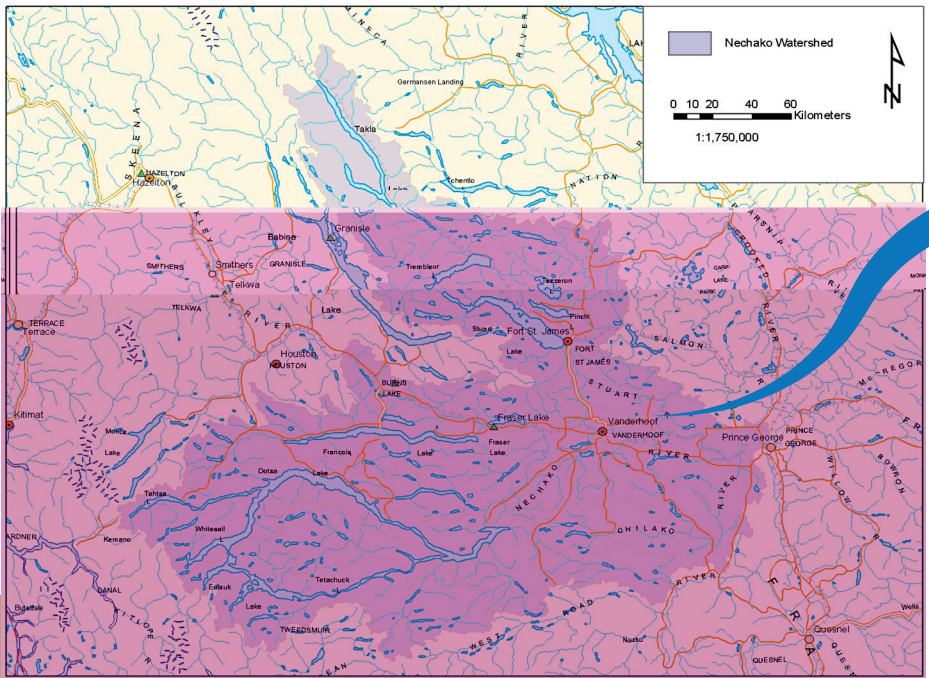


# NECHAKO ENVIRONMENT & WATER STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

*A proposed society for the betterment of water resources in the  
Agricultural Belt of the Nechako Valley.*

The Murray Creek Rehabilitation Committee has been very successful. Based on this success many of the partners are in discussions to develop a similar expanded program to cover all tributaries in the Nechako River watershed that fall within the Nechako Agricultural Belt.





**The vision of the Nechako Environment & Water Stewardship Society (NEWSS) is to act in an advisory capacity for both landowners and government, and will serve as a vehicle for the delivery of incentives and investments into the Nechako Agricultural Belt.**

*Some of the primary objectives of the NEWSS may include:*

- Develop a program to administrate a “Gold Label” certification standard.
- Facilitate the rehabilitation of streams that flow through the Nechako Agricultural Belt.
- Identify opportunity to recognize agriculture producers that have farm stewardship plans in place and apply best management practices on the land with stewardship as an objective.
- Assist government to meet its stated vision for a cleaner and healthier environment.
- Facilitate and participate in environmental stewardship education including stream rehabilitation, water quality, Nechako white sturgeon, and salmon.
- Collaborate to facilitate the mapping of the aquifer under the Nechako Agricultural Belt to compliment the rehabilitation of those streams and to prepare us for the changes coming.



# Murray Creek Rehabilitation Project



The over arching goal of the Murray Creek Rehabilitation Project is to facilitate the process of the agricultural community voluntarily working towards water stewardship along Murray Creek.

Over the past two years the MCRP has secured \$172,500 in funding and in-kind contributions. These funds have gone towards educational field trips for 500 elementary and secondary school students, public education, and research (UNBC Graduate study in Community & Watershed Health), as well as a number of in-stream works projects including fencing off the stream, off channel watering, bioengineering to stop erosion, replanting the riparian zone, and replacing inadequate culverts to be fish friendly.

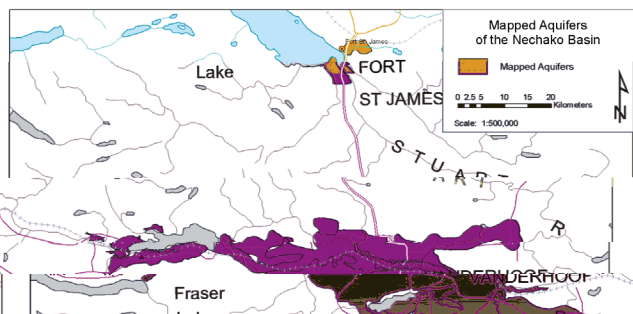
The Murray Creek Rehabilitation Project partners are Murray Creek landowners, BC Cattleman's Association, Farmland - Riparian Interface Stewardship Program (FRISP), Regional Cattleman's Association, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako, District of Vanderhoof, Rio Tinto Alcan, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Fraser Salmon and Watershed Program, Avison Management Services, and School District #91.

## Possible NEWSS study: **Understanding the relationship between the aquifer and the stream: Aquifer Study**

Lying under a large portion of the Nechako Valley are a number of underground lakes called aquifers.

The water in aquifers is referred to as groundwater. We understand that these aquifers are important in supplying water to rivers, ponds and lakes, but also to our homes and agricultural operations.

The Aquifer Study would investigate base flow separation for surface water sources thereby determining how much of the water that we see in any particular stream is being contributed from groundwater and how much is from surface run-off. Additionally, how does this compare with streams who's watersheds are generally forested and have intact riparian zones.



Successful marketing of farm and ranch products from the Nechako Valley in the years ahead may well be enhanced by the development of a strategy that incorporates farm and water stewardship practices that protect water and the surrounding environment.

*Things for ranchers and farmers within the Nechako Agricultural Belt to consider:*

**Develop a comprehensive Environmental Farm Plan (EFP).**

**Use the EFP as guidance to make changes that can positively affect your stream or watershed.**

**The Nechako Environment & Water Stewardship Society will provide the building blocks to support public awareness in their water security, and investigate the potential marketing and/or funding opportunities from having an EFP and watershed plan.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

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