

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



2010/11 FINAL REPORT

FSWP File Number*	07350-35/ FSWP 10 D 15 EE
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* Please use the FSWP File Number provided in previous FSWP project correspondence.

1. Project Information

1.1. Project Title

Stewardship Works!

1.2. Proponent's Legal Name

SCBC Stewardship Centre for British Columbia Society

1.3. Project Location

Basin wide

1.4. Contact for this report

Name: DG Blair

Phone: 866-456-7222/
604-230-9734

Email: dg@stewardshipcentre.bc.ca

1.5 Funding Amount

Original Approved Grant Amount:	Total FSWP Expenditures:	Final Invoice Amount:	Final Non-FSWP leveraging, including cash and in-kind:
41,900	41,900	8,380	47,195

2. Project Summary

Please provide a single paragraph describing your project, its objectives, and the results. As this summary may be used in program communications, clearly state the issue(s) that were addressed and avoid overly technical descriptions. Maximum 300 words.

The *Stewardship Works!* (SW!) initiative was a three-year pilot project which provided core funding to ten stewardship groups across BC. This funding model is unique, in that its goal was to build capacity rather than provide project-based funding. The SW! 2010/2011 objectives were to:

- Increase watershed and habitat conservation efforts by increasing the number of volunteers participating in stewardship
- Showcase the increase in habitat protection, conservation and restoration works resulting from providing stable core funding to community stewardship groups
- Promote the Stewardship Works! core funding model by evaluating three years of data collected from ten stewardship organizations and communicating the benefits and
- Confirm existing and build new partnerships for on-going delivery of the Stewardship Works! program.

Stewardship Works! demonstrated the accelerated environmental and social benefits that can be achieved by providing core funding to community-based stewardship organizations to develop their financial and human resource capacity. The *Stewardship Works!* project was tracked and evaluated from its inception by an evaluation consultant, to establish indicators of success, develop consistent reporting templates, track progress, and document lessons learned. SW! core funding was used in a variety of ways – depending on the needs of each organization. Other project activities included case studies (videos), workshops and networking events to engage stakeholders and showcase successes. Project results indicated the impacts of core funding were:

- Increased positive perspectives of long-time stewardship volunteers
- Increased profile and support of the group in the community and
- An increase in skills of staff, volunteer satisfaction, and partnership development
- Increased grant applications by groups
- Increased outreach events/programming, and
- Increased number of volunteers participating in stewardship group activities.

Stewardship Works! was a highly successful pilot project that benefited all participating stewardship groups and by extension, the communities and natural habitats they serve. Documented results indicated that providing small amounts of core funding supported the groups in myriad ways, from increasing their volunteer base to enabling future planning, resulting in effective, productive and successful stewardship organizations and projects. Key recommendations include a follow-up program to apply the funding model on a broader scale and the establishment of permanent provincial trust fund to supply core funding to stewardship groups across the province.

OPTIONAL: Please give a short statement (up to 100 words) of the most compelling activity or outcome from your project.

The SW! initiative clearly demonstrated that providing core funding to stewardship groups effectively increased both participation in, and the number of, environmental stewardship activities in the SW! pilot communities. Providing small amounts of core funding supported the groups in myriad ways, from increasing their volunteer base to enabling future planning, resulting in effective, productive and successful stewardship organizations and projects. Key recommendations include a follow-up program to apply the funding model on a broader scale and the establishment of permanent provincial trust fund to supply core funding to stewardship groups across the province.

3. Final Project Results and Effectiveness

3.1 Please copy THE EXPECTED DELIVERABLES from your detailed proposal and insert into this table. Add additional rows as needed. Then describe the FINAL DELIVERABLES (the tangible end products resulting from this work) associated with each expected Deliverable.

If FINAL DELIVERABLES differ from the original EXPECTED DELIVERABLES, please describe why, and the implications for the project.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES	FINAL DELIVERABLES
1. Acquire new funds to provide core funding grants to 16 community-based stewardship organizations in 2010-2011.	SCBC applied for funds to provide for additional core funding to community-based stewardship groups. Grant applications were sent to the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, Wildlife Habitat Canada, and further granting agencies were researched. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in gaining the

	required funds to complete this deliverable. However, because we now have the significant results detailed in our report, <i>Stewardship Works! A Unique Model for Core Funding</i> , we will be able to follow-up with a number of foundations and government agencies who may be able to provide core funding in the future.
2. Six or more audio-visual case studies showcasing participant organizations that met the Stewardship Works! challenge, how they did it and the benefits for their communities, the environment and their organizations.	Video production and travel costs were more than originally estimated, so as per our revised objective, four videos were completed rather than six. These videos may be viewed on our website: http://www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca/index.php/stewardshipworks An additional video was also produced by one of our pilot organizations with support from our project. It may be found at: http://www.scoutislandnaturecentre.ca
3. Stewardship Works! Pilot Project Evaluation including: evaluation framework, templates, benchmarks, indicators of environmental and social change; cumulative assessment of three consecutive years of core funding; best practices; lessons learned.	The SW! pilot Evaluation Final report: <i>Stewardship Works! A Unique Model for Core Funding</i> provides an overview of the project methods and outcomes. Appendices are provided with examples of the evaluation framework, indicators of success and analysis of the results.
4. One funder/partner/stakeholder workshop to share the outcomes of the pilot and collaboratively explore ways to sustain and grow the Stewardship Works! program.	A collaborative workshop was held on November 3, 2010 at the Maritime Museum in Vancouver. The results of the workshop may be found in the workshop report titled: StewardshipWorks! Funding for Success Workshop Report.
3.2 Please evaluate the EFFECTIVENESS of your project in achieving Project Objectives. Identify the indicators you have used to measure the effectiveness of your project. Please include any notable successes or challenges.	
<p>Objective #1: Increase watershed and habitat conservation efforts by increasing the number of volunteers participating in stewardship.</p> <p>Results Achieved: as documented in our final report, 80% of participating stewardship groups experienced and increased in the number of volunteers participating in their community stewardship activities. Further, 80% also noted that the volunteer experience at their organizations' was more positive in general.</p> <p>Objective #2: Showcase the increase in habitat protection, conservation and restoration works resulting from providing stable core funding to community stewardship groups.</p> <p>Results Achieved: Five videos were produced that showcase the outstanding contributions that pilot groups are doing for habitat protection, conservation or restoration around the province. The titles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Unsung Heroes: the case for core funding for stewardship groups in British Columbia</i> • <i>Alouette River Management Society: Saving a River –connecting with a watershed</i> • <i>Delkatla Dancing: A Wildlife Sanctuary on the Edge</i> • <i>Mark Angelo speaks to the BC Stewardship Community</i> • <i>Scout Island Nature Centre</i> <p>Please see above for links to view these videos on the SCBC website – further sharing these stories and successes through the world-wide web. As well, a collaborative workshop, Funding For Success, was held in November 2010 which highlighted the A/V case studies and discussed the results of the StewardshipWorks! pilot</p>	

project.

Objective #3: Promote the Stewardship Works! core funding model by evaluating 3 years of data collected from 10 stewardship organizations and communicating the benefits.

Results Achieved: a final report, *Stewardship Works! A Unique Model for Core Funding* provides an overview of the project methods and outcomes. Results demonstrated the environmental and social benefits that can be achieved by providing core funding to community-based stewardship organizations to develop their financial and human resource capacity. The *Stewardship Works!* project evaluation results indicated the impacts of core funding were:

- Increased positive perspectives of long-time stewardship volunteers
- Increased profile and support of the group in the community and
- An increase in skills of staff, volunteer satisfaction, and partnership development
- Increased grant applications by groups
- Increased outreach events/programming, and
- Increased number of volunteers participating in stewardship group activities.

The case for an endowment fund or other mechanism for core funding is supported by the findings of this study and documented in the final report. The final report will be used to communicate the benefits of core funding to potential funding agencies and stewardship organizations around the province.

Objective #4: Confirm existing and build new partnerships for on-going delivery of the Stewardship Works! program.

Results Achieved: A StewardshipWorks! Strategic/Communications Plan was developed as well as a partnership development program initiated. Supported by the community stewardship groups involved in the pilot, a greater network is now established that recognizes the benefits of core funding to stewardship volunteers, their organizations and the natural habitats that they serve.

3.4 IF applicable, please describe how your project has achieved one or more of the following supported processes (Section 2.2 of RFP; section 7 of detailed proposal template). If results differ from those originally anticipated, please describe.

<p>Engagement of First Nations. Please specify who, and in what capacity.</p>	<p>Participant organizations on the Advisory Committee and the Stewardship Works! grant recipients collaborate with or are linked to First Nations in their respective communities.</p>
<p>Active partnerships with one or more organizations.</p>	<p>We establish stronger links to the stewardship community throughout the province by working with the following organizations: Alouette River Management Society Christina Lake Stewardship Society Como Watershed Group Delkatla Sanctuary Society Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance Salmon River Watershed Roundtable SeaChange Marine Conservation Society Williams Lake Field Naturalists/Scout Island Nature Centre Vanderhoof Fish and Game Club</p>

Engagement and participation of diverse and under-represented groups.	
Relationship building, as a foundation for sustainable, enduring activities.	
Capacity building, including mentorship models, leadership training and skills development.	The Final Report documented an increase in skills of staff, volunteer satisfaction, and partnership development that stewardship groups experienced through the use of core funds. Also noted was increased success for stewards to apply for and receive project funding as a result of core funding.
Recognition and support of champions and their initiatives.	Five videos provided recognition of the incredible work of stewards around the province.
Opportunities to influence policy and decision making,	Each pilot organization was well established in their communities and involved in local and regional planning process. Stewardship Works! funding enabled several organizations to increase their participation in planning processes. Results

3.5 Please describe how the benefits of this project will be sustained and/or be built upon into the future. What are the planned next steps, or recommendations for further work, if applicable?

The *Stewardship Works!* initiative was a highly successful pilot project that benefited all participating stewardship groups and, by extension, the communities and natural habitats they serve. Providing small amounts of core funding supported the groups in myriad ways, from increasing their volunteer base to enabling future planning, resulting in effective, productive and successful stewardship organizations and projects. Community stewardship projects were highlighted in a series of video productions which tell the digital story of SW! organizations' habitat protection, conservation and restoration works. In addition, the initiative has provided a framework and tools for establishing and monitoring core funding grants, ensuring transparency in their administration, and assessing their effectiveness across several levels of indicators.

The *Stewardship Works!* Project demonstrated positive benefits for stewardship organizations in the areas of:

- Assisting stewardship groups to more effectively and efficiently meet the mandate of organizations and donors that fund their projects
- Addressing the stewardship organizations' well-documented core funding barrier and stabilized the groups over the project timeline
- Revitalizing volunteer interest in stewardship activities and increased and support the number of volunteers working across BC to protect, enhance and conserve fish, wildlife and their habitats
- Providing the capability to leverage additional monies to support the conservation project work of stewards and
- Providing a more focused, coordinated, and consistent approach to stewardship.

Providing core funding is a powerful, valuable and cost effective model and should be one that funding agencies consider and embrace. The Ontario and Alberta governments are leaders in providing core funding mechanisms to maintain the health of community-based stewardship groups. The *Stewardship Works!* project demonstrates that British Columbia should also adopt this approach and establish a permanent funding mechanism to support the stewardship and conservation sector. This approach will support the people and organizations who work hard to sustain the health and vitality of BC's land, air and water, and the natural processes on which all life depends.

Recommendations include:

1. A follow-up core funding program based on the SW! model, should be established across BC in support of stewardship and conservation organizations. This will broaden the pilot's impact, establish its efficacy, and

provide additional research opportunities, information and insights.

2. The Stewardship Centre for BC, or another similar organization, should act as the administrator, coordinator and convener of the expanded program. This will reduce administration costs and thereby increase the amount of core funding directly available to the participating organizations.

3. The creation of a permanent provincial trust fund should be established to provide sustained core funding for stewardship groups in BC. This fund could provide modest grants of between \$2500 - \$5000 to help sustain local volunteer groups that work to protect important biodiversity and environmental values in their communities.

3.6. What are the top three lessons learned from this project that could be useful to communicate to others doing similar work in the Basin?

1. That even with a very successful program, there are challenges in raising further funds to support its on-going implementation during these tough economic times.

2. SCBC needs to continue to get the message out that core funding is valuable, it works for both stewardship organizations and the natural habitat they serve and to look to diverse funding sources to support further implementation.

3. It was very useful to do this as a pilot project with a full evaluation. This demonstrates that the core funding premise does work and that this will stand the project in good stead in the long run.

REQUIRED: Attach all DOCUMENTATION of Final Deliverables, and LIST attachments in Section 7. These may include technical reports, maps, photos, evidence of communications, lists of meeting participants, etc.

4. Outreach and Communications

Please describe how you have communicated project activities and results within local and basin-wide communities, across organizations and/or to decision makers.

Please list and attach copies of (or links to) any communications materials from these efforts that you have not previously submitted.

Communications activities included:

- Ongoing engagement and consultation with the Advisory Group
- Twice yearly feedback loop with ten community stewardship groups in the pilot project
- Targeted distribution of A/V case studies that share the Stewardship Works! success stories
- *Stewardship Works! Funding for Success* Workshop to promote participation in the program by diverse and representative sectors
- On-line and in-person delivery of the outcomes of the Stewardship Works! pilot project through the SCBC website www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca
- Networking through meetings and workshops to garner endorsement and support for ongoing commitments to Stewardship Works!