



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION



GREATER GEORGIA BASIN
STEELHEAD Recovery Plan
www.SteelheadRecoveryPlan.ca

March 30, 2007

Luanne Patterson
Environmental Protection Officer
CN Railway - Pacific Division
13477-116th Ave
Surrey, BC, V3R 6W4

Dear Ms. Patterson

Re: Proposal for Habitat Restoration on the Cheakamus River

The following document summarizes the objectives, deliverables and projected costs required to implement the placement of large wood structures on the Cheakamus River. This summary is provided to facilitate a contract agreement between the BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF) and Canadian National Railway Company (CN) in order to carry out the proposed work in 2007.

Objectives

This project will follow the habitat treatments prescribed in Pat Slaney's 2003 report: *Habitat Assessments and Restoration Prescriptions for Recovery of Steelhead Trout in the Mamquam, Lower Cheakamus and Upper Squamish Rivers*. Specific objectives of the placement of large wood structures on the Cheakamus River include:

- Improving juvenile summer and winter-rearing habitat, to increase summer and over-wintering survival
- Improving adult spawning habitat through large woody debris (LWD) induced substrate gradation
- Creating sound wood structures to accelerate the natural recovery of fish habitat
- Restoring ecological processes for long-term sustainability

Deliverables

BCCF habitat technicians, biologists, and engineers will be responsible for all aspects of the project from public consultation to final reporting. BCCF will provide:

- A written habitat assessment and prescription report – to address potential stream changes as a result of the October 16-18, 2003 flood event.
- A public consultation process (communications, meetings, site visit) to ensure stakeholders are informed – including First Nations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, BC Ministry of the Environment, District of Squamish, Navigable Waters, local stewardship groups, and the paddling community.
- The construction of 11 LWD structures – to address project objectives.
- Informative signs – a post-construction project sign will highlight funding sources, have maps outlining structure location and provide restoration benefits. Two additional signs will be posted on the river to make recreational users aware of the presence of fish habitat structures.
- Detailed habitat structure assessment – following the procedures in *Guidelines for Instream and Off-Channel Routine Effectiveness Evaluation* (BC Ministry of Forests), to be performed post-construction and after the 2008 spring freshet.
- Inclusion of CN as a contributor on our website, featuring the project in an article in our newsletter, and indicating CN as a funding source at upcoming tradeshow.
- Final completion report – submitted to CN following project completion due on or before the date set out in the *terms and conditions* of the contract.

Additional Information

Solicitation for additional funding sources/partners and in-kind contributions, where possible, will continue to be explored.

We have the capacity to carry out long-term effectiveness monitoring; however, this is not included in the scope of this project. This may be an option for future project consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank CN for involving BCCF in current plans to improve fish habitat on the Cheakamus River and look forward to developing this partnership further.

Additional project details are available upon request. For questions or comments please contact me using the information provided below.

Sincerely,

Dave Harper

BC Conservation Foundation

Greater Georgia Basin Steelhead Recovery Plan

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