TSECMENÚĹECWEM-KT: A COLLABORATIVE & MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO MANAGING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS IN THE DEADMAN WATERSHED

Pacific Salmon Foundation Knowledge Exchange Workshop
June 16, 2026

Presented by Christina Radyo

christina.radyo@snrcorp.ca 780-655-1459 Skeetchestn Natural Resources

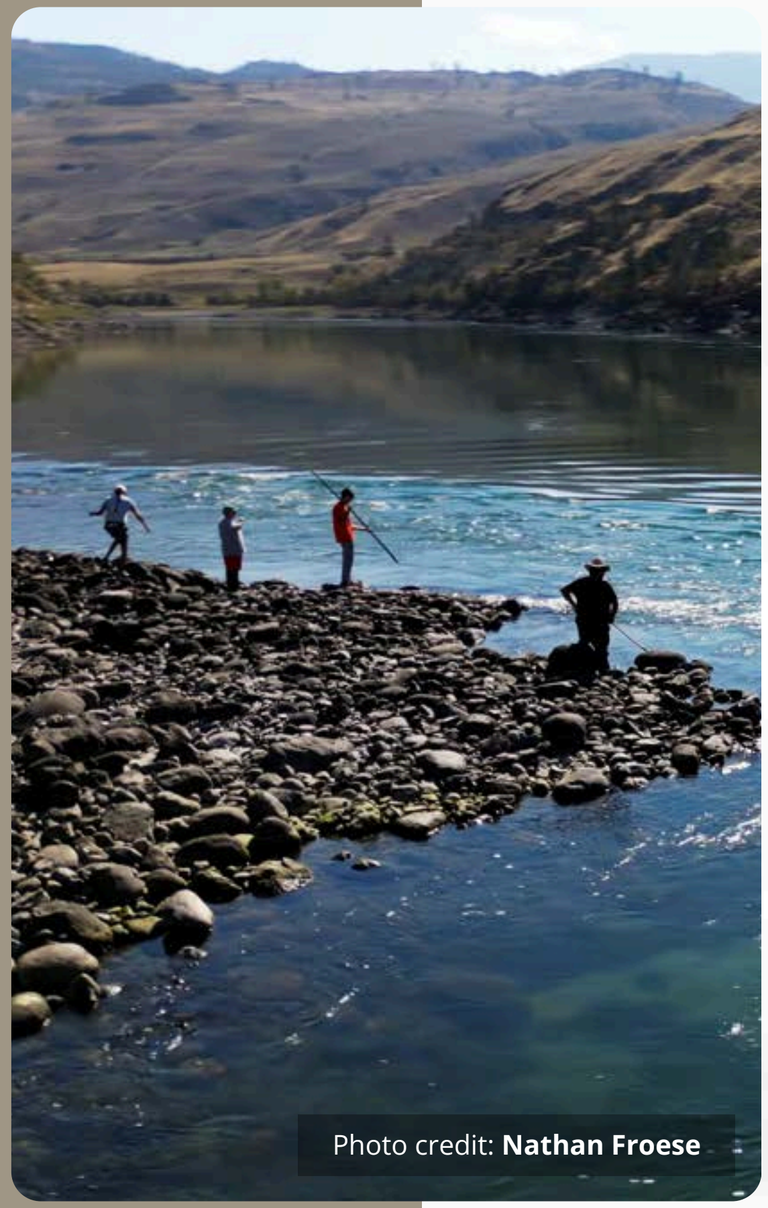

Photo credit: **Nathan Froese**

SKEETCHESTN

- Stewardship of the Deadman watershed and surrounding territory since time immemorial
- Skeetchestn means “the meeting place” in Secwépemcstín
- Part of the Secwépemc Nation
- Seasonal use of the Deadman valley and surrounding territory for gathering, hunting, and cultural practices
- Continued reliance on the watershed for food, medicines, cultural practices, social connection, and economic opportunities

DEADMAN WATERSHED OVERVIEW

Size: 1,500 km^2

Watershed system: Fraser River basin

Major tributary: Criss Creek (480 km^2)

Hydrology: Snowmelt-driven, flows regulated by Snohoosh Dam

Aquatic species of note: Chinook, Coho, Pink, Kokanee, Steelhead, rainbow trout

Cumulative impacts: Agriculture, forestry, transportation infrastructure, recreation, and wildfire (~60% burned since 2017)

THE TSECMENÚĹECWEM-KT INITIATIVE

- Established in 2023 by Skeetchestn to better understand cumulative impacts, support watershed recovery, and work towards a true adaptive management program
- Collaborative Initiative involving SNR staff, scientific researchers, technical experts, and restoration practitioners
- Research, monitoring, and restoration focus areas include:
  - Watershed hydrology, groundwater processes, and environmental flows
  - Sediment sources, erosion, landslides, and post-fire risk reduction
  - Forest recovery, vegetation dynamics, and ecosystem
  - River processes, habitat restoration, and fish population recovery

PROGRESS TO DATE

- Established a coordinated watershed monitoring network with 12 monitoring stations
- Developed partnerships with 20+ researchers, students, and technical experts across multiple disciplines
- Produced multiple peer-reviewed publications and student theses
- Completed baseline studies to better understand post-wildfire and cumulative impacts
- Established annual gatherings to strengthen relationships and share knowledge
- Implemented priority restoration projects to address key watershed challenges
- Co-developed the Deadman Watershed Monitoring, Mitigation, and Adaptive Management (MMAM) Plan

Photo credit: **ARC Institute**

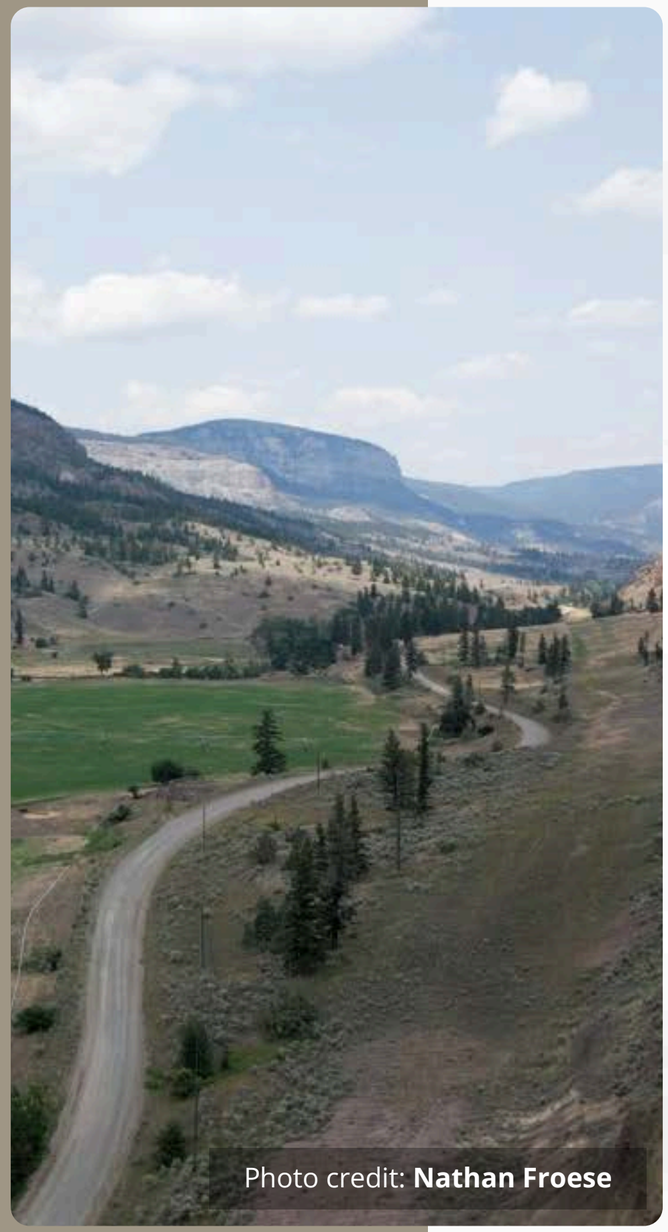

Photo credit: **Nathan Froese**

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO SUCCESS

- Strong interdisciplinary partnerships built around shared watershed goals
- Clear data sharing agreements that establish trust and support collaboration
- Skeetchestn leadership, local presence, and coordination
- Annual Tsecmenúĺecwem-kt gatherings supporting relationships and knowledge sharing
- Coordinated watershed monitoring network with shared monitoring stations across disciplines
- Collaborative development of the Deadman Watershed Monitoring, Mitigation, and Adaptive Management (MMAM) Plan

LESSONS LEARNED & PRIORITIES MOVING FORWARD

- Building local monitoring capacity
- Meaningful community engagement
- Long-term funding to sustain capacity and momentum
- Translating science into management action

Photo credit: **Nathan Froese**

SKEETCHESTN'S LONG-TERM VISIONS FOR THE DEADMAN WATERSHED

- Skeetchestn-led research, monitoring, restoration, and watershed decision-making
- Building long-term Indigenous capacity for watershed stewardship
- Integrating scientific knowledge and Skeetchestn values into management decisions
- Caring for the watershed for future generations

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

KUKWSTÉP-KUCW