



# Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition

[www.sibacs.com](http://www.sibacs.com)

Issue 1: March 2010

## SIBAC Moving Forward

In December 2009, SIBAC received \$450,000.00 of implementation funding from the Provincial Government for a two year period to address the priority recommendations identified in the SIBAC Mountain Pine Beetle Assessment and Mitigation Plan. The full report and Executive Summary can be downloaded from our website: [www.sibacs.com](http://www.sibacs.com).

SIBAC has produced a video titled *Fighting Back* that highlights the priority recommendations and provides viewers with a snap-shot understanding of the major issues confronting communities impacted by the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB). The 12 minute video can be viewed on our website.

## SIBAC's Community Outreach

### Western Economic Diversification Program:

In 2008 and 2009, SIBAC assisted community organizations to pursue Western Economic Diversification—Community Economic Development Initiative grants with financial assistance to 21 projects for a total of \$124,262.00.

### SIBAC Pilot Projects

From the initiation of SIBAC in 2007, the Board of Directors wanted to ensure that SIBAC was a problem-solving and action-oriented organization. The Board, therefore, determined that it wanted to fund a limited number of 'SIBAC pilot projects', while conducting the background research necessary to prepare the final Report. The following pilot projects have been completed:

- 1) Princeton – Bio-energy and Residual Fibre Use
- 2) Scenario Planning and Leadership Workshops
- 3) Fuel Management – MPB-Impacted First Nations
- 4) Mountain Pine Beetle and Water Management Workshop

Three pilot projects still to be completed include the following:

- 1) TRU Tourism Project
- 2) Secwepemc Cultural Use in MPB Stands Project
- 3) Lillooet Tribal Council Wood Pellet Plant Feasibility Study and Business Plan

Completed projects can be downloaded from the SIBAC website.

## Watershed Video Release

SIBAC has completed a video which provides an overview of the possible impacts of the MPB infestation on consumptive watersheds in the Southern Interior. The video emphasizes the need for communities to complete watershed risk assessments for MPB-affected watersheds to better understand the potential and degree of impacts to drinking water and community infrastructure. The video can be viewed on SIBAC's

## SIBAC Member Organizations

### Regional Districts of:

Thompson-Okanagan  
Columbia-Shuswap  
Central Kootenay  
East Kootenay  
Kootenay Boundary  
North Okanagan  
Central Okanagan  
Okanagan-Similkameen  
Squamish-Lillooet

### Tribal Councils:

Nicola Tribal Council  
Okanagan Nation Alliance  
Lillooet Tribal Council  
Shuswap Nation Tribal Council  
Ktunaxa Nation Council  
Community Futures Development Corporation of Central Interior  
First Nations

## Contacts

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## **SIBAC's Priorities for 2010**

The SIBAC MPB Assessment & Mitigation Plan presented to the Provincial Government in October of 2009 identified 5 of SIBAC's recommendations as short-term priorities. SIBAC is now in the process of developing projects that will help address these priority issues and recommendations. In doing so, SIBAC is interested in developing and supporting projects that will address a MPB related priority issue, have strong partnerships and that will have a larger regional benefit. To this end SIBAC Directors and staff are currently working on developing several projects:

### **MPB Risk Analysis Assessments for Drinking Watersheds in the East Kootenays**

One of the priority recommendations of SIBAC is that communities assess the potential impacts the MPB epidemic could have on Community Drinking Watersheds. Therefore SIBAC is currently working with local governments and First Nations to determine if additional MPB risk assessment to drinking watersheds is required in the southern East Kootenays.

### **Facilitating Rural Development in the SIBAC Region**

Another one of SIBAC's priority recommendations is to encourage rural economic development and diversification in the southern interior so that communities are in a better position to absorb economic changes that may occur as a result of the MPB epidemic. As a result, SIBAC is supporting the development of several projects that have a rural economic development component. These include a project to develop mechanisms to increase local government and communities' economic benefits from Green Energy development in the southern interior. SIBAC is also a founding partner in a project with the BC Community Forests Association to explore ways to increase the linkage between Community Forests and the value-added wood industry in BC. SIBAC also recently approved funding to work with the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary and several other partners to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan for the Kettle River drainage. The Regional District and others believe that the development of this watershed management plan is vital to ensuring sustainable economic development in the Kettle Valley drainage.

### **Maximizing Value from the Southern Interior Timber Supply.**

One of SIBAC's other priority recommendations is that the Province work with local governments, First Nations and the business community to seek and encourage methods to maximize the value of the southern interior timber supply. To this end, SIBAC is currently developing a couple of projects to encourage further expansion of high value-added wood manufacturing in the southern interior and projects that will help southern interior communities, First Nations and economic development agencies identify the potential that MPB impacted fibre offer.

*If you would like more information on any of these initiatives, or are interested in working in partnership with SIBAC to address a MPB related issue, please contact Dalyce Brandt at [admin@sibacs.com](mailto:admin@sibacs.com)*