

Community Stewardship of Aquatic & Riparian Resources

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Concepts

Stewardship

“Together today for our children tomorrow”

“We’re all in this together”

Community

Geographical, Origin, Interest, Use.....

Each community will have it’s own understanding
of “Stewardship”;

Significant variation, potential conflict



Aquatic and Riparian environments

Functionally, still- and flowing water and the terrestrial environment adjacent to it.

Tend to be more productive & to have more diverse biological communities than surrounding uplands.

Tend to connect other terrestrial and aquatic habitats – upland/ lowland, spawning/rearing.

Tend to be socially and culturally attractive – commons vs private ownership.



Management Agencies & staff

Rich, diverse environment = rich & diverse management regime – many interests.

Command & control vs influence and advise.

Long term vs short term – encouraging community support for the long term maintenance of riparian and aquatic areas and values.



Examples – LS/C FN

Tatchun River

Tatchun River

- Very high value chinook spawning river;
- Low water years in the mid-late 1990s, beaver dams ~ half way to lake;
- LS/C Elders noticed no salmon near lake;
- LS/C consulted with DFO, opened beaver dams following DFO guidelines;
- Salmon immediately returned to high quality spawning areas.



Beaver & Chinook Salmon - adults



Watershed Stewardship Group

Typically:

- Volunteer based;
- Inclusive – effort expended to bring all groups with interests in a watershed together;
- High degree of ownership & responsibility;
- Usually one central (and highly energetic) spokesperson – focus for media, etc;
- Process – formation, actions, recruitment.



MacIntyre Creek

- Much affected by human activities – hydro, mining, ski/mountain bike trail development, ATVs, sleds, residential development, lineal development.....
- Many interests – bird watchers, fishers, skiers, industries, motorized recreation, residential developers, utilities.....
- Long history of conflict between the interests.
- City of Whitehorse – incorporated riparian and aquatic values into plans
- Ta'an Kwachan – Range Road Dump reclamation

Friends of MacIntyre Creek

- Dorothy Bradley publicly identified the need and opportunity;
- Worked with and brought together existing community groups and interests;
- Provides a focus for input into planning processes;
- Next phase is usually actions to increase the value of the watershed to the larger community



MacIntyre Creek

Possible opportunities

Wildlife viewing - increased facilities/
awareness – canyon, ground water
discharge areas.

Copper belt – geology and old mine sites &
associated works & undertakings.

Salmon habitat restoration.

Resident fish habitat enhancement.



