

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



Fraser Basin Council



2008 Final Report FARMLAND RIPARIAN INTERFACE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2008 –2009 (BC CATTLEMEN)

FSWP File Number*

FSWP 08 LR 12

Please use the FSWP File Number provided in previous FSWP 2008 project correspondence

Contact Information

Sponsoring Organization's Legal Name

B.C. Cattlemen's Association (BCCA)

Are you a federally registered Charity, Non-profit organization or Business (Yes /No)?

no

If yes, please indicate which.

Charity

Non-profit organization

Business

Registration number

GST number

Are you a registered Society (Yes / No)?

Yes(BC)

Society Registration number

1760 Soc.

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¹ All correspondence will be directed to the Project Manager.

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Project Information

Project Title

FARMLAND – RIPARIAN INTERFACE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (FRISP)

Project Location

Across British Columbia.

Amount Requested	100,000.00	Total Project Value	275,000.00	Non-FSWP funds ²	175,000.00
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² Non-FSWP funds include both cash and in-kind funding. In-kind funding refers to all non-cash contributions such as equipment, supplies, labour, etc. Please refer to Budget Section for further details.

Project Summary

Please provide a single paragraph describing your project, its objective, and the results. As this summary will be used in program communications, clearly state the issue addressed and avoid overly technical descriptions. Do not use more than 300 words.

FRISP provides training, technical information, advice, prescriptions, project cost estimates, and support for riparian enhancement, waste management solutions, and/or restoration projects to the agricultural community and various resource stewardship groups. In addition, FRISP provides mediation services on issues arising between landowners and regulatory agencies respecting riparian damage considered to have resulted from agricultural practices. FRISP also provides assistance in the development and implementation of remediation plans. These services can also be applied to conflicts arising between neighbours, or various vested interest groups. Further, FRISP endeavours to involve participation in the joint planning of habitat restoration and agriculture land use activities between landowners, resource management agencies, and various community groups.

FRISP goals are to foster long-term environmental stewardship by restoring, maintaining and enhancing farmland riparian area.

FRISP promotes cooperation between landowners, resource management agencies, and community groups with regards to farmland riparian habitat restoration planning. FRISP promotes the adoption of Agricultural Streambank & Riparian Beneficial Management Practices. FRISP also works to resolve conflicts respecting riparian & farmland interfaces.

OPTIONAL If your project lends itself to sparking interest through a compelling sound bite (for potential use in FSWP media communications), please tell us what that sound bite would be. Do not use more than 150 words.

FRISP is a small program that finds answers to big problems through finding common sense solutions!

Species and life stage(s) the project targets: please list

The majority of projects under the FRISP program have directly or indirectly improved salmon resources by improving riparian management on farmland throughout the Fraser Basin and other BC watersheds. By addressing riparian degradation, FRISP recovers fish ecosystems, thus advancing the second objective of the Wild Salmon Policy "Maintain habitat and ecosystem integrity".

FRISP addresses a wide cross section of target species as it works to restore natural healthy biodiversity on ranches and farms across the Province. The promotion of stewardship through finding workable solutions has allowed FRISP to work at protecting notable species.

Mammals: Badger, mule deer, river otters, beaver, ranchers

Fisheries: Coho, Chinook, Sockeye, Pink, Rainbow Trout, Bull Trout, Sturgeon, Rocky Mountain Whitefish

Avian: Screech Owl, Swan, Eagles, Osprey Hawk, Pilated Woodpecker

Reptiles: Blue tail Skink, tiger lizard, rubber boa

Watershed(s) the project targets: please list

The FRISP program footprint involves the: Fraser, Columbia, Bulkley and Peace River drainage systems

Project Deliverables and Results

- Paste in the deliverables outlined in your Detailed Proposal (question #3 under project 'relevance and significance' heading) into the table below. Then, please list the results associated with each deliverable.
- Please include copies of any relevant communications products (brochures, posters, videos, website addresses etc.) resulting from this project.

Deliverable	Result
<p>More farmland streambank restoration projects completed throughout the Fraser Basin corridor which includes enhancement of riparian areas and salmon habitat.</p>	<p>The FRISP program has been actively involved with over 150 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 or completion of major restoration projects.</p>
<p>Increased cooperative planning of riparian habitat restoration and farmland activities between landowners, resource management agencies, and community groups.</p>	<p>FRISP advisors have been promoting joint planning of habitat restoration and farmland activities between landowners, resource management agencies and community groups; Projects on going or completed:</p> <p>Environmental Farm Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FRISP advisors have worked with the Environmental Farm Plan throughout the Province leading to over \$750,000 dollars worth of investment by the EFP program in riparian and habitat restoration over the past 3 years. This is often matched at a 3 to 1 ratio by partnerships and in kind support. This means that over 3 million dollars worth of investment in riparian protection and restoration with FRISP being the technical support to move things ahead. <p>Salmon River Roundtable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing technical assistance for prescriptions on restoration sites. Mike Wallis is working on behalf of FRISP documenting and planning further projects in cooperation with Fisheries and Oceans Habitat staff. <p>Bonaparte Watershed Roundtable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing technical assistance for prescriptions on restoration sites. Mike Wallis is working on behalf of FRISP documenting and planning further projects for the roundtable as well as assisting Fisheries and Oceans Habitat staff with monitoring of works completed previously.

Whitevalley Community Resource Centre Projects

- Lee Hesketh and Tom Minor are working with the WCRC with project development in the North Okanagan involving irrigation water use plans on individual watersheds. See attachment as an example of a project managed by FRISP's Tom Minor. Tom was awarded the B.C. Interior Stewardship Award March 12 in Chase for his hard work on this project.
- Assistance with beaver dam management on local creeks
- Tom Minor assisted the 2007 BCCA Environmental Stewardship Award winner Oscar Milton complete a major habitat upgrade on the Eagle River.
- Tom Minor worked with 2008 BCCA Stewardship Award winner Joe Huwer to complete major habitat restoration projects on his family's ranch. Joe has allowed numerous tours to FRISP and guests including Fraser Basin Staff.

Okanagan Water Board technical committee

- FRISP has allowed Lee Hesketh to sit with the stewardship committee representing the ranching and agriculture community in discussions around water management in the Okanagan basin. Contributed to the development of the Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy. FRISP has been recognized for its contribution with habitat restoration to over 2 kms of Joe Rich Creek through a partnership with local interests.
- Okanagan Soils Study technical committee
- FRISP Has allowed Lee Hesketh representing the ranching community and assisting with landowners interested in participating with studies looking at nutrient loading in soils utilized for forage production in the Okanagan Basin.

Salmon Enhancement Habitat Advisory Board

- Lee Hesketh, FRISP advisor has been newly appointed to this advisory board to represent the southern interior of British Columbia.

Ministry of Forest and Range, Southern Interior

- Lee Hesketh and Clay Campbell are working with MoFR and Forest Companies and Regional water managers on a technical committee looking at cattle management around riparian corridors and reservoirs on range.

	<p>Murray Creek Project, Vanderhoof Fish and Game Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Wallis and Lee Hesketh are working with local Wildlife Club members and the ranching community developing a water management recovery plan for a local creek. Mike Wallis will be completing a report provided in attachments outlining progress of this project funded directly by the Living Rivers funding. <p>Ministry of Agriculture, Provincial Riparian Strategy Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lee Hesketh is working with representatives from MoE, MoAF, and DFO with developing riparian guidelines for agriculture practices for the Province. <p>Coldstream Council Water Quality working group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lee Hesketh and Tom Minor will be working with interest groups looking at addressing issues on Coldstream Creek. Recent studies indicate a dramatic increase in nitrate levels believed to be related to agricultural operations locally. • MoE has supplied water monitoring data but further work is required to find answers.
<p>Increased awareness of interactions between land use and habitat values.</p>	<p>Silver Hills Ranch Biodiversity Tour and Field Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lee Hesketh and Mike Wallis co-hosted a tour of Silver Hills Ranch in April 2008 promoting sustainable management practices that recognize biodiversity. Due to positive response, a second tour is scheduled for May 2009. <p>McBride Cattlemen's Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clay Campbell and Lee Hesketh presented to ranchers in the McBride area on the values of riparian protection. A follow up field day is scheduled for April <p>Greater Vernon Water Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with water authority, MoFR and Tolko Industries developing a water shed plan to reduce impacts by cattle on water quality.
<p>Reduced number of potential conflicts between resource agencies and landowners.</p>	<p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Habitat Restoration staff throughout the Province addressing concerns around agricultural impacts on riparian corridors. <p>Ministry of Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with Water Management staff throughout the Province to address issues around water use and planning. <p>Ministry of Forest and Range</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with regional Range staff with issues around riparian management. Clay Campbell has worked in the Caribou, Thompson and Okanagan

	<p>areas providing input on a variety of projects.</p> <p>Agroforestry technical committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Kersley Farmers Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership between landowners, MoE, DFO, Water Expansion Program and other interests to develop restoration plan for Kersley Creek located south of Quesnel. <p>Vanderhoof Fish and Game Club.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRISP is working with local wildlife club to develop a restoration plan for Murray Creek involving local ranchers and other interests groups. <p>Northern Trans Boundary Agreement Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with MoE and DFO staff in the Smithers area develop restoration projects involving local ranchers. <p>Greater Vernon Water District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting with grazing management improvements in the Duteau Creek Watershed. [Fraser 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.

Project Effectiveness

Please evaluate the effectiveness of the project, using the objective standards, quantifiable criteria and/or quality control measures identified in your Detailed Proposal (under question #1 in the 'performance expectations' heading).

Improved function of riparian ecosystems and watersheds: *Reduced riparian damage by livestock and other agricultural activities through completing of habitat restoration projects throughout the Province.*

Reduced loss of farmland to rivers and creeks: *FRISP has worked with EFP program in completing stabilization projects throughout the Province.*

Enhancement of riparian areas for terrestrial wildlife and fish habitat: *Through promoting Biodiversity awareness, FRISP has promoted and developed projects that have dramatically improved terrestrial wildlife and fish habitat.*

An increased understanding by agricultural producers, agencies, resource groups, and others, regarding the resolution of issues relevant to riparian ecosystems through education, planning, and management: *The FRISP*

program and its advisors have been recognized for their role in bring about positive changes to ecosystem management. FRISP advisors are selected due to their personal approach in working to find solutions that work.

What are the top three lessons learned from this project that would be important to communicate to others doing similar work throughout the Basin?

Lesson 1: Think about how you can fix things versus wondering why you can't.

Lesson 2: Start small but think big.

Lesson 3: You don't learn a thing when your lips are flapping.

Project Effectiveness

Please describe how your project has addressed each Priority Activity identified in your Detailed Proposal.

Priority Activity ¹	How the Priority Activity has been Addressed
<p>Since the conception in 2004, the BCCA Farmland-Riparian Interface Stewardship Program [FRISP] has been actively involved with 140+ ranch and/or farm operations throughout BC by providing advice and technical services. The majority of the projects have involved riparian management issues as related to improved habitat values for fish; halting farmland loss through stream bank restoration; and conflict resolution between landowners, regulatory agencies, and other parties.</p> <p>Landowners working with FRISP to enhance land management strategies on their private lands have contributed to 200+ km of riparian corridor improvements. During the past 9 months of 2007 FRISP has worked with 90 landowners, completing over 8 km, of direct riparian restoration. An additional 10 km of restoration work has been prescribed for implementation in 2008 with funding sources and permitting now being confirmed.</p> <p>The priority will be to keep things moving ahead.</p>	<p>FRISP has successfully worked to find common ground on a lot of fronts over the past year. FRISP's effective use of technical support to move projects or processes along continues to develop and promote environmental stewardship throughout the agriculture sector and other interest groups engaged.</p> <p>New partnerships are being worked upon as FRISP works to maintain current funding levels. FRISP will have a base budget of \$100,000 for 2009 with additional funds currently awaiting approval. FRISP takes pride in delivering a cost-effective program that makes a difference. The program's 2008 budget of \$275,000.00 has produced results Province-wide.</p> <p>FRISP will continue into 2009 with optimism as projects are lined up for spring implementation and the technical working groups engaged are finding answers to restoring and protecting our environment.</p>

¹Please paste each priority activity identified in your Detailed Proposal in the space provided.

Further Comments

Please provide any further comments including recommendations for future conservation efforts and suggestions for helping partners to meet the goals of the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program. If your project produced a narrative or scientific report or additional project products (e.g. maps, photos), attach them as an appendix.

Attached are documents referring to FRISP work.