

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



2011/12 FINAL REPORT

FSWP File Number* 11 55 XX HWRS

* 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

BCCA Program Delivery Inc.

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:
50,000	49,100	14,100	22,181

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 stream bank 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
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist with completing at least 10 habitat restoration projects throughout the Fraser Basin 2. Complete or assist landowners with riparian management plans through partnering with the Environmental Farm Plan 	<p>FRISP has been involved with the completion of 8 individual habitat restoration projects this past year. While this didn't meet our original objective of 10, given the challenges financially with offering technical assistance, I am very proud of the works that were completed.</p> <p>FRISP has continued to work with landowners throughout the interior of the Province. Between individual landowners and the group planning process initiative from the Environmental Farm Plan, more than 35 individual sites were identified and considered for remediation in 2012.</p>
<p>FRISP is available to agencies requiring mediation around environmental issues on agricultural properties. These agencies would include the Farm Industry Review Board and Fisheries and Oceans Canada Assist with remediation plans between landowners partnering with programs such as the Environmental Farm Plan</p>	<p><i>FRISP completed remediation of a site involving Fisheries and Oceans Canada enforcement staff. Unauthorized works led to a investigation but problems were addressed through working with landowner and his neighbours to restore a steep cut bank that had potential for impacting valuable spawning areas downstream.</i></p>

	<p><i>FRISP engaged several landowners on DFO's request identified as not complying with feed ground regulations or having impacts on small valuable tributaries that in past supported healthy salmonid populations. These have all led to positive dialogue and discussion of possible remediation works and further uptake of the EFP program by these landowners.</i></p>
<p>Remain engaged with current watershed plans being developed throughout the Fraser Basin</p>	<p><i>Shuswap Area:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Involved with the Shuswap Watershed Planning process being coordinated with the North Okanagan Regional District</i> • <i>Engaged with BC Hydro around management of their Hydro reservoirs and possible building of a fish ladder. Donating time representing local agriculture interests as changes could impact irrigation and flooding for landowners on the Upper and Middle Shuswap River.</i> • <i>Dialogue with DFO over maintaining stream flows in the Bessette and Duteau drainage basins</i> <p><i>Okanagan Area:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Providing input with the Okanagan Water Board Stewardship Committee on agriculture issues and the concept of an Agriculture Water Reserve.</i> • <i>Working with the Forest and Range branch on range management issues and initiatives like silvo-pasture and riparian corridor BMP's. Participated with workshop looking at increasing forage production and addressing riparian management.</i> • <i>Working with Coldstream Creek Restoration Committee around livestock impacts to local creek</i> • <i>Working with Greater Vernon Water Services around managing livestock around their drinking water reservoirs on the Duteau Plateau .</i> <p><i>Kamloops / North and South Thompson:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dialogue with Fisheries and Oceans Canada habitat restoration staff around streamlining permit process. Will be running several projects</i>

under their directives.

- Have been requested by DFO to provide mitigation services with several landowners identified as possible being not in compliance with feed ground guidelines or having impacts on riparian or spawning areas.*
- Participated with interior Fraser Basin Council planning process representing agriculture interests.*

Merritt Area:

- Involved with 8 individual riverbank restoration projects. I have applied for funding under the new Group Planning process being offered by Environmental Farm Plan*

Williams Lake, Alexis Creek, Horsefly, and Likely area:

- Assisted landowners and Ducks Unlimited Canada with a application to the Pine Beetle Action Committee to get funds to complete a watershed assessment on the Big Creek watershed that has been impacted by beetles and heavy logging.*
- Assisting 6 landowners in the Horsefly area address riparian issues. Have completed application for the EFP group funding process for funding to develop watershed management strategy.*
- Engaged with landowners on Choate Creek in Likely address problems with erosion and bedload movement. Working to bring Ministry of Transport and EFP into the mix to help pay for restoration costs.*

Prince George:

- Working with Murray Creek Restoration Society in Vanderhoof providing direction on working with local ranching community. Group has been successfully assisting ranchers in the area complete restoration projects.*
- Working with the Mud River Watershed Roundtable to address issues with Jet boats and heavy erosion on the Mud River corridor.*

3.2 Please evaluate the EFFECTIVENESS of your project in achieving Project Objectives, using the specific measures of success identified in your proposal. 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 project outcomes that relate to one or more of the following strategic approaches (Section 2.1 of RFP; section 8 of detailed proposal template), and include specific examples.

Engagement of First Nations. Please specify who, and in what capacity.

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.

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.

This fish passage committee continues to work with the fish passage framework. 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. I have been working with Jamie Pepper and now Shailgh Lawrence on this project.

*jpepper@syilx.org
HWright@Syilx.Org*

Tom Minor through FRISP assistance 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. The program completed restoration of Harris Creek this past summer and just recently received notification of funding for further works to be completed this summer.

mwalsh@shuswapnation.org

	<p><i>I also sit as a provincial and regional director to Fraser Basin Council which has strong first nation representation from throughout the Fraser watershed.</i></p>
<p>Active partnerships with one or more organizations.</p>	<p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada</p> <p><i>FRISP has partnered with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to deliver , “Promotion of Agricultural Environmental Stewardship and Fish Habitat Restoration in the BC Interior” which nicely falls in line with FRISP objectives. This was a \$10000 contract.</i></p> <p><i>Environmental Farm Plan</i></p> <p><i>FRISP has contracted with the Environmental Farm Plan to provide assessment of projects completed. While this is simple monitoring to ensure completion of projects, the support allowed for a reduction or sharing of travel cost,s allowing for FRISP to provide additional extension services while on the road.</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 being logged and recent freshets dramatically altered. FRISP is currently looking at the EFP group planning process considered for this watershed.</i> • <i>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. The Forest Practices Board has completed investigations recognizing impacts to watershed health but recommendations have fell on deaf ears. Issue has been taken up recently in the BC legislator by NDP agriculture critic pointing out the lack of process created by the current Forestry Stewardship Plans.</i> <p><i>FRISP assisted Ducks Unlimited with a application for \$28000 to the Pine Beetle Action Committee and to the EFP group planning process to complete base line hydrological study that will allow for answers to be found to conflict.</i></p>
<p>Relationship building, as a foundation for sustainable, enduring activities.</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>This included making presentations to the Liberal and NDP caucuses in Victoria in early June.</i></p> <p><i>Meeting with Minister Don McRae from Ministry of Agriculture discussing protection of water resources and need for food security.</i></p> <p><i>Met with Donna Barnett on watershed management issues in the Caribou area.</i></p> <p><i>Had meeting with John Slater discussing Water Act modernization process.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Have worked and donated time with Pacific Salmon Foundation and Fraser Basin Council with their implementation of the Salmon Safe Program. Attended Vancouver launch of program.</i> <i>• Donated time to the Agroforestry technical committee sitting on technical review committee.</i> <i>• Donated time as a director to Fraser Basin Council representing the Agriculture sector while sitting on the water stewardship committee.</i> <i>• Donated time as Salmon Enhancement Habitat Advisory Board representative for the southern interior. Position allows me to represent the volunteer community including the ranching sector interests over issues related to interior stream and rivers with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.</i> <i>• Provided input to the Province for the Water Act Modernization process. Also presented at Vancouver forum sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund and the Province on conservation flows.</i> <i>• Participated with the Okanagan Water Board Stewardship Committee looking at the establishment of an Agriculture Water Reserve.</i> <i>• Participated with FSWP workshops dealing with watershed management and Environmental Stewardship.</i>
	<p><i>FRISP has always emphasized mentoring whether it's landowners, consultants or government officials. FRISP has continued to promote understanding by hosting or presenting at field days and workshops throughout the interior.</i></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• FRISP hosted the Silver Hills Ranch 4th Annual Biodiversity tour in July with 90 guests attending.</i> <i>• FRISP hosted the Salmon Enhancement Habitat Advisory Board in Lumby and provided a education forum at the ranch.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FRISP hosted a field day for Agrolgists with the Federal Provincial governments along with several international guests in August at the ranch looking at rangeland management.</i>
<p>Recognition and support of champions and their initiatives.</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>It was recently announced that my families ranch has been awarded the BC Cattlemen’s Environmental Stewardship Award to be presented in late May in Fort Saint John</i> • <i>FRISP nominated Tom Minor and Gay Jewitt for the Interior South FSWP salmon hero’s award</i> • <i>FRISP co-nominated Harold Ridgeway with the Bonaparte River Roundtable for the Interior Stewardship award.</i>
<p>Opportunities to influence policy and decision making,</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>Salmon Enhancement Habitat Advisory Board , I represent southern interior on 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> • <i>Provided talk on conservation flows to WWF/Provincial Govt. hosted forum in Vancouver</i> <p><i>Regional:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Okanagan Water Board Stewardship Committee</i>
<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?</p>	
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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 funding applications to other possible funding sources to maintain 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 from the Environmental Farm</i></p>	

Plan group planning process.

FRISP is also continuing it's work or dialogue with Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff. This successful partnership will hopefully continue possible with more funding support for work in the 2012 field season.

FRIPS is currently discussing funding support through ARDCORP to provide consultative services to farm plan advisors addressing riparian issues. Hopefully a contract will be developed soon.

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**
- 2. Stay positive**
- 3. Stay positive**

3.7 REQUIRED: Attach all DOCUMENTATION of Final Deliverables, and LIST attachments in Section 8. 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.

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.

5.1 If you have had any significant differences in spending in comparison to your original budget, please provide an explanation. Significant differences could include costs that exceed 20% of a line item or budget category (labour, materials, administration), and new items or services that were not originally budgeted, exceeding 10% of total FSWP contribution.

5.2 Please describe all non-FSWP project contributions, cash and in-kind. ATTACH letters of confirmation for non-FSWP contribution sources (cash and/or in-kind).

Non-FSWP Contribution Sources	Letter of Confirmation Attached (Y/N)	Cash (\$)	In-Kind (\$)	Total (\$)

6. Additional Comments

OPTIONAL: Provide any additional comments or recommendations for future efforts and suggestions for helping partners to meet the goals of the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program.

FSWP has played a key roll in sustaining FRISP financially especially over the past few years when core funding has not been available through other sources. Your staffs support and enthusiasm for making a difference by supporting FRISP has made it a pleasure to work with your program. It is hoped that this is not the end but only a change for all of us in making this little planet a better place to exist!