

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



2010/11 FINAL REPORT

FSWP File Number*	FSWP 10 XX91 EE
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* Please use the FSWP File Number provided in previous FSWP project correspondence.

1. Project Information

1.1. Project Title

Three Rivers Join One Discovery Project

1.2. Proponent's Legal Name

Lillooet Naturalist Society

1.3. Project Location

Lillooet – Various locations within the area

1.4. Contact for this report

Name: Kim North

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1.5 Funding Amount

Original Approved Grant Amount:	Total FSWP Expenditures:	Final Invoice Amount:	Final Non-FSWP leveraging, including cash and in-kind:
\$34,455.00	\$34,455.00	\$6,891.00	\$34,259.44

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.

This was the second year of the Three Rivers Join One Discovery Project. Our goals were to promote an appreciation and sense of wonder for the environment and our local watersheds, pass on knowledge that would inspire people to take personal action in their lives and to promote a stewardship ethic within our community. We met the five objectives we had set for ourselves. We created nature programming that focused on the healthy components of watersheds and the interconnectedness between wildlife, plants and ourselves. All our programs provided participants with the chance to participate in activities where they learned more about our impacts on the environment and how we can live more sustainably. Our holistic approach to environmental education involves the integration of science, aboriginal cultural values, art and stewardship. We successfully hosted five seasonal community events, participated in existing community events to extend our reach, and delivered thirty-one nature programs to over 1,500 people. We visited two local preschools, two elementary and one high school, summer camps, Senior's Centre, Farmer's Market, Apricot Festival, Wild Salmon Café, Food Security Forum, May Day Parade, and the annual Christmas Craft Fair. Participants in our programs were given

hands-on skills and information in regards to our inter-connection to the environment, and what we can do to live “lighter” on the land. We involved many of the participants in current restoration work within the Seton and Fraser Watersheds where they were involved in wildlife monitoring, planting of native plant species, garbage pickup and salmon ceremonies. Our restoration crew was involved in all the outreach events and many of the volunteer opportunities and nature education days took place at our restoration and nursery sites, and within the Lower Spawning Channels and Seton River corridor.

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

The most appreciated component of our outreach work is the fact that we now offer environmental programming that was not currently available in Lillooet. Our programs have been well received by the community and in particular our local schools. By engaging youth, families, naturalists, First Nations and seniors, and by having a greater presence in our community, we have been able to share the beauty of our area, created some understanding around the importance of healthy habitats and our relationship with the natural world, and provided an avenue to become involved in stewardship work.

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. Nature Program Plan with promotion and evaluation methodology	A nature program schedule for the 2010-11 year was established, various participants contacted, resources collected, promotion and implementation completed.
2. Six Sensory boxes to put on the travelling trailer for participants to explore. These enhance and supplement the activity boxes designed in Year One	Additional sensory boxes, including ethnobotany displays, bird skulls, animal tracking molds, aquatic invertebrate and salmon items were stocked in the travelling trailer - participants enjoyed them.
3. Educational activities that include hands-on activities and/or demonstrations of three different themes focusing on human impacts and modeling sustainable living	This year we focused on three main themes: native plants, salmon and clean watersheds. We provided activities on native plants, their use in our ecology, importance to wildlife, to First Nations and explored their use in naturescaping home gardens. Our restoration work provided the tools to learn how to use native plants in gardens and how to incorporate habitat structures in the design. All our outreach events incorporated displays on salmon, including a giant salmon costume, and provided activities regarding healthy rivers for salmon and what we could do to ensure we protect our water. We organized a Watershed Art project that garnered 95 original watershed art pieces from community members that were then shown and auctioned at the Art Show.

<p>4. Three activities and/or demonstrations that are specific to local First Nations</p>	<p>All activities associated with native plants included demonstrations and displays on ethnobotany, including pine needle baskets, xsusum ice cream and maple whisks, pemmican, Indian hemp rope. Ten of our crew technicians and outreach workers were First Nation and they provided excellent role modeling in the field of resource management and restoration. Hand drumming occurred at two of our events, smudge sticks were given out at the Christmas Craft Fair and many of our outreach events served foods made from wild berries, plants and fish used by aboriginal peoples. The salmon pate made by Cayoose band member was very popular!</p>
<p>5. Participation in four seasonal community events</p>	<p>We hosted five seasonal community events – Nursery & Spawning Channel Open House, Grassland Ecology & Grass ID Workshop, Salmon in the Canyon Festival, Shoreline Cleanup, and Watershed Art Show & Sale. We participated in nine existing annual community events – Seedy Saturday, Wild Salmon Café, Earth Day events, May Day Parade, Lillooet Garden Tour, Enderby Fry Release, Apricot Festival, Christmas Craft Fair and Food Security Forum.</p>
<p>6. Contact/Partnership List for the delivery of the Nature Program</p>	<p>The contact list has been added to and partnerships extended. We no longer have to search out people interested in nature programs. Due to the success of our work, and its inclusive nature, we have had many requests from various organizations, schools and individuals to provide environmental and stewardship opportunities.</p>
<p>7. Delivery of the Nature Program to fifteen different groups in the community over a seven month period</p>	<p>We delivered our program to two preschools, two elementary and one high school, to home-schooled families, summer camp participants, Uwlimicux Youth Society, seniors, naturalists, artists, gardeners, UBC Forestry Program, District of Lillooet and to the many other citizens during community events.</p>
<p>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>	
<p>We were very effective in meeting our project objectives, as indicated above. Our most important indicator of success is the number of people now participating in our activities and helping in stewardship work, and the ongoing requests for our outreach services from various organizations, groups and individuals. Methods we have employed to evaluate the learning taking place is through art, video and audio recordings, evaluation and satisfaction surveys. We received three awards over the last year – Award for Ecosystems Excellence at the BC Interior Stewardship Workshop, May Day Parade Best Float and 1st place in the Camel Race (we met the criteria to enter our large salmon and it was a great opportunity to educate on spawning salmon and their plight). Another indication that our native plant and naturoscaping outreach is successful is the increased number of people wishing to use native plants in their gardens in an attempt to attract wildlife and to save water. We have also developed a relationship with the District of Lillooet and will be installing a native plant demonstration garden on Main Street at the REC Centre, and planting out Murray Park, the Library and Campground with native plants this coming spring and fall. We will be working with Lillooet Secondary School students to plant</p>	

these areas. The biggest challenge we have is keeping up with this demand! Generating evaluation and participation forms and having them completed at events is another challenge, and this is why we are moving away from paper evaluation forms and using alternative methods. The Watershed Art Show was an amazing display of people's love and concern for our watersheds. It was a great opportunity to explore what a watershed means to our community. Over 95 original art works were donated to the Watershed Art Project, and incorporated the beauty (rivers, ecosystems, fish, wildlife, plants) and some of the issues (pollution, dams, privatization). The artworks were then auctioned off at our Art Show and generated fundraising money for this coming year's outreach work.

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>The Lillooet Naturalist Society works in partnership with the Cayoose Creek St'at'imc. Two Cayoose Creek Band Councillors and one representative from the Upper St'at'imc Language, Culture & Education Society (USLCES) sit on our Advisory Committee. The majority of our crew technicians/outreach workers during 2010 were First Nation (11 First Nation/3 non-First Nation). The crew technicians were provided with hands-on training and mentoring in restoration, nursery and outreach work. They all had unique talents and knowledge to share with our participants. We are working on ensuring all place-names, animal/plant names in our displays shows the aboriginal name as well – we recently just installed an entrance sign at the restoration site which was designed by a local aboriginal artist and includes the First Nation name of the site. Most of our outreach events were attended by aboriginal participants, and we specifically invited First Nation communities to all our events and visited Titqet and Xaxlip communities, and hosted youth from these communities at our restoration site. Our office is located in the downstairs room at Cayoose Creek Indian Band.</p>
<p>Active partnerships with one or more organizations.</p>	<p>An Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from Cayoose Creek St'at'imc, DFO, MOE, District of Lillooet, USLCES, LNS and the community-at-large oversees our restoration and outreach work. We have the support of the District of Lillooet and the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and our local schools.</p>
<p>Engagement and participation of diverse and under-represented groups.</p>	<p>Our programs are open to all age and cultural groups. As is shown above we have successfully engaged a diverse group of organizations and individuals in our program – both as facilitators and as participants. The toughest groups to engage are high school students, but this year we built a wild plant garden with students from the Alternate Ed Program at the entrance to the school, and engaged them in the Watershed Art Project, Salmon in Canyon Festival and held a plant demonstration in the high school Library. We are currently working with the Biology and Recreation Management teacher to assist in putting together a program for an Outdoor Education Course for the 2011-12 school year. Another small group of people in our community are business people of East Indian and Korean backgrounds who rarely participate in community events, including our own.</p>

<p>Relationship building, as a foundation for sustainable, enduring activities.</p>	<p>During this past year, we have partnered and participated in a variety of activities with other groups in town: Salmon Talks, Lillooet Peace & Ecology Group, Lillooet Food Matters and Lillooet Garden Tour organizers, the Lillooet Farmers Market and newly formed Lillooet Invasive Species Council. Three BC organizations that we have working relationships with are BC Nature (assisted us in summer student applications and outreach ideas), the Rivershed Society of BC (Salmon in Canyon Festival & outreach assistance), and the Native Plant Society of BC (Grasslands Workshop).</p>
<p>Capacity building, including mentorship models, leadership training and skills development.</p>	<p>Our project’s main goal is to increase the appreciation and understanding of our watersheds, and to develop a stewardship ethic in the community. One way we do this involves accessing various funding sources to hire youth and other under-employed First Nation and community members in our restoration and outreach work. This year we hired 14 people from our community who were given specific training in plant ID, weed management strategies, plant propagation and planting techniques, vegetation and wildlife surveying. The crew was mentored throughout the year in all these tasks by the restoration manager and restoration biologist, various fish & wildlife biologists (from MOE and contractors). A large component of our restoration work involves outreach. Instead of hiring two specific people to run the entire Three Rivers program, we trained, mentored and provided outreach opportunities to all our crew members, with assistance from the facilitators. The volunteer opportunities we also organize provide skill development and understanding in stewardship work.</p>
<p>Recognition and support of champions and their initiatives.</p>	<p>We have recognized our restoration/outreach crew technicians as their contracts with us finished with interesting activities using the skills they acquired and with a “party”. We have sent out thank-you notes to volunteers who have assisted us at outreach events and to all the artists who participated in the Watershed Art Show. A large thank-you add was submitted to both local newspapers at the end of this restoration year.</p>
<p>Opportunities to influence policy and decision making,</p>	<p>Having local and regional governments and representation from DFO and MOE involved in our projects, provides the opportunity to discuss issues and create partnerships. The SLRD has assisted us in becoming more sustainable by providing funding to purchase GIS software so we can carry out our own mapping and has recommended us for implementing a soil test pilot project to look for alternatives to using peat moss in potting soils (bogs are threatened worldwide). The District of Lillooet has had a “water” issue in our community and our information in regards to naturescaping has created a partnership where they have decided to use native plants both in a newly created park and as a demonstration garden at the REC Centre which will promote xeriscaping. We believe by taking a pro-active approach, by keeping officials informed of our work, by demonstrating our effectiveness and our ability to provide a resource for our community, we can slowly influence the culture of our community.</p>

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?

We would like to thank the FSWP for funding the first two years of this project. With your help we have been able to create a strong presence in our community and are now offering the first focused environmental education program here. On this strong foundation, we would like to continue our work. With the success of the Watershed Art Show & Sale, with low fees charged to schools for our services, and with creative fundraising activities we plan to continue our work. Targeted grant requests will be made when specific new events are being planned. Representatives from a variety of organizations have been invited by our restoration advisory to set up a Lillooet Conservancy with the goal of working towards establishing a Nature Centre for Lillooet, and for protecting habitat in our region.

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. Stay positive – it takes time to change attitudes and actions – but it can be fun in the process.
2. Don't be afraid to ask for help from naturalists, artists, aboriginal leaders and professionals – if your request honors their interests and passions, they are usually very happy to assist at events or with advice.
3. It is great to have a place to store outreach bins that is easy to take on the road. Much easier to react quickly to requests, visit other sites, and to implement your own activities.

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.

We have communicated our project in a variety of ways.

- Presentations to Cayoose Chief & Council, at two District of Lillooet Council Meetings, to the SLRD, to Chamber of Commerce members, at the BC Interior Stewardship Workshops and at the Rivershed Forum.
- Advertisements and submitted articles in both the Bridge River Lillooet News, St'at'imc Runner
- Public Service Announcements on Radio Lillooet.
- Full-page monthly (almost!) Nature Nook Article for the Bridge River Lillooet News.
- Posters were put up around town, at the Friendship Centre, REC Centre and sent to First Nation bands
- Email invitations sent out to past participants of Lillooet Naturalist and Three Rivers events
- Posted invitations on the Lillooet listserv and the LNS website
- Produced two pamphlets – one on naturescaping and one outlining our services
- Brochures dropped off at the Lillooet Library on occasions.
- Participation in existing community events (May Day Parade, Farmers Market, Salmon Talks & Lillooet Food Matters events) provided a venue to discuss watershed ideas, issues and solutions with groups that do not always attend stewardship activities, and to increase presence in community.
- Spoke at Cohen Commission in Lillooet on engaging in citizen science activities around salmon with DFO.
- Engaging local artists and schools in production and installation of entrance signage
- The Watershed Art Show was one of the most successful projects that communicated the beauty and some of the issues around local watersheds.