

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 Zeballos

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

2020 Update



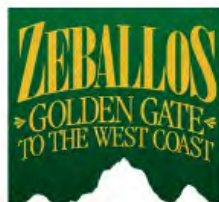
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Village of Zeballos 2020 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Update was completed under the framework established by the Community Resilience Investment program, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities. The CWPP addresses the wildland urban interface (WUI) surrounding the Village of Zeballos. The area of interest is within the traditional territories of the Ehattesaht Chinehkint First Nation and Nuchatlaht First Nation, both members of the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations.

The purpose of this report is to update the recommendations made in the initial 2011 Village of Zeballos 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 primarily human-caused fires. The local wildfire threat is Moderate to 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.

The Village was, and continues to be, severely impacted by the 2018 Gold Valley Fire that occurred on the eastern slopes directly above the Village. The fire and resulting evacuation orders, local state of emergency, road closures, and the physical and mental health effects on Village residents highlight the importance of emergency preparedness, emergency support services, and wildfire protection planning.

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 Zeballos Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protective services for the Village. On Crown lands, the BC Wildfire Service manages wildfire response. Continued recruitment and training for volunteer firefighters is critically important to maintaining response capacity for WUI fires and any other emergencies. Emergency support services recruitment and training is also identified as a priority for the Village.

This plan makes 26 recommendations to the Village of Zeballos and the Strathcona Regional District. The recommendations should be further prioritized by the Village 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

Recommendations are assigned priority (Low, Medium, High) based on their relative importance to reducing wildfire risk within the wildland urban interface. Recommendations are also classified based on the estimated timeframe required for their completion (1, 2, or 3). 1 – “quick wins” possible to complete within a year. 2 – requires more planning and integration of multiple elements, may take 2-3 years to complete. 3 – complex recommendations to implement, requires longer term planning, may take up to 5 years to complete. The priority and estimated timeframe are provided to assist local governments in operationalizing the recommendations included in this CWPP.

No.	Priority/ Time- frame	Objective	Recommendation / Next Steps	Responsibility
1.	High / 1	To improve emergency evacuation plan mapping to include all potentially relevant locations.	Include Helicopter Landing area and other evacuation route information on emergency plan maps.	Village with support from SRD GIS
Rationale: Gaps identified in the emergency evacuation plan/map reviewed during the CWPP update process.				
2.	High / 2	To provide the Village and Fire Department with additional tools to reduce the risk of human-caused ignitions and fire hazards within the municipal boundary.	Include in the Fire Bylaw authority for the Fire Chief to restrict open fires and order the removal of materials determined to be a fire hazard from private properties within the municipal boundary. The Village should obtain legal advice prior to adopting any bylaw amendments.	Village, Fire Department
Rationale: Best practice recommended, observed in similar jurisdictions, to address fire hazards on private land.				
3.	High / 2	To mitigate the risk of a WUI fire starting and spreading from the wood waste landfill.	Engage the tenure holder on developing a risk management plan that addresses the potential for spontaneous combustion at the wood waste site. Options may include keeping stand-by water tanker/equipment on site during high fire danger and/or FireSmart planning around the site.	Village, MFLNRORD Collaborate with tenure holder.
Rationale: Concerns with wood waste site identified during CWPP engagement. Wood waste debris piles are known hazards for spontaneous combustion.				

5.	High / 1	To increase community awareness and participation in the FireSmart program.	Contact a Local FireSmart Representative to conduct a Local FireSmart Champion workshop to find a local champion to organize community FireSmart initiatives.	Village and/or SRD
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.				
6.	High / 1	To reduce fuel hazard for identified FireSmart priority areas (high risk fuels within WUI100).	Contact a Local FireSmart Representative to conduct FireSmart Hazard assessments for the priority areas listed in Table 8.	Village and/or SRD
Rationale: As referred to in #5. Priority areas based on the local wildfire risk analysis.				
9.	High / 2	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
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.				
10.	High / 1	To improve community awareness of the FireSmart program.	Encourage residents to complete the free, online, FireSmart 101 course.	Village and/or SRD
Rationale: As referred to in #5. Recommended best practice for public education.				
12.	High / 1	To communicate the content of the CWPP and to improve public awareness of the CWPP and FireSmart recommendations.	Make the CWPP video presentation, report and associated maps available to the public through Village website, SRD website. Share CWPP with forest tenure holders within the AOI	Village and SRD
Rationale: Recommended best practice for community education and awareness regarding wildfire protection planning and FireSmart program implementation.				
13.	High / 1	To improve community awareness of wildfire threat and risk, and of the actions that can be taken to mitigate risk.	Use SRD 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	SRD

			Wildfire Service, and Prepared BC.	
Rationale: Recommended best practice for community education and awareness regarding wildfire protection planning and FireSmart program implementation. Addresses education and emergency planning FireSmart disciplines.				
14.	High / 2	To reduce the risk of human-caused ignitions by improving community awareness of local bylaws, provincial wildfire regulations, and wildfire safety.	Develop a Village of Zeballos specific Wildfire Safety and Preparedness informational factsheet for distribution to residents within the Fire Protective Services Area. Information should include best practices for open burning, where/how to access fire weather information, venting index information, open fire/campfire bans (BCWS), relevant Bylaws and legal information.	Village and/or SRD
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 / 2	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. The Safety day could be timed with Fire Prevention Week which takes place annually during the 2 nd week of October each year. October 4 to 10, 2020 is the next Fire Prevention Week.	Village and/or SRD
Rationale: Recommended best practice for community education and awareness regarding wildfire protection planning and FireSmart program implementation. Addresses education and emergency planning FireSmart disciplines.				
18.	High / 2	To continue to advocate for the maintenance of and improvements to Zeballos FSR.	Continue to work with the road tenure holder stressing the importance of road maintenance and right-of-way maintenance	Village and SRD with MFLNRORD

			(danger trees, ladder and surface fuels).	
Rationale: Inter-agency cooperation within the WUI is necessary to maintain evacuation routes, and protect the community and its critical infrastructure. Recommended best practice for information sharing, awareness, collaboration and cooperation.				
20.	High / 1	To continue to ensure all volunteer fire department members are trained to wildland firefighting standards.	Ensure all members of Zeballos Volunteer Fire Department complete Wildland Forest Firefighter Level 1 (SPP-WFF 1) or S-100 training. SPP-115 (structure protection workshop) is also recommended. UBCM-CEPF should be considered for funding, potentially coordinated at the SRD level for all local volunteer fire departments.	Village, Fire Department with SRD support
Rationale: Based on CWPP engagement, not all fire department members have additional training; additional training funding is required.				
23.	High / 1	To maintain and improve wildfire emergency communication across agencies and jurisdictions.	The SRD should arrange an annual meeting, prior to fire season, to include BCWS – North Island Fire Zone, EMBC, and local fire department representatives to review incident command structure and emergency support services in the event of a WUI fire.	SRD
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.				
24.	High / 3	To improve equipment availability for structure protection.	Engage the City of Campbell River / Campbell River Fire Department in mutual aid/service agreements for assistance and deployment of the City's structural protection unit in the event of the WUI fire impacting the Village/Electoral Area.	Village and/or SRD
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.				

MEDIUM PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

No.	Priority/ Time-frame	Objective	Recommendation / Next Steps	Responsibility
4.	Med / 3	To reduce the fuel hazard within high risk areas identified within 500m of the wildland urban interface.	Engage a qualified forest professional in developing and implementing site level prescriptions for each treatment area identified in Table 7. The forest professional may also refer to Priority 1 treatment areas in the 2011 CWPP. Where treatments are identified on crown lands, consult and collaborate with Ehattesaht Chinehkint First Nation, forest tenure holders, and Campbell River Natural Resource District (MFLNRORD).	Village and/or SRD Collaboration with forest tenure holder and MFLNRORD on Crown lands.
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.				
8.	Med / 2	To improve community FireSmart awareness.	Contact a Local FireSmart Representative to deliver Public education materials at annual community events.	Village and/or SRD
Rationale: As referred to in #5. Recommended best practice for public education.				
11.	Med / 2	To reduce the ignition risk within the FireSmart structural ignition zone.	When new construction or building upgrades to publicly owned buildings occurs, use preferred FireSmart building materials wherever possible.	Village and SRD. Provide information to other public agencies such as School District, Health Authority.
Rationale: As referred to in #5. Recommended best practice for development.				
16.	Med / 1	To reduce the risk of human-caused WUI fire events by promoting alternative means of yard waste management and disposal.	Provide residents with information on alternatives to burning yard waste. Link this information on the Village, ZVFD, and SRD websites. Alternatives to burning include community chipping days, composting, or xeriscaping.	Village and/or SRD

Rationale: Recommended practice, observed from other similar jurisdictions. Contributes to public education and development planning; potential to reduce the likelihood of human-caused WUI fire events.				
21.	Med / 3	To maintain volunteer capacity in emergency support services available to the community.	Apply for funding at the Village or regional level to recruit, train, and purchase equipment for emergency support services.	Village and/or SRD
Rationale: Based on CWPP engagement, 2018 fire season has worn down community capacity. Additional support and funding required.				
22.	Med / 3	To maintain ZVFD's readiness for responding to WUI fires.	<p>Include wildfire-specific training sessions that include: fire line construction, pump operations, sprinkler protection, portable water tank deployment, and wildland hose operations.</p> <p>Interface training should include completion of a wildfire simulation exercise and safety training specific to wildland fire and risks inherent with natural areas.</p> <p>Work with the BCWS North Island Fire Zone, and SRD to conduct annual joint training or mock exercises.</p>	Village, Fire Department
Rationale: Based on CWPP engagement with the Village and BCWS, no such coordination is known to be in place. 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.				
25.	Med / 2	To improve community capacity for structure protection.	Encourage property owners to purchase sprinkler kits and water supply systems for sprinkler kits to deploy on their homes/critical structures	Village and/or SRD
Rationale: Based on current knowledge of the equipment availability for structural protection, local capacity for structural protection could be improved. Sprinkler kits are a relatively low-cost option and highly effective option for the Village and residents.				
26.	Med / 1	To lower the risk of ignition around structures in the community.	SRD Building Department to recommend to Village/Electoral Area A property owners the use of rated roofing materials, lower risk siding materials, 10m setbacks from vegetation, propane tank locations.	SRD

			Develop best practices guidance for building within the electoral area. Link property owners to the BC FireSmart Begin at Home Manual and FireSmart Home Development Guide under the Building Department section of the SRD website.	
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Rationale: Best practice recommendation associated with the development planning discipline of the FireSmart program, refer to #5.

LOW PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

No.	Priority/ Time-frame	Objective	Recommendation / Next Steps	Responsibility
7.	Low / 2	To improve community FireSmart awareness.	Deliver FireSmart education within the K-12 public school system. Utilize FireSmart Education Kits and the FireSmart BC Education package. Contact the BCWS Coastal Fire Centre Fire Prevention Specialists to borrow education kits and for education support.	Village and/or SRD

Rationale: As referred to in #5. Recommended best practice for public education.

17.	Low / 3	To mitigate the potential impacts of heavy wildfire smoke and poor air quality on the community.	Improve indoor air quality with the purchase and use of High-Efficiency Portable Air (HEPA) filters. Consider setting up air quality refuge area (i.e.: community hall, or school gymnasium) during heavy smoke events to provide relief. Purchase N95 respirator masks for distribution to community members during heavy smoke conditions to reduce smoke exposure.	Village
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Rationale: Based on concerns identified by the Village regarding impacts of poor air quality on community during wildfire events.

19.	Low / 2	To continue recruitment and retention efforts for volunteer fire department members.	Regularly schedule open houses or recruitment days for the Zeballos Volunteer Fire Department. Connect with the community regularly through social media and	Village, Fire Department
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			consider its use as an advertising tool.	
Rationale: Based on CWPP engagement, recruitment of members is a challenge in small communities. Recommended practice from other jurisdictions is to use social media as a tool to connect with the community.				

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

**Zeballos Community Wildfire
Protection Plan
Updated Fire Risk**



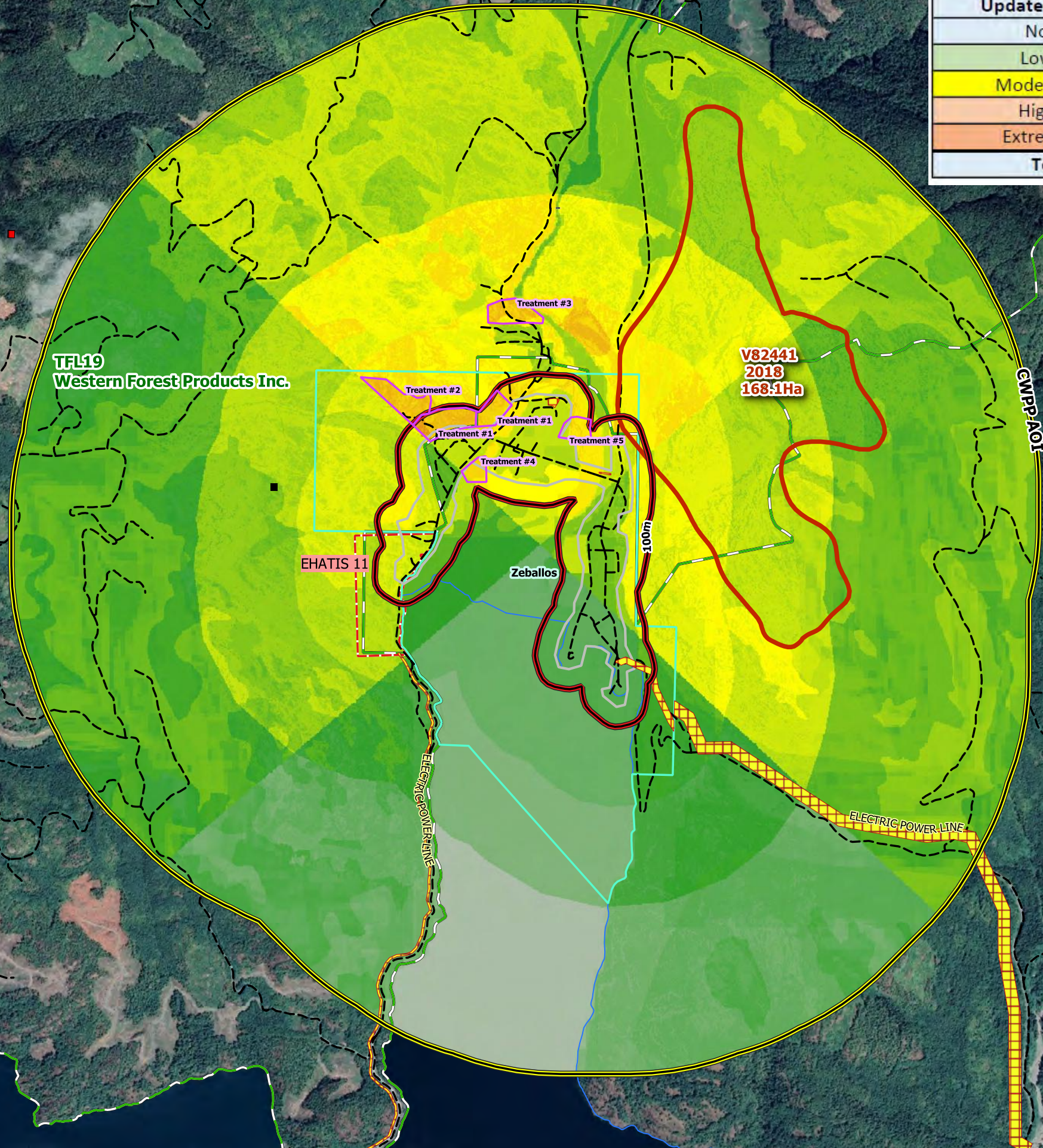
Scale: 1:22500
Strathcona Regional District
Village of Zeballos
Electoral Area A



Legend

- Digital Road Atlas
 - Crown Tenure - Communication
 - Crown Tenure - Utilities
 - Proposed Treatment Updated
 - CWPP AOI
 - 100m Buffer
 - Historical Fires
 - Indian Reserves
 - Municipality
 - Tree Farm Licence
 - Zeballos Urban Interface
- Fire Risk Updated**
- 0.1 (No Risk)
 - 3.9 (Low)
 - 6.9 (Moderate)
 - 8.9 (High)
 - 9 + (Extreme)
- Google Satellite

Zeballos Updated Fire Risk Summary	
Updated Fire Risk	Area (ha)
No Risk	0
Low Risk	497
Moderate Risk	1,389
High Risk	253
Extreme Risk	0
Total:	2,139



0 250 500 750 1000 m

**Zeballos CWPP
Ownership Treatment Map**



Scale: 1:15000
Strathcona Regional District
Electoral Area A
Village of Zeballos



Legend

- ◆ Critical Infrastructure
- ▭ Proposed Treatment Updated
- Digital Road Atlas
- Gravel
- Unknown, Deact
- Paved
- Highway
- ▭ CWPP AOI
- ▭ Crown Tenure - Utilities
- ▭ Private Woodlots
- ▭ Crown Woodlots
- ▭ Tree Farm Licence
- ▭ Electoral Area
- ▭ Municipality
- ▭ Indian Reserves
- ▭ Community Watersheds
- ▭ Lakes
- ▭ Major Rivers
- ▭ Wetlands
- Parcel Fabric
- ▭ Crown Agency
- ▭ Federal
- ▭ First Nation
- ▭ Mixed Ownership
- ▭ Municipal
- ▭ Crown Provincial
- ▭ Private
- ▭ Unknown
- ▭ Water
- Google Satellite

**TFL19
Western Forest Products Inc.**

Treatment Area	WUI Threat / Risk	Priority	Approximate Area (ha)	Land Ownership	Comments / Rationale
1	High/High	High	5.1	Crown / TFL	High risk within WUI100
2	High/High	High	3.1	Crown / TFL	High risk within WUI500
3	High/High	High	2.6	Crown / TFL	High risk within WUI500, next to wood waste site
4	Mod/High	Med	1.1	Municipal	High risk within WUI100
5	Mod/Mod	Low	1.4	Municipal	Mod risk within WUI100, FireSmart project potential with school

0 250 500 750 1000 m

Date: : 06/05/2020
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Coordinate System: BC Albers NAD83

