



Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition

January 2015 Update

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Sally Watson,
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sibacs.com

Staff:
Dalyce Brandt, Administrator

Email: admin@sibacs.com

The Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition (SIBAC) is committed to helping communities understand the probable effects of the mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic; and to develop and implement appropriate MPB mitigation measures in the southern interior of BC. A membership based organization; SIBAC represents local and First Nations governments from across the southern interior.

Overview:

In October 2009, SIBAC submitted its' final Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) Assessment and Mitigation Plan to the Province of BC. The plan represented two years of work studying the current and expected impacts of the MPB epidemic in the southern interior on the forest sector, the socio-economic health of communities, the environment and First Nations. The SIBAC final report includes 24 recommendations to assist in mitigating the anticipated impacts of the MPB epidemic. Of these recommendations, SIBAC identified 6 that were an immediate priority. Copies of the Executive Summary and full final report are available on the SIBAC website at sibacs.com.

The SIBAC Board believed that it was vitally important that the organization continued to provide a coordinated voice for southern interior communities and take an active role in addressing the 6 priority recommendations. In December 2009, the Province of BC provided SIBAC with \$450,000 in funding so that SIBAC could begin to develop and implement projects.

In April 2011, SIBAC received from the Province a cheque for \$3 Million — funding of \$1 Million per year for each of the next three years to support the continued efforts of SIBAC to implement projects that will greatly reduce the impact of the MPB epidemic, particularly to communities identified as most at risk.

For the year 2014, the SIBAC Board and staff worked with partner groups and approved \$235,505.00 for 11 projects with a total value of \$939,547.00, that will help address these priority issues and recommendations.

SIBAC – PROJECT FUNDING CRITERIA AND CURRENT INITIATIVES

To assist in developing and selecting projects for SIBAC support, the Board adopted several funding criteria:

- Strength of Partnership Participation
- Project Sustainability
- Community, Economic and Ecological Benefits
- Regional Inclusion
- Expert Involvement
- Project transferability

The following pages provide a brief description of some of the major projects SIBAC is currently supporting or developing and some already completed. Please feel free to contact the noted project contact person or Dalyce Brandt, SIBAC Administrator for more information on any of the following projects (e-mail: admin@sibacs.com).

2 SIBAC January 2015 Update

SIBAC 2014 FUNDED PROJECTS:

Bralorne Integrated Recreation Strategy

Total Project Value: \$110,000.00

SIBAC Contribution: \$45,000.00

SIBAC provided partnership funding to the Bridge River Valley Community Association to develop a strategic land use and recreational plan for the BBRCA that establishes and ranks land and recreation priorities, creates a model for land use conflict resolution, as well as provide strategic directives for the region's recreational amenities over the coming years.

Contact: Michelle Nortje, Bridge River Valley Community Association : email: bridgerivervalley@gmail.com

Small Hydro Generation Feasibility Study, Hedley Improvement District

Total Project Value: \$34,500.00

SIBAC Contribution: \$21,500.00

The funding is requested hire a qualified consultant to conduct a feasibility study to determine the potential to generate micro-hydro electricity from the wastewater outflow from the Barrick Gold water remediation plant.

Contact: Vickie Hansen, Hedley Improvement District: [email: hid@nethop.net](mailto:hid@nethop.net)

2014 Rural Communities Summit, Kaslo, BC

Total Project Value: \$80,200.00

SIBAC Contribution: \$15,000.00—Completed

The funding is requested to assist the Kaslo Institute host this year's BC Rural Network Biennial BC Rural Communities Summit. The Kaslo summit will present issues of particular importance to rural British Columbians, including appropriate applications of new and emerging technologies in supporting and fostering sustainable forestry practises

Contact: Randy Morse, The Kaslo Institute: [email: randy@netidea.com](mailto:randy@netidea.com)

Creating a Community-Based Venture Capital Corporation Pilot in Christina Lake, BC

Total Project Value: \$75,000.00

SIBAC Contribution: \$25,000.00

To provide funding support to assist with the launch of a community-based Venture Capital Corporation (VCC) in Christina Lake; and to document the learnings of the Christina Lake experience for other communities.

Contact: Sandy Mark, Christina Gateway Community Development Assoc.: email: coordinator.christinalake@gmail.com

Dutch Lake Community Centre Biomass Heating System, Clearwater, BC

Total Project Value: \$275,000.00

SIBAC Contribution: \$20,000.00

To provide funding support to assist the District of Clearwater to install a chip fueled biomass heating system at the recently acquired Dutch Lake School (now known as the Dutch Lake Community Centre). Expected net savings in energy costs are \$20,000.00 per year based upon the Business Plan completed by David Dubois through the Wood Waste 2 Rural Heat Project.

Contact: Leslie Groulx, District of Clearwater: email: lgroulx@docbc.ca

Hire Learning Shuswap, Chase, BC

Total Project Value: \$123,137.00

SIBAC Contribution: \$17,880.12—Completed

To provide funding support to assist with a work experience program using the major internationally promoted eco-tourism event—Salute to the Sockeye organized by the Adams River Salmon Society and the Little Shuswap Indian Band.

Contact: Tom Price, Chase & District Employment Centre: email: tomprice@cablelan.net

West Koot Route Marketing Plan, West Kootenay Tourism Association

Total Project Value: \$72,600.00

SIBAC Contribution: \$20,000.00

To provide funding support to assist to the West Kootenay Tourism Association to development a two-year marketing plan by engaging a professional marketing agency or individual. The plan would include timing and costs involved in developing a website, a print promotion campaign, a social media campaign, and an outdoor signage program. .

Contact: Peter Welkerling: email: peterw3@telus.net

Business Advisory Pilot Program, Kootenay Boundary

Total Project Value: \$13,800.00

SIBAC Contribution: \$12,000.00

To provide funding support to Community Futures Boundary to develop and manage a business advisory pilot program to west and east Boundary communities.

Contact: Wendy McCulloch, GM Community Future Boundary: email: wendy@boundarycf.com

4 SIBAC January 2014 Update

SIBAC 2014 FUNDED PROJECTS continued...

Enhancement of Wildland Fire Suppression Services, Safety and Leadership , Okanagan Region

Total Project Value: 120,200.00 SIBAC Contribution: \$20,200.00—Completed

SIBAC provided partnership funding to First Nations Emergency Social Service to delivery of the Wildland Danger Tree Assessment Course Module to up to 24 members in the Okanagan Nation Alliance region.

Contact: Jeff Eustache, Manager Kamloops FNESS Office Forest Fuel Management : email: jeustache@fness.bc.ca

Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development: Mobilizing Informed Decision-Making in the Boundary Region

Total Project Value: \$115,000.00 SIBAC Contribution: \$15,000.00

SIBAC provided partnership funding to The Rural Development Institute to broaden on the findings from the Kootenay Workforce Table completed in 2013 to include more job training options; include stakeholders from all aspects of community sustainability (not included in the creation of the Workforce Table) and pilot training identified as most needed based upon data.

Contact: Terri MacDonald, Selkirk College: email: tmacdonald@selkirk.ca

Mobilizing Rural Investment Capital—Highlighting Success Stories

Total Project Value: \$30,000.00 SIBAC Contribution: \$20,000.00

SIBAC sponsored two major conferences in Christina Lake and Revelstoke with speakers from Nova Scotia's Community Economic Development Investment Funds program and Alberta's Unleashing Local Capital Initiative.

Contact: Gordon Borgstrom, SIBAC Consultant: email: Gordon.Borgstrom@telus.net

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS FROM 2010-2014

Preparing to Go Mobile: Entering the era of online Tourism Marketing -

Total Project Value: \$131,000.00 SIBAC Contribution: \$50,000.00

This project is aimed at increasing the capacity of Christina Lake community businesses and organizations to benefit from inbound marketing and to benefit from increased regional partnership development. This will be accomplished in part by increasing the capacity of Christina Lake businesses in the use of social media, strengthening the community infrastructure such as increase band-width, wifi 'hot spots', digital mapping, create specific marketing capacity, increase the use of social media, internet based marketing, build regional and collaborative internet based marketing partnerships.

Project Contact: Sandy Mark: email: coordinator.christinalake@gmail.com

Developing a Strategic Framework and Action Plan for the Completion of a Watershed Management Plan for the Kettle River Watershed

Total Project Value: \$168,000.00 SIBAC Contribution: \$30,000.00

SIBAC has partnered with the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, the Real Estate Foundation of BC and others to design a strategic framework and action plan for the completion of a comprehensive watershed management plan for the entire Kettle River Watershed.

Project Contact: Grace McGregor, Director Regional District of Kootenay Boundary E-Mail: gem9293@gmail.com

Southeast BC Employment Lands Inventory

Total Project Value: \$132,800.00 SIBAC Contribution: \$25,000.00

SIBAC provided partnership funding to Community Futures East Kootenay to complete the Southeast BC Employment Lands Inventory Project.

Project Contact: Community Futures East Kootenay, Sean Campbell : email: Sean@cfek.ca

Bridges II: Creating More Regional Economic Value from Regional Forests (SIBAC/OBAC Project)

Total Project Value: \$200,000.00 SIBAC Contribution: \$60,000.00

Building on the success of the Bridges Project, the Bridges II project will work intensively in two sub-regions of the MPB epidemic zone – the purpose, to create greater collaboration between small tenure holders and value from regional fibre supply as noted in the Bridges Project regional consultations.

Project Contact: Gordon Borgstrom, SIBAC Consultant: email: Gordon.Borgstrom@telus.net

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

- 2014 Threat Assessment of Riparian areas in the Kettle River Watershed
- 2014 Similkameen Watershed Water Quantity and Quality Sustainability Plan
- 2014 St. Mary's Band Biomass District Heating
- 2014 Wood Waste to Heat in Rural Communities -Multi-BAC project
- 2014 A Place Based Cultural Tourism Strategy for the Upper Columbia Valley
- 2014 Grass-fed Beef Marketing Plan and Materials
- 2013 Columbia Discovery Centre
- 2013 Grindrod Community Hall Project
- 2013 Building Community Diversification through Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- 2013 Invigorating the Value Added Wood Sector in British Columbia
- 2013 Building Community Diversification—A Conference on Economic Gardening
- 2013 Grindrod Community Hall Project
- 2013 Lardeau Valley Forest Inventory—Investors Package
- 2013 Historic Equestrian Trail Rehabilitation
- 2013 Enhancement of Wildland Fire Suppression Services, Safety and Leadership
- 2013 Secwepemc Tourism Conference
- 2013 CFDC Boundary Business Retention and Expansion
- 2013 CFDC Shuswap Moving Forward Together Workshop
- 2013 St'at'imc Comprehensive Silviculture Training Program
- 2013 Mapping Visitors to the Columbia Valley
- 2013 Web Based Mapping and Reporting Tool (phase2)
- 2013 Non-Timber Forest Resource Forum
- 2013 Simpcw First Nation—Micro-Hydro Pre-Feasibility Study
- 2013 Gold Country Communities—Geo-Tourism Project
- 2013 Organic Field Crop Production Education
- 2013 Thomspen Shuswap Food Connection
- 2013 Ferguson Creek Run of River Hydropower Plant
- 2012 Regional Economic Development Strategy for Kicking Horse Country
- 2012 Southern Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Plants Project (SOSIPS)
- 2012 A New Direction for Okanagan Falls
- 2012 Grass-fed Beef: Field to Plate Program
- 2012 Invest Kootenay Partnership
- 2012 CFDC Boundary Rural Communities Summit Sponsorship
- 2012 City of Armstrong—Green Energy pre-feasibility study
- 2012 District of Clearwater—Green Energy pre-feasibility study
- 2012 Columbia Headwaters Community Forest (CHWCF)
- 2012 Thompson Rivers University—Tourism Project
- 2011 Web Based Mapping (Viewer) Tool (Phase 1)
- 2011 Bio-Energy Feasibility Study– Cranbrook
- 2011 Bridges – Linking Resources for Community Forests
- 2011 BC Log Home & Timber Frame Building Manufacturers – Business and Market Expansion Initiative
- 2011 City of Kimberley—Watershed Assessment
- 2011 Boundary Communities Regional Chamber of Commerce
- 2011 Extension and Expansion of the Green Heat Initiative Project
- 2011 North Thompson Agriplex
- 2011 Wildfire Enhancement Training
- 2011 Split Rock Sekw'el'was Wild Plant Nursery
- 2011 Coldwater River Watershed Workshop
- 2011 Futures Game Training
- 2010 Lillooet Pellet Plant Business Plan
- 2010 Mountain Pine Beetle and Water Management Workshop

SIBAC SPECIAL PROJECTS

Green Energy as a Rural Economic Development Tool.

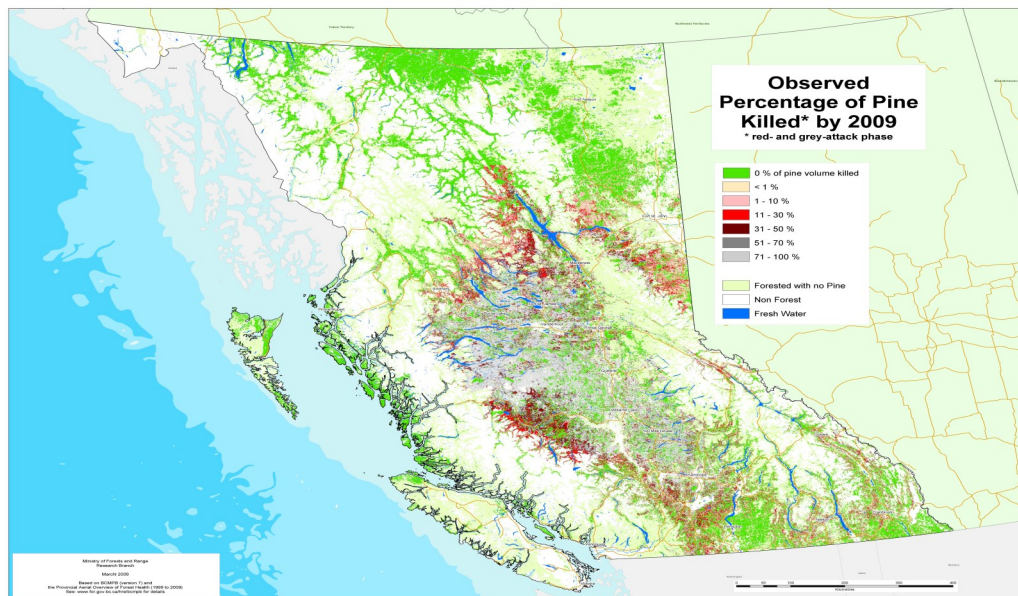
SIBAC has partnered with the other two Beetle Action Coalitions in the province (CCBAC & OBAC) and the Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Branch to develop a new project on renewable energy (“green energy”). The focus of this project is to assist small MPB “at-risk” communities to develop a renewable energy project in their community, and to develop and widely circulate information and resources about green energy development and business opportunities. The funding partners, (SIBAC, CCBAC, OBAC, Provincial Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Branch, & Columbia Basin Trust) through application, successfully leveraged matching funds from the Federal Rural Secretariat. This is a two year project that will end March 2013.

Project Contact: Gordon Borgstrom, SIBAC Consultant. E-mail Gordon.Borgstrom@telus.net

Project Coordinator: Dalyce Brandt, SIBAC Administrator. E-mail: admin@sibacs.com

The Rural BC Project — Multi-BAC Project

SIBAC has partnered with the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition and the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition to fund the Rural BC Project. The intent of the project is to increase public awareness of the issues rural BC is facing in a constructive and politically non-partisan manner and to present a convincing case of the resources, programs, planning and policies that rural BC needs to meet these challenges. A number of papers have now been produced and can be accessed on the SIBAC website. A Rural BC Project Steering Committee comprised of appointed Board Members from each Beetle Action Coalition (BAC). The Steering Committee is working with Government to determine what rural communities need to succeed that is not currently provided. The Omineca Beetle Action Coalition is the Project Secretariat. **Project Contact: OBAC. E-mail: ruralbcproject@shaw.ca**



We can be contacted at:

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