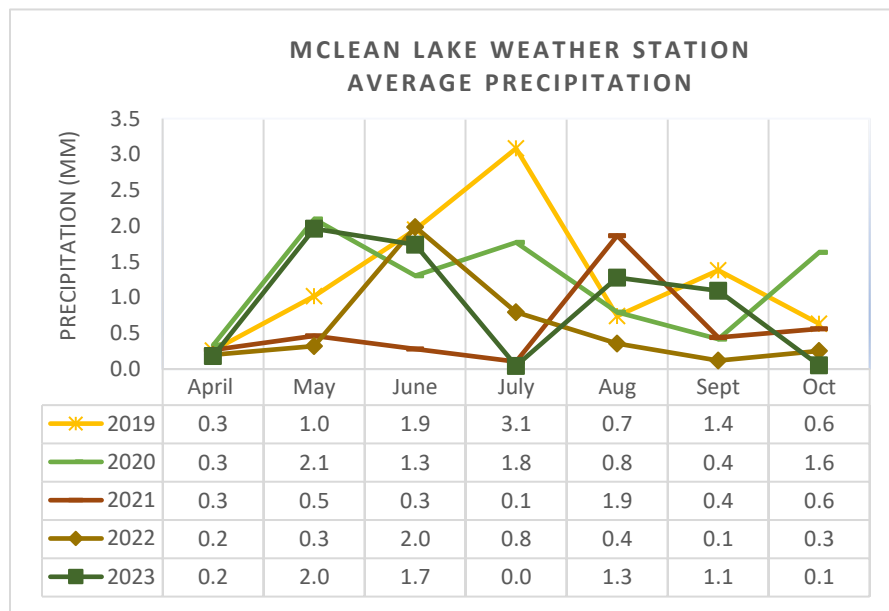


Figure 12: McLean Lake Weather Station Average Precipitation (2019-2023)

### Fire Danger Rating

Wildfire threat exposure to a community varies throughout the fire season depending on varying levels of the fire weather components. The data outlined in the preceding sections is analyzed daily by BC Wildfire Service and communicated out as a numerical value termed the Fire Danger Rating. The Fire Danger rating (the risk of a wildfire starting) is updated daily at 1400 hours and is grouped within the following Fire Danger classes throughout the fire season.

**Fire Danger Class 1 and 2** – Very low to low danger rating. Fires may start easily and spread quickly but there will be minimal involvement of deeper fuel layers or larger fuels.

**Fire Danger Class 3** – Moderate danger rating. Fuels are drying and there is an increased risk of surface fires starting. Carry out any forest activities with caution.

**Fire Danger Class 4** – High danger rating. Forest fuels are very dry and the fire risk is serious. New fires may start easily, burn vigorously, and challenge fire suppression efforts. Extreme caution must be used in any forest activities. Open burning and industrial activities may be restricted.

**Fire Danger Class 5** – Extreme danger rating. Extremely dry forest fuels and the fire risk is very serious. New fires will start easily, spread rapidly, and challenge fire suppression efforts. General forest activities may be restricted, including open burning, industrial activities and campfires.

The daily danger rating values from the McLean Lake weather station from 2019-2023 were averaged and summarized in Figure 13. The values indicate that the general area is typically in a low fire danger rating but increases to a moderate danger rating during the peak wildfire season. During the significant 2021 and 2023 wildfire seasons the area was in an elevated moderate to high danger class for July and August.

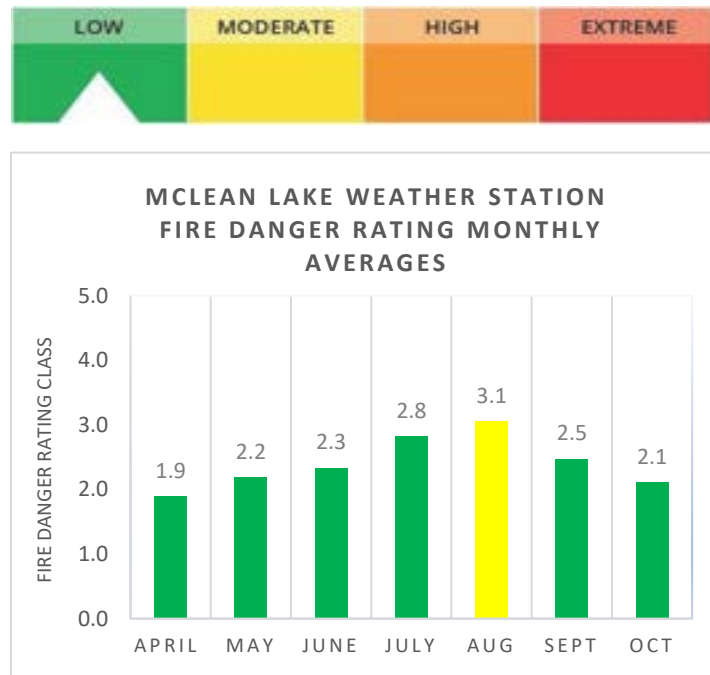


Figure 13: McLean Lake Weather Station Danger Rating Monthly Average Values (2019-2023)

## 4.2 Risk Framework: Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA)

One of the key elements contained in the BC Fuel Reduction Strategy is the province-wide analysis, through applied Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, of the major factors that contribute to the potential threat of wildfires. These factors include ignition potential, fire occurrence history, forest fuels and fire intensity, and the potential for a fire to crown and spot a distance away from the head of the main fire. This analysis and associated mapping is known as the Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA). By combining the PSTA data outputs with local topographic and weather-related factors along with wildland-urban interface (WUI) attributes including location and density of structures in a community, all contribute to identifying at-risk areas. In this context, “values” refer to natural resources or man-made structures or features that have a measurable or intrinsic worth and could be negatively impacted by wildfires.

The results of the PSTA analysis offer local governments, private landowners, industry and other stakeholders an opportunity to review the threat ratings in their areas of interest, assess how much fire prevention work has been done in those areas (e.g. FireSmart activities or fuel management treatments) and determine what additional steps they could take to safeguard their interests and make their communities more fire-resilient.

Wildfire threat is the ability of combustible fuel (trees, shrubs and other organic material) igniting and the resulting fire spreading directly or through ember transport. The PSTA provides information to help evaluate the three conditions necessary for a wildfire to threaten a community:

- the ignition and potential spread of the fire based on historic fire occurrence patterns. (Fire History and Density)
- the resulting fire generates sufficient intensity (Head Fire Intensity) and spreads rapidly, and
- the fire spreads into and/or transports embers into the community (Spotting Impact)

### 4.2.1 Fire History and Density

The potential for very large, destructive, and landscape-altering fires is related to the historical fire and fire response patterns within a given area. Fire history (the location and origin of fires larger than four hectares) is the first input entered into the PSTA and is represented at the provincial scale by fire start density (the ignition and fire spread potential based on historic fire occurrence patterns). The fire density component is analyzed using fires with final sizes greater than 4.0 hectares; these are given a weight of one in the analysis, while large fires (> 500 ha) were given a weight of 5 to reflect the much greater cost and damage usually associated with larger fires. The final output is the weighted number of fires mapped at a radius of 10 kilometres. This is shown on the fire history and start density map in Appendix 7 for the Village of Ashcroft area of interest.

Table 8 summarizes the fire history within the Village of Ashcroft WUI area for both spot (<1ha) and larger perimeter (>1ha) fires.

Table 8: Village of Ashcroft WUI Fire History

WUI	Years recorded	Total fires recorded	# of fires (< 1 ha)	# of fires (> 1 ha)	# of person starts	# of lightning starts	# of unknown starts	Comments
Village of Ashcroft	1917 - 2024	140	127	13	107	6	27	2017 Elephant Hill Fire: 600 ha

Recent fires, such as the 2017 Elephant Hill Fire, 2021 Lytton Creek and Tremont Creek Fires, and 2024 Shetland Creek Fire demonstrated the volatile behaviour that a fire can exhibit under dry and windy conditions. The Elephant Hill Fire alone burned over 192,016 hectares resulting in the evacuation of the entire Indigenous communities of the Ashcroft and Bonaparte, as well as the residents from the Village of Ashcroft, Village of Cache Creek, Village of Clinton, and small communities, recreational properties, ranches, and other properties in the TNRD and Cariboo Regional District (CRD). The fire burned homes, structures and critical infrastructure in the Ashcroft Indian Band and neighbouring community of Boston Flats.

As shown in the following Table 9, the fire start density is very high across the Village of Ashcroft WUI Area with weighted values in the 45.1 – 82 range due to the more numerous and larger fires that have occurred in the area. The output of this analysis is shown on the fire history and density map in Appendix 7.

Table 9: Village of Ashcroft WUI Fire Start Density

Fire Start Density	Ashcroft		Fire Start Density	Ashcroft	
	ha	%		ha	%
Water	90	3	24.1 - 33	0	0
1 - 5	0	0	33.1 - 45	13	<1
5.1 - 10	0	0	45.1 - 60	562	20
10.1 - 17	0	0	60.1 - 82	2,090	73
17.1 - 24	0	0	>82.1	110	4

### 4.2.2 Head Fire Intensity

The Head Fire Intensity represents the energy output of the flaming front of a wildfire, measured in kilowatts per metre (kW/m), and is related to fire spread rate and fuel consumption at the leading edge of a wildfire. The head fire intensity is also linked to flame height and is correlated to both fire suppression effort and danger to fire suppression personnel. The head fire intensity component is developed using the intensity component is developed using the 90th percentile fire weather index (FWI) value for analysis of data gathered from the BC Wildfire weather stations across the province, applied to the actual fuel types from the provincial fuel type layer.

As shown in the following Table 10, the head fire intensity is predicted to be predominantly low across the Village of Ashcroft WUI Area, with nearly all of the vegetated area showing an energy output of less than 2,000 kW/m. The majority of the WUI area is grassland and with the absence of the heavier fuel types it is expected that the fire intensity at the fire front will be lower.

The output of this analysis is shown on the head fire intensity map in Appendix 7.

Table 10: Village of Ashcroft WUI Head Fire Intensity

Head Fire Intensity (kW/m)	Ashcroft	
	ha	%
No Data	901	31
Water	101	4
Non-Fuel	478	17
>0 to 2000	1,381	48
2000 to 6000	3	<1

### 4.2.3 Spotting Impact

The physical movement of firebrands and embers (burning needles, bark flakes, and small branch-wood) from a fire to areas outside of the fire perimeter is known as spotting. Spotting is most often associated with high intensity crown fires burning in coniferous forest types. Spotting activity is known to be strongly affected by wind speed and fuel types, as well as instability of the atmosphere and resulting development of convection columns. During conditions of extreme fire behaviour, spot fires may ignite several kilometres downwind from the fire perimeter, contributing to the fire’s rapid rate of expansion across the landscape. Spotting has also been recognized as a key characteristic of extreme fire behaviour that is often associated with destructive impacts to communities and structural losses.

Table 11: Village of Ashcroft WUI Spotting Potential

Spotting Impact	Ashcroft	
	ha	%
No Data	901	31
Water	101	4
Low	1,860	65
Moderate	3	<1
High	0	0
Very High	0	0

The spotting potential, as detailed in the previous Table 11, is shown to be low across the Village of Ashcroft WUI area. Once again, the majority of the WUI area is O-1a/b grassland fuel type which has a much lower spotting potential than the heavier fuels found in the C-3, C-7 and M-1/2 fuel types that contain higher coniferous components. The predicted spotting activity is shown on the spotting impact map in Appendix 7.

### 4.2.4 Wildfire Threat

The final wildfire threat analysis involves the combination of the three component data layers (fire start density, head fire intensity, and spotting impact) using a weighted averaging process of values assigned as 30% fire density, 60% head fire intensity and 10% spotting impact. The weighted values are added together to produce a final fire threat analysis value that takes into account fire occurrence history, predicted fire intensity under extreme conditions, and spotting impact. Areas with a final wildfire threat value of zero consist of areas that had no record of wildfire, were typed as non-fuel (such as alpine rock, glaciers, and water bodies), and were too distant to be at risk of spotting from nearby fuels.

Areas rated in the High-Extreme wildfire threat class are locations where the fire intensity, frequency and spotting risks can be severe enough to potentially cause catastrophic losses to values at risk. These areas are considered to be particularly prone to wildfires, susceptible to crown fires and are most likely to be affected by spotting of the fire. As a result, these areas should be considered high priority for some form of fuel reduction effort where it is feasible to do so, most importantly areas within the WUI zone of communities.

As shown in Table 12, nearly all of the land base within the Village of Ashcroft WUI Area falls within the Moderate to High wildfire threat. There is a small isolated component of C-7 fuel type in the southeast corner of the WUI area near Barnes Lake that is within the Extreme wildfire threat. The remaining portions of the WUI area fell within the No Threat (water) or were classified as private land where no data was available.

Table 12: Village of Ashcroft WUI Wildfire Threat

Wildfire Threat	Ashcroft	
	ha	%
No Data	901	31
Water	101	4
Low	0	0
Moderate	478	17
High	1,383	48
Extreme	2	<1

The predicted wildfire threat for the Village of Ashcroft WUI area is shown on the wildfire risk map in Appendix 7.

### 4.3 Risk Framework: Provincial Level WUI Risk Class Assessment

The WUI risk class assessment completed by the BC Wildfire Service is driven by structure location (not by administrative boundaries) in relation to wildfire threat. This creates WUI polygons that may include multiple jurisdictions that are linked by the continuation of structure density. Structure densities are used to define the human structure interface boundary of the wildland urban interface (WUI) for fire and risk management planning purposes. The WUI identifies the zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development. A 2 km buffer distance is then applied to represent a reasonable maximum distance that embers can travel from a wildfire to ignite a structure.

Currently, the province only has data available to support fire threat analysis on Provincial Crown land. There are large tracts of private land that exist within the WUI where no data is available. The amount of private land is an important component in the risk analysis due to the lack of data to inform fire risk

identification across jurisdictional boundaries. Therefore, the WUI buffer was expanded to 2.75 km around structure groups with a density of >25 for the analysis to create the WUI polygons. Once defined, the WUI polygon layer is combined with the PSTA wildfire threat layer (Crown land) to create a coarse scale spatial pattern of risk area using certain criteria such as density and threat ratings. The level of risk (“risk class”) reflects the analysis of weighted PSTA threat components within the individual WUI Risk Class polygons. Five risk class ratings are then applied to the WUI polygons, with “1” being a higher relative risk and “5” being the lowest relative risk. The associated risk class ratings for WUI areas will assist in the determination of the most effective risk management options as part of overall wildfire resiliency planning efforts that include an assessment of local threat conditions and wildfire mitigation activities. The ratings are also used to demonstrate wildfire risk and support the rationale for proposed risk reduction activities in applications for funding including the Community Resiliency Investment program. The provincial WUI Risk Class Polygon that overlaps the Village of Ashcroft WUI Area is identified in Table 13 below and shown on the wildfire risk map in Appendix 7.

Table 13: Village of Ashcroft Provincial WUI Risk Class Polygons and Ratings

WUI Area	Risk Class Polygon Name	Risk Class Rating
Village of Ashcroft	188 Cache Creek	1

#### 4.4 Local Wildfire Threat Assessment

Identifying stand structure attributes and local fuel hazard information through the 2020 Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) worksheet data collection assists in the identification of fuel types, the proximity of the fuels to the community, local fire spread patterns and topographical features, which aid in establishing the local wildfire threat and subsequent risk reduction actions and priorities. Field data was gathered through field reconnaissance and wildfire threat/fuel assessment work completed at 35 plot locations in the Village of Ashcroft WUI area in October 2025. The plot locations are shown on the CWRP wildfire risk map in Appendix 7.

Key information gathered from the WTA Worksheets is used to develop the local wildfire threat and risk ratings. The wildfire risk components include: proximity (proximity of fuel assessment area to value/interface), fire spread patterns (predominant wildfire spread direction), slope position of value and slope percent components. The ‘local fuel hazard’ as defined through the Fuel Assessment Site Level Scoring process of the WTA is also part of the final wildfire risk class assignment and includes the collection of the following data:

- Depth of organic layer
- Surface fuel composition
- Dead and down material continuity (<7cm)
- Ladder fuel composition
- Ladder fuel horizontal continuity
- Understory stems/ha
- Overstory composition/crown base height
- Crown closure
- Fuel Strata Gap (m)
- Overstory stems/ha
- Dead and dying % of dominant and co-dominant stems

Each of these categories on the wildfire threat – fuel assessment worksheets is assigned a numerical value and summed to produce a fuel assessment rating for each established plot. The final wildfire risk class (E/H/M/L) is based on the local wildfire risk score and the local fuel hazard as determined through the Fuel Assessment (Site Level) final score. These WTA plot ratings, along with the PSTA and local topographic features and site level attributes such as surface and ladder fuel and vegetation types, wind direction and fire spread pattern are then incorporated into the local threat evaluation and subsequent development of potential areas proposed for fuel modification treatments. The Wildfire Threat Assessment (WTA) score and rating for each of the established plot locations are shown in the table in Appendix 5.

Overall, the majority of the wildfire threat ratings determined at the WTA plot locations in the Village of Ashcroft WUI Area were observed not to be consistent with the PSTA wildfire threat in the same location. All but two of the plot locations were situated in the grasslands, resulting in a low threat score given the absence of any forest cover overstory, understory and ladder fuels which the majority of the wildfire threat score is based upon. Based upon previous fire history and fire behaviour that has occurred in the grassland-big sage complex in the Ashcroft area, it is felt that the Moderate-High PSTA wildfire threat more accurately reflects the wildfire threat to the community. It is these areas of higher wildfire threat that would be evaluated for a proposed fuel treatment including prescribed burn.

### 4.5 Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment

The purpose of a Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) is to help emergency planners and communities identify all potential risks, make risk-based choices to address identified vulnerabilities, plan to mitigate the identified hazards and prepare for response and recovery efforts. Risk-based means making informed choices based on the frequency of hazards and acceptable consequences. The HRVA process considers the likelihood of an unwanted hazard event occurring (probability) and the corresponding damage to communities as a result of the event (consequence). Risk is measured as the product of likelihood and consequence, but multiple inputs are required to effectively quantify risk, including severity, value type, and vulnerability. The identification of risk levels will help inform priorities for increased community resiliency efforts.

Table 14: Village of Ashcroft HRVA for Interface Fire and Wildfires

	RISK	FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE	SEVERITY OF IMPACT	DETAILS
5.4.5	Fire – interface and wildfire	Moderate or likely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildfire hazard within the core area of the Village is low as it is predominantly grassland, however, the total fire protection area does contain forested area subject to wildfires.</li> <li>A wildfire outside the Village boundaries could threaten the area population and require an evacuation.</li> <li>Moderate risk of grass fires from R.R. track grinding to remove rust.</li> <li>High summer recreational use throughout the area increases the chance of human caused fires.</li> <li>The number of days of high or extreme fire hazard is variable, ranging from 20 in 2005 to 84 in 2009 to 115 in 2021</li> </ul>

Section 5.4 – Risk Priorities in the current Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management Plan presents the results of a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability analysis carried out for the community. As shown in the previous Table 14, the HRVA rates interface fire and wildfire risk as being moderate or likely to occur with a high severity impact.

## SECTION 5: FireSmart Disciplines and Mitigating Wildfire Risk

Mitigating wildfire risk is a proactive approach to reducing potential impacts and subsequent losses from devastating wildfires. Understanding and assessing all of the risks that apply to a given community is a key consideration when determining actions that organizations can undertake to mitigate and manage the wildfire risk within and adjacent to their respective jurisdictions.

Comprehensive community wildfire resiliency planning involves evaluating the risks and implementing a robust program that incorporates a variety of different mitigation options to reduce the identified risks. Activities including enhanced emergency planning, policy and legislation development, increased interagency cooperation and training, forest/grassland fuel and vegetation reduction programs within and surrounding the community, as well as communicating, educating, and promoting FireSmart activities that homeowners can implement will proactively increase wildfire resiliency not only for individual residents, but for the community as a whole.

FireSmart Canada is a national program that was founded over 20 years ago to address common wildfire concerns in wildland-urban interface areas. FireSmart Canada works closely with the provincial and territorial chapters to implement FireSmart programming and services from coast to coast. FireSmart BC is the provincial program created to increase wildfire resilience among homeowners, communities, emergency responders, and all levels of government in BC (FireSmart BC, n.d.). The FireSmart program provides tools to help increase wildfire preparedness for residents, their homes, neighbourhoods, critical infrastructure and natural resources from wildfire. It is a holistic approach that encourages efforts from grassroots to high-level organizations. At the grassroots level, FireSmart principles are based on the actions of residents and neighbourhoods to help each other reduce wildfire risk to their homes. At an organizational level, it may include direction such as developing legislation or improving emergency response procedures for wildfire events. FireSmart information is based on scientific research which has studied past wildfire disasters, wildfire dynamics and emergency response.

The wildfire risk reduction recommendations presented in this CWRP follow the disciplines outlined in the provincial FireSmart program and have been compiled into the following sections: ([Disciplines | FireSmart Canada](#)):

1. Education
2. Legislation and Planning
3. Development Considerations
4. Inter-Agency Cooperation
5. Cross-Training
6. Emergency Planning
7. Vegetation and Fuels Management

### 5.1 Completed FireSmart Initiatives in the Village of Ashcroft

Supported by Mayor and Council, the Village of Ashcroft administration plays a key role in establishing, supporting and promoting wildfire resiliency within the community. While FireSmart as a whole focuses primarily on individual members taking charge of wildfire resiliency, the administration must support and inspire community members with the application of the various FireSmart program areas. The Ashcroft community has become proactive in implementing various wildfire resiliency and FireSmart initiatives, which are highlighted in Table 15.

Table 15: Completed FireSmart and Wildfire Resiliency Initiatives

Wildfire Resiliency Initiative	Result
FireSmart Program Coordination	A FireSmart Coordinator has been hired to implement the FireSmart program since May 2025.
Local FireSmart Representative	The FireSmart Coordinator and administrative staff have successfully completed the Local FireSmart Representative course.
Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC)	The Village of Ashcroft FireSmart and administrative staff attend the TNRD FireSmart Committee meetings.
Interagency Cooperation	The Village of Ashcroft administrative staff have attended various wildfire and emergency preparedness (EoC, ESS) meetings with organizations/agencies including the RCMP, school district, and CN and CP Rail.
Wildfire Resiliency Summit	Administrative staff attended the Wildfire Resiliency Summit in 2025.
Critical Infrastructure Assessments	16 Critical Infrastructure Assessments were completed in 2025 for critical infrastructure in the community.
FireSmart Education	The FireSmart Coordinator attended several events in 2025 within the Village of Ashcroft including community barbeques and the Canada Day event, and shared information on the FireSmart program with community members. The Village of Ashcroft float in the 2025 community Santa parade had a FireSmart theme. The Village of Ashcroft supported the FireSmart BC Library Program at the local Ashcroft Library.
Public Outreach	Ongoing distribution of FireSmart information and materials through social media and printed materials including FireSmart guides, self-assessments, posters, and newsletters are made available to community members in several public locations and delivered through the mail.

## 5.2 FireSmart Program Coordination

The FireSmart Coordinator role is a critical position to assist with the overall promotion of the FireSmart program in the community and take the lead in the implementation of local FireSmart initiatives. The FireSmart Coordinator is an integral link to establishing a collaborative working relationship between the Village of Ashcroft administration and the individuals and organizations working at the local level in the community. Having this positive working relationship will help foster support for community members, businesses and organizations to implement the identified wildfire resiliency objectives and goals in this plan, such as the Home and Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone Assessments and rebate/vegetation management programs. The FireSmart Coordinator will also assist with the establishment and organizing meetings of the local Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC) and other interagency meetings, attend and network at regional CFRC meetings and the annual provincial Wildfire Resiliency Summit, and work towards and maintain FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition, all of which are identified activities to improve overall community wildfire resiliency.

Action Item	Recommended Activity – FireSmart Program Coordination
1	Continue to employ a dedicated FireSmart Coordinator to oversee the FireSmart program within the Ashcroft community.
2	Continue to employ or acquire the services of a Local FireSmart Representative for the Ashcroft community (if not included in the role of FireSmart Coordinator).
3	Establish a local Village of Ashcroft CFRC to guide and implement the FireSmart and wildfire resiliency initiatives within the Ashcroft community.

### 5.3 Local Level FireSmart Initiatives

There are several initiatives that can be undertaken to reduce the risk of a wildfire impacting homes and structures. This section outlines examples of activities that both residents and the Village of Ashcroft administration can undertake based on unique factors including local wildfire threat, fuel type (forests and grasslands) and structure types and locations.

At the most local scale, community members can assess their residences for wildfire risks using the FireSmart Begins at Home Guide and Self Assessment or have a Home Ignition Zone Assessment completed by a qualified Local FireSmart Representative (LFR). The Village of Ashcroft should encourage homeowners to have a Home Ignition Zone Assessment completed by the FireSmart Coordinator/LFR. These assessments will identify present risks and provide suggestions for mitigative activities that can be completed to reduce the risks of wildfire impacting their homes. Some examples of pre-emptive activities include moving combustible items out from underneath decks and carports, moving wood piles at least 10 metres away from the house, replacing combustible siding with non-combustible options such as fibre cement siding, and ensuring that the 1.5 metre zone around the home is completely free of combustible vegetation and items. Residents should work with neighbours on shared concerns such as cedar hedges along property lines.

The Village of Ashcroft administration can also undertake similar FireSmart assessments of all critical infrastructure and green spaces identified within the community and implement the mitigative activities recommended in the assessments. The Village can collaborate with the Ashcroft Indian Band and other stakeholders to have any culturally-significant sites identified within the community assessed for their degree of FireSmart, and mitigative activities implemented if necessary.

Community members are integral to the successful implementation of FireSmart activities within their own neighbourhood and across the community as a whole. The Village of Ashcroft administration should continue to identify and support interested community members in assuming a lead role in the implementation of wildfire resiliency efforts. These individuals would work closely with the Village of Ashcroft administration and FireSmart Coordinator to implement activities in their respective neighbourhoods, such as promoting the benefits of FireSmarting homes and properties, and taking advantage of the Village of Ashcroft's home assessment and rebate programs. Incentives provided to community members may increase the willingness and ability to participate and assume this type of role.

Neighbourhood-level activities or events involve the residents coming together to participate in a variety of locally-based activities which can include wildfire community preparedness days, community cleanup days, communication and outreach events and neighbourhood-level action planning.

Topics for neighbourhood-level events could include evacuation routes, emergency preparedness and landscaping techniques. These events can also be used as opportunities to provide organizations such as fire departments, the BCWS and First Nation Emergency Services Society (FNESS) to incorporate a training component while delivering educational material. Examples of training activities could include pump and rooftop sprinkler demonstrations, pile burning techniques and safety precautions, home assessment demonstrations and proper thinning/pruning and vegetation removal techniques.

The culmination of the above-noted effort is to receive FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition. This is achievable for all neighbourhoods through an application to FireSmart Canada. The FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition program requires the following activities to be completed for recognition ([FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program \(FCNRP\) | FireSmart BC](#)):

- Enlisting a Local FireSmart Representative to complete a neighbourhood assessment and create a plan that identifies locally agreed-upon solutions that the neighbourhood can implement
- Sponsoring a local Neighbourhood or Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee, which maintains the FireSmart Neighbourhood Plan and tracks its progress or status
- Conducting FireSmart events each year that are dedicated to a local FireSmart project
- Investing a minimum of \$2 per capita annually in local FireSmart neighbourhood effort
- Submitting an annual report to FireSmart Canada that documents continuing compliance with the program.

It is recommended that the Village of Ashcroft consider pursuing FireSmart Canada Neighborhood Recognition for the high-risk neighbourhoods to showcase their FireSmart efforts and to increase their resiliency to wildfire. This would include the completion of Neighbourhood Wildfire Hazard Assessments and the subsequent FireSmart Neighbourhood Plans. To assist with the logistics and scope of the neighbourhood recognition programming, it is suggested that individual neighbourhood assessments consist of 20-50 homes. The proposed high-risk neighbourhoods that could be considered as a priority are listed in Table 16 below:

Table 16: Village of Ashcroft High-Risk Neighbourhoods

Proposed FireSmart Neighbourhood	Number of Residential Structures	Number of Critical Infrastructure
Mesa Vista Drive	150	2
Mesa Vista Court	52	3

Farms and ranches with agricultural crops, poultry or livestock should also be engaged to determine the level of interest for completing a Farm and Ranch FireSmart Assessment and an agriculture-specific Wildfire Plan. The Wildfire Plan incorporates the complexity of evacuations that involve poultry, livestock and farm infrastructure during a wildfire event and is tailored to their specific needs. An agriculture-specific wildfire plan can help producers pre-emptively make decisions, consider options and gather specific information that may be difficult to obtain during a crisis. This plan will help inform family members, staff, neighbours, and first responders how they can help during a wildfire emergency and ultimately will help reduce the potential for harm to agricultural operations, assets, crops and poultry and livestock. Vegetation management techniques, such as prescribed burning in grasslands or fields, can also be discussed with farmers and livestock owners which would assist with reducing areas of elevated surface fuel loading on larger land parcels within the community.

The farm and ranch operations within and adjacent to the Ashcroft community include:

- Ashcroft Ranch
- Desert Hills Farm/Ranch
- Bar M Ranch
- Bradner Farms
- Chataway Ranch
- Black Canyon Ranch
- Sundance Guest Ranch
- Cactus Country Farm

Action Item	Recommended Activity – Local Level FireSmart Initiatives
4	That the FireSmart Coordinator continues to work with local community members to implement FireSmart and wildfire resiliency initiatives in the Ashcroft community.
5	Complete Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessments for all homes and buildings within the community whose property owners have made the request to have one done.
6	Implement a residential FireSmart rebate program within the Village of Ashcroft, with emphasis on the removal of highly flammable vegetation within the ignition zone.
7	Complete FireSmart Assessments for identified Critical Infrastructure within the community that have not had an assessment completed to date, and implement recommendations.
8	Complete FireSmart CSSGS Assessments for identified culturally-sensitive sites (through collaboration with local First Nations and other stakeholders) and green spaces within the community and implement recommendations.
9	Complete a neighbourhood wildfire hazard assessment for each of the identified high-risk neighbourhoods in the Ashcroft community.
10	Complete a FireSmart Neighbourhood Plan for each of the identified high-risk neighbourhoods.
11	Promote the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program within the Ashcroft community. Encourage and support those neighbourhoods, especially those that are high-risk, to consider pursuing recognition.
12	That the FireSmart Coordinator engage with and support local, eligible community farmers and ranchers in determining their interest in having a Farm and Ranch FireSmart Assessment and subsequent Wildfire Plan completed with a qualified FireSmart Farm and Ranch Assessor.  Support the efforts by local, eligible community farmers and ranchers through the implementation of a Farm and Ranch FireSmart rebate program.

## 5.4 FireSmart Discipline: Education

### [Education | FireSmart Canada](#)

Public education is a critical foundation of FireSmart. For a community to become resilient in the face of wildfire, all members of the community need to understand the wildfire risks and their role in reducing those risks. As people learn the importance of taking initiatives to minimize wildfire risks around their homes, they inspire their neighbours, which creates a ripple effect of wildfire resiliency through the community. Education can happen on many levels, from one-on-one training to social media campaigns, holding FireSmart and Preparedness Day events with hands-on community clean-up activities, promoting FireSmart at local schools and libraries, and supporting the FireSmart plant program at a local garden centre.

The following table highlights the target audiences, delivery formats and topics that could be considered to reach the widest audience.

Table 17: Education and Communication Audience, Format and Topics

Target Audiences	Education Delivery Formats	Education Topic Areas
Community members Local businesses and organizations Village of Ashcroft administration staff Daycare, Preschool and school-aged children	Open houses Information booths FireSmart demonstration projects Community presentations and information sessions (in-person and virtual) Newsletter Social media postings including videos Door-to-door distribution of flyers and fact sheets Integrating FireSmart information into pre-school and school programs Attending annual Wildfire Resiliency conferences Organizing FireSmart and community preparedness events Hands-on community clean-up days Promoting the use of FireSmart plants and trees Increased outreach and education during wildfire events	Wildfire mitigation, preparedness and readiness Emergency preparedness Household emergency planning Proper backyard burning techniques FireSmart landscaping Locations to dispose of vegetation removed from yards Evacuation routes and procedures Prescribed and cultural fire Demonstration videos including proper and safe fuel reduction techniques Backcountry FireSmart practices Available communication methods in the area including emergency alert apps Campfire bans Wildfire prevention messaging Road restrictions Key emergency contact numbers

Action Item	Recommended Activity - Education
13	Continue to promote and implement the FireSmart program within the Ashcroft community through the distribution of information and educational materials, and holding education sessions and events for community members.
14	Increase public messaging and outreach during the spring months and throughout the wildfire season.
15	Integrate fire prevention, safety, and FireSmart education into presentations and events for preschool and school-aged children by supporting the FireSmart BC Education Program.
16	Support the FireSmart BC Library program at the Ashcroft Library.
17	Support the FireSmart BC Plant Program at the local Ashcroft Home Building Centre and Desert Hills Farm/Ranch.

## 5.5 FireSmart Discipline: Legislation and Planning

[\(Legislation & Planning | FireSmart Canada\)](#)

Legislation and planning can be effective tools in improving the wildfire resiliency in communities. Through the adoption of new policies and bylaws, or amending existing ones, a local government or First Nation administration can more effectively address local conditions or challenges in reducing wildfire risk

within the community. Existing legislation that may apply to implementing components of the CWRP including FireSmart and fuel reduction activities is:

- Indian Act (R.S.C., 1985, c.1-5)
- Federal Environmental Regulations
- Federal Fisheries Act, Species at Risk Act and Migratory Bird Convention Act
- Heritage Conservation Act
- BC Emergency Program Act
- Open Burning and Smoke Control Regulations (OBSCR)
- BC Wildfire Act
- BC Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)
- BC Foresters Act
- BC Local Government Act
- BC Building Act and Building Code

The Village of Ashcroft currently has six bylaws that contain legal components that can be applied to FireSmart and wildfire resiliency actions within the community:

- Bylaw No.822: Official Community Plan 2018
- Bylaw No.793: Village of Ashcroft Building Regulations-Consolidated
- Bylaw No.839: Subdivision Development Servicing
- Bylaw No.879: Good Neighbour Bylaw 2025
- Bylaw No.849: Outdoor Burning 2022
- Bylaw No.880: Notice of Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2025

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the most important planning document used by local governments to guide land use decisions and to establish policies and goals reflecting the future vision and direction of the community and its development. It is a general statement of the collective desires of a community, identified through public consultation and expressed through broad goals and policy statements. It can include direction for a variety of issues including economic development, environmental sustainability, heritage preservation, transportation and infrastructure, and community services. Through the establishment of Development Permit Areas, it can also include guidance for protection of development from the impacts of wildfire and other hazardous conditions. The OCP for the Village of Ashcroft is currently being updated, with the new plan expected to be completed and adopted in 2026.

Within the Village of Ashcroft, the Good Neighbour Bylaw is the municipal law that promotes civic responsibility and good neighbourly relations through the establishment of clear rules for the use and maintenance of private and public property. It is the primary document addressing vegetation management and the storage of firewood and other combustible material on land parcels. The accompanying Outdoor Burning Bylaw addresses the burning of materials within the Village of Ashcroft, including the open burning of piles of vegetative debris resulting from yard clean-up and land clearing.

Action Item	Recommended Activity – Legislation and Planning
18	Complete the update to the Official Community Plan for the Village of Ashcroft, incorporating FireSmart principles and wildfire resiliency measures where applicable.
19	Complete regular reviews of the existing bylaws and update/amend if necessary, to reflect changes in the knowledge base and implementation of FireSmart principles and wildfire resiliency measures.

## 5.6 FireSmart Discipline: Development Considerations

[\(Development Considerations | FireSmart Canada\)](#)

Through proactive planning, communities can improve the chances that new or existing developments will successfully withstand the impacts of wildfires. Considering factors such as land use, structure density, access/egress points, road location and design, and water supply early in a development process can greatly improve the survivability of structures and neighbourhoods as well as facilitate better emergency response and first responder safety.

The OCP for the Village of Ashcroft provides strategic direction for policy development, land use, infrastructure development and other topics that reflect the long-term vision and goals of the community. Through the updating of the OCP, there is an opportunity to include direction on additional or improved wildfire resiliency measures such as provisions for the design of new developments, lower-flammability landscaping, fire-resistant building materials for new builds or renovations and emergency planning. As direction from the OCP, guiding bylaws and policies could be developed that include the use of FireSmart building materials for new homes and renovations, the design of residential development (e.g. road widths, turning radius for emergency vehicles, access and egress points and alternate evacuation routes), the design and establishment of non-combustible zones, and vegetation management strategies such as transitioning landscaping plants from flammable to less-flammable species (shrub and tree swap programs).

During a wildfire emergency, a critical piece of knowledge for emergency responders is how much water is readily available for fire suppression, how long it is available for and where to access additional sources if required. This information is of particular importance if residential rooftop water sprinklers are being considered for implementation, or if there are other known draws on water systems during an emergency, such as refilling water storage reservoirs or refilling mobile water tanks. The local community water system should be regularly inspected and maintained including all fire hydrants to ensure that the required water supply is available for firefighting purposes. Additional water supply upgrades and/or water storage options, such as the installation of underground tanks or reservoirs, or pumpstations to boost water supply and pressure, should be pre-emptively evaluated and considered during the design phase of any new housing developments or subdivisions to ensure sufficient water capacity and delivery.

The Subdivision Development Services Bylaw (specifically Schedules B, E and G) and Building Regulations-Consolidated Bylaw of the Village of Ashcroft currently provide direction on the requirements for development of new subdivisions and the construction, alteration, repair or demolition of buildings and structures.

Action Item	Recommended Activity – Development Considerations
20	Complete a review of the existing bylaws to determine if amendments are required that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourages the use of FireSmart materials in building plans for new construction and renovations, and</li> <li>• includes wildfire prevention, suppression and vegetation management considerations in the design of new residential developments.</li> </ul>
21	Consider expanding the current Development Permit Area (DPA) classifications to include a Wildfire DPA.
22	Consider upgrading the existing water system infrastructure in the upper Government Street and rural end of Mesa Vista Drive areas to improve and stabilize the sustained water supply and delivery in these locations during a fire response.
23	Complete annual testing and flushing of fire hydrants.

## 5.7 FireSmart Discipline: Interagency Cooperation

([Interagency Cooperation | FireSmart Canada](#))

Achieving wildfire resilience requires collaboration at all levels, from individual community members to First Nation administrations, local and regional government administrators, elected officials, local fire departments, and provincial government representatives. The collaboration of these groups is essential in successful emergency preparedness, prevention, response and recovery from wildfire events.

The Village of Ashcroft already has established relationships with many of the stakeholders involved in emergency planning and wildfire response including BC Wildfire Service, Thompson-Nicola Regional District, and other key players including the RCMP, School District 74, and CN/CP Rail. Village staff also attended joint ESS and EOC training and tabletop exercise sessions in 2025. The FireSmart and administrative staff from the Village of Ashcroft currently attend the meetings of the regional Thompson-Nicola Regional District CFRC. Meetings are held up to four times each year where FireSmart, wildfire preparedness, wildfire resiliency (fuel management and cultural/prescribed burning), emergency management and wildfire management capacity and resource topics are presented and discussed to ensure good coordination and communication between participants in efforts to build a more wildfire resilient region.

Action Item	Recommended Activity – Interagency Cooperation
24	Continue to attend the regional Thompson-Nicola Regional District CFRC meetings.
25	Continue to participate in joint ESS/Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training and emergency response tabletop exercises with local communities and key agencies including the TNRD, the Village of Cache Creek, Ashcroft Indian Band, BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS), RCMP and SD74.
26	Meet with CN and CP Rail staff to review the logistics of a coordinated response effort to wildfires that are on or adjacent to the railway rights-of-way and rail yards in the Ashcroft community.
27	Meet with local BC Hydro staff to review the logistics of a wildfire response effort by the Ashcroft Fire Department to wildfires that are on or adjacent to the Ashcroft Substation property.
28	Engage with the BC Wildfire Service – Kamloops Fire Zone and confirm the wildfire response roles and responsibilities on municipal and provincial crown lands within and adjacent to the Village of Ashcroft.
29	Engage and collaborate with the CLWRR program staff in the Thompson Rivers Natural Resource District to ensure that a coordinated approach to future wildfire resiliency measures is taken for any land-based fuel treatment activities proposed on provincial crown land within the WUI area.
30	Attend the annual Wildfire Resiliency Summit.

## 5.8 FireSmart Discipline: Cross Training

([Cross-training | FireSmart Canada](#))

Cross training focuses on sharing the necessary knowledge needed to address structural and wildland fires. Courses focus on equipment, practical skills, fire behaviour, communications and various other firefighting techniques. FireSmart cross training enables specialized firefighters from one discipline to gain the basic skills of the other discipline. In order to improve response capabilities and increase community safety, cross training can occur between local government, regional district and First Nation administrations and organizations, emergency operation centres, structural firefighters, wildland

firefighters, and other key players in wildfire response. Cross training fosters better communication between jurisdictions and provides necessary skills to others who may be involved in emergency response, but who may not typically work in a wildfire or structural firefighting environment. Providing support and training for interested individuals in the community to increase their knowledge around both the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Incident Command System (ICS) is also recommended. These are the standardized systems that are used during emergencies by emergency response organizations and providing training would greatly enhance the understanding and communication between responding agencies and community members.

When a wildfire occurs, residents come together out of necessity as a collective to respond to a fire, in many situations before the local fire department or BCWS arrives on site. This underscores the need for enhanced cross-training for residents and community organizations who may be the default first responders for the community depending upon where the wildfire occurs. It is recommended that funding be considered to support and deliver basic wildfire response training for all current and interested first responders, including local individuals and community organizations regardless of whether they have a formally organized fire department or fire brigade. Funding should include delivering a variety of courses, including basic wildfire suppression, safety training, equipment use, wildfire behaviour and even structure protection. This training will help build community capacity and the community’s ability to provide safe and efficient first response activities in the event of a fire.

A basic wildland fire suppression training program that could be implemented within a community may include any of the following courses:

- Local FireSmart Representative training
- FireSmart Landscaping training
- Wildfire Mitigation Program training
- Home Partners Program training
- Wildfire Risk Reduction training
- Basic Power Saw Safety
- SPP-WFF1 Wildland Firefighter Level 1
- ICS 100 Incident Command System
- S 100 Basic Fire Suppression & Safety
- S 185 Fire Entrapment Avoidance & Safety
- S 211 The Fire Environment for Fire Fighters & Dispatchers
- S 231 Engine Boss
- S 290 Principles of Fire Behaviour
- S 291 Understanding the Fire Weather Index
- RX 310 Introduction to Fire Effects
- SPP-115 Structure Protection Program

Action Item	Recommended Activity
31	Fund and coordinate wildland fire suppression training for any Ashcroft Fire Department members that require it, and ensure all certifications are kept current. Consider funding and supporting wildland fire suppression training courses for other interested first responding agencies and community members.
32	Fund, support and provide additional emergency response training and education, including basic EOC and ICS training for Village of Ashcroft administration staff, Ashcroft Fire Department members, local first responders, and interested community members.

## 5.9 FireSmart Discipline: Emergency Planning

([Emergency Planning | FireSmart Canada](#))

Community preparations for a wildfire emergency requires a multi-pronged approach. Individuals and agencies need to be ready to react by developing plans, mutual-aid agreements, resource inventories, training and emergency communication systems. Encouraging collaborative emergency planning by combining local knowledge with expertise in wildfire management helps communities become better prepared to respond to and recover from a wildfire. Utilizing local community members' knowledge and expertise by providing them with the necessary technical skills, equipment, information and training will greatly enhance the efficacy and efficiency of emergency response efforts as a whole during emergency events and assist in the recovery efforts after the events. The four pillars of an effective emergency management program are shown in Figure 14.



Figure 14: Four Pillars of Emergency Management

An important starting point for improving an emergency management program within a community is to hire an Emergency Management Coordinator, if one is not already in place. This role may be combined with other positions such as an administrative staff role, a member of the local fire department, or the FireSmart Coordinator and/or Local FireSmart Representative. The Emergency Management Coordinator would be tasked with developing and implementing the Village of Ashcroft emergency program.

The Emergency Management Plan for the Village of Ashcroft should be reviewed and updated annually with specific information that applies to the community's requirements, needs, systems and infrastructure. Maps of all pre-identified evacuation routes should be included in the emergency management plan to provide information to residents and responders prior to the potential flooding and wildfire season months. Identifying at least two egress routes out of each neighbourhood are critical components for a safe and efficient evacuation. Support should be provided to local fire services personnel and/or local first responders to carry out pre-season evacuation route inspections of all identified roads, to ensure the

routes will be functional during the flood and wildfire seasons. Evacuation routes and procedures should also be developed for periods when egress routes may be compromised due to weather or other natural events.

The Mesa Vista residential area has been identified as a high-risk neighbourhood to potential impacts from a wildfire. Currently the only road access and evacuation route to and from the residential area is Mesa Vista Road, essentially a one way in – one way out situation. This has been brought forward as a significant concern given the number of residences and local population in this area. It is highly recommended that the Village of Ashcroft place priority on evaluating the area for the location and construction of an alternate access and evacuation route to the Mesa Vista subdivision, in the event that Mesa Vista Road is compromised.

Emergency management plans should also be reviewed with residents in the community and other emergency response organizations and updates completed if necessary. In areas where EMPs overlap (such as with the TNRD and Ashcroft Indian Band), it is recommended that a collaborative review session be held annually with first responders and organizations of the surrounding communities so there is a common understanding communicated out around the various roles and responsibilities of each organization during a flood or wildfire event.

As the fire danger ratings increase throughout the wildfire season, the level of community emergency preparedness and awareness should also correspondingly increase. Table 18 provides an example of EOC and community readiness levels, along with associated tasks that should be incrementally implemented in tandem with increasing fire danger rating levels.

Table 18: Wildfire Response Preparedness Condition Guide

Prep-Con LEVEL	ACTION GUIDELINES
I LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Community staff on normal shifts.</li> <li>• Staff will update fire danger signs.</li> </ul>
II MODERATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Community staff on normal shifts</li> </ul>
III HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Community staff on normal shifts.</li> <li>• Daily detection patrols by staff.</li> <li>• Regional fire situation evaluated.</li> <li>• Daily fire behavior advisory issued.</li> <li>• Wildland fire-trained Community staff and EOC staff notified of Prep-Con level.</li> <li>• Establish weekly communications with local wildland fire agency contacts</li> <li>• Hourly rain profile for all weather stations after lightning storms.</li> <li>• Duty Park Technician/ KFRS members will update fire danger signs.</li> </ul>
IV EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rain profile (see III).</li> <li>• Daily detection patrols by Staff.</li> <li>• Daily fire behavior advisory issued.</li> <li>• Regional fire situation evaluated.</li> <li>• EOC staff considered for stand-by.</li> <li>• Wildfire Incident Command Team members considered for stand-by/extended shifts.</li> <li>• Designated Community staff: water tender and heavy machinery operators, arborists may be considered for stand-by/extended shifts.</li> <li>• Consider initiating Natural Area closures to align with regional situation.</li> <li>• Provide regular updates to media Services members/Community staff on fire situation.</li> <li>• Update public website as new information changes.</li> </ul>

<p>V FIRE(S) ONGOING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All conditions apply as for Level IV (regardless of actual fire danger rating).</li> <li>Provide regular updates to media/structural fire departments/park staff on fire situation.</li> <li>Mobilize EOC support if evacuation is possible, or fire event requires additional support.</li> <li>Mobilize Wildfire Incident Command Team under the direction of the Fire Chief.</li> <li>Implement Evacuation Alerts and Orders based on fire behavior prediction and under the direction of the Fire Chief.</li> </ul>
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Daily updated fire danger class ratings during the wildfire season can be found at [WFWX - Fire Weather Danger Class Report \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/wildfire-weather-danger-class-report).

In addition to updating the content in the EMP document, it is also important to evaluate and test the information and processes using pre-designed emergency exercises, such as workshops, tabletop exercises, or functional exercises which can help test specific components of the management plan including emergency communications and notifications. Identifying gaps through these exercises and providing additional training to responders and residents will help reduce confusion and fear during a real-life event.

Backup power system requirements for all critical infrastructure in the Ashcroft community should be evaluated and implemented where possible. Having a secondary backup electrical source will ensure that critical services can continue functioning even if the main electrical power source has been compromised in an emergency event. The Village of Ashcroft should engage with any of the local businesses that have been identified as providing an essential service during an emergency to encourage them to explore the requirements and installation of a backup system for their infrastructure. Having operational services is important if a shelter-in-place event is ever required for the community.

The sharing of important community information including the location of community structure, critical infrastructure and water supply points such as hydrants, standpipes, and storage tanks with key emergency response agencies such as the BC Wildfire Service and FNESS will assist in preparedness and strategic planning for emergency and wildfire suppression response and resource allocation in the event that a wildfire impacts the community, including the placement of structure protection equipment. Additional information such as the location of completed FireSmart and fuel reduction treatments within and surrounding the community will also assist in the strategic planning of wildfire suppression actions such as the location of containment lines, fireguard construction and implementation of burn-off activities.

The Village of Ashcroft currently has minimal structural protection equipment that can be deployed in the event of a wildfire. It is highly recommended that the administration considers expanding their structural protection equipment to include a Type 2 Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailer that can be deployed by trained members of the fire department during wildfire events. A Type 2 SPU has sufficient equipment on board for approximately 35 homes.

Action Item	Recommended Activity
<b>33</b>	Secure ongoing funding for the Emergency Program Coordinator and/or an Emergency Program Assistant.
<b>34</b>	<p>Complete the updating of the current 2023 Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management Plan to the 2026 content requirements, including the completion of an updated Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) if necessary.</p> <p>Present updated information in the Emergency Management Plan to community members.</p> <p>Review the Emergency Management Plan annually, and update where necessary.</p>

35	Develop and conduct various table-top emergency and evacuation scenarios with the Village of Ashcroft administration, the Ashcroft fire department, and other first responder agencies and community members.
36	Complete an evaluation of the Mesa Vista residential and rural area for possible locations and resulting construction of an alternate access and evacuation route.
37	Encourage the Ashcroft community to download and subscribe to the Voyent Alert! app ( <a href="https://voyent-alert.com/community/">https://voyent-alert.com/community/</a> ) if they have not already done so.
38	Evaluate for and install backup power systems for the critical infrastructure and essential assets in the Ashcroft community that currently do not have them.
39	Share community structure, critical infrastructure and water supply data with first responder agencies such as the BC Wildfire Service to assist in preparedness and strategic planning for effective emergency and wildfire suppression response and resource allocation during a wildfire emergency.
40	Expand the current structural protection equipment capacity of the Ashcroft Fire Department to include a Type 2 Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailer that can be deployed by trained members of the fire department during wildfire events.

## 5.10 FireSmart Discipline: Vegetation and Fuels Management

([Vegetation Management | FireSmart Canada](#))

The impacts of an extreme wildfire on a community can be mitigated through the implementation of vegetation management and forest fuel reduction at multiple scales. Vegetation management and fuel reduction strategies should be designed and implemented within each of the following zones – the Home and Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone (0-30 m from structure) and the Wildland Urban Interface Zone (30-1000 m from structures). Completing comprehensive fuel reduction or modification treatments in these zones will greatly enhance wildfire resiliency in and around communities. A general strategy is to complete vegetation management near homes and critical infrastructure within a community first and then move outwards into the WUI zone. The more aggressive vegetation reduction should occur within 30 metres of a structure. The objectives of vegetation management within these zones will vary based on site-specific factors such as topography, vegetation or fuel type, proximity to structures, and ecosystem values.

The Ignition Zone includes proposed activities that are 0-30 m from a home or critical infrastructure. These areas are typically located on reserve lands, private land, or municipal/regional district land, and can overlap multiple land jurisdictions. It is important to work closely and collaboratively with neighbouring landowners to achieve targeted vegetation reduction objectives in overlapping areas in this zone. Vegetation management and reduction recommendations for this zone are primarily focused on areas immediately adjacent to and surrounding structures and include tasks that community members can undertake themselves. Recommendations for vegetation management around critical infrastructure may differ slightly from those around homes. Critical infrastructure requirements will be assessed by a Local FireSmart Representative and tailored to each structure.

Vegetation management and reduction activities within the community as a whole (Community Zone) can also be considered for culturally significant sites of historical and cultural importance (including traditional dwellings, ceremonial sites and cemeteries), green spaces including parks, gardens, trails and pathways and other naturalized spaces, and other vegetated locations such as along roadsides, drainage ditches and other waterways. A Local FireSmart Representative will assess each location and provide specific FireSmart recommendations.

Fuel reduction in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone is typically completed 30 metres to 1000 metres out from structures. In this zone, fuel reduction and vegetation management planning is often done at the landscape level, to reduce forest fuels to a level that will lower the probability of an extreme or “mega” fire threatening communities. Fuel reduction planning in this zone incorporates natural landscape features such as roads, water bodies or other natural non-combustible or fuel-free areas as tactical fire suppression anchor points in the design of proposed treatment areas. Vegetation reduction strategies in these areas can be accomplished through several techniques including hand treatments, mechanical fuel reduction techniques such as timber harvesting or commercial thinning, alternative silviculture practices such as realigning cut block boundaries, reduction of stocking standards in key areas, widening road rights-of-way, or through the use of prescribed fire.

Fuel breaks can also be considered for areas outside of the 1km WUI zone. These landscape-level fuel breaks would be designed to interrupt the movement of large, landscape-level wildfires and provide an opportunity for direct fire suppression efforts on a larger scale.

### 5.10.1 Home and CI Ignition Zone and FireSmart Landscaping

Vegetation management and FireSmart landscaping in the Ignition Zone is completed within 30 metres of a residential structure or critical infrastructure (Figures 15 and 16). In this zone, vegetation management is focused on reducing flammable plants in the first 30m of the structure (both landscaping plants and natural vegetation), clearing dry and dead materials from roofs and gutters, and disposing of the resulting vegetative debris. Work in the Ignition Zone is focused on the areas closest to the structure, then working outwards. The Ignition Zone is divided into three sub-zones to help residents focus and prioritize their efforts.

**The Immediate Zone (0 – 1.5m from structures).** This zone focuses on reducing the risk of wind-blown embers igniting materials on or near the structure. All combustible items and vegetation must be removed from this zone. Residents should create a 1.5-metre-wide zone of concrete, gravel, dirt or short lawn immediately next to the structure, keep roofs and gutters clean, and avoid storing combustible items on or under decks (for example; firewood, tires, recycling, and furniture).

**The Intermediate Zone (1.5 – 10 metres from structure):**

Elements in this zone should be managed so that they don't transmit a fire to the structure. All coniferous trees and high flammability shrubs should be removed from this zone and non-combustible landscaping material should also be used in this zone. Grasses should be



Figure 15: Home Ignition Zone

regularly mowed and any dead vegetation removed. Deciduous trees may be planted if tree cover is desired. The following plants are examples of high-flammability plants that should be removed:

- Douglas-fir
- Ponderosa pine
- Cedar hedges
- Juniper
- Spruce
- Long, dry grasses, including decorative grasses

Remove combustible items like firewood piles, construction materials, patio furniture, tools and decorative pieces and locate them outside of this zone. Move any trailers, recreational vehicles, storage shed and other combustible structures into the extended zone. If it is not possible to move them into the extended zone, create an ember-resistant structure to enclose them in. Create a non-combustible ground cover (rock, concrete) to place underneath and 1.5m around stored vehicles and structures.

**The Extended Zone (10 – 30 metres from structure):** Work

in this zone helps reduce the intensity of wildfires that are approaching from a distance. Lawns, grasslands and fields in this zone should also be maintained regularly through controlled burning, mowing, and/or irrigation to reduce fuel load and increase fuel moisture. If there are conifer trees in this zone, select trees should be removed to ensure that there is 3 metres of horizontal space between the branches of each tree. Branches from the lower 2-3 metres of the trunks should be removed. Larger, more mature trees can be pruned up to 5 metres in height as long as no more than 30% of the live branches are removed. Deadwood, twigs and needles should be removed. Work with your neighbours in overlapping areas and seek guidance from a forest professional if affected by conditions such as steep slopes.



Figure 16: Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone

Reducing vegetation generates residual debris. This debris should be eliminated on site through safely burning piles of vegetation or brought to a location at least 100 metres from any home or structure such as the local landfill site or transfer station.

Identified critical infrastructure within the Ashcroft community should have a maintenance plan developed to ensure that vegetation in the Intermediate Zone remains maintained or watered during the wildfire season months. This will help reduce the impacts to critical infrastructure during a wildfire event.

### 5.10.2 Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Zone and Fuel Reduction Treatment

Vegetation management and fuel reduction strategies in the WUI zone are designed to alter the forest and grassland fuel conditions, so that in the event of a wildfire the levels of fire behaviour, the likelihood of crown fire initiation, fire intensity and rate of spread will be reduced to a level that the wildfire will be less aggressive and destructive in areas of close proximity to communities.

Fuel reduction projects reduce the risk to the adjacent residences from severe wildfires by reducing the surface fuels (including the accumulation of dead and downed trees), removing the ladder fuels (small trees and brush), and opening up the overstory forest canopy. Thinning/brushing and pruning treatments focus on reducing the crown closure and crown bulk density while greatly increasing the crown base height to levels that will inhibit a ground surface fire from reaching the crown, while still maintaining tree foliage for continued growth. Surface clean-up and debris disposal through piling and burning further reduce the fine fuel and excess large woody debris content throughout the treatment areas. The application of a low intensity prescribed under burn should also be considered to further reduce excess surface fuel that may remain post-treatment, and/or to reduce the fuel loading attributed to grass and shrubs.

Fuel reduction strategies are accomplished through tree felling, hazard tree removal, brushing, thinning, pruning, mowing, prescribed and cultural burning, along with debris disposal, and can be accomplished using hand or mechanical treatments. Treatment regimes generally include the activities listed below. Mechanical fuel reduction treatments can include the integration of commercial thinning and/or harvesting treatment opportunities and generally focus on thinning the upper layers of the forest canopy, removing ladder fuels and disposing of the resulting debris.

#### **Treatment area fieldwork and development of a Fuel Management Prescription or Prescribed Burn Plan**

The boundaries of a proposed Treatment Unit are mapped and areas to be excluded such as cultural sites, wildlife trees, and riparian zones are identified. A Fuel Management Prescription and/or Prescribed Burn Plan is completed by a Registered Professional Forester that outlines the management activities to be undertaken and provides measurable objectives and targets to be achieved on a site-specific basis. Discussions with all First Nations, local governments, agencies, ministries and stakeholders potentially impacted by the proposed fuel reduction activities is done to solicit feedback and is incorporated into the prescription or burn plan where required.

#### **Fuel Reduction Treatments**

Thinning reduces the crown density and inter-tree connectivity within a stand. Brushing is done to remove identified brush and other ladder fuel from under the crown of leave trees. Dead and dying stems and vegetation is also removed with the exception of trees designated for wildlife retention. Pruning removes the lower branches of leave trees preventing a ground fire from spreading up into the crown of the tree through the severing of the continuity of ground ladder fuels to tree crowns. Mowing minimizes the height of surface vegetation such as grass and small shrubs thus reducing the flame height and intensity of a ground fire. The resulting debris from fuel reduction activities is managed through one or more of the following techniques: hand piling and burning, chipping and/or hauling, removal as posts, rails or firewood or removed off site.

#### **Cultural Burning and Prescribed Fire**

Indigenous people have used fire for thousands of years to create and maintain hunting grounds, cleanse the land of insects and disease, maintain wildlife habitat and promote herb and berry

production. Cultural burning practices are Indigenous-led and utilize a low intensity burn that is strategic, planned, controlled and requires comprehensive engagement and guidance from Elders and/or Fire Knowledge Holders. Since time immemorial, cultural burning practices have been carried out by Indigenous communities to enhance the health of the land and its peoples by cleaning trails, reducing fuels, maintaining ecosystem stewardship, including advancing cultural objectives for traditional diet/nutrition, medicinal and livelihood (Caverley, Cardinal Christianson, & Eustache, n.d.).

Prescribed fire is the planned and controlled application of fire to achieve desired objectives. It is an ecologically appropriate means for achieving a variety of land management objectives and has a long history in British Columbia. The regular burning of forests and grasslands plays a vital role in maintaining the health of “fire-maintained” ecosystems by encouraging the proliferation of important native plant species while hindering the spread of invasive species, or the introduction and encroachment of shrubs and tree species from other ecosystems.

Where suitable, the application of a low-intensity burn should be integrated into proposed treatments to further reduce the residual fine fuel content in treatment areas and/or grassland areas. Care must be taken to appropriately assess and design the burn to ensure that the application of fire will achieve the stated objectives and be applied at the most ecologically appropriate time of year.

### **Maintenance Treatments**

Once an area is successfully treated through the various operational activities outlined in the previous sections, it is equally important to monitor that area regularly to ensure that the wildfire threat is not increasing due to juvenile stem ingrowth, windthrow and surface fuel accumulations. All activities described above can be considered as part of a maintenance program to address any increase in wildfire threat in previously treated areas.

### **Project Implementation**

Project implementation, monitoring, quality assurance and reporting of fuel treatment activities by experienced professionals and field technicians ensures that all work is implemented using safe work practices and completed to the standards detailed in the prescription or burn plan.

### **Timber Harvesting**

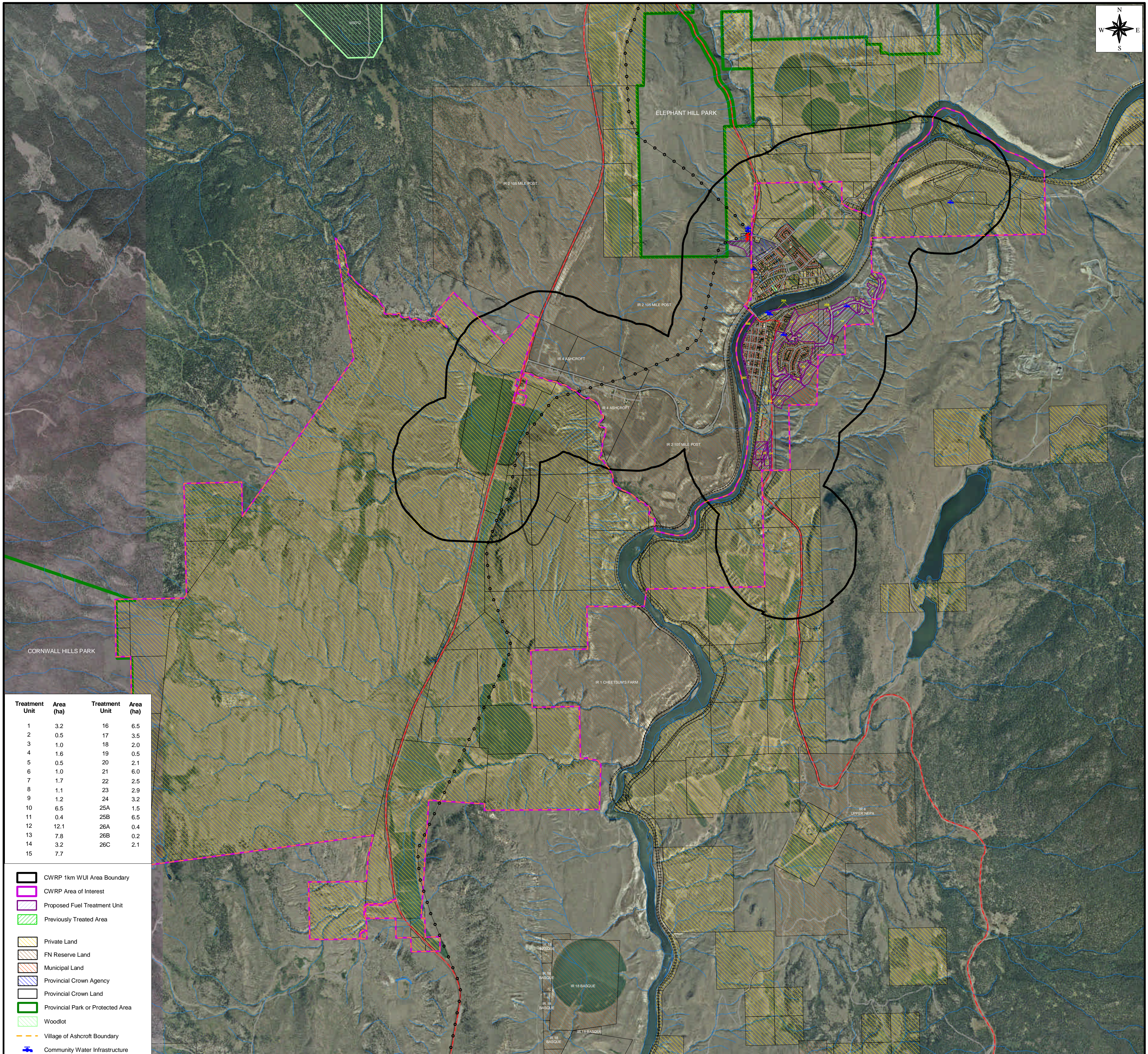
The harvesting of mature timber is an optional treatment approach that may be considered as part of the overall fuel reduction objectives for a given area if it is operationally feasible and within a suitable forest type. If timber harvesting is considered, a qualified and experienced Professional Forester will prepare and execute a prescription specific to the treatment approach.

At the WUI level, vegetation management and fuel reduction programs on provincial crown land are administered by and delivered locally through the Ministry of Forests Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR) program in the Thompson Rivers Natural Resource District. Provincial CLWRR funding for crown land fuel mitigation projects flows to the Natural Resource Districts which select projects for implementation and distribute project funding. Through the identification of treatment areas proposed in CWRPs and WRRPs, the CLWRR program works with regional districts, Indigenous Nations, BC parks and other organizations to identify and develop projects to reduce wildfire threat on areas of crown land near communities that are of high priority for fuel treatments. For vegetation management and fuel reduction programs on federal reserve land, the First Nation Emergency Services Society delivers and administers the Indigenous Services Canada On-Reserve Program for FireSmart, fuel reduction and cultural/prescribed burn activities. Other sources such as the provincial Community Resiliency Investment

(CRI) program may also provide funding for vegetation management and fuel reduction work on local government (municipal and regional district), provincial crown and federal reserve land.

Twenty-nine (29) individual fuel treatment units have been proposed for this Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan, and are listed in Appendix 6 and shown on the following map (Figure 17). The proposed treatment areas are based on an in-depth analysis of wildfire risk factors and community values. Data considered in the analysis includes Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) mapping, slope, aspect, wind direction, and fuel type. Fuel and wildfire threat information was verified through local area fieldwork. The location of treatment units also considers the proximity to homes and other values and linkages to previously treated areas or natural fuel breaks.

Action Item	Recommended Activity
41	Secure funding to complete identified vegetation reduction recommendations identified in Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone Assessments and/or Culturally Significant Site and Green Space Assessments.
42	Develop an annual vegetation management program to ensure that vegetation located in common areas throughout the community is maintained and/or watered throughout the wildfire season.
43	Consider securing funding for a seasonal FireSmart Crew to assist in the mitigation work recommended for Village of Ashcroft assets, including structures, critical infrastructure, common areas and green spaces.
44	Secure funding from sources such as the Community Resiliency Investment Program to complete eligible fuel reduction treatments and cultural/prescribed burns for the proposed treatment areas identified on municipal and provincial crown land within the WUI zone. Coordinate with Thompson Rivers Natural Resource District staff to secure funding through the provincial CLWRR program to complete fuel reduction treatments and cultural/prescribed burns for proposed treatment areas identified on provincial crown land that are not eligible for funding through other sources.
45	Perform maintenance actions on the existing fireguards within and immediately adjacent to the Ashcroft community. Expand the existing network by constructing additional fireguards in efforts to increase wildfire resiliency.



Treatment Unit	Area (ha)	Treatment Unit	Area (ha)
1	3.2	16	6.5
2	0.5	17	3.5
3	1.0	18	2.0
4	1.6	19	0.5
5	0.5	20	2.1
6	1.0	21	6.0
7	1.7	22	2.5
8	1.1	23	2.9
9	1.2	24	3.2
10	6.5	25A	1.5
11	0.4	25B	6.5
12	12.1	26A	0.4
13	7.8	26B	0.2
14	3.2	26C	2.1
15	7.7		

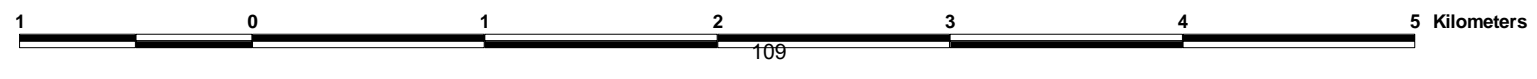
- CWRP 1km WUI Area Boundary
- CWRP Area of Interest
- Proposed Fuel Treatment Unit
- Previously Treated Area
- Private Land
- FN Reserve Land
- Municipal Land
- Provincial Crown Agency
- Provincial Crown Land
- Provincial Park or Protected Area
- Woodlot
- Village of Ashcroft Boundary
- Community Water Infrastructure

- Structure
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Railway
- BC Hydro Transmission Line
- BC Hydro Substation
- Streams

**PROPOSED FUEL TREATMENT UNITS**

Village of Ashcroft CWRP

1:32,500



Mapping Project: VoA CWRP  
 Datum: NAD83  
 Map Projection: NAD83 UTM Zone 10  
 Drawn By: E.Senger  
 Production Date: February 17, 2026



## SECTION 6: FireSmart Roadmap and CWRP Action Planning

### 6.1 FireSmart Roadmap

Every FireSmart program implemented in a community is unique to that community, no two programs are alike. The FireSmart Roadmap shown in Figure 18 is provided to assist local governments and First Nations in understanding where to begin their FireSmart program and what steps can be taken going forward to make their community more resilient to wildfire.

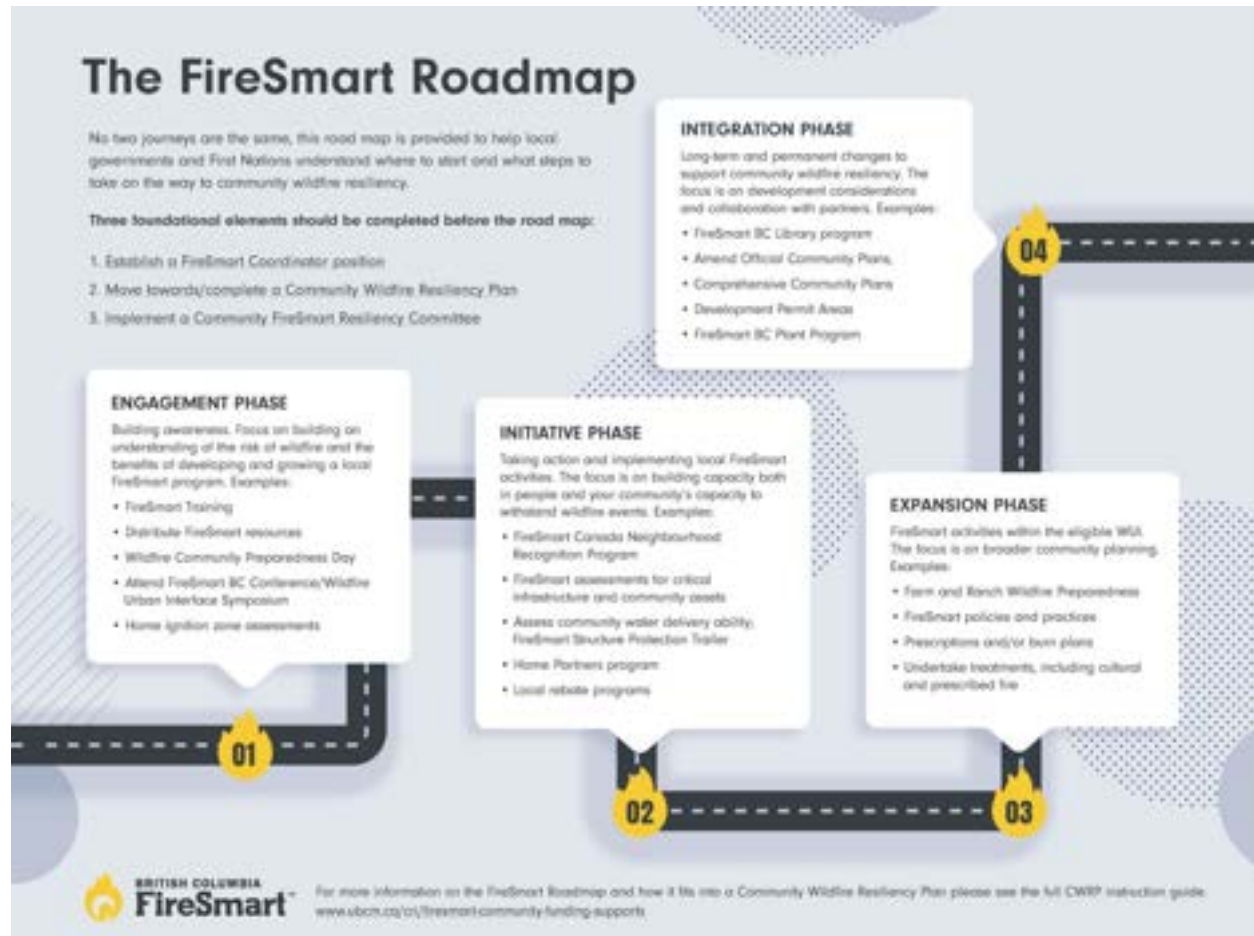


Figure 18: FireSmart Roadmap

It is recommended that the phases be completed in sequence, but this will depend on what activities have already been completed (or are not applicable) within the community FireSmart program and what activities have been recommended in the CWRP action plan based on local analysis. The FireSmart Roadmap can be reviewed to determine the current status of the community FireSmart program within the four phases to support and provide further direction of activities that could be completed.

Activities associated with the seven FireSmart Disciplines may appear in multiple phases of the roadmap, but they should reflect progress in the implementation of the FireSmart program that leads to increased community wildfire resiliency over time.

More information on the FireSmart Roadmap can be found [here](#).

## 6.2 CWRP Action Plan

Table 19: CWRP Action Planning Summary Table

Section 5.2 FireSmart Program Coordination						
Action Item	Recommended Activity	Description	Timing	Priority	Responsibility	Outcome
1	Continue to employ a dedicated FireSmart Coordinator to oversee the FireSmart program within the Ashcroft community.	To work with the Village of Ashcroft administration and community members to implement the identified wildfire resiliency objectives and goals. Funding for the position can be accessed through the UBCM CRI FCFS program.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft Administration	Continued funding for the community FireSmart Coordinator.
2	Continue to employ or acquire the services of a Local FireSmart Representative for the Ashcroft community (if not included in the role of FireSmart Coordinator).	To work with the Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator to complete FireSmart assessments and assist in the implementation of the overall Village of Ashcroft FireSmart program. Funding can be accessed through the UBCM CRI FCFS program.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft Administration	Continued funding for a community Local FireSmart Representative (if not included in the role of FireSmart Coordinator).
3	Establish a local Village of Ashcroft CFRC to guide and implement the FireSmart and wildfire resiliency initiatives within the Ashcroft community.	To provide an opportunity for collaboration between organizational departments within the community to fully explore and comprehensively implement FireSmart principles and wildfire resiliency initiatives.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator  Village of Ashcroft Administration	CFRC established; funding secured to support ongoing meeting logistics.

Section 5.3 Local Level FireSmart Initiatives						
Action Item	Recommended Activity	Description	Timing	Priority	Responsibility	Outcome
4	That the FireSmart Coordinator continues to work with local community members to implement FireSmart and wildfire resiliency initiatives in the Ashcroft community.	Improved community engagement on FireSmart initiatives.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	Implement FireSmart initiatives.
5	Complete Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessments for all homes and buildings within the community whose property owners have made the request to have one done.	Increase community member education about current wildfire risks and how to reduce them around their home using the FireSmart principles.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator and Qualified LFR	Completion of HIZ assessments for homes and buildings.
6	Implement a residential FireSmart rebate program within the Village of Ashcroft, with emphasis on the removal of highly flammable vegetation within the ignition zone.	Create an annual program that provides rebates to homeowners for completion of recommended FireSmart activities. This will provide an incentive for residents to reduce the wildfire risks on their properties.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator Village of Ashcroft administration	A fully funded rebate program.
7	Complete FireSmart Assessments for identified Critical Infrastructure within the community that have not had an assessment completed to date, and implement recommendations.	Identify at-risk critical infrastructure and implement recommended FireSmart actions to increase infrastructure resiliency to wildfire.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator and Qualified LFR	Completion of assessments for all critical infrastructure.  Completion of priority recommendations from assessments.

<p><b>8</b></p>	<p>Complete FireSmart CSSGS Assessments for identified culturally-sensitive sites (through collaboration with local First Nations and other stakeholders) and green spaces within the community and implement recommendations</p>	<p>Identify at-risk culturally significant sites and/or green spaces within the community and implement recommended FireSmart actions to increase resiliency to wildfire.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator and Qualified LFR</p>	<p>Completion of assessments for culturally significant sites and green spaces.  Completion of priority recommendations from assessments</p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p>Complete a neighbourhood wildfire hazard assessment for each of the identified high-risk neighbourhoods in the Ashcroft community.</p>	<p>Using the current FireSmart Canada assessment form, complete Neighbourhood Wildfire Hazard Assessments for the high-risk neighbourhoods to identify wildfire risks.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator and Qualified LFR</p>	<p>Completion of a neighbourhood wildfire hazard assessment for each of the identified high-risk neighbourhoods.</p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p>Complete a FireSmart Neighbourhood Plan for each of the identified high-risk neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>Complete the FireSmart Neighbourhood Plan using information from the completed Wildfire Hazard Assessment Form to propose action items to address the identified wildfire risk within the neighbourhood</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator  Qualified LFR</p>	<p>Completion of a FireSmart Neighbourhood Plan for each of the identified high-risk neighbourhoods.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p>Promote the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program within the Ashcroft community. Encourage and support those neighbourhoods, especially those that are high-risk, to consider pursuing recognition.</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator to provide support with completing the neighbourhood plan, hosting events and submitting documents to FireSmart Canada for the candidate neighbourhood.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator  Neighbourhood community members</p>	<p>The Village of Ashcroft obtains FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition for an identified neighbourhood within the Ashcroft community.</p>

<p><b>12</b></p>	<p>That the FireSmart Coordinator engage with and support local, eligible community farmers and ranchers in determining their interest in having a Farm and Ranch FireSmart Assessment and subsequent Wildfire Plan completed with a qualified FireSmart Farm and Ranch Assessor.</p> <p>Support the efforts by local, eligible community farmers and ranchers through the implementation of a Farm and Ranch FireSmart rebate program.</p>	<p>Provide farmers and ranchers with information on Farm and Ranch wildfire preparedness planning and mitigation.</p> <p>Assist a qualified FireSmart Farm and Ranch Assessor in completing a Farm and Ranch Assessment and subsequent Wildfire Plan.</p>	<p>Mid Term (1-3 years)</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator</p> <p>Qualified FireSmart Farm and Ranch Assessor</p>	<p>Engagement with all community farmers and ranchers.</p> <p>A fully funded FireSmart Farm and Ranch Assessment and rebate program.</p>
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**Section 5.4 FireSmart Discipline: Education**

Action Item	Recommended Activity	Description	Timing	Priority	Responsibility	Outcome
<p><b>13</b></p>	<p>Continue to promote and implement the FireSmart program within the Ashcroft community through the distribution of information and educational materials, and holding education sessions and events for community members.</p>	<p>Continued education, information distribution and knowledge sharing through events such as Community cleanup events, FireSmart information sessions and emergency preparedness days.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator</p>	<p>At least two community events held annually.</p>
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p>Increase public messaging and outreach during the spring months and throughout the wildfire season.</p>	<p>Increased public messaging reminding people of the importance of implementing FireSmart principles and about emergency preparedness and readiness through the use of social media, websites and newsletters.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator</p> <p>Village of Ashcroft administration</p>	<p>Increased messaging frequency and targeted topic selection to coincide with appropriate preparedness activities.</p>

15	Integrate fire prevention, safety, and FireSmart education into presentations and events for preschool and school-aged children by supporting the FireSmart BC Education Program.	To provide school aged children with information about FireSmart principles, fire prevention and fire safety.	Mid Term (1-3 years)	Moderate	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator  SD74 administration and teaching staff	Introduction and awareness of basic wildfire prevention and safety to school-aged children.
16	Support the FireSmart BC Library program at the Ashcroft Library.	Provide children’s literacy resource kits to the Ashcroft Library to help children understand what it means to live with wildfires and the role they can play in mitigating the impacts of wildfires on their homes and community.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator  Ashcroft Public Library staff	BC Library FireSmart resource kits ordered and provided to the Ashcroft Library.
17	Support the FireSmart BC Plant Program at the local Ashcroft Home Building Centre and Desert Hills Farm/Ranch.	Provide information to gardening and landscaping customers on which plants and trees are considered more fire-resistant through the placement of plant tags and other FireSmart advertising.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator  Ashcroft Home Building Centre staff	Order and provide FireSmart plant tags and other advertising materials to the Ashcroft Home Building Centre.

**Section 5.5 FireSmart Discipline: Legislation and Planning**

Action Item	Recommended Activity	Description	Timing	Priority	Responsibility	Outcome
18	Complete the update to the Official Community Plan for the Village of Ashcroft, incorporating FireSmart principles and wildfire resiliency measures where applicable.	Include FireSmart principles in the OCP to strengthen requirements for wildfire resiliency during new residential development, home builds and renovations, and landscaping.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	Completed OCP for the Village of Ashcroft.

19	Complete regular reviews of the existing bylaws and update/amend if necessary, to reflect changes in the knowledge base and implementation of FireSmart principles and wildfire resiliency measures.	To ensure that bylaws and regulations remain current in the application of up-to-date FireSmart and wildfire resiliency measures.	Ongoing	Moderate	Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	Updated bylaws.
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**Section 5.6 FireSmart Discipline: Development Considerations**

Action Item	Recommended Activity	Description	Timing	Priority	Responsibility	Outcome
20	Complete a review of the existing bylaws to determine if amendments are required that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourages the use of FireSmart materials in building plans for new construction and renovations, and</li> <li>• includes wildfire prevention, suppression and vegetation management considerations in the design of new residential developments.</li> </ul>	Strengthen the requirements for wildfire resiliency and emergency response capability during new residential development, home builds and renovations, and/or landscaping.	Mid Term (1-3 years)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	Updated bylaws.
21	Consider expanding the current Development Permit Area (DPA) classifications to include a Wildfire DPA.	Strengthen the requirements including FireSmart building materials, vegetation management, water supply/delivery, and landscaping design in efforts to make new residential developments proposed in high-risk areas more resilient to the impact of a wildfire.	Mid Term (1-3 years)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	Establishment of a Wildfire DPA.

22	Consider upgrading the existing water system infrastructure in the upper Government Street and rural end of Mesa Vista Drive areas to improve and stabilize the sustained water supply and delivery in these locations during a fire response.	Improved water supply and delivery for the upper Government Street and Mesa Vista Drive residential areas.	Mid Term (1-3 years)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft Public Works	Upgraded community water system infrastructure.
23	Complete annual testing and flushing of fire hydrants.	To ensure that sufficient water is supplied at all fire hydrants within the community for firefighting purposes and all hydrants are functioning correctly.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft Public Works	Completed inspection, flushing and testing of hydrants.  Repairs made to hydrants if required to confirm sufficient water delivery for firefighting activities.

**Section 5.7 FireSmart Discipline: Interagency Cooperation**

Action Item	Recommended Activity	Description	Timing	Priority	Responsibility	Outcome
24	Continue to attend the regional Thompson-Nicola Regional District CFRC meetings.	Continued coordination and collaboration with organizations involved in FireSmart, wildfire response and preparedness initiatives within the area.	Ongoing	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator  Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management Coordinator	Participation in interagency Committee meetings.
25	Continue to participate in joint ESS/EOC training and emergency response tabletop exercises with local communities and key agencies including the TNRD, the Village of Cache Creek, Ashcroft Indian Band, BCEHS, RCMP and SD74.	To ensure that the Village of Ashcroft administration, ESS/EOC and emergency response personnel are functionally prepared for all types of emergency events and situations.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management staff	Participation in at least one training initiative annually.

<p><b>26</b></p>	<p>Meet with CN and CP Rail staff to review the logistics of a coordinated response effort to wildfires that are on or adjacent to the railway rights-of-way and rail yards in the Ashcroft community.</p>	<p>To clarify and fully understand each organization's response capabilities and resources for wildfire response on or adjacent to the railway rights-of-way and rail yards.</p>	<p>Short Term (1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management staff Village of Ashcroft Fire Department</p>	<p>Complete an engagement and update meeting with identified organizations each spring prior to wildfire season.</p>
<p><b>27</b></p>	<p>Meet with local BC Hydro staff to review the logistics of a wildfire response effort by the Ashcroft Fire Department to wildfires that are on or adjacent to the Ashcroft Substation property.</p>	<p>To clarify and fully understand each organization's response capabilities and resources for wildfire response on or adjacent to the Ashcroft Substation.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management staff Village of Ashcroft Fire Department</p>	<p>Complete an engagement and update meeting with identified organizations each spring prior to wildfire season.</p>
<p><b>28</b></p>	<p>Engage with the BCWS – Kamloops Fire Zone and confirm the wildfire response roles and responsibilities on municipal and provincial crown lands within and adjacent to the Village of Ashcroft.</p>	<p>To fully understand each organization's role and responsibility for wildfire suppression within and adjacent to the Ashcroft community. This meeting would also include the review of sensitive areas or features to be aware of during fire suppression activities.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management staff Village of Ashcroft Fire Department</p>	<p>Complete an engagement and update meeting with identified organizations each spring prior to wildfire season.</p>
<p><b>29</b></p>	<p>Engage and collaborate with the CLWRR program staff in the Thompson Rivers Natural Resource District to ensure that a coordinated approach to future wildfire resiliency measures is taken for any land-based fuel treatment activities proposed on provincial crown land within the WUI area.</p>	<p>To create a consistent and coordinated approach to wildfire resiliency and fuel reduction initiatives on the provincial crown land base within the Village of Ashcroft WUI area.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator</p>	<p>Complete an introductory meeting with CLWRR staff to identify high risk areas.</p>

30	Attend the annual Wildfire Resiliency Summit.	To keep informed of existing and upcoming FireSmart initiatives, events and information.	Ongoing	Moderate	Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	Attendance at the annual Wildfire Resiliency conference.
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**Section 5.8 FireSmart Discipline: Cross Training**

Action Item	Recommended Activity	Description	Timing	Priority	Responsibility	Outcome
31	Fund and coordinate wildland fire suppression training for any Ashcroft Fire Department members that require it, and ensure all certifications are kept current.  Consider funding and supporting wildland fire suppression training courses for other interested first responding agencies and community members.	To increase the community capacity in basic fire suppression through training of community members and on-the-ground crews.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator  Village of Ashcroft Fire Department	Secure funding to provide basic firefighting courses such as those outlined in Section 5.8.
32	Fund, support and provide additional emergency response training and education, including basic EOC and ICS training for Village of Ashcroft administration staff, Ashcroft Fire Department members, local first responders, and interested community members.	To increase community awareness and knowledge about the standardized Incident Command Systems that are used during emergencies.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft Emergency Program Coordinator	Fund and coordinate training sessions.

Section 5.9 FireSmart Discipline: Emergency Planning						
Action Item	Recommended Activity	Description	Timing	Priority	Responsibility	Outcome
33	Secure ongoing funding for the Emergency Program Coordinator and/or an Emergency Program Assistant.	Continued implementation of the Village of Ashcroft emergency management program.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration	Funding secured for the Emergency Program Coordinator and/or Emergency Program Assistant.
34	Complete the updating of the current 2023 Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management Plan to the 2026 content requirements, including the completion of an updated Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) if necessary.  Present updated information in the Emergency Management Plan to community members.  Review the Emergency Management Plan annually, and update where necessary.	To ensure the Village of Ashcroft Emergency Management Plan is updated with current emergency preparedness information and procedures, and that the information is presented to community members for emergency events.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft Emergency Program Coordinator	Updated Emergency Management Plan for 2026.  Updated EMP made available to community members.  Schedule set for annual EMP review and updating.
35	Develop and conduct various table-top emergency and evacuation scenarios with the Village of Ashcroft administration, the Ashcroft fire department, and other first responder agencies and community members.	That an all-hazard planning approach and exercise design is taken to ensure that emergency management staff and first responders are functionally prepared for all types of emergency situations.	Mid-term (1-3 years)	Moderate to High	Village of Ashcroft Emergency Program Coordinator	All-hazard table-top planning and exercise scenarios are held to ensure that emergency management staff and first responders are prepared for all types of emergency situations.

<p><b>36</b></p>	<p>Complete an evaluation of the Mesa Vista residential and rural area for possible locations and resulting construction of an alternate access and evacuation route.</p>	<p>Establish an alternate access and evacuation route for the Mesa Vista residential area in the event that Mesa Vista Road is compromised during an emergency.</p>	<p>Mid-term (1-3 years)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration</p>	<p>Evaluation completed for alternate access routes.  Construction of selected alternate access route completed.</p>
<p><b>37</b></p>	<p>Encourage the Ashcroft community to download and subscribe to the Voyent Alert! app (<a href="https://voyent-alert.com/community/">https://voyent-alert.com/community/</a>) if they have not already done so.</p>	<p>To ensure that residents are able to receive notifications from the Village of Ashcroft, TNRD and other agencies for all types of emergency situations.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft Emergency Program Coordinator</p>	<p>Voyent Alert! app link communicated to all Ashcroft community members.</p>
<p><b>38</b></p>	<p>Evaluate for and install backup power systems for the critical infrastructure and essential assets in the Ashcroft community that currently do not have them.</p>	<p>To ensure that critical services can continue to function even if the electrical grid system is compromised by a wildfire or other event.</p>	<p>Mid-term (1-3 years)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration</p>	<p>Secure funding for back-up power systems.</p>
<p><b>39</b></p>	<p>Share community structure, critical infrastructure and water supply data with first responder agencies such as the BC Wildfire Service to assist in preparedness and strategic planning for effective emergency and wildfire suppression response and resource allocation during a wildfire emergency.</p>	<p>The community structure, critical infrastructure and water supply and availability information will play a crucial pre-organizational role for wildfire preparedness by ensuring that adequate fire suppression resources are identified and strategically placed prior to a wildfire event impacting the community.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator</p>	<p>Map(s) and data transferred to emergency response agencies.</p>

40	Expand the current structural protection equipment capacity of the Ashcroft Fire Department to include a Type 2 Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailer.	Expansion of the Village of Ashcroft structure protection equipment to include a full structural protection trailer (SPU) that can be deployed by trained members of the community during wildfire events.	Mid-term (1-3 years)	Moderate	Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft Fire Department	Acquisition of further structural protection equipment and ultimately a SPU trailer.
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**Section 5.10 FireSmart Discipline: Vegetation and Fuels Management**

Action Item	Recommended Activity	Description	Timing	Priority	Responsibility	Outcome
41	Secure funding to complete identified vegetation reduction recommendations identified in Critical Infrastructure Ignition Zone Assessments and/or Culturally Significant Site and Green Space Assessments.	Reduction of high hazard fuels/vegetation adjacent critical infrastructure and culturally-significant sites and green spaces within the community.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	Identify priority areas and secure vegetation/fuel mitigation funding.
42	Develop an annual vegetation management program to ensure that vegetation located in common areas throughout the community is maintained and/or watered throughout the wildfire season.	The maintenance plan would outline the frequency and type of vegetation maintenance required (i.e. weed whacking, pruning, or watering) for the common areas throughout the community.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft Public Works  Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	Vegetation maintenance plan is developed and implemented.
43	Consider securing funding for a seasonal FireSmart Crew to assist in the mitigation work recommended for Village of Ashcroft assets, including structures, critical infrastructure, common areas and green spaces.	Crew members would be responsible for completing vegetation management work around Village of Ashcroft structures, critical infrastructure, common areas and green spaces.	Short Term (Within 1 year)	High	Village of Ashcroft administration  Village of Ashcroft Public Works  Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator	2 or more crew members hired.

<p><b>44</b></p>	<p>Secure funding from sources such as the Community Resiliency Investment Program to complete eligible fuel reduction treatments and cultural/prescribed burns for the proposed treatment areas identified on municipal and provincial crown land within the WUI zone.</p> <p>Coordinate with Thompson Rivers Natural Resource District staff to secure funding through the provincial CLWRR program to complete fuel reduction treatments and cultural/prescribed burns for proposed treatment areas identified on provincial crown land that are not eligible for funding through other sources.</p>	<p>Continued reduction of high hazard fuels/vegetation adjacent to and within the community.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft FireSmart Coordinator</p> <p>Thompson Rivers Natural Resource District WRR staff</p>	<p>Identify priority areas and secure treatment funding.</p>
<p><b>45</b></p>	<p>Perform maintenance actions on the existing fireguards within and immediately adjacent to the Ashcroft community.</p> <p>Expand the existing network by constructing additional fireguards in efforts to increase wildfire resiliency.</p>	<p>Maintenance activities are completed for the existing fireguard network ensuring their continued effectiveness in the event of a wildfire.</p> <p>Additional fireguards are constructed in high-risk areas to further increase wildfire resiliency within and adjacent to the Ashcroft community.</p>	<p>Short Term (Within 1 year)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Village of Ashcroft administration</p> <p>Village of Ashcroft Public Works</p>	<p>Maintenance work completed on existing fireguards.</p> <p>Additional fireguards constructed.</p>

### 6.3 Plan Monitoring, Tracking and Updates

Scheduling regular monitoring, reviewing and updating of the CWRP ensures that the plan does more than “sit on a shelf”. Communities should set a schedule that ideally includes a minimum annual review of the CWRP action plan and a five-year comprehensive review of the entire plan. During the annual review, consider whether any significant changes have occurred, such as the adoption of a new planning process that could affect CWRP implementation. In addition, columns can be added to the Summary of Recommendations (provided separately) and/or the action planning table to form the CWRP workplan, that will allow for tracking and reporting whether actions have been completed, if they are in progress, any changes to priority levels, and any comments that apply. The five-year comprehensive review should cover the entire plan and consider how risk may have changed based on any recent wildfires occurring, vegetation management work completed, significant changes to the urban environment due to growth and development, government legislation or program funding changes, or other factors that would influence the overall success of the plan.

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## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms

**Area of Interest (AoI):** The Area of Interest for a CWRP includes the area that lies within the municipal boundary, regional district boundary, or First Nations land, including First Nation reserve land, land owned by a Treaty First Nation (as defined by the Interpretation Act) within treaty settlement lands, or land under the authority of an Indigenous National Government boundary. The AOI should reflect how the community is organized and how it approaches other similar planning projects within its jurisdictional boundaries. When communities are located close together and are geographically aligned, a “regional” approach may be most effective.

For regional districts this could be the boundary of an electoral area that encompasses multiple unincorporated communities.

**Critical Infrastructure (CI):** are assets owned by the Provincial government, local government, public institution (such as health authority or school district), First Nation or Treaty First Nation that are essential to the health, safety, security or economic wellbeing of the community and the effective functioning of government, or assets identified in a Local Authority Emergency Plan Hazard, Risk & Vulnerability, and Critical Infrastructure assessment.

**Fire danger** - A general term used to express an assessment of both fixed and changeable factors of the fire environment that determine the ease of ignition, rate of spread, difficulty of control, and fire impact.

**FireSmart** - Actions taken to minimize the unwanted effects of wildfire, while recognizing the important role it has in maintaining healthy landscapes.

**FireSmart Landscaping:** is the removal, reduction, or conversion of flammable plants (such as landscaping for residential properties, parks, open spaces, and critical infrastructure) in order to create more fire-resistant areas in FireSmart Non-combustible Zone and Priority Zones 1 and 2 (refer to the FireSmart Guide to Landscaping).

**Fuel** - Fuel is any organic matter, living or dead, in the ground, on the ground, or in the air that can ignite and burn.

- Surface fuels - All combustible materials lying above the duff layer between the ground and ladder fuels that are responsible for propagating surface fires (e.g. litter, herbaceous vegetation, low and medium shrubs, tree seedlings, stumps, downed-dead roundwood).
- Ladder fuels - Fuels that provide vertical continuity between the surface fuels and crown fuels in a forest stand, thus contributing to the ease of torching and crowning (e.g. tall shrubs, small-sized trees, bark flakes, tree lichens).
- Crown fuels are the trunks, branches, leaves on large living trees and standing snags or dead trees.

**Fuel break** - a barrier or a change in fuel type or condition (to one that is less flammable than that surrounding it), or a strip of land that has been modified or cleared to prevent fire spread. In the event of fire, may serve as a control line from which to carry out suppression operations.

**Fuel reduction** - Fuel reduction (or fuel management) is the modification of forest structure to reduce forest fuel accumulations available to burn in a wildfire. The main goal of fuel reduction is improving public safety. This may include treatments such as thinning, spacing and pruning trees, and removal of needles and woody debris from the forest floor.

**Fuel type** - An identifiable association of fuel elements of distinctive species, form, size, arrangement, and continuity that will exhibit characteristic fire behaviour under defined burning conditions.

**Initial Spread Index** - The Initial Spread Index (ISI) is a numeric rating of the expected rate of fire spread. It is based on the wind speed and the moisture content of the fine surface fuels.

**Interface fire** - Fires that have the potential to involve buildings and forest fuel or vegetation simultaneously.

**Local FireSmart Representative (LFR)** - A FireSmart knowledgeable person that has completed the LFR workshop training and facilitates implementation of the FireSmart program activities within a community.

**Prescribed fire** - The knowledgeable and controlled application of fire to a specific area to accomplish planned resource management objectives. These fires are managed in such a way as to minimize the emission of smoke and maximize the benefits to the site.

**Rate of spread (RoS)** - The speed at which a fire extends its horizontal dimensions, expressed in terms of distance per unit of time, usually metres per minute (m/min) and kilometres per hour (km/h).

**Spotting** - A wildfire produces burning embers called firebrands. These firebrands are carried by the surface wind, a fire whirl and/or convection column that fall beyond the main fire perimeter and result in spot fires.

**Values at Risk (VAR):** are the human or natural resources that may be impacted by wildfire. This includes human life, property, critical infrastructure, high environmental and cultural values, and resource values.

**Wildfire Risk:**

- Likelihood of a fire occurring
- Associated fire behaviour
- Impacts of the fire (consequence)

**Wildfire Threat** - The ability of a wildfire to ignite, spread, and consume organic material (trees, shrubs, and other organic materials) in the forest. The major components used to define wildfire threat are fuel, weather, and topography.

**Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)** - The WUI is defined in the FireSmart manual as any area where combustible forest fuel is found adjacent to homes, farm structures, or other outbuildings. This may occur at the interface, where development and forest fuel (vegetation) meet at a well-defined boundary, or in the intermix, where development and forest fuel intermingle with no clearly defined boundary.

## Appendix 2: Critical Community Infrastructure and Essential Assets

Type	Name / Location	Owner
Emergency Operations	Village of Ashcroft Municipal Hall	Village of Ashcroft
Emergency Operations	Ashcroft Firehall	Village of Ashcroft
Emergency Operations	Ashcroft Hub Recreation Centre	Village of Ashcroft
Emergency Operations	Village of Ashcroft Public Works Office and Maintenance Buildings	Village of Ashcroft
Emergency Operations	Police Station	RCMP
Emergency Operations	Ambulance Station	BC Emergency Health Services
Health	Ashcroft Community Health Centre Complex	Interior Health
Health	Ashcroft Family Medical Practice	Private medical group
Health	Ashcroft Dental Clinic	Private dental group
Health	Ashcroft IDA Pharmacy	Private pharmacy
Education	School District 74 Administration Building	School District 74
Water	Village of Ashcroft Community Water Intake, Treatment Plant and Pumpstation #1 (Riverview Crescent)	Village of Ashcroft
Water	Village of Ashcroft Community Water Pumpstation #2 (Highway 97C)	Village of Ashcroft
Water	Village of Ashcroft Community Water Pumpstation #3 (Highway 97C – Highland Valley Road)	Village of Ashcroft
Water	Village of Ashcroft Community Water Chlorine Booster Station (Mesa Vista Road)	Village of Ashcroft
Water	Village of Ashcroft Community Water Reservoirs (Highway 97C)	Village of Ashcroft
Sewage	Village of Ashcroft Lillooet Sewage Treatment Complex	Village of Ashcroft
Sewage	Tingley Street Septic Lift Station #1	Village of Ashcroft
Sewage	Bancroft Street Septic Lift Station #2	Village of Ashcroft
Sewage	Bancroft Lane Septic Lift Station #3	Village of Ashcroft
Sewage	Railway Avenue Septic Lift Station #4	Village of Ashcroft

Natural Gas	Ashcroft Substation	FortisBC Energy
Power	Ashcroft Substation	BC Hydro
Communication	Cell Tower (Highway 97C – North Ashcroft)	Telus
Communication	Cell Tower (Highway 1)	Telus
Communication	Communications Tower (Highway 1)	CN Rail
Communication	Fire Department Repeater (Highway 97C – Highland Valley Road)	Village of Ashcroft
Communication	Fire Department Repeater (Mesa Vista)	Village of Ashcroft
Communication	Telus Communication Building (Brink Street)	Telus
Communication	Ashcroft Post Office	Canada Postal Service
Fuel	Gas Station	Husky Energy
Fuel	Gas Station	Chevron Canada
Food	Safety Mart Foods	AG Foods
Financial	Beem Credit Union	Beem

## Appendix 3: Hazardous Values

Value	Hazard
Chevron Gas Station	Fuel storage tanks
Husky Gas Station	Fuel storage tanks
FortisBC Gas Substation	Pressurized natural gas
BC Hydro – Ashcroft Substation	Electricity
Village of Ashcroft Sewage Treatment Plant	Hazardous biologicals, chemicals
Village of Ashcroft Public Works Yard	Fuel storage tanks
Drylands Arena	Ammonia
NGN Sales and Services	Fuel, oil, welding tanks
Ashcroft Home Building Centre	Fertilizer, paint, propane tanks
Koppers railway tie plant	Hazardous/toxic chemicals
Ashcroft Terminal Complex (includes the Trans-Load Oil mixing and storage facility)	Fuel & oil storage tanks, hazardous/toxic chemicals in rail cars
CP Rail Yard	Fuel storage tanks
CN Rail Yard	Fuel storage tanks
School District 74 Yard	Vehicle (bus) storage, hazardous chemicals

## Appendix 4: Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction (FBP) – Fuel Type Descriptions

### C1 - Spruce–Lichen Woodland



This fuel type is characterized by open, parklike black spruce (*Picea mariana* (Mill.) B.S.P.) stands occupying well-drained uplands in the subarctic zone of western and northern Canada. Jack pine (*Pinus banksiana* Lamb.) and white birch (*Betula papyrifera* Marsh.) are minor associates in the overstory. Forest cover occurs as widely spaced individuals and dense clumps. Tree heights vary considerably, but bole branches (live and dead) uniformly extend to the forest floor and layering development is extensive. Accumulation of woody surface fuel is very light and scattered. Shrub cover is exceedingly sparse. The ground surface is fully exposed to the sun and covered by a nearly continuous mat of reindeer lichens (*Cladonia* spp.), averaging 3-4 cm in depth above mineral soil.

## C2 - Boreal Spruce



This fuel type is characterized by pure, moderately well-stocked black spruce (*Picea mariana* (Mill.) B.S.P.) stands on lowland (excluding *Sphagnum* bogs) and upland sites. Tree crowns extend to or near the ground, and dead branches are typically draped with bearded lichens (*Usnea* spp.). The flaky nature of the bark on the lower portion of stem boles is pronounced. Low to moderate volumes of down woody material are present. Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum* Oeder) is often the major shrub component. The forest floor is dominated by a carpet of feather mosses and/or ground-dwelling lichens (chiefly *Cladonia*). *Sphagnum* mosses may occasionally be present, but they are of little hindrance to surface fire spread. A compacted organic layer commonly exceeds a depth of 20–30 cm.

### C3 - Mature Jack or Lodgepole Pine



This fuel type is characterized by pure, fully stocked (1000–2000 stems/ha) jack pine (*Pinus banksiana* Lamb.) or lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* Dougl. ex Loud.) stands that have matured at least to the stage of complete crown closure. The base of live crown is well above the ground. Dead surface fuels are light and scattered. Ground cover is feather moss (*Pleurozium schreberi*) over a moderately deep (approximately 10 cm), compacted organic layer. A sparse conifer understory may be present.

#### C4 - Immature Jack or Lodgepole Pine



This fuel type is characterized by pure, dense jack pine (*Pinus banksiana* Lamb.) or lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* Dougl. ex Loud.) stands (10,000–30,000 stems/ha) in which natural thinning mortality results in a large quantity of standing dead stems and dead downed woody fuel. Vertical and horizontal fuel continuity is characteristic of this fuel type. Surface fuel loadings are greater than in fuel type C3, and organic layers are shallower and less compact. Ground cover is mainly needle litter suspended within a low shrub layer (*Vaccinium* spp.).

## C5 - Red and White Pine



This fuel type is characterized by mature stands of red pine (*Pinus resinosa* Ait.) and eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus* L.) in various proportions, sometimes with small components of white spruce (*Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss) and old white birch (*Betula papyrifera* Marsh.) or aspen (*Populus* spp.). The understory is of moderate density, usually red maple (*Acer rubrum* L.) or balsam fir (*Abies balsamea* (L.) Mill.). A shrub layer, usually beaked hazel (*Corylus cornuta* Marsh.), may be present in moderate proportions. The ground surface cover is a combination of herbs and pine litter. The organic layer is usually 5–10 cm deep.

## C6 - Conifer Plantation



This fuel type is characterized by pure, fully stocked conifer plantations with closed crowns and no understory or shrub layer. The forest floor is covered by needle litter with an underlying duff layer up to 10 cm deep. The crown base height is taken into account in predicting fire spread rate and crowning.

**C7 - Ponderosa Pine–Douglas-Fir**

This fuel type is characterized by uneven-aged stands of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa* Laws.) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco) in various proportions. Western larch (*Larix occidentalis* Nutt.) and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* Dougl. ex Loud.) may be significant stand components on some sites and at some elevations. Stands are open, with occasional clumpy thickets of multi-aged Douglas-fir and/or larch as a discontinuous understory. Canopy closure is less than 50% overall, although thickets are closed and often dense. Woody surface fuel accumulations are light and scattered. Except within Douglas-fir thickets, the forest floor is dominated by perennial grasses, herbs, and scattered shrubs. Within tree thickets, needle litter is the predominant surface fuel. Duff layers are nonexistent to shallow (<3 cm).

## O1 – Grass



This fuel type is characterized by continuous grass cover, with no more than occasional trees or shrub clumps that do not appreciably affect fire behaviour. Two subtype designations are available for grasslands; one for the matted grass condition common after snowmelt or in the spring (O1-a) and the other for standing dead grass common in late summer to early fall (O1-b). The proportion of cured or dead material in grasslands has a pronounced effect on fire spread there and must be estimated with care.

**D1 - Leafless Aspen**

This fuel type is characterized by pure, semimature trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides* Michx.) stands before bud break in the spring or following leaf fall and curing of the lesser vegetation in the autumn. A conifer understory is noticeably absent, but a well-developed medium to tall shrub layer is typically present. Dead and down roundwood fuels are a minor component of the fuel complex. The principal fire-carrying surface fuel consists chiefly of deciduous leaf litter and cured herbaceous material that is directly exposed to wind and solar radiation. In the spring the duff mantle (F and H horizons) seldom contributes to the available combustion fuel because of its high moisture content.

### S1 - Jack or Lodgepole Pine Slash



This fuel type is characterized by slash resulting from tractor or skidder clear-cut logging of mature jack pine (*Pinus banksiana* Lamb.) or lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* Dougl. ex Loud.) stands. The slash is typically one or two seasons old, retaining up to 50% of the foliage, particularly on branches closest to the ground. No post-logging treatment has been applied, and slash fuels are continuous. Tops and branches left on site result in moderate fuel loads and depths. Ground cover is continuous feather moss mixed with discontinuous fallen needle litter. Organic layers are moderately deep and fairly compact.

## S2 - White Spruce–Balsam Slash



This fuel type is characterized by slash resulting from tractor or skidder clear-cut logging of mature to overmature stands of white spruce (*Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss) and sub-alpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa* (Hook.) Nutt.) or balsam fir (*Abies balsamea* (L.) Mill.). Slash is typically one or two seasons old, retaining from 10% to 50% of the foliage on the branches. No postlogging treatment has been applied. Fuel continuity may be broken by skid trails unless the site was logged in winter. Tops have been left on site, and most branch fuels have broken off during skidding of logs to landings, which results in moderate fuel loads and depths. Quantities of shattered large and rotten woody fuels may be significant. Ground cover is feather moss with considerable needle litter fallen from the slash. Organic layers are moderately deep and compact.

### S3 - Coastal Cedar–Hemlock–Douglas-Fir Slash



This fuel type is characterized by slash resulting from high-lead clear-cut logging of mature to overmature coastal British Columbia mixed conifer stands. Predominant species are western redcedar (*Thuja plicata* Donn.), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla* (Raf.) Sarg.), and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco). Slash is typically one season old, with the cedar component retaining all its foliage in a cured condition on the branches, whereas the hemlock and Douglas-fir components will have dropped up to 50% of their foliage. Slash fuels tend to be continuous and uncompacted. Very large loadings of broken and rotten unmerchantable material may be present, depending on degree of stand decadence. Slash fuel depths may range from 0.5 to 2.0 m. Ground cover may be feather moss or just compact old needle litter under significant quantities of recent needle litter fallen from the slash. Organic layers are moderately deep to deep and compact. Minor to moderate shrub and herbaceous understory components may be present. This fuel type designation may also be applied to wet belt cedar–hemlock slash of coastal and interior British Columbia where the Douglas-fir component is absent.

## M1 - Boreal Mixedwood–Leafless



This fuel type (and its "green" counterpart, M2) is characterized by stand mixtures consisting of the following coniferous and deciduous tree species in varying proportions: black spruce (*Picea mariana* (Mill.) B.S.P.), white spruce (*Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea* (L.) Mill.), subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa* (Hook.) Nutt.), trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides* Michx.), and white birch (*Betula papyrifera* Marsh.). On any specific site, individual species can be present or absent from the mixture. In addition to the diversity in species composition, stands exhibit wide variability in structure and development, but are generally confined to moderately well-drained upland sites. M1, the first phase of seasonal variation in flammability, occurs during the spring and fall. The rate of spread is weighted according to the proportion (expressed as a percentage) of softwood and hardwood components.

## M2 - Boreal Mixedwood–Green



This fuel type (and its "leafless" counterpart, M1) is characterized by stand mixtures consisting of the following coniferous and deciduous tree species in varying proportions: black spruce (*Picea mariana* (Mill.) B.S.P.), white spruce (*Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea* (L.) Mill.), subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa* (Hook.) Nutt.), trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides* Michx.), and white birch (*Betula papyrifera* Marsh.). On any specific site, individual species can be present or absent from the mixture. In addition to the diversity in species composition, stands exhibit wide variability in structure and development, but are generally confined to moderately well-drained upland sites. M2, the second phase of seasonal variation in flammability, occurs during the summer. The rate of spread is weighted according to the proportion (expressed as a percentage) of softwood and hardwood components. In the summer, when the deciduous overstory and understory are in leaf, fire spread is greatly reduced, with maximum spread rates only one-fifth that of spring or fall fires under similar burning conditions.

### M3 - Dead Balsam Fir Mixedwood–Leafless



This fuel type (and its "green" counterpart, M4) is characterized by mixedwood stands in which balsam fir (*Abies balsamea* (L.) Mill.) grows, often as an understory species, in a heterogeneous mix with spruce (*Picea* spp.), pine (*Pinus* spp.), and birch (*Betula* spp.). These stands are found in the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence and Boreal Forest regions of Canada and are not to be confused with the pure balsam fir stands typical of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Repeated annual defoliation (due to spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana* Clemens) attack) causes balsam fir mortality, followed by peeling bark, draped lichen (Spanish moss or old man's beard, *Usnea* spp.) development, top breakage, and windthrow, peaking 5–8 years after mortality. The volume of down woody material is initially low but increases substantially with progressive stand decomposition following mortality. The forest floor is a mixture of feather mosses, conifer needles, and hardwood leaves. The organic layer is moderately compacted and 8–10 cm deep. After mortality, spring fires in this fuel type behave extremely vigorously, with continuous crowning and downwind spotting.

#### M4 - Dead Balsam Fir Mixedwood–Green



This fuel type (and its "leafless" counterpart, M3) is characterized by mixedwood stands in which balsam fir (*Abies balsamea* (L.) Mill.) grows, often as an understory species, in a heterogeneous mix with spruce (*Picea* spp.), pine (*Pinus* spp.), and birch (*Betula* spp.). These stands are found in the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence and Boreal Forest regions of Canada and are not to be confused with the pure balsam fir stands typical of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Repeated annual defoliation (due to spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana* Clemens) attack) causes balsam fir mortality, followed by peeling bark, draped lichen (Spanish moss or old man's beard, *Usnea* spp.) development, top breakage, and windthrow, peaking 5–8 years after mortality. The volume of down woody material is initially low but increases substantially with progressive stand decomposition following mortality. The forest floor is a mixture of feather mosses, conifer needles, and hardwood leaves. The organic layer is moderately compacted and 8–10 cm deep. Summer fires are hampered by the proliferation of green understory vegetation resulting from the opening of stand canopy. As sufficient surface fuel accumulates through stand decomposition (usually after 4–5 years), fires will spread through the fuel complex, although not as vigorously as in spring. Forest fire behaviour potential is greatest 5–8 years after mortality, decreasing gradually as the surface fuels decompose and the understory vegetation continues to proliferate.

## Appendix 5: Wildfire Threat Assessment Plot Score and Rating

Plot#	WUI Area	WTA Score	WTA Rating	Plot#	WUI Area	WTA Score	WTA Rating
1	Ashcroft	26	Low	19	Ashcroft	26	Low
2	Ashcroft	26	Low	20	Ashcroft	24	Low
3	Ashcroft	9	Low	21	Ashcroft	26	Low
4	Ashcroft	25	Low	22	Ashcroft	26	Low
5	Ashcroft	41	Low	23	Ashcroft	26	Low
6	Ashcroft	26	Low	24	Ashcroft	26	Low
7	Ashcroft	26	Low	25	Ashcroft	26	Low
8	Ashcroft	31	Low	26	Ashcroft	26	Low
9	Ashcroft	26	Low	27	Ashcroft	26	Low
10	Ashcroft	32	Low	28	Ashcroft	26	Low
11	Ashcroft	26	Low	29	Ashcroft	26	Low
12	Ashcroft	41	Low	30	Ashcroft	26	Low
13	Ashcroft	31	Low	31	Ashcroft	26	Low
14	Ashcroft	31	Low	32	Ashcroft	26	Low
15	Ashcroft	32	Low	33	Ashcroft	31	Low
16	Ashcroft	30	Low	34	Ashcroft	26	Low
17	Ashcroft	34	Low	35	Ashcroft	9	Low
18	Ashcroft	24	Low				

## Appendix 6: Proposed Fuel Treatment Units

CWRP WUI Area (Location)	TU#	Area (ha)	PSTA Threat	Local Fuel Threat	Priority	Land Ownership	In Aol?	Treatment Type/Objective
Ashcroft (BC Hydro Substation)	1	3.2	High	Low-Moderate	High	Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	2	0.6	High	Moderate	Moderate	Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	3	1.4	High	Moderate	Low-Moderate	Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	4	1.8	High	Moderate	Moderate	Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	5	0.7	High	Moderate	Moderate	Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	6	1.0	High	Low	Moderate	Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	7	2.2	High	Moderate	Low-Moderate	Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	8	0.8	High	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	9	1.6	High	Moderate	Low-Moderate	Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	10	6.7	High	Moderate	Low-Moderate	Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	11	0.5	High	Low-Moderate	High	Municipal/Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	12	12.1	High	Moderate	Low-Moderate	Municipal/Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	13	8.1	High	Moderate	Moderate	Municipal/Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	14	3.2	High	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Municipal	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn

CWRP WUI Area (Location)	TU#	Area (ha)	PSTA Threat	Local Fuel Threat	Priority	Land Ownership	In Aol?	Treatment Type/Objective
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	15	7.5	High	Moderate-High	High	Municipal	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	16	6.5	High	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Municipal/Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	17	3.5	High	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Municipal/Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	18	2.0	High	Low-Moderate	Moderate-High	Municipal	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	19	0.5	High	Low-Moderate	Moderate-High	Municipal	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	20	2.1	High	Moderate-High	High	Municipal	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	21	6.4	High	Low-Moderate	Low-Moderate	Municipal	Yes	Interface: prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista)	22	2.6	High	Low-Moderate	Low-Moderate	Municipal/Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: prescribed burn
Ashcroft (VoA Public Works)	23	2.9	Moderate-High	High	High	Municipal	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (VoA Public Works)	24	3.0	Moderate-High	Moderate-High	High	Municipal	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista Road - South)	25A	2.1	High	Low-Moderate	High	Municipal	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (Mesa Vista Road - North)	25B	6.4	High	Low-Moderate	High	Municipal	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal, prescribed burn
Ashcroft (South Ashcroft Riverbank)	26A	2.6	High	Low	Moderate	Municipal/Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal
Ashcroft (South Ashcroft Riverbank)	26B	2.9	Moderate-High	Low-Moderate	High	Municipal/Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal
Ashcroft (South Ashcroft Riverbank)	26C	3.0	Moderate-High	Low	High	Municipal/Provincial Crown	Yes	Interface: vegetation removal

## **Appendix 7: CWRP Area of Interest Maps**

CWRP Aol Map 1: Area of Interest & Values at Risk

CWRP Aol Map 2: Local Wildfire Risk

CWRP Aol Map 3: Proposed Fuel Treatment Units

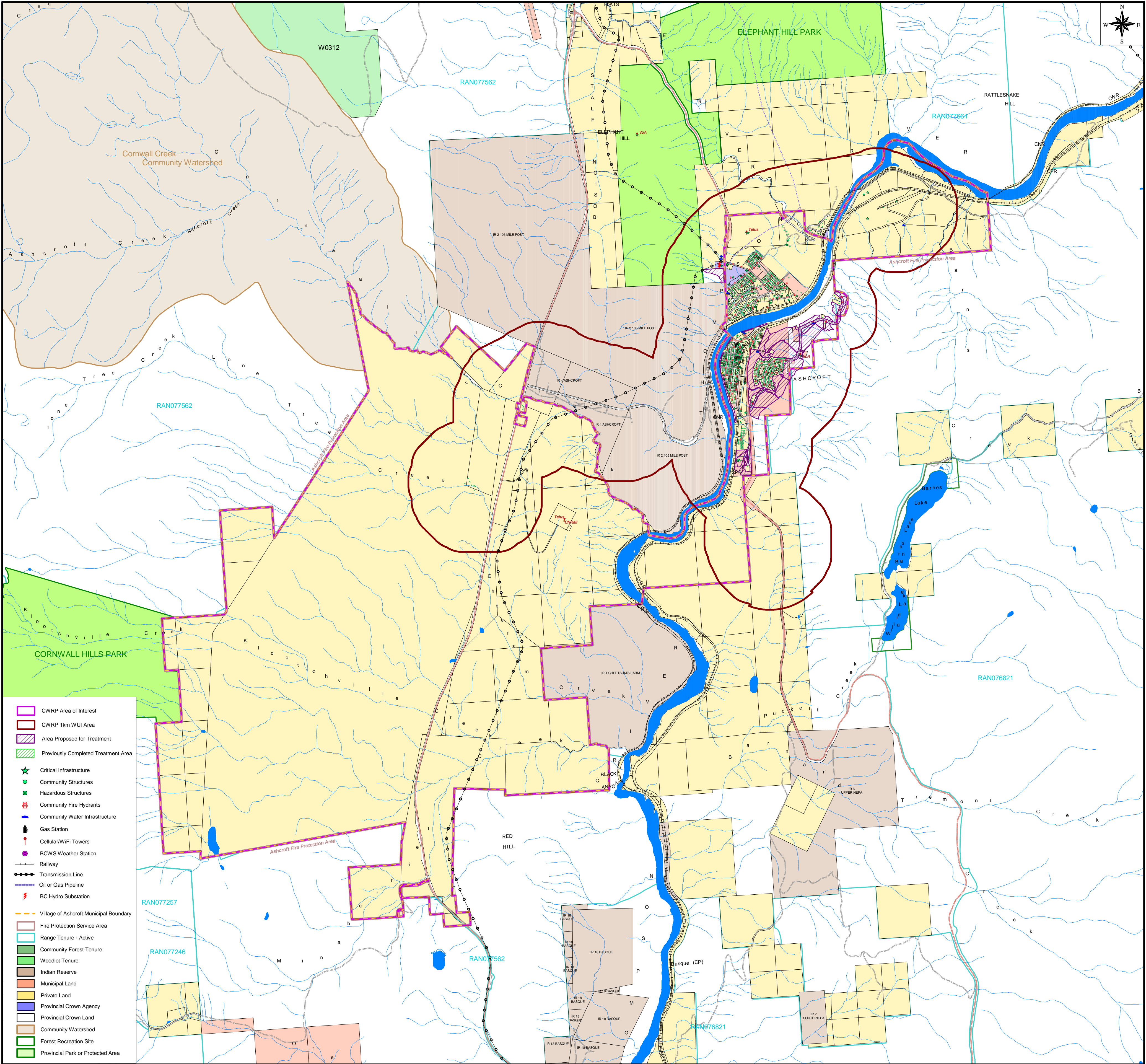
CWRP Aol Map 4: Fuel Types

CWRP Aol Map 5: Slope Class

CWRP Aol Map 6: Wildfire History and Density

CWRP Aol Map 7: Head Fire Intensity

CWRP Aol Map 8: Spotting Impact



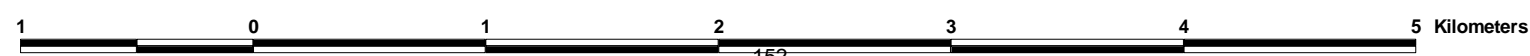
- CWRP Area of Interest
- CWRP 1km WUI Area
- Area Proposed for Treatment
- Previously Completed Treatment Area
- ★ Critical Infrastructure
- Community Structures
- Hazardous Structures
- Community Fire Hydrants
- Community Water Infrastructure
- Gas Station
- Cellular/WiFi Towers
- BCWS Weather Station
- Railway
- Transmission Line
- Oil or Gas Pipeline
- ⚡ BC Hydro Substation
- Village of Ashcroft Municipal Boundary
- Fire Protection Service Area
- Range Tenure - Active
- Community Forest Tenure
- Woodlot Tenure
- Indian Reserve
- Municipal Land
- Private Land
- Provincial Crown Agency
- Provincial Crown Land
- Community Watershed
- Forest Recreation Site
- Provincial Park or Protected Area

- Lakes and Rivers
- Streams
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Railway
- Transmission Line
- ⚡ BC Hydro Substation

**CWRP MAP 1 - AREA OF INTEREST & VALUES AT RISK**

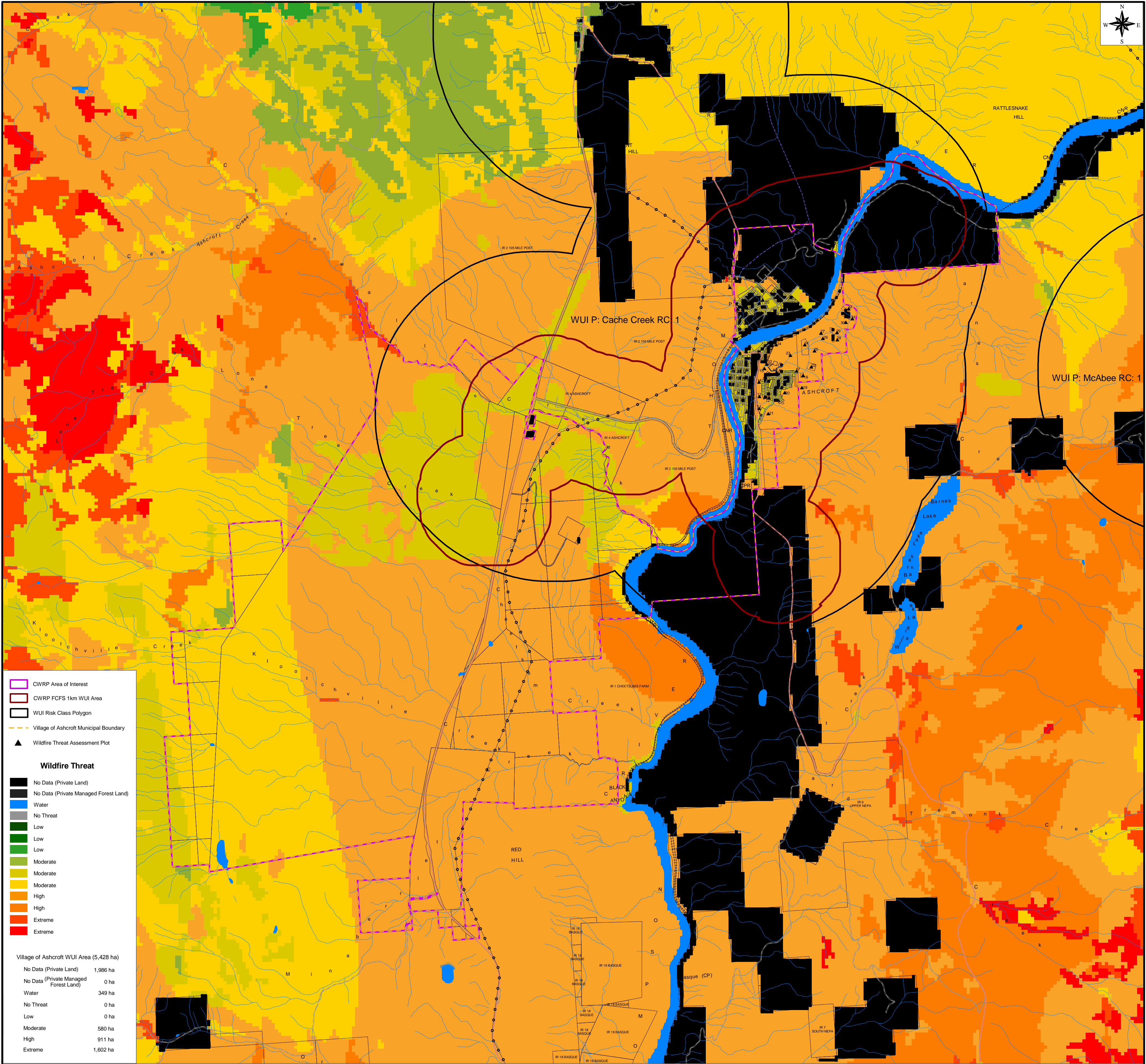
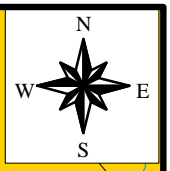
Village of Ashcroft CWRP

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Mapping Project: VoA\_LGPS-10342  
 Datum: NAD83  
 Map Projection: NAD83 UTM Zone 10  
 Drawn By: E.Senger  
 Production Date: February 17, 2026





**Legend**

- CWRP Area of Interest
- CWRP FCFS 1km WUI Area
- WUI Risk Class Polygon
- Village of Ashcroft Municipal Boundary
- Wildfire Threat Assessment Plot

**Wildfire Threat**

- No Data (Private Land)
- No Data (Private Managed Forest Land)
- Water
- No Threat
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Extreme

**Village of Ashcroft WUI Area (5,428 ha)**

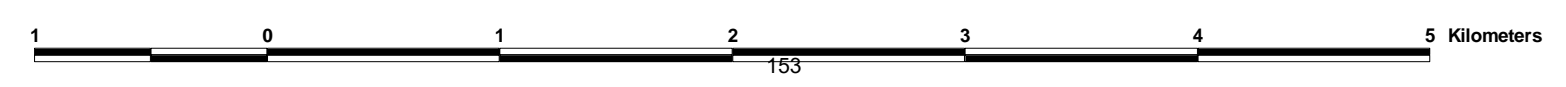
No Data (Private Land)	1,986 ha
No Data (Private Managed Forest Land)	0 ha
Water	349 ha
No Threat	0 ha
Low	0 ha
Moderate	580 ha
High	911 ha
Extreme	1,602 ha

- Lakes and Rivers
- Streams
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Railway
- Transmission Line
- BC Hydro Generation & Substation

**CWRP MAP 2 - WILDFIRE RISK**

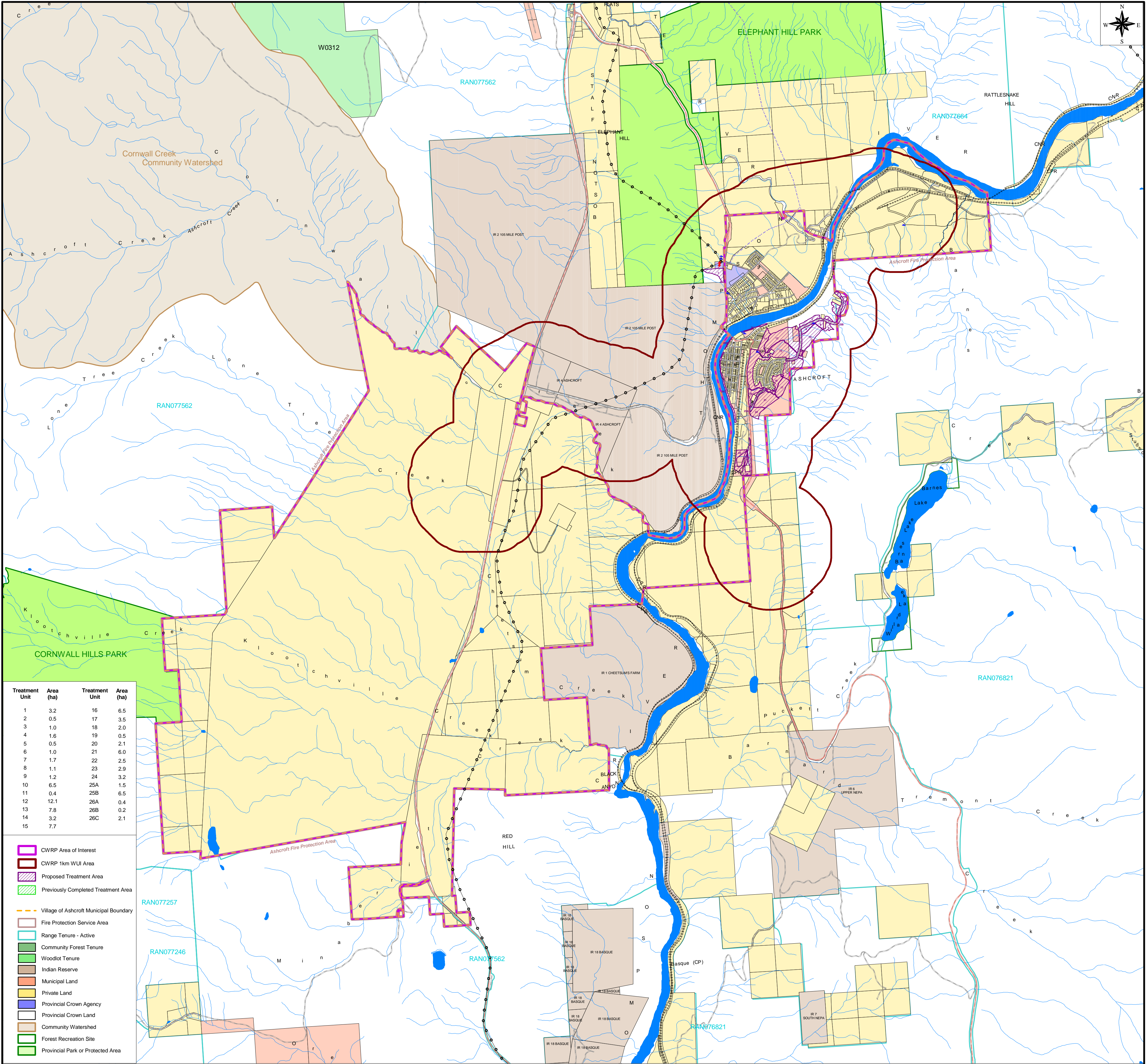
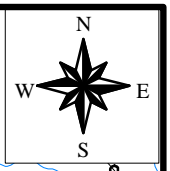
**Village of Ashcroft CWRP**

**1:32,500**



Mapping Project: VoA\_LGPS-10342  
 Datum: NAD83  
 Map Projection: NAD83 UTM Zone 10  
 Drawn By: E.Senger  
 Production Date: February 17, 2026





Treatment Unit	Area (ha)	Treatment Unit	Area (ha)
1	3.2	16	6.5
2	0.5	17	3.5
3	1.0	18	2.0
4	1.6	19	0.5
5	0.5	20	2.1
6	1.0	21	6.0
7	1.7	22	2.5
8	1.1	23	2.9
9	1.2	24	3.2
10	6.5	25A	1.5
11	0.4	25B	6.5
12	12.1	26A	0.4
13	7.8	26B	0.2
14	3.2	26C	2.1
15	7.7		

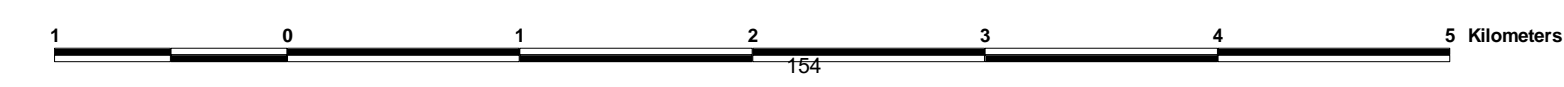
- CWRP Area of Interest
- CWRP 1km WUI Area
- Proposed Treatment Area
- Previously Completed Treatment Area
- Village of Ashcroft Municipal Boundary
- Fire Protection Service Area
- Range Tenure - Active
- Community Forest Tenure
- Woodlot Tenure
- Indian Reserve
- Municipal Land
- Private Land
- Provincial Crown Agency
- Provincial Crown Land
- Community Watershed
- Forest Recreation Site
- Provincial Park or Protected Area

- Lakes and Rivers
- Streams
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Railway
- Transmission Line
- BC Hydro Substation

**CWRP MAP 3 - PROPOSED FUEL TREATMENT UNITS**

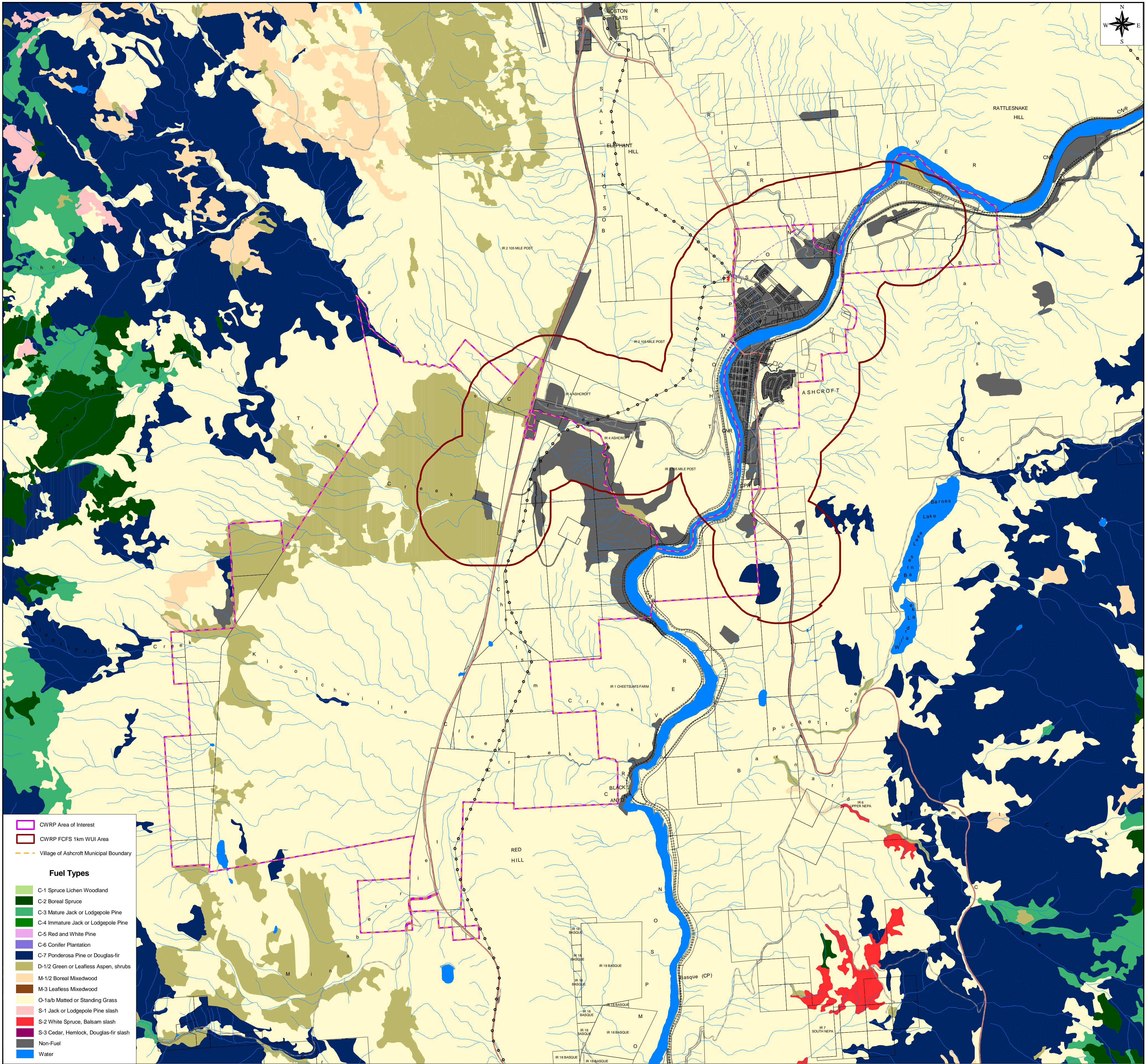
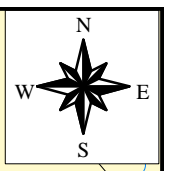
Village of Ashcroft CWRP

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 Datum: NAD83  
 Map Projection: NAD83 UTM Zone 10  
 Drawn By: E.Senger  
 Production Date: February 17, 2026





**CWRP Area of Interest**  
**CWRP FCFS 1km WUI Area**  
 Village of Ashcroft Municipal Boundary

**Fuel Types**

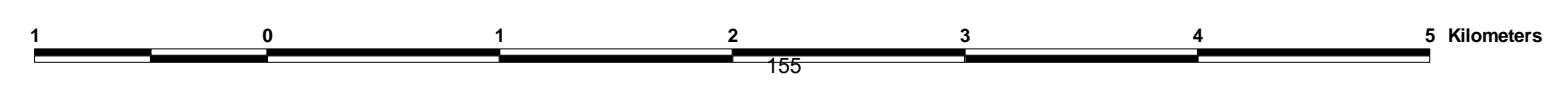
- C-1 Spruce Lichen Woodland
- C-2 Boreal Spruce
- C-3 Mature Jack or Lodgepole Pine
- C-4 Immature Jack or Lodgepole Pine
- C-5 Red and White Pine
- C-6 Conifer Plantation
- C-7 Ponderosa Pine or Douglas-fir
- D-1/2 Green or Leafless Aspen, shrubs
- M-1/2 Boreal Mixedwood
- M-3 Leafless Mixedwood
- O-1a/b Matted or Standing Grass
- S-1 Jack or Lodgepole Pine slash
- S-2 White Spruce, Balsam slash
- S-3 Cedar, Hemlock, Douglas-fir slash
- Non-Fuel
- Water

- Lakes and Rivers
- Streams
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Railway
- Transmission Line
- BC Hydro Substation

**CWRP MAP 4 - FUEL TYPES**

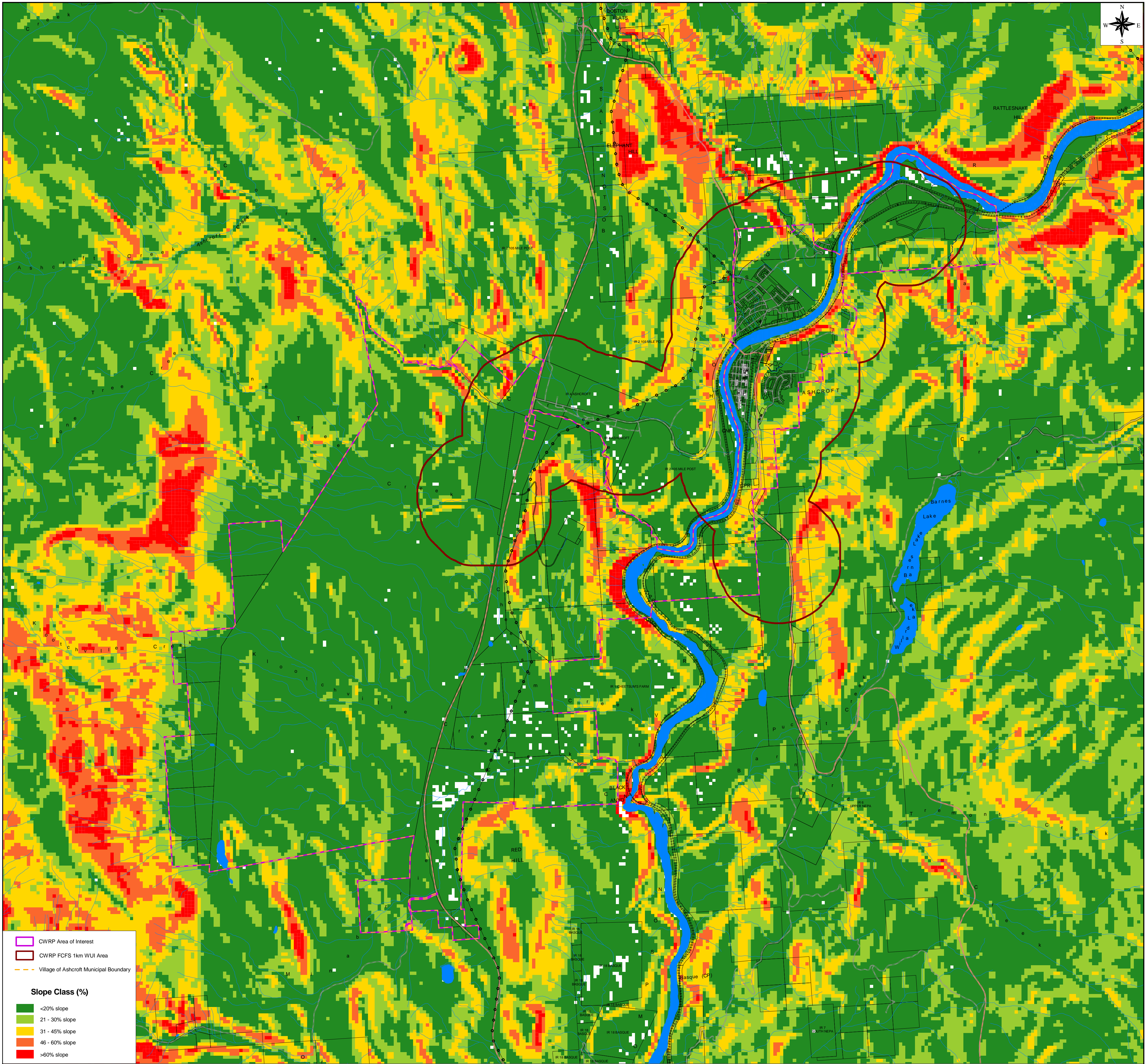
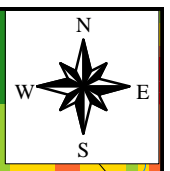
Village of Ashcroft CWRP

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Mapping Project: VoA\_LGPS-10342  
 Datum: NAD83  
 Map Projection: NAD83 UTM Zone 10  
 Drawn By: E.Senger  
 Production Date: December 18, 2025





CWRP Area of Interest  
 CWRP FCFS 1km WUI Area  
 Village of Ashcroft Municipal Boundary

**Slope Class (%)**

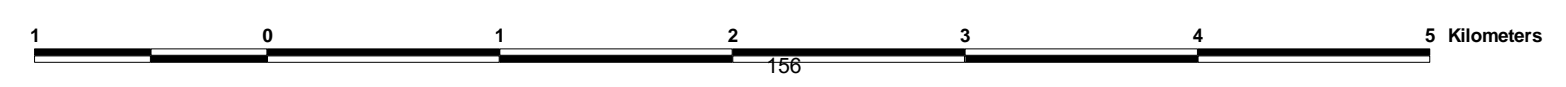
- <20% slope
- 21 - 30% slope
- 31 - 45% slope
- 46 - 60% slope
- >60% slope

- Lakes and Rivers
- Streams
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Railway
- Transmission Line
- BC Hydro Substation

**CWRP MAP 5 - SLOPE CLASS**

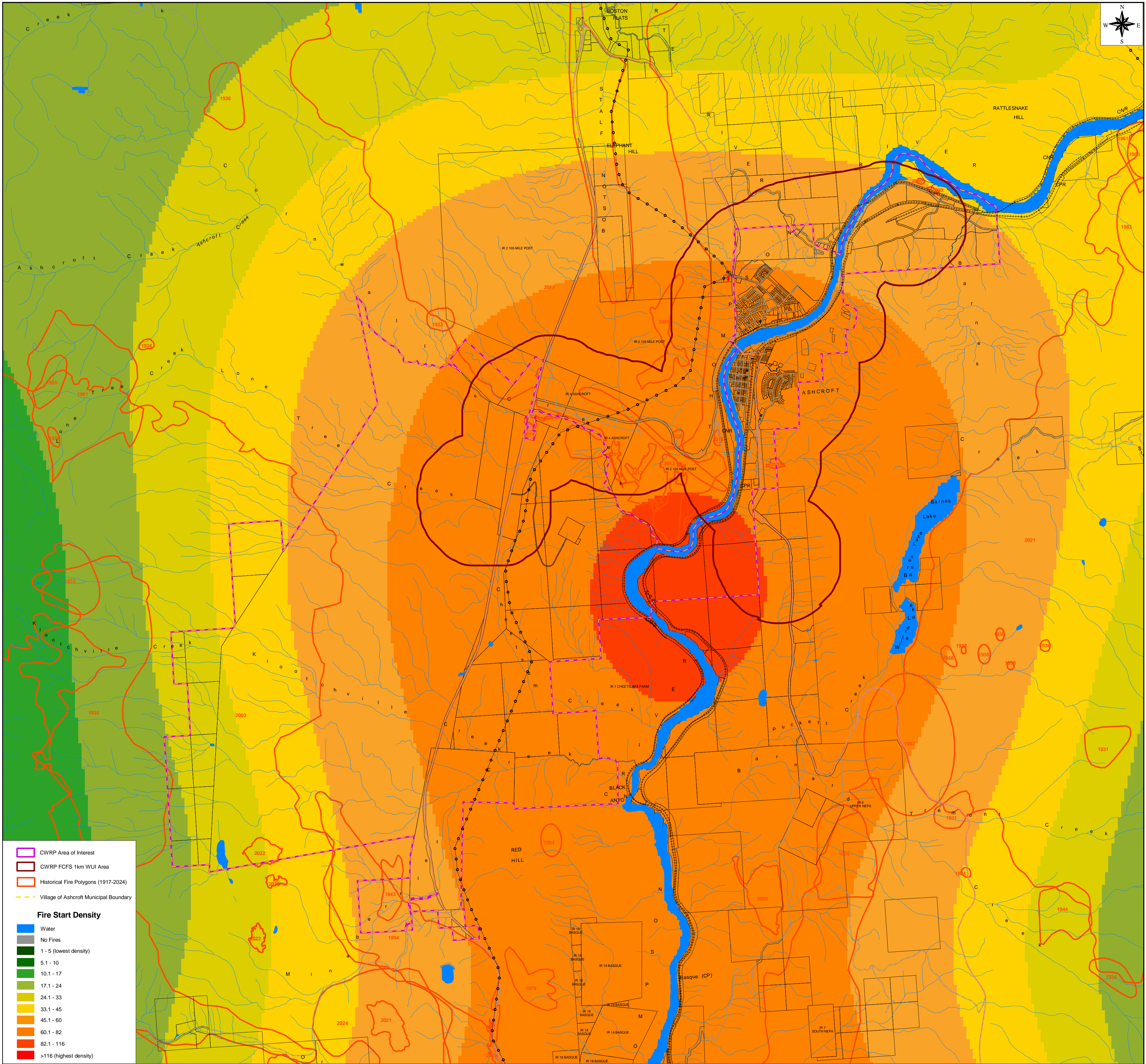
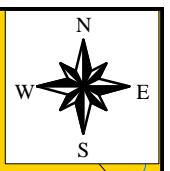
Village of Ashcroft CWRP

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Mapping Project: VoA\_LGPS-10342  
 Datum: NAD83  
 Map Projection: NAD83 UTM Zone 10  
 Drawn By: E.Senger  
 Production Date: December 18, 2025





**CWRP Area of Interest**

- CWRP Area of Interest (Purple dashed line)
- CWRP FCFS 1km WUI Area (Dark red outline)
- Historical Fire Polygons (1917-2024) (Red outline)
- Village of Ashcroft Municipal Boundary (Yellow dashed line)

**Fire Start Density**

- Water (Blue)
- No Fires (White)
- 1 - 5 (lowest density) (Lightest green)
- 5.1 - 10 (Light green)
- 10.1 - 17 (Medium green)
- 17.1 - 24 (Yellow-green)
- 24.1 - 33 (Yellow)
- 33.1 - 45 (Light orange)
- 45.1 - 60 (Orange)
- 60.1 - 82 (Dark orange)
- 82.1 - 116 (Red-orange)
- >116 (highest density) (Red)

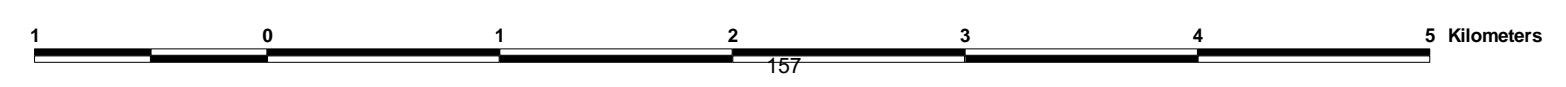
**Other Features**

- Lakes and Rivers (Blue)
- Streams (Light blue)
- Primary Roads (Red line)
- Secondary Roads (Grey line)
- Railway (Black line with cross-ticks)
- Transmission Line (Black line with circles)
- BC Hydro Substation (Red lightning bolt symbol)

**CWRP MAP 6 - WILDFIRE HISTORY AND DENSITY**

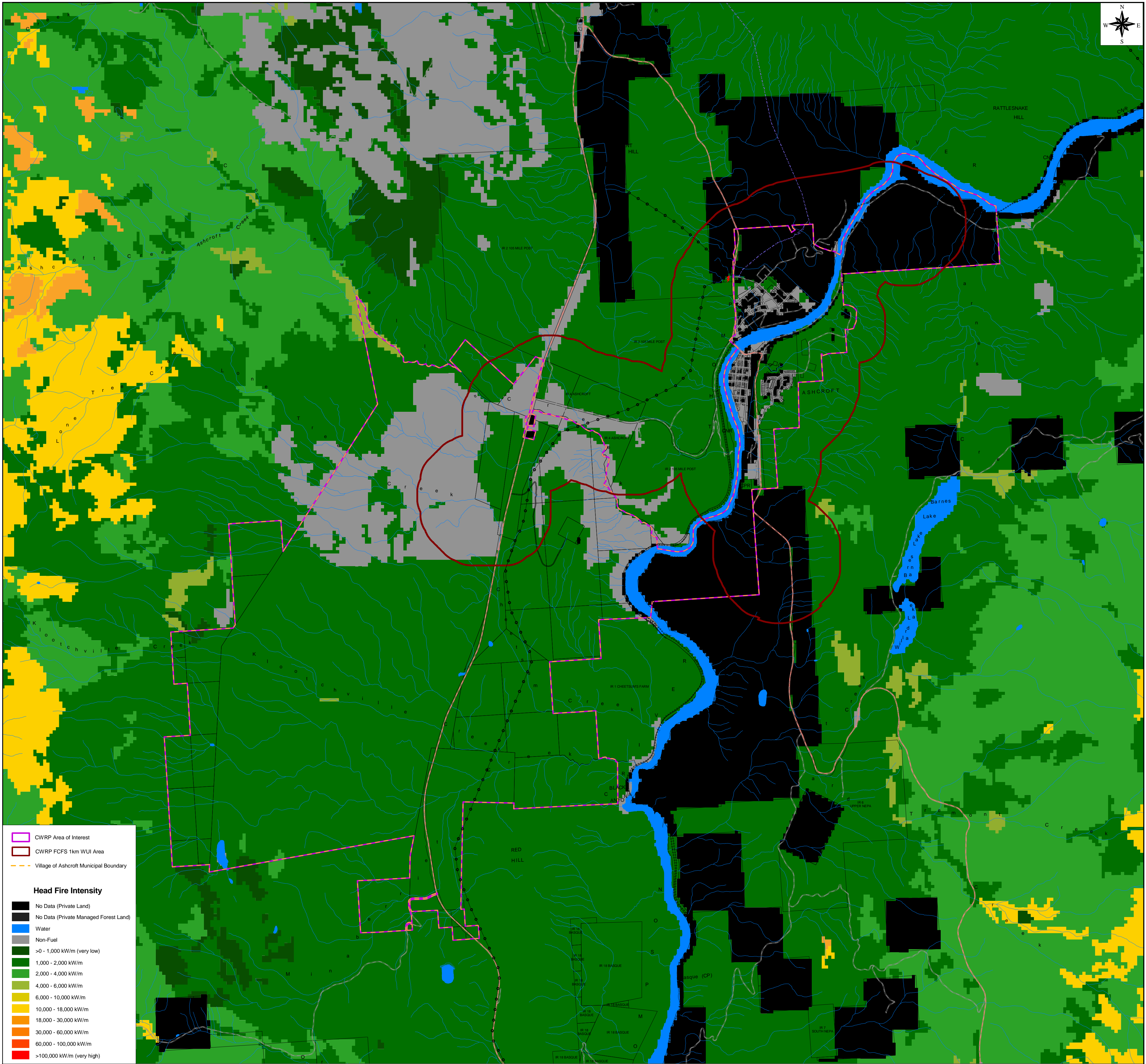
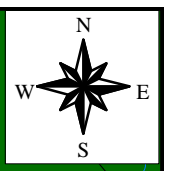
Village of Ashcroft CWRP

1:32,500



Mapping Project: VoA\_LGPS-10342  
 Datum: NAD83  
 Map Projection: NAD83 UTM Zone 10  
 Drawn By: E.Senger  
 Production Date: December 18, 2025





CWRP Area of Interest  
 CWRP FCFS 1km WUI Area  
 Village of Ashcroft Municipal Boundary

**Head Fire Intensity**

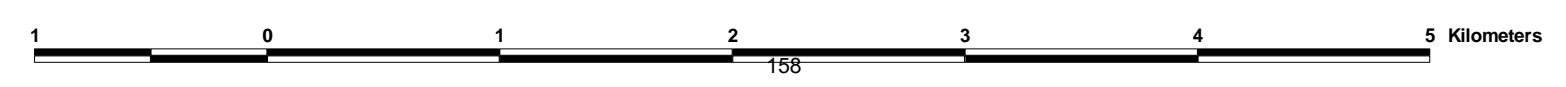
- No Data (Private Land)
- No Data (Private Managed Forest Land)
- Water
- Non-Fuel
- >0 - 1,000 kW/m (very low)
- 1,000 - 2,000 kW/m
- 2,000 - 4,000 kW/m
- 4,000 - 6,000 kW/m
- 6,000 - 10,000 kW/m
- 10,000 - 18,000 kW/m
- 18,000 - 30,000 kW/m
- 30,000 - 60,000 kW/m
- 60,000 - 100,000 kW/m
- >100,000 kW/m (very high)

- Lakes and Rivers
- Streams
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Railway
- Transmission Line
- BC Hydro Substation

**CWRP MAP 7 - HEAD FIRE INTENSITY**

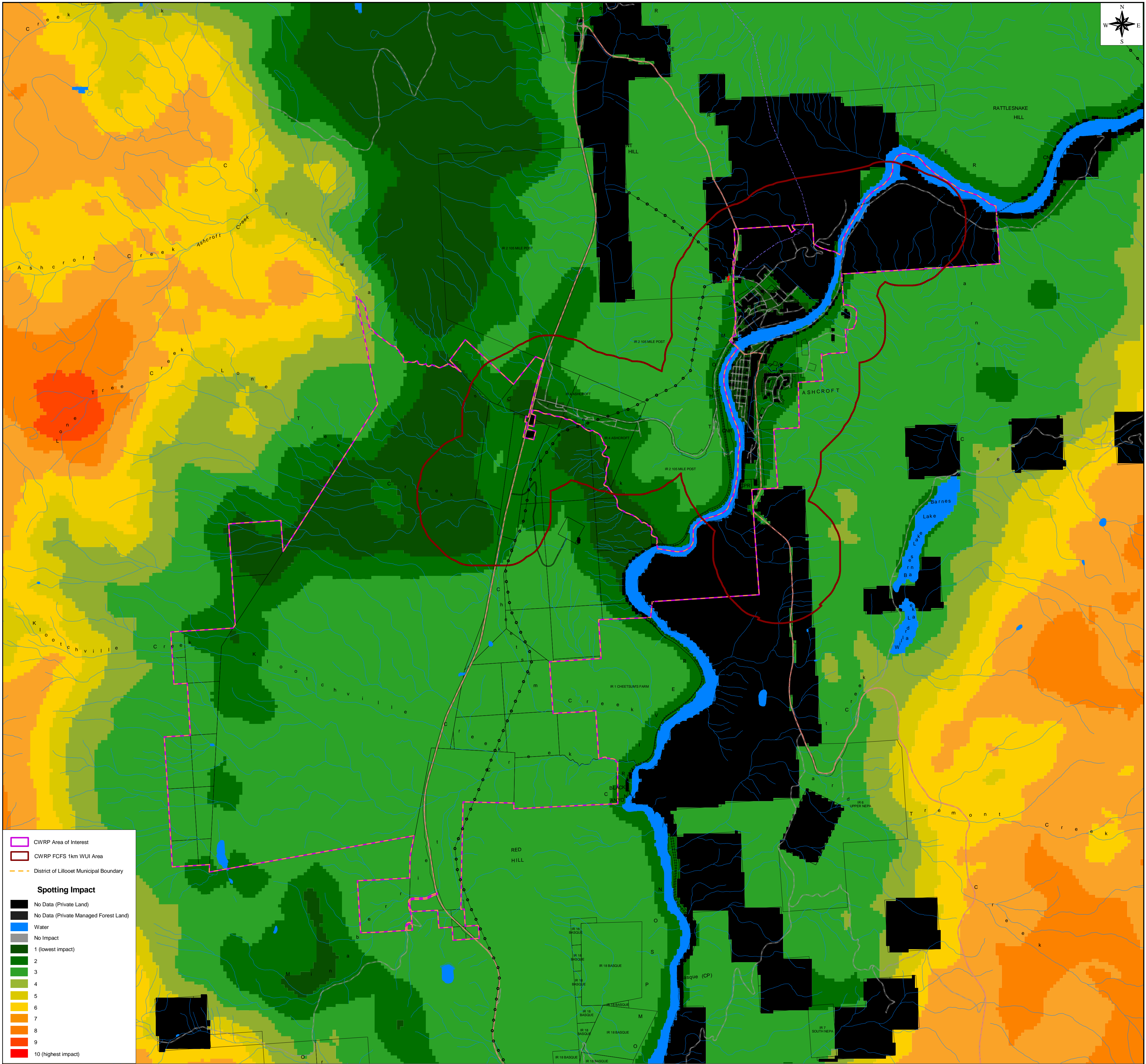
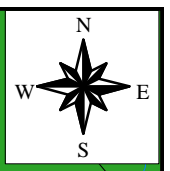
Village of Ashcroft CWRP

1:32,500



Mapping Project: VoA\_LGPS-10342  
 Datum: NAD83  
 Map Projection: NAD83 UTM Zone 10  
 Drawn By: E.Senger  
 Production Date: December 18, 2025





**CWRP Area of Interest**

**CWRP FCFS 1km WUI Area**

**District of Lillooet Municipal Boundary**

**Spotting Impact**

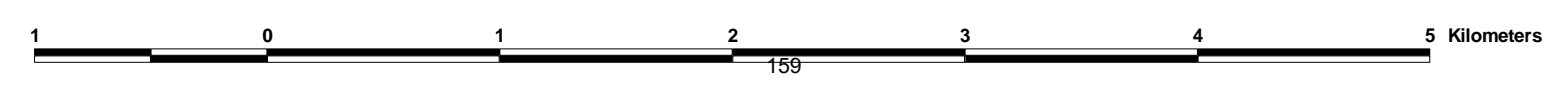
- No Data (Private Land)
- No Data (Private Managed Forest Land)
- Water
- No Impact
- 1 (lowest impact)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 (highest impact)

- Lakes and Rivers
- Streams
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Railway
- Transmission Line
- BC Hydro Substation

**CWRP MAP 8 - SPOTTING IMPACT**

**Village of Ashcroft CWRP**

**1:32,500**



Mapping Project: VoA\_LGPS-10342  
 Datum: NAD83  
 Map Projection: NAD83 UTM Zone 10  
 Drawn By: E.Senger  
 Production Date: December 18, 2025



**TO:** Mayor and Council

**MEETING DATE:** April 27, 2026

**FROM:** Yoginder Bhalla, CFO

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of the 2025 Audited Financial Statements

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

*THAT, Council adopt the Audited Financial Statements for 2025 as presented by Shawn Birkenhead, Partner at Doane Grant Thornton LLP*

**PURPOSE:**

To request adoption of the 2025 Financial Statements as presented by Shawn Birkenhead, Partner, Doane Grant Thornton LLP.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

**Approved for Submission to Council:**



Yoginder Bhalla,  
Chief Financial Officer



Daniela Dyck,  
Chief Administrative Officer

**BACKGROUND:**

The village is required to audit financial statements on an annual basis in order to gain assurance that the statements are prepared according to Canadian public sector accounting standards and are free from material misstatements or errors.

**DISCUSSION:**

The 2025 Financial Statements were successfully audited and received an unqualified (clean) opinion. As per the auditors report -

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT as at December 31, 2025, and the results of its operations, changes in its net financial assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

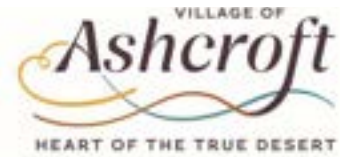
**Strategic/Municipal Objectives**

**Legislative Authority**

**Financial Implications**

**Attachment Listing:**

---



**STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL – OPEN MEETING**

**DATE:** April 27, 2026  
**FROM:** Margaret Moreira, EDTC  
**SUBJECT:** NDIT – Marketing Initiatives Grant Application

---

**RECOMMENDATION**

*THAT, Council for the Village of Ashcroft extends its full support for the submission of an application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust's (NDIT) Marketing Initiatives funding stream seeking financial assistance of up to \$10,000.*

**PURPOSE:**

Request Council endorse a grant application of up to \$10,000.00 to NDIT under the Marketing Initiative funding stream to offset the cost of marketing initiatives as identified by the EDT Working Group for 2026.

**Prepared by:**

Margaret Moreira,  
Economic Development & Tourism Coordinator,

**Approved for submission to Council:**

Daniela Dyck,  
Chief Administrative Officer

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**DISCUSSION:**

This report outlines the Economic Development and Tourism Working Group’s 2026 initiative to strengthen tourism promotion and enhance community visibility through a coordinated marketing approach. Building on the community’s new brand identity, this year’s efforts will focus on attracting visitors and encouraging longer stays by showcasing the unique experiences, landscapes, and culture that define our community.

**Working Group Initiatives:**

Key Tourism initiatives for 2026 include:

1. Updating billboards featuring the new branding
2. Launch of targeted radio advertising campaigns.
3. Development and printing of refreshed tourism marketing brochures.

Together, these efforts are designed to create a consistent and compelling message across multiple platforms, increasing awareness and positioning the community as a must-visit destination.

These marketing tools will support broader tourism goals by highlighting local attractions, events, and amenities, while also reinforcing a strong and recognizable brand presence. By aligning messaging across physical and digital channels, the Working Group aims to maximize reach and impact within key travel markets.

**Grant Funding Opportunities:**

1. NDIT Marketing Grant: The projects outlined above align with the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) Marketing grant criteria. The maximum grant Ashcroft will request is \$10,000, covering 50% of eligible costs. The village has a provision in the budget for tourism and marketing, indicating preparedness for these initiatives.

2. Grant Leveraging: The Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator (EDTC) will actively seek other funding opportunities to supplement the NDIT grant. Seeking additional funding to leverage project costs will maximize financial support for the proposed projects, ensuring their successful implementation.

**CONCLUSION:**

The Economic Development and Tourism Working Group’s 2026 initiatives reflect a focused and strategic approach to tourism promotion. Through the implementation of updated billboards, radio advertising, and new marketing materials, the community is taking meaningful steps to elevate its profile and attract visitors. Continued exploration of funding opportunities, including NDIT Marketing grants, will further support these efforts and ensure long-term sustainability. Collectively, these initiatives contribute to building a vibrant, welcoming destination and support ongoing economic development through increased tourism activity.

---

**Strategic/Municipal Objectives:**

Economic Development & Tourism Strategy

**Legislative Authority:**

**Financial Implications:**

Grant application is 50% NDIT and Village contributions are not to exceed \$10,000.

**Attachments:**

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL – OPEN MEETING

DATE: April 27, 2026  
FROM: Margaret Moreira, Economic Development & Tourism Coordinator  
SUBJECT: Quarterly Report

---

RECOMMENDATION:

*Receive for information*

PURPOSE:

To provide Council with a brief update regarding Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator (EDTC) position.

Prepared by:



---

Margaret Moreira  
Economic Development & Tourism Coordinator



---

Danieal Dyck  
Chief Administrative Officer

---

DISCUSSION:

January & February were busy months that focused on grant writing and reporting.

Grant Funding

Reports Submitted:

- NDIT Façade Improvement
- NDIT Grant Writer Support
- NDIT Economic Development Capacity

New applications:

- NDIT Façade Improvement: \$10,000 (Approved)
- NDIT Grant Writer Support: \$8,500 (Approved)
- NDIT Economic Development Capacity: \$50,000 (In Review)

Project

Mesa Park Playground Planning

Four playground proposals were submitted for consideration, with one selected by the Village. The design was refined and presented to the working group, who requested a few final adjustments. Once these were completed, the project was approved to proceed.

Playground Grant Support:

The following grant applications were submitted to offset project costs:

- NDIT Community Places: \$30,000 (Approved)

- Tire Stewardship: \$30,000 (In Review)
- TECK: \$20,000 (In Review)
- Kal's Replay: \$18,000 - \$20,000 (In Review)

#### Marketing & Communications

##### Brochures:

Legacy Park Campground and Museum are completed and ready to print.

##### Website:

- Developed a FireSmart page in collaboration with the FireSmart Coordinator
- Created an "Invest in Ashcroft" page
- Ongoing maintenance and updates for events, projects, and general information

#### Community Partnership

Participated in the Desert Sands Community School BC Heritage Week and Family Literacy Day on February 19th. This year's theme was "Make Mealtime Family Learning Time - Stir the Pot."

Had the pleasure of reading with 4 different elementary classrooms, specifically, books that fit the theme.

#### CONCLUSION

The first few months of the year were focused on grant writing, reporting, and moving key projects forward. Several grant applications were submitted, with some already approved and others still under review, helping support ongoing community initiatives. The Mesa Park Playground project progressed from design to approval, supported by multiple funding applications. Work also continued on marketing and communications, including new website content and updated brochures. Community engagement activities were also supported through local school programming. Overall, strong progress was made across projects and funding, setting a solid foundation for the months ahead.

---

#### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Economic Development & Tourism Strategy

**STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL – OPEN MEETING**

**DATE:** April 27, 2025  
**FROM:** Gwen Dost, FireSmart Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** Community FireSmart™ Chipping Event

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**RECOMMENDATION**

*For Information*

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with highlights and stats from our first FireSmart™ chipping event.

**Prepared by:**

Gwen Dost

Gwen Dost,  
FireSmart™ Coordinator

**Approved for submission to Council:**



Daniela Dyck,  
Chief Administrative Officer

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**Discussion**

With another hot, dry summer on the horizon, I felt it was important to organize a community chipping event to help support residents wanting to clean up the landscaping on their properties by removing cedars and junipers, pruning trees and shrubs, and to think of becoming more wildfire resilient.

With funding from the Village of Ashcroft FireSmart program, I hired Pine Valley Tree Service to bring in their chipper truck and a crew of 3 people for three days, which turned into four days because of the incredible response from Ashcroft residents. Between the days of April 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, the crew chipped piles from 84 sites around the Village, and for those of you that appreciate stats, that amounted to 140 cubic yards of waste - approximately 50,000kg! This also helped alleviate the amount the Village crew had to pick up and haul away for their spring clean-up. Good job Ashcroft!

I'm excited to continue educating the public about the importance of thinking FireSmart, and I plan on holding events like this in the future to support our Village in becoming resilient to wildfire.



**Strategic/Municipal Objectives**

Community Preparedness

**Legislative Authority**

**Financial Implications**

**Attachment Listing**

Community Health Centre Society for Ashcroft and Area  
Healthcare and Wellness Coalition (HAWC)

April 20, 2026

Mayor Roden,  
Councillors Clement, Anstett, Davenport, Tedford

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

The Ashcroft Urgent and Primary Care Centre is the first UPCC in BC to be able to attach patients to the centre as their Primary Care provider. This is a positive step forward for our communities, as the unattached patient gap increased when 2 private practice physicians left the community- increasing the unattached patient gap (per Interior Health in Feb 2022 of 2830 people), to a conservative estimate of 4800, as each physician patient panel in BC is estimated to be 800-1200 patients.

The process to attach has been formalized by Interior Health, and they are in the process of finalizing an information mailout for our catchment area, with details on how to attach to the Ashcroft UPCC as a patient.

In discussions with Interior Health, it appears that they do not have a process to reach every post office box. HAWC members will be assisting Interior Health in the distribution of the information mailout to the respective Post Offices.

Please accept this letter as our request to use the Village of Ashcroft mail drop account # to distribute the Interior Health information pamphlet.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

LeAnne Davies

President-HAWC



**From:** [Jamie Vieira](#)  
**To:** [Brian Doddridge \(cao@village.clinton.bc.ca\)](#); [Joni Heinrich](#); [Daniela Dyck](#); [Wade Archambault](#); [Byron Johnson](#); [Byron McCorkell](#); [Daniel Drexler](#); [Deanna Campbell](#); [Damian Couture](#); [LYTTON Rebecca Anderson](#); [rick.green](#); [Alternate Director Nancy Bepple](#); [Director Barbara Roden](#); [Director Bill Sarai](#); [Director Bill Sarai](#); [Director Dale Bass](#); [Director Dale Bass](#); [Director David Lepsoe](#); [Director Denise D.O'Connor](#); [Director John Ranta](#); [Director Katie Neustaeter](#); [Director Katie Neustaeter](#); [Director Kelly Hall](#); [Director Kelly Hall](#); [Director Margot Middleton](#); [Director Margot Middleton](#); [Director Merlin Blackwell](#); [Director Michael G Goetz](#); [Director Mike O'Reilly](#); [Director Mike O'Reilly](#); [Director Rob Kerslake](#); [Director Rob O'Toole](#); [Director Robin Smith](#); [Director Roland Stanke](#); [Director Stephen Karpuk](#); [Director Stephen Karpuk](#)  
**Cc:** [Scott Hildebrand](#); [Nina Johnson](#); [paula.davies@ksar.ca](#); [Frank Pryce](#); [Marnie Jeremiah](#); [Amanda Bennett Arrieta](#); [Kevin Skrepnek](#); [Michael Knauff](#); [Michelle Kozuchar](#); [Austin Potts](#)  
**Subject:** Offer of Council Presentation - Regional Search and Rescue AAP  
**Date:** April 8, 2026 8:17:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Binder - Search and Rescue - Jan 22, 2026.pdf](#)

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Good morning TNRD Municipal Directors and CAOs,

In January of this year the TNRD Board approved moving forward with a region-wide public assent process (AAP) to establish a new service and borrowing of \$6.3 million for the construction of a regional search and rescue hall and training center in Kamloops (report attached). As we prepare to launch the AAP, we would like to offer your Council the opportunity to receive a direct presentation on this initiative.

Together with Paula Davies, President of Kamloops Search and Rescue (KSAR), I would welcome the chance to attend a Council meeting or workshop prior to the broader public advertising of the AAP, which is scheduled to begin in mid-May. Our goal is to ensure your Council is fully informed about the proposed AAP, understands the TNRD's involvement, and has the opportunity to ask any questions regarding the initiative and the public assent process.

We are looking to provide more context around the regional search and rescue services that KSAR delivers throughout the TNRD, as well as other factors that have shaped this proposal. This session is strictly for information-sharing purposes, aiming to equip Councils with a thorough understanding before the AAP is communicated to the wider public.

If your Council is interested in arranging a presentation, please let me know your preferred dates and times for us to join you. Should you have any additional questions, feel free to reach out at any time.

Regards,



*The Region of BC's Best*

**Jamie Vieira, P.Ag.**

*General Manager of Operations,  
Thompson-Nicola Regional District*

300 - 465 Victoria Street | Kamloops, BC | V2C 2A9

Office: (250) 377-8673 | Direct: (250) 377-7197 | Cell: (250) 571-4045

[tnrd.ca](http://tnrd.ca)

*Located on the traditional Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc territory,  
within the unceded, ancestral lands of the Secwépemc Nation.*

*The information contained in this transmission may contain privileged and confidential information of the TNRD – Thompson-Nicola Regional District. It is intended for review only by the person(s) named above. Dissemination, distribution or duplication of this communication is strictly prohibited by all recipients unless expressly authorized otherwise. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message. Thank you.*



**TO:** Chair and Board of Directors                      **DATE:** January 22, 2026  
**FROM:** Jamie Vieira, General Manager of Operations  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Kamloops Search and Rescue Hall

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT, staff be directed to initiate a process to seek public assent through an Alternate Approval Process (AAP) for the following:**

- 1. Establishment of a new Regional Search and Rescue Service contributing up to \$100,000 annually to fund a portion of the operating and maintenance costs of the new joint hall building; and**
- 2. Borrowing up to \$6.3 million to contribute towards the construction of a joint hall for Kamloops Search and Rescue and Kamloops Fire Rescue.**

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Jamie Vieira,  
General Manager of Operations

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Approved for Board Consideration  
CAO

Prepared by: Mike Knauff, Emergency Program Coordinator

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**PURPOSE:**

To seek Board approval to initiate a public assent process for authorization to borrow funds and establish a new regional Search and Rescue Service.

**SUMMARY:**

This report presents a plan to build a shared hall for Kamloops Search and Rescue (KSAR) and Kamloops Fire Rescue (KFR) at 4420 Devick Road. The project would require the creation of a new regional service to cover borrowing for capital costs and operating expenses, which would include all ten (10) Electoral Areas and eleven (11) member municipalities.

The estimated cost is \$9,454,035, with cost sharing between the City of Kamloops (CoK) and the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) proportionate to the space within the facility. The City will pay 25% of the capital costs and the TNRD will be responsible for the remaining 75%. KSAR has also committed to raising \$1.4 million, which will go toward TNRD's share. This means TNRD would need to finance approximately \$6.3 million through borrowing. Public approval is required for both borrowing and establishing the regional service, with the recommended method being an Alternate Approval Process (AAP). The estimated annual budget for capital borrowing and operating costs is \$622,143, which would result in a residential tax rate of approximately \$1.11 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

**BACKGROUND:**

KSAR requires a permanent facility to support its training, mobilization, and equipment storage needs. Currently, KSAR operates from a City of Kamloops-owned building on Mission Flats Road; however, the City has notified KSAR that it must relocate due to alternative plans for the property. While KSAR appreciates the use of the current site, it is inadequate for their operations, as it lacks space and does not provide office or training facilities.

In late 2023, KSAR approached the TNRD Board to request assistance in establishing a new, purpose-built Search and Rescue Hall in Kamloops that would serve both as a regional training centre and a base for KSAR's operations.

In November 2023, the Board instructed staff to collaborate with KSAR to identify suitable land for a new search and rescue hall in the Kamloops area and to develop a funding strategy for potential financial support from the TNRD. City of Kamloops-owned property at 4420 Devick Road was identified through an assessment process to be the most suitable location available for a joint KFR and KSAR Hall.

Subsequently, at the July 17, 2025 TNRD Board meeting, the Board directed that a formal request be made to both the City of Kamloops and KSAR to confirm their support for the project, including commitments regarding financial and land contributions.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Location**

The property at Devick Road has a Provincial reverter that requires the use of the property to include a firehall. The City of Kamloops real estate division has confirmed with the Province that a joint KFR—KSAR hall would be suitable use. Given the reverter, sale of the property or a strata model is not possible. A long-term lease and operating agreement between the TNRD and COK is the planned operating model.

The City of Kamloops has confirmed that property will be provided for the project at no cost and the City will directly fund 25% of the capital costs of the new facility, which is equivalent to the space allocated to KFR Station 5.

### **Construction Cost**

Following the preliminary design work that was done in 2024, an updated design and cost estimate was completed of the proposed hall that incorporates both KFR's and KSAR's requirements. The updated design and site plan are included as attachments. Both KFR and KSAR have confirmed that the proposed design meets their operational needs for a facility.



**Figure 1. Rendering of joint KFR & KSAR Hall on Devick Road in Rayleigh**

The estimated total construction cost for the proposed joint facility is \$9,454,034. The funding arrangement between the City of Kamloops and the TNRD is structured as a cost-share model, reflecting the proportionate space requirements and anticipated usage of shared areas within

the facility. Under this model, the City of Kamloops will be responsible for 25% of the total construction cost, primarily allocated to the firehall component, amounting to \$2.363 million. The TNRD will be accountable for the remaining 75%, which equates to \$7.090 million, designated for the KSAR component.

Kamloops Search and Rescue (KSAR) has engaged Global Philanthropic Inc. to conduct a feasibility study aimed at raising donations to support the new facility. As part of their commitment to the project, KSAR has pledged to raise up to \$1.4 million through a combination of ongoing fundraising activities and, if required, existing organizational savings. This ambitious fundraising campaign is already underway, demonstrating KSAR’s dedication to contributing significant financial support. The \$1.4 million KSAR plans to contribute will be allocated towards the TNRD portion of the capital costs (75% of the project).

**Table 1. Capital funding contribution by agency**

Agency	Capital Funding Contribution
City of Kamloops	\$2,363,508
Kamloops Search and Rescue	\$1,400,000
Thompson Nicola Regional District	\$5,690,526
<b>Estimated Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$9,454,034</b>

**Borrowing Requirement**

The Regional Search and Rescue service is presently funded only as a grant-in-aid service, with no capital assets or reserves allocated to it. Since the TNRD has no capital reserves suitable for this project or dedicated funding streams, the TNRD’s capital contribution will need to be funded through long term borrowing.

Long term borrowing must be approved through public assent process. This process would set the maximum amount that is approved for borrowing, therefore it is being recommended that the maximum amount include a contingency of 10% of the TNRD portion. Please note a contingency is already included in the construction class D estimate. This additional 10% contingency brings the required borrowing amount to \$6,259,579. For ease of communication this amount has been rounded up to \$6.3 million as the maximum amount the TNRD would seek approval through public assent to borrow.

### **Operating Costs**

In addition to funding for construction, this project will require a regional service to be created to fund the ongoing operations and maintenance costs. A similar facility recently built in the Regional District of North Okanagan for Vernon Search and Rescue incurred \$38,000 in operations and maintenance in 2024 including utilities, janitorial, alarm monitoring, general repair and maintenance, and snow removal. Current TNRD facilities average \$10 per square foot in operations costs; 75% of the costs for the proposed 15,000 sq ft facility could be as high as \$112,250 in operating costs per year. Further development of the building design is required to produce more detailed maintenance costs; however, staff are comfortable recommending a maximum annual operating budget of \$100,000 for the TNRD/ KSAR portion (75%).

The City will cover operating costs for the KFR portion of the facility. Shared operating costs will be divided 25% to the City and 75% to the TNRD, matching the capital cost split. All KSAR-related expenses (training, deployments, equipment, etc.) are solely KSAR's responsibility.

### **Regional Service**

The proposed service which would fund the TNRD portion of the borrowing and annual operating cost is a region-wide service which would be funded by all ten (10) Electoral Areas and all eleven (11) member municipalities.

As detailed in previous reports and presentations to the Board from KSAR, the proposed facility would be a regional benefit acting as a training center to support other search and rescue (SAR) groups within the TNRD. In addition, KSAR is regularly deployed throughout the TNRD, supporting other TNRD SAR groups and providing service where no other SAR groups operate. For example, there were recent deployments in Pritchard (Electoral Area "L"), Vavenby (Electoral Area "A") and Walhachin (Electoral Area "I").

In 2024, the TNRD Board received letters of support for a dedicated facility for KSAR from all other search and rescue groups that operate within the TNRD (Wells Gray, Barriere, Logan Lake, Merritt and South Cariboo). The facility will also be used for the delivery of other emergency training courses and could function as a backup Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for the TNRD if required.

## **Public Assent Process**

The Board is required to select the most appropriate method for obtaining elector approval - Alternative Approval Process (AAP) or Assent Voting (Referendum) - when considering service establishment and loan authorization bylaws. Considering the regional district's size and the need to obtain elector approval across the entire region, staff recommend the Board authorize staff proceed with an AAP.

Key advantages of the AAP for this specific public assent process include:

- Cost Efficiency – An AAP is far less costly than a referendum, as it avoids expenses related to advertising, rental of voting locations (general and advance voting days), staffing, ballots, and voting materials.
- Timeliness – Following Ministry of Municipal Affairs approval, electors have a 30-day period to submit response forms. If electoral approval is achieved, the Board may adopt the service establishment and loan authorization bylaws.
- Accessibility and Convenience – Elector response forms are only required from those opposed to the adoption of the bylaws. Note: The Ministry of Municipal Affairs recommends the development of a policy to allow for submission of electronic response forms as the methods for submitting these forms are not covered in legislation.

To proceed with an AAP, approval from the participating areas must be obtained through a Board resolution passed by a two-thirds majority, as required under section 342(4) of the *Local Government Act*. The Board must also provide three readings to both the service establishment bylaw and the loan authorization bylaw. Once third reading is complete, the Board report and bylaws will be circulated to member municipalities for information, and a request for approval will be submitted to the Inspector of Municipalities.

Following approval by the Inspector of Municipalities, staff will prepare the elector response form, establish the submission deadline, estimate the number of eligible electors, and proceed with the development of a communications plan.

If 10% or more of eligible electors submit valid opposition forms by the specified deadline (which must be at least 30 days after public notice), the Board will need to decide whether to proceed with a full assent voting process (referendum). If the Board opted to proceed, a referendum must be scheduled within 80 days following the AAP deadline.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

If approved by public assent, borrowing for capital costs of the joint hall would occur through the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) and be repaid via taxation over 20 years. The annual borrowing cost is estimated to be \$522,143 based on current MFA interest rates. Annual operating and maintenance costs are estimated at \$100,000. After 20 years, taxation for debt repayment will end, and only operating costs will require ongoing taxation.

The estimated residential tax rate, if approved by public assent, is \$1.11 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Table 2 shows the estimated tax rates for all TNRD property classes, considering both the annual cost of borrowing (over 20 years) plus the yearly operating and maintenance expenses.

**Table 2. Estimated Tax Impact by Property Class**

Taxation Impact Calculator - KSAR Service (Region-Wide)				
Operating Costs				100,000
Debt Payments <sup>3</sup>				522,143
<b>Total Cost of Service</b>				<b>622,143</b>
Assessment Class	Property Assessment <sup>2</sup>	Tax Rate Per \$100,000 <sup>1</sup>	Portion of Costs	
Residential	36,959,988,170	1.11	65.88%	
Utilities	1,515,285,836	3.88	9.45%	
Supportive Housing	22	-	0.00%	
Major Industry	340,965,200	3.77	2.07%	
Light Industry	308,270,150	3.77	1.87%	
Business and Other	4,688,391,513	2.72	20.47%	
Managed Forest Land	430,900	3.33	0.00%	
Rec/Non Profit	96,472,001	1.11	0.17%	
Farm	50,692,457	1.11	0.09%	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>43,960,496,249</b>			
<p>1 - Per \$100,000 of property assessment value                  2 - Based on the BC Assessment 2025 Revised Roll                  3 - \$6,300,000 in debt over 25-years</p>				

**ALIGNMENT TO THE 2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This report is consistent with the following Strategic Focus Area and Priorities set out in the Board's Strategic Plan:

- Emergency Planning & Response
  - Emergency Management partnerships
  - Strengthening community resilience
  - Training/ development and education

**Attachments:**

1. KFR #5 & KSAR Site Plan
2. KFR #5 & KSAR Conceptual Design
3. KFR #5 & KSAR Hall Rendering









Consultant

Issued/Revision	By	Appd	YYYY.MM.DD

Permit/Seal

**PRELIMINARY  
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City of Kamloops  
KSAR Facility and Firehall

Project No.: 144325064

File Name	NP	BC	CL	2025.04.04
	Dwn.	Dgn.	Chkd.	YYYY.MM.DD

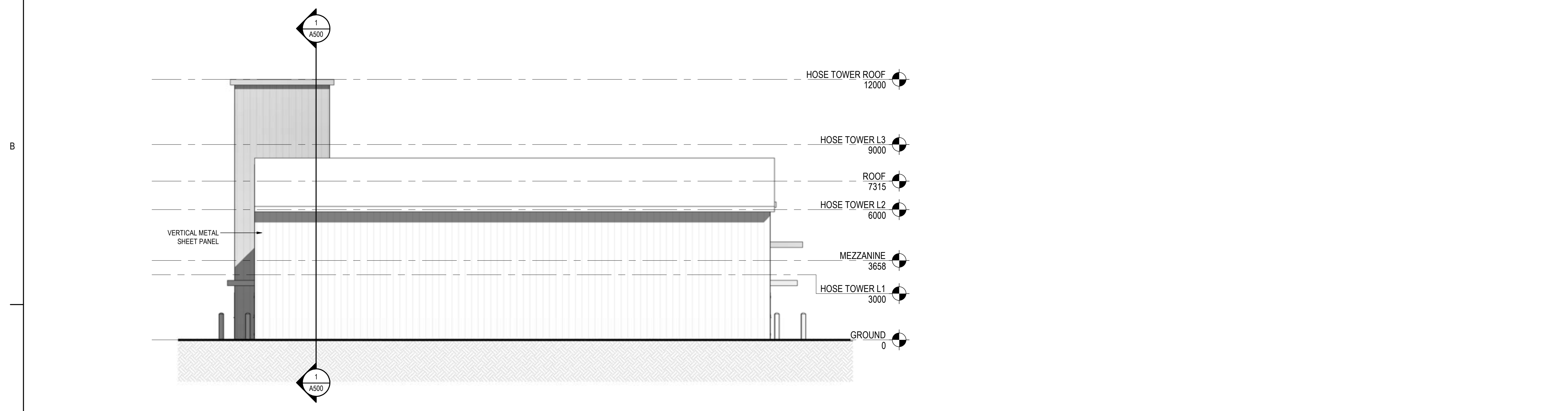
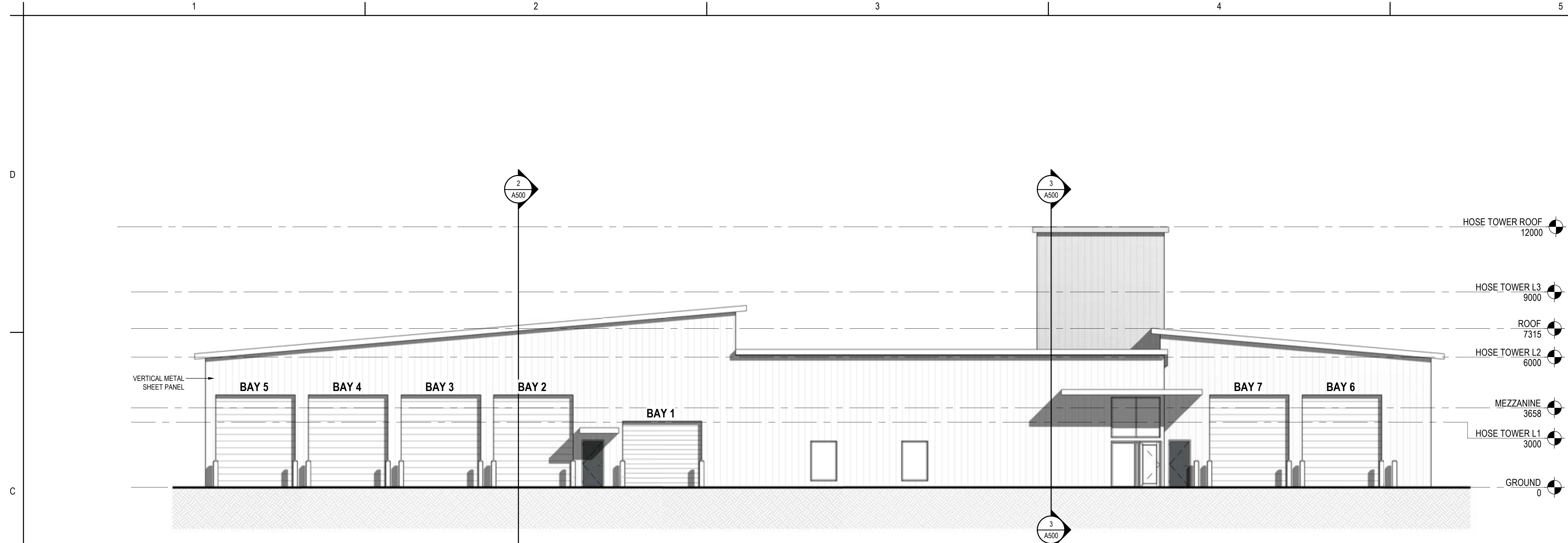
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Scale: 1 : 100

Issue/Revision:

Drawing No.

**A400**



Issue/Revision	By	Appd	YYYY.MM.DD

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City of Kamloops  
KSAR Facility and Firehall

Project No.: 144325064

File Name:	NP	BC	CL	2025.04.04
N/A	Dwn.	Dgn.	Chkd.	YYYY.MM.DD

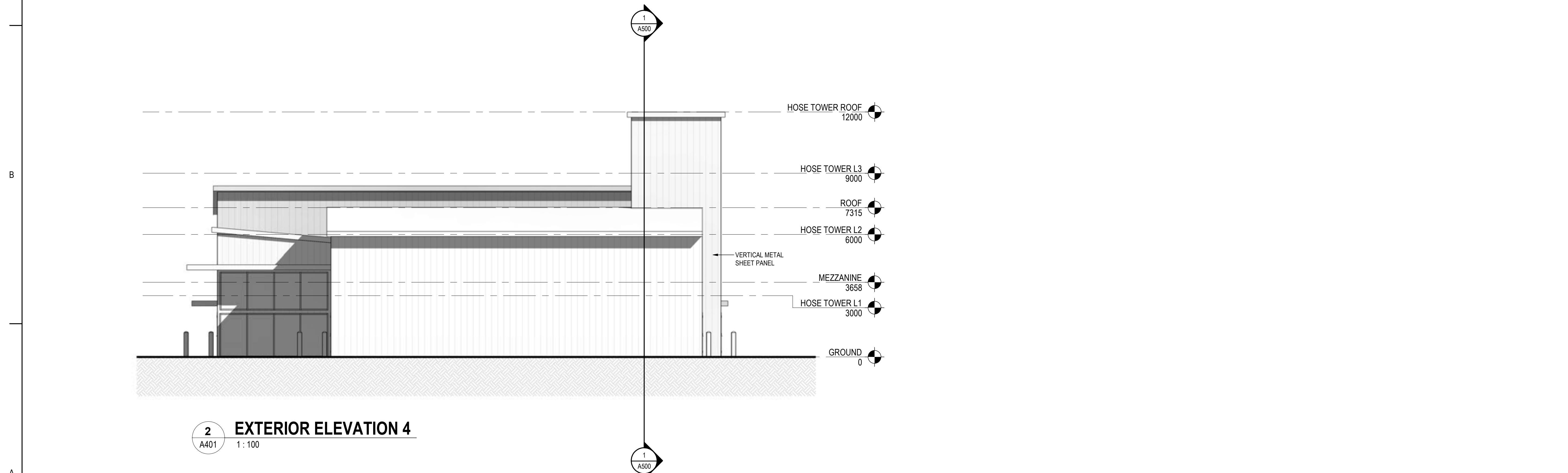
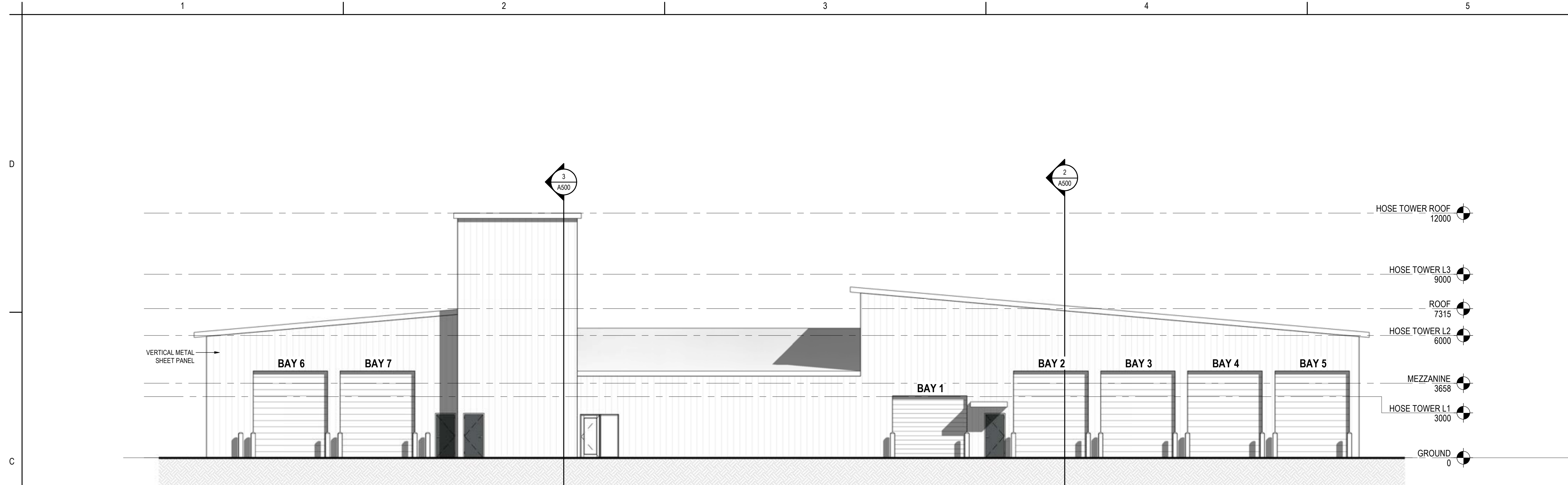
Title  
**EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS**

Scale: 1 : 100

Issue/Revision:

Drawing No.

**A401**







April 14, 2026

Village of Ashcroft  
PO Box 129  
Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0

**Attention: Mayor Barbara Roden**

**Subject: Mesa Vista Park Playground Replacement  
Community Places Program  
Northern Development Project Number IA-12838**

Northern Development Initiative Trust was created by the Province to be a catalyst for central and northern B.C. to grow a strong diversified economy by stimulating sustainable economic growth through strategic and leveraged investments.

We are pleased to advise you that the Community Places application from the Village of Ashcroft for the 'Mesa Vista Park Playground Replacement' project was approved for a grant up to \$30,000 from the Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Regional Development Account on March 31, 2026.

This approval is open for a period of 12 months from the date of approval, during which we expect a funding agreement signed with Northern Development and the project commenced. Our staff will be in touch with you regarding the funding agreement. It is important to note that the agreement must be signed prior to starting the project and expenses incurred prior to signing the agreement will not be reimbursed. Grant funds must be used in accordance with the budget in the signed agreement. No changes in the budget or scope of the project may be made without prior written approval from Northern Development.

We wish you every success and look forward to seeing the positive impact your project has on the local economy.

Sincerely,

Northern Development Initiative Trust

c: Daniela Dyck, Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Ashcroft  
Margaret Moreira, Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator, Village of Ashcroft

April 2, 2026

CLIFF: 190646

To: All Chief Administrative Officers and Corporate Officers:

Re: Bill 17 Housing and Municipal Affairs Statutes (Codes of Conduct) Amendment Act, 2026, and Bill 18 Housing and Municipal Affairs Statutes (Parental Leave) Amendment Act, 2026

On April 2, Bill 17 and Bill 18 were introduced in the Legislature. These Bills propose to amend various sections in the *Community Charter*, *Local Government Act*, and the *Vancouver Charter*, with consequential amendments to the *Islands Trust Act* and *Cultus Lake Park Board Act*.

The purpose of this circular is to provide an overview of the changes made to legislation regarding codes of conduct and parental leave for local elected officials. Some of the amendments come into effect right away, while others will come into effect after the 2026 general local elections.

We encourage local governments to review the amendments and consider how they may incorporate the changes into training and orientation materials for new councils and boards following the 2026 general local elections. Further guidance to help you prepare for these changes will be made available in summer and early fall of 2026.

**Code of Conduct Key Changes:**

- Authority for the province to prescribe a code of conduct by regulation that applies to all local governments in B.C.
- Requirement for all local elected officials to comply with a Provincial code of conduct established by regulation.
- Establishes a code complaint, investigation and sanction process in legislation.
- Requirement that code of conduct complaints be referred to an investigator.
- Authorities of investigators on receiving a code complaint is prescribed in legislation.
- Sanctions that may be recommended by an investigator for a code breach.

- If an investigator report recommends sanctions, the report is considered at a closed meeting.
- If a council or board decides to not impose the recommended sanctions, they must provide reasons for its decision that are included in a public summary.
- Public reporting requirements for code complaints to support transparency and accountability.

### **Parental Leave Key Changes:**

- Provides 26 consecutive weeks of parental leave for local elected officials due to the birth or adoption of a council or board member's child or children.
- Allows local elected officials to start their leave as early as 4 weeks ahead of the expected birth or adoption.
- Entitles local elected officials to full remuneration during their parental leave but provides the option to decline remuneration, if they wish to do so.
- Ensures local elected officials are not disqualified for missing council or board meetings during their parental leave.
- Provides that local elected officials on parental leave continue to hold office but cannot exercise any power or duty as an elected official while on leave, meaning they cannot participate in local government decision making while on leave. They will still be able to participate in community events or similar activities allowing them to stay connected within their communities.
- Allows the minister to take certain actions to ensure that quorum can still be met while an elected official is on parental leave.
- Establishes that parental leave ends after 26 consecutive weeks or the end of the term; whichever is earlier.
- Retains local governments' ability to establish their own parental leave policies that go beyond the provincial minimum entitlement.

If you have questions regarding the amendments related to the local government legislation, please contact our Governance and Structure Branch by phone at: 250-387-4020 or by email at [LGGovernance@gov.bc.ca](mailto:LGGovernance@gov.bc.ca).

This circular is provided for information only and should not be considered legal advice or be a substitute for legal advice.

I will provide another update when further guidance and resources for local governments are available on our website beginning in summer 2026.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tara Faganello".

Tara Faganello  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Local Government Division  
Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

# **HVC MLE Construction Workforce Accommodation Plan Quarterly Report**

April 8, 2026



**Teck**

## Document History

Author	4/08/26
_____	_____
Dwayne Dergousoff	Date
Reviewer	4/08/26
_____	_____
Sarah Coughlin	Date
Approver	4/08/26
_____	_____
Anmol Deep Padda	Date

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**HVC MLE: Construction Workforce Accommodation Plan (CWAP) Quarterly Report****Report: 2****Reporting Period: January 2026 – March 2026**

## 1 Overview

As described in the Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension Project (HVC MLE) Construction Workforce Accommodation Plan (CWAP), this report is a local accommodation monitoring report considering emerging issues and themes related to accommodation effects of HVC MLE Construction, including adaptive management. This report includes results of indicators as detailed in Tables 13-1 and 13-2 of the CWAP, emerging issues and themes related to accommodation effects of HVC MLE Construction, including any adaptive management undertaken.

## 2 Distribution

As per the CWAP, the following Indigenous Governments and Organizations and parties receive this quarterly report via email or in accordance with their respective requested preferences:

- Nlaka'pamux Nation:
  - Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly
  - Kanaka Bar Indian Band
  - Lower Nicola Indian Band
  - Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council
  - Spuzzum First Nation
- Secwepemc Nation:
  - Bonaparte First Nation
  - Stk'emlupsemc te Secwépemc Nation
- City of Kamloops
- District of Logan Lake
- City of Merritt
- Village of Ashcroft
- Village of Cache Creek
- Thompson Nicola Regional District
- Gold Country Communities Society
- Kamloops Accommodation Association
- Tourism Merritt
- Tourism Kamloops
- Kamloops and District Chamber of Commerce

### 3 Monitoring Results

HVC MLE monitoring activities include relying on feedback shared during engagement with Indigenous Governments and Organizations and municipalities as well as a review of internal and external information sources to understand emerging issues related to workforce accommodations and quantitative information from tourism industry associations.

During the current reporting period, no accommodation related concerns or complaints were identified through engagement with Indigenous Governments, municipalities, or other local stakeholders.

Monthly average of on-site construction workers that live locally versus work mobile is shared in Table 1. Table 1 also includes a monthly average of on-site mobile construction workers being temporary accommodated in the Local Study Area.

**Table 1: On-site Construction Workers that Live Locally Versus Work Mobile**

Indicator from CWAP	Location	Type	Dec	Jan <sup>5</sup>	Feb
Monthly average of on-site construction workers that live locally versus work mobile. <sup>1</sup>	Ashcroft	Local <sup>2</sup>	2	1	1
		Mobile <sup>3</sup>	unknown <sup>4</sup>	0	0
Monthly average of on-site mobile construction workers being temporarily accommodated in the LSA.	Kamloops	Local	90	91	114
		Mobile	unknown	48	114
	Logan Lake	Local	3	4	4
		Mobile	unknown	7	8
	Chase	Local	3	1	0
		Mobile	unknown	1	2
	Clinton	Local	1	0	0
		Mobile	unknown	0	0
	Mclure	Local	1	1	1
		Mobile	unknown	0	0
	Lower Nicola	Local	2	3	3
		Mobile	unknown	0	0
	Merritt	Local	30	19	34
		Mobile	unknown	6	9
	Savona	2	2	2	2
		unknown	0	0	unknown
<b>Local Total</b>			134	122	159
<b>Mobile Total<sup>3</sup></b>			59	71	138
<b>Total Onsite Workforce (Local and Mobile)</b>			193	193	297
Qualitative feedback if received by HVC and its contractors regarding the use of local/regional accommodation by the HVC MLE mobile construction workforce. <sup>6</sup>	No qualitative feedback was received by HVC and its contractors regarding the use of local/regional accommodation by the HVC MLE mobile construction workforce.				

<sup>1</sup> Source of data as per CWAP: HVC MLE and contractors established human resources systems. March 2026 data not available at the time of writing.

<sup>2</sup> Local Workforce: Employees whose work arrangement did not require relocation.

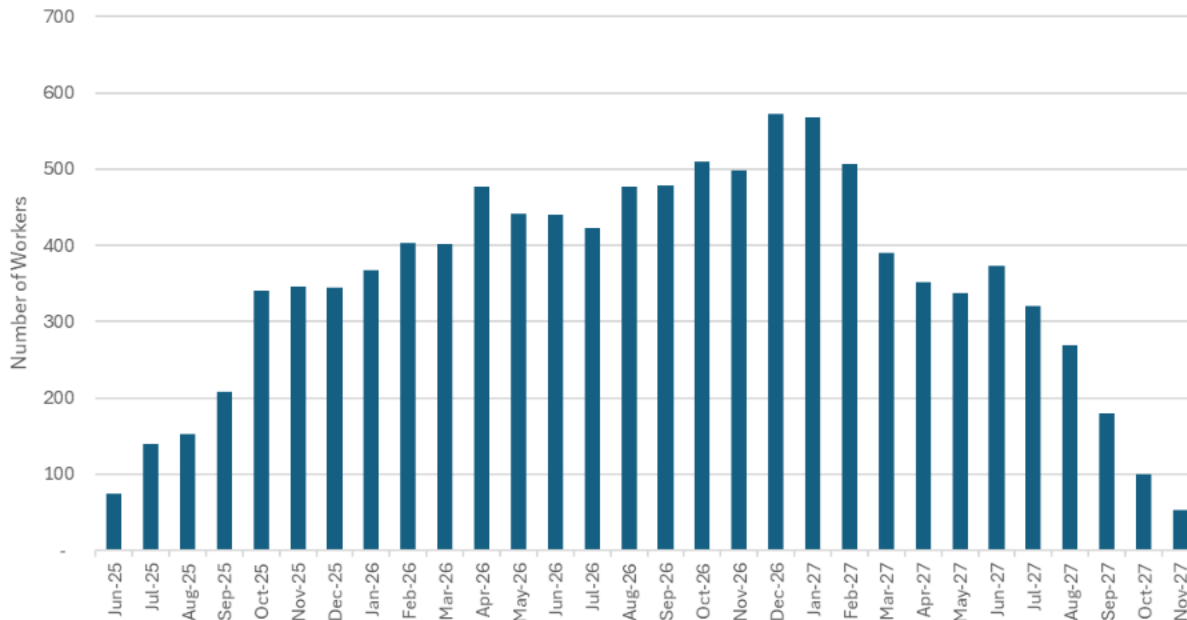
<sup>3</sup> Mobile Workforce: Employees whose work arrangement required relocation away from their usual place of residence. In the data collection form, this includes records where Relocation = “Permanent Relocation,” “Temporary Relocation,” or “Rotation.”

<sup>4</sup> Unknown: These employees reported working onsite as, non-local, yet no specific location was provided. This could be an error when reporting mobile location.

<sup>5</sup> Beginning January 2026 further detailed data collection for mobile workforce by location.

<sup>6</sup> No qualitative feedback was received by HVC and its contractors regarding the use of local/regional accommodation by the HVC MLE mobile construction workforce.

Figure 1: HVC MLE Anticipated Number of Workers Needing Temporary Housing



Rationale for any differences between current HVC MLE accommodation needs and the projections provided in Figure 1.

- Original accommodation projections differ from current data due to project scope adjustments, changes in contractors’ awards and mobilizations and construction sequence adjustments.

Table 2 provides general accommodation indicators.

Note: Rental market indicators published by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) are released annually and are derived from survey data collected in October. Consequently, the Q4 2025 indicators constitute the most recent CMHC data available at the time of reporting (April 6, 2026).

**Table 2: General Accommodation Indicators**

Indicator from CWAP	July to September 2025	October to December 2025
Hotel/motel occupancy (%) <sup>1</sup>	69.2	69.2
Owned housing prices-Single Detached Unit median sale price (\$) <sup>2</sup>	673,200	679,900
Average Rental rates 2-Bed Apt (\$) <sup>3</sup>	1,679	1,679
Rental vacancy rates (%) <sup>4</sup>	1.2	1.2
Local/regional accommodation issues/concerns <sup>5</sup>	None raised	None raised

<sup>1</sup> Source of data as per CWAP: Tourism Kamloops.

<sup>2</sup> Source of data as per CWAP: CMHC, Statistics Canada Federal Census, and publicly available information prepared by local communities and/or stakeholders.

<sup>3</sup> Source of data as per CWAP: CMHC, Statistics Canada Federal Census, and publicly available information prepared by local communities and/or stakeholders.

<sup>4</sup> Source of data as per CWAP: CMHC, Statistics Canada Federal Census, and publicly available information prepared by local communities and/or stakeholders.

<sup>5</sup> Source of data as per CWAP: Publicly available studies, plans, and/or reports prepared by local communities and/or stakeholders regarding local accommodation; and HVC's and contractors established Indigenous and community engagement systems.

## 4 Analysis

### 4.1 Emerging Issues and Themes

During the current reporting period, no accommodation related concerns or complaints were identified through engagement with Indigenous Governments and Organizations, municipalities, or other local stakeholders. This is consistent with previous monitoring periods and suggests that existing accommodation capacity remains sufficient to meet current workforce demands.

Accommodation patterns continue to show Kamloops as the primary location for mobile workforce housing, reflecting its role as the regional service centre. A smaller proportion of mobile workers are accommodated in Logan Lake and Merritt, consistent with available services and commuting feasibility.

## 4.2 Analysis of Results of Monitoring

Accommodation demand may be distributed across several communities in the region; however, Kamloops is predominantly utilized by the mobile workforce due to its proximity to regional air service, availability of amenities, and centralized transportation infrastructure.

## 4.3 Adaptive Management

Based on the results of accommodation monitoring, workforce distribution data, and engagement feedback, the Qualified Person has determined that adaptive management measures are not required at this time, consistent with the CWAP management action CWAP11.

To meet CWAP management action CWA12, these results have also been compared to the effects predicted in the Single Application Package (see italicized excerpt below) and the Qualified Person has determined that no adaptive management is required.

- *“Due to the variety and breadth of accommodation options in the region, there is anticipated to be sufficient available accommodation to house the HVC MLE-related mobile workforce, though supply challenges could arise during specific timeframes or in particular communities.*

*Specifically:*

- *The peak HVC MLE mobile construction workforce may place pressures on local rental markets and could limit the availability of temporary accommodations for other users (e.g., tourists) if it overlaps with periods of peak demand (i.e., summer). If this effect were to occur, it would be relatively short; likely occurring over a few weeks; and*
- *Given the limited availability of rental accommodations in smaller communities in proximity to HVC MLE (e.g. Logan Lake), the mobile construction workforce is likely to place high demand on the local rental markers in these communities for most of the Construction Phase.”*

Accommodation indicators will continue to be monitored on a quarterly basis as construction activities and workforce levels evolve.

**From:** Maxwell Bauer <[mbauer@enviro-ex.com](mailto:mbauer@enviro-ex.com)>  
**Sent:** April 13, 2026 4:55 PM  
**To:** Maxwell Bauer <[mbauer@enviro-ex.com](mailto:mbauer@enviro-ex.com)>  
**Subject:** Sackum Overhead Construction Hwy 1 Traffic Delays

To whom it may concern,

My name is Maxwell Bauer, Project Manager with Enviro-Ex Contracting Ltd. We are the general contractor for the Sackum Overhead Replacement project on Highway 1, approximately 22km east of Lytton and 13km south of Spence's Bridge.

I am reaching out to update you on construction progress that will have traffic impacts and potential delays. The construction speed zone is still set up and there will be traffic interruptions.

24/7 Single Lane Alternating Traffic was initially scheduled for March 2026 but will be implemented for long term as of April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Expect 24/7 Single Lane Alternating Traffic to be in place until late fall of 2026.

Traffic patterns will be changing as road works continue and at times 2 lane traffic may be re-established, but please expect 24/7 SLAT and potential delays with the changing traffic patterns.

The project completion date is scheduled for end of June 2027.

Thank you for your patience with potential delays.

**Maxwell Bauer**  
[mbauer@enviro-ex.com](mailto:mbauer@enviro-ex.com)  
Enviro-Ex Contracting Ltd.

April 17, 2026

1328317

Via email: [cao@ashcroftbc.ca](mailto:cao@ashcroftbc.ca)

Their Worship Barbara Roden  
Mayor of the Village of Ashcroft  
601 Bancroft St  
Ashcroft BC V0K 1A0

Dear Mayor Barbara Roden:

Thank you for your letter of February 11, 2026, regarding the 2026 BC Farmer's Market Nutrition Coupon Program. I am responding on behalf of the Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. I appreciate your patience, and apologize for the delay in responding, as year-end funding decisions could not be confirmed or communicated until after March 31, 2026.

I am pleased to advise that the BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM) has been provided with \$4.25 million enabling the Farmer's Market Nutrition Coupon Program to continue delivery in 2026.

Thank you for writing to the Ministry of Health on this matter. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the [BCAFM](#) as shown below:

**Email:** [info@bcfarmersmarket.org](mailto:info@bcfarmersmarket.org)

**Mailing Address:**

BC Association of Farmers' Markets  
208 - 1089 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6H 1E5  
**Phone:** 604-734-9797

Sincerely,



Maryna Korchagina  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Population and Public Health Division

2026/04/13

Sent via Email: [Premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Premier@gov.bc.ca)  
[ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca)  
[TT.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:TT.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

David Eby, Premier of British Columbia  
Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Childcare  
Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Transportation and Transit

Dear Premier Eby, Minister Beare, and Minister Farnworth:

**RE: City of Langford - Permanent Daylight-Saving Time and the Impacts on Safe Routes to School**

At its Special Meeting held March 30, 2026, City of Langford Council passed the attached resolution that forms part of this letter. For your reference, an excerpt has been included below:

*THAT Council direct staff to prepare a letter to the Minister of Education and Childcare, the Minister of Transportation and Transit, and the Premier's Office, with a copy to all local governments in British Columbia, outlining Council's concerns regarding the impacts of adopting year-round Pacific Daylight Time on children who would be required to walk to school in the dark. AND THAT the letter from the City of Langford Mayor and Council advocate for:*

- *the immediate reopening of BC's Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program for safe routes to school projects;*
- *the establishment of a program ensuring all students have access to visibility enhancing resources such as lights and reflective gear; and*
- *the expansion of The Society for Children and Youth of BC (SCY)'s Walking School Bus program.*

On behalf of the City of Langford Council, I am writing to express the collective concerns regarding the Province of British Columbia's adoption of permanent year-round Daylight-Saving Time (DST). While Council recognizes that the decision reflects changing regional and economic considerations and does not seek to reverse that decision, it is critical to address unintended safety impacts on children and their caregivers who commute to school by walking or rolling during the darkest months of the year.

Permanent DST will result in significantly later winter sunrises across southern British Columbia. In Langford and other communities served by Sooke School District 62 (SD62), it can be reasonably estimated that many elementary students begin their commute as early as 8:00 a.m. This new prolonged period of low-light conditions coincides with the wettest and foggiest season of the year, where heavy rainfall, poor visibility, and slick surfacing further increases risk for pedestrians and cyclists of all ages and abilities. Permanent DST results in a material increase in challenging travel conditions for school-aged children.

While the City recognizes that dark commutes are more common throughout other regions of the Province, the challenges noted above are compounded by the established characteristics of existing neighbourhoods in Langford and similar communities throughout the Province. Urban streets are busy with vehicular traffic, often containing parking and other barriers that can conceal pedestrians from drivers. Older residential areas and semi-rural roads are often wide with a very slim shoulders and often, there are no sidewalks paths, or adequate street lighting available.

Mitigating these risks requires targeted infrastructure improvements such as traffic calming, pedestrian lighting, sidewalk completion, protected crossings, and other safe-route-to-school measures. Langford has successfully partnered with the Province in the past through the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program to advance such projects. However, we are concerned that the pausing of the 2025/2026 intake of this program, pending review of the CleanBC framework, significantly limits the ability of local governments to plan, design, and implement safety improvements in time for the 2026/2027 school year.

As growth continues throughout the region, new school sites are being selected that are outside current transportation networks requiring significant investment from local governments that are not financially viable without Provincial support. The City of Langford strongly requests that the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program be reopened and that new applications featuring projects that support safe routes to school be given preference, or, at minimum, clear communication from the Province to all local governments regarding the status and anticipated timeline of this grant program.

To further support and encourage active transportation to commute to school, the Province is encouraged to develop a program in partnership with School Districts to ensure students have

access to visibility enhancing resources such as reflective gear and lights. As mentioned above, schools opening further from established transportation networks introduce further hazards for students navigating to school. Travelling in darkness may increase interactions with other road users, and without targeted support, permanent DST may exacerbate existing inequities and disproportionately affect children from lower-income households.

Council also wishes to acknowledge and commend the Province's recent support for the Walking School Bus Program, delivered in partnership with the Society for Children and Youth of BC (SCY). In addition to improving safety during school commutes, expanding Provincial support for this program may play a critical role in assisting students during their commute to school under low-light conditions.

City of Langford Council wishes to express that the intent of this letter is to encourage early dialogue regarding proactive, collaborative steps that can be taken to ensure this transition does not compromise the safety of young commuters. Active Transportation grants that support the creation and enhancement of safe routes to school help local governments respond thoughtfully, maximize the impact of limited resources, and provide safe, healthy, and sustainable school travel across British Columbia. Early consultation and discussions can identify needs and mitigate impacts, particularly on more vulnerable groups.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns. We would welcome the opportunity to engage further in discussions on how provincial and local governments can work together to mitigate impacts and improve outcomes for students and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Goodman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Scott Goodman  
City of Langford

Attached: Certified Resolution from the Special Meeting of Council held March 30, 2026.  
CC: BC Municipalities

## CITY OF LANGFORD

### RESOLUTION

#### ITEM TITLE: Notice of Motion from March 16, 2026 - Permanent Daylight-Saving Time and the Impacts on Safe Routes to School

MOVED BY: GUIRY  
SECONDED: HARDER

*WHEREAS the adoption of permanent, year-round daylight-saving time means that many school age children, including those in the Victoria area who begin their commute around 8:00 a.m., will be travelling to school in darkness from early November until the end of February;*

*AND WHEREAS many communities have older neighbourhoods with wide roadways which may cause unintended speeding, limited or non-existent sidewalks or pathways, and limited street lighting. Mitigation of these neighbourhood conditions would require significant upgrades to ensure safe travel for children during dark winter mornings;*

*AND WHEREAS the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant 2025/2026 intake was paused pending a review in the fall of 2026, thus limiting the ability of local governments to make meaningful change and prepare for the 2026/2027 school year.*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to prepare a letter to the Minister of Education and Childcare, the Minister of Transportation and Transit, and the Premier's Office, with a copy to all local governments in British Columbia, outlining Council's concerns regarding the impacts of adopting year-round Pacific Daylight Time on children who would be required to walk to school in the dark. AND THAT the letter from the City of Langford Mayor and Council advocate for:*

- the immediate reopening of BC's Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program for safe routes to school projects;*
- the establishment of a program ensuring all students have access to visibility enhancing resources such as lights and reflective gear; and*
- the expansion of The Society for Children and Youth of BC (SCY)'s Walking School Bus program.*

**Motion CARRIED.**

This is a certified resolution passed by the City of Langford at their Special Meeting of Council held on March 30, 2026.



---

Marie Watmough  
Corporate Officer

APRIL 2026

# BOARD BULLETIN



## 2026-2027 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN

The Board approved a bylaw to receive Ministry funding for the following projects approved under the Minor Capital Plan:

- HVAC Upgrade at David Stoddart - \$1,110,000
- HVAC Upgrade at Kumsheen - \$615,000
- Kitchen Equipment Upgrades at Cache Creek and Desert Sands - \$45,000

The District also received approval for funding for two new buses. In order to access the funding for these projects, Boards of Education are required to adopt a single Capital Bylaw.

## 2026-2027 Annual Budget – Preliminary Review

The Board received a preliminary budget presentation from the Secretary-Treasurer. The Budget will be presented for approval at the May Open Board of Education Meeting.



## YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIALS

The Board approved the Year-to-Date financial report for the time period of July 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026. Choose the link below to view the report.

<https://sd74.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/95485>

## APPROVED POLICIES

As part of its regular cycle, the following policies were reviewed and approved for circulation:

- Policy 2.160 Use of School District Logo or Name
- Policy 2.41 Risk Management
- Policy 7.40 Smoking and the Use of Smokeless Tobacco Products
- Policy 8.60 Respectful Workplace



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

Superintendent Mochikas provided information to the Board on the District's emergency planning procedures and protocols.

The School Act requires schools to have emergency drills, procedures and response plans in place, as well as having a critical incident response team. Safer Schools Together provides specialized training regarding threat assessments when worrisome behaviour exists.



## Truth & Reconciliation

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Ms. Dhillon's class took advantage of some beautiful weather to get outside and learn about local history and traditions from Mr. John. Land-based learning is deeply embedded in the culture of this District! St'uxwtéws hosted students from David Stoddart School and Desert Sands Community School for a Winter Solstice gathering, honouring the return of the light at the Cache Creek Community Hall.



### Team

On March 11, grade 8 -12 students from across Gold Trail gathered at Desert Sands Community School for the first Mental Health and Wellness Conference. The day started with a keynote address from Aaron Volpatti, a former NHL player, author, burn survivor, and cognitive performance and injury coach sharing a message of resilience, being the authors of our own stories, and to never give up on your dreams. Students then engaged in short learning bursts centered on wellness choosing from a variety of sessions and informational booths including nutritional snacking, fitness, yoga, fly tying, mental fitness, learning skills to calm when feeling stress, and more.



### Student Success

Congratulations to Kumsheen ShchEma-meet's grade 10-12 Career education class for achieving excellent results in the ChatterHigh's Winter Financial Literacy Competition. The class placed 3rd in the Insurance Literacy Competition and received \$50 for this accomplishment.



### Communication

Transition events are underway between GMMES and Cayoosh Students. This month, Ms. Dhillon and Ms. Ruiters' classes got together to learn about each other's schools and build new friendships. This included some very fun icebreaker games.

March 31, 2026

Application #: BE9ED27D

Dear Daniela Dyck and Yoginder Bhalla,

**Re: Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program**  
**Application #:** BE9ED27D - Heart of the True Desert: Revitalizing Downtown Ashcroft Strategy

Thank you for your application for funding under the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP). We would like to advise that, after careful consideration, the above-noted project was not selected for funding.

REDIP received a large number of applications during the intake period and unfortunately, the total funding requested significantly exceeded the Program's available funds. As a result, the Program was not able to provide funding for your project.

This decision does not reflect on the importance of this project for your community, but rather the degree to which the program has been oversubscribed. We know significant effort goes into developing proposed projects and we appreciate the time you took to prepare your application.

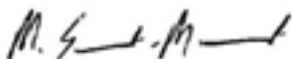
Program staff are available to review your application and provide further details regarding the funding decision. If you would like to book a virtual follow up meeting, please contact the Program Office by phone at 250-356-7950 or by email at [ruraldevelopment@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ruraldevelopment@gov.bc.ca).

The 2025-26 REDIP intake marked the fourth year of the program. Future funding opportunities may be announced via the REDIP website at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/REDIP>. To stay informed, we encourage you to subscribe for email updates on the REDIP website.

Please note that JEG Regional Economic Operations staff are also available to offer support for economic development in your community. The Regional Manager for your area is Myles Bruns and their contact information is: email: [myles.bruns@gov.bc.ca](mailto:myles.bruns@gov.bc.ca), phone: 250-312-7322

Thank you for your interest in REDIP.

Best regards,



Matthew Scott-Moncrieff, Director  
Rural Programs Branch  
Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth

**ORDER NUMBER**  
**G-84-26**

IN THE MATTER OF  
the *Utilities Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 473

and

FortisBC Energy Inc.  
2026 Long Term Gas Resource Plan

**BEFORE:**

M. Jaccard, Panel Chair  
T. A. Loski, Commissioner  
W. E. Royle, Commissioner

on April 20, 2026

**ORDER**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. On March 27, 2026, FortisBC Energy Inc. (FEI) filed its 2026 Long Term Gas Resource Plan (2026 LTGRP) Application (Application) with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) pursuant to section 44.1(2) of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA) and in accordance with Order G-78-24;
- B. FEI seeks acceptance of the 2026 LTGRP pursuant to section 44.1(2) of the UCA; and
- C. The BCUC determines that the establishment of a public hearing process and a regulatory timetable for the review of the Application is warranted.

**NOW THEREFORE** the BCUC orders as follows:

1. A public hearing process is established for the review of the Application, as set out in the regulatory timetable attached as Appendix A to this order.
2. On or before Friday, April 24, 2026, FEI is directed to:
  - a. Provide notice of the Application and this order on its website;
  - b. Provide a copy of the Application and this order, electronically where possible, to all invitees and attendees of the stakeholder, Indigenous and community engagement process outlined in Section 8.2.1 of the Application; registered interveners in the FEI 2022 Long-Term Gas Resource Plan and FEI Annual Review for 2025-2026 Delivery Rates proceedings; the BC Assembly of First Nations; and the Union of BC Municipalities; and

- c. Provide notice of the Application and this order, or post the Public Notice attached as Appendix B to this order, on its existing social media platforms. Reminder posts must be published on each platform every week until Thursday, May 7, 2026.
3. FEI is directed to provide to the BCUC:
  - a. By Wednesday, April 29, 2026, written confirmation of compliance with the notice requirements in Directive 2 of this order, except for the social media reminder posts, including a list of social media platforms on which notice was published and a list of all parties notified; and
  - b. By Monday, May 11, 2026, written confirmation of compliance with the notice requirements in Directive 2 of this order regarding social media reminder posts.
4. In accordance with the BCUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure, parties who wish to actively participate in this proceeding must submit a Request to Intervene Form, available on the BCUC's website at <https://www.bcuc.com/Forms/RequestToIntervene> by Thursday, May 7, 2026.

**DATED** at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 20th day of April 2026.

BY ORDER

*Electronically signed by Mark Jaccard*

M. Jaccard  
Commissioner

Attachment

FortisBC Energy Inc.  
2026 Long Term Gas Resource Plan

**REGULATORY TIMETABLE**

Action	Date (2026)
FEI public notice of application	Friday, April 24
FEI confirmation of compliance with public notice requirements	Wednesday, April 29
Intervener registration deadline	Thursday, May 7
FEI confirmation of compliance with social media reminder posts	Monday, May 11
BCUC decision on intervener registrations and instructions on proceeding scope	Tuesday, May 19
BCUC Information Request (IR) No. 1 to FEI	Monday June 8
Intervener IR No. 1 to FEI	Monday, June 15
FEI responses to BCUC and Intervener IR No. 1	Monday, July 20
Letters of comment deadline	Monday, August 10
FEI final argument	Monday, August 17
Intervener final argument	Monday, August 31
FEI reply argument	Tuesday, September 15



**bcuc**  
British Columbia  
Utilities Commission

# We want to hear from you

## FortisBC Energy Inc. 2026 Long Term Gas Resource Plan

On March 27, 2026, FortisBC Energy Inc (FEI) filed its 2026 Long Term Gas Resource Plan (2026 LTGRP) application for acceptance by the British Columbia Utilities Commission in accordance with section 44.1(2) of the *Utilities Commission Act*. A long-term resource plan is a guidebook for what, when, and how to meet customers' evolving needs for gas. FEI's 2026 LTGRP looks at a 27-year time frame to guide FEI's resource acquisition strategies and long-term infrastructure needs to address resiliency and peak demand.

To participate in the proceeding, please see the options below or visit [www.bcuc.com/get-involved](http://www.bcuc.com/get-involved) for more information.

### GET INVOLVED

- [Subscribe to the proceeding](#)
- [Submit a letter of comment](#)
- [Request intervener status](#)

### IMPORTANT DATES

1. **Thursday, May 7, 2026**  
Deadline to request intervener status
2. **Monday, August 10, 2026**  
Deadline to submit a letter of comment

Please visit the [proceeding page](#) on bcuc.com under "Our Work" to learn more.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### FortisBC Energy Inc.



16705 Fraser Highway  
Surrey, BC V4N 0E8



[gas.regulatory.affairs@fortisbc.com](mailto:gas.regulatory.affairs@fortisbc.com)



604. 592.7664

### British Columbia Utilities Commission



Suite 410,  
900 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3



[proceedings@bcuc.com](mailto:proceedings@bcuc.com)



604.660.4700

**Update 11 —Cycling for Courage 2026—  
March 20 2026**

😊😊 Spring Break #25 😊😊



QR CODE

<https://www.inland-group.ca/i-care/project-courage/cycling-for-courage/>

\*\*\*Donations are tax deductible & Receipt is emailed directly\*\*\*

**PURPOSE —REFLECTION—**

Spring Break March 2026 & time to reflect on the past few months. As today March 20 2026 we are at the halfway mark until Cycling for Courage 10 Days for Honour House Phase One Prince George to Quesnel (125km) & Quesnel to Williams Lake (125km) will take place.

The Purpose of the first phase is to begin the process of getting our physical strength and mental thoughts prepped which will eventually lead to Phase Two, all while continuing our objective/mission on spreading awareness and collecting donations for the Honour House Society.

Looking back at January 01 2026 which was only 78 days ago, but honestly is a mental blur and physically feels like a few years have passed, is a reflective piece. The weather was cold, lots of snow mixed with rain and all about adjustment & safety while training.

**TRAINING —CABIN FEVER—**

Training indoors on a treadmill was new to me as I have always been a road warrior. But for this specific ride I chose to learn and adapt all while taking care of working on a machine.

Cycling indoors had never been an issue but most importantly switch from tax rollers to a tax boost & and begin cycling with purpose concentrating on cadence and gearing and No swift or online training program, just watching YouTube and the odd times thinking I was in the tour de France drafting of Tadej Podgager.

Alas 05:45am morning prayers and smooth Simran and Kirtan vibrated through me as the cold of the garage slowly ebbed away into a torrent of sweat and growth of confidence with focus.

Morning sessions helped identify the why and purpose as I continued to push ahead, and now spring is here and the road beckons for tires and shoes. And the hills beckon a challenge.

**Update 11 —Cycling for Courage 2026—  
March 20 2026**

😊😊 Spring Break #25 😊😊

Running I am gradually making strides outside, enjoying the seasonal change and hearing the sounds of birds and critters around us. Unlike the treadmill where I could control my zones, I am finding I have become stronger but now the zones do fluctuate. I think I will officially be in the road bike by April 01 2026 as the wind and cold and rocky roads are still prevalent.

**HOW DO I DO IT —MINDSET—**

Finding what works for you when it comes to being active starts with a willingness to simply begin. Take the time to learn about the activity you're interested in—understand how to improve, how to build strength, and what your personal limits might be.

Be honest with yourself about where you are starting from, and focus on small, realistic goals that you can achieve along the way. As those small steps build momentum, you can begin to shape a larger, long-term goal.

People often comment on the distance I run or bike and say “wow,” but the real story is the process behind it. The results people see now are simply the outcome of consistent effort and time that has already passed.

*“....Just remember the world is bigger than one can imagine... we all have a story & need to create new chapters to envision where we can be... some chapters will be exciting... few chapters will be sad... other chapters will be dull... but at the end its your journey/story to tell*

🙄.....

Amarjit Singh Sull (Archie)  
Cycling for Courage  
Quesnel BC

**How you can help**

- **Share** our story and help keep these conversations going
- **Donate** if you're able — every contribution makes an impact
- **Engage in the conversations beneath the surface**, helping build resilience, purpose, and forward momentum in our communities

Together, we are proving that no meaningful journey is ever done alone.

**Update 11 —Cycling for Courage 2026—  
March 20 2026**

**😊😊 Spring Break #25 😊😊**

**Dates to Honour Ranch & Honour House.**

Day 1 Saturday June 06 2026	Prince George to Quesnel	115km
Day 2 Sunday June 07 2026	Quesnel to Williams Lake	125km
Day 3 Saturday June 27 2026	Williams Lake to 100 Mile	88km
Day 4 Sunday June 28 2026	100 Mile to Cache Creek	112km
Day 5 Monday June 29 2026	Cache Creek to Kamloops	83km
Day 6 Tuesday June 30 2026	Kamloops to Ashcroft <i>Honour Ranch</i>	109km
Day 7 Wednesday July 01 2026	Ashcroft to Lillooet	117km
Day 8 Thursday July 02 2026	Lillooet to Whistler	134km
Day 9 Friday July 03 2026	Whistler to Vancouver	125km
Day 10 Saturday July 04 2026	Vancouver to New West. <i>Honour House</i>	22.0km



With gratitude,  
**Amarjit Singh Sull**

**From:** [Community Services](#)  
**Subject:** Update: TNRD Parks & Trails Strategic Plan Implementation  
**Date:** April 2, 2026 2:06:31 PM

---

Good afternoon!

You are receiving this email because you were identified as an interested organization/group, or you requested to receive updates on the Parks & Trails Strategic Plan during the public survey process.

We are pleased to provide an update on the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) Parks & Trails Strategic Plan (PTSP) and its implementation.

The TNRD Board approved the Parks & Trails Strategic Plan in July 2025. This plan outlines the vision and priorities for parks and trails services, as well as capital investments over the next 10 years. Key priorities include expanding the parks and trails network to better serve residents, upgrading infrastructure to support a wider range of users, supporting community recreation organizations, and strengthening the TNRD's overall capacity to manage parks and trails effectively and sustainably.

Following adoption of the Parks & Trails Strategic Plan, a Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) was developed to put the Strategy into action. The DIP, approved in January 2026, identifies 6 goals and 23 recommendations that will guide implementation. Both documents are available on the TNRD website under the [Parks and Trails Strategic Plan](#) section.

As part of early implementation efforts, TNRD staff are beginning to explore a number of potential park and trail initiatives over the next two years. These are not approved or funded projects at this time, but rather concepts being investigated as possible future opportunities.

The following ideas are currently under review:

- Kamloops Lake Trail (Kamloops – Tobiano – Savona)
- Bonaparte River Canyon Trail (Cache Creek – Ashcroft)
- Trail system at the Louis Creek Eco Depot
- Creation of a park at Pritchard Beach (north side of Pritchard Bridge)
- Creation of a park and boat launch at Monte Lake (north side)
- Day-use parking lot at Loon Lake (Stevens Road)
- Creation of a viewpoint and trail at Murray Falls (Spences Bridge area)
- Investigation of tenure/authorization for the existing Inukshuk/Mesa Trail (south side of Ashcroft)
- Opportunities to improve lake access at Johnson Lake
- E. Shuswap Rd active transportation pathway extension (Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc – Lafarge)
- Aberdeen Rd pedestrian and bike pathway (Lower Nicola)

We welcome your input and interest as we explore these potential initiatives. If you have questions, feedback, or would like to share input on any of these ideas, please

reply to this email and we will ensure your comments are directed to the appropriate staff. **If you would prefer to be removed from this email update list, please reply to this message and we will ensure you are removed.**

Thank you for your continued interest and engagement. We look forward to sharing updates and working together to enhance parks and trails across the region.

Sincerely,



**Jo Kang**

*Community Services Coordinator*

Thompson-Nicola Regional District

300 - 465 Victoria Street | Kamloops, BC | V2C 2A9

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[tnrd.ca](http://tnrd.ca)

*Located on the traditional Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc territory,  
within the unceded, ancestral lands of the Secwépemc Nation.*

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## Housing and Municipal Affairs



# Minister's statement on private member's bill M216

## Share



## Statement

## Victoria

Thursday, April 9, 2026 1:13 PM

## Media Contacts

## Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Media Relations  
hmamedia@gov.bc.ca  
236-475-4435

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## Featured Topics

- Attainable Housing Initiative
- Homes for People
- 2026 Local Elections

Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, has issued the following statement following the request of George Anderson, MLA for Nanaimo-Lantzville, to the Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Member's Bills to not continue consideration of Bill M216, Professional Reliance Act, in light of the Province's commitment to undertake further work on the bill's core principles:

"I would like to express my gratitude to MLA Anderson for his thoughtful work on Bill M216 for advancing a proposal to help speed up housing approvals in the province. His work framed important conversations on how regulated professionals like architects and engineers can play a greater role in the permitting and approval processes. Building more homes for people is a goal that MLA Anderson and I deeply share.

"In recognition of the local governments, organizations and individuals that took countless hours to provide written submissions to the committee, the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs will be engaging with stakeholders to see how we can continue to reduce permitting timelines for new housing projects. This work will explore how to build on the principles of safety, speed and professional responsibility while balancing the needs of local governments and regulated professionals. We anticipate this work to begin later this year.

"Our government has already taken important steps to streamline housing approvals through the Development Approval Process Review and the new Building Permit Hub, and we know there is more work to do. Bill M216 has made a meaningful contribution to that work, and I look forward to working with MLA Anderson in advancing this important conversation in the weeks and months to come."

Actionable Motion and Task List Tracker - 20+A2:F1921						
Actionable Motion and Task List Tracker 2026						
MARCH						
Date	Motion No.	Motion	Staff Responsible	Comments	Updates	Status
<b>2025 MOTIONS</b>						
	R-2025-149	THAT, staff continue to seek alternate grant opportunities to fund a Hotel Investment Attraction Study, and connect with Miles Bruns and Al Boldt to identify best practices for advancing hotel investment attraction.	CAO	CEDD - eligible funding source		On-hold for intake and partner
<b>2026 MOTIONS</b>						
	R-2026-21	Direction to staff to prepare a new consolidated bylaw that: •Amalgamates Bylaw No. 816 and Bylaw No. 853 into one document; •Incorporates housekeeping updates; •Modernizes legislative references; •Includes enabling language for special voting opportunities; and Repeals the prior bylaws.	CAO	Prepare new bylaw, bring to council for adoption before end of July 6th deadline as per legislation		in-progress
09-Mar-26	R-2026-39	THAT Council approves the following requests as amended: 1. Approve the waiver of Community Hall rental and insurance fees for the Ashcroft & District Community Resource Society for December 15-19, 2026, with an estimated in-kind value of \$425; 2. Approve the waiver of Community Hall rental and insurance fees for the Ashcroft & District Health Care Auxiliary for November 11-14, 2026, with an estimated in-kind value of \$360; 3. Approve a donation to the Desert Sands Community School Travel Club in the form of one family pool pass and one family public skate pass; 4. Approve the request from the Ashcroft & District Lions Club to host their annual Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast in conjunction with the Ashcroft Market on May 10, 2026, including permission to park their trailer in the Ashcroft Pool parking lot and access water and electrical services as required;	CAO/AA	Forward approval letters		Complete
09-Mar-26	R-2026-40	THAT, Policy C-05-2024 be referred to the Policy Review Committee for review and that recommendations clarifying the inclusion of In-kind contributions and donation requests within the Village's support framework be brought forward to Council at a future meeting.	CAO/EDT	Add to the Policy Review Committee discussion items list and schedule a meeting when there are enough agenda items. Consider including Facility use and other donations in the GIA Policy framework.		in-progress
09-Mar-26	R-2026-41	THAT, Council endorse the "Forestry is a Solution" initiative as outlined in the February 26, 2026 correspondence from the BC Council of Forest Industries; AND THAT, Council acknowledge forestry as a foundational industry in rural British Columbia that supports local employment, economic stability, wildfire risk reduction through active forest management, and resilient communities; AND THAT, the Village of Ashcroft advise the BC Council of Forest Industries of its support and share information about the initiative through the Village's regular communication channels.	216 CAO/EDT	Send letter of Council's support to COFI, Premier, Min of Forest. MLA Stamer and MLA Doerkson and share information on Village Social Media site.		Complete

09-Mar-26	R-2026-42	THAT, Council direct staff to send a letter in response to MP Caputo's request identifying the Village of Ashcroft's primary funding priority as the twinning of the North Ashcroft reservoir, emphasizing the project's importance in supporting future community growth, ensuring adequate water storage for fire protection in North Ashcroft, and addressing the increasing wildfire risk facing the community.	CAO	Send letter to MP Caputo highlighting the N. Ashcroft reservoir twinning project as Ashcroft's #1 priority		Complete
09-Mar-26	R-2026-43	THAT, Council support the public safety petition initiated by the City of Prince George advocating for stronger public safety measures and authorize staff to share information about the petition through the Village of Ashcroft's regular communication channels.	CAO/EDT	Share petition on Village Social Media site	Introduction drafted and sent to EDT to post - posted	
09-Mar-26	R-2026-44	THAT, Council approves the renewal of the Village of Ashcroft's membership with UBCM in the amount of \$1,426.32.	CAO/ACC	Forward membership payment		Complete
09-Mar-26	R-2026-46	THAT, Council endorses the recommendation from the COTW meeting as presented with the exception of the B.O.S.S. Enrichment Centre request which is provisional pending receipt of the financials and budget information. Council, approval of the Spring 2026 Grants in Aid are as follows: •Ashcroft 4-H - \$500 •Twisted Desert Music Society - \$500 •Ashcroft and District Lions Club - \$500	CAO	Send GiA approval letters and requisition cheques. Draft Council Report with the updated financial information for BOSS Enrichment Centre approval	Financial information received and report drafted for Mar. 23 meeting	Complete
23-Mar-26	R-2026-50	THAT, Council appoint Ms. Tami Jones and Mr. Cliff Marsh to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for a term of up to two (2) years	CAO	Send letter advising the appointment and update AAC contact information		Complete
23-Mar-26	R-2026-51	THAT, Council indicate its intent to participate in the TNRD Invasive Plant Program, with implementation anticipated in 2027, subject to amendment of the service establishment bylaw by the TNRD.	CAO	Send letter of intent to participate and Council resolution to TNRD Invasive Plant Program		Complete
23-Mar-26	R-2026-52	THAT, Council invite the B.O.S.S. Enrichment Centre to participate in the Community BBQ, subject to the date selected being conducive with their program schedule requirements.	CAO	Send invitation to participate advising the date is yet to be determined		Complete
23-Mar-26	R-2026-53	THAT, Council approve staff to prepare a gift basket of Village promotional items and local products, to a value of up to \$200.	EDT	prepare gift basket		Complete
23-Mar-26	R-2026-56	THAT, Council receive the budget and financial information for the B.O.S.S. Enrichment Centre Backpack Giveaway Event; AND THAT Council approve the \$500 Grant-in-Aid contribution as previously endorsed in principle.	CAO/CFO	Send letter advising approval and requisition cheque	Letter is sent - needs requisition and cheque	Complete



**COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORT**

**DATE:** April 27, 2026  
**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Councillor Tedford

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<b>Assigned Committees/WG:</b>	<b>Alternate:</b>
Ashcroft Fire Rescue	Landfill Monitoring Committee
Finance Committee	HUB Society
Seniors Liaison	Japanese Mural Repair
Street Safety & Protection	

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**NOTICE OF MOTION**

THAT, following a presentation to Council by a delegation(s), members of the public in the gallery or viewing by social media be provided the opportunity to ask questions of the delegation before the delegation is dismissed from Council chambers and prior to the call for public input.

Respectfully submitted,

Cam Tedford,  
Councillor



## Enhancing Parks, Recreation & Culture Working Group

### Meeting Minutes

Monday April 13, 2026, at 9:00 am

#### **In Attendance:**

Brian Bennewith, DPW & Chair  
Daniela Dyck, CAO  
Jessica Clement, Cnclr.  
Nadine Davenport, Cnclr

#### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Bennewith called the meeting to order at 9:05 am

#### **2. Minutes**

- Dec. 2, 2025 Meeting – previously distributed and were included on the Regular Agenda for the December 8, 2025 Council Meeting
- Attached for review

Not changes to minutes

#### **3. Discussion**

##### a) Mesa Vista Park:

Chair Bennewith updated on the Mesa Vista Park Project:

- Old playground equipment has been removed and base layer leveled with slight grade as per the installers request.
- Catch basin is being added to driveway for water runoff
- Moving the public works gate to accommodate a walkway from driveway to the playground area.

What would be put outside of the playground area?

- Chair Bennewith stated that there is no budget for any further upgrades to the park.
- CAO Dyck updated on the grant funding for playground
  - i. NDIT Community Places – Approved
  - ii. Tire Stewardship, Kal’s Replay and TECK grants are still pending

##### b) Benches

- Chair Bennewith stated that the Village could potentially add two memorial benches, two trees, a picnic table and misters to the area around the playground for this year.
- CAO Dyck suggested looking into grant funding for shade structure/umbrellas
- Village could consider applying to ReGreening Grant (deadline January 31) for trees for 2027
- Adding water bags to the base of new trees could help to conserve moisture during the summer.



## Enhancing Parks, Recreation & Culture Working Group

### Meeting Minutes

Monday April 13, 2026, at 9:00 am

c) Pool Park:

Benches

- Chair Bennewith reported that there are six benches at the pool park, additional areas could create issues with mowing and the steep grade along Elm Street.
- Two benches could potentially be added between/beside the existing benches along Elm Street.
- Benches could be added inside the pool fencing but may become hot-umbrellas could be added for shade
- Another location for benches is Legacy Park

d) Heritage Park:

- N/A

e) Legacy Park:

- Chair Bennewith reported that the poison ivy has been removed and that there will be more xeriscaping being done with shrubs and flowers that are appropriate for this region.
- Future plans for gazebo, firepit, swings are being looked at through possible grant funding
- Concrete pad was suggested near the north end of the park by the storage shed

f) Old Fire Hall:

- N/A

g) Wagon Site:

- N/A

h) Arts and Culture: Downtown Core:

- Planters
  - i. Businesses were surveyed whether they wanted to continue have the Village planters in front of their business or not...some did not want the responsibility others said yes and/or requested more planters.
  - ii. Approximate cost of plants to fill planters would be \$1500 – \$2000.
  - iii. Suggestion was made to make this a transition year for businesses to take over their planters if they wished.
  - iv. CAO Dyck mentioned that there is a gentleman in the community that is an avid gardener and has expressed interest in volunteering to help with the planters, she will reach out to see if he is still interested and in what capacity



## Enhancing Parks, Recreation & Culture Working Group

### Meeting Minutes

Monday April 13, 2026, at 9:00 am

- i) Drylands Arena
    - Budget does not allow for an assessment – TCMHA needs to be notified we cant move forward with the project this year.
  
  - j) Curling Rink
    - N/A
  
  - k) Community Hall
    - N/A
  
  - l) Cemeteries
    - Survey
      - i. CAO Dyck has been working to secure a surveyor for development on the south end of the cemetery but has been hampered with delays
    - Columbarium
      - i. Site – East/West?
        1. Chair Bennewith reported that a third columbarium is on order
        2. Working group recommended it be placed parallel to existing to create a square, with potential to eventually create a “star” shape with up to 12 columbaria.
        3. Size of each individual box should be able to hold a maximum of two urns
      - ii. CAO Dyck recommended a scattering area in the south corner of the cemetery, as a future plan. It could have trees and flowers.
      - iii. Councillor Clement suggested a memorial could be added that has little plaques to commemorate those that have had their ashes scatter there – a memorial concrete open book was suggested
- 
- m) Other
  - Picture Elephant Hill- Visible area covered
    - i. Site recommendations:
      1. Working group discussed locations where the painting could be best displayed; Legacy Park, West end of the bridge, Pool Park, Train at Heritage Park, LED and near the Japanese garden.
      2. WG decided near the LED would be the best to display for all to see.
      3. Chair Bennewith will look at what is required to install it at that location



## Enhancing Parks, Recreation & Culture Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Monday April 13, 2026, at 9:00 am

- REDIP – Not approved
  - i. CAO Dyck stated that Heritage Park revitalisation will be stalled until funding is made available
  - ii. Councillor Clement recommended applying to NDIR for downtown revitalization

#### **4. Next Steps**

- The memorial bench policy will be sent to policy review committee for review
- Downtown revitalisation project will be sent to Ec. Dev. Working Group for consideration
- Pursue grant funding for Mesa Park upgrade phase 2

#### **5. Date for Next Meeting**

TBD

#### **6. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am

The foregoing is the writer's interpretation of the discussion held.

Margaret Moreira, EDT  
Recording Secretary



## Economic Development & Tourism

Working Group - Meeting Notes

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 - 9:30 am

In Attendance: Margaret Moreira, EDTC  
Daniela Dyck, CAO  
Jessica Clement, Councillor  
Nadine Davenport, Councillor  
Linsie Lachapelle, General Manager, Community Futures

### Call to Order

9:30 a.m.

#### 1. Discussion

##### Business Mixer

- The budget for the 2026 Business Mixer was discussed. The Working Group agreed to maintain the budget of \$1,000.

##### Special Events

- Working group discussed hosting a special event downtown to enhance community spirit.
- A carnival was suggested for 2027, with potential partnerships including the Ashcroft HUB, local businesses and user groups.

#### 2. NDIT Marketing Initiatives

The Working Group discussed options for the grant application, with a focus on tourism initiatives.

The following items will be included in the grant application:

- Highway billboard redesign and installation
- Pocket guide reprint
- Radio ads

#### 3. Wayfinding Skins with edits - tabled for next meeting

#### 4. Next Steps

- Reach out to Ashcroft Indian Band and Tribal Council to seek permission to access billboards.
- Quotes for Billboards, Pocket Guide Reprint & Radio Ads

#### 5. Recommendation

N/A

6. Date for Next Meeting  
May 6, 2026 @ 9:30am

7. Adjournment  
10:25 a.m.

The foregoing is the writer's interpretation of the discussions held.



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Margaret Moreira,  
Economic Development & Tourism Coordinator