



Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition

January 2014 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. 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 2013, the SIBAC Board and staff worked with partner groups and approved \$259,200.00 for 7 projects with a total value of \$1,177,510.00, 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).

SIBAC 2013 FUNDED PROJECTS:

Building Community Diversification through Innovation and Entrepreneurship – Completed

Total Project Value: \$72,000.00

SIBAC Contribution: \$7,500.00

A Conference on Economic Gardening - The funding request is to host a conference that will show the What, Why and How of Economic Gardening. While Community Future Okanagan Similkameen is getting a lot of public acknowledgement of the Economic Gardening Program we are finding that most people do not understand what it is.

Project Contact: Mary Ellen Heidt: email: maryellen@cfokanagan.com

Grindrod Community Hall Project - Completed

Total Project Value: \$517,000.00

SIBAC Contribution: \$20,000.00

The project is the construction of the new Grindrod Community Hall under the Grindrod Recreation Association. The new Hall will sustain this historic rural community as it is an integral part of the community relationships. The Grindrod Hall will strengthen the community as it experiences transition and change.

Project Contact: Herman Halvorson: email: hjhalvor@telus.net

Invigorating the Value Added Wood Sector in British Columbia - Completed

Total Project Value: \$101,170.00

SIBAC Lead Project

With a focus on the solid wood value-added sector, the purpose of this project is to create a practical roadmap for collaboration between governments, industry and communities to transition from where the sector is positioned today through to a future sector that more closely achieves the aspirations and outcomes where the value added sector in BC is healthy and viable as an economic driver. **Project Contact: SIBAC: email: admin@sibacs.com**

A Place Based Cultural Tourism Strategy for the Upper Columbia Valley -

Total Project Value: \$69,500.00

SIBAC Contribution: \$10,000.00

This project is to develop the Upper Columbia Valley as a destination for place-based cultural tourism through a comprehensive six step planning process. As early as 2009, the Columbia Cultural Tourism Association recognized the potential for arts and culture in the community and commissioned the “Columbia Valley Cultural Scan”. The region this project includes the communities of Canal Flats and Radium Hot Springs, which are both identified as most at risk communities.

Project Contact: John Rouse: email: john@therouses.com

Threat Assessment of Riparian areas in the Kettle River Watershed to Inform Decision Making, Restoration Planning and Educational Initiatives -

Total Project Value: \$99,700.00

SIBAC Contribution: \$50,000.00

Through the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Kettle River Watershed Plan, public opinion surveys indicate concern for the riparian health and ecological integrity of the watershed. To evaluate the extent of the issue, a threat assessment is required with a plan to inform decision making and an evidenced based policy that will increase public awareness of environmental values in the watershed.

Project Contact: Jenny Coleshill : email: jenny.coleshill@granbywilderness.ca

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

Columbia Discovery Centre -

Total Project Value: \$288,310.00

SIBAC Contribution: \$20,000.00

This project is to assist the Village of Canal Flats to complete the renovation work on the new Columbia Discovery Centre. Background: In 2010, a 2500 square foot log home was donated to the Village of Canal Flats to be used as a municipal office, Ktunaxa Interpretive Centre, tourist and arts centre. The Village received a grant from the Columbia Basin Trust to move the building to its current location. The building then required renovations to accommodate the proposed uses and to amend the use from residential to public building. SIBAC funds would be targeted at paving the parking lot, completing work of the contractor and handicap lift.

Project Contact: Sylvie Hoobanoff: email: sylvie.hoobanoff@canalflats.ca

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS FROM 2010-2013

Wood Waste to Heat in Rural Communities -Multi-BAC project

Total Project Value: \$300,000.00 SIBAC Contribution: \$60,000.00

This multi-BAC project has 3 primary objectives: (i) to work with small tenure holders in nine areas of the province to help them understand the financial opportunities of supplying bio-energy fuels to regional bio-energy users; (ii) to actively assist with the business planning and development of at least nine wood biomass heating systems in the interior of BC; and (iii) to work with CFDCs and other lending and funding organizations to help them better understand the regional business development opportunities of the bio-energy sector in their regions.

Project Contact: David Dubois: Email: david@greenheatinitiative.com

St. Mary's Band Biomass District Heating

Total Project Value: \$500,000.00 SIBAC Contribution: \$40,000.00

The St. Mary's Band is installing the first phase of a biomass thermal district heating system in conjunction with the construction of a new school facility. The system will be scalable to allow for the next stage of capital expenditures and retrofits for the Community's existing public administration buildings. This project will benefit all other communities interested in developing a bioenergy industry.

Project Contact: Becky Pelkonen: Email: BPelkonen@aqam.net

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

Similkameen Watershed Water Quantity and Quality Sustainability Plan

Total Project Value: \$530,000.00 SIBAC Contribution: \$30,000.00

The main goal of this project is to develop and implement a Sustainable Resource Management Plan for the Similkameen Valley Watershed. The project will include production of a valley-wide management program. SIBAC funding will be use specifically for the completion of phase 1, a study examining the forest cover of the catchment and impact to the watershed.

Project Contact: Doug French: Email: dfrench@rdos.bc.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: Chris Ortner: Email: chris.ortner@shaw.ca

Grass-fed Beef Marketing Plan and Materials

Total Project Value: \$76,094.00 SIBAC Contribution: \$51,694.00

Building on the Field to Plate: Grass-Fed Beef Value Chain Analysis Report completed in 2011, the First Nations Agricultural Association's (FNAA) proposal is to conduct a thorough grass-fed beef marketing research study involving three First Nations regions; 1) Nicola Tribal Association; 2) Okanagan Nation Territory; and 3) Shuswap Nation Tribal Council area. The results will inform a business plan and marketing materials.

Project Contact: Trevor Kempthorne: Email: trevor@fnala.com

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

- 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 Thomspson 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
- 2010 Fuel Management for MPB Impacted First Nations
- 2010 Princeton Bioenergy and Residual Fibre Use Project
- 2010 Scenario Planning and Leadership Workshops

SIBAC SPECIAL PROJECTS

Green Energy as a Rural Economic Development Tool.

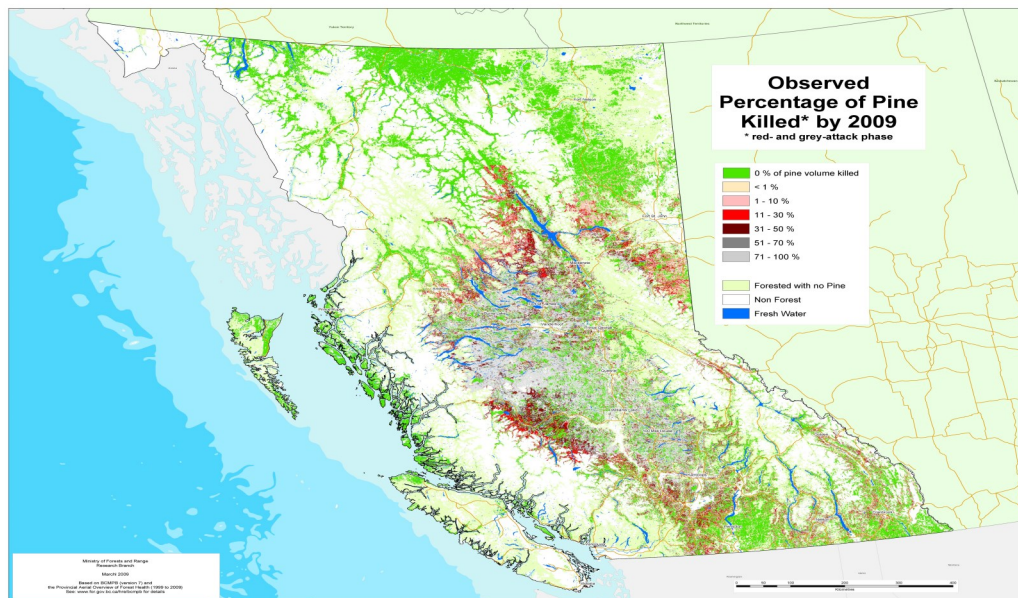
SIBAC has partnered with the other two Beetle Action Coalitions in the province (CCBAC & OBAC) and the Pine Beetle Epidemic Response Branch to develop a new project on renewable energy (“green energy”). The focus of this project is to assist small MPB “at-risk” communities to develop a renewable energy 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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