

For Immediate Release

August 11, 2010

Pacific Salmon Foundation and Fraser Basin Council Fund Fraser Basin Projects with Over \$1.8 Million

Vancouver, B.C. – The Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Fraser Basin Council today released their roster of 37 projects that are receiving more than \$1.8 million through their collaborative Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program (FSWP). The source of funds is the provincial Living Rivers Trust Fund and the federal Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Fraser Basin Initiative. In its fifth year of operations, FSWP aims to enable communities to steward their water and salmon resources by building collaboration, fostering leadership and increasing engagement.

The Fraser Basin drains an area about the size of California. It is known worldwide for its natural beauty, abundant resources and cultural diversity. Two out of three British Columbians live in the Basin – over two million in the Lower Mainland and another 500,000 in major communities and dozens of smaller towns and villages from the Rockies to the Fraser Valley.

The project section of <u>www.ThinkSalmon.com</u> hosts a list and a map of projects funded by FSWP throughout the Fraser Basin over all five years of its operation, along with an overview page for each project. The projects focus on addressing 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.

The FSWP mission is to inspire changes in human behaviour for the benefit of salmon and the watersheds on which we all depend. FSWP faces a critical time over the next year as it seeks renewed and more stable funding to continue its important work.

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We have attached a list of the projects with approved funding 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 <u>mmoser@psf.ca</u> or 604.664.7664.