

SKEENA SALMON HABITAT CONFERENCE

**SEPTEMBER 15-16
SMITHERS, B.C.**

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CONFERENCE CHAIR: BRIAN RIDDELL

Conference Objectives

Brian Riddell is president and CEO of the Pacific Salmon Foundation. He has a PhD from McGill University and is former Division Head, Salmon and Freshwater Ecosystems, Science Branch, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Pacific Biological Station based in Nanaimo, BC. Brian is one of Canada's most respected and decorated salmon researchers and managers.

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BULKLEY VALLEY RESEARCH CENTRE WELCOME: BRIAN FUHR

Brian Fuhr is a RPBio who moved to Smithers from Victoria in 1988. Prior to moving to Smithers, he worked as a fisheries research biologist, wildlife consultant and wildlife habitat ecologist throughout British Columbia. He led the development of a methodology for grizzly bear habitat assessment and estimation of carrying capacity for British Columbia. Beginning in 1988 he became the Habitat Protection Section Head for the Skeena Region's Ministry of Environment. This included leading the Ministry of Environment's involvement in land use plans, the regional protected areas strategy, the environmental assessment of major projects and forestry. Brian is currently employed as a land use planner for the Integrated Land Management Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. The emphasis of his current career development is in the fields of sustainability and land use planning processes with a particular emphasis on issues surrounding the balance of environment and economy.

Away from work, Brian has a passion for white-water boating, backcountry exploration and sailing on the North Coast.

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WELCOMING REMARKS

ROY MORRIS

CHIEF WOOS, CAS'YEX HOUSE, WET'SUWET'EN HEREDITARY CHIEF

Roy Morris is Chief Woos, one of the hereditary chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en, and House chief for the Cas'Yex (Grizzly House) of the Gitumden (Bear) Clan of the Wet'suwet'en. Roy lives with his wife, Augustine, in Moricetown, where he continues to practice traditional lifeways as his ancestors did. He will be performing the conference's traditional welcome ceremony, as Smithers resides within Chief Woos' House territory.



CRESS FARROW

TOWN OF SMITHERS MAYOR

Cress Farrow has lived in Smithers since 1969. He is currently retired after operating Apex Cleaning Services for 28 years. Cress is currently mayor of Smithers after serving nine years as councillor. He is also chair of the NW Regional Hospital District Board. He has represented the Town of Smithers on the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for six years and is past chair and vice chair.

NATHAN CULLEN

SKEENA-BULKLEY VALLEY MP

Nathan Cullen was first elected in 2004 and has been elected twice since. He has been the advocate for the Environment and Parks for the New Democrats and recently took over the Energy and Natural Resources portfolio. He also chairs the Green Economy Caucus for the NDP working on ways to help create employment while meeting our responsibilities to the planet's future generations. Before elected life he was a small business owner and community organizer in northwestern B.C. His expertise was in strategic planning and resolving conflicts for businesses, government and non-profit agencies throughout the province. He lives with his wife, Diana, in Smithers.

DOUG DONALDSON

STIKINE MLA, REPRESENTED BY SHELLY WORTHINGTON

Doug works for Storytellers' Foundation, a non-profit organization focusing on community economic development in the region. His previous work in the Stikine included jobs in forestry, tourism, education, communications and journalism. This wide variety of experience includes managing Northwest Community College in Houston, as a biologist with a forestry consulting business in Smithers, as a reporter and columnist with the Interior News, communications director with the Gitksan Treaty Office, coordinator of the cultural tourism program at NWCC, and instructor with the Gitksan Wet'suwet'en Education Society.

HONOURABLE JOHN FRASER

CHAIR, B.C. PACIFIC SALMON FORUM

[BC Pacific Salmon Forum Final Report & Recommendations](#)

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John Fraser was born in Yokohama, Japan and raised in Vancouver. He graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1954 and practised law until his election to the House of Commons in 1972. During his 21 years in Parliament, John Fraser served in key positions, including Minister for the Environment and Minister of Fisheries. He was the first person to have been elected Speaker of the House of Commons by his peers, a practice instituted in 1986. In 1994, John Fraser was selected to head the Fraser River Sockeye Public Review Board investigating the salmon fishery. He was subsequently Canada's Ambassador for the Environment, responsible for Canadian follow-up to commitments made at the United Nations Rio Conference on Environment and Development. He has chaired the Minister's Monitoring Committee on Change in the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces, and currently chairs the Parliamentary Precinct Oversight Advisory Committee. From September 1998, John Fraser chaired the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, until his appointment in April 2005 to chair the BC Pacific Salmon Forum throughout its mandate which concluded in March 2009. John Fraser is a Queen's Counsel, an officer of the Order of Canada and a member of the Order of British Columbia and he holds the Canadian Forces Decoration. He was awarded honorary Doctor of Laws degrees for his contributions to environmental causes by Simon Fraser University and St. Lawrence University in 1999 and by the University of British Columbia in 2004.



John Fraser

JON O'RIORDAN

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, PACIFIC SALMON FORUM

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Jon O'Riordan graduated with a master degree in geography from the University of Edinburgh in 1964, followed by a PhD in resource management from the University of British Columbia in 1969. He worked with the Federal Department of Energy, Mines and Water Resources with a responsibility to manage the Federal-Provincial Okanagan Basin Water Basin Study between 1969 and 1973. He then joined the province in 1973 and worked for the Secretariat to the Environment and Land Use Committee of Cabinet. He joined the Ministry of Environment in 1980 and became assistant deputy minister from 1989 to 2001. He was appointed deputy minister for the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management in 2001 and in 2004 was appointed adjunct professor for UBC's School of Planning. In 2005, he was appointed director of research for the B.C. Pacific Salmon Forum.

SKEENA SALMON HABITAT CONFERENCE

GEOFF RECKNELL

FIRST NATIONS INITIATIVES MANAGER, INTEGRATED LAND MANAGEMENT BUREAU

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Geoff Recknell is currently the Manager for the Skeena office of the Integrated Land Management Bureau, First Nations Initiatives Division. For the past 8 years Geoff has worked in a number of capacities for the Province on land use initiatives in the northwest including planning process and technical coordination, facilitation and negotiation. He has Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Victoria and University of British Columbia in both microbiology and resource management.

[The Path to Coordinated Engagement with First Nations](#)

Sustainable management of natural resources is built upon a foundation of good science, sound regulatory regimes, and informed decision making that is inclusive of public and First Nations interests. The legislative and regulatory framework is complex, at times involving multiple jurisdictions and multiple decision makers. This often leads to an uncoordinated agency approach to engaging First Nations and reviewing projects; the current approach has proven to be inefficient and ineffective for both parties. The province is working to change that through the development of new practices for engagement.

MARK SAUNDERS

DIVISION MANAGER, FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA

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Mark Saunders is the research manager for the Salmon and Freshwater Ecosystems Division for DFO at the Pacific Biological Station at Nanaimo, B.C. A research biologist studying the population dynamics of groundfish for most of his career, he spent the past five years working on the development and implementation of the Wild Salmon Policy. A recent two-year assignment with the Pacific Salmon Foundation involved directing the multidisciplinary Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program addressing sustainability issues in the Fraser Basin. A key research interest is in improving the resource management/science interface. He lives in Chemainus with his wife Gail, two teenage girls and a hairy white dog.

[Institutional Change and the Wild Salmon Policy](#)

DFO's Wild Salmon Policy was released in June 2005. The policy was developed to protect the biodiversity of salmon and habitat/ecosystems that drive it. The approach is very much process oriented rather than prescriptive with process to be driven by principles of sustainable development. In this presentation I discuss the implementation of strategies to assess the status of salmon and their habitats/ecosystems and some of the institutional change that has and is required to take place to realize the goals of the Wild Salmon Policy. I specifically consider the role that organizations outside the Department are playing.

MEL KOTYK

REGIONAL MANAGER, FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA, OCEANS DIVISION

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[Canada's Oceans Strategy and Integrated Management: An introduction to the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area \(PNCIMA\) Initiative](#)

GLEN WILLIAMS

MALII, HEREDITARY CHIEF, GITANYOW FIRST NATION

JANE LLOYD-SMITH

DISTRICT MANAGER, MINISTRY OF FORESTS, SKEENA-STIKINE FOREST DISTRICT

BOBBY LOVE

CLIENT SERVICES MANAGER, SMITHERS SERVICE CENTRE, MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND ILMB

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Malii, Glen Williams, is the head chief of Wilp Malii, one of the eight historic Wilp of Gitanyow, a Gitxsan village situated in the mid-Nass Watershed in Northwestern B.C. Glen was privileged to receive a traditional education on Gitxsan histories, Ayuuk (Gitxsan law), Wilp territories and social organization from his grandfather Lelt (Fred Johnson), a Ganhada Chief from Kitwanga, and from his Wilksi'witxw (father's side), Stanley Williams, also a Gitxsan Chief. This education allowed him to provide testimony in the Delgamuukxw Court Case, the youngest witness to testify for the Gitxsan. Malii has been involved since the mid-1970s in numerous Gitxsan efforts to protect and advance the recognition of the existence and right to exercise Gitxsan Aboriginal Title and Rights, with an emphasis on developing mechanisms that would allow these rights to be respected by and co-exist with non-native society.

E-mail: jane.lloydsmith@gov.bc.ca

Jane Lloyd-Smith is a registered forest professional who arrived in Smithers, B.C. in 1980 and has lived and worked there ever since. She has held many positions with the Ministry of Forests and Range, starting in silviculture, and progressing to planning then management. Jane is currently the District Manager of the Skeena Stikine Forest District. Jane has dedicated much of her career to helping communities and interested groups develop strategic land-use plans. In 2002, Jane was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal in recognition of her contribution towards developing leading edge, creative ecosystem management concepts and her commitment to developing trusting relationship with community representatives.

E-mail: Bobby.Love@gov.bc.ca

Bobby Love is the service centre manager for the Integrated Land Management Bureau. He began his career in 1991, working for the Ministry of Forests in Smithers. Prior to his current position Bobby has served as an inventory section head, economic development officer, land use planner, and negotiator for the provincial government.

[Recognition & Reconciliation Model - Gitanyow Huwilp](#)

[New Approaches: Gitanyow Experience](#)

[Nass South Sustainable Resource Management Plan \(SRMP\)](#)

This presentation explains who the Gitanyow are, briefly describes Gitanyow's system of land ownership and provides an outline of Gitanyow's land use plans to show how this process can be used to achieve 'certainty' on Gitanyow territories, not only for Gitanyow but also for the provincial Crown, resource users and developers and area communities.

The presentation focuses on the draft land use plans that cover the Gitanyow Territory, briefly describes LUP resource management zones and objectives, identifies policy issues and strategic level decisions required to ensure the effective implementation and thus accommodation of Gitanyow Rights, and sets out the next steps required to achieve a just reconciliation of rights and responsibilities.

WALTER JOSEPH

FISHERIES MANAGER, OFFICE OF THE WET'SUWET'EN

IAN SHARPE

SKEENA REGION MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION, MOE

SHAUNA BENNETT

AQUATIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT BIOLOGIST, BIO LOGIC CONSULTING

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Walter Joseph is the Fisheries Manager for the Office of the Wet'suwet'en's where he has been instrumental in the development of all aspects of their fisheries program. He works closely with Wet'suwet'en chiefs and communities as well as other First Nations groups in the Skeena watershed to improve fisheries management, and social and economic benefits from salmon. Walter is also a board member on the Skeena Fisheries Commission – an organization comprised of all Skeena watershed First Nations focusing on fisheries management, science and conservation issues, and has been instrumental in creating the Upper Morice Water Management Area.

E-mail: Shauna.Bennett@telus.net

Shauna Bennett is a private consultant in Terrace BC where she specializes in aquatic biology and impact assessment. She has been a leader in bioassessment tool development in BC since 1996. She has teamed up with BC MOE, Environment Canada, BC Timber Sales, numerous forest companies, and academics from BC, Ontario, the U.S. and Australia, and other Canadian private consultants to develop the benthic macroinvertebrate based Reference Condition Approach (RCA) bioassessment system, and is now engaged in implementing it as an operational tool in support of land and water management decision making.

Email: Ian.Sharpe@gov.bc.ca

Ian Sharpe has worked as an impact assessment biologist, section head and regional manager in the Smithers Environmental Protection office since 1992. Much of this time has been spent collaborating with others to develop landscape level aquatic impact assessment tools for use in assessing the effects of a variety of land uses and discharges on aquatic ecosystems. Recent efforts have included partnering with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en on the development of the Upper Morice Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Framework and Multi-year Operational Plan.

Upper Morice Water Management Area: An Aquatic Monitoring Partnership of BC Ministry of Environment and Office of the Wet'suwet'en

A water quality monitoring and assessment framework and multi-year operational plan has been created for the Upper Morice Water Management Area as part of the implementation of the Morice Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). The framework and operational plan is a partnership including the Office of the Wet'suwet'en and the Province of BC, and is aimed at ecosystem based aquatic resource management in one of the headwater areas of the Skeena watershed. This presentation demonstrates that collaborative management and research is taking place, and that we are using the science of the day, as well as new innovations to evaluate the status of aquatic resources so that land and water management decisions can be better assessed as to their potential and actual consequences. The presentation deals with how the partnership began and is intended to function over a period of decades, what some of the organizational, financial, communications and technical challenges are, and provides an introduction to how the benthic macroinvertebrate based Reference Condition Approach may serve as the centerpiece in an aquatic impact assessment toolbox for the area.

JODY HOLMES

RAIN FOREST SOLUTIONS

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Jody Holmes has a PhD in biology and is the EBM & Conservation Science Advisor for the Rainforest Solutions Project (RSP), a coalition of environmental organizations including Forest Ethics, Greenpeace, and the Sierra Club BC. She was the conservation sector representative at both the Central and North Coast LRMPs, the Coast Information Team and the EBM Working Group and presently sits on both the Land and Resource Forum Technical Liaison Committee and the Adaptive Management Steering Committee. Jody has been intimately engaged in the creation and implementation of EBM in the Great Bear Rainforest for the last 12 years as a scientist, strategist and negotiator. She delights in working at the interface between science and social change.

[Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Implementing EBM in the Great Bear Rainforest: Status Update and Lessons Learned](#)

Over the course of the past 10 years in the Great Bear Rainforest, new collaborative governance mechanisms with First Nations have been developed, large coalitions of unlikely bedfellows have emerged, approx one third of the area has been set aside in some form of protected areas, more ecologically sensitive forest management is being implemented on the remainder of the landbase, significant sums of conservation financing have been raised and expended and new revenue generating mechanisms like carbon credits continue to emerge. Despite media hype to the contrary, however, the process of implementation of ecosystem based management (EBM) in the Great Bear Rainforest is far from over. From the perspective from this interim vantage point, the presentation will explore what has been accomplished to date and what remains to be done. The emphasis will be on lessons learned and key elements necessary for ongoing success as they related to collaboration, the linkages between science and decision making and shifting to an EBM paradigm.

EVENING PROGRAM:

ALI HOWARD AND BRIAN HUNTINGTON

SPIRIT OF THE SKEENA SWIM

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[Awakening the Skeena - Film Trailer](#)

Ali Howard has experienced the Skeena River like no one else. This summer, the 34-year-old Smithers resident became the first person to swim its 610-kilometre length from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean. Over a



Ali Howard

26-day period, she navigated canyons, rushing whitewater, whirlpools and tidal currents to arrive at the Port Edward Cannery on Aug. 15. Howard, who works as a chef at the Bear Claw Lodge in the Kispiox Valley, said the trip was inspired by the migrating salmon that swim the river every year: "They're a powerful metaphor of connectedness and a very real part of our region's way of life. Everything that happens in our watershed affects the salmon."

Howard's safety and support crew included photographer Brian Huntington, a biologist and founding member of the Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition. Since 2004, Huntington has been organizing baseline inventory research for selected fish, wildlife and cultural resources in the remote upper Skeena. Huntington beautifully captured the Skeena's majesty and the spirit of the expedition in photos. He and Howard will be sharing their stories, experiences and images at the Sept. 15 evening banquet.

SANDRA SULYMA

ECOSYSTEM BIOLOGIST, OMINECA REGION, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

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Sandra has been an Ecosystem Biologist with Ministry of Environment for the past 14 years. Key initiatives she has been involved with include Land and Resource Management Planning, Ungulate Winter Range establishment, and MoE's Stewardship Outreach Initiative. Home is in beautiful Fort St. James where free time is spent outside or on some ice with husband Randy, and children Joel and Emily.

[Ramping it up: Sharing our Lakelse Lake experience](#)

When everyone is on the same page and focused, we are more powerful and effective at influencing change and have a positive impact on the environment. Ministry of Environment is developing and promoting the use of a strategic approach that is driven by outcomes and fosters a proactive, collaborative way of doing business. Through the use of a logic model framework tool, a visual, flexible, easy to understand plan is mapped out that clearly depicts what needs to be done & why, and in what order. This simple capture method then allows participants to not only see how they can contribute, but also others who need to be part of the solution. Social science concepts have been integrated and require that participants leave behind personal perceptions and in turn, find out why people are doing what they are doing. This in turn informs and guides the type and style of activities to funnel effort and funds into first. With such plan in place, everyone is on the same page and together we move effectively and efficiently towards positive change.

DAVE DAUST

CONSULTANT

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Dave Daust and his partner Karen Price are consultants, based in Telkwa. Dave has used landscape models for the last two decades, exploring the ecological and social consequences of land use policies. More recently, he has developing monitoring and adaptive management frameworks. He occasionally dabbles in “real” forestry in the woodlot.

[Making Ecosystem-based Management Work](#)

Dave Daust and Karen Price

How can we successfully implement ecosystem based management—an approach that aims to sustain ecosystem integrity and human well-being, and that aims to be collaborative and adaptive? Management is the process of developing and implementing strategies (means) to achieve objectives (desired ends). Management can fail in several ways. Objectives can be incomplete or conflicting. Strategies can fail to achieve objectives. Institutional structures contribute to these failures, by dividing management responsibility and by hindering collaboration. Improvements to management strategies can be ad hoc. Adaptive management provides a general solution to these management challenges by promoting better collaboration, logical application of current knowledge and focused, connected research and monitoring. The adaptive management framework developed for the Central and North Coast includes four elements: (1) a management group, representing different jurisdictions and/or interests, has the responsibility for consulting stakeholders about values and objectives, for reviewing current knowledge and for selecting strategies that are consistent with knowledge; (2) an adaptive management group has the responsibility for maintaining a knowledge base that supports decision-making and for selecting research and monitoring projects that improve knowledge most efficiently; (3) a knowledge base supports decision-making by recording explicit hypotheses about how management strategies and natural forces influence the achievement of management objectives; (4) a monitoring prioritization procedure supports monitoring decisions by analysing the knowledge base to identify strategies with high risk and/or high uncertainty and estimates the feasibility and cost of related studies. A critical aspect of decision-support is the separation of knowledge from values, in order to avoid positional bargaining and to develop a shared understanding of collective values and knowledge. The adaptive management framework separates values from knowledge by assigning one group the responsibility for each and by having a knowledge base structure that clearly distinguishes between them. Knowledge models are simple (“high-level”) representations of current science, traditional ecological knowledge and practitioner knowledge, presented in a format directly relevant to management decisions, i.e., showing the probability of achieving an objective for a potential strategy. The framework provides a way for multiple parties to work collaboratively to improve management over time.

MICHAEL WEBSTER

SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER, GORDON AND BETTY MOORE FOUNDATION

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Dr. Michael Webster is a senior program officer with the Wild Salmon Ecosystems Initiative at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Michael is trained as an aquatic ecologist and has earned degrees in zoology from the University of Wisconsin and Oregon State University.

[How protecting salmon diversity promotes healthy returns](#)

Salmon stocks are often comprised of a diverse network of smaller subpopulations that occupy a wide range of different habitats. Recent studies of thriving salmon populations in Bristol Bay, Alaska have shed light on how this diversity promotes healthy returns of salmon through an ecological portfolio effect. The portfolio effect is analogous to a diverse financial portfolio that stabilizes returns over time. In many places, intensive human activities have eroded salmon diversity resulting in homogenized stocks that are prone to high variability and crashes. Therefore, efforts to maintain healthy salmon stocks may require fisheries and habitat management actions that explicitly promote and protect salmon diversity.

JOHN REYNOLDS

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Ecosystem Services
Through Salmon Nutrients

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[Forest & Range Evaluation Program \(FREP\):
Introduction to the Protocol for Evaluating the
Condition of Streams and Riparian Management
Areas](#)

JACK STANFORD

DIRECTOR, FLATHEAD LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATION, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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Jack A. Stanford is the Jessie M. Bierman Professor of Ecology and Director of the Flathead Lake Biological Station at The University of Montana. He has conducted research and education in systems ecology for 35 years with focus on rivers and fisheries.

[Modeling changes in river flows and temperatures caused by climate warming](#)

*Huan Wu, John Kimball,
Samantha Chilcote and Jack Stanford*

Working with colleagues at the University of Washington, we used down-scaled predictions of climate warming from 15-20 GCMs to drive a new model of flow and temperature changes for rivers of the North Pacific Rim. The flow-temperature predictions were generated using forcings from the variable infiltration capacity (VIC) macroscale hydrologic simulator linked to a novel routing and coupled stream temperature model we developed. We used the SCE-UA global optimization algorithm to calibrate the model runs. Validation was done by comparison of hind casts to measured stream flows in the study area. In this presentation we will show initial results for the Columbia (1/16th degree downscale) and the Skeena (1/8th degree) Rivers. In both basins we predict a spatially predominant drying trend and both rivers get warmer in the coming decades. The mean annual flow rate of all river segments in the Skeena system are predicted to decrease by 4-170m³/s in the next 100 years. The change in mean annual water temperature will range from -0.02 °C to 0.48 °C per decade over all river segments with drainage area >300km². The mean summer water temperature over all river segments will warm 0.22 °C per decade, associated with a 7.2% decadal decrease of mean summer stream flow. This could mean summer temperatures will approach or exceed physiological thresholds for salmonids in some segments. Ground-surface water exchanges in floodplain segments were not modeled and certainly will provide some buffering of flow and temperature. In any case, climate warming effects will be significant and additive to other pressures on Skeena salmonid fisheries.

JEFFREY ANDERSON

GEOMORPHIC EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL

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Jeffrey is an independent researcher and environmental consultant in the Bulkley Valley. His background is in geomorphology and climate-ecosystem impacts. He uses dendroclimatology to uncover temporal and spatial relationships between ocean-atmosphere processes in the northeast Pacific and ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest. His research interests has focused on characterizing relationships between the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, El Nino-Souther Oscillation and hydrometric indices, forest health issues and coastal erosion.

[Climate Change and Autumn Low-Flows in the Skeena Watershed](#)

Hydrology is an important yet understudied entity in the Skeena Watershed. Hydrology in the Skeena is the fulcrum for a myriad of biota and a focal point for tourism, First Nations and resource industries. Recent work in British Columbia has identified that hydro-climate responses are highly variable throughout the province, ranging from distinct punctuated affects to indistinguishable influences. This research has used the stream gauge network in the upper Skeena to demonstrate that autumn low-flows in the Skeena Watershed respond very acutely to climate variability mechanisms, such as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation in addition to El Nino and La Nina episodes. These findings suggest that hydrology (as per autumn low-flows) in the Skeena may be vulnerable to climate change, via phase dominated hydro-climate responses. Beyond the stream gauge network, this research has also utilized treering research to further demonstrate that ecosystems in the Skeena are moderated by the behavior of the northeast Pacific; which, in turn, is directly influenced by global circulation and ocean-atmosphere dynamics (climate change). Collectively, these findings suggest that we can expect to experience further changes in hydrology throughout the Skeena Watershed as a result of climate change.

FIVE MINUTE FORUMS

GREG KNOX

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SKEENAWILD CONSERVATION TRUST

[EBM in the Skeena Watershed](#)

RICHARD OVERSTALL

TRUSTEE, BABINE WATERSHED MONITORING TRUST

[Skeena - North Coast Collaborative Salmon Habitat Management](#)

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MAPCHAT

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The Babine River Watershed - Current Land Use Planning and Resource Development

The map series focuses on the Babine River Watershed and provides an overview of land use planning, road development, forest harvesting activities and mineral tenures. The map series display the relevant land use plans pertinent to the entire Babine River Watershed, including a detailed resource management zones map. A summary of the current road development to date, including proposed and deactivated roads, is presented. In addition, harvesting activity, including proposed, harvested, and green-up blocks are presented. The final map displays mineral tenures within the Babine River Watershed.

VALLEY VISION

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Valley Vision: Towards a comprehensive vision for the Bulkley Valley

www.ValleyVision.ca offers a user-friendly portal to Bulkley Valley planning activities and a repository for planning-related knowledge and opinions.

BULKLEY VALLEY STEWARDSHIP COALITION

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Bulkley Valley Community Mapping Initiative

The Bulkley Valley Stewardship Coalition has been involved in a community based mapping project. The objective of this effort is to identify the environmental, aesthetic, cultural and recreational features in the Bulkley Valley upon which the public places the most value and which residents would most like to see preserved as development of the Valley unfolds. We use these maps to assist the public in responding to development proposals that might affect the areas that have been identified as warranting special concern when it comes to preservation. Government agencies can also use the maps in their planning processes. Electronic versions of our maps are on display on Valley Vision at: <http://www.valleyvision.ca/research-projects/bv-community-mapping>.

MAPCHAT

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N2L 3C5

The MapChat Skeena Coop: Building an Institutional Framework for the Use of a Geomatics Tool which Facilitates Environmental Planning

MapChat is one of several new technologies developed by the recently completed GEOIDE-funded National Centres of Excellence in Geomatics project Promoting Sustainable Communities through Participatory Spatial Decision Support. MapChat Version 1 and MapChat Version 2 are software tools for Web-based collaboration on matters of local spatial importance. MapChat Version 1 was field-tested in the Bulkley Valley in collaboration with the Bulkley Valley Stewardship Coalition, the Ministry of Environment, and the Town of Smithers. One application related to salmonid habitat.

Geomatics tools of the MapChat sort have great potential to facilitate direct democracy in environmental decision-making at the regional scale. Because MapChat was developed from open-source components, access to it is free. However, small groups and organizations require technical assistance to customize its features and apply it. Efforts are currently being made to establish a Skeena MapChat Co-op pooling the resources of Skeena region local governments and other organizations interested in acquiring and using MapChat.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

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Lakelse Watershed Conservation Pilot: A Four-step Framework for Collaborative Planning and Strategic Problem Solving

This poster describes the format for a set of two workshops to help with strategic planning and collaboration. It addresses short and long term needs and organized information and ideas so that people could develop projects that were doable, and likely to have biggest effect, without burning out volunteers. It is on-going and has been well supported.

**THE SKEENA SALMON HABITAT
CONFERENCE IS PRESENTED IN
COLLABORATION WITH:**

**SKEENA FISHERIES COMMISSION
FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA
INTEGRATED LAND MANAGEMENT BUREAU
MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND RANGE
BURI OVERSTALL BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS**

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