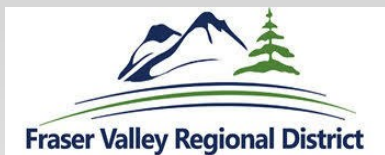


FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS 2019



Presented by: Bruce A. Blackwell (RPF, RPBio)
**Presented to: Fraser Valley Regional District Board of
Directors**

July 28, 2020



INTRODUCTION

- In 2019, B.A. Blackwell & Associates Ltd. were retained to develop three Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) for three Zones (A, B, and C) of the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD).
- The CWPP Program was created in BC to:
 - **Aid communities in developing plans to assist in improving safety; and**
 - **Reduce the risk of damage to property.**



Key Points

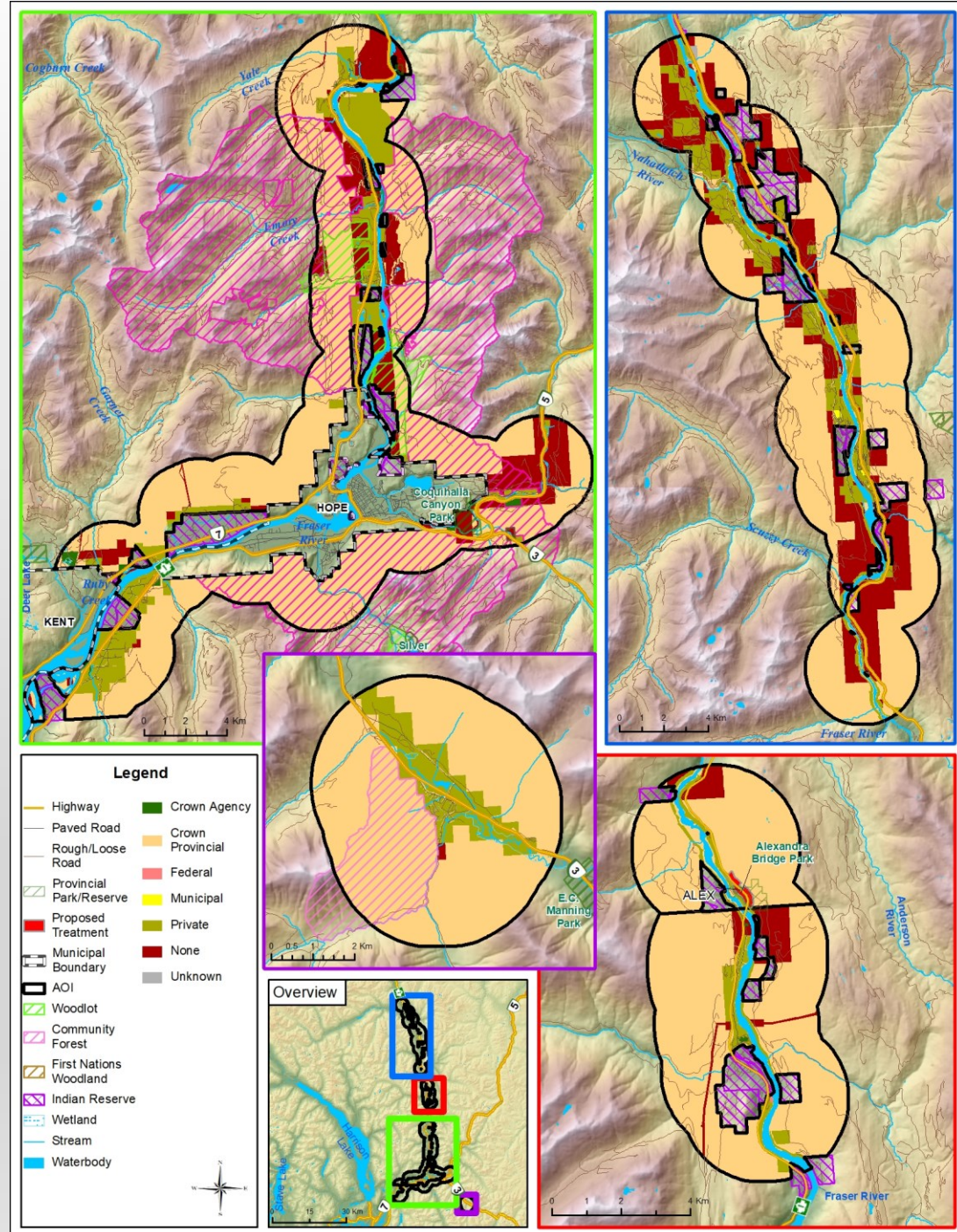
The consequence of a potential wildfire to the FVRD is significant, but there are actions which can be taken to reduce the risk.

1. Fuel reduction treatments, updates to plans/policies/bylaws, and FireSmart initiatives;
2. Provincial programs such as the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program can be leveraged to support the FVRD in implementing recommendations from the 2019 CWPP; and,
3. A variety of staff and departments within the FVRD can contribute to reducing risk within the various communities.



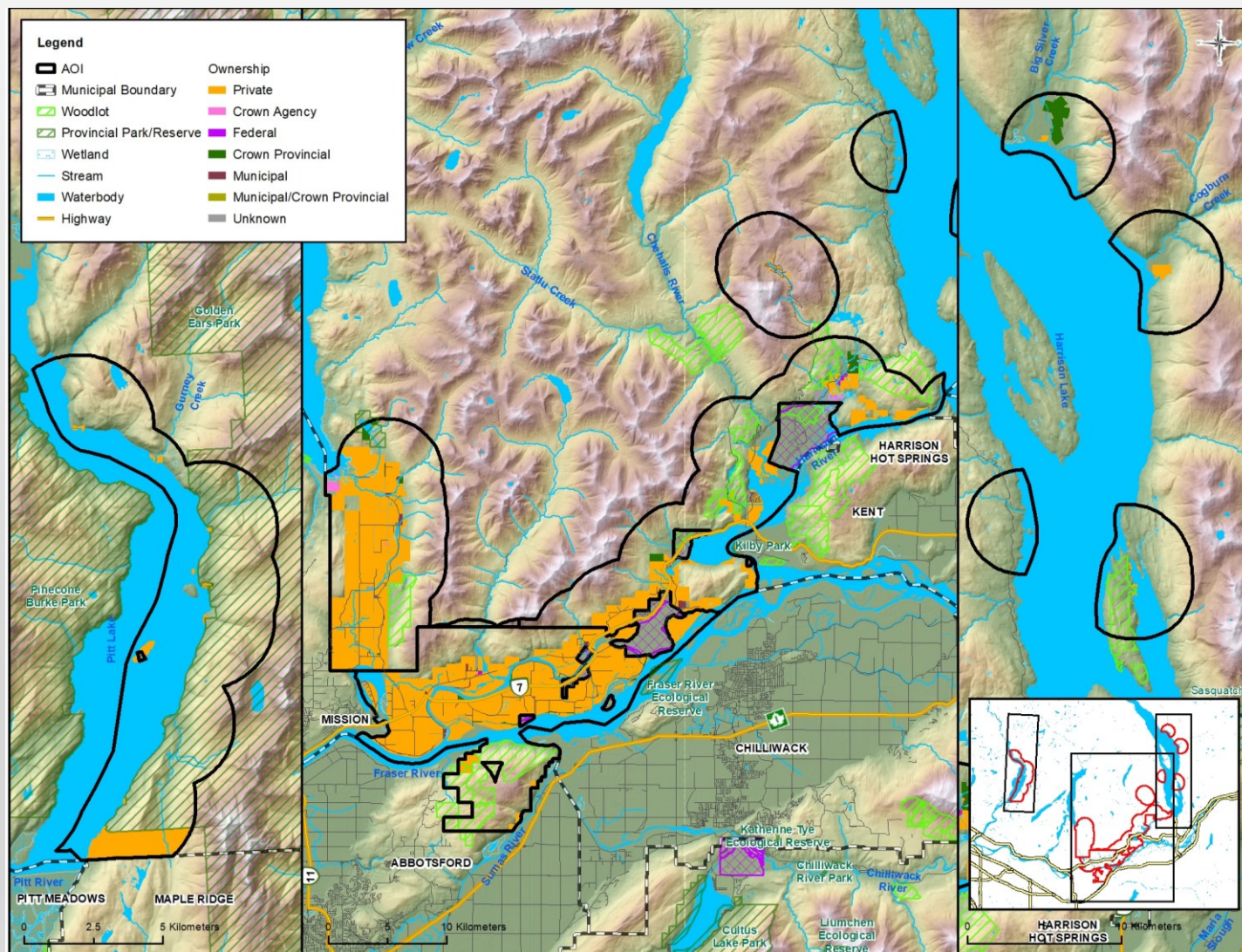
Area of Interest

Zone A – Electoral Areas A and B

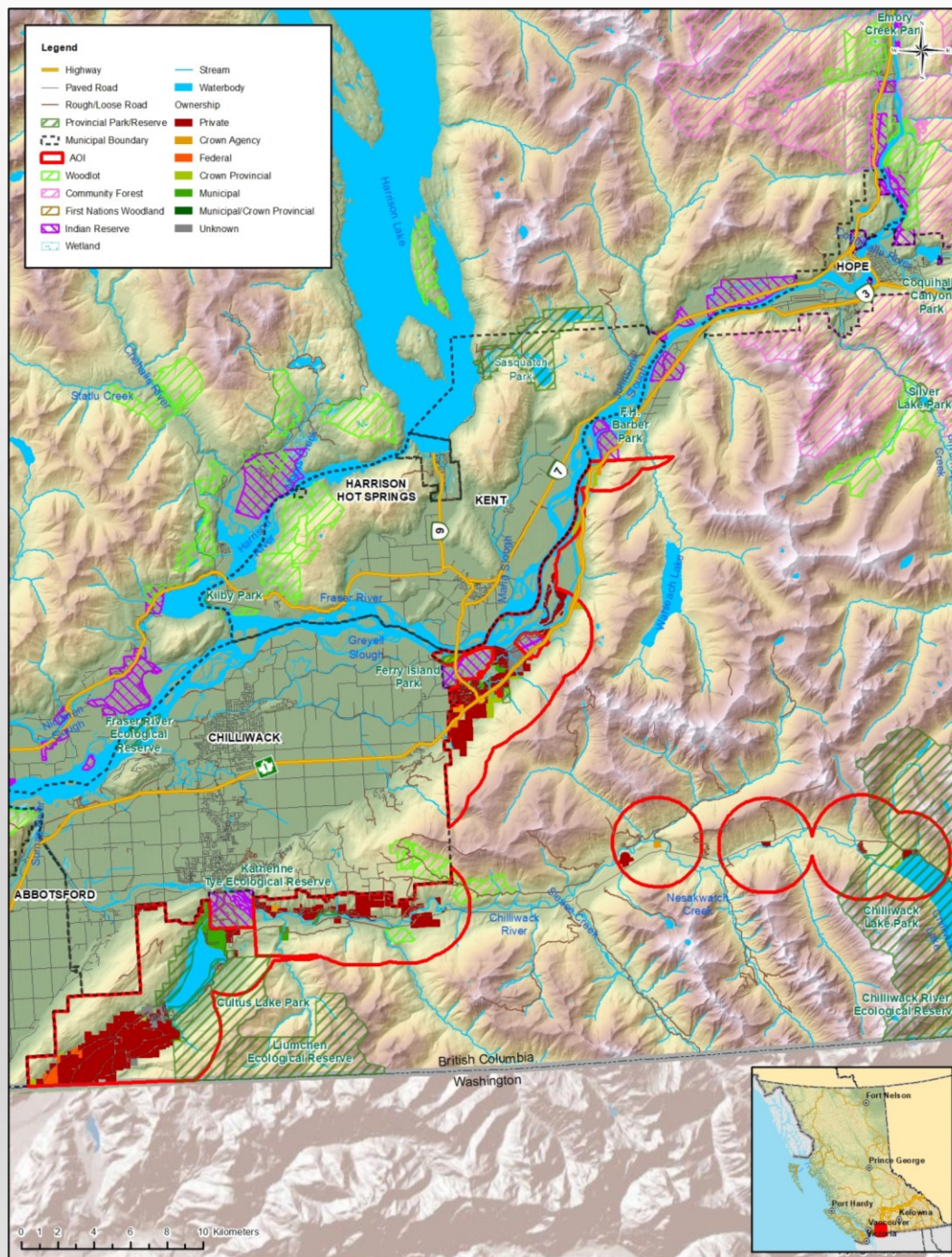


Area of Interest

Zone B – Electoral Areas C, F and G

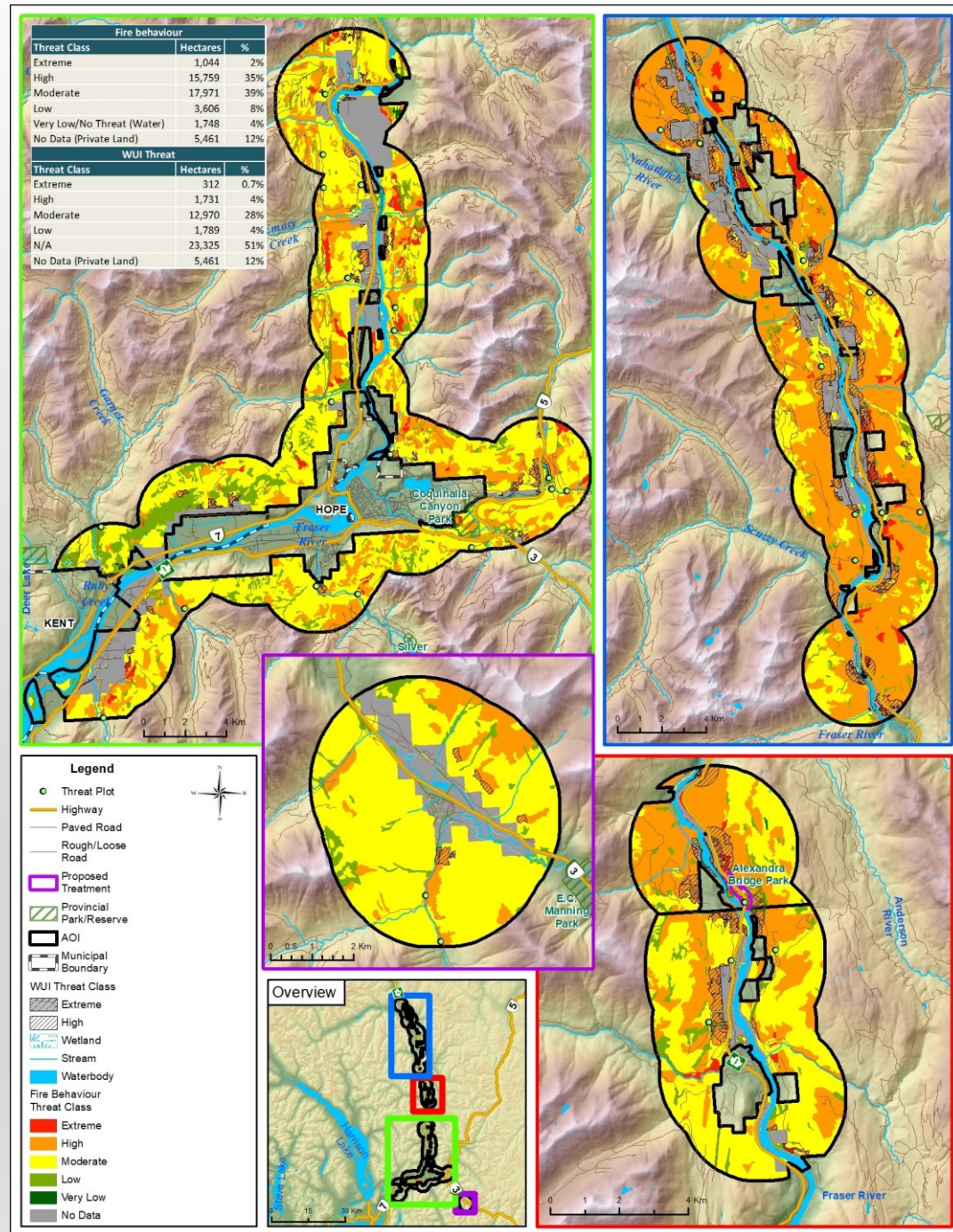


Zone C – Electoral Areas D, E and H



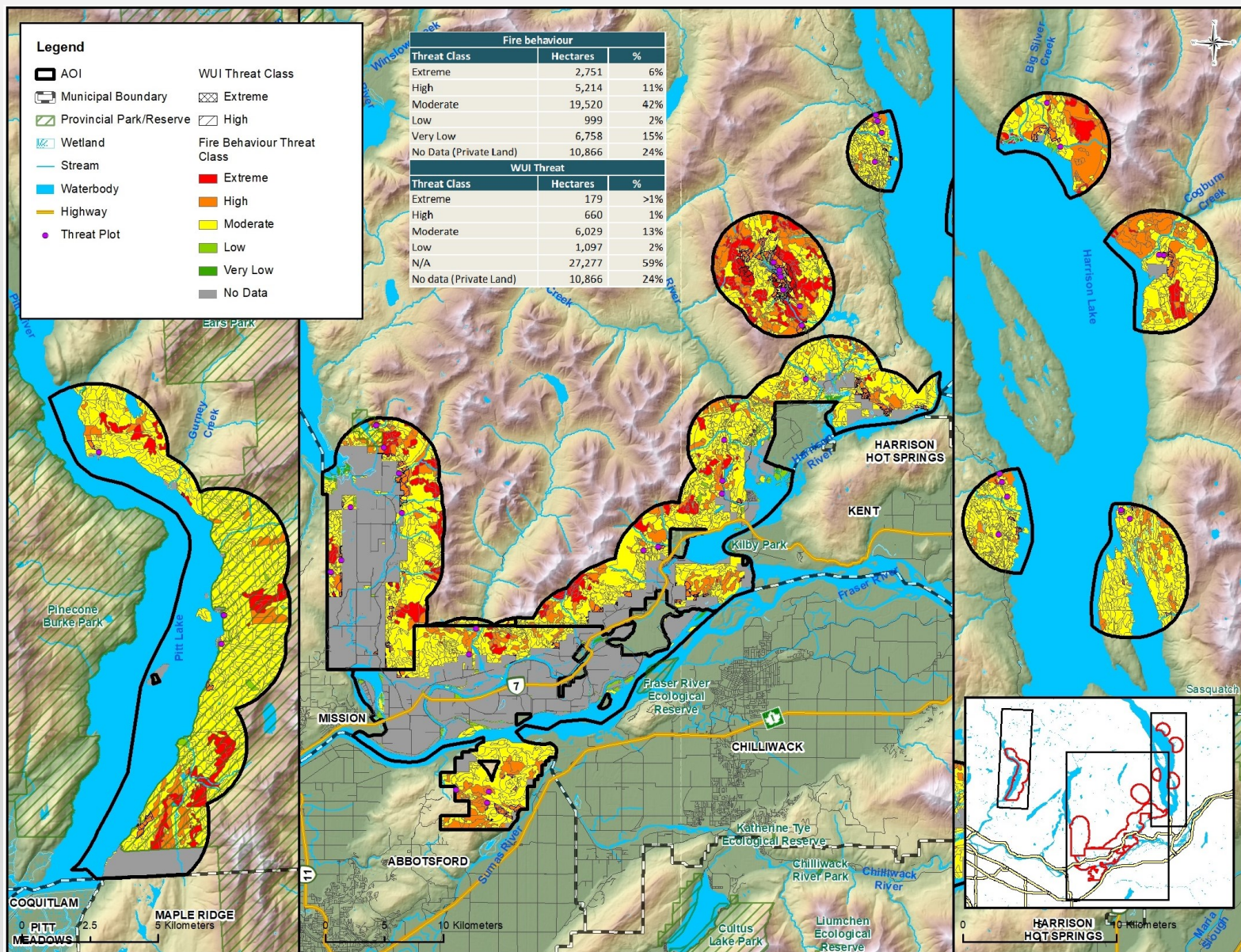
Fire Threat and Behaviour

Zone A



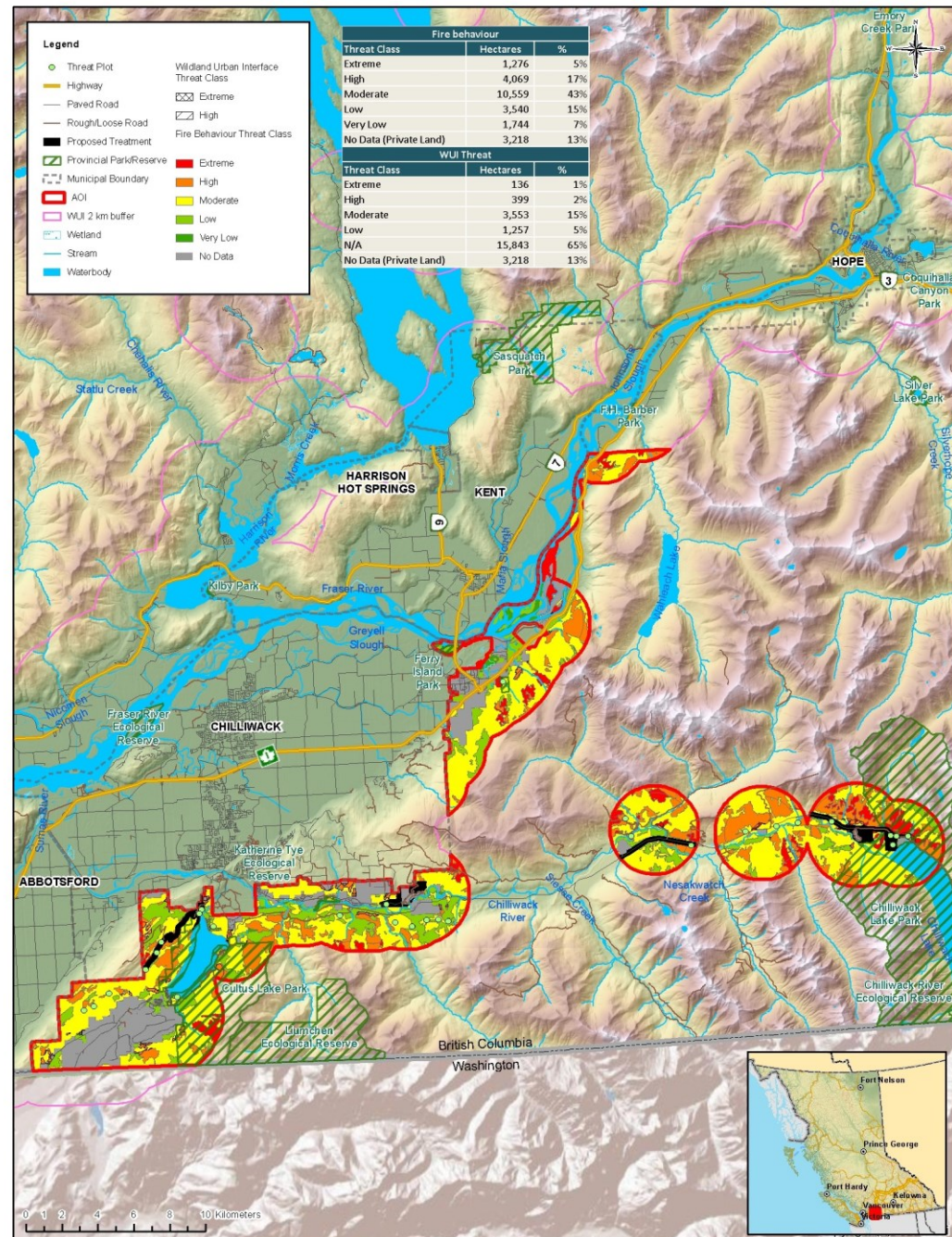
Fire Threat and Behaviour

Zone B



Fire Threat and Behaviour

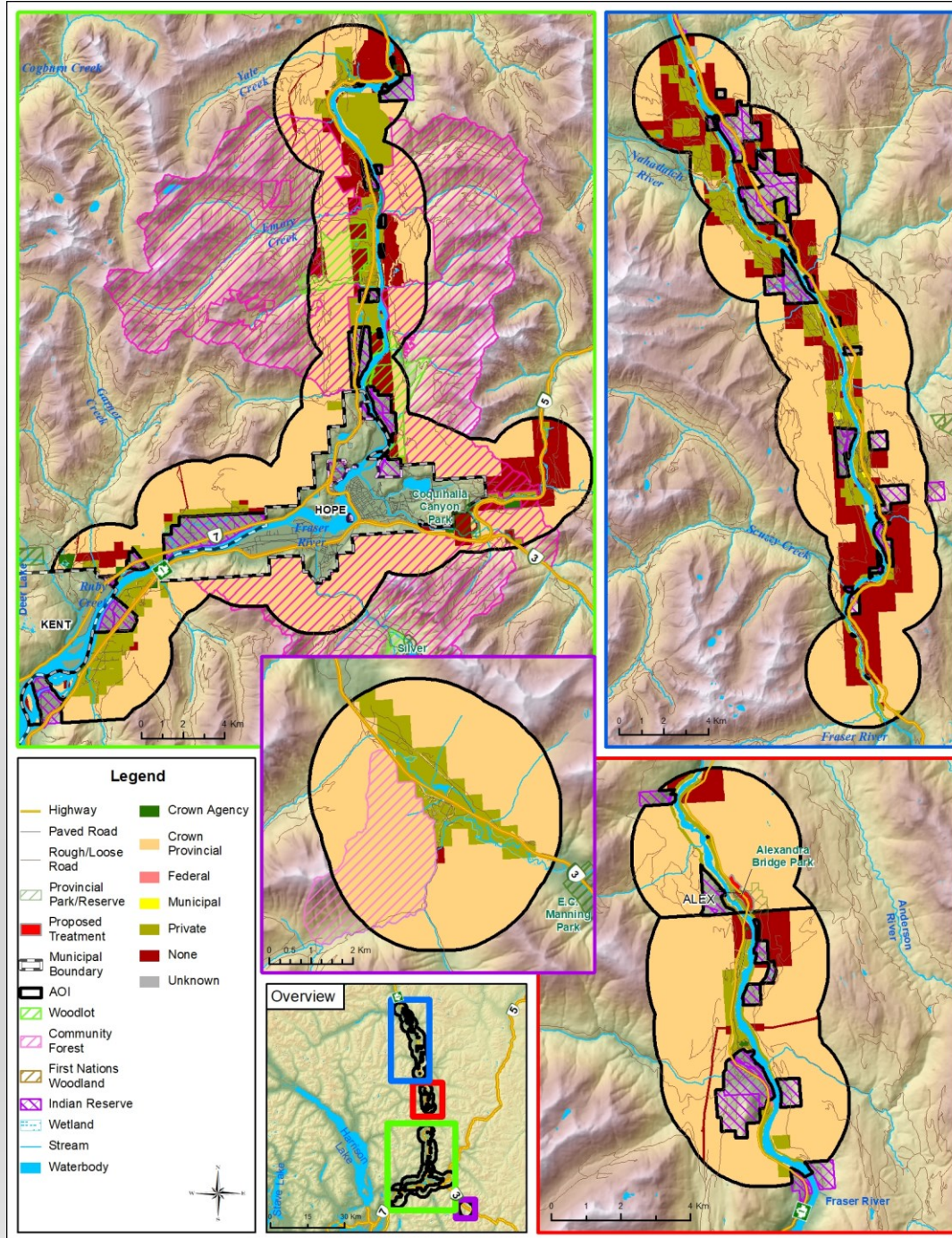
Zone C



Proposed Priority Treatment Areas

Zone A

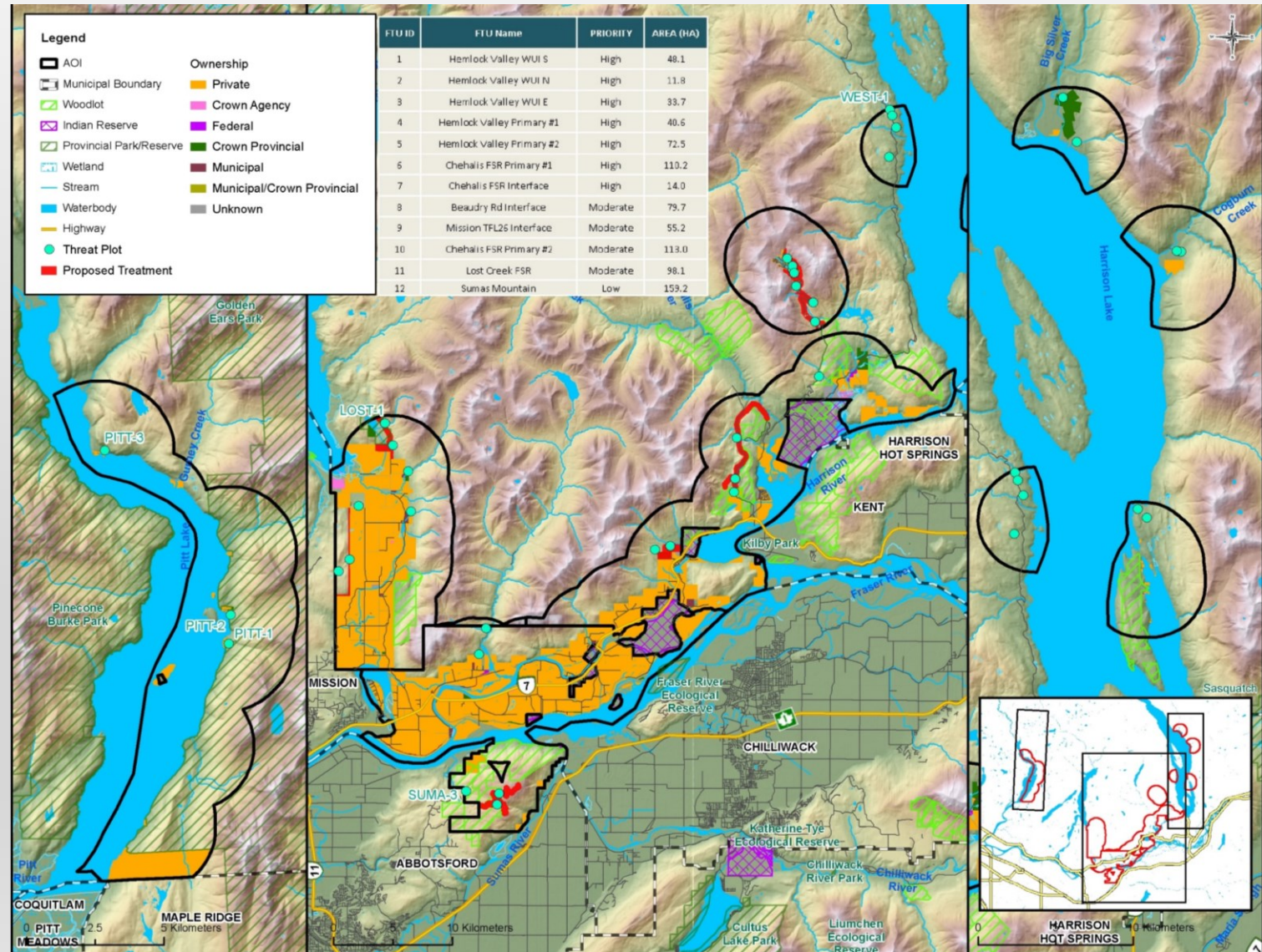
27.7 ha – moderate priority



Proposed Priority Treatment Areas

Zone B

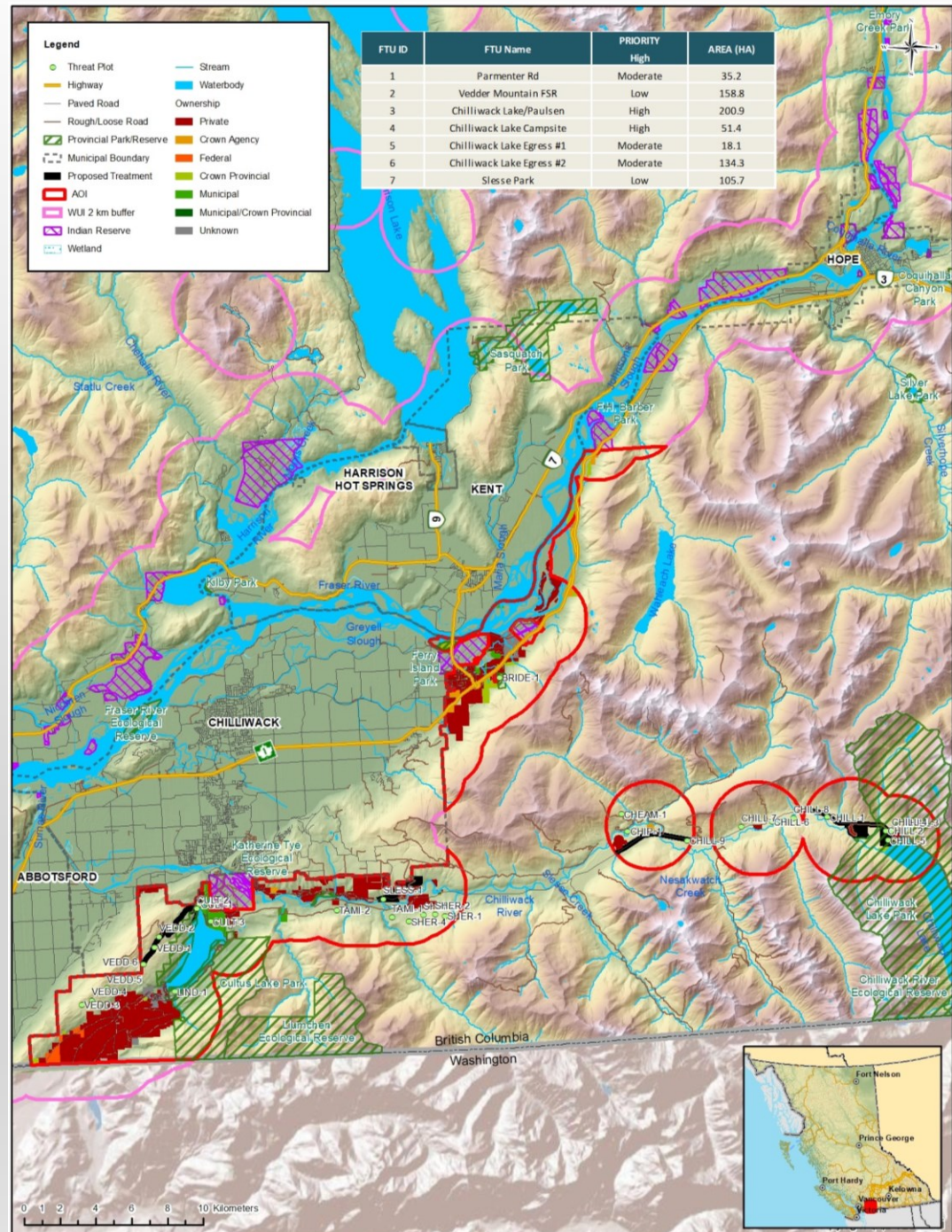
~836 ha of
which 331
ha are high
priority



Proposed Priority Treatment Areas

Zone C

~ 704 ha of which 252 ha are high priority



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

- Select recommendations outlined in the Zone A, B, and C CWPPs will be highlighted in this presentation under the following categories:
 - Policies & Bylaws;
 - Fuel Management;
 - Access/Egress;
 - FireSmart;
 - Communication and Education;
 - Wildfire Preparedness; and
 - Fire Suppression Resources.



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives



Photo by: B.A. Blackwell & Associates

Policies & Bylaws – All Zones

- Update existing legislation to be consistent with fire management and prevention goals
 - Revise the corresponding OCPs to include:
 - an interface wildfire hazard objective, and set policies relating to development in the wildland urban interface.
 - a growth management policy that considers wildfire risk and other natural hazards during development.



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

Policies & Bylaws – All Zones – Continued

- Complete updates to the FVRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan (2025-35), to consider wildfire threat in park acquisition and trail maintenance.
- Work with the Planning & Development Department to ensure house numbering is posted on new development to facilitate emergency response.



Graphic: Fraser Valley Regional District



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives



Fuel Management – All Zones

- Proceed with the detailed assessment, prescription development and treatment of the proposed treatment units identified in the three CWPPs.



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives



Photo: B. A. Blackwell & Associates

Access / Egress – All Zones

- Complete and participate in regular testing and updates to the FVRD evacuation plan
- Develop a Total Access Plan that includes a map and inventory of trail and road networks within natural areas in the FVRD to aid in fire suppression planning.



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives



Photo by: B.A. Blackwell & Associates

Access / Egress – Zone A

- Collaborate in the completion, and regular testing, of an evacuation plan for the Sunshine Valley.

Access / Egress – Zone B

- Collaborate in the completion, and regular testing, of an evacuation plan for the Hemlock Valley.



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives



Photo by: B.A. Blackwell & Associates

FireSmart - All Zones

- Complete formal FireSmart assessments by a qualified professional for all critical infrastructure.
- Use fire-resistant construction materials, building design and landscaping, when completing upgrades or establishing new infrastructure.



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

FireSmart – All Zones – Continued

- Train fire department members or hire a qualified professional as a Local FireSmart Representative to conduct FireSmart home assessments and assist communities in complying with FireSmart principles.
- Develop and implement a community chipper program.
- Apply for funding through the UBCM CRI program to develop a local FireSmart rebate program for residential homeowners completing FireSmart activities.



Photo by: B.A. Blackwell & Associates



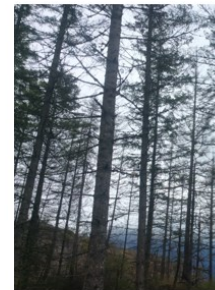
Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

Communication & Education – All Zones

- Make the CWPP document and associated map publicly available.
- Promote FireSmart approaches to residents in the interface.
- Establish a local Interface Steering Committee with government, First Nations, and key stakeholders, to coordinate wildfire risk reduction efforts.

Fraser Valley Regional District Zone C 2019 Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Fraser Valley Regional District, Zone B Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2019



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Fraser Valley Regional District, Zone A Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2019



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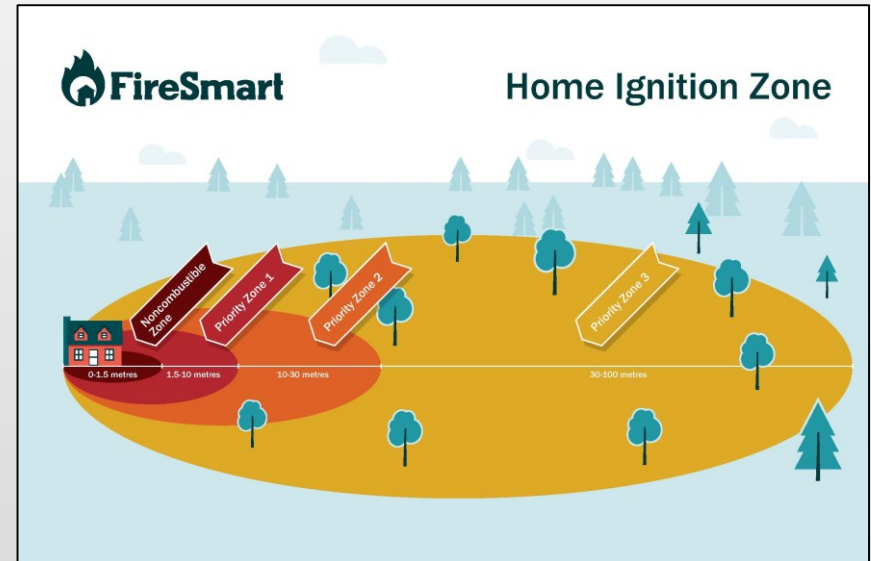
Graphic: B.A. Blackwell & Associates



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

Communication & Education – All Zones

- Apply for a FireSmart demonstration grant through the CRI program.
- Promote the use of external residential sprinklers as a FireSmart tool to private landowners.
- Encourage FireSmart practices on private farmland through the distribution of wildfire action planning resources specifically for the agricultural sector.



Graphic: FireSmart Canada (<https://www.firesmartcanada.ca/mdocs-posts/firesmart-home-ignition-zone-graphic/>)



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

Wildfire Response Resources

- FVRD fire departments should work with BCWS to create or maintain annual structural and interface training programs.
- Maintain a high level of fire departments member education and training specific to interface and wildland fires.
- All new rural development outside of existing FVRD water systems should meet NFPA 1142 minimum standards.



Photo: B.A. Blackwell & Associates



Summary of Key Recommendations & Objectives

Wildfire Response Resources

All Zones

- Complete a vulnerability assessment of all critical infrastructure, secondary power sources, and fuel availability.

Zone B

- Pursue funding opportunities to acquire wildland specific equipment for fire departments (i.e, for Hemlock Valley and North Fraser).



Photo: B.A. Blackwell & Associates



SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

- This CWPP sets the stage for implementing important actions to reduce the risk of wildfire to the FVRD.
- A total of **143** general and specific recommendations have been outlined for the for the three FVRD zones to reduce the overall wildfire risk profile.
- Collaboration with member communities, First Nations, and stakeholders (BC Hydro/Fortis BC/CN Rail/licensees) is key to successfully addressing risk in the WUI.





Thank you!
Questions?