



building communities together

2025 Business Plan Forest Grove Water (1882)

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Manager of Utilities*

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

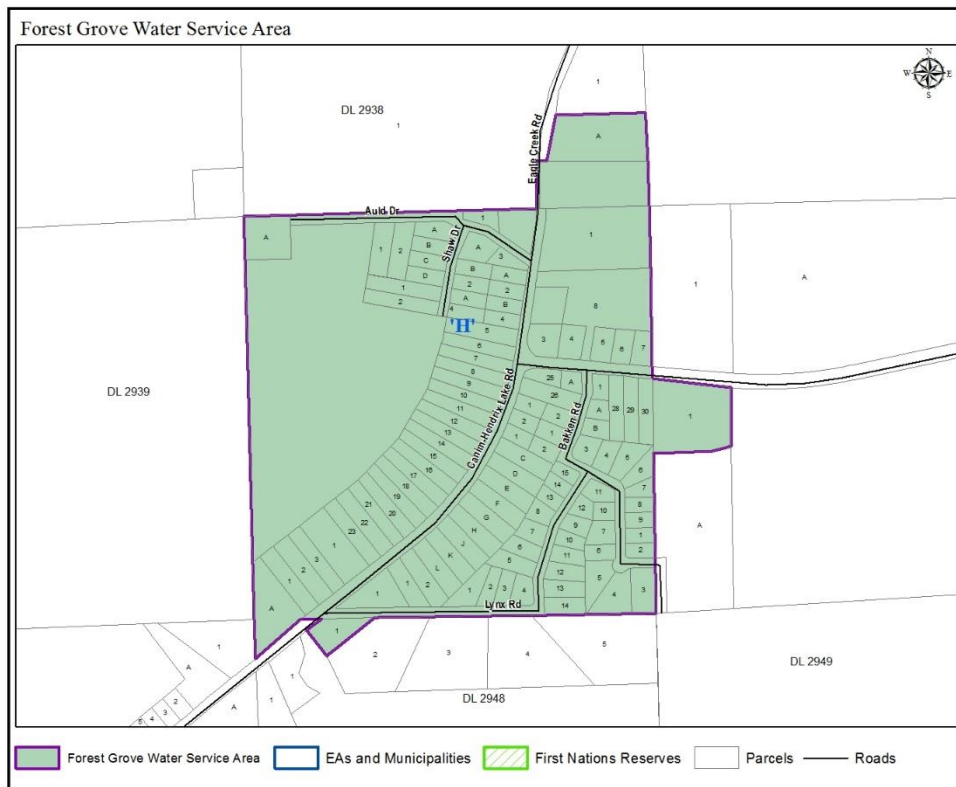
- The Forest Grove Water function was established in 1981 and now services 107 land parcels.
- The system is comprised of two wells, a well house, associated pumps and distribution piping, fire hydrants and two reservoirs.
- In addition to meeting domestic needs, the system provides an adequate quantity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

Operations

The water quantity and quality are tested on a regular basis and adjustments to the system are made as required. Regular inspection and maintenance of 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 \$369. No parcel tax is currently being collected for this location. The Forest Grove Water System Specified Area Establishment and Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1096, provides function authority.

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

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 include maintaining a chlorine residual.

The Public Sector Accounting Board 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 Clean BC Climate Action Plan (formerly 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

1. **Goal:** Reservoir protection.
Rationale: Safeguard public health by repairing the access hatch and coating the cover.

Strategy: Have an aluminum access hatch cover fabricated, installed and sealed. Protect reservoir from infiltration.

2. **Goal:** Plan a new pumphouse and feasibility of a bulk water station.
Rationale: A new pumphouse is needed to house the required chlorination equipment. A bulk water station could be installed simultaneously to save costs. There are options for placement of the station that should be investigated.
Strategy: Explore options with a feasibility study.
3. **Goal:** Prevent accelerated degradation of assets and ensure operability.
Rationale: Hydrants and valves need service as they have not been maintained in years due to short staffing and lack of equipment.
Strategy: Contribute a percentage of the cost of valve exercising equipment. Hire a contractor to service hydrants congruently with other systems in the area to save costs.

Overall Financial Impact

The projected capital reserve as of December 2024 is \$221,266.

No parcel tax is currently being collected for this location.

The current residential user fee is \$369 per year and may need to increase in 2025 to match the growing needs of this service and inflation.