



SIFCo

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NEWS RELEASE

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Announcing SIFCo's Latest Film Release – 'Living with fire'

The Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) is releasing a film that looks at current and future threats from wildfire in the Slocan Valley.

This educational film provides adaptive action steps residents can take to be prepared for this dynamic threat by reducing the wildfire risk on their properties. The project was partially funded by the Columbia Basin Trust and the 'Community Resiliency Investment Program' administered by the Union of BC Municipalities.

The film is part of the educational component of the Slocan Valley Wildfire Resiliency Program being delivered by SIFCo on behalf of the Villages of Slocan, Silverton, and New Denver. The vision of the program is to help create fire-adapted communities that are knowledgeable and engaged, where residents and agencies take action regarding infrastructure, buildings, landscaping, and surrounding ecosystems, thereby enabling communities to safely accept fire as a natural part of this bioregion.

Creating fire-adapted communities has never been more important with wildfires increasing with intensity and frequency fueled by a changing climate that is making weather patterns less predictable and more extreme. This is due to a culmination of hotter summers, longer drought periods, and changing winter weather patterns, combined with decades of wildfire suppression.

In addition to the increased threat from wildfire, the population is also growing in rural fire-prone areas where the wildland meets infrastructure and homes. The combination of these factors in the Slocan Valley creates the potential for a wildfire disaster to occur.

To mitigate and prepare for wildfire SIFCo has been implementing a Strategic Landscape Level Wildfire Protection Plan for the Slocan Valley for the past 12 years. This plan involves fuel treatment in areas identified as main fire movement corridors throughout the Slocan Valley. The plan utilizes five different treatment types, including the thinning of second-growth trees to reduce fuel loads and ladder fuels, and the re-introduction of prescribed burns in historically fire-maintained ecosystems.

"Individuals, in the end, are the most important part of the whole pyramid, their us. What individuals choose to do governs whether or not we get to a fire resilient place in our communities, in our local areas, and around our own homes. Individual action, individual empowerment, and individual choices are what's vital to this whole program." Tom Bradley Forester in 'Living with Fire'

To learn more about this plan go to: <https://www.sifco.ca/wui-management>

The film can be viewed here: <https://www.sifco.ca/svwrp>

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