

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) Recommendations Work Plan

Updated: January 2023

Refer to the CWRP, Table 1 for full description of recommendations and metrics of success

	Rec. #	2022 update
Education		
Create a strategic communications plan that identifies key goals, objectives and metrics to educate RMOW residents and tourists on wildfire risk and general FireSmart principles.	1	FireSmart messaging improved and aligned with strategic communications plan on vegetation management (Draft currently being finalized). CWRP related communications spans 4 departments: Climate&Environment, Emergency planning, FireSmart, WFRS. Communication department will lead the final plan development with support from the other 4 departments.
Communicate the steps that the RMOW is taking to mitigate wildfire risk within the municipality.	2	Communications department, FireSmart, and Climate & Environment have connected on developing a template/comms plan layout. Emergency Program is planning to develop a communications strategy as well. Debrief in fall 2022 on what worked, what could be improved.
Assess municipal critical infrastructure (i.e., communications, power, water and sewer infrastructure) to FireSmart standards and provide educational signage. Track assessments, sites and work completed in a database linked to the RMOW GIS. (See Recommendation 8)	3	Different kinds of critical infrastructure (CI) assessment in 2022 FireSmart work plan. 43 identified pieces of critical infrastructure were assessed in 2022. FireSmart crew will reduce landscape hazard levels for 13 pieces of CI in 2023 as part of work plan. All assessments are documented so that work plans can be developed for individual buildings. planning underway to coordinate with existing CI list from previous years. Locations will be georeferenced.
Retrofit municipal critical infrastructure (i.e., communications, power, water and sewer infrastructure) to FireSmart standards and provide educational signage. Track assessments, sites and work completed in a database linked to the RMOW GIS. (See Recommendation 8)	3b	FireSmart team will implement according to the above assessments and schedule according to priority list. FireSmart team will work closely with FCM team when work recommended for municipal buildings they manage.
Establish and promote a FireSmart rebate program for residents (also see Recommendation 24) prioritized to high-risk neighbourhoods.	4	FireSmart is planning a \$20,000 rebate program for spring 2023. FireSmart Technician will support FireSmart Supervisor in delivery and coordination.
Work with local nurseries and landscape companies to highlight FireSmart preferred vegetation, as per the FireSmart Canada Landscaping Guide.	5	FireSmart presentation and further promotion of the FireSmart BC Plant Program planned for landscapers and arborists in spring 2023. Consideration to amalgamate Whistler's native plant list with the FireSmart plant list and the creation of one master plant list that considers wildfire resistance, drought, native species, invasives, bear food, etc.
Community Planning		
Stay up to date with local, provincial and federal funding sources that support wildfire risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and disaster mitigation work	6	\$10M in Federal DMAF funding received
Update CWRP in 2026	7	
Development Considerations		
Prepare a database linked to the RMOW GIS that includes home assessments and tracks properties and municipal infrastructure that have implemented proactive wildfire protection initiatives including FireSmart thinning and rooftop sprinklers. (See Recommendation 3)	8	Planning underway to include existing data about the Whistler WUI, wildfire fuel thinning polygons, and FireSmart assessed neighbourhoods into the RMOW GIS.

Adopt a policy to ensure that property owners are notified of and taking actions to mitigate fire hazard on private land	9	WFRS and Protective Services updated the Fire & Life Safety bylaw with improvements to Wildfire requirements in line with the Wildfire Act. The bylaw amendment was adopted by Council on December 6, 2022. Section 6.17 and 6.18: Accumulation of Combustibles provides Fire Chief and designates the ability to issue an order to remove or deal with accumulation of materials or plant growth. Early discussion in the wildfire working group meetings about high risk residential area analysis and risk reduction measure education and outreach.
Consider reviewing and amending the Wildfire DPA guidelines	10	Planning department reviewing in 2023 as part of the OCP review process. \$10,700 for Wildfire DPA guidelines revisions included in CRI 2023 application.

Interagency Cooperation

Reinstate the RMOW Wildfire Working Group	11	Monthly meetings are scheduled and held since adoption of the CWRP.
Continue to partner with the CCF to manage fuel on the landscape and integrate harvest planning with other fuel management tracking.	12	Ongoing. Prescription for 16 Mile FSR done which is within the CCF and part of the DMAF funding application. The DMAF funding will enable high risk area treatment in the CCF which would not have been able without the external funding source.
Continue to participate in the SLRD Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee	13	H. Beresford was attending in early meetings. Discussions underway with Frontera wildfire consultant to combine this group with other sea to sky wildfire stakeholders for improved coordination.

FireSmart Training & Cross Training

Continue and expand on cross-training between WFRS, BCWS and mutual aid partners.	14	Internal wildfire-specific training in the WFRS and cross-training between WFRS, BC Wildfire Services, Whistler Blackcomb, and mutual aid partners underway and led by WFRS.
Continue to expand internal wildfire-specific training in the WFRS.	15	WFRS applied for grant funding to provide the WSPP-115 Structure Protection training for members to increase the number of members certified in the use and deployment of the Structure Protection Unit.
Continue to expand FireSmart training and certification among RMOW staff and engaged residents.	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildfire Mitigation Specialist training and certification delivered to FireSmart team members with one training session held in 2022 and another scheduled in 2023. Whistler residents were engaged via Whistler specific FireSmart videos produced by FireSmartBC and shaw in 2021.

Emergency Planning

Investigate a roof-top sprinkler program for residential properties.	17	WFRS to lead. Needs a strategy and assessment of water supply/pressure. Budget was approved for a consultant to complete a Wildfire Defense Plan in 2023 that will provide recommendations on how to best approach the logistics of this.
Pre-plan emergency community water delivery systems to connect major natural water sources with interface neighbourhoods, to facilitate deployment of a structural protection system.	18	Investigate in 2023
Evaluate whether current WFRS wildfire/structure protection equipment is adequate to protect an entire interface neighbourhood (e.g., up to 100 homes) during a wildfire event	19	Structural Defense Plan will speak to rec #18 & 19. Mitch will initiate planning in 2022.
Assess wildfire hazard along primary neighbourhood access routes, Alta Lake Road, and the Highway 99 corridor, including all highway exits.	20	Assess first, mitigate later. FireSmart team received \$30,000 funding from MOTI to thin along hwy 99. DMAF funding will allow further mitigation work in this area in coordination between FireSmart and other vegetation management contractors.

Mitigate wildfire hazard along primary neighbourhood access routes, Alta Lake Road, and the Highway 99 corridor, including all highway exits.	20b	
Assess secondary first-responder vehicle access throughout RMOW neighbourhoods, categorizing access features by the type of vehicle appropriate for the road/trail. Upgrade and thin ('daylight') as required to serve WFRS 4x4 vehicles and provide a safe point to anchor suppression efforts to.	21	Structural Defence Plan. Assess which areas WFRS vehicles can access. FireSmart crew could potentially do the clearing with enough lead time. Need assessment of where WFRS wildfire equipment can access and review of wildfire trucks/side by side utility.
Assess WFRS off-road equipment for suitability. Develop plan & budget to improve usability.	21b	
Undergo road upgrades and/or thinning projects along the Flank trail and Green Lake Loop .	22	Added after initial discussion with WFRS, August 15, 2022. FireSmart team has this on their workplan for 2024/2025
Develop a post-fire rehabilitation plan for RMOW forested areas and for the Cheakamus Community Forest.	23	Not yet initiated
Vegetation Management		
Create a strategic FireSmart plan and incentive program focusing on sequentially treating high priority neighbourhoods or zones.	24	Complete the GIS FireSmart mapping and compare with veg Mgt areas and other high risk areas.
Continue to implement the high-priority interface treatment areas that are already covered by fuel management prescriptions and plan/implement a maintenance program for areas treated in the past.	25	High priority fuel treatment areas completed in 2022 were Rainbow, Taluswood, and Kadenwood was started. Plan for 2023 is Riverside, Rainbow (remaining areas on CCF), and finalizing Kadenwood. FireSmart crew suitable for maintenance work, plan to integrate.
Continue to implement pre-identified fuel break treatment areas to provide strategic low-hazard anchor points throughout the RMOW and CCF, and prescribe additional areas for treatment to expand these areas	26	DMAF funding will make these possible. Main fuel break is 16 mile creek
Continue to develop fuel management prescriptions for high-priority polygons, accounting for multiple ecological values in addition to risk reduction, subject to outcomes of Recommendation #29 (see Recommendation #26, Table 31 & Map 9)	27	DMAF funding application was prepared with the high priority polygons in mind and implementation will follow prioritization as per CWRP.
Explore local markets and/or design home-grown solutions to biomass utilization	28	Not yet initiated
Conduct trials and undertake research including incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge to test the assumptions that underpin the wildfire thinning rationale.	29	Monitoring program was developed by Frontera in 2022 with the goal to understand the impact of fuel thinning work on ecosystem health and wildlife habitat. The program will be implemented in spring 2023. FireSmart team hosted a First Nations info session in 2022 on Traditional Ecological Knowledge.
Conduct analysis to determine the return on investment for investing in fuel reduction thinning, the FireSmart program, or alternatives and develop a strategic plan identifying where to spend funds.	30	Assessment of various vegetation management approaches has been completed and is being used for strategic coordination between all vegetation management contractors and the FireSmart team.
Ensure prescription templates more explicitly incorporate consideration of other forest and natural area values.	31	The fuel thinning monitoring plan was completed in 2022 with the goal to understand the impact of vegetation management on the forest and natural area values.
Develop standards for fuel treatments in riparian areas that meet the provincial Riparian Area Protection Regulation.	32	The RMOW Planning Department is planning on reviewing riparian DP and other tree cutting regulations in 2023.