

DAY ONE: Thursday, March 29, 2007

Lost in Space: Mapping Your Way Home

Presentations

The Community Mapping Network: Planning Sustainable Communities

Brad Mason, Senior Habitat Inventory Biologist
Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Kamloops–South Thompson Sustainable Community Atlas

Dave Whiting, Community Mapping Coordinator
Fraser Basin Council

Summary Questions

If you can bring up one map, can you bring up another over top?

Yes - but sometimes the maps you bring up are not transparent they have solid colours on them. The software is evolving so that you will eventually be able to vary the transparency.

Is there an atlas administrator that screens the data before entered?

Yes you have to have some kind of integrity around the system. The data upload is password protected and the partnership sets the standard. This usually involves some training.

You reference training – are you talking field training? How does this fit into stewardship volunteer training or stream keepers?

There is GPS training ranging from high end to cheaper units. There is training available for identifying which attributes to map. There is also data entry tool training. Once we make an atlas we have train people how to enter data online.

Each of the atlases requires people to keep them updated. Unless they are up to date they loss there value very quickly. The foundation is there and the door is open. Now we need people and groups to come together to decide which atlases they want to work on. This is where Stewards can play a key role. Individuals or groups can start small around a particular issue. For example, you could have the Bonaparte Watershed Bird Atlas. If you are interested please contact Dave Whiting or Brad Mason.

The basic structure of the stream keepers methodology has been duplicated. So we have tools for entering most of the stream keepers data right online. We need to do more integration of data.

Is there a critical habitat layer?

That is difficult to answer - as I do not know everything about all of the layers. There is always some information that you do not want to give out at certain scales because we are in the business of trying to protect habitat not create opportunities for its destruction. The same is true for archeological sites.

If you are interested in mapping wildlife trees you should talk to Ms. Wilson. Please contact Brad Mason for her phone number.

Note:

This document is a paraphrased summary of the workshop.



Do you know how much of this information has been used in planning and decision making processes?

The city of Kamloops and the TNRD have partnered together recently. The result has been a very impressive information-sharing tool. All data that the city of Kamloops has is downloadable from their website. The key community of practice that we really need to get to is local government planners. One of the ways to do that is through technology. The other way is through the political will. When you have the community getting together at the grass roots involved in mapping projects imagine the political currency. This tool gets people out of their basements and away from their TV and out engaging with the natural world. Mapping it. Seeing it. Recognizing the value of it. This helps raise the profile among the decision-makers.

The Comox Strathcona Regional District has done a lot of work like the Langley Environmental Partners. The city of Kelowna has also done some mapping work. Those stream maps are going to go right into official community plans. They assist with riparian area regulations and streamside enhancement and restoration projects.

How does someone get a password to give or view data?

Email Brad Mason (MasonB@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) for a password. 99% of the data is available without a password. You only need a password if you want to enter data. If you want to enter data then you will be asked questions about your training and the tools you will be using to collect the data.

What is the ETA for version 2?

It should be up and running within 3 months.

Can you associate digital photos with data?

Yes when you update data you can upload digital photos as well. We are looking at a project with heritage buildings in Kamloops where this will happen.

Life on the Edge: The Riparian World

Presentations

A Decade of Riparian Enhancement: The City of Kelowna Experience

Michelle Kam, Watershed Coordinator
City of Kelowna

Darryl Arsenault, Senior Fisheries Biologist
EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd.

Summary Questions

Is the habitat compensation bank a money bank or a is it a if I mess this up here, I can fix this or create this over there bank?

There are many types of banking systems. Some are monetary. This one is actually going to be a bank of habitat. It involves creating the land and creating new channels. It follows the DFO no net loss guidelines. For example, it could be a large landowner that says I am going to all this work and then you pay me over time. That is just one option.



Question – How did you classify shoreline vegetation?

The Central Okanagan Regional District did the shoreline classification. They classified it based on the vegetated shoreline that they could see from the lake.

Question – Did you classify species and age classes?

No. That could be added.

Question – Has it come to you that city council and/or planners are actually using the information to make intelligent land and water decisions?

We are finding that many departments that you would not think would use the information are indeed using it. For example, the fire department is interested in knowing where natural features are so that they plan their access to fires. Drainage, parks and planning departments are indeed using the information. This information will also be put on the Community Mapping Network so that others can access it.

Fostering Collaboration for Salmon and Their Habitat

Presentation

Environmental Farm Planning and Riparian Restoration

Clay Campbell, Farm Planning Advisor
Beef Industry Environmental Farm Advisor Service

Summary Questions

How long has the Environmental Farm Planning program been in place and what is the longevity of it?

We have been at it for approximately two years. It is running in 2007 and we expect that it will keep going for 2 more years.

Question – Is Environmental Farm Planning located throughout the province or just in the Thompson and Okanagan?

The program is available throughout the province. There are a number of representatives present here today. For more information visit the Environmental farm planning website.

Presentation

The Fraser Salmon and Watershed Program (FSWP)

Coral DeShield, Co-Manager of the FSWP, Program Manager (Fisheries)
Fraser Basin Council

Summary Questions

In the past Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) funding sources have not paid for labour, do they now include labour?

We are going through the first review process right now. We don't yet have a policy on labour.

Who is financially responsible for the program?

It was determined early on that one organization needed to be financially accountable. Thus, the money goes through PSF.



Discussion Notes - 3rd Annual BC Interior Area Stewardship Workshop

How is the program managed?

The overall program is co-managed by FBC and PSF via a management committee that is responsible for the general operation of the program. There are three additional committees involved in the proposal assessment process (technical, steering and PSF board sub-committee).

Will all four committees assess proposals?

Applications start at the technical committee and then a recommendation is made to the steering committee. The steering committee ensures that the proposal meets the objectives of the program. Both of these committees have the opportunity to request proposal changes to ensure that priorities are addressed and that they are technically sound. From there proposals go forward to the board committee (PSF Sub-Committee) for a final decision.

What role does staff play in this process?

FBC and PSF staff provide information to the committees.

Can you promise that the approval and notification process will be more streamlined in order to minimize the loss of credibility local groups experience when commitments made are not fulfilled?

I will bring this message and concern back to the management committee.

Given that many groups have strong local partnerships with folks at DFO how will local and or regional perspectives be built into the process?

DFO will have two spots on the technical committee. That will help provide a local context to some extent.

Have people put much thought into using academic and stewardship groups to monitor or evaluate?

We have started to think about how to do evaluation and haven't gone that far along that part of our workplan. We anticipate some process in the near future and would be interested in talking with others about this idea.

How can NGO and other agencies support stewardship groups in the future, when the program ends?

The longevity is to some extent in the stewardship groups. We are interested in talking with others to look at this idea. Ways we can support tools that will carry on past the life of the project. There is also a role for the private sector and other funding sources in enhancing the longevity of the program.

Are there any educators that sit on the technical committee?

No. However, we do have a separate communications committee with an education and engagement focus. We have developed an outreach plan. We are examining opportunities to enhance the education and outreach component of the program. If you are aware of someone who would be interested in playing a role please feel free to contact Coral DeShield.

Where do I direct groups to apply for funding?

They can contact the Fraser Basin Council or the Pacific Salmon Foundation.



DAY TWO: Friday, March 30, 2007

Climate Change

Presentation

Changing Climates and Changing Environments: From Global to Local Perspectives

Paul Whitfield, Senior Manager
Environment Canada

Summary Questions

Will the glaciers decrease faster due to warming?

Glaciers are really complicated. Glaciers have what is often referred to as a midpoint. This is not the middle of the ice. It is the middle of the melt regime. Above the midpoint is where conditions allow for snow to accumulate. Whereas, below the midpoint conditions allow for the glacier to melt. When the local temperature warms that midpoint line on the glacier moves. If the line moves up ten meters you can get increased levels of water coming off the glacier. The issue in BC is that the Glaciers are relatively small and midpoint movement can impact melt rates.

Were there any noticeable affects with El Nino or La Nina?

Yes there is a noticeable trend but no statistically difference. It is not easily predictable. On average La Nina brings us wetter and cooler winters. These are often reflected in changes in stream flows during the summer time. When you have El Nino conditions we (on average) get direr and warmer winters. However, this winter was a weak El Nino year. We should have seen a warmer and drier winter. But, Vancouver received a large amount of precipitation and had a cool winter. So we can get an El Nino year where we get La Nina conditions. There is enough variability within the two conditions. We can only comment on the general pattern.

Can you explain linkages between agriculture methane and nitrous oxide?

We all produce methane. However, methane is a product of intense industrial cattle production. Nitrous oxide is when methane products become oxidized. We have a population of people looking for protein to eat and methane is a by-product of producing protein. However, there are some projects designed to address this that involve the conversion of manure to natural gas.

What about the methane from landfills?

That is a supply as well.

Is methane being released from the melting of the permafrost?

There is methane connected with it but I cannot comment on the magnitude. We do not yet know how some areas like this will respond to temperature changes.

Boreal forests have huge areas that are to be logged – what will the impact be?

By changing the albeto of the landscape melt rates can be impacted.



What's the effect of volcanic action on global warming?

The ash particles released by the volcano are deposited into the stratosphere where they reflect the sun's energy away from the earth.

We have thousands of hectares turning red – will this colour have an effect (regarding heat absorption)?

I do not know if anyone has tried to quantify that.

Restoration with the Beaver Bank Crew

Presentation

A Land Owner's Approach

Ken Park, Owner
Riverbank Ranch

A Federal Biologist's Perspective

Sean Bennett, Restoration Biologist
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

A Round Table's View

Mike Wallis, Project Biologist
Salmon River Round Table

An Industry's Focus

Lee Hesketh, Program Coordinator
BC Cattlemen's Association

Summary Questions

Could you give me some idea of the magnitude of this project?

The key issue is that the landowner stepped in with a large portion of his own money. A total of roughly \$150,000 was spent in hard cash. The in-kind portion brought it up to approximately \$190,000.

Why hybrid poplar – was it a free source?

We had them already. They grow fast and have a good root mass.

Do you expect this structure to mitigate the effects of these high-powered boats?

We hope that the series of groynes is to deflect the main force away from the bank. The logs are also there to help break-up the wash of the boats and act as a retaining wall.

What will be the downstream effects of this type of intervention?

There should be minimal downstream negative impacts. As the force of the flow is altered back towards the other side of the river where it is stable. This question needs to be considered on every individual site.

What are some examples of smaller scale costs?

Most sites require fewer resources than the one described in the presentation. For example most of the streams in the Salmon River area cost between \$80 and \$130 per meter for a



typical revetment with rock (includes planting and fencing). The average total cost for sites in the Salmon River is about \$5,000 to \$8,000.

What kind of things can landowners do to prevent this sort of thing?

Usually when we do these projects there is infrastructure or habitat at risk. We try to offer a combination of tools responsive and preventative. We start with the lowest cost and least invasive approach possible. One low cost and minimally invasive technique we can use is a fence and wait program. Here we simply fence along a stream to control access and allow for natural regeneration to take place. This process takes time and often does not fit within human time scales.

Do you have a fisheries concern with the silt?

We need to take a more inclusive approach were we do not separate fisheries concerns from land concerns. We need to take a caretaker approach that is based on working together. We need to look at projects that address a number of watershed concerns that benefit fish, cattle, and the wildlife. A lot of the ranchers have a connection to the land. If you can get them to understand the total benefits you often get a powerful steward of the land.

We're dealing with farm practices from a century ago....Is there a cut and dry formula between these groyne structure distances?

The distance is really site specific. What you have to look at is your goals and the characteristic of the site. The structures are designed to mimic the functioning components of the stream.

Are there any fact sheets available to help learn techniques for bank restoration?

There are some documents out there. The US Department of Agriculture also has a habitat restoration handbook available from their website. However, there is a need for a common sense updated document with before and after pictures. Lee Hesketh is also working on a document that will be available later this spring sometime.

These types of documents are great but they can't replace the benefits of stewardship groups working together and learning from each other.

