



For Immediate Release

July 18, 2011

Salmon Habitat in the Thompson will Benefit from Grants of \$224,000

As dedicated stewards prepare to host their annual "Finding Common Ground" field day and Salmon Enhancement Habitat Advisory Board education forum in Lumby on Friday, community groups are receiving funding to continue their critical salmon conservation work. The Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program (FSWP) will grant a total of \$224,000 from the provincial Living Rivers Trust Fund to eight projects in the Thompson region. FSWP is co-managed by Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Fraser Basin Council.

Most of the projects will directly serve to improve salmon habitat. Through their Farmland – Riparian Interface Stewardship Program, BC Cattlemen's Association will assist the agricultural community and stewardship groups with riparian enhancement and restoration projects, with issues of waste management, water quality and water quantity and with mediation for issues that arise with regulatory agencies. Both the Boothroyd and the Cayoose Creek Indian Bands, along with Bonaparte Watershed Stewardship Society, will improve fish habitat at priority sites in their watersheds. Nicola Tribal Association and Salmon River Watershed Society will maintain and monitor fish habitat restoration that was completed over many years.

Two other projects study habitat issues. Thompson River University will investigate the behaviour of invasive yellow perch, which both eat juvenile salmon and compete with salmon for food, and methods of controlling them. Secwepemc Fisheries Commission will conclude their 5-year study on cool groundwater's contribution to coho habitat, a study with implications for groundwater management.

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 Thompson region 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 for a list, a map and descriptions of projects funded by FSWP throughout the Fraser Basin over its six years of operation.

-end-

For more information about the "Finding Common Ground" field day, or about the BC Cattlemen's program, contact Lee Hesketh at Silverhillsranch@aol.com.

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 or 604.664.7664.