

Beetle Bites



Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition



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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. A membership based organization; SIBAC represents local and First Nations governments from across the southern interior.

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SIBAC NEWSLETTER

May 2013

The Rural BC Project



*The last existing
Bee Hive burner in
the project area
will be shut down
2016 – finding
waste solutions is
paramount*

Statistics show that many BC rural communities have been in decline for the past 30 years. Can this rural decline be reversed?

Directors of the three BC Interior Beetle Action Coalitions believe it can. Their recently released position paper titled, *The Pathway to Prosperity in British Columbia Runs Through its Rural Place — A long-term strategy for Rural Development*, identifies 20 recommendations and steps to what they believe are necessary to reversing the tide of this decline.

British Columbia is not alone; in fact rural regions in North America and Western Europe with similar issues have clearly demonstrated that with appropriate long-term rural development programs, the decline can be reversed.

The findings from the research indicate that politicians at all levels of government need to be convinced that a systemic rural economic problem exists and to commit the necessary resources to develop a long-term strategy with communities and local stakeholders groups. The three Beetle Action Coalitions: Southern Interior, Cariboo-Chilcotin and Omineca, now have the attention of government and are preparing to work collaboratively.

The Beetle Action Coalitions maintain that the issue of rural decline should not be political. It's about BC citizens living in rural communities, providing stewardship to BC's natural resources, and working in industry and supportive services. It's about preserving rural and First Nations community's social, cultural and economic viability. The road to recovery will require cooperation between First Nations, non-First Nations people, economic development organizations, other stakeholders, all levels of government and the Beetle Action Coalitions.

Click on this link to view all of the position papers for the Rural BC Project:

<http://www.sibacs.com/rural-bc-project/>

The Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition has a vision for rural communities: Allow for more local control and decision making; create more regional collaboration; involve rural community leaders in decision making; build strong economic development and business linkage to First Nations and to preserve the rural community lifestyle. 🌲🌲🌲

Wood Waste to Rural Heat Project

The two year Wood Waste to Rural Heat Project (WW2RH) works with communities, First Nations and Not-for-Profits throughout the Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic zone (MPB), to assist them to understand and adopt biomass heating solutions, by providing resources, technical analysis, knowledge and best practises from around the world.

The WW2RH project is led by Community Futures East Kootenay. Funding partners for the project are SIBAC, Columbia Basin Trust, the BC Ministry of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training, Cariboo Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition and the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition.

WW2RH is an on-the-ground project that focuses on developing detailed business plans that will move biomass heating projects beyond the conceptual stage to the construction ready stage. WW2RH supports by providing the following at no cost:

1. A source of independent information based on best practises from Europe and other regions.
2. Technical assistance to help determine the best biomass heating solution for the specific application based on the proponents needs.
3. Developing business cases to help proponents make critical decisions.
4. Support for proponents as they develop funding for projects, ownership structures, etc.
5. Does community engagement to address specific issues either for the proponent themselves or other members of the community.

Contact David Dubois, Project Coordinator WW2RH at 1-800-661-2293 ext. 7 or david@greenheatinitiative.com 🌲🌲🌲

SIBAC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

Regional Districts of:

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

First Nations:

- Lillooet Tribal Council
- Shuswap Nation Tribal Council
- Ktunaxa Nation Council
- CFDC of Central Interior First Nations
- Okanagan Nation Alliance
- Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council
- Nicola Tribal Council

Bridges II Project:

SIBAC in partnership with the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC) have launched the Bridges II Project to build on the success of the Bridges Project and the WoodSourceBC.com website.



Bridges II Valemount Meeting

Almost all rural communities in the province have indicated a desire to see more regional economic benefits and employment created from the regional fibre supply. This has led many

communities to seek Community Forest licences and individuals to seek woodlot licences from the province.

The Bridges II Project will capture and direct the dialogue and initial collaboration amongst regional small tenure holders and the value added sector from the Bridges Project to a more focussed sub-regional program that will create benefits to Community Forests and Woodlots from several synergies and increased economies of scale.

SIBAC is administering the Bridges II Project and has hired Mr. Chris Ortner as Project Manager. Bridges II will work intensively in two sub-regions of the MPB epidemic zone. These two sub-regions were selected since representatives of small tenure holders and the value-added sector have already expressed a desire to work collaboratively to achieve the project goals.

The two selected sub-regions are:

- (i) **the McBride to Barriere corridor**
- (ii) **the west Kootenay Lake corridor region centered around Kaslo**

The project objectives are to engage regional community forests, First Nations forest tenure holders, woodlot owners and value-added business operators in a series of facilitated meetings and discussions. As well, the stakeholders in each of these two sub-regions will provide regional input and guidance to project priorities in those sub-regions. Based on the identified regional priorities the project will also provide appropriate specialized consulting services to work on these priority issues.

The Bridges II Project started in November 2012. Since that time Mr. Ortner has been travelling the two regions extensively making multi-day trips to meet individually with Community Forest Managers, Woodlot Association Members, value-added operators, and local economic development agency personnel to discuss the project goals and potential work in the sub-region. He has organized, chaired and facilitated group meetings in each of the two sub-regions of the project with representatives of the organizations as identified above.

The first 6 months of the Bridges II Project will inform and direct the work that needs to happen to make the most difference in these regions for a further 12 month period. For more information on the Bridges II Project, you can contact Chris at: chris.ortner@shaw.ca 🌲🌲🌲

Wildland Enhancement Training Project



Photo: Susan James (Director Operations, Lillooet Tribal Council)

In July 2012, SIBAC provided \$50,000 partnership funding support to the First Nations' Emergency Social Services (FNESS), Community Futures - Interior First Nations, Lillooet Tribal Council and First Nations Technology to train First Nations individuals in transferable skills that focus on emergency management, forest fuel management, employment and entrepreneurial skills.

The area of focus was to the First Nations communities affiliated with the Lillooet Tribal Council which is the Bridge River Indian Band (Xwisten), Pavilion Indian Band (Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation), Cayoose Creek Band (Sekw'el'was), Mt. Currie Indian Band (Lil'wat First Nation), Seton Lake Band (Chalath), Lillooet Indian Band (T'it'q'et Administration) and Fountain Indian Band (Xaxli'p First Nation).

The program is to enhance local capacity and economic opportunities for current and future Lillooet First Nations emergency service providers, assist the employability of the participants and prepare qualified individuals to provide community wildfire protection on and off reserve.

Two modules were delivered: Wildland Danger Tree Assessment Course and Crew Leader Training and Aboriginal Entrepreneurship. The intent FNESS is to seek new employers that are willing to provide sustained employment opportunities in the areas of the training.

The program is linked to the Aboriginal Training and Employment Program (ATEP) and together with FNESS was successful in achieving close to 70% temporary employment both on the fire line and in local construction projects during the August-September Fire Season. A total of 31 participants received training, with a combination of field and class room sessions, for a total of 35 days being delivered from July to December 2012. 🌲🌲🌲



Inspecting heat solutions in Clearwater with CAO, Leslie Groulx, Counsellor, Mervin Blackwell and Project Coordinator, Wood Waste to Rural Heat Project, David Dubois