



building communities together

2021 Business Plan Forest Grove Water (1882)

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Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically and environmentally desirable region.

Department Services

- The Cariboo Regional District (CRD) owns and operates the Forest Grove Community Water System (FGWS).

Background Information

- The Forest Grove water function was established in 1981 and now services 107 land parcels.
- The system is comprised of two wells, a well house, associated pumps and distribution piping, fire hydrants and two reservoirs.
- In addition to meeting domestic needs, the system provides an adequate quantity of water to aid community fire protection.

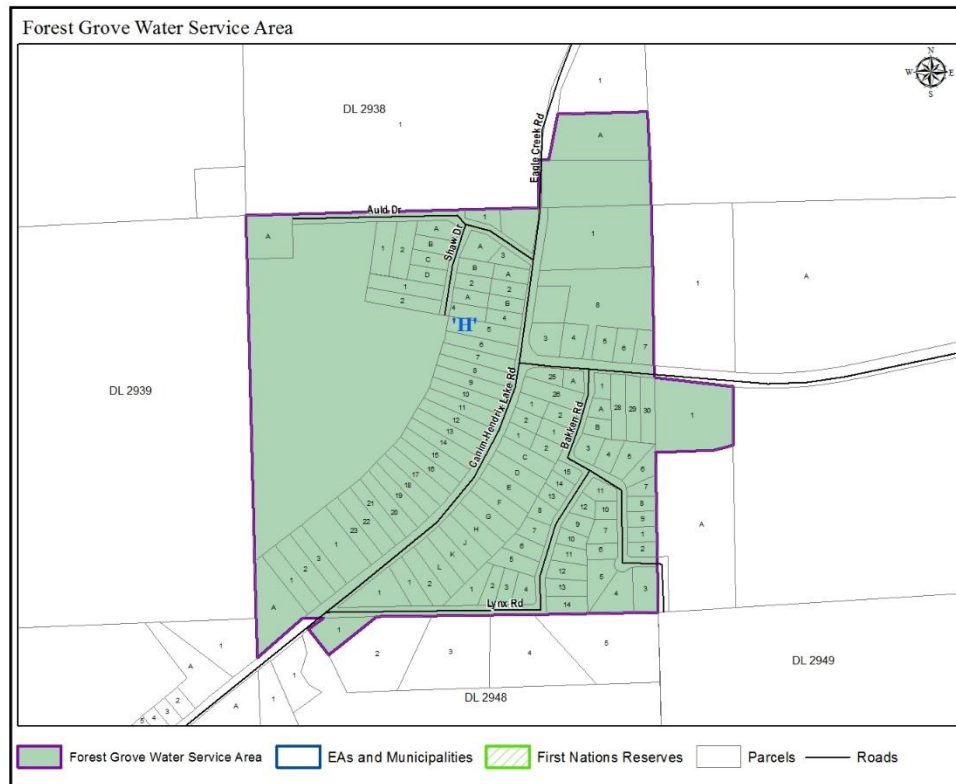
Operations

The water quantity and quality is tested on a regular basis and adjustments to the system are made as required. Regular inspection and maintenance to the system components is undertaken to ensure continuous operations. Connection changes, such as a new connection, are provided to residents as requested.

Operational costs are collected by way of an annual variable rate user fee currently set at \$280. The Forest Grove Water System Specified Area Establishment and Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1096, provides function authority.

A new well was constructed in 2008 at a cost of \$78,000.

As Electoral Area H is the only stakeholder, and the *Local Government Act* requires more than one vote, the entire Board is responsible for the governance of this service.



Significant Issues & Trends

WorkSafe BC has a recent mandate targeting municipalities and regional districts focusing on confined space entry plans, policies and procedures as well as general occupational health and safety requirements. In response to inspections by WorkSafe, hazard assessments were completed for all utilities owned by the Cariboo Regional District to identify all confined space locations and subsequently procedures were developed for each. In order to strictly meet WorkSafe requirements, some of the procedures recommended cannot be implemented with existing infrastructure layout. Staff are currently investigating how other jurisdictions are approaching these requirements and looking for alternative procedures acceptable to WorkSafe.

The Interior Health Authority has been conducting inspections of CRD water systems and making recommendations to achieve compliance with the Drinking Water Protection Act and Regulation. Recommendations for the Forest Grove system are:

- 1) Increased monitoring frequency
- 2) Updated GUDI/GARP assessment

3) Disinfection.

The Public Sector Accounting Board now requires local governments to report and record tangible capital assets. At some time in the future local governments may be required to amortize these assets over their useful life.

The Cariboo Regional District is a signatory on the Province of BC/UBCM Climate Action Charter and has committed to continuing work towards carbon neutrality in respect of corporate operations.

Business Plan Goals, Objectives & Strategies

2021 Goals *(Carried forward from 2020)*

- 1. Goal:** Update GUDI/GARP assessment.
NB: Ground water under direct influence of surface water (GUDI)
Groundwater at Risk of Containing Pathogens (GARP)
Rationale: Update GUDI/GARP assessment to meet IHA recommendations.
Strategy: Retain consultant to update the assessment.
- 2. Goal:** The staff examine the process and viability of increasing water rates on an annual basis to offset inflationary impacts, and in anticipation of future capital spending needs.
Rationale: We cannot allow the utilities to fall behind in operational or capital needs.
Strategy: Utilizing information gathered in the Asset Management Plan and best practices come forward with a sustainable long-term funding plan.

Overall Financial Impact

There is no taxation levied for this service. Operating revenue is collected via user fees and are adequate at this time but may soon need to be reviewed.

The projected capital reserve as of December 2020 is \$224,197.