



Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition

February 2011 Update

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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. SIBAC requested each of its member organizations make a \$5,000 annual contribution to cover the operational costs of the organization and in December 2009, the Province of BC provided SIBAC with an additional \$450,000 in funding so that SIBAC could begin to develop and implement projects.

In 2010, the SIBAC Board and staff worked with partner groups and approved \$235,000.00 for 12 projects with a total value of \$1,820,000.00. Projects that will help address these priority issues and recommendations. A brief description of some of the major projects SIBAC supported in 2010 can be viewed on pages 2 and 3.

In September 2010, Premier Gordon Campbell announced at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) convention, that the Province would continue supporting the work of the Beetle Action Coalitions with funding of \$1 Million per year for each of the next three years. This commitment from the Province will provide SIBAC with further funding to implement projects that will greatly reduce the impact the MPB epidemic, particularly to communities identified as most at risk.

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
- Reach of Project
- Regional Inclusion
- Expert Involvement
- Timing of Project

In February 2011, the SIBAC Board approved \$116,500.00 for 6 projects with a total a value of \$573,400.00. 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).

SIBAC has provided financial support for the following projects:

A New Direction for Okanagan Falls

SIBAC is partnering with the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen—Electoral Area ‘D’ to create a long term, cohesive and viable economic and tourism development plan and prospectus for Okanagan Falls and the nearby communities of Kaleden, East Skaha, Vaseux Lake, Twin Lakes and Apex. The project will produce an inventory of existing businesses, tourist attractions and facilities in the area, establish a Local Business Improvement Committee, enhance communication materials and networks, organize community consultation meetings and market research analysis. The methodology used will be provided to SIBAC in a template format that can be replicated in other similar-sized communities.

Project Contact: John Powell, Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen. Email: jpowell@rdos.bc.ca

Boundary Communities Regional Chamber of Commerce

SIBAC is a funding partner to assist with the collaborative efforts of the City of Grand Forks, the City of Greenwood, the Village of Midway, and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Areas C, D and E to establish a Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Boundary region has been identified as an area most at risk of MPB-related impacts and the Regional Chamber can provide the small business community with the opportunity to diversify from its past dependency on forestry employment. A Business Plan has been developed to guide the process and provide for successful implementation.

Project Contact: Sarah Winton, Community Futures Boundary. Email: sarah@boundarycf.com

The Futures Game Partnership

SIBAC is partnering with the Futures Games Partnership group to offer Futures Game facilitation training to those individuals new to the game and advanced training to experienced game facilitators. The training will be held in Richmond on June 7 & 8, 2011. The Futures Game Partnership was formed in 2009 to purchase six copies of the “The Futures Game” (a regional scenario planning tool) and to train facilitators to deliver it throughout BC. The Futures Game is a fun and educational tool to encourage community dialogue and strategic planning around long-term community and economic growth. The Game is available free of charge to individuals and groups throughout BC by contacting one of the partner groups.

Contact: Dalyce Brandt, SIBAC Administrator e-mail: admin@sibacs.com

The Futures Game brochure can be viewed at: <http://sibacs.com/links-resources/>

Extension and Expansion of the Green Heat Initiative Project

SIBAC has partnered with the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition to contribute funding with other funders to explore biomass energy opportunities. Specifically, the project’s major objectives are to expand knowledge of the potential for biomass energy development and to provide direct free assistance to communities and organizations to assist them in completing feasibility analysis of biomass energy heating projects.

Project Contact: David Dubious, Project Manager. E-mail: david@cfquesnel.com

Agricultural Support Officer—Boundary Region

The Agricultural Plan for the Boundary region is currently under development and the establishment of an Agricultural Support Officer is a priority recommendation from this plan. SIBAC will be contributing funding, along with other partners to establish this position. Partners in the Agricultural Plan include the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, Community Futures Boundary, the Boundary Economic Development Committee, the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation, Investment Agriculture Foundation, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Grand Forks and Boundary Regional Agriculture Society.

Project Contact: Jennifer Wetmore, Community Futures Boundary. Email: jennifer@boundarycf.com

Split Rock Sekw’el’was Wild Plant Nursery

SIBAC is contributing funding to the Cayoose Creek Band in support of a joint project with the Lillooet Naturalist Society and the Split Rock Sekw’el’was Wild Plant Nursery to perform tests on the viability of using bark from Mountain Pine Beetle killed trees to create an alternative potting soil mix to peat moss. This project will explore different mixes of bark and plant residues to develop a viable alternative which may have broader application in other regions.

Project Contact: Kim North, Split Rock Sekw’el’was Wild Plant Nursery. Email: kimnorth@gmail.com

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Thompson Rivers University - RED TREE Rural Tourism Development Project

SIBAC has partnered with Thompson Rivers University, Western Economic Diversification and Shuswap Tourism to develop and fund the Rural Economic Development Tourism Research Education Enhancement (RED TREE) project. Three “pilot” communities in the region selected for this project were the Town of Princeton, Lytton First Nations and North Shuswap. Project Contact: e-mail: Red.Tree.Project@gmail.com or on the web: redtree.tru.ca

Bridges – Linking Resources for Community Forests

SIBAC has partnered with the BC Community Forests Association, the Woodlot License Federation, the Community Futures Development Corporation of the Cariboo, the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition, the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition, the University of BC, and the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation to fund and implement the “Bridges” project. The project focus is to connect wood fibre from community forests and woodlots with the value added sector in order to open new markets and create new opportunities for these small forest license holders in BC. Project Contact: Larry Stranberg, CFDC of the Cariboo E-mail : happytrails@cfdccariboo.com

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

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

Gold Country Geo-Tourism Program

The communities of Lillooet, Lytton, Spences Bridge, Cache Creek, 70 Mile House, Logan Lake, Ashcroft, Merritt and Savona have been exploring ways for the communities to work collaboratively to expand tourism in the region. SIBAC has partnered with Northern Development Initiative Trust and other funders to assist the Gold Country Communities Society in completing the next phase of the Geo-Tourism program.

Project Contact: Ida Makaro, Gold Country Communities Society email: imakaro@telus.net.

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

SIBAC has partnered with the BC Log Home & Timber Building Industry Association, the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition and the Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Branch of the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation to identify and implement actions that would help to expand markets for the sector. Market expansion of BC’s Log Home & Timber Frame building sector, would result in more value-added employment in rural communities.

Project Contact: Gordon Borgstrom, MPB Epidemic Response Branch, MJTI e-mail Gordon.Borgstrom@gov.bc.ca

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 Green Energy. The focus of this project is to assist small MPB “at-risk” communities to develop a Green Energy project in their community, and to develop and widely circulate information and resources about Green Energy development and business opportunities.

Project Contact: Gordon Borgstrom, MPB Epidemic Response Branch, MJTI e-mail Gordon.Borgstrom@gov.bc.ca

Grass-fed Beef: Field to Plate Program

SIBAC has partnered with the First Nations Agricultural Association, Community Futures Development Corporation of Central Interior First Nations and Western Economic Diversification to create a Grass-Fed Beef Value chain that assists ranchers in the expansion of existing beef operations to create a production and marketing chain that caters to the needs of increasing market demands for fresh, local and chemical-free beef.

Project Contract: Trevor Kempthorne, FNALA. Email: trevor@fnala.com

The Rural BC Project

SIBAC is partnering 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 rural BC needs to meet these challenges. Project Contact: Tim Pringle, Project Director. E-mail: ruralbcproject@shaw.ca

COMPLETED PROJECTS

My Brothers Place

The concept of My Brother's Place is to create a community-based transitional housing facility for men (maximum 20 beds) to address issues of addiction and substance abuse and the consequences of that abuse leading to incarceration and/or homelessness. SIBAC provided a small grant to the citizens group to prepare a feasibility study.

Project Contact: Sally Watson, Director Thompson Nicola Regional District e-mail: sallywatson55@yahoo.ca

Princeton Wood Waste Fibre Supply Analysis Project

The overall goals of this project were to define the potential wood biomass economically available in the Princeton area and identify the various opportunities available to utilize this fibre supply. The project also helped refine a web-based MPB planning tool to assess fibre supply location and availability that can now be used in the remainder of the Merritt Timber Supply Area. A copy of the final report is available on the SIBAC website at: <http://sibacs.com/reports/>

Nupqu Fuel Management

SIBAC partnered with the Ktunaxa Nation Council to implement a project to document the collaborative wildfire hazard reduction planning and treatment program led by First Nations in the Cranbrook and Columbia Basin areas. The purpose of this case study was focused on developing forest fuel management plan guidelines specific to First Nations reserve lands. This information, however, is also considered relevant for treatments conducted off reserve lands; this includes planning, permitting, coordinating with adjacent land owners/tenure holders, applying for funding, and utilizing qualified professionals. A copy of the final report is available on the SIBAC website at:

<http://sibacs.com/reports/>

Lillooet Wood Pellet Plant Feasibility Study

SIBAC partnered with the Lillooet Tribal Council and the Town of Lillooet to fund a feasibility study for a Wood Pellet plant in the community. The purpose of this project was for the completion of a feasibility study and business plan report for a wood pellet plant in Lillooet, BC. A copy of the final report is available on the SIBAC website at:

<http://sibacs.com/reports/>

Keeping it Clean" Video

During SIBAC's community consultation processes, a concern that was repeatedly expressed throughout the southern interior was the potential impact that the MPB epidemic would have on the hydrologic cycle and drinking water quality. As a result, one of SIBAC's six priority recommendations is that communities, First Nations and both senior levels of government work collaboratively to examine the potential risks that the MPB epidemic poses to watersheds that provide domestic drinking water. To facilitate increased public understanding and dialogue of the potential risks to drinking water quality, SIBAC commissioned the "Keeping it Clean" video. This video educates viewers on the various potential impacts the MPB epidemic and other climate change related factors could have on consumptive watersheds in the Southern Interior. The video can be viewed on the SIBAC website at this link: <http://sibacs.com/videos/>



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