



NEWS RELEASE

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Clearwater County receives third grant to extend Wildland Urban Interface program for three years

(Rocky Mountain House, Alta.) – Clearwater County through Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services' (CRFRS) Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) program recently received confirmation of a \$1.5 million grant for continuation of the WUI structural protection team for three more years.

The grant will continue the great work of the four-person WUI team in provincial initiatives including WUI curriculum development, training, and deployments to provincial wildfire emergencies. Along with that there are local benefits of employment opportunities, high quality training, extensive experience, and enhanced capacity.

The WUI project will now be funded under the 2021/22 Alberta Community Partnership Strategic Initiatives from, Alberta Municipal Affairs through a partnership in Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

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Background:

In 2019, CRFRS was selected as one of two municipal fire departments to host a WUI structural protection team for 18 months (August 2019 – January 2021). This project was funded from the Province through the AFCA, equating to \$580,000.00 in grant funding.

In 2021, CRFRS received approval from the AFCA to utilize unexpended WUI structural protection team grant dollars, to extend WUI contracts until March 31, 2021, equating to \$458,000 in grant funding.

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