

News Release

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Storymap tool allows Cowichan residents to share photos of recent storm impacts

Duncan, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is launching an online tool to learn more about how the recent rainstorm impacted residents of the Cowichan Valley.

The interactive ‘storymap’ allows anyone to easily share their photos and stories of flooding, landslides or other impacts of the storm. Once uploaded, photos are displayed on a map where residents will be able to see how the storm affected the region.

“The crowd-sourced information from this storymap is a way for us to ‘ground truth’ existing hazard mapping and can help us identify future areas of concern,” said Kate Miller, Manager of Environmental Services for the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

A link to the storymap can found at www.cvrd.bc.ca/hazards. Those using a smartphone can upload pictures simply by clicking the ‘Share Your Photos’ button on the map.

On January 31 and February 1, a Category 4 Atmospheric River brought intense rainfall to the Cowichan Valley. Coming on the heels of a month of well above-average precipitation, and combined with melting snow and already-saturated soils, the rain caused rivers around the region to rapidly swell and resulted in flood levels with a 1-in-50 year likelihood.

The CVRD is currently undertaking a number of projects to improve regional resiliency to flooding, landslides, wildfire and natural hazards, as climate change increases the frequency of these events. One such ongoing project is updating the flood maps for the Cowichan/Koksilah, Shawnigan and Riverbottom Road areas, which will directly benefit from the photos submitted by residents through this project.

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