

District of Lantzville Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2020



Photo Credit: D. Zemanek (BA Blackwell & Associates Ltd)

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Presented to: Council



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Introduction

- In 2020, B.A. Blackwell & Associates Ltd. were retained to develop a **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** for the District of Lantzville (District).
- Funding to complete the CWPP was obtained by the District from the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program
- The CWPP Program was created in BC to:
 - **Aid communities in developing plans to assist in improving safety; and**
 - **Reduce the risk of damage to property.**
- In 2009, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) initiated a coordinated effort to develop a joint CWPP for the communities of Lantzville, Nanoose Bay, and Nanoose First Nation.
- Since then, Lantzville staff have recognized the following significant changes to the District:
 - The Foothills subdivision development.
 - The acquisition of forested parkland.
 - The clearcutting of private lots.
- Lantzville's stated goal was to produce a CWPP **with a sole focus on Lantzville.**



Key Points

The District of Lantzville Emergency Program is coordinated by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) under a joint Emergency Management Agreement that also includes the Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville, City of Nanaimo, and three neighbouring First Nations.

Wildfire presents an increasing risk to almost all communities across BC, including Lantzville.

Three identified keys to reduce wildfire risk to the District are:

1. FireSmart initiatives;
2. Updates to plans/policies/bylaws; and
3. Fuel reduction treatments.

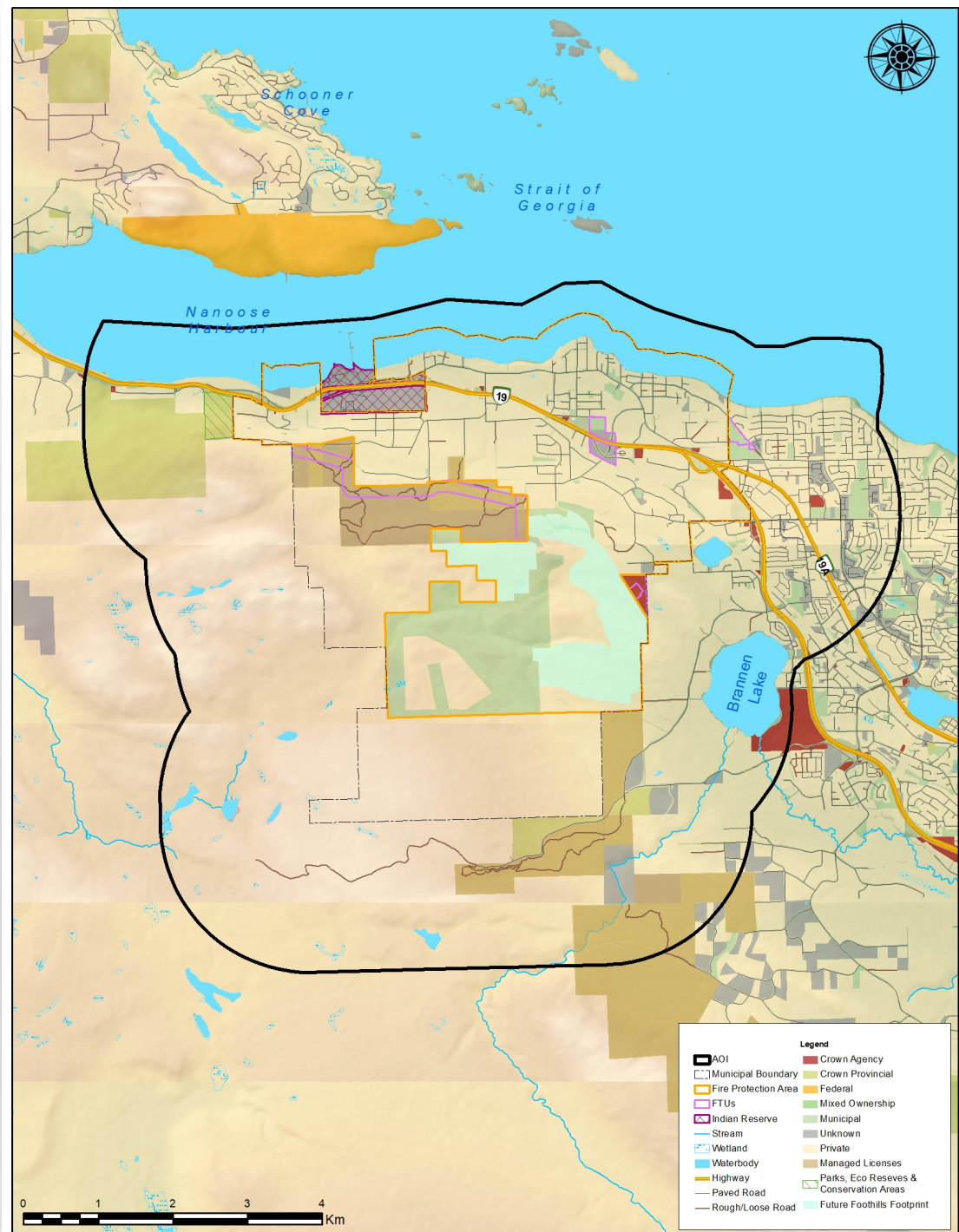
Provincial funding programs such as the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program can be leveraged to support the District in implementing recommendations.



Area of Interest

The CWPP area of interest (AOI) is a 2 km buffer of the District's municipal boundary, but not including the Nanoose First Nations Reserve.

- B.A. Blackwell met with Kyle Young (Director of Planning) August 10th, 2020 to kick-off the project.
- B.A Blackwell met with the "Wildfire Working Group" September 2nd, 2020 to discuss initial field work observations, information gaps from questionnaires sent out, and wildfire and emergency planning and preparation.



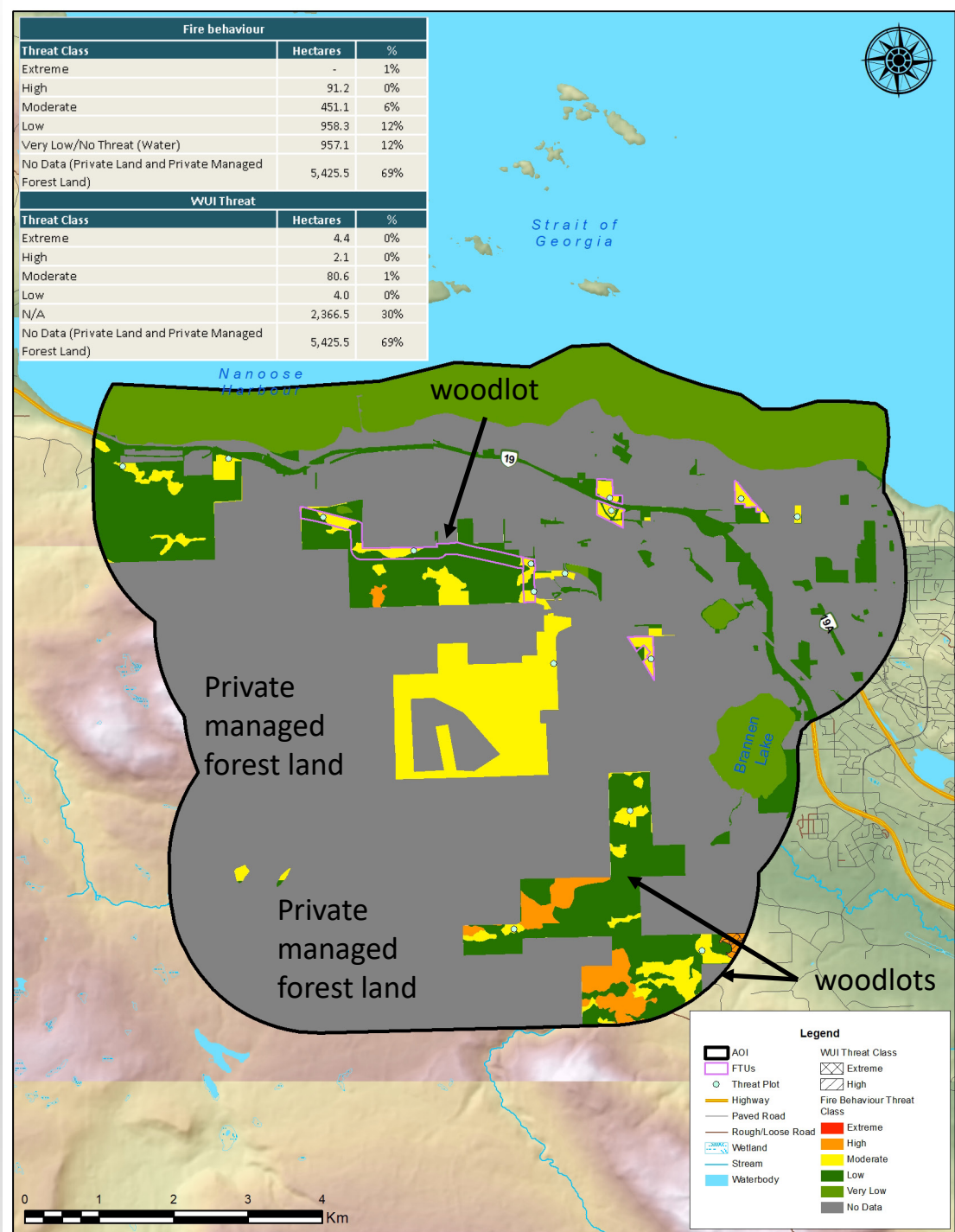
Fire Threat and Behaviour

Threat ratings:

- Private land accounts for 2/3 of the AOI, and is assigned “No Data”
- Of the remaining 1/3 – the ‘mappable’ area – 66% is “Moderate” threat class.

Private Managed Forest Land

- Located on the south and west edges of the AOI
- Accounts for 35% of the AOI.
- Extrapolating from the crown forest managed land (woodlots – see southeast corner of the AOI), these areas likely contain a similar mosaic of “Low”, “Moderate”, and “High” threat rating areas.



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

- Of the 37 total recommendations outlined in the CWPP, key ones will be highlighted in this presentation under the following categories:
 - FireSmart
 - Policies & Planning
 - Collaboration
 - Fire Suppression Resources
 - Fuel Management



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

FireSmart - assessments

- Lantzville Fire Rescue Local FireSmart Representatives should:
 - Engage as soon as possible to assist neighbourhoods and large-lot private land holders in complying with FireSmart principles at both the neighbourhood and individual home-level.
 - Complete formal FireSmart assessments of all critical infrastructure such as the Lantzville fire hall, community muster locations, schools, and water infrastructure (including all reservoirs).



Lantzville Fire Hall

Photo Credit: D. Zemanek (BA Blackwell & Associates Ltd)



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

FireSmart - communication

- Prior to and during the fire season, plan and conduct public FireSmart workshops and presentations promoting FireSmart approaches for wildfire risk reduction. Supply FireSmart resources to homeowners during these engagement campaigns and promote the FireSmart Begins At Home mobile app as a method of conducting home assessments.



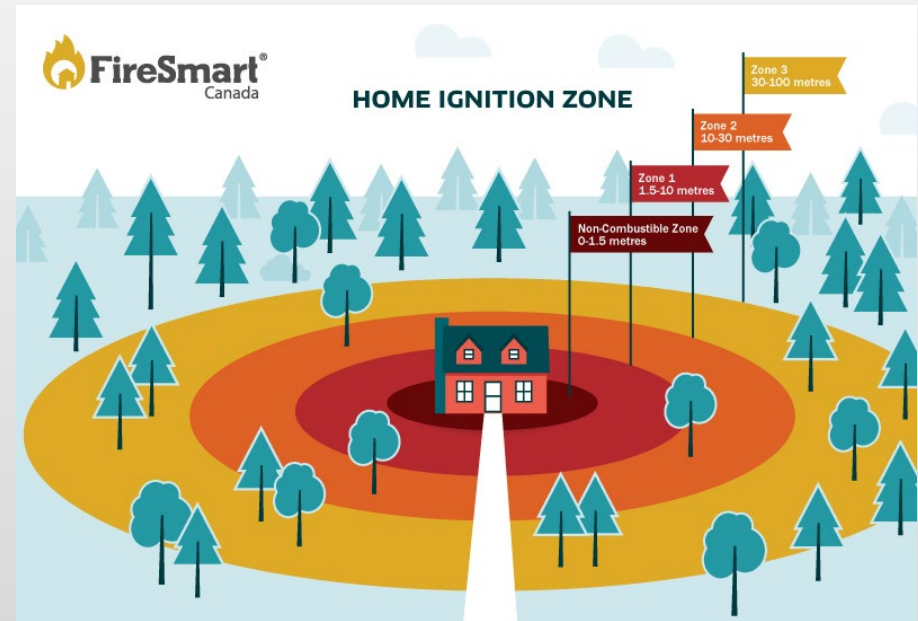
Lantzville Fire and Rescue communication sign board.
Photo Credit: D. Zemanek (BA Blackwell & Associates Ltd)



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

FireSmart - community

- Apply for funding to develop a local FireSmart rebate program for residential homeowners completing FireSmart activities (e.g., clear roofs and gutters of debris, relocate woodpiles, close open deck structures, prune trees, install tempered glass, etc.)
- Encourage and facilitate neighbourhoods in the WUI to attain FireSmart Canada Community Recognition Program (FSCCRP) status and encourage homeowners to complete a FireSmart home assessment using the Home Assessment guide or the FireSmart Begins At Home mobile app.



Graphic: FireSmart Canada (<https://www.firesmartcanada.ca/mdocs-posts/firesmart-home-ignition-zone-graphic/>)



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives



Example reflective address sign
Photo from: safetyhomeaddress.com

Policies & Planning

- As Lantzville builds upon the existing network of parks, trails, and open spaces, consider park acquisition and maintenance through a wildfire lens.
 - This will help ensure wildfire risk, mitigation, liability, and future maintenance are considered.
- Review and amend the Building Bylaw “Owner’s Responsibilities” clause 7.6 “Civic Addressing” to require permanent, accurate house numbering that can be clearly seen from the road at night to be posted prior to an occupancy permit being issued by a Building Official.
- Review and update (as necessary) the Lantzville Official Community Plan with respect to its updated Wildfire DPA when completed.



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

Policies & Planning

- Use fire-resistant construction materials, building design and landscaping for all critical infrastructure when completing upgrades or establishing new infrastructure.
- Develop utility right-of-way best management practices (BMPs) for regular brushing and clearing of woody debris and shrubs in coordination with industrial partners.
 - BC Hydro
 - Island Corridor Foundation



Trees encroaching on powerlines.
Photo by: B.A. Blackwell & Associates



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

Policies and Planning

- Existing single access neighbourhoods should be reassessed for potential secondary access/evacuation routes.
- Incorporate the requirement for all new and ongoing/underway developments to have two access/evacuation routes in the 2021 Interface Wildfire Protection DPA update.



The Hills subdivision project – one-way access/egress.
Photo by: North Coast Regional District



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

Collaboration

- Lantzville Fire Rescue should start working directly with BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) to create an annual structural and interface training program.
- In consultation with a BCWS Fuel Management Specialist and MFLNRORD, engage local woodlots and private managed forest land managers to develop forestry standards to reduce interface wildfire threat.
 - i.e., a rationale for reduced fire management stocking standards in the (wildland urban interface (WUI))



Graphic: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-06037-5>



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

Wildfire Response Resources

- Continue to ensure that the Lantzville Fire Rescue maintains the capability to effectively suppress wildland fires, through wildfire-specific training sessions.
- Pursue funding to train members in SPP-WFF1 (~S-100) and S-115 (SPU deployment).



Quick Attack/Urban Interface Firefighting Truck
<https://mcbfire.com/apparatus/quick-attack/>



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

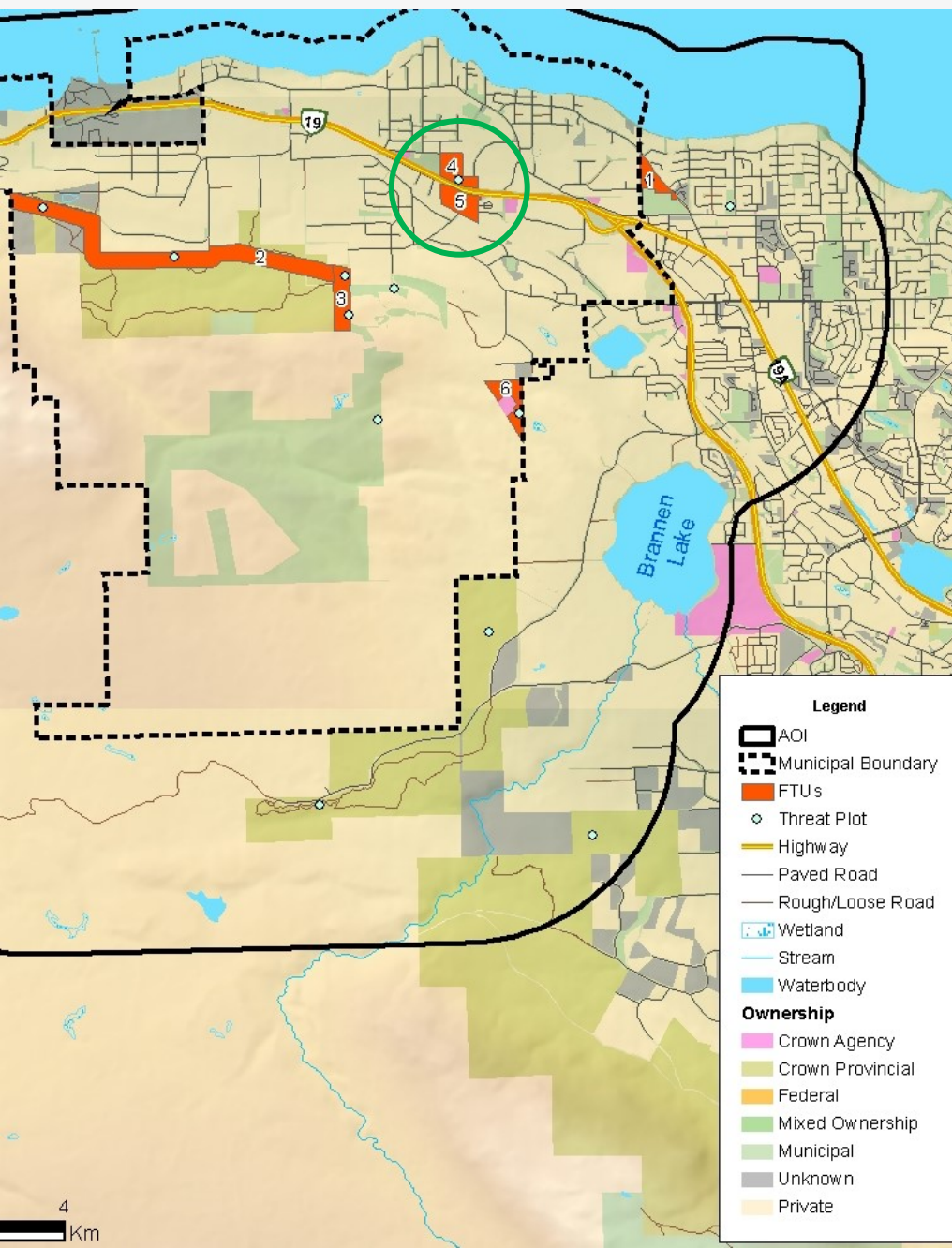


Flammable cedar hedging row on private property.
Photo: B.A. Blackwell & Associates

Fuel Management

- Develop a landscaping standard which lists flammable, non-compliant vegetation and landscaping materials, non-flammable drought and pest resistant alternatives, and tips on landscape design to reduce maintenance, watering requirements, avoid wildlife attractants, and reduce wildfire hazard.
- Develop and implement a community chipper program. As a demonstration, start in one of the FireSmart priority neighbourhoods as identified in the CWPP.





Fuel Management

- Proposed fuel management units have been identified and are shown on the adjacent map.
- Proceed with the detailed assessment, prescription development and treatment of the proposed treatment units identified in the CWPP.
 - Start with “high priority” proposed fuel treatment units at the intersection of Ware Road and Highway 19 (FTUs HIGH-N and HIGH-S - #s 4 and 5 on the map – circled in green).



SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

- This CWPP sets the stage for implementing important, relevant actions to increase awareness of wildfire risk and increase preparedness.
- Due to the high amount of private property – for private residences, farms, and forestry use – FireSmart communication and planning, and associated programs, is viewed as the most important action Lantzville can take to begin reducing wildfire risk to the District.
- Collaboration between public and private stakeholders (private forest land managers and woodlot managers included) is critical to successfully addressing interface wildfire risk and enhancing emergency preparedness.





Photos: B.A. Blackwell & Associates

Thank you!
Questions?