

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



2009/10 FINAL REPORT

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| 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

Fraser River, Bridge River, Seton River, Cayoosh Creek. Also at local schools, community events and restoration site.

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: |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| \$35,460.00 | \$35,460.00 | \$55,557.62 | \$20,097.62 |
| <i>\$1,076.14 extra was provided specifically for signage</i> | | | |

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 Three Rivers Join One Discovery Project is an educational hands-on project that focuses on the four major watersheds of our area: Bridge, Seton, Cayoosh and Fraser. The project aim was to promote an understanding of watersheds and their relationship to the health of the Fraser River, wildlife and salmon traveling these waterways. By generating a sense of wonder of the natural world and rivers of our area, and their interconnectedness, we believe the stewardship ethic within our community will be enhanced. In collaboration with various community members and organizations, we developed seventeen hands-on activities that focused on different aspects of our watersheds to be used at riverside and other community events. We incorporated cultural knowledge, art, science, games and stewardship activities for each event. We then used the expertise within our community to help us facilitate the project. St'at'imc elders and leaders, artists, biologists and naturalists, provided their time to make this project a success. A greater commitment to sustainable living and stewardship was promoted by implementing demonstrations and seventeen hands-on activities at seventeen events along each of the aforementioned rivers. A traveling trailer was purchased, and painted with a mural, to

house all of the materials and resources for the project to take to different locations. Our goal to increase our presence in our community, and to share a vision for sustainable living within our watersheds, was achieved. We traveled to eight different river sites and five community areas to hold events and in total had over 750 participants who took home a bit more knowledge of our rivers and their importance to wildlife and themselves.

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

The connections and activities developed for this program have laid a solid foundation for future years. Our most compelling outcome is the creation of this environmental education program, focusing on watersheds, for our community – the only environmental education program in Lillooet. It not only reflects our rich First Nations culture but the wealth of knowledge in our local community. It is a program that is designed to incorporate many methods of sharing information: artistic, scientific, cultural, and hands-on stewardship. It is a mobile program organized into a traveling trailer so it can be delivered in different locations, which increases our presence in the community.

3. Final Project Results and Effectiveness

3.1 Copy EXPECTED OUTCOMES from your detailed proposal and insert into this section. Add additional rows as needed. Then please list the FINAL OUTCOMES (the tangible end products resulting from this work) associated with expected outcome.

If FINAL OUTCOMES differ from the original EXPECTED OUTCOMES please describe why, and the implications for the project.

| EXPECTED OUTCOMES | FINAL OUTCOMES |
|---|---|
| 1. Working relationships developed and contacts made with the local First Nation communities whose territory the four rivers run through; and within the local schools and other community organizations. | 1. Working relationships developed with four First Nations communities including the Lillooet Tribal Council. We also worked with all of the schools and many community organizations. <i>See attached contact list.</i> |
| 2. Outfitted travelling “Rivershed” trailer that promotes an understanding of watersheds, and encourages behavioural change through a local and innovative public awareness campaign. | 2. The trailer has been painted and outfitted with shelving and a rechargeable battery for a laptop and TV. A project logo has been designed and painted on the trailer as well as an interactive mural that focuses on watershed awareness. |
| 3. Sixteen hands-on active educational “kits” with related resources and equipment and volunteer contacts, assembled which focus on local issues and provides a “think globally, act locally” mindset. | 3. There are seventeen hands-on activities in bins that are housed in the trailer. The activities combine cultural, sustainable living and watershed education. Supporting resources and tips are included. |
| 4. Sixteen bi-weekly <i>Discovery</i> events completed, with increased understanding of watersheds and local and regional issues. The Nature Map will reinforce this understanding. | 4. Seventeen events were held including community mapping activities to increase the understanding of watersheds and reinforce local issues. Each event had a different theme and highlighted stewardship and personal sustainable activities that could be done at home and around our community. A 3-D model of our watersheds was created specifically for this project. |

5. Increased participation in action plans and stewardship activities by community organizations and individuals, monitored by participation surveys.

5. It was clear that we engaged new and more people in stewardship activities as well as increased their awareness of watershed impacts and ways to live sustainably. Our surveys did not indicate the numbers but observations and participation tracking did.

3.2 Please evaluate the EFFECTIVENESS of your project in achieving Project Objectives. Please identify the indicators you have used to measure the effectiveness of your project. Please include any notable successes or challenges.

Overall, we believe that our program was very effective in achieving our designated objectives. As outlined in section 3.1, it is clear to see we were able to accomplish each expected outcome with minimal challenges.

In order to track the progress of project objectives and monitor our goals, we developed a project schedule, task spreadsheets, sign-up sheets for events and an evaluation plan (*refer to Supporting Documents*). These planning tools were essential for keeping track of the indicators of success toward achieving our objectives and goals.

The project schedule, task spreadsheets and sign-up sheets tracked numerical indicators such as number of participants, number of events and number of activities including themes and topics. The evaluation plan outlined how we would collect behavioural and opinion-based information through questionnaires. The questionnaires were trying to find out if people were changing their lifestyle toward a more sustainable one and being more involved in stewardship activities as a result of the program. They also asked questions about event agendas and process so we could improve on timing, activities and delivery.

Our most notable success is the creation of a watershed education program for our community with supplies and resources in a traveling trailer ready to be used. In addition, we are proud of the First Nations content of the activities and event themes. For example, we focused on many traditional foods including harvesting methods. The inclusion of First Nations, artists, youth, scientists and Naturalists is another success. These people were ready and willing to share their knowledge and participate in the facilitation of our events. Lastly, witnessing the sense of wonder and excitement of the participants (over 750) contributed to the overall feeling of success and achievement of the program.

Although our challenges were few, we did face them and made minor adjustments. The scope of the project was originally too large so we did our best to incorporate all of the components (art, science and stewardship) and scaled back on the creation of a community map. Instead we did community mapping activities and created a framework with recommendations for a future community mapping process (*see supporting documents*).

Many participants in our riverside events were already working towards living sustainably and some had participated in stewardship activities before. It was a challenge to attract a broader audience with different mindsets. Promotion of the riverside events was a significant portion of the facilitators' workload. Participating in existing community events provided increased exposure to a broader range of people. We plan to take the program to different community groups next year to access an even broader audience than we attracted this year.

The collection of information via questionnaires was very difficult. This method is tricky enough getting wording and questions formulated - getting people to fill them out was even harder. In the Evaluation Report (*supporting document*), we recommend that interviews be used if necessary to collect information and opinions from participants - again personal connections is what we learned works best.

The evacuation of our town due to forest fires as well as cold temperatures in December caused two of our events to be rescheduled.

3.3 Please attach all DOCUMENTATION of Final Outcomes, and LIST attachments here. These may include technical reports, maps, photos, evidence of communications, lists of meeting participants, etc.

See Attached List Below

3.4 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?

Year one was spent creating activities, acquiring supplies and implementing riverside events on our four major watersheds - where community members came to us. Now that we have the traveling trailer and the bins containing the hands-on activities, we would like to build on the themes that we have created and take the trailer to the people.

We know that many of the riverside participants were already engaged in some form of sustainable living practices, and that there are many people that have not heard about sustainable living or watershed information. In order to reach a broader audience, we believe that connecting with many community groups and holding smaller workshops/events will enhance our efforts. We will travel to the various St'at'imc communities, participate in more community events, and visit schools, youth groups, day camps, senior groups and other local organizations.

We plan to create more activity bins and demonstrations using science, art and local First Nations culture. Tactile activity bins will also be created and housed on the trailer so that "bits" of nature can be touched and explored by simply opening the lid.

Lillooet has a wealth of people that have brought knowledge to our events. This knowledge includes, culture, myth, science, nature and art. We will continue to build connections and invite these people to participate in our program so they can share their knowledge. It has been easy to connect with people and they have been very willing to donate their time, knowledge and resources.

3.5 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. Create hands-on fun activities that incorporate art, science and aboriginal content. This provides a holistic approach to learning about watersheds and connects with a diverse audience. We networked and promoted the program throughout the community and online so that everyone knew it was an all-ages event. We designed each event to provide activities and information that appealed to kids and adults.
2. Have an overall plan as well as evaluation plan and review it throughout the project. Ensure that your goals and objectives are SMART – Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely.
3. Make connections within your community and First Nations and build on those relationships. Take advantage of existing events in your community (i.e. May Day Parades, Children's Festivals, School year-end events, summer music festivals, day camps etc) and participate in them. The organizers of these events appreciate the involvement and it is a chance to promote your program and reach a large audience. Use the connections to network in your community and invite local experts, artists, and naturalists (etc) to share their knowledge on a variety of subjects – they usually have a passion for the topic that interests them, and that shines through when they share it.

THREE RIVERS JOIN ONE ATTACHMENTS

1. Confirmation Letters from Other Funders
2. Promotion
 - 2.1 Example of Posters and Handouts
 - 2.2 Radio Lillooet – Interview Questions & Picture
 - 2.3 Articles in St'at'imc Runner
 - 2.4 Articles in Bridge River Lillooet News
 - 2.5 Examples of monthly Nature Nook Articles
 - 2.6 See www.lillooetnaturalistsociety.org You will see event promotions, FSWP logo placement, and a link to student video taken during school stewardship education day.
3. Binder Documents (*one example that focuses on our last event, but there are similar documents for all activities and events that took place over the year*).
 - 3.1 Theme and Objective Sheet
 - 3.2 Event Agenda
 - 3.3 Introduction Prompt Sheet
 - 3.4 Example of Participant Sign-in Sheet
 - 3.5 How to be prepared for outdoor winter activities Info Sheet
 - 3.6 How to use a compass Info Sheet
 - 3.7 Make a Treasure Map Activity Sheet
 - 3.8 Make a Track Station Activity Sheet
4. Evaluation
 - 4.1 Evaluation Plan
 - 4.2 Evaluation Report
5. Community Mapping
 - 5.1 Framework
 - 5.2 Pictures
6. Pictures
 - 6.1 Watershed trailer pictures
 - 6.2 Example of Watershed Info Boards displayed at riverside events
 - 6.3 Activity Components - Pictures
 - 6.4 PowerPoint presentation