## **BACKGROUNDER**

## **COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROGRAM, Fall 2019 LIST OF PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING**

The Community Wildfire Program helps communities enhance their efforts at reducing the risk of wildfires occurring within or adjacent to communities in the Basin.

| Community                 | Organization                                   | Description  | Amount    |
|---------------------------|--|--|-----------|
| Canal Flats               | Village of Canal<br>Flats                      | Hire a professional wildfire consultant to create a formal FireSmart education program and committee.  | \$14,000  |
| Creston, Kaslo,<br>Nakusp | Regional<br>District of<br>Central<br>Kootenay | Reduce the risks of interface wildfire by treating forest fuels within lands managed by the Creston Valley Community Forest, Kaslo and District Community Forest and Nakusp and Area Community Forest, and analyze the findings to develop prescription guidelines and performance standards that other communities can use.   | \$493,000 |
| Invermere                 | District of Invermere                          | Hire students to deliver door-to-door FireSmart materials, provide assessments to homes in medium- to high-risk wildfire areas, present at public events throughout the summer and update social media; also have interface wildfire consultants host a FireSmart workshop for construction and landscape professionals.   | \$25,000  |
| Kimberley                 | City of<br>Kimberley                           | Apply a treatment strategy to 40 hectares on two conifer plantations of different ages and stand characteristics and assess them for treatment viability and effectiveness.  | \$154,000 |
| Nelson                    | City of Nelson                                 | Deliver four wildfire education programs: - prepare and share a FireSmart video showcase - host a disaster preparedness day - hold a wildfire risk reduction open house and - hire a FireSmart coordinator to facilitate volunteers to learn hands on about fire-breaks and the effectiveness of them by building a 1.6 km fire-break on the Rails-to-Tails trail in Nelson. | \$26,100  |

| Regional         | Regional         | Hire a FireSmart coordinator to         | \$25,000          |
|------------------|------------------|---|-------------------|
| District of East | District of East | educate residents on how to reduce      |                   |
| Kootenay         | Kootenay         | wildfire risk on private properties,    |                   |
| ,                |                  | deliver FireSmart community             |                   |
|                  |                  | workshops and support Wildfire          |                   |
|                  |                  | Preparedness Day.                       |                   |
| Rossland         | City of          | Reduce high wildfire hazard in 12.5     | \$255,000         |
|                  | Rossland         | hectares of forest by applying a fuel   |                   |
|                  |                  | treatment that rots woody debris in     |                   |
|                  |                  | "hugels" rather than burning or         |                   |
|                  |                  | chipping, as well as expand public      |                   |
|                  |                  | education and awareness of              |                   |
|                  |                  | community's FireSmart Community         |                   |
|                  |                  | Recognition Program. This includes      |                   |
|                  |                  | hazard assessments for property         |                   |
|                  |                  | owners, communication materials,        |                   |
|                  |                  | training for community champions and    |                   |
|                  |                  | hosting FireSmart events.               |                   |
| Sparwood         | District of      | Appoint a current volunteer firefighter | \$11,923          |
|                  | Sparwood         | as the FireSmart ambassador and hire    |                   |
|                  |                  | a student to deliver FireSmart; these   |                   |
|                  |                  | people will raise awareness and         |                   |
|                  |                  | deliver FireSmart programs to           |                   |
|                  |                  | property owners and the District,       |                   |
|                  |                  | educate about how to reduce wildfire    |                   |
|                  |                  | impacts, conduct door-to-door           |                   |
|                  |                  | FireSmart assessments and provide       |                   |
|                  |                  | customized FireSmart actions to         |                   |
|                  |                  | property owners.  TOTAL                 | <b>M4 004 400</b> |
|                  | \$1,004,423      |   |                   |

- 30 -

## For more information contact:

Kathleen Hart Columbia Basin Trust 1.800.505.8998 khart@ourtrust.org