



**For Immediate Release**

**July 18, 2011**

## **Salmon in the Cariboo Chilcotin and Upper Fraser will Benefit from Grants of \$220,000**

The Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program (FSWP) will grant a total of \$220,000 from the provincial Living Rivers Trust Fund to nine projects in the Cariboo Chilcotin and Upper Fraser regions. FSWP is co-managed by Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Fraser Basin Council.

Baker Creek Enhancement Society will receive \$52,000 for two projects to improve salmon habitat. One project enables equipment operators to make better decisions in the field to protect salmon habitat, particularly in remote locations. As these workers initiate land development, their decisions about where to locate equipment and how to access the site affect the quality of riparian areas. The project provides the workers with tools and information about what practices will protect salmon habitat, and clarifies the regulations about these areas. The workers are then able to make the best decisions that both meet their job goals and minimize harm to salmon. This project continues the collaboration of the Riparian Outreach Group, comprised of federal, provincial and regional government agencies and environmental groups, which was formed by in 2009 with assistance from FSWP.

Baker Creek Enhancement Society will also relocate a culvert and thereby restore access to Dragon Creek, a tributary of the Quesnel River, for coho and Chinook salmon. The current culvert is a barrier to fish passage except during spring freshet. The project will provide salmon with access to high water refuge and approximately 1.5 km of habitat including a spring fed wetland for rearing. The project will begin after flooding conditions subside. The Land Conservancy of BC also received a grant to enhance habitat for coho by deactivating an abandoned irrigation system that traps fish.

Other FSWP funded projects in the area include grants to both the Horsefly River Roundtable and the Tlazt'en Nation Fisheries Department to build collaboration and to establish best practices for designating Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds, plus a grant to University of Northern BC to conduct

research about how nutrients from the ocean are carried into Quesnel Lake by adult salmon returning to spawn, a process that nourishes the next generation.

The projects are receiving 2011 funding from the Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program (FSWP), which will deliver \$920,000 from the provincial Living Rivers Trust Fund throughout the Fraser Basin. Projects in the Cariboo Chilcotin and Upper Fraser regions are receiving about 24% of this funding. To act on its mission of inspiring changes in human behaviour for the benefit of salmon and watersheds, FSWP enables communities to steward their water and salmon resources by building collaboration, fostering leadership and increasing engagement. Projects focus on the need to

- Improve habitat resilience through effective collaboration on habitat work;
- Foster local decision making that considers whole watersheds;
- Enable strategies and science that help fisheries to preserve the abundance and genetic diversity of salmon, especially in the face of climate change impacts; and
- Promote water or salmon friendly actions and provide education that gives context to the actions.

See the project section of [www.ThinkSalmon.com](http://www.ThinkSalmon.com) for a list, a map and descriptions of projects funded by FSWP throughout the Fraser Basin over its six years of operation.

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For more information about the efforts of Baker Creek Enhancement Society and the Riparian Outreach Group, contact Tracy Bond, [tbond@quesnelbc.com](mailto:tbond@quesnelbc.com) or 250.992.2295.

A list of the projects with approved FSWP funding is attached for your convenience. If you would like to interview a representative from Pacific Salmon Foundation, Fraser Basin Council or someone from any the funded projects, please contact: Megan Moser at [mmoser@psf.ca](mailto:mmoser@psf.ca) or 604.664.7664.