



Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition

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.

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 website.

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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Highlights from the SIBAC Board Meeting—March 16, 2010

SIBAC Board Members approved a number of partnership projects at the March 16, 2010 meeting. Each project was approved based on its relevance to the impact of the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic on Southern Interior communities. The following is a list and description of the approved projects:

Green Clean Energy as a Rural Economic Development Tool. This project has two major objectives:

- (i) to identify rural business development and labour force opportunities associated with Green Clean Energy development in the interior and
- (ii) to assist at least three small MPB “at-risk” communities to develop a full Business Plan to take implement a Green Clean Energy project in their region.

Funding of \$25,000.00 subject to WEPA funding and that SIBAC will be the project proponent and manager.

Bioenergy Feasibility Study for the Cranbrook TSA. The study will identify socio-economic benefits including jobs, tax revenue, carbon impacts, etc. There are up to 7 communities and 3 First Nations that would benefit from this new industry.

Funding of \$15,000 subject to the approval of the WEPA funding for the Green Clean Energy as a Rural Economic Development Tool project.

BC Log Home & Timber Framing Building Manufacturers – Business and Market Expansion Initiative.

This project proposes a series of strategic actions to help identify new and expanding market opportunities for BC’s Log Home and Timber Frame building sector. Such market expansion would help drive an expansion of BC’s Log Home & Timber Frame building sector, resulting in more value-added employment in rural communities.

Funding of \$25,000.00 subject to WEPA funding approval.

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

This project will design a strategic framework and action plan for the completion of a comprehensive watershed management plan for the entire Kettle River Drainage to address current pressures of water shortage and the implication of climate change, the MPB epidemic and other environmental factors.

Funding of \$30,000.00 approved.

Silviculture Assessments for MPB Impacted Watersheds in Southern Interior BC

To complete MPB watershed risk assessments and prescriptions on six high priority domestic watershed in the Southern Interior region.

Funding of \$25,000.00 subject to partnership funding contributions.

Developing a strategic approach to determine potential impacts between mountain pine beetle and drinking water quality in the East Kootenays, B.C. This project will analyze three main issues: 1) Quantity and timing of water flow; 2) Stability and integrity of slopes and 3) Mobilization of contaminants.

Reserve funding of \$15,000 subject to partnership funding.

My Brothers Place This project seeks to develop a community-based transitional housing facility for men (maximum 20 beds) in order to address issues of addiction and substance abuse; the consequence of that abuse leading to incarceration and/or homelessness. The project will help to address the socio-economic impacts that are often associated with loss of employment in communities such as those affected by the MPB epidemic.

Funding of \$5,000.00 approved