

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



2010/11 FINAL REPORT

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| FSWP File Number* | FSWP 10 D 10 EE |
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* Please use the FSWP File Number provided in previous FSWP project correspondence.

1. Project Information

1.1. Project Title

Northern Fraser Youth Capacity Building for Watershed Governance Initiative

1.2. Proponent's Legal Name

Fraser Basin Council Society

1.3. Project Location

Northern Fraser (Upper Fraser and Cariboo-Chilcotin Regions)

1.4. Contact for this report

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| Name: Terry Robert / Jillian Merrick | Phone: (250) 612-0252 | Email: trobert@fraserbasin.bc.ca |
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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: |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 37,850 | 36,870.19 | 6590.19 | 33,623.29 |

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 project was designed to build the capacity of youth from communities in the Northern Fraser region to participate and take a leadership role in raising the profile of salmon and watershed sustainability. The project engaged more than sixty youth in total, the majority aged sixteen to twenty-four, in addition to several younger children and many adults and elders from across the Northern Fraser region. Six youth were engaged in the project planning and design, twenty-eight youth attended a day long regional dialogue on salmon sustainability, fifteen youth participated in a regional watershed mentorship program, and fifteen youth participated in community awareness and storm drain painting event in Prince George. Many additional youth were made aware of the initiatives and its outcomes through media coverage, peer dialogue and youth-authored blogging of experiences in the mentorship program.

Partnerships with eight stewardship groups, three First Nations groups, and one local government were established or enhanced, and the majority of organizations participating in the dialogue and mentoring program indicate a willingness to continue to develop the relationships built with youth during the initiative. Many

stewardship organizations were able to further and complete much-needed projects with the assistance of youth volunteer hours.

Several youth played a direct role in the governance of stewardship organizations and their keystone projects by participating in steering committees and board of directors meetings. Almost all youth participating in the mentoring program reported gaining valuable experiences, and the opportunity to connect with like-minded peers from across the region and the province in an open and supportive environment proved the most valuable for many.

Finally, the critically low levels of youth awareness and engagement in salmon and watershed health issues in the region were improved. By meeting youth where they were at, the program effectively inspired youth to think critically about the effects of their own actions on the watershed and the ways they can lead and inspire change to make their communities more sustainable.

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

With so many components to the program and such a multitude of ways to participate, there were many different activities that participants found to be extremely valuable. The program coordinator's favourite piece: the Late Night Show with Coho O'Brien.

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 |
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| <p>1. Project Learnings and Recommendations Summary Report: The outcomes and learnings from the dialogue on salmon and watershed sustainability will be developed into a recommendations summary report which can be utilized by existing governance and decision-making initiatives such as the Collaborative Water Governance Initiative, local governments, Regional Sustainability Committees and stewardship organizations.</p> | <p>Complete – Attached: <i>Youth Dialogue on Salmon and Watershed Sustainability: Project Learnings and Summary Report</i></p> |
| <p>2. Effective Approaches to Youth Engagement Report: a summary report will be developed to document effective methods to overcome barriers to youth participation and engagement in local governance and decision-making.</p> | <p>Effective approaches to youth engagement included in deliverable #1: <i>Youth Dialogue on Salmon and Watershed Sustainability: Project Learnings and Summary Report</i></p> |
| <p>3. Mentorship Summary Report: A mentorship summary report outlining the key learnings and evaluation results from the youth participants and the various partner organizations involved with the mentorship component will be developed and</p> | <p>Complete – Attached <i>Northern Fraser Youth Capacity Building for Watershed Governance: Mentorship and Training Summary Report</i></p> |

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| <p>made available to assist with the development of future mentorship initiatives.</p> | |
| <p>4. Project Endorsement: At least three organizations write letters of support endorsing youth participation in decision making as an effective and meaningful way to build the capacity of youth to be active and engaged citizens. These letters of support will be incorporated into the mentorship learning report as further rationale and support for meaningful youth engagement and capacity building.</p> | <p>Formal letters of support were difficult to obtain. Several organizations opted to provide comment on their support and appreciation for the project and their desire to continue to build youth engagement into their organizations through their program evaluation. These remarks have been included in the mentorship and training summary report</p> |
| <p>5. Ongoing Engagement Opportunities: At least three opportunities will be established for youth to continue to participate in local governance and decision making processes beyond the life of the project.</p> | <p>Complete – The Murray Creek Restoration Project, the Fraser Basin Council, the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative, the Exploration Place, and the City of Prince George have all indicated they would like to continue with working with their youth mentorees.</p> |
| <p>6. Youth Network: An online network of Northern Fraser youth will be established or enhanced and will include participants from the regional dialogue, training workshop and other youth-based organizations. The network will share information and knowledge about watershed sustainability and connect youth leaders from across the region with each other and organizations seeking to engage youth in a meaningful way.</p> | <p>Complete – The Fraser River Youth Network is an online blog that allows participants from the salmon sustainability dialogue, the youth mentorship program, the Fraser Basin Council Youth Committee and others to post their thoughts and experiences working with issues of watershed health and youth engagement in the Fraser River Basin. http://fraserriveryouth.blogspot.com/</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | |
| <p>Objective 1: Knowledge and understanding of salmon sustainability issues including the connection between communities and ecosystems enhanced for up to 50 youth from the Northern Fraser Region by September 2010.</p> | <p>Result: Achieved with delay. 6 youth participated in the project planning and design in August, 28 youth participated in the regional dialogue in September, 15 youth participated in the week training workshop and mentoring program in November, and 15 youth participated in a community outreach event in October. The majority reported increased knowledge of salmon and watershed sustainability and all reported enhanced networks as a result.</p> |
| <p>Objective 2: Effective methods to overcome barriers to youth participation in decision-making processes identified and reported by March 2011.</p> | <p>Result: Achieved. Sixteen strategies for effective youth engagement document in dialogue report</p> |
| <p>Objective 3: Mentored learning opportunities for up to 10 youth to facilitate their participation in local governance and decision-making processes completed by March 2011.</p> | <p>Result: Achieved. Ten youth completed mentoring placements</p> |

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| <p>Objective 4: Importance of youth participation in governance and decision-making processes formally recognized and valued by at least three external organizations by March 2011.</p> | <p>Result: Not Achieved. At the request of the mentoring participants, the deadline for completion of the mentoring project was delayed until mid-March. This did not allow sufficient time to draft formal letters of recognition following the completion of the mentoring program and before the reporting deadline.</p> |
| <p>Objective #5 At least three opportunities for ongoing youth participation in governance and decision making processes established by March 2011.</p> | <p>Achieved: Five organizations have indicated a desire to continue building a relationship with their mentored youth and opportunities for them to participate in boards and steering committees.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | |
| <p>Engagement of First Nations. Please specify who, and in what capacity.</p> | <p>Jasmine Thomas, a Saik'uz youth participated in the regional dialogue and led her own workshop session. Samantha Teed (Saik'uz), Jeremy Pahl (Gitxsan) and Jon Abraham (Takla Lake) joined but did not complete the youth mentorship program and attended the weekend training retreat.</p> |
| <p>Active partnerships with one or more organizations.</p> | <p>Partnerships established or expanded with 15 organizations: Murray Creek Restoration project, Northern Bear Awareness Society, Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative, City of Prince George, Exploration Place, the Potato House Sustainable Community Society, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Land Conservancy of BC, the Ripple Relay, the Salmon Guy, Pacific Western Brewing, Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council, Tsilhqot'in National Government, and the First Nations Youth Council of BC</p> |
| <p>Engagement and participation of diverse and under-represented groups.</p> | <p>Youth, a consistently under-represented group, were engaged throughout the entire project, from planning to evaluation. The project also included participation from First Nations and visible minorities</p> |
| <p>Relationship building, as a foundation for sustainable, enduring activities.</p> | <p>Relationships established indirectly through peer networking opportunities at dialogue and indirectly through mentoring placements</p> |
| <p>Capacity building, including mentorship models, leadership training and skills development.</p> | <p>Capacity building through mentorship was a primary goal of the program</p> |
| <p>Recognition and support of champions and their initiatives.</p> | <p>Participants in the youth mentoring program were encouraged to 'blog' about their mentoring experiences with their host organization to provide peers and the public with insight into the work of local stewardship organizations. Participants were each awarded an honorarium and personalized recognition letter for their participation in the program. The community outreach event provided an opportunity to showcase the work of youth volunteers in the program to the public.</p> |
| <p>Opportunities to influence policy and decision making,</p> | <p>Many youth participated in keystone project steering committees and organizational board of directors through the mentorship program. The dialogue event also offered youth the opportunity to connect with several watershed health advocacy organizations and with the community outreach liaison with the DFO</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?

Several host mentors have indicated a strong committed to building the relationship with their youth mentorees beyond the life of the program. Moreover, many of the youth participants of both the dialogue and mentorship program have indicated a desire to maintain the newly established connections with their peers and organizational networks. The community outreach event (storm-drain painting) was well-received in the community and will likely occur again in future years.

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.** Allow for extensive coordinator time when working with such a large number of diverse partners. Flexibility is key to working with large and diverse groups.
- 2.** Expand mentoring program time frame to a minimum 6 month period that aligns with peak operational seasons to allow for the greatest flexibility and diversity in mentorship opportunities
- 3.** Get creative! Art, physical activity and celebration were all essential components to the program and always allow plenty of opportunity for networking and peer interaction

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.

The dialogue on salmon and watershed sustainability was widely advertised throughout the region's communities through posters (Appendix A), radio advertisements (Appendix B), interviews with Nationview Magazine, coverage in the Prince George Citizen (Appendix C), and a published report on the event that will be distributed to project partners and posted on the Fraser Basin Council website.

The community outreach event was designed to engage young people in raising public awareness of watershed health and the project activities in Prince George. The event was advertised through posters, (Appendix J), covered by the Prince George Citizen (Appendix K), documented by the event sponsor, Pacific Western Brewing: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwvgyqLe90>

The mentorship program was advertised through brochure distribution to networks (Appendix 3 documented in a report that will be shared with the project partners and posted on the Fraser Basin Council website. In addition, many partners are publicly recognizing the contribution of their youth mentorees, and the youth are being encourage to share their experience on the Fraser River Youth Network Blog: <http://fraserriveryouth.blogspot.com/>

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