
Kispiox and Lakelse Watershed-Based Fish Sustainability Stage II Planning

Final Report – Project Code 5B141-310-383-1015-50935

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1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- a. To enhance long-term fish habitat protection by promoting community awareness of fish habitat management issues and community involvement in solving these issues through watershed management planning.
- b. To restore and protect fish and fish habitat by promoting and planning fish habitat restoration activities in conjunction with community groups and by increasing awareness of interactions between land use and fish habitat.

2. PROJECT WORK PLAN

- a. Liaise and work in cooperation with various federal government agencies, provincial government agencies, local governments, and First Nations and other stakeholders/interest groups with strategic watershed planning process and restoration activities.
- b. Ensuring community input into each of the WFSP Phase II plans.
- c. Organize and support the planning committee
- d. Enhance the communication between government agencies and aboriginal and community groups regarding fish habitat issues and watershed planning.
- e. Publishing and distribution reports and technical data.
- f. Write news releases, newsletters and articles regarding watershed activities.
- g. Organize meetings of stakeholders within the Kispiox and Lakelse watersheds.
- h. Attend evening and weekend meetings workshops and open houses.
- i. Prepare the final report for the Kispiox and Lakelse WFSP.
- j. Explore and develop future funding partnerships within the Middle Skeena Habitat Management area.

3 SKEENA WFSP STRUCTURE

a. Process Team (Planning Team)

The process team consists of a representative from the Federal Government, BC government, First Nations a coordinator and a community representative from the Lakelse, Morice and Kispiox watersheds.

The process team tasks included developing and finalizing a protocol that identifies the roles and responsibilities for each of the participants involved in the Morice, Lakelse, and Kispiox WFSP planning teams, as well as identifying sectors and participants. The process team also developed and implemented a communication strategy to inform the broader community about the Skeena WFS Planning process. The major objectives completed include establishing websites for the Skeena WFSP with links to the Lakelse and Kispiox Stage II planning processes and outputs. Briefing backgrounders, meetings results, proposed agendas, and other essential communication are available there.

The following is a detailed list of tasks for the process team and watershed coordinators to support the WFSP process:

- Develop and finalize a Terms of Reference
- Identify participants for the Skeena WFSP
- Develop and finalize a protocol that identifies the roles and responsibilities of each of the participants in the Skeena WFSP processes
- Organize and co-ordinate meetings and/or workshops to present WFSP products as they are developed by the technical team
- Maintain a list of addresses, phone numbers and email of the participants
- Develop and have agenda's approved
- Record and distribute meeting minutes.

The Process Team meeting dates:

- May 29, 2002 in Prince Rupert
 - o Introductory meeting of the process and structure
- June 10, 2002 in Terrace
 - o Develop work plans and terms of references
- June 14, 2002 in Prince Rupert
 - o Develop work plans and terms of references
- November 27 & November 28, 2002 in Terrace
 - o Review Terms of Reference, Work plans and the coordination of the Morice Table process.
- February 26, 2003 in Terrace
 - o Review of trilateral relationship with the MSRM and future funding options

b. Technical Team

The Technical Team was established by the Process Team with the initial mandate to compile and summarize a detailed profile of the Lakelse and Kispiox Watersheds. The primary purposes of this task was to provide pertinent, detailed information summarized in a watershed profile and secondly, to provide data that would support analysis on various scales within the watershed.

Compilation of detailed technical material was carried out with assistance of DFO, various provincial ministries, Gitksan Watershed Authorities, and the HCSP - WFSP Planners. Unfortunately, recent shifting of data management responsibilities for fish and fish habitat inventories within the provincial ministries caused some initial confusion. Other than digital terrain data, compilation of technical material was completed. This material is currently archived with the Skeena Fisheries Commission.

4. WATERSHED PLANNING ACTIVITIES

a. Kispiox Planning Table

Research was conducted throughout the Hazelton's' to compile a mailing list of community groups who are active and interested in the WFSP process. Contact was made November 13, 2002 to the identified community organization. The groups or persons were contacted in a variety of ways; introductory letter, e-mail, phone calls and or person-to-person conversations.

Table 1. Sector groups and their representatives.

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Constituency Group</u>
1. First Nations – Hereditary Chiefs	House Chiefs
2. First Nations – Band Council	Kispiox Band Administration Max Stephens
3. Province of BC	MSRM, WALP, MOF, MOTH,
4. Agriculture	Sustainable Agriculture Society, Dave Ryan
5. Recreational Fishing	Kispiox Valley Steelhead Coalition
6. Canada	DFO
7. Guide Outfitters	Wilfred Lee/Jim Allen
8. Land Owners or Community Association	Land Owners Association of the Kispiox Valley/Swan Lake Community Group
9. Forest Industry	Skeena Cellulose/Kispiox Forest Products/Small Business – Richard Carne, Dave Allen
10. Local Government	Municipality –Doug Donaldson
11. Public Interest	Wilp Maii, Mushroom Pickers.... Darlene Veigh
12. Youth	Gitksan Youth Worker, Bambi Tait
13. Cultural Heritage Groups	Will look for possible interest. Leave open until all avenues exhausted or a representative is found.
14. Adventure/Eco-tourism	Kispiox Band Eco Tourism
15. Community Interest	Kispiox Watershed Coalition

A public open house was held at the Kispiox Valley Sportsman's Lodge January 30, 2003. To ensure we reached the public at large the advertisement was posted in the local Bulkley Browser, Interior News, Terrace Standard, local radio stations CFBV and CJFW) posters were distributed locally and sent to the WFSP Kispiox mailing list. A presentation was made Dec 16, 2002 to the Gitksan Hereditary Chiefs territory holders within the Kispiox watershed planning area, to introduce the WFSP process and to invite the chiefs to the Kispiox Valley open house.

Agenda for the Kispiox Valley open house:

- a) Introduction and objectives of the WFSP process
(powerpoint presentation)
- b) Stage I
- c) Priority watershed selection criteria
(powerpoint presentation)
- d) Stage II
- e) Sector Representatives

Documents such as the WFSP guidebook, WFSP summary brochure, Kispiox profile report and informational brochures were copied and distributed to the community members and government representatives in attendance.

In an effort to attain future funding the Kispiox Table Planner attended the Kispiox Sustainable Forestry Management Plan (SFMP) meeting February 27, 2003 at the Kispiox Forest District Office. The WFSP process and mandate was presented in the hopes to build a partnership. The Kispiox Table Planner will attend the next scheduled meeting of the SFMP working group March 18th 2003.

The Kispiox Table sector representatives are scheduled to meet again March 24, 2003 at the Northwest Community College in Hazelton. The agenda will focus on the sector representatives and communications among constituents, terms of reference and partnership funding.

(A list of attendees to meetings and the open house can be forwarded upon request)

b. Lakelse Planning Table

The Lakelse Watershed was prioritized in the Skeena Watershed-based Fish Sustainability Plan (WFSP) Stage 1 process for stage 2 planning. Stage 2 planning enables the community with a voice in a plan that will ultimately seek to conserve fish in the watershed while recognizing and addressing that other interests are also present in the watershed.

To initiate bringing the community of users into the Stage 2 process, letters were sent out to various individuals that covered a broad spectrum of interests in the Lakelse Watershed. About 55 letters were mailed out in the second week of January. The letter touched on the WFSP process, the prioritization of Lakelse for a stage 2 process, and invited everyone to an Open House on January 28, 2003. Color brochures describing the WFSP process were photocopied and mailed out with the letter as was a sheet describing the association of like groups that could be represented at a planning team. Anyone who received a letter was given a follow up phone call prior to the Open House. As well, the Open House was advertised in the weekend paper, and on the local television.

35 people attended the Open House. Two different maps were produced for the meeting by Allen Gottesfeld that showed an overview of the watershed and various resources (fish streams, stand age, swamps, etc.). As well, photocopies from the Stage 1 report, including the Skeena WFSP process, the section on the Lakelse Watershed and the Strategic Overview were made available to attendees. Allen Gottesfeld gave a presentation on the WFSP and Stage 1 process, and outlined what would happen in a Stage 2 process. Heather Lamson gave a short presentation on the formation of a planning team. The planning team would consist of representatives and alternatives from various interests in the watershed who would work with a technical team in devising a plan in an aim to protect fish and fish habitat in the watershed. The planning team would function best if it represented a wide range of interests yet consisted of a reasonably small number of people so that the team could function at relative ease. The group asked questions, had discussion and decided that another meeting was needed to formalize a Lakelse Table and scheduled a meeting for February 25, 2003.

At the February 25th meeting, 17 people attended. Heather Lamson made a presentation on the purpose and roles of the Planning Team and Technical Team and the outputs of stage 2. A work plan for the planning team was distributed. Dale Gueret was asked to comment on potential funding and reported that the continuation of funding in the near future was questionable. Attendees who could possibly represent various interests on the planning team were given a letter that they could take to groups that they would represent for support from signatures. A further meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 24th.

Notes from the meeting were sent to WFSP contacts by either e-mail or mail, as was a draft Terms of Reference and the work plan for the planning team. 55 people received this information.

(A list of attendees to meetings and the open house can be forwarded upon request)

Table 2. Lakelse & Kispiox WFSP Stage II Work Plan	
Item	Comments
1. Open house inviting community members to participate in an information session.	January 28, 2003
2. Develop table participants	February/ March 2003
3. First Table Meeting “Terms of Reference” outlining “Lakelse Table” representative's roles and responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who does what and how the participants will work together. • Identify roles and responsibilities of each participant. • Consensus agreement
4. Develop watershed profile (synopsis of the biological characteristics of the watershed)	Technical Committee Task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about fish populations, fish habitat, impacts of development on watershed, effects of past, present and future activities, informational gaps.
5. Identify strategic options (biological general plans)	Technical Committee Task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasize conservation, protection, restoration or enhancement initiatives
5. Develop strategic overview (identifies key social, cultural, economic, ecological and political values within Lakelse Watershed and the resources available for WFSP)	Identifies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local priorities and concerns with respect to fish & habitat • Level of local support for WFSP • Available resources and expertise • Existing plans, programs and commitments in watershed • Regional priorities and other outside factors that may affect the watershed • General priorities of non-fish interests
6. Develop strategic directions (general goals or prescriptions that aim to maintain or restore fish populations and habitat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide the development of the WFSP action plan (ie. preserve existing fish and habitat values or decrease juvenile mortality) • Considers strategic options from technical team • Obtain input from fish conservation interests
7. Identify specific management objectives, targets and strategies (quantifiable)	Typically addresses fish population size, genetic diversity, habitat status, protection, restoration, enhancement, enforcement requirements, research and inventory requirements Objective- what WFSP participants want to achieve Targets- how to tell if objectives are achieved Strategies- how objectives will be achieved
8. Establish a monitoring and assessment framework (indicators of habitat status based on 6&7)	What WFSP participants will measure to track progress Works closely with Technical Committee
9. Obtain final approval	Reviewed by WFSP Steering Committee who will oversee a peer reviewed process

5. RESOURCES DEVELOPED

a. Watershed Maps

Coloured maps designed and created by the Gitxsan Watershed Authorities (GWA) Global Information System Department (GIS) were:

Kispiox

- a. Kispiox Watershed Rivers, Creek and Wetlands (Scale 1:150,000)
- b. Kispiox Watershed Forest Age Class Stands (Scale 1: 150,000)
- c. Kispiox Watershed Salmon Bearing Streams (Scale 1: 300,000)

Lakelse

- a. Lakelse Watershed Rivers, Creek and Wetlands (Scale 1:150,000)
- b. Lakelse Watershed Forest Age Class Stands (Scale 1: 150,000)

The maps listed were displayed at the Kispiox Valley and Lakelse Open houses as a visual tool to show areas of interest to the public and sector representatives in attendance. These maps will also be used as a resource for the technical team.

b. Skeena Watershed Web-Page

BC Web in Smithers is the selected host site for the Skeena web page and the domain name is www.skeenawatersheds.com. The following page is a diagram showing the structure, content and colour design of skeenawatersheds.com. A colour scheme has been developed for the home page and sub-pages to make the web site a very user-friendly service. The web site will also have a page containing contact names, numbers, and addresses for the Watershed Process Team and Watershed Coordinators. This contact sub-section will allow for a more personal approach to sharing information for those who may require more details pertaining to WFSP.

It is scheduled to have skeenawatersheds.com fully functional and operational for the public to access on March 31st 2003

The Skeena Fisheries Commission will provide on-going up-dates and web site maintenance to skeenawatersheds.com as required.

Skeenawatershed.com format

6. SKEENA WFSP II TECHNICAL REPORT

Skeena WFSP Stage II has laid the foundation for the development of detailed WFSP action plans to maintain or restore the productive capacity of watershed planning units that have been identified as priorities in Stage I. These are the Morice, Lakelse, and Kispiox Watersheds (Gottesfeld *et al*, 2002). The Skeena WFSP Watershed Process Team composed of a representative from DFO and a representative from the Skeena Fisheries Commission, in conjunction with the three Skeena Basin HCSP - WFSP Planners (Bridie O'Brien, Mary Swendson, and Heather Lamson) established and defined the structural framework for the Morice, Lakelse, and Kispiox Watersheds planning and technical teams.

Detailed profiles of the Kispiox and Lakelse Watersheds were developed. The information in these profiles will help the Lakelse and Kispiox Planning teams identify strategic management options for the watersheds.

These profiles include information about the environmental setting, fish values, and land use development within the Kispiox and Lakelse Watersheds, as well as these variables in the larger context of the Skeena Basin.

See attached report??

7. WFSP STAGE II EXPENDITURE REPORT

8. CONCLUSION