

Ditidaht First Nation Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan

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Contract Lands Manager and Planner Manage day to day activities of the DFN Lands Dept Administer DFN Land Code Facilitate Lands Committee Develop training opportunities Develop Lands administration systems Provide opportunities for DFN membership involvement

Introduction

Funding provided by the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program.

There are two delivery and funding mechanisms within CRI: FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS), and Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR).

Both administered through Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)

DFN received funding to prepare the CWRP - approx. \$40K

DFN received funding to conduct FireSmart activities - approx. \$80K

- The CWRP is a comprehensive plan/approach toward wildfire risk reduction that reflects local priorities and provincial goals for prevention and mitigation. The primary goals of the CWRP are:
 - Increase communities' capacity and understanding of wildfire risk
 - foster greater collaboration across administrative boundaries
 - be more responsive to the needs of different types of communities in terms of their size, their capacity, and the threats they face
 - develop achievable and accountable action items that can be implemented

What is a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP)?

- The CWRP is organized based on the 7 FireSmart principles that represent different aspects of wildfire preparedness, management, response, prevention, mitigation and resiliency:
 - Education
 - Legislation and Planning
 - Development Considerations
 - Interagency Cooperation
 - Cross-Training
 - Emergency Planning
 - Vegetation Management

What is a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP)? Consultant Work to prepare the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan Background research on the Ditidaht Nation

Review of existing Ditidaht land use plans, Land Code, Village Plan, etc.

GIS spatial data analysis

Interviews and discussions with local Land and Resources staff to identify values at risk and wildfire concerns

Visit to the Malachan Village to meet with Land and Resources staff, tour the community, and collect data to assess wildfire threat from surrounding forests

Wildfire threat modeling

Development of the CWRP based on the above



Consultant work for FireSmart Activities

- Works with DFN to develop FireSmart program and policies
- Spreads awareness of the FireSmart principles in Malachan, through community events
- Liaises and builds relationships with other Nations and Government
- Organizes educational initiatives on FireSmart activities
- Mitigates wildfire risk to community through semi-annual assessments, along with treatments to reduce wildfire risk
- Reports to and works with the DFN Lands Dept, and submits regular progress reports
- Applies for continued administrative and operational funding





Results and Recommendations

- The CWRP executive summary table outlines all the recommended actions for the community to take and provides a priority rating
- Major threats identified for the Ditidaht Nation include:
 - Most structures have a high or extreme FireSmart hazard rating,
 - Local wildland and structural firefighting capacity is low,
 - Firefighting equipment (engines, trucks, hose and pumps) are likely insufficient to fight wildfires,
 - Limited egress options; emergency evacuation during a wildfire event could be high risk, and without an evacuation plan, disorganized
 - Scotch broom in the community is highly flammable

Next Steps

Determine which action items within the CWRP the Nation wants to implement first Focus on Very High or High priority rated actions Apply for the applicable funding through Community Resiliency Investment funding or Indigenous Services Canada