

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



2010/11 FINAL REPORT

FSWP File Number*	10 LR HWRS 116
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* Please use the FSWP File Number provided in previous FSWP project correspondence.

1. Project Information

1.1. Project Title

Farmland Riparian - Interface Stewardship Program

1.2. Proponent's Legal Name

BC Cattlemen's Association

1.3. Project Location

Basin Wide

1.4. Contact for this report

Name: Lee Hesketh

Phone: 250 547 6586

Email: silverhillsranch@aol.com

1.5 Funding Amount

Original Approved Grant Amount:	Total FSWP Expenditures:	Final Invoice Amount:	Final Non-FSWP leveraging, including cash and in-kind:
\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$61,468.63

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 Farmland-Riparian Interface Program (FRISP) was established in 2004, and has been associated with over 200+ ranch and/or farm operations throughout BC with emphasis on the Fraser Basin drainage. The majority of projects have involved riparian management issues as related to improved habitat values for salmon; halting farmland loss through streambank restoration; and conflict resolution between landowners, regulatory agencies, and other parties. FRISP's focus when becoming engaged in a process or assisting in a project is to fix the problem versus arguing over who should do it or who is to blame. FRISP endeavors to find reasons for stakeholders to do the right thing.

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

FRISP endeavors to involve participation in the joint planning of habitat restoration and agriculture land use activities between landowners, resource management agencies, and various community groups regarding farmland riparian habitat restoration planning. FRISP promotes the adoption of Beneficial Management Practices for riparian/salmon habitat improvement and sustainability. Proper land management requires that landowners understand riparian function and the negative impact that riparian mismanagement can have on an agriculture operation, a fishery, and general watershed health. Working directly with the landowners to supply technical services or workable suggestions has enabled FRISP to provide the reasoning behind the regulations, which brings about understanding, cooperation and often stewardship through actions.

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
<p>1. An increased number of farmland streambank restoration projects completed throughout BC, which includes enhancement and improved management of riparian areas and fish habitat.</p>	<p>The FRISP program has engaged 101+ on site visits in 2010/2011 to individual landowners throughout the interior of the Province supplying technical expertise to move restoration projects ahead. Due to FRISP's reduced budget, the lack of partnership funding for restoration projects and the lack of investment dollars by landowners, FRISP saw a reduction in overall projects completed as compared to previous years.</p> <p>6 new FRISP restoration projects involving 9 landowners implemented in 2010 / 2011 included sites on Blurton Creek, Cherry Creek, Bessette Creek, Slocan River, Sinmax Creek, and the South Thompson River. Total cash inputs to complete projects totalled \$182,833.00 with additional inkind contributions.</p> <p>A critical part of successful riparian restoration and mentoring is the monitoring of previously implemented sites to ensure that the bioengineering work is functioning and that the landowners are managing their riparian corridors to optimize the rehabilitation process. FRISP in its travels coordinates site visits with landowners whenever possible. This might involve a few minute visit while passing through to a several hour walk through and assessment of current conditions with the landowners. 61 sites were monitored or visited.</p> <p>FRISP conducted site visits with 24 new landowner interested in riparian management and possible future projects. These engagements or consultation allow FRISP to evaluate situations and propose possible solutions to identified issues. Each site has it's own challenges and potential for future projects.</p> <p>FRISP is currently working with 18 individual landowners on developing restoration projects. These include a variety of needed activities from conducting bank stabilization, riparian corridor fencing to planting. FRISP is developing</p>

	<p>prescriptions or best management practices in conjunction with landowners. The challenge of course is funding these projects. Partnerships are being developed between the Environmental Farm Plan, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, BC Hydro, Okanagan Waterboard, Central Okanagan Regional District and other sources to implement projects.</p>
<p>2. To promote cooperative planning of riparian habitat restoration and farmland activities between landowners, resource management agencies, and community groups thereby resolving conflict.</p>	<p>Lee Hesketh, program manager for FRISP donates his personal time to engage several processes that work to improve watershed management and improvements to habitat management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraser Basin Council sitting as director • Salmon Enhancement Habitat Advisory Board [SEHAB] representative for the Southern Interior • Agro-forestry technical committee <p>Technical working groups FRISP participated with providing critical insight to other stake holders on the views or interests of the ranching sector :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernization of the Water Act technical committee • Riparian Management Framework for Agriculture Technical Working Group • Okanagan Water Board Stewardship Committee • Duteau Creek Watershed Technical Committee • Wilsey Dam Fish Passage Committee • Coldstream Creek Water Quality Committee <p>Groups or organizations that FRISP has provided technical support for to improve stewardship capacity through supporting restoration processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society • Murray Creek Enhancement Society • Winter Feeding Systems Along Riparian Meadows Caribou Region Technical Committee • Lower Shuswap Stewardship Society • White Valley Community Resource Centre • Cherry Ridge Management Society • Salmon River Watershed Society • Bonaparte Watershed Society • Slocan Streamkeepers
<p>3. Increasing awareness of interactions between land</p>	<p>Livestock, Drinking Water and Fish brochure: Brochure was completed and published by FRISP in early March with official unveiling at the B.C. Interior Stewardship Conference. Brochure has been well received with requests now coming in from organizations wanting the PDF for reference on their web sights and brochures for handing out.</p>

<p><i>use and habitat values</i></p>	<p><i>Copy was sent with Ed Woo to New Zealand along with other materials developed by FRISP for his engagement with the Fish and Game Club working to restore Chinook Salmon in a river system in the southern part of the country impacted by heavy livestock use.</i></p> <p>BC Interior Flow Management Study:</p> <p><i>FRISP contracted with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to complete flow monitoring studies on a number of tributaries throughout the southern interior impacted by heavy irrigation withdrawal. Information collected will help in better understanding the dynamics at play with the individual systems.</i></p>
<p><i>4. To resolve conflict that may arise between resource agencies and landowners.</i></p>	<p><i>FRISP has been called upon by landowners and agency staff requesting assistance on conflict resolutions around water and land management issues.</i></p> <p><i>Woodward Creek project: Lee Hesketh has worked with water users on a small system to upgrade intakes and work on scheduling to resolve conflicts occurring between several neighbours.</i></p> <p><i>Creighton Creek / Bessette project: Working with irrigation licence holders develop workable management plan to prevent engagement by regulatory staff enforcing the Fisheries Act.</i></p> <p><i>FRISP has been requested to engage itself with several situations in the Lumby and Enderby areas involving runoff from manure being spread on snow or feed areas being located to close to creeks. FRISP has provided its brochures to the North Okanagan Dairy Association and offered assist with promoting greater awareness within their sector.</i></p> <p><i>FRISP has received complaints on 2 sites involving beef cattle in the area. While neither one was major, both were in non compliance with setback guidelines. Again brochures were offered and adjustments encouraged.</i></p> <p><i>A site involving sheep having major impacts on valuable spawning grounds is also being moved forward.</i></p> <p><i>FRISP has been engaged by people living on the Lower Mud River that have concerns that the Province wants to develop a community forest in their upper watershed in conjunction with the City of Prince George. The pine beetle infestation has removed 60% of the watershed. The plan is to remove the rest of the yimberbase in the watershed over the next 25 years with large tracts being developed for agricultural lands. FRISP has been requested to access the impacts to the rivers flow dynamics in the lower watershed. FRISP Has being working to protect 4 private bridges and over 800 meters of riparian restoration. The loss of any of these bridges will cause economic hardship as they are integral to each farms function and value.</i></p>

	<p><i>FRISP is helping them ask the right questions to insure that consideration is taken in recognizing that the removal of the timber base will have impacts.</i></p> <p><i>Often great ideas have consequences that haven't been considered. While I can understand the idea that the City and Province want to achieve, this is the time that they need to explain to the present residents the possible consequences.</i></p> <p><i>The situation on a small drainage system on the Upper Quesnel River is possible the best example of how FRISP can make a real difference to resolve conflicts. By working from neutral ground, FRISP was able to bring some common sense to a situation that had become a very expensive litigation process between neighbours who were once friends. FRISP is developing a stewardship plan based upon BMP's developed for the Environmental Farm Plan to move the focus to fixing the problem versus fighting over things.</i></p>
<p><i>An increased level of 'buy-in' for solving riparian management issues.</i></p>	<p><i>FRISP continues to make progress in building capacity within the agriculture sector for environmental sustainability. The request for FRISP's engagement with a number of processes looking at policy change within government around agriculture and its water use and land management hopefully means that FRISP's input is relevant.</i></p> <p><i>FRISP has also received positive feedback from landowners who have worked with FRISP on past projects. The attitude changes created by FRISP's involvement has created greater awareness and cooperation between landowners, environmental organizations and regulatory staff throughout the interior of the province.</i></p>
<p><i>A spreadsheet showing FRISP monies spent per individual project, other funds or in-kind values leveraged and total project cost. Other information including meetings, producer or other group workshops etc. will also be presented along with educational materials produced and/or disseminated.</i></p>	<p><i>See attached document</i></p>
<p><i>FRISP intends to organize a number of seminars, workshops and field days within the Fraser Basin and other areas during 2010/2011 to increase awareness</i></p>	<p><i>Presentations or tours provided by FRISP promoting cooperative planning of riparian habitat restoration and farmland activities between landowners, resource management agencies, and community groups:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Collaborative Water Governance Workshop with the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy [NRTEE] and the Okanagan Water</i>

and knowledge regarding riparian health and management.

- *Weather, Climate and Risk Prediction Workshop, Kelowna hosted by Environment Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*
- *Provincial Ranching Task Force*
- *BC Water Symposium hosted by UBC Okanagan*
- *Horsefly River - Horsefly Roundtable & Land Conservancy*
- *Cluclucz Lake Cattlemen's Association*
- *Vanderhoof Cattlemen's Association*
- *Southern Interior Livestock Association*
- *North Okanagan Livestock Association*
- *FSWP Stewardship meeting*
- *Bouchie Lake Stewardship Committee*
- *Murray Creek Restoration Committee*
- *7th Annual Interior Stewardship Conference*
- *Silver Hills Ranch 3rd annual Bio-diversity tour and field day*

Additional tours were provided to small individual groups representing regulatory agencies, environmental stewardship organizations and fellow landowners in and around Lumby.

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.

FRISP continues to develop stewardship capacity in the agriculture sector by enabling change through education, dialogue and technical support at key times. FRISP encourages people to find reasons to engage in solving problems versus reasons to create them. The continued demand for FRISP involvement from land owners, resource agencies and regulatory agencies is a positive indicator that FRISP is making a difference.

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><i>FRISP continues to engage First Nations through a number of collaborative processes. This includes sitting on committees with First Nations representation to working in partnership on projects.</i></p> <p><i>Most notable engagement would be the leadership roll that FRISP has played in having the fish passage issue on Wilsey Dam moved forward through working with both the Okanagan and Shuswap Nation Fisheries representatives on establishing a Fisheries Committee that is recognized by BC Hydro to move the restoration process ahead.</i></p> <p><i>2 meetings have been held with a wide variety of stakeholders represented. By having all interests working to make the process work, including the local community, landowners and the agriculture sector we will one day have the salmon returning to 45 km. of river. The goal is to have the fish spawned this coming spring being able to return to the upper river in the fall of 2005 . I have been working with Jamie Pepper and Howie Wright on this issue for sometime.</i></p> <p><i>jpepper@syilx.org HWright@Syilx.Org</i></p> <p><i>Tom Minor has continued working with the Shuswap people on completing projects on Bessette Creek through WCRC, and BC Hydro’s Bridge Coastal Restoration Compensation Program. Michele Walsh habitat biologist has been working with the Spullamcheen or Splats in people.</i></p> <p><i>mwalsh@shuswapnation.org</i></p>
<p>Active partnerships with one or more organizations.</p>	<p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada</p> <p><i>FRISP applied for funding with DFO [\$25000,00]in the spring of 2010. While it took until January 2011 to be approved, the funding allowed FRISP to engage a lot of projects and processes late in the year.</i></p> <p><i>FRISP conducted a flow monitoring study [9769.60] involving 5 tributaries in the southern interior being considered as requiring actions to protect fisheries values through use of the Fisheries Act. Tom Minor completed a thorough study and report which provides valuable insight into flow conditions so that ideas can be put forth before next summer.</i></p>
<p>Engagement and participation of diverse and under-represented groups.</p>	<p><i>FRISP has engaged a number of situations involving groups or individuals that haven’t been heard or represented:</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FRISP is assisting landowners on the Mud River engage resource agencies that are encouraging more logging in their upper watershed despite the fact that over 60% has already been logged and recent freshets dramatically altered.</i> • <i>2 landowners in the Chilcotin have been impacted by major clear cutting in their watershed. FRISP is making enquiries to make sure their concerns are being met by the forest company.</i>
<p><i>Relationship building, as a foundation for sustainable, enduring activities.</i></p>	<p><i>FRISP is continuing to promote stronger relationships by providing engagement with government, industry, first nations and environment groups. Having these sector have a greater understanding of the ranching sector and its needs allows for cooperation and positive dialogue.</i></p>
<p><i>Capacity building, including mentorship models, leadership training and skills development.</i></p>	<p><i>FRISP has always emphasized mentoring whether it's landowners, consultants or government officials.</i></p>
<p><i>Recognition and support of champions and their initiatives.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FRISP works to assist individuals to become champions of their cause by providing guidance and timely technical support.</i> • <i>The BCCA nominated myself to the British Columbia Agriculture Council for my work with promoting environmental stewardship.</i> • <i>FRISP also nominated Traci Bond for her work in the Quesnel area for the BC Interior Stewardship Award which she received in Lumby in late March.</i>
<p><i>Opportunities to influence policy and decision making,</i></p>	<p><i>FRISP has provided its voice to a number of processes that have influence on policy change :</i></p> <p><i>Federal :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy [NRTEE]</i> • <i>Salmon Enhancement Habitat Advisory Board</i> <p><i>Provincial:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fraser Basin Council</i> • <i>Riparian Management Framework for Agriculture Technical Working Group</i> • <i>Agroforestry technical committee</i> • <i>Modernization of the Water Act private sector technical committee.</i> <p><i>Regional:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Okanagan Water Board Stewardship Committee</i>

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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?

Although each project within the FRISP program has similarities, the solutions vary widely due to the different dynamics present in each situation. Critical for successful plans is the ability of FRISP advisors to understand the financial and personal abilities that individuals requesting assistance can provide. Compliance is achieved and often, active stewardship is created as the landowner is empowered through knowledge of land management strategies that are both effective and economical. The FRISP program identifies all of the variables involved to come up with a workable solution.

FRISP continues to develop stewardship capacity in the agriculture sector by enabling change through education, dialogue and technical support at key times. FRISP is presently developing several funding applications to other possible funding sources to maintain and expand the program. Dialogue with resource agencies over water quality and availability with resource agencies like DFO has several new initiatives looking at drought planning and the development of riparian management plans through possible funding support through the Environmental Farm Plan being worked upon.

FRISP also received funding this year from Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This successful partnership will be built upon with hopefully more funding support in the 2011 field season.

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. Don't count on Federal programs to support regional or Provincial initiatives around environmental sustainability.**
- 2. It is amazing what one can accomplish when one doesn't know what they can't do.**
- 3. Stay positive.**

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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.

FRISP is a program that works behind the scenes to enable groups or individuals to step up and address challenges for themselves. FRISP takes pride in having these individuals take recognition as they become empowered and complete projects or create change in their communities. .

The challenge for FRISP is that while we appreciate recognition for our efforts, the recognition sometimes brings higher expectations or more requests for assistance. While it would be nice to be able to help more people through FRISP, we are currently limited by budget and time.