

2010/11 FINAL REPORT

FSWP File Number*	FSWP 10 D 89 PG
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* Please use the FSWP File Number provided in previous FSWP project correspondence.

1. Project Information

1.1. Project Title

Xeni Gwet'in Chilko Roundtable Watershed Plan

1.2. Proponent's Legal Name

Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government

1.3. Project Location

Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area – Chilcotin – Cariboo Region – British Columbia

1.4. Contact for this report

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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:
\$45,000	\$45,000	\$27,000	\$10,065

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 Xeni Gwet'in Chilko River Watershed Roundtable brings citizens together with government agencies to discuss watershed issues that maintain, protect and enhance salmon stocks in the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker area and to develop a management structure. The Tsilhqot'in People of Xeni and the community they represent have made it abundantly obvious that they are the stewards of the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker area including the salmon that call the Chilko River watershed (including the Taseko River Watershed and part of the Fraser Basin Watershed) their home. The connection to their land is firmly supported by the late Justice J. Vickers in his Supreme Court of British Columbia 2007 decision relating to the Roger William rights and title case: *The Xeni Gwet'in are viewed amongst Tsilhqot'in people as the caretakers of the lands in and about Xeni...are charged with the sacred duty to protect the nen (land... Salmon are the keystone species of the Taseko and Chilko River watersheds and their value to the broader human marketplace is indisputable however their local value to the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation and the flora and fauna of the watershed rely on this truly sustainable resource is immeasurable. The Roundtable during this session, explored ecosystem based plans implemented currently in the province, had Herb Hammond who has been working with Xeni Gwet'in First Nations in developing their ecosystem-based land-use plan facilitate their two-day January session and are ready to initiate and expand their ecosystem based planning to the watershed in the next*

fiscal year. The challenges remain for the community to struggle with: lack of serious and sincere consultation by government; lack of scientific data for decision making; lack of land management funding for the watershed and ecosystem; inappropriate fishing regulations and inadequate monitoring; potential mining impacts; overharvesting of some fish species; declining fish stocks; effects of mountain pine beetle on the local area, wild fires (we've had three major fires in the area since 2003); impacts of climate change; lack of funding to ensure proper planning and data is available to implement ecosystem-based plan to name the more prominent watershed issues.

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

This project provides the funding to bring together community members to discuss important issues, provide recommendations and design an ecosystem based plan that is led by the stewards of the land – the Tsilhqot'in People of Xeni. Watershed issues ultimately lead to influences on the salmon and habitat and it is the hope of this planning process that recognition and assistance will be garnered to ensure one of the province's most important resources is managed sustainably. The Government of Canada has recognized the benefits of ecosystem based planning through Fisheries and Oceans Canada and has commented on their website: "The ecosystem based management approach is critical to ensure sustainable use of natural resources providing ecosystem goods and services" (FOC). Now if we could only convince local reaches of government of the benefits of this healthy salmon resource that benefits First Nations, commercial and sport fisherman from Chilko to the rearing grounds in the North Pacific we can initiate and implement the process within the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker area and one of BC's top Salmon bearing systems in 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. Management Plan and structure will be developed to further enhance the Xeni Gwet'in Quality Waters Management Plan. This will include identifying the local issues and an action plan to address them.	Local issues and action plan developed and reported on.
2. Investigate ecosystem based plans that are effectively being used in other jurisdictions. Discuss these with the Roundtable and provide direction n how the Roundtable could be implement this in their watershed.	Investigation completed, discussion undertaken and input incorporated into report.
3. Design an overview framework of an ecosystem based plan for the Chilko River watershed and the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area.	Plan to initiate ecosystem based planning and implement in the Chilko River watershed within the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker area.

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.

The Xeni Gwet'in Chilko Roundtable process successfully brings people together with government agencies to discuss watershed issues that maintain, protect and enhance salmon stocks in the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker area by undertaking 3 meetings (4 days total), generated a project report and recorded minutes and attendance. Ecosystem based plans in the province were investigated and reviewed by roundtable participants to determine how to effectively move forward. Document produced results of investigative work and information collected for review by the Roundtable. Recommendations and action plan identified in project report to provide a framework for an ecosystem based plan for the Chilko Watershed within the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker area .

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.

Engagement of First Nations. Please specify who, and in what capacity.	First Nations led the process and are willing to share information and reports with others.
Active partnerships with one or more organizations.	Xeni Gwet'in has a solid relationship with local non-First Nation businesses and community members and welcome their participation in planning throughout the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker area.
Engagement and participation of diverse and under-represented groups.	First Nations and remote community members including women were participants in the planning table.
Relationship building, as a foundation for sustainable, enduring activities.	This process continues to build relationships amongst the community and its neighboring nations and communities.
Capacity building, including mentorship models, leadership training and skills development.	Xeni Gwet'in community member is hired to work with project team and builds organizational skills, strengthens their community skills, gains knowledge about local technical as well as local traditional ecological knowledge. Community members are encouraged to attend meetings and provide input and knowledge.
Recognition and support of champions and their initiatives.	Xeni Gwet'in has been very proactive in collecting data to support planning efforts for sustainability.
Opportunities to influence policy and decision making,	Data collected through the Roundtable process helps the community to determine course of actions and navigate towards identifying responsible agencies (even though those agencies may change names and responsibilities at an ever increasing and alarming rate)

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?

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. **Importance of capacity building at community level**
2. **Benefits of sustainable and ecologically sound planning**
3. **Identifying weaknesses in public policy, monitoring and implementation at the community level**

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.

Reports are available and will be available on Xeni and partners websites. Meeting was held following January Roundtable meeting with Tsilhqot'in National Government Stewardship Council on January 20, 2011 (reps from six Tsilhqot'in communities) to present and update Nation on Xeni Gwet'in's ecosystem based plan. Also at the January 18 & 19, 2011 session, people participated from the Carrier-Chilcotin Tribal Council which is one of the three tribal councils in the region.

We invited and hosted two people (one from Fraser Basin Council and one from Pacific Salmon Foundation) in September 2010 on an inclusive tour of the Chilko Watershed within the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker area where they met project participants, leadership and community partners working on the Xeni Gwet'in Quality Waters Management Planning.