

## 2009/10 FINAL REPORT

<b>FSWP File Number</b>	FSWP 09 25
-------------------------	------------

\* Please use the FSWP File Number provided in previous FSWP project correspondence.

<b>1. Project Information</b>			
1.1. Project Title			
Farmland Riparian Interface Stewardship Program			
1.2. Proponent's Legal Name			
BC Cattlemen's Association			
1.3. Project Location			
British Columbia various locations			
1.4. Contact for this report			
Name: Kevin Boon or Alana Groeneveld	Phone: 250-573-3611	Email: <a href="mailto:Alana@kamloops.net">Alana@kamloops.net</a> <a href="mailto:cattlein@kamloops.net">cattlein@kamloops.net</a>	
1.5 Funding Amount			
<b>Original Approved Grant Amount:</b>	<b>Total FSWP Expenditures:</b>	<b>Final Invoice Amount:</b>	<b>Final Non-FSWP leveraging, including cash and in-kind:</b>
\$70,000	\$70,000	\$14,000	\$148,334.52

<b>2. Project Summary</b>	
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.	
<p>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 streambank restoration; and conflict resolution between landowners, regulatory agencies, and other parties.</p>	
<b>OPTIONAL</b> Please give a short statement (up to 100 words) of the most compelling activity or outcome from your project.	
<p>Landowners cooperating with FRISP to improve land management strategies on their private lands have placed over 150km of riparian corridors under improved stewardship. 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 has enabled FRISP to provide the reasoning behind the regulations, which brings about understanding.</p>	

### 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. To promote long-term environmental stewardship and sustainability for the agricultural community by restoring and enhancing farmland as related to watershed management	<p>The FRISP program has been actively involved with individual landowners throughout the Province over the past 12 months. Activities vary from monitoring of completed works, basic consultations on management issues involving environmental concerns and completion of major restoration projects.</p> <p>Fraser Watershed: 45 landowners</p> <p>Bulkley Watershed: 1 landowner</p> <p>Peace Watershed: 7 landowners</p> <p>Columbia Watershed: 5 landowners</p>



2. To promote cooperative planning of riparian habitat restoration and farmland activities between landowners, resource management agencies, and community groups thereby resolving conflict.

Promoting joint planning of habitat restoration and farmland activities between landowners, resource management agencies and community groups; Projects on going or completed:

#### Environmental Farm Plan

- With the conclusion of the EFP March 31 2009, FRISP had to wait until mid July before phase 2 of the program became available.

#### Salmon River Roundtable

- Mike Wallis has provided technical assistance for prescriptions on restoration sites in the Salmon River Valley representing FRISP. This has allowed the roundtable to spend it's funding support received from Fraser Basin Living Rivers strategy doing on the ground works with the local agricultural community.

#### Bonaparte Watershed Roundtable

- Mike Wallis has provided technical assistance for prescriptions on restoration sites in the Bonaparte Watershed representing FRISP. Mike has assisted the Habitat Restoration staff from Fisheries and Oceans Canada in developing prescriptions and budgets for sites effecting agricultural properties in the watershed.

#### Whitevalley Community Resource Centre Projects

- Tom Minor as a FRISP advisor has worked with the WCRC habitat restoration program to complete major upgrades to 1.2 km. of Creighton Creek heavily impacted by bedload movement and flooding effecting 2 farms on the system. Funding support through the BC Hydro Bridge Coastal Compensation program and labour assistance with the Shuswap Nations Fisheries council along with the landowners support has addressed the problems while building strong working relationships between first nations and the local agricultural community.
- Assistance with beaver dam management on several local creeks.

#### Okanagan Water Board technical committee

- Lee Hesketh has been representing the ranching and agriculture community in discussions around water management in the Okanagan basin. The lack of water in the Okanagan has developers and water providers looking at agricultures water rights for future development. Having a voice that protects the interests of agriculture is critical.

#### Okanagan Soils Study technical committee

- Representing the ranching community and assisting with landowners interested in pastures studies looking at nutrient loading in soils utilized for forage production. Soil impact study available April 2010.

#### Agroforestry technical committee

- Lee Hesketh has donated his personal time to sit on the Agroforestry technical committee which promotes sustainable land management and environmental protection of riparian corridors. The promotion of grass and trees as well as other production management systems promotes opportunities for diversifying farm and ranch incomes.

#### Kersley Farmers Institute

- Partnership between landowners, MoE, DFO, Water Expansion Program and other interests to develop restoration plan for Kersley Creek. FRISP is continuing to work towards solutions but regulatory agencies seem to continue to find problems rather than providing answers.

2. (continued)

To promote cooperative planning of riparian habitat restoration and farmland activities between landowners, resource management agencies, and community groups thereby resolving conflict.

Vanderhoof Fish and Game Club.

- FRISP is working with the local wildlife club to develop a restoration plan for Murray Creek involving local ranchers and other interests groups. Mike Wallis has completed visits with 12 landowners on the system discussing issues around their current land management strategies. These landowners are looking towards participating with the new EFP program.

Northern Trans Boundary Agreement Funding

- Project report for 2008 funding completed and accepted.

Greater Vernon Water District

- Lee Hesketh is continuing to work with the committee looking at grazing management improvements in the Duteau Creek Watershed. Consultation process promoted by FRISP will see past conflicts about cattle in the City of Vernon's drinking water reservoirs moved to a proactive approach of finding workable answers. A great example of the new cooperation has the GVWD giving up water rights so that off stream watering systems can be developed with materials being provided by Okanagan Waterboard funds and Ministry of Forest and Range. Implementation will be provided by ranches that utilize the area for summer grazing. The report produced through this process is assisting with funding applications to complete upgrades identified including range fence upgrades, off channel watering and the possibility of increased grass seeding.

Coldstream Creek Water Quality Study

- Water quality study conducted by MoE has shown high levels of bacteria and nitrates in Coldstream Creek. Lee Hesketh was requested to participate by the Coldstream Council to work with them at finding solutions, as it was perceived that the contamination was from agricultural sources. Follow up studies looking at culturing DNA to identify sources showed that 50% was from wildlife sources. Interestingly another 20% was shown to come from domestic dogs. Coldstream Creek runs through the suburbs of Vernon with 3 dog-walking parks located along the creek. 30% was identified as livestock. The positive was that of that 30% over half was equine and the rest was from other types of livestock.

While there is obviously work or improvements to be made the process has moved from fingers being pointed at specifically at Coldstream Ranch to the reality that its has more to do with the general public living along the creek.

Fraser Basin Assembly

- Lee Hesketh presented at the assembly on the steps that the ranching community has taken in addressing issues around riparian restoration. Also participated with Stewardship conference held in Lillooet

Ministry of Forests and Range

- Lee Hesketh has worked with Shuswap Okanagan Range Officer to create BMP's for riparian management on range to address concerns in local watersheds about water quality

Ministry of Environment

- Engaged in drought management workshops
- Engaged in Modernization of the Water Act

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

- Actively involved with the committee on developing best management practices in riparian corridors on agricultural lands

<p>3. To increase awareness and interactions between landuse and salmon habitat values.</p>	<p>Clay Campbell has completed a brochure around livestock and access to waterways. This covers the regulations, reasoning and possible management solutions to addressing the issues. Producers can find understanding all the issues around water intimidating and this publication works to simplify things. Excellent feedback has been received on this project from drafts presented to representatives from government, industry and the general public.</p> <p>FRISP has provided a tour of successful partnership projects in the Lumby area to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fraser Basin staff</li> <li>2. Field Day hosted by FRISP and Silver Hills Ranch had 32 attendees</li> <li>3. Ranchers interested in completing similar works</li> <li>4. Fisheries and Oceans Habitat staff</li> <li>5. Columbia Basin Fisheries Council</li> </ol> <p>Additional field days and presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Education booth at BCCA convention held in Kamloops in May</li> <li>o NOLA education seminar in April</li> <li>o Presentation to Mud River residents mid August along with tour to Minister Bell</li> <li>o Presentation to Columbia Basin Trust AGM, Nakusp</li> <li>o Local cattlemen's Association meetings</li> <li>o Blurton Creek Enhancement Society</li> <li>o South Okanagan Regional Cattlemen's AGM</li> </ul>
<p>4. To resolve conflict that may arise between resource agencies and landowners.</p>	<p>FRISP has been called upon by several landowners and agency staff requesting assistance on conflict resolutions around water land management issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodward Creek project: Lee Hesketh has worked with water users on a small system to upgrade intakes and work on scheduling to resolve conflicts occurring between several neighbours.</li> <li>• Working with landowners to resolve conflicts on a small tributary that runs through a heavily grazed pasture.</li> <li>• Assisting landowner a the Kersley Creek watershed to address MoE's requirement to complete hydrological studies. The landowner has inherited the problems and studies completed previously have identified the sources.</li> <li>• Completing prescriptions for restoration works on Spius Creek after large cottonwoods were fell along the riparian corridor in 2007. DFO has given a directive for restoration. Remediation plan will address erosion concerns and move situation ahead rather than result in litigation. The cooperation has also created a partnership with the upstream neighbour who is working to complete upgrades to his irrigation system. DFO habitat staff are looking at working with the landowners to create a habitat channel / irrigation intake system out of a system that currently strands and kills fish.</li> <li>• Clay Campbell is working with ranchers from the central interior to address concerns that forest licensees are taking shortcuts on their fencing responsibilities.</li> </ul>



**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.**

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.

**3.3 REQUIRED: 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.**

FRISP is available to provide tours or dialogue of projects upon request.

**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?**

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.

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 several funding applications to other possible funding sources to maintain and expand 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 through the Environmental Farm Plan being worked upon.

**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. Think positive!
2. Be positive!
3. Stay positive!