

The Nechako Watershed Roundtable

What is the Nechako Watershed Roundtable (NWR)?

The Nechako Watershed Roundtable (NWR) is a collaborative initiative launched in October 2015 to help protect and improve the health of the Nechako Watershed for future generations. The Roundtable brings together public sector, private sector, and community organizations having responsibilities and interests in this watershed.

What does the NWR do and why is this important?

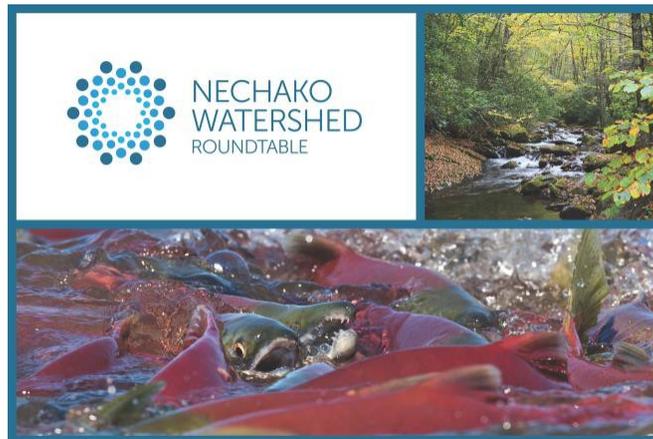
The NWR convenes conversations and facilitates collaborative action to help achieve its mission “to protect and improve the health of the Nechako watershed and its communities”. The NWR is a collective voice across the region working to strengthen community and ecosystem resilience, and to understand the impacts of climate change, extreme events, resource development, and other pressures on the watershed.

Who is involved in the NWR?

The NWR includes individuals bringing perspectives from BC First Nations, the Province of BC, local governments, and other agencies and organizations having responsibilities and interests in the watershed.

How do you become a member of the Roundtable, and what is expected?

Membership in the NWR is open to organizations, agencies, and individuals. The Roundtable meets 1-2 times a year as a whole, and smaller groups (Core Committee and specific working groups) meet 4 or more times a year on an as-needed basis. All NWR members are welcome to contact the NWR Coordinator about ways to become involved with the Core Committee and Working Groups.



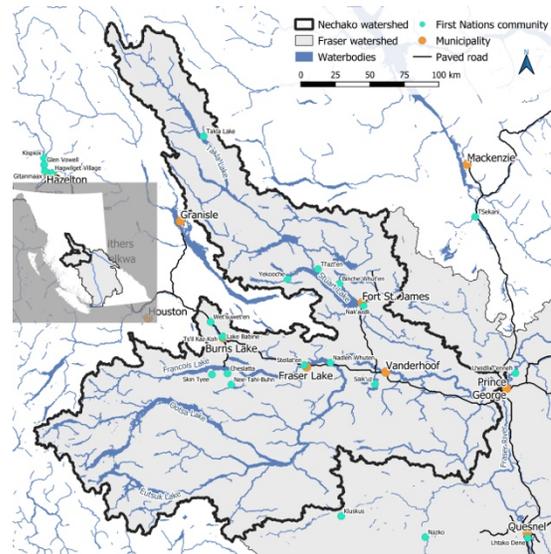
For more information, contact the NWR Secretariat or visit

The Nechako Watershed

How big is the watershed?

The Nechako Watershed is a roughly 47,200 km², which is over 1.5 times the area of Vancouver Island (31,285 km²). The watershed combines areas drained by the Nechako River (originating in the east slopes of BC's Coast Mountains) and the Takla Lake-Stuart River drainage, prior to joining the Fraser River at Prince George.

Image: Bezzola, Aita. Nechako watershed communities [map]. Scale 1: 3,000,000. Prince George: University of Northern British Columbia, 2021. Using: QGIS Desktop 3.18.2



Which First Nations territories overlap with the Nechako Watershed?

The land area drained of the Nechako Watershed overlaps with the traditional territories of 15 First Nations, including Binche First Nation, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Lake Babine First Nation, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Nadleh Whut'en First Nation, Nak'azdli First Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn First Nation, Saik'uz First Nation, Skin Tye Nation First Nation, Stelat'en First Nation, Takla First Nation, Tl'azt'en Nation, Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Yekooche First Nation. First Nations connections throughout the watershed are ongoing, led by individuals, families, First Nation communities and groups such as Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and the Office of Wet'suwet'en.

What other communities fall within this watershed?

In addition to the First Nations communities, the Nechako Watershed encompasses two regional districts – the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and part of the Fraser-Fort George Regional District– and five municipalities: Prince George, Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake, Fort St. James, and Burns Lake.

What are the big issues for the watershed?

Our 2015 Nechako Watershed Health Report found that:

- The adequacy and timing of water flows on the Nechako River impacts the health of aquatic species, and creates challenges water security, quality and quantity for other water users.
- The loss of forest cover can also adversely impact water quality and biodiversity.
- The loss of forest cover as a result of Mountain Pine Beetle and associated salvage logging can result in increased runoff, spring flooding and erosion, and late summer/early fall low flows and warm water temperatures.
- The changing climate is going to impact the water cycle, so it is important to adequately plan for future water availability for multiple needs and values such as industry, agriculture, domestic use, fish, and overall ecosystem health.