FCCRP COMMUNITY WILDFIRE HAZARD ASSESSMENT FORM

This Community Wildfire Hazard Assessment form provides a written evaluation of the overall community wildfire hazard – the prevailing condition of structures, adjacent vegetation and other factors affecting the FireSmart status of a small community or neighbourhood. This hazardis based on the **hazard factors** and **FireSmart recommended guidelines** found in **FireSmart: Protecting Your Community from Wildfire** (Partners in Protection, 2003) and will assist the Local FireSmart Representative in preparing the FireSmart Community Assessment Report. **NOTE: Mitigation comments refer to the degree to which the overall community complies or fails to comply with FireSmart recommended guidelines with respect to each hazard factor**

Community Name:Piers Island		**Date: (mm/dd/yyyy) Aug 12 2015**
Assessor Name:J. Eustache/R. Mitchell		**Accompanying Community Member(s):Pauline Olsen, Risk Management Officer.**
Hazard Factor	**Ref**	**Mitigation Comments**
1. Roof Assemblies		
a. Type of roofs ULC rated (metal, tile, asphalt, rated wood shakes) unrated (unrated wood shakes)	2-5 3-21	We inspected buildings with ULC rated roofs but it is understood that unrated wood shakes do occur on some of the 130 residences in this island community.
b. Roof cleanliness and condition * *Debris accumulation on roofs/in gutters; curled damaged or missing roofing material; or any gaps that will allow ember entry or fire impingement beneath the roof covering*	2-6	Minor debris accumulation was witnessed and to be anticipated in this wooded setting.
2. Building Exteriors		
2.1 Materials		
a. Siding, deck and eaves	2-7 2-8 2-9	A mix of siding materials were witnessed in the residences of Piers Isl. Some roof vents were not backed up with metal screens and would likely permit ember transport into the building cavity.
b. Window and door glazings (single pane, sealed double pane)	2-10	A mix of single and double paned windows was noted and is to be expected given the varied dates of construction across the island.
c. Ember Accumulator Features (scarce to abundant) * *Structural features such as open eaves, gutters, unscreened soffits and vents, roof valleys and unsheathed crawlspaces and under-deck areas*		Abundant decking and home construction on blocks throughout area. Unskirted decks, open eaves and compromised building sheathing observed.
d. Nearby Combustibles – firewood, fences, outbuildings	2-11	Nearby combustibles stored under roof eaves and open decks.

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3. Vegetation		
3.1 **PZ-1:** Vegetation - 0 - 10m from structure **Page Reference 3-5**		
a. Overstory forest vegetation (treated vs. untreated)	2-14	Untreated overstory (coniferous majority/deciduous) that overtops many structures on this wooded, island retreat. Wooded ambiance is prized by these beach dwellers.
b. Ladder fuels (treated vs untreated)	2-17	Untreated ladder fuels adjacent to homes and infrastructure buildings were noted. Ladder fuels are even more abundant with distance from structures.
c. Surface fuels - includes landscaping mulches and flammable plants (treated vs untreated)	2-16	Surface fuels immediately adjacent to structures were mostly in the form of combustible, decorative plants. Untreated surface fuels exist within the private and communal properties within the ring-road. Considerable effort has been made to manage surface and ladder fuels on the communal properties.
3.2 **PZ-2:** Vegetation - 10 - 30m from structures **Page Reference 3-9**		
a. Forest vegetation (overstory) treated vs untreated	2-14	Overstory is predominantly Douglas Fir with some Arbutus and Big Leaved Maple. This overstory layer is untreated.
b. Ladder fuels treated vs untreated	2-17	Ladder fuels are present, in limited amounts, throughout this predominantly single-layered forest type. Minor areas of treated fuels exist on the inside of the ring-road as this has been recognized as a treatment priority by some of the island residents. Treatment has consisted of minor thinning and removal of debris.
c. Surface fuels treated vs untreated	2-16	Surface fuels exist within, and without, the private property on the island. The incidence increases with distance from the residences.
3.3 **PZ-3:** Vegetation - 30 - 100m from structures **Page Reference 3-13** Provide mitigation comments on the prevailing PZ3 fuel type		
a. Light fuel - deciduous – grass, shrubs	2-16	Light fuels do exist but they are intermixed with abundant, green understory shrubs (salal predominantly).

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b. Moderate fuel - mixed wood – light to moderate surface and ladder fuels, shrubs	2-17	Moderate fuels exist throughout the private and communal properties on the island. A minority of the properties have eliminated surface and ladder fuels in an effort to 'clean up' and enhance lawn establishment.
c. Heavy fuel - coniferous - moderate to heavy surface and ladder fuels, shrubs	2-14	Heavy coniferous fuels exist to a limited extent. Nutrient cycling and firewood gatherers have kept these materials down.
d. Logging slash, dead/down fuel accumulations	2-16	Minor dead/down material exists due to aggressive cleanup along road and trail sides. Higher concentrations of these fuels are found toward the island core which is largely unmanaged. There is an element of the residents who encourage retention of these materials to enhance the 'natural' ambiance of the island. There are others who feel that proactive cleanup of these materials reduces the fire susceptibility of the area.
e. Diseased forest – without foliage vs with foliage		Minor Douglas Fir root rot was detected on the island. This condition is endemic to mature coastal forests and is not presenting a particularly high fire hazard to this community.
f. Fuel islands within community - treated vs untreated		Many fuel islands exist within the private properties observed during our visit.
4. Topography		
4.1 Slope (within 100m of structures)		
a. Slope - Flat or < 10 %, 10 – 30% or >30%	2-19	Slopes were general in the 10-20% range. Some of the coastal properties were considerably steeper.
4.2 Buildings setback on slopes >30 %, position on slope Provide mitigation comments on items a – c as applicable		
a. Setback from top of slope > 10m, or bottom of slope – valley bottom. b. Buildings located mid-slope c. Setback from top of slope <10m, or upper slope	2-12	Buildings were located, in the vast majority, along the shoreline.

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5. Infrastructure – Access / Egress, Roads, Driveways and Signage		
5.1 Access Routes – Road Layout To FireSmart Recommended Guideline?		
a. Single Road or Looped Road	3-28	This island has a single, looped road that circumnavigates the island. Several golf cart trails and hiking trails do criss-cross the island. Access is generally good throughout the island.
5.2 Roads- width, grade, curves, bridges and turnarounds		
a. To FireSmart Recommended Guideline?	3-30	Not to FS guidelines.
5.4 Fire Service Access / Driveways - Grade, Width/Length, Turnarounds		
a. To FireSmart Recommended Guideline?	3-30	Not to FS guidelines.
5.5 Street Signs / House Numbers		
a. To FireSmart Recommended Guideline?	3-30	There was evidence of good house numbering.
6. Fire Suppression - Water Supply, Fire Service, Homeowner Capability		
6.1 Water Supply		
a. Fire Service water supply – hydrants, static source, tender or no water supply	3-32	Stand pipes and two static water sources exist on the island. The entire perimeter is ocean and readily available when needed.
6.2 Fire Service		
a. Fire Service < 10 minutes or > 10 minutes, no fire service	2-25	Fire service volunteers can respond to the furthest reaches of the island in 20 minutes. Hose lays are strategically deployed across the island with 3-ways and nozzles readily available.
6.3 Homeowners Suppression Equipment		
a. Shovel, grubbing tool, water supply, sprinklers, roof-top access ladder	3-28	Many residents have hand tools and neighbour cooperatives have purchased Wajax pumps and water delivery equipment. A great example of islander self protection.

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7. Fire Ignition and Prevention – Utilities, Chimneys, Burn Barrel / Fire Pit, Ignition Potential		
7.1 Utilities		
a. To FireSmart Recommended Guideline?	2-24	Fires are not allowed on the island. Debris burning is centralized in an open field and conducted in the fall/winter during wet periods.
7.2 Chimneys, Burn Barrel / Fire Pit		
a. To FireSmart Recommended Guideline?	2-22	Some chimney screens were witnessed but it is highly likely that across the breadth of the island there are several chimneys which would not meet the FS guideline.
7.3 Ignition Potential Provide mitigation comments on items a – d as applicable		
a. Topographic features adversely affect fire behaviour b. Elevated probability of human or natural ignitions c. Periodic exposure to extreme fire weather or winds d. Other	2-21	a: Flat terrain and great access makes machine, tractor and golf cart access pretty good. b: Human caused fires are the most likely source of ignition on the island. The island perimeter is densely populated. c: This island exists in the driest subzone on Vancouver Island and Coastal BC. Strong winds are not uncommon here. Periodic exposure to extreme fire conditions is not uncommon.

General Comments:

This community has taken many significant safeguards to ensure the likelihood of fire is minimized and response times are maximized. This island community and fire department volunteers deserve recognition for their excellent efforts toward community safety.

This island has already done more than enough to achieve FSCanada Community Recognition. If this community embarks on the FS program it would achieve recognition in very short order. It is clear that this community undertakes several initiatives each year of its own accord and could easily meet the maintenance requirement of the FSCCR program.