

This document contains the Executive Summary, Summary of Recommendations, and key CWPP maps (Area of Interest, Local Wildfire Risk Analysis, and Land Ownership Maps).

The purpose of this document is to provide a brief summary of the analysis, results, and recommendations associated with the 2020 Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Refer to the complete CWPP document and associated maps for more detailed information and references.

The Summary of Recommendations in this document are organized by the Level of Priority. In the complete CWPP document, the Summary of Recommendations are organized in the order in which they appear in the document. The numbering is consistent across all documents.

Village of Tahsis

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

2020 Update



Submitted to:

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Mark Tatchell – Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Tahsis

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June 26, 2020



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This plan was prepared by Colin Filliter, RPF and Cynthia Lu, RPF of SuavAir Aerial Imaging. Colby Day, RFT completed the spatial data analysis and mapping. The authors of this report would like to thank and acknowledge the following people for their assistance and participation in updating the Village of Tahsis Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

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This report is made possible by the Union of BC Municipalities through the Community Resiliency Investment grant.

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL SIGN & SEAL

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Date Signed: June 25, 2020	Date Signed: June 25, 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was completed under the framework established by the Community Resilience Investment program, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities. The area of interest is the wildland urban interface (WUI) surrounding the Village of Tahsis, at the head of Tahsis Inlet on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The area of interest is within the traditional territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation.

The purpose of this CWPP is to update the recommendations made in the initial 2011 Village of Tahsis CWPP. Using the best available spatial data, this CWPP identifies the wildfire risks surrounding the community, potential consequences of a wildfire to the community, and recommends possible ways to reduce the risk. Relevant recommendations from the 2011 plan are carried forward where applicable.

The fuel types in the area are a mosaic of mature conifer forests, recently harvested cut blocks, immature forests, and deciduous patches. Previous fire history in the area indicates low fire density from both human and lightning caused fires. The local wildfire threat is Moderate with pockets of High. The local wildfire risk ranges from Low to High with higher risk areas associated with fuels in close proximity (within 500m) of the community.

Recommendations are summarized in the table below. The recommendations are based on a review of best practices from other jurisdictions, gaps identified through community engagement, the local wildfire risk analysis, prevention of human-caused ignitions, and integration of FireSmart program principles. FireSmart is a national initiative to educate and empower the public on what can be done to protect their families, properties and communities from wildfire. Fuel management (surface and ladder fuel removal) is recommended for High risk areas within 500m of structures in the Village. Community education and awareness also play a critical role in reducing the wildfire risk. Community education focuses on FireSmart principles, understanding fire use restrictions, emergency preparedness and regularly sharing fire safety related information with the community.

The Tahsis Fire Rescue Department (TFRD) provides fire response services for the Village. Currently, the TFRD is at full capacity with as many members as turnout gear, each trained in basic wildland firefighting for structural firefighters. The BC Wildfire Service provides wildfire response services on provincial crown land including Crown land within the municipal boundary. Joint mock exercises and greater cooperation between TFRD and the BC Wildfire Service would improve skills and communication in the event of a WUI incident. The TFRD should also aim to improve water availability for fire suppression in the outlying areas of its service area.

This plan makes 29 recommendations to the Village of Tahsis and Strathcona Regional District. The recommendations should be further prioritized by the community depending on local strengths, opportunities, and the availability of human, financial and physical resources. At minimum, the plan should be revisited every five years to assess the progress and relevance of previous recommendations and for the continual improvement of wildfire protection planning as more information becomes available.

HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

No.	Priority	Objective	Recommendation / Next Steps	Responsibility
2.	High	To engage regional operators and industrial stakeholders on the contents and recommendations in this plan; to improve inter-agency dialogue.	Collaboration amongst regional operators is recommended to reduce fuel hazards on Crown lands and along rights-of-way. Share this plan with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, MFLNRORD, forest tenure holders (ie: Western Forest Products Inc.), and BC Hydro. Areas of critical importance are action plans for fuel hazard management along Head Bay FSR right-of-way for access and evacuation; treatment areas in identified high risk areas on Crown lands; and minimizing fuel hazards along transmission line rights-of-way.	Village and SRD to share this plan and recommendations with regional operators
Rationale: Inter-agency cooperation within the WUI is necessary to protect a community and its critical infrastructure. Recommended best practice for information sharing, awareness, collaboration and cooperation.				
3.	High	To reduce the fuel hazard in identified treatment areas (High risk areas within 500m of the community).	Develop and implement site specific fuel management prescriptions. Prescriptions to be completed by a qualified Registered Professional Forester. Recommended treatment areas are listed in Table 8. The forest professional may also refer to Priority 1 treatment areas in the 2011 CWPP. Share this plan and collaborate with regional operators (forest tenure holders, BC Hydro, MFLNRORD, etc) where possible. Where treatment areas are identified on Crown lands, consultation is required with Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations.	Village and/or SRD Share this plan and recommendations with regional operators
Rationale: Recommended treatment areas based on local wildfire risk analysis. High risk areas within 500m of community structures or critical infrastructure are priority for treatment.				
4.	High	To reduce the fuel hazard and ignition risk within the FireSmart	Conduct FireSmart Hazard Assessments starting with the priority areas identified in Table 9.	Village and/or SRD

		Structure Ignition Zone (100m) of structures and homes in Village.	Implement hazard assessment recommendations.	
<p>Rationale: The FireSmart program is a nationwide initiative. Several post-wildfire examples across the country show how FireSmart activities reduce the structure losses associated with WUI fires. FireSmart activities are a focus area for all CWPP's developed under the UBCM CRI funding program. FireSmart is implemented through best practices in 7 disciplines: education, emergency planning, vegetation management, legislation, development, interagency cooperation and cross-training. Development standards are a FireSmart discipline. Priority areas for hazard assessments based on relative risk of adjacent fuels.</p>				
5.	High	To reduce the ignition risk surrounding critical community infrastructure.	Contact a Local FireSmart Representative to complete FireSmart hazard assessments around critical infrastructure in the Village.	Village
<p>Rationale: Hazard assessments around critical infrastructure were previously recommended in 2011. Hazard assessments are necessary for vegetation management, as described in #5 above.</p>				
6.	High	To reduce fuel hazard on private land and provide alternatives to open burning.	Offer alternative yard waste disposal options including periodic collection and community chipping services.	Village and/or SRD
<p>Rationale: Fuel management requires the removal of fuels which can be costly and a barrier to action. Providing free or subsidized debris disposal is a best practice for encouraging private landowner participation in fuel management activities.</p>				
7.	High	To make this Plan and its associated maps available to the community.	Upload a digital copy of the CWPP to the Village of Tahsis and SRD websites.	Village and SRD
<p>Rationale: Recommended best practice for community education and awareness regarding wildfire protection planning and FireSmart program implementation.</p>				
8.	High	To improve community awareness of the FireSmart program.	Encourage residents to complete the free, online, FireSmart 101 course.	Village and SRD
<p>Rationale: Public education as part of FireSmart program implementation, refer to #5 above.</p>				
10.	High	To improve community awareness of wildfire threat and risk, and of the actions that can be taken to mitigate risk.	Use SRD and Village social media accounts to regularly share wildfire preparedness, wildfire safety, and FireSmart practices information. Posts can redirect followers to the established resources of FireSmart BC, BC Wildfire Service, and Prepared BC.	Village and SRD

Rationale: Recommended best practice for community education and awareness regarding wildfire protection planning and FireSmart program implementation.

11.	High	To reduce the risk of human-caused ignitions by improving community awareness of local bylaws, provincial wildfire regulations, and wildfire safety.	Develop a Village specific Fire Safety and Wildfire Preparedness factsheet (paper and digital resource). Send this as an annual mailout to all Village residences. This factsheet should include information on Village Bylaws, what constitutes a “fire hazard” on private property, <i>Wildfire Regulation</i> legal requirements, FireSmart principles, and emergency evacuation routes	Village and/or SRD
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Rationale: Community education and awareness are necessary for wildfire protection planning and FireSmart program implementation. Concern about fire hazards on private property identified during CWPP engagement. Bylaw education is a recommended best practice.

12.	High	To improve community awareness of wildfire threat and risk, and of the actions that can be taken to mitigate risk.	Organize an annual Community Fire Safety or Community Wildfire Preparedness day. Activities may include checking fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in homes, conducting FireSmart clearing of Priority 1 (up to 10m) zones around critical community infrastructure, FireSmart presentations, fire department demonstrations, etc.	Village
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Rationale: Recommended best practice for community education and awareness regarding wildfire protection planning and FireSmart program implementation. Addresses education and emergency planning FireSmart disciplines.

15.	High	To improve inter-agency and cross-jurisdiction communication about wildfire risk, emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.	Arrange an annual meeting, prior to fire season, to include BCWS – North Island Fire Zone, EMBC, and local fire department representatives and Village Administration to review incident command structure, communication strategies and emergency support services in the event of a WUI fire.	SRD
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Rationale: Key contacts and individuals may change from year to year. Annual meetings recommended as a best practice to build relationships and improve communication in the event of a WUI event. Interagency cooperation and cross-training are FireSmart disciplines.

18.	High	To reduce the wildfire ignition risk along power line rights-of-way.	BC Hydro to ensure their vegetation management strategy does not contribute to unacceptable fuel loading or diminish the ability of the right-of-way to act as a fuel break. Specifically address any hazards identified around the substation.	Village and/or SRD to share plan recommendations with BC Hydro
Rationale: Carried from 2011 CWPP. Inter-agency cooperation within the WUI is necessary to protect a community and its critical infrastructure. Recommended best practice for information sharing, awareness, collaboration and cooperation.				
20.	High	To improve water availability for suppression of interface fires in outlying areas.	Purchase a water tanker, portable water tank, and/or portable bladders for improved water availability for wildland fire suppression and fire suppression in outlying interface areas beyond the water hydrant system. Consider access conditions, water sources, and most likely application when assessing which apparatus to acquire.	Village
Rationale: Based on CWPP engagement with the Village/TFRD on water availability for fire suppression in areas outside of hydrant coverage yet within the fire protective services area.				
22.	High	To manage and reduce the vegetation/fuel hazard along the Head Bay FSR right-of-way.	Plan for vegetation management, brushing and clearing along Head Bay FSR right-of-way with fuel hazard reduction as an objective (cleared materials should be chipped and hauled away).	Village and/or SRD to share this recommendation with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Rationale: Inter-agency cooperation within the WUI is necessary to protect a community and its critical infrastructure. Recommended best practice for information sharing, awareness, collaboration and cooperation.				
25.	High	To maintain and upgrade TFRD personnel certification & training.	Where possible, provide members the ability and resources to complete additional training such as SPP-115, ICS100, FireSmart LFR, or other related courses.	Village
Rationale: Cross-training is one of 7 FireSmart disciplines. WUI and ICS training for fire department members recommended as a best practice.				

26.	High	To maintain and improve communication with BCWS.	TFRD and BCWS (with Gold River Volunteer Fire Department) should coordinate to conduct joint yearly mock exercises, where information and technical/practical knowledge are shared, such as: fire line construction, pump operations, sprinkler protection, portable water tank deployment, and wildland hose operations.	Village with SRD and BCWS support
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Rationale: Based on CWPP engagement with the Village/TFRD opportunities for cross-training would be beneficial. Interagency cooperation and cross-training are FireSmart disciplines. The BCWS North Island Fire Zone has indicated cross-training is an area of interest for future development.

MEDIUM PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

No.	Priority	Objective	Recommendation / Next Steps	Responsibility
1.	Med	To reduce the likelihood of human-caused ignitions by regulating the use of fireworks and other spark/flame generating devices.	Extend the authority of the Fire Chief, or designate, to prohibit the use of fireworks, lanterns and other devices during burning ban periods, either in a new bylaw or amendment of the Fire Protective Services and Regulation Bylaw.	Village

Rationale: Recommended best practice, observed in similar jurisdictions, to reduce the risk of human-caused ignitions.

9.	Med	To improve community awareness of wildfire threat and risk, and of the actions that can be taken to mitigate risk.	Deliver regular communications to community members (flyers, notice boards, emails, social media, etc.). Recommend at least one fire related communication per month (bi-weekly during fire season if required).	Village
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Rationale: Recommended best practice for community education and awareness regarding wildfire protection planning and FireSmart program implementation.

14.	Med	To improve community FireSmart awareness.	Contact a Local FireSmart Representative to deliver Public education materials at annual community events (ie: Canada Day, Tahsis Days, Fishing Derby)	Village
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Rationale: As described in #5 above. Public education is one of the FireSmart disciplines.

16.	Med	To continually communicate with the public on emergency planning activities.	Communicate the Village's completed emergency planning initiatives (including Evacuation Plan and this CWPP). Engage in an emergency response drill or other mock exercise.	Village
Rationale: Recommended best practice for public education and emergency planning.				
17.	Med	To ensure implementation and continual engagement with CWPP.	Annual check-ins between the Village and SRD should occur to follow-up on recommendations and actions planned and completed. Annual check-ins should also develop an annual action plan of priority items to be worked on for the year.	SRD
Rationale: Recommended best practice to ensure follow-up on action items.				
19.	Med	To promote alternative means of yard management and yard waste disposal.	Provide residents within information on alternatives to burning yard waste. Link this information on the SRD website. Alternatives to burning include yard waste disposal centres, composting or xeriscaping.	Village and SRD
Rationale: Recommended practice, observed from other similar jurisdictions. Contributes to public education and development planning.				
21.	Med	To improve water availability for suppression of interface fires in outlying areas.	Explore permitting requirements and opportunities for installing dry hydrant systems on Tahsis or Leiner Rivers, or other streams, to improve water availability in outlying areas.	Village
Rationale: Based on CWPP engagement with the Village/TFRD on water availability for fire suppression in areas outside of hydrant coverage yet within the fire protective services area.				
23.	Med	To improve emergency evacuation communications to the community.	Encourage residents to sign up to the SRD's free Connect Rocket emergency notification service which sends out text messages to cellular subscribers and voice calls to landlines.	Village and SRD
Rationale: Existing program/infrastructure to continue to encourage residents to use.				
27.	Med	To improve equipment availability for structure protection in the event of WUI fires.	Engage the City of Campbell River in a mutual aid agreement regarding the deployment of their Structural Protection Unit.	Village

Rationale: Recommended as a best practice emergency planning activity, to identify priorities or conditions for deployment of equipment prior to the event of a WUI fire.

29.	Med	To improve equipment availability for structure protection in the event of WUI fires.	Purchase sprinkler kits for public infrastructure and encourage residents to purchase sprinkler kits for their homes. Training on set up and operational use is just as important as having the equipment readily available. Ensure TFRD members receive SPP-115 training.	Village
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Rationale: Based on current knowledge and inventory, the equipment availability for structural protection in the region could be improved. Sprinkler kits are a relatively low-cost option and highly effective option for the Village and residents.

LOW PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

No.	Priority	Objective	Recommendation / Next Steps	Responsibility
13.	Low	To improve community FireSmart awareness.	Continue to deliver the FireSmart education program in the K-12 public school system. Use the BC FireSmart Education package. Contact the BCWS Coastal Fire Centre Fire Prevention Specialists to borrow education kits and for education support.	Village

Rationale: As described in #5 above. Public education is one of the FireSmart disciplines.

24.	Low	To maintain sufficient TFRD personnel to respond to emergencies.	Continue to ensure all TFRD members are trained to response to WUI incidents (SPP-WFF 1).	Village
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Rationale: As new members join TFRD, to keep SPP-WFF-1 training top of mind.

26.	Low	To improve equipment availability for structure protection in the event of WUI fires.	Engage Gold River Volunteer Fire Department and Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations, on potential for cost sharing and purchase of a Structural Protection Unit for shared use.	Village with SRD support
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Rationale: Based on current knowledge and inventory, the equipment availability for structural protection in the region could be improved. The nearest SPU is with the Campbell River Fire Department, its deployment may be affected by time, access conditions, and availability.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL RESOURCES AND FUNDING SUPPORTS

Resources	Land Jurisdiction	Types of Projects
Local government taxation	Municipal Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various projects as directed by local governments including FireSmart assessments and activities, debris disposal, equipment purchases, training, etc.
Forest Enhancement Society BC (FESBC)	Provincial Crown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel management treatment prescriptions and implementation
UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program (CRI)	Municipal First Nations Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FireSmart hazard assessments, demonstration projects, off-site debris disposal (i.e.: chip trucks) • Community Education • Development planning • Emergency planning and cross training
UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF)	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency support services training • Fire department training or equipment • Emergency evacuation planning • Emergency operations training
First Nations Emergency Support Services – Indigenous Services Canada (FNESS/ISC)	First Nations Reserve lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel management prescriptions and treatments On-Reserve
BC Wildfire Service	Provincial Crown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel management treatments (in coordination with local fire zone officer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public education and outreach

**Tahsis CWPP
Area of Interest Map**



Scale: 1:35000
Strathcona Regional District
Electoral Area A
Village of Tahsis



Legend

- CWPP AOI
- Tahsis Infrastructure
- Water Allocation Resources
- Gravel, Unknown, Deact
- Paved
- Recreation Lines
- Recreation Polygon
- Tree Farm Licence
- Community Watersheds
- Electoral Area
- Indian Reserves
- Crown Tenure - Utilities
- Crown Tenure - Communications
- Parks and Protected Areas
- Special Use Permit
- Lakes
- Major Rivers
- Wetlands
- Lakes

Google Satellite

Date: 05/10/2020
Author: Colby Day, RFT
Coordinate System: BC Albers NAD83

0 500 1000 1500 2000 m



**TFL19
Western Forest Products Inc.**

MCKELVIE CREEK - FR
Water Tower
Water Well and Treatment Plant

Village of Tahsis

Head Bay Road

TAHSIS 11

WEYMER CREEK PARK



**Tahsis CWPP
Updated Fire Risk Map**



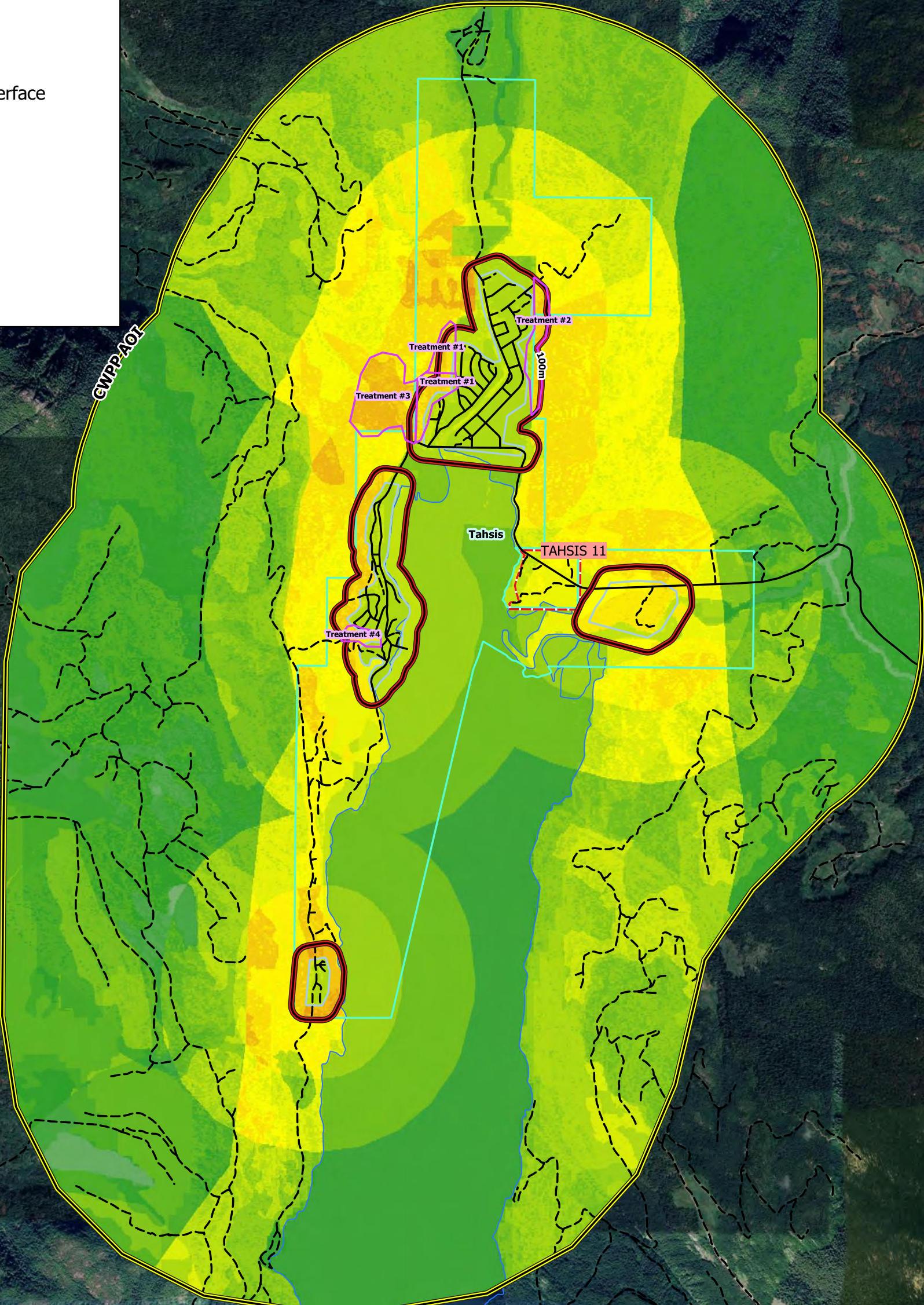
Scale: 1:30000
Strathcona Regional District
Village of Tahsis
Electoral Area A



Legend

- CWPP AOI
- 100m Buffer
- Proposed Treatment Updated
- Digital Road Atlas
 - Gravel, Unknown, Deact
 - Paved
- Municipality
- Indian Reserves
- Tahsis Urban Interface
- Fire_Risk
 - 0.1 (No Risk)
 - 3.9 (Low)
 - 6.9 (Moderate)
 - 8.9 (High)
 - 9 + (Extreme)
- Google Satellite

Tahsis Updated Fire Risk Summary	
Updated Fire Risk	Area (ha)
No Risk	0
Low Risk	112
Moderate Risk	3,280
High Risk	754
Extreme Risk	1
Total:	4,147



**Tahsis CWPP
Ownership Treatment Map**



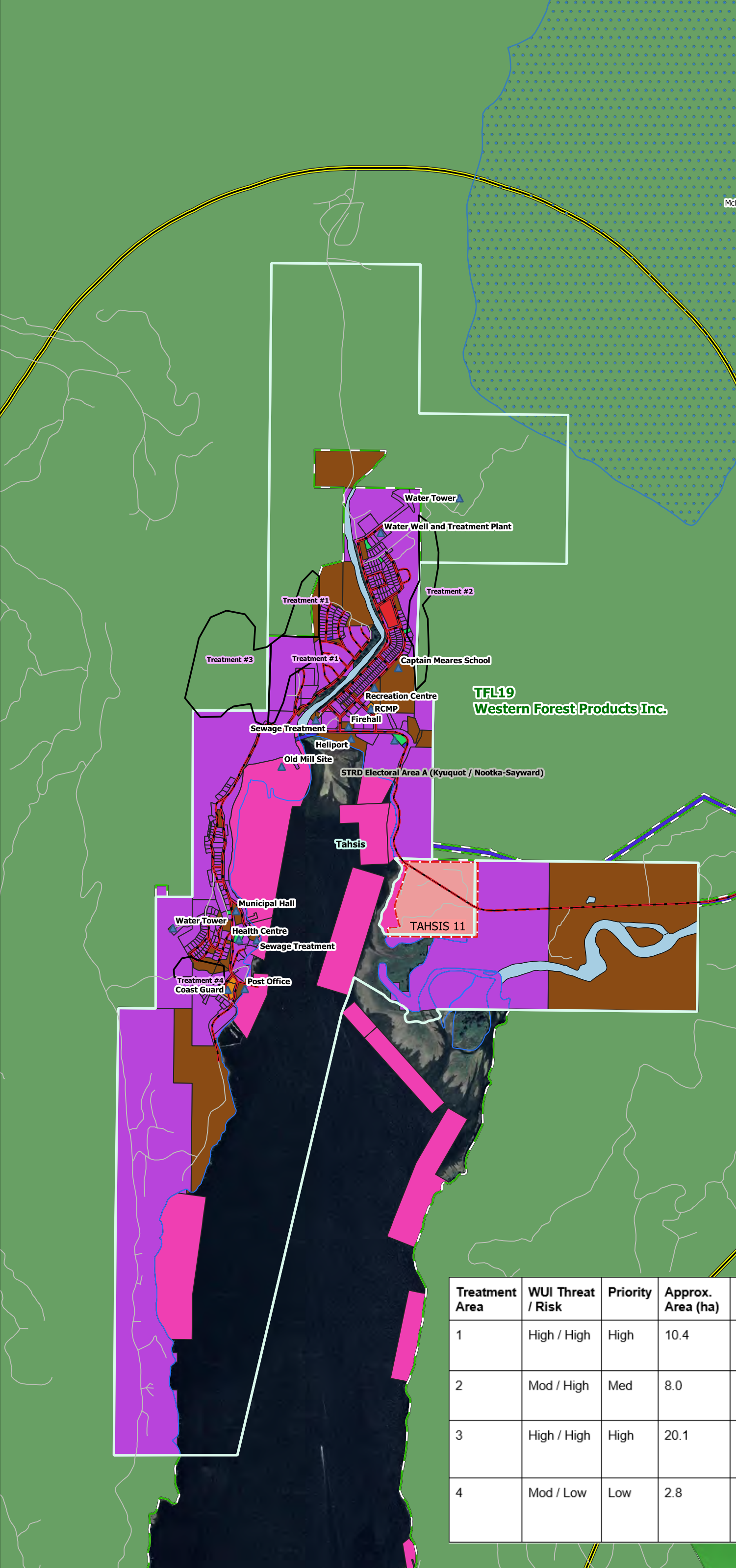
Scale: 1:20000
Strathcona Regional District
Electoral Area A
Village of Tahsis



Legend

- ▲ Tahsis Infrastructure
- Digital Road Atlas
- Gravel
- Unknown, Deact
- Paved
- == Highway
- ▭ Proposed Treatment Updated
- ▭ CWPP AOI
- ▭ Crown Tenure - Utilities
- ▭ Tree Farm Licence
- ▭ Private
- ▭ Crown Woodlots
- ▭ Electoral Area
- ▭ Municipality
- ▭ Indian Reserves
- ▭ Community Watersheds
- ▭ Lakes
- ▭ Major Rivers
- ▭ Wetlands
- Parcel Fabric
- ▭ Crown Agency
- ▭ Crown Provincial
- ▭ Federal
- ▭ First Nation
- ▭ Mixed Ownership
- ▭ Municipal
- ▭ None
- ▭ Private
- ▭ Unknown
- Google Satellite

Date: : 06/05/2020
Author: Colby Day, RFT
Coordinate System: BC Albers NAD83



Treatment Area	WUI Threat / Risk	Priority	Approx. Area (ha)	Land Ownership	Comments / Rationale
1	High / High	High	10.4	Private (6.8ha) Crown (4.6ha)	High risk within the WUI100
2	Mod / High	Med	8.0	Private (1.5ha) Crown (6.5ha)	High risk within the WUI100.
3	High / High	High	20.1	Private (1.0ha) Crown (19.1ha)	High risk within the WUI500, adjacent to transmission lines
4	Mod / Low	Low	2.8	Municipal (0.8ha) Private (2.0ha)	Ubedam Creek Trail, potential community FireSmart project