



**NATURE AND HABITAT FUND
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2014 AT 7:00 PM

YUBOU COMMUNITY HALL – 8550 HEMLOCK STREET

AGENDA

		PAGES
1.	<u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA:</u>	1
2.	<u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES:</u>	
	M1 Adoption of the minutes of the Regular meeting of June 13, 2013.	2-3
3.	<u>ITEMS:</u>	
	I1 Gerald Thom, President, Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society Re: Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project (CSSP)	4-53
4.	<u>ADJOURNMENT:</u>	

The next meeting of the Nature and Habitat Fund Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held at the call of the Chair.

Nature and Habitat Fund Advisory Committee
Director P. Weaver, Chair

Floyd Augustine
George deLure
Pat Foster
Lorne Scheffer

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

M1

**NATURE AND HABITAT FUND
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

Thursday, June 13, 2013
Youbou Community Hall

Present:

Director Pat Weaver
Floyd Augustine
George deLure
Pat Foster

Also present:

Members of the public

Regrets:

Lorne Scheffer

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Agenda:

Moved: Pat Foster

Seconded: George deLure

That the agenda be approved as amended with the addition of a presentation from the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society.

CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes

Moved: Pat Foster

Seconded: Floyd Augustine

That the minutes of February 28, 2013 be adopted with the correction that the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

CARRIED

3. Reports

- Director Weaver presented a recap of the process to date
- Presentation from the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society was received

- George DeLure suggested we designate \$18,000 to be put in reserve for 2 years for the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society

Moved: Pat Foster

Seconded: George deLure

That we allocate \$5000 to the Truck Wash and \$18,000 to be held in reserve for two years for the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society to be given out in increments only as detailed plans and detailed budgets are presented to the Nature and Habitat Fund Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

- Final approval for all projects rests with the Board of the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

Moved: George deLure

Seconded: Floyd Augustine

That the committee recommends that community members work with CVRD staff to have some input into the Truck Wash.

CARRIED

- 17 members of the public were in attendance. Four spoke against the truck wash.

Moved: Pat Foster

Seconded: Floyd Augustine

That the meeting adjourn at 7:45.

CARRIED



**Cowichan Lake & River
Stewardship Society**

PO Box 907
Lake Cowichan, BC
V0R 2G0
(250) 749-7203
www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca

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November 5, 2013

Pat Weaver (Chair) Youbou Nature and Habitat Fund

Thank you for considering our Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project (CSSP) for funding of \$8,000.00/ year for three years.

Cowichan Lake community stakeholders have been struggling to reverse the current trend of shoreline habitat destruction by private property owners who own over 92% of this valuable resource. Our valley water supply and several very important fisheries are at risk so we have collaborated on the research, developed a watershed plan and have established targets to work towards permanent protection of the shoreline values that support ecosystem integrity.

By 2020 we hope to protect 50% of our intact shoreline (35 km) and restore 10% of disturbed shoreline (3 km). The Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project will kick start stewardship efforts and provide the initial support required to meet these long term goals.

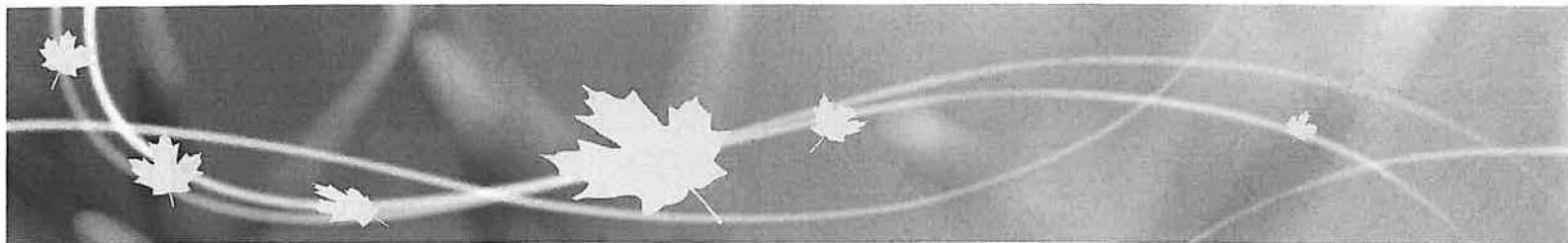
The current regulatory approach of monitoring and enforcement is very expensive and falling short of expectations. This new pilot project will double the effort by adding an incentives based approach supported by education and partnerships with riparian landowners to achieve the protection and restoration of shoreline/riparian values with minimal investment.

We are confident that this collaborative stewardship effort between all levels of government, private shoreline owners, schools, conservation organizations and local stewards will slowly change the current culture of cutting and clearing, towards protection and restoration. This project and the attached letters of support clearly demonstrate how we can work together with experienced partners to protect and restore the upper Cowichan watershed for future generations. Your participation in the CSS Project will allow the Youbou Nature and Habitat Funds to be leveraged by fourteen times to improve and protect shoreline ecological values in Area I.

I would like to make a public presentation to the committee and Area I residents later this month at the Youbou hall to present our power point presentation and answer any questions about our proposal. I look forward to working with you and all stakeholders to achieve our watershed goals.

Sincerely:

Gerald Thom (President) Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society



EcoAction Community Funding Program Application Form

Learn more by consulting the *Applicant's Guide: Annex – How to Complete the Application Form*.

For Office Use Only

Group Information

Project No. _____

Name: **Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society (CLRSS)**

Address: Box 907, Lake Cowichan, B.C. V0R 2G0

Phone: (250) 749-7203

Fax: (250) 749-7201

Email: gcthom@shaw.ca

Group Type (*select one*)

☒ Environmental ☐ Community ☐ Youth ☐ Aboriginal ☐ Women ☐ Seniors ☐ NGO or Other

Website Address: cowichan-lake-stewards.ca

Charitable/Non-Profit Organization Registration No. S57916

Briefly describe your group's mandate (*approximately 200 words*)

CLRSS Mandate:

CLRSS is dedicated to the protection and health of the Cowichan Watershed through respectful work with community partners. Our strategic plan and the Shoreline Management Habitat Conference we hosted in 2013 identified shoreline protection and restoration as our top priority. We have done the studies, formed partnerships, and assembled an experienced team to move forward with a solid plan to achieve our protection and restoration targets on Cowichan Lake.

Project Contacts*Contacts must be knowledgeable on the contents of the application.*

Name: Gerald Thom	Name: Jean Atkinson
Title: President	Title: Secretary
Phone (work): (250) 715-6493	Phone (work): () -
Phone (home): (250) 749-7203	Phone (home): (250) 745-3342
Email: gcthom@shaw.ca	Email: jean.atkinson@ufv.ca
Fax: (250) 749-7201	Fax: () -

Project SummaryProject Title: **Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project**Project Location: Cowichan Lake, B.C.
(county, township, region, province or territory)Start Date May, 2014
months)

End Date March, 2017

Length 36 months (maximum 36

When determining the project start date, please take into account the information provided by the program (i.e., for Fall funding round, no project can start before April 1st of the following year) and the negotiation of a Contribution Agreement with the Government of Canada.

Please provide a summary description of your project

Cowichan Lake is the headwaters of our heritage river which sustained B.C.'s largest First Nation, Cowichan Tribes, for thousands of years. Historically, the lake supported a huge summer run of Chinook which are now virtually extinct. At present, the lake still supports the SARA-listed Cowichan Lamprey. It also sustains the south coast's largest run of coho salmon, Vancouver Island's largest freshwater trout fishery, and a fall Chinook salmon run. The Cowichan Chinook is an indicator species for the Pacific Commercial Fishery and general ecosystem health. These important fisheries and the water supply for the Cowichan Valley are currently at risk due to human activity on Cowichan Lake's shoreline.

The integrity of Cowichan Lake shoreline habitat is critical to water quality, resilience to climate change, and conservation of biodiversity. This habitat integrity is seriously threatened by recreation, residential development, and upland land use practices identified during the Foreshore Inventory Mapping (2012) and Shoreline Habitat Management Workshop (2013). The data clearly shows we continue to lose this critical habitat as it experiences serious degradation due to cumulative impacts. The fact that over 92% of the shoreline is privately owned is a significant factor in this ongoing degradation.

CLRSS has joined forces with the B.C. Conservation Foundation (BCCF) and the Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB), and local stakeholders to develop a plan and set targets to reverse the current trend of shoreline destruction. By 2020 with your support we will protect 35% and restore 3% of the Cowichan Lake shoreline.

Our collaborative, grassroots, stewardship approach will engage youth, volunteers, and private landowners in shoreline education, protection, and restoration to maintain shoreline ecological values. This program will provide exponential growth of stewardship activities to protect and restore critical habitat without huge expenditures for enforcement and acquisition. By combining the vast experience of valley volunteers with the vitality of youth we will create summer student employment and restore and protect lakeshore habitat. This project will contribute to species diversity, prevent erosion, and maintain water quality to preserve ecological integrity.

Prior History with Environment Canada

Identify if your group is a new or returning applicant/recipient of funding from Environment Canada.

- ☒ First time applying for funding ☐ Previously applied but did not receive funding
☐ Past recipient of funding

Have you applied to other Environment Canada funding programs for this project? Yes ☐ No ☒
If yes, please specify which program(s):

If you are a past successful recipient of funding from Environment Canada, please provide the funding program name, the past project number and, if applicable, in one or two sentences, explain how this project is different from **similar** previously funded project(s).

not applicable

BUDGET Part 1 – Human Resources

Human Resources	Costs				Funding Sources		
	No. of People	Rate	Time (each)	Total Cost	EcoAction	Other	
Service						Cash	In-kind
volunteer planters	40	\$15/h	17 h	10 200			10 200
volunteer outreach	10	\$15/h	17 h	2 550			2 550
project manager	1	\$50/h	100 h	5 000			5 000
restoration expert	1	\$100/h	50 h	5 000			5 000
professional contract services	2	\$100/h	50 h	10 000	5 000	5 000	
student supervisor	1	\$20/h	600 h	12 000	4 000	8 000	
student crew	3	\$15/h	300 h	13 500	4 000	9 500 →	\$4,000 YNHF *
registered professional biologist	2	\$100/h	25	5 000			5 000
communication/governance	2	\$150/h	10 h	3 000			3 000
administration/bookkeeping	2	\$40/h	50 h	4 000	1 500	1 500	1 000
Sub-total				70 250	14 500	24 000	31 750
Budget Part 1 – Human Resources							

BUDGET Part 2 – Materials, Supplies and Equipment

Material, Supplies and Equipment	Costs			Funding Sources		
	No. of Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost	EcoAction	Other	
Item					Cash	In-kind
native plants	5 000	\$5/plant	25 000	5 000	20 000 →	\$3,000 YNHF *
fuel	1 000 L	\$1.50/ L	1 500	250	1 250	
soil	100 m ³	\$30/m ³	3 000	750	2 250 →	\$1,000 YNHF *
gravel	50 m ³	\$20/m ³	1 000	250	750	
fertilizer	4 bags	\$50/bag	200	50	150	
tools/maintenance	assorted		800	200	600	
fencing	1 000 ft	\$1/ft	1 000	250	750	

Yubou Nature and Habitat Fund

\$8,000 / year

(included in Cash from Other Sources)

signs	10	\$100/sign	1 000	250	750	
Sub-total Budget Part 2 – Materials, Supplies and Equipment			33 500	7 000	26 500	

BUDGET Part 3 – Other Expenditures

Other Expenditures		Costs		Funding Sources		
Item	No. of Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost	EcoAction	Other	
					Cash	In-kind
contract machines	50 h	\$100/h	5 000	2 000	3 000	
insurance	yearly		1 250	500	750	
vehicle mileage	4 000 km	\$0.50/km	2 000	1 000	1 000	
Sub-total			8 250	3 500	4 750	
Budget Part 3 – Other Expenditures						

Revenue *Identify if the project will generate revenue.*Yes ☐ No ☒*If yes, include an approximate value of revenues in the Total cash contribution from other sources row below.***Funding Summary**

Total contribution requested from the EcoAction Community Funding Program	\$ 75 000	(\$25 000/year)
Total cash contribution from other sources (including revenues)	+ \$ 165 750	(\$55 250/year)
Total in-kind contribution from other sources	+ \$ 95 250	(\$31 750/year)
Total project value	= \$ 336 000	(\$112 000/year)

Fiscal Year Breakdown

If your project takes place over more than one fiscal year, April 1 to March 31, please provide your best estimate of the funds required from the EcoAction Community Funding Program per fiscal year.

April 1, 2014	to March 31, 2015	\$ 25 000	} Amount Requested From EcoAction Community Funding Program
April 1, 2015	to March 31, 2016	\$ 25 000	
April 1, 2016	to March 31, 2017	\$ 25 000	
Total =		\$ 75 000	

Other Funding Sources

Please list all cash contributions and in-kind support from other funding sources, including **ALL Government of Canada sources**. For example, in-kind support may include: donations of equipment; materials; office space; volunteer time; and professional services. **Failure to demonstrate that at least 50% of the total project value comes from sources other than the Government of Canada can deem the application ineligible.**

Please note: You must provide partner support letter(s) from all funding sources to indicate the cash or fair market value of the contribution being made. If letter(s) are not available at the time a completed application is submitted, they may be sent at a later date. However, an agreement will not be signed until all letters are received.

Source Contribution

Group Name	Description	Cash	Value of In-kind	Letter Included
Cowichan Lake First Nations	cash + 100 volunteer hours/year	750	1 500	yes
Cowichan Valley Naturalists	100 volunteer hours/year		1 500	yes
Cowichan Tribes	100 volunteer hours/year		1 500	yes
Cowichan Fish and Game Club	50 volunteer hours/year		750	yes
Polster Environmental	50 hours professional services/year		5 000	yes
Gerald Thom	100 hours professional services/year		5 000	
CLRSS	300 volunteer hours/year		4 500	
Cowichan Land Trust	50 hours bookkeeping administration/year		1 000	yes
Polis, University of Victoria	2 days professional services/year		3 000	yes

Cowichan Watershed Board	cash	2 000		yes
Cowichan Valley Regional District	cash	5 000		yes
Cowichan Lake School	200 volunteer hours/year		3 000	yes
Youbou Nature and Habitat Funds	cash	8 000		yes
Sidney Anglers	cash	2 000		yes
Friends of Miracle Creek	cash	500		yes
B.C. Conservation Foundation	50 hours professional biological services/year		5 000	yes
Town of Lake Cowichan	cash	1 000		pending
Pacific Salmon Foundation	cash/signs	1 000		yes
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund	cash	25 000		pending
Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program	cash	10 000		pending
EcoAction	cash	25 000		
Total		\$ 80 250	\$ 31 750	

By March 2017, the Cowichan Lake Stewardship Project by will:

- conduct 300 site visits with lakefront property owners to explain the benefits of intact riparian areas and promote protection and restoration;
- form partnerships with private lakefront landowners to provide permanent protection of 15 kilometres of shoreline/riparian areas;
- restore over one kilometre (15 000 m³) of shoreline to reverse the current trend of habitat destruction and provide much needed demonstration sites;
- engage youth and the broader community in our stewardship efforts to create the cultural shift required to protect shoreline ecological values.

Protecting and restoring our valuable shoreline ecosystems will maintain our water quality and habitat integrity. Clean water and healthy ecosystems support healthy communities and economies throughout the watershed. This pilot project will engage our youth and the broader community, provide much needed summer jobs for students, and demonstrate how stewardship activities can support watershed values. This initiative is about doing more with less and reconnecting our community with the environment.

Human Resources and Project Team Experience

- Provide details about the duties and responsibilities of the position(s) identified in the Human Resources section of the budget, i.e. who will work on the project (project coordinator, volunteers, consultants, technical experts, etc.) *(approximately 500 words)*.
- Identify relevant qualifications and experiences of the project team members to demonstrate the group's experience and capacity to carry out the project *(approximately 500 words)*.

The project team and respective responsibilities include:

Dave Polster (M.Sc., R.P. Bio.) – Polster Environmental Services – Restoration Expert

- 2013 recipient of the John Reiger Achievement Award for excellence in environmental restoration
- over 30 years of restoration experience
- duties = restoration planning and oversight

Gerald Thom (Fish Tech.) – CLRSS President – Project Manager

- B.C. Lake Stewardship Outstanding Volunteer Award
- over 20 years experience in aquatic ecosystem design and construction
- duties = restoration planning and implementation; public outreach coordination; project leadership and coordination

Jean Atkinson (B.Sc., M.Sc.) – CLRSS Secretary – Records Keeper

- over 30 years experience in education
- duties = Lake Project coordinator; record keeping and documentation

Craig Wightman (B.Sc., R.P.Bio.) – B.C. Conservation Foundation – Restoration Consultant

- over 40 years experience in fish biology and environmental management
- duties = project review and consultation; fisheries assessment

Peter Law (B.Sc., R.P.Bio.) – Retired Habitat Biologist – Project Consultant

- over 30 years experience with the B.C. Ministry of the Environment responsible for Riparian Area Regulation assessment on Vancouver Island

- duties = riparian area consultation

Rodger Hunter (M.Sc., M.P.A.) – Coordinator of the Cowichan Watershed Board – Public Outreach/Fundraising

- over 30 years experience in project administration of environmental projects and assessment
- duties = lead contact on industry negotiations; long term watershed planning and advocacy

Parker Jefferson (B.Sc.) – CLRSS Communications Director

- expert fly fisherman with 30 years of communication experience
- duties = project coordination; River Project coordination

Klaus Kuhn – CLRSS Treasurer – Project Financial Manager

- certified financial planner with over 25 years experience
- duties = project financial record keeping

We have an experienced management team (over 200 years) willing to volunteer their time to guide, well-established volunteer groups, private landowners, First Nations, and youth working towards watershed health and sustainability. We have a history of working together in Cowichan as demonstrated in the attached support letters.

Project Work Plan

Provide details of the activities to be undertaken, techniques involved, and the goals and timelines for each activity. You may consider organizing activities in fiscal year quarters according to the following breakdown: April to June, July to September, October to December, and January to March.

Preplanning and Project Development (CLRSS involved in all fieldwork) Studies

- Cowichan Lake Shoreline Habitat Assessment (2012)
- Cowichan Lake Lamprey (SARA listed) Habitat Use (2012)
- Cowichan lake Heptofaunal Habitat Study (2012)
- Cowichan Lake Erosion Assessment (2012)
- Cowichan Lake Fishery Assessment (2011)

Workshops

- CLRSS Strategic Plan Development Workshop (2013)
- Cowichan Lake Shoreline Habitat Management Workshop (2013)

Education

- Lake Studies Program started at Lake Cowichan School (2013)

Outreach

- We have five confirmed shoreline restoration sites identified for restoration in 2014 representing 270 metres of shoreline (4 000 m² of restoration)

Demonstration Site

- Saywell Park Riparian Demonstration Site – CLRSS has partnered with the town of Lake Cowichan, Cowichan Watershed Board, Cowichan Lake School, Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program, and other non-governmental organizations to complete this public riparian demonstration site by March, 2014.

Work Plan Year 1 (April 2014 – March 2015)

April - June

Project Description**Environmental Priorities**Identify the Environment Canada environmental priority issue the project primarily addresses (*select one*):
☐ Clean Air

 ☐ Climate Change

 ☐ Clean Water

 ☒ Nature
Project PurposeIdentify the purpose of the project by describing the environmental issue it addresses and why it is important for the community (*approximately 500 words*).

Cowichan Lake provides valuable water storage for the majority of valley residents and its shoreline is critical habitat for a diverse group of plants and animals. It also supports a number of valuable salmonid fisheries. These ecological values are threatened by riparian degradation from unchecked cutting and clearing by private shoreline owners. Recreational pressure is also increasing. R.V.'s and boats are growing in both size and number, creating unprecedented pressure on sensitive shorelines and riparian areas. Recent rapid change has been well documented in the 2012 Shoreline Habitat Inventory Mapping (SHIM) study and two shoreline videos in the last decade.

These threats are compounded as over 92% of the shoreline and all of the lake bed is privately owned. Recent cuts to both federal and provincial fishery and environment staff and overlapping jurisdiction by all levels of government has also decreased habitat protection, monitoring, compliance, and enforcement efforts.

The cumulative effects of our actions threaten our water quality, ecosystem resilience, and ecological diversity. Climate change will only increase the threat and we have documented disturbing trends in recent Cowichan Lake studies:

- the disappearance of herpetofaunal species from the east (developed) end of the lake;
- significantly reduced fishing success in the lake based on historical data and the two year creel survey conducted weekly 2010/11;
- the spread of invasive terrestrial plants and milfoil down the lake from east to west;
- virtual extinction of summer run Chinook.

The protection of water quality and shoreline habitats is a huge concern for the Cowichan Lake community. The shoreline values were well documented during the April 2013 Shoreline Habitat Management Workshop which was attended by 32 stakeholder organizations. The workshop outcomes and comments received when reporting the results have clearly demonstrated wide public support for healthy Cowichan shorelines.

Our comprehensive restoration and protection plan for Cowichan Lake is widely endorsed by the public and all levels of government as demonstrated by the attached letters of support. Our proven collaborative approach bodes well for success with a shift to a stewardship first culture that protects the shoreline values and water quality for future generations. The community is well aware that Cowichan Lake is a treasure. This project will protect and improve our most valuable asset.

Project Goals and Objectives

Identify project goals and objectives that will be achieved within the timeframe of the project and the expected measurable results. Clearly explain how the project will benefit both the environment and the community.

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Human Resources and Project Team Experience

- a) Provide details about the duties and responsibilities of the position(s) identified in the Human Resources section of the budget, i.e. who will work on the project (project coordinator, volunteers, consultants, technical experts, etc.) (*approximately 500 words*).
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Partnership Program, and other non-governmental organizations to complete this public riparian demonstration site by March, 2014.

Work Plan Year 1 (April 2014 – March 2015)**April - June**

- design and conduct 50 shoreline owner surveys to assess attitudes and knowledge
- conduct 50 riparian visits with shoreline owners
- procure restoration plants for summer planting
- hire and train student supervisor
- plan in detail for 2014 shoreline restoration projects (4000 m²)
- purchase restoration equipment
- organize official opening of Saywell Park Restoration Demonstration Site
- publicize Saywell Park and the Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project (CSSP) on our website, radio, newspaper, newsletter, and tours.
- hold a public event in Lake Cowichan to introduce the project and highlight riparian ecological values
- interview and hire three local high school students from the Lake Studies Volunteer program
- recruit/coordinate restoration volunteers

July – September

- complete 4 000 m² of shoreline restoration with a student crew and volunteers (4 000 plants planted)
- conduct 25 shoreline riparian visits
- maintain, weed, and water restoration sites
- document and publicize projects through our website, social media, newspapers, our quarterly newsletter, radio, and TV news coverage
- obtain permission of restoration site owners to conduct riparian tours
- install temporary fencing to prevent grazing/browsing
- sign restoration sites and intact riparian properties

October – December

- maintain new restoration sites (weed, water, monitor)
- start restoration tours
- conduct 25 shoreline riparian visits
- report out on summer projects to broader community
- photograph and document progress
- meet with large corporate shoreline landowners to support permanent riparian protection
- publicize project success

January – March

- prepare year end reports
- communicate success to funders and supporters
- plan in detail for year 2
- advertise for university student to lead year 2
- report out on project success to broader community
- procure plants for year 2 restoration
- encourage shoreline owners to permanently protect shoreline/riparian areas with covenants on title

Work Plan Year 2 (April 2015 – June 2016)**April – June**

- conduct 25 riparian visits with private landowners
- hire/train a university student project leader

- procure restoration plants for summer projects
- publicize and promote stewardship and restoration activities (see communications plan)
- hire three secondary school students for summer restoration projects
- schedule volunteer help for summer restoration
- schedule restoration projects
- publicize and promote stewardship and restoration activities – see communications plan
- monitor and maintain previous restoration projects

July – September

- restore 5 000 m² of shoreline/riparian areas (5000 plants)
- conduct 50 riparian visits with shoreline owners
- monitor and maintain previous year's restoration sites
- document and publicize projects
- conduct riparian restoration tours
- install or remove temporary fencing as required
- sign restoration sites and intact riparian properties
- photograph and document progress

October - December

- maintain new restoration sites
- conduct restoration tours
- conduct 25 shoreline riparian visits
- report out on projects to broader community
- meet with large corporate shoreline landowners to secure permanent riparian protection
- publicize project results and success

January – March

- prepare year end reports
- communicate success to funders and supporters
- plan in detail restoration projects for following summer
- advertise for university student project leader
- report out project results to broader community
- procure plants for summer restoration
- encourage shoreline/riparian landowners to permanently protect riparian areas
- work on program sustainability strategy

Work Plan Year 3 (April 2016 – March 2017)

- same as year 2 with increase to 6 000m² restoration
- evaluate project progress
- resurvey 50 shoreline property owners to evaluate program success
- compare targets (1 km or 15 000 m² restoration; 300 riparian visits; 15 km of shoreline/riparian permanently protected) with actual results
- report out project results to funders, supporters, and the community
- report out on long term sustainability strategy
- review progress and plan for future projects

Communications Plan

Identify the project's communication activities and how the community will be informed about the project and its results (e.g., public events, news releases, publications, and websites) (approximately 250 words).

The CLRSS Strategic Plan outlines our communications plan which includes:

- quarterly membership newsletters
- quarterly newspaper articles
- school newsletters
- website project reporting and promotion
- quarterly radio broadcasts by students and volunteers
- social media coverage of events
- 100 riparian visits annually with shoreline landowners
- watershed tours including restoration sites
- on site interpretative signage in highly visible locations
- regular collaboration with all levels of government
- consultation with other NGOs
- regular youth engagement through schools

Evaluation

A) Evaluation Plan: Provide an Evaluation Plan that clearly demonstrates how the project goals and objectives will be met. The Plan will outline the methodology used to measure your project's results. Projects that have strong community engagement and education component **must include** methodology to measure the extent in which behavioural change will be achieved, e.g. before and after surveys.

This program will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- shoreline area restored (both linear and area)
- number of volunteers engaged
- number of riparian visits conducted
- pre- and post- survey results to evaluate shoreline owner knowledge and attitudes
- riparian area permanently protected (hectares)
- ongoing water quality testing
- shoreline video review every five years

B) Performance Indicators: What indicators will be used to evaluate project success? All projects **must include** at least one (1) environmental indicator as per the list of performance indicators. *Refer to the Applicant's Guide for more information on performance indicators.*

Clean water

- area of shoreline protected, stabilized, and improved (hectares) annually

Nature

- area of habitat protected (number of hectares)
- area of habitat restored (number of hectares and kilometres)
- number of indigenous plants planted
- number of indigenous plants that survived

Capacity building

- number of shoreline owners contacted
- jobs generated for students

- jobs generated by contract services
- number of volunteers engaged
- behavioral change based on pre- and post- program surveys
- number of riparian restorations started without assistance from this project

Additional Information

Environmental Sustainability

Explain how benefits to the environment and your community will be maintained after the project is completed (approximately 500 words).

The Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project is a pilot project to engage community and change attitudes regarding the value of riparian areas. We are attempting a cultural shift from cutting and clearing to protection and restoration of shoreline/riparian areas.

We hope this project will do for stewardship what the blue box did for recycling. The project will provide a high profile example of stewardship and restoration and engage all ages in a collaborative effort.

The engagement of students with experienced volunteers will help to change attitudes. Change can occur quickly when youth start questioning parental behaviours.

The program will not discourage development and recreation but will demonstrate how natural function and human activities can co-exist.

Experience on the Cowichan has demonstrated that regulation and enforcement is expensive and is not meeting expectations. Our non-confrontational approach will lead to a cultural shift to responsible environmental behaviours which will be self-sustaining when the project is completed. This approach can then be replicated in other riparian areas in the valley and beyond.

Environmental Responsibility

Explain what measures will be undertaken to ensure the environment will not be negatively affected by the project. Additional information may be required for technical review and/or for Environment Canada to complete an environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, if applicable.

Provide information as required in the space below and/or use this space to list additional information that will be attached to the Application Form. The Applicant's Guide includes examples of additional information that may be required. For more information, please contact an Environment Canada regional office.

The project team is very well versed in environmental protection and several of them have made it their life's work. We have always worked closely with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources; Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and local governments.

Restoration work will be performed in the fishery window and professionals (R.P. Bio.s) are part of our project team. All steps will be taken to meet or exceed the best practices established by all levels of government.

At present restoration work in riparian areas in B.C. do not require permits if professionals are involved.

--

Other Relevant Information

If required, this space is provided for inclusion of any other relevant project information that was not captured in other sections.

The Applicant's Guide includes examples of additional information that are highly recommended but not required.

"Riparian Insights" brochure (attached)

Application Checklist

Applications will be accepted by an Environment Canada regional office **on or before the November 1** application deadline. They may be submitted by hand if they are signed for by an Environment Canada employee via a scheduled appointment; by fax; by email; or by mail with a postmark in accordance with the application deadline.

- ☒ A complete and signed *Application Form*, including all budget and funding source information, printed double-sided on 8½" x 11" paper, unbound and numbered.
- ☒ Letters of confirmation from other funding sources, cash and in-kind. It is highly recommended that all letters be forwarded with the *Application Form* (if unavailable at the time of submission, letters may follow at a later date). (Note: all letters are to be dated and signed.)
- ☐ Copies of any required permits (or a list of all permits that will be submitted prior to signing a Contribution Agreement) from federal, provincial/territorial or municipal governments, or other regulating organizations.
- ☒ Other supporting information (if applicable) such as site maps; species lists; and general letters of support.

With the exception of letters confirming cash and in-kind support from other funding sources, which may follow at a later date, all other information and supporting documentation must be included with the *Application Form*. **No additional information received after the November 1st application deadline will be taken into consideration.**

For more information, please refer to the "How do you apply?" section of the *Applicant's Guide*. For any questions, please contact an Environment Canada regional office.

Certification

We certify that the information provided in this application, including all enclosures, is accurate to the best of our knowledge and that we are authorized to sign on behalf of the group (two signatures are required).

Name: Gerald Thom

Title: CLRSS President

Signature: 

Date: October 31, 2013

Name: Jean Atkinson

Title: CLRSS Secretary

Signature: 

Date: October 31, 2013

Reminder: If you have not received a submission acknowledgement letter within 15 working days of the November 1st application deadline, please contact an Environment Canada regional office to confirm that your proposal was received.



LAKE COWICHAN FIRST NATION
313B Deer Road
PO Box 159
Lake Cowichan, BC
V0R 2G0

October 29th, 2013

Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society

Attention: Gerald Thom, President

Re: Letter of Support – Ecoaction Application

Lake Cowichan First Nation has worked with the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society over the past two years in various initiatives that included sharing of our traditional uses along Cowichan Lake; assistance with the distribution of informational material to boaters on the lake; as well as participation on a panel in respects to the shoreline of Cowichan Lake and how to ensure various measures are in place to remedy any disturbances of the shoreline. We at Lake Cowichan First Nation value our fisheries resources immensely and are actively trying (albeit with limited capacity due to our size) to preserve and enhance the fisheries values in the Cowichan Lake Ecosystem.

In regards to this proposal we are looking at having the restoration of one km of our shoreline and the protection of 15 kms of this shoreline over 3 years. We see this type of restoration work vital to the longevity of our ecosystem at Cowichan Lake and feel that long term funding is needed to continue the work in the future as well as to provide materials and education to assist in the changing of the behaviour and attitudes of lakeshore property owners.

We can assist with fisheries habitat restoration by providing traditional knowledge, as well as human and perhaps limited financial resources. This will result in youth engagement and broad community involvement and support for project which would result in the provision of between \$500 - \$1,000 to assist such restoration as well as the availability of up to 5 people to assist with the hands-on activities that would be involved. We would see ourselves as a reference for the traditional knowledge aspect of fisheries in and around Cowichan Lake; and as a supportive role for any projects that may occur. The combined financial and human resource values for such a project would be in the range of \$5,000 - \$7,500.

If you require any other information or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our Operations Manager, Aaron Hamilton at the numbers listed above or via e-mail @ aaron.hamilton@lakecowichanfn.com.

Huy'ch q'a (Thank You),


Operations Manager
Aaron Hamilton



COWICHAN VALLEY NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

PO Box 361
Duncan, BC
V9L 3X5
Canada

Email: cvns@naturecowichan.net

Website: www.naturecowichan.net

28th October 2013

Eco Action Community Funding Program

To whom it may concern:

RE: Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society's Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project

The Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society (CVNS) is one of the leaders in conservation in the Cowichan Valley and we are proud to be associated with the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society. Both organizations are represented on the Technical Committee of the Cowichan Watershed Board and have cooperated on planning and implementing projects through their auspices.

We are in agreement about the need for long term funding to help preserve and restore the upper Cowichan Watershed. In particular we support the proposal for restoration of 1 kilometer of shoreline and protection of 15 kilometers of over three years. We support youth engagement and broad community support for this project. Our members have assisted with water surveys, fisheries surveys and habitat restoration initiatives in the Cowichan Lake, River and Estuary. In addition, many CVNS members volunteer at the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre and distribute the riparian protection leaflets for the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society. These leaflets are an excellent way to educate and inform local people, particularly school children of the importance of protecting riparian areas and how it should be done.

CVNS was involved with this year's Cowichan River Clean up Days; a CVNS member leads interpretative programs in the Cowichan Lake and River area, a CVNS member is a restoration expert who has already donated countless hours to CLRSS projects and several CVNS members attend CLRSS meetings. CVNS would be able to provide some 200-300 hours of in kind volunteer effort toward the project. Many of our members are biologists, biological technicians, and enthusiastic and knowledgeable naturalists. Thus our assistance should be helpful in this shoreline stewardship project.

Sincerely,

Eric Marshall

Eric Marshall,
President



Cowichan Tribes

5760 Allenby Road Duncan, BC V9L 5J1
Telephone (250) 748-3196 Fax: (250) 748-1233

October 23, 2013

Gerald Thom, President
Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
Lake Cowichan, BC

Dear Gerald Thom:

Re: Letter of Support – Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project.

Please accept this letter as confirmation of support from Cowichan Tribes for the Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project (CSSP) and work towards long-term protection and restoration goals. Cowichan Tribes has many ties to Cowichan Lake and Cowichan River, and as such have always been stewards of the watershed. The proposed restoration of one km of shoreline and protection of 15 kms over 3 years is a great initiative that local governments, stewardship groups and First Nations can partner on. Cowichan Tribes would like to see more restoration work along the Cowichan lake and river corridor and in order to see more we must do more together as a team. Youth engagement is important, as well as the transfer of knowledge; they are the next stewards of the watershed. We also see the need for long-term funding in order to change behaviour and attitudes of lakeshore property owners.

Cowichan Tribes has worked cooperatively with the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society (CLRSS) over the past two years at several tables. Cowichan Tribes and CLRSS are both members of the Cowichan Stewardship Round table and meet regularly with the other stewardships groups, local and federal governments to discuss work that is being done or needs to be done in the Cowichan watershed. The Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) is another table that we are both members; the CWB works with elected officials to provide leadership/direction for managing the watershed, implement the Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan and engage the community around watershed issues. Cowichan Tribes and the CLRSS have also partnered on the river clean-up for the past 2 years. We hope to continue working with stewardship groups like the CLRSS into the future, to restore the Cowichan Lake and River habitat.

Cowichan Tribes would like to offer in-kind human resources for manual work, sharing of traditional knowledge and local area expertise, to the extent of one person for one day per month (100 hours/year) for 3 years at a value of \$1,500 per year.

Please contact our Senior Biologist at 250-748-3196 extension 225 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Larry George
Lands and Fisheries Manager

LG/hr

July 8, 2013

Hello Gerald,

Thank you for your phone call and letter regarding the Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project.

Valley Fish and Game Club is a volunteer organization with a goal of protecting and promoting the wise use and management of our fish and wildlife along with their natural habitats. Our Club currently hosts many family fishing days to promote child and youth experience in fishing. Anytime youth can be involved and engaged in recreational and environmental opportunities is exciting because we know that they become our future stewards.

Fish habitat protection and restoration on Cowichan Lake is an long term issue for our membership. We participated in the Cowichan Lake Fisheries Assessment Program over the last few years and found it very rewarding.

Valley Fish and Game Club is willing and able to actively support the goals of the Stewardship Project. We are happy to provide support and assistance through members' volunteer labour (50 hours or more if needed), mentorship, and local knowledge.

We are excited about the project and look forward to learning more about the details at our September or October meeting.

Sincerely,
Bill Swain
President, Valley Fish and Game



**Polster
Environmental
Services Ltd.**

Genevieve R. SINGLETON
David F. POLSTER

ECO ACTION COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM

To whom it may concern:

RE: Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society's Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project

Polster Environmental Services Ltd. is pleased to write this letter of support to this CLRSS proposal. Public support and understanding of the need for healthy riparian areas is important for the protection of the Cowichan Lake and river fishery. We have over 35 years of restoration experience in western Canada, 24 of those in the Cowichan Valley. We have worked on numerous riparian restoration projects and have taught hundreds of staff and volunteers in restoration techniques. We are proud to be regular volunteers and members of the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society. We have cooperated on planning and implementing projects with CLRSS since its founding. Mr. Polster is a member of the Invasive Species Council of BC board and has access to a wealth of information on dealing with unwanted invasive species. In addition, as a professional biologist specializing in the restoration of degraded habitats he can offer continued assistance in the development and implementation of a restoration plan for the area. We have been actively involved with the Saywell Park project providing our expertise on design, invasive plant removal, plant species to use in restoration and supervision of activities.

We are in agreement about the need for long term funding to help preserve and restore the upper Cowichan Watershed. In particular we support the proposal for restoration of 1 kilometer of shoreline and protection of 15 kilometers of over three years. We support youth engagement and broad community support for this project.

We are able to provide 50 hours of in kind donations at \$100 an hour. Our assistance will be invaluable for this shoreline stewardship project.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or if you need advice on any aspect of the project.

Sincerely,
POLSTER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD.

David F. Polster, M.Sc., R.P. Bio.
Plant Ecologist

Genevieve Singleton, B.Sc., M.Ed.
Natural history interpreter



Cowichan Land Trust

#6-55 Station Street

Duncan, BC V9L 1M2

Phone: (250) 746-0227 ♦ Email: info@cowichanlandtrust.ca

October 23, 2013

Gerald Thom
CLRSS

Re: Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project

Dear Mr. Thom,

As the Executive Director for the Cowichan Land Trust, I would like to express our support for your project "Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project".

The Cowichan Land Trust is "committed to conserving, protecting, and enhancing the quality of the human and natural environment in and near the Cowichan Valley Regional District, British Columbia, Canada". The work you are doing at Cowichan Lake to restore one kilometre of shoreline and protect 15 kilometres over 3 years, clearly aligns with our mission.

By restoring the foreshore of the lake the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society (CLRSS) will be contributing to our mandate by ensuring the protection and enhancement of the valuable recreational fishery of the Cowichan Watershed. Through the engagement of local youth, lake front property owners and the general community the CLRSS will be fostering stewardship and instilling a sense of the immense value for this habitat in the residents of the Lake Cowichan area.

The Cowichan Land Trust has worked collaboratively with CLRSS on River Clean-ups and carried out eelgrass restoration projects with BC Conservation Foundation.

We are happy to see the commitment from your group to pursue the much needed longer term funding in order to change behaviour and attitudes of lakeshore property owners. The Cowichan Land Trust is pleased to be a partner in this project and will provide a minimum of \$2000 of in-kind support to the CLRSS.

Sincerely,

Kai Rietzel
Executive Director
Cowichan Land Trust
Email: kai@cowichanlandtrust.ca
Phone: 250-746-0227



POLIS Project on Ecological Governance
Centre for Global Studies
University of Victoria
PO Box 1700 STN CSC
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 2Y2
Canada



October 28th, 2013

RE: Support for Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project (CSSP)

Dear Selection Committee:

Please accept this as the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance's letter of support for the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society (CLRSS)'s Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project. POLIS has been working closely with CLRSS and the Cowichan Watershed Board over the past few years to provide briefings on governance options and opportunities, and long-term planning to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Cowichan watershed.

At POLIS, our work focuses on developing critical research on water sustainability, with a particular focus on governance and water law and policy reform. By demonstrating the powerful potential of new approaches, new perspectives, and innovation, we work to develop clear models for ecosystem-based water management and governance in Canada—models based on conservation, stewardship, and sustainability. Over the last five years, our research has had a strong emphasis on British Columbia due to provincial efforts to implement B.C.'s *Living Water Smart* plan, and to modernize its 100-year-old *Water Act*. Since 2010, I have been serving on the Province's *Water Act* Modernization Technical Advisory Group, and POLIS is also working to implement "watershed governance pilot projects" across the province. Because of the good work being done in the Cowichan, the Cowichan watershed has been identified as one of these pilot communities to test new water-related decision-making arrangements.

The POLIS team feels CLRSS is well positioned to make effective use of additional funding for its Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project. Achieving the vision of long-term sustainability in the Cowichan watershed is only possible with a coordinated approach between all stakeholders. In the Cowichan, this will require long-term funding to change the behaviours and attitudes of lakeshore property owners. At POLIS, we have seen successful collaboration demonstrated in the Cowichan. For example, the Cowichan Lakeshore Habitat Management Workshop, which held in Lake Cowichan on April 24th and 25th, 2013 engaged over 30 Cowichan stakeholder groups, and a member of the POLIS team was also in attendance. Hosted by CLRSS, the Cowichan Watershed Board, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the two-day workshop focused on developing long-term goals and an action plan for the Cowichan Lake region. The event resulted in two watershed targets to be met by 2020:

- Permanent protection of 35% of Cowichan's intact shoreline habitat; and
- Restoration of 3% of Cowichan's disturbed shoreline habitat.

The experience of the CLRSS board, its strategic plan, and its demonstrated collaboration bodes very well for achieving these targets, including its more specific goals of restoring one kilometre of shoreline and protecting fifteen kilometres over three years. In addition, CLRSS has experience with youth engagement and there is broad community involvement and support for project.

In support of the CLRSS project, POLIS is offering three days of staff time, valued at \$2,500 per day, plus two days of general project communications and outreach support, valued at \$1,500 per day, for a total in-kind contribution valued at \$10,500. POLIS will provide research and briefings to CLRSS regarding governance and



University
of Victoria

POLIS Project on Ecological Governance

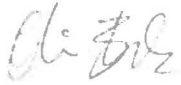
research • policy • education • action

legal issues related to shoreline rehabilitation and protection, as well as strategic policy advice; outreach support will ensure the work of CLRSS is communicated to a broad network of freshwater champions and a diversity of partners.

POLIS is encouraged by the cooperation in the Cowichan stewardship community, especially the strong partnership with and connections to Cowichan Tribes through the Cowichan Watershed Board. We are pleased to participate in the CLRSS Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at omb@uvic.ca.

Regards,



Oliver M. Brandes, BA(H), Dip.RNS, M.Econ., JD
Co-Director & Water Sustainability Project Lead, POLIS Project on Ecological Governance, University of Victoria
Research Associate, Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria
Research Affiliate, Environmental Sustainability Research Centre, Brock University
Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Law & School of Public Administration, University of Victoria
Adjunct Professor, Department of Environment & Resource Studies, University of Waterloo
Founding Member, Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW-Canada)



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of Victoria

POLIS Project on Ecological Governance

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Cowichan Watershed Board

Gerald Thom
President
Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
PO Box 907
Lake Cowichan, BC
V0R 2G0

October 24, 2013

**Re: Cowichan Watershed Board Support for Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society's
Cowichan Stewardship Shoreline Application to the EcoAction Community Funding Program**

Dear Mr. Thom

In your role as President of the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society (CLRSS) you requested that the Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) provide a letter of support for the Society's request for funding from EcoAction's Community Funding Program.

I am extremely pleased to inform you that the CWB strongly endorses CLRSS' request and that endorsement is without hesitation. Were it not for the fact that our own funding is very limited, the Board would have liked to have invested more than the \$2,000 planning and the \$3000 for CLRSS' Saywell Park riparian demonstration. The CWB intends to continue to support CLRSS' projects like this Shoreline stewardship project wherever it can. We are extremely pleased that you are applying to the Community Funding Program for this initiative to restore Cowichan Lake shoreline habitats and foster a cultural shift in attitudes among property owners and the public at large regarding those habitats.

CLRSS' approach has been discussed on recent field trips at the CWB's October meeting. It is clear that proposed initiative is based on well proven methods. It incorporates a wonderful mix of wily veterans and youth and they are entirely consistent with the Watershed Board's perspectives for habitat management and fish habitat in the upper watershed. The project will contribute significantly to the enhancement and restoration stewardship of shoreline habitats. In addition the face to face, neighbour to neighbour and youth engagement elements are the kind of innovative approaches that will help to result in a cultural shift among lakeshore property owners and other local people many of whom reap but do not yet realize the extent of the ecosystems services that healthy shoreline habitats provide.

We wish to point out that another element of your funding request is particularly compelling to the CWB and that the project is part of a larger more comprehensive initiative to achieve the target of restoring 10% of the negatively impacted Cowichan Lake shoreline habitat (3% of total shoreline habitat by 2020). Both the CLRSS and CWB have established this as a formal target along with a related target of securing the protection of 50% of the good condition shoreline habitat that surrounds the lake by 2020.



Cowichan Watershed Board

We believe that this project has an extremely high likelihood of success. Three reasons for this are:

- the extensive studies that have demonstrated the critical importance of riparian habitat to the species that it nurtures;
- the extensive planning that underlying this project; and,
- the incredible commitment of CLRSS and its partners.

We expect this project to be the beginning of something extraordinary.

By way of this letter on behalf of the CWB I would also like to congratulate you on receiving the British Columbia Lake Stewardship Society's Lake Steward of the year award for 2013.

In summary we are extremely pleased to offer a strong endorsement for CLRSS' application. If EcoAction application reviewers have any questions regarding the CWB's support for your proposal please feel free to have them contact me at 250-701-0143 or visavis@uniserve.com.

Yours sincerely,

Rodger Hunter
Coordinator
Cowichan Watershed Board

cc Rob Hutchins
Co-chair
Cowichan Watershed Board

Calvin Swustus
Co-chair
Cowichan Watershed Board



175 Ingram Street
Duncan, BC V9L 1N8
www.cvr.bc.ca

Office: 250.746.2500
Fax: 250.746.2513
Toll Free: 1.800.665.3955

October 23, 2013

Environment Canada
Pacific and Yukon Region
British Columbia and Yukon
#201 – 401 Burrard Street
VANCOUVER BC V6C 3S5

Re: EcoAction Community Funding Program
Letter of Support – COWICHAN SHORELINE STEWARDSHIP PROJECT (CSSP)

The CVRD has worked very closely with the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society and BC Conservation Foundation to develop a long term strategy to protect and restore the ecological values provided by intact riparian shorelines around Cowichan Lake. A proposal has been put forward to allocate \$15,000 in our 2014 budget towards the CSSP to assist with professional services required to work towards the shoreline restoration and protection goals.

By 2020 it is hoped that we will have protected 50% of our intact shoreline (35 km) and restored 10% of disturbed shoreline (3 km). These targets were established by a wide range of stakeholders at the 2013 Cowichan Shoreline Habitat Management Workshop. The Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project will kick-start stewardship efforts and provide the initial support required to meet these long term goals.

We are very excited to be part of this collaborative stewardship effort between all levels of government, private shoreline owners, schools, conservation organizations, and local stewards. We are confident this effort will slowly change the current shoreline culture of cutting and clearing, towards protection and restoration.

Our current regulatory approach of monitoring and enforcement of RAR is very expensive, complicated and falling short of expectations. This new pilot project will double our efforts by adding an incentives based approach supported by education and partnerships with riparian landowners to achieve the protection of shoreline/riparian values with minimal investment.

The CVRD strongly supports this community effort and is pleased to partner with CLRSS, BCCF and other funding partners in the Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project. This project clearly demonstrates how we can work together with experienced partners to protect our Cowichan watershed for future generations.

Sincerely,

Rob Hutchins
Chair

TA/mca
pc: Gerald Thom, Chair, CLRSS

Lake Cowichan Secondary School

PO Box 40, Lake Cowichan, BC V0R 2G0 ♦ TEL 250.749.6634 ♦ FAX 250.749.6222
<http://www.sd79.bc.ca/groups/lcss/>

October 28, 2013

Mr Gerald Thom, President
Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
Lake Cowichan BC

Dear Mr Thom

Re: Letter of Support for Shoreline Stewardship Grant Application

It is with enthusiasm and interest that I write this letter of support for the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society's (CLRSS) Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project.

I am excited that Lake Cowichan School is entering a partnership with the CLRSS. This partnership will see our students engaging with and learning alongside CLRSS members. At this time we are developing a curricular program called Lake Studies, where students in grades 10 through 12 will be garnering graduation credit while learning about aspects of lake and river stewardship. We have several students who will be enrolling in Lake Studies, commencing in September 2013. In addition to classroom learning supported by the CLRSS, our students will be actively engaged in several projects in co-operation with the CLRSS including: water sampling, shoreline habitat restoration and the creation and maintenance of an indigenous plant nursery at the school (to be used for shoreline restoration). Ken Elliott, who is a member of Cowichan Tribes and manager of Koksilah Nursery has expressed an interest in working with us in the development of our nursery.

Having met with you twice, and having attended your societies meeting in June, I see huge potential with respect to student involvement and engagement with the CLRSS. One of our school goals is to become more involved with the community, and I see this as a great opportunity. I am also encouraged by how many interest groups are involved with the CLRSS and with the fact that many of these groups have expressed an interest in working with our students.

In order for students to receive course credits, they are required to complete a minimum number of hours engaged in learning and coursework. Part of students' hours will include volunteer time, and would easily satisfy your requirement of 200 hours. The fact that these volunteer hours might lead to summer employment is exciting, as summer work in a field of interest to a young person often leads them to pursue that area in post-secondary training.

I would like to thank you for your interest in our school and in the co-creation of the Lake Studies program. I am very much looking forward to working with you and the Cowichan River and Lake Stewardship Society over years to come.

Sincerely



Nicole Boucher
Principal

NBo/dm



"LCSS, a caring community committed to making a difference."

CVRD

NATURE AND HABITAT FUND

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 4, 2013

**Recreational Fisheries Conservation
Partnership Programme Selection Committee**

Re: The Cowichan Lake Shoreline Stewardship Project

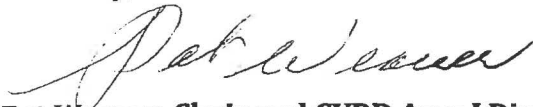
The Cowichan Valley Regional District Nature and Habitat Fund is funded by developer contributions to offset habitat impacts in Cowichan Valley Regional District Area I as a result of development. Our committee is holding \$18,000.00 in reserve for the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society for two years for shoreline habitat restoration in Area I.

Cowichan Lake is a precious resource which supports a valuable recreational fishery for salmonids including: Chinook, Coho, Steelhead, Cutthroat, Rainbow, Dolly Varden and Chum. The watershed is also very popular for recreation and residential development which threatens this resource.

The Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society has demonstrated its ability to collaborate with partners in their efforts to protect and restore our shoreline habitat. They have partnered with the Cowichan Fish and Game Club, Lake Cowichan School, shoreline property owners and others to create a training programme for youth stewards who will be key in future restoration efforts.

The Nature and Habitat Advisory Committee supports this project and hope you will partner with us to assist them with their restoration efforts of the Cowichan Lake Shoreline in Area I.

Sincerely,



Pat Weaver, Chair and CVRD Area I Director



Our Purpose

To encourage and develop interest in sport fishing and to foster and actively promote conservation and to participate in activities designed to promote habitat restoration and salmon enhancement in the Sidney area.

PO Box 20087, 4-9769 5th Street, Sidney, BC V8L 5C9

www.sidneyanglers.ca

executive@sidneyanglers.ca

October 28, 2013

Gerald Thom
Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
Box 90
Lake Cowichan, B.C. V0R 2G0

Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project (CSSP)

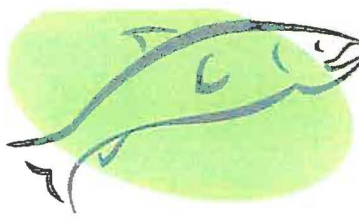
I am writing on behalf of the Sidney Anglers Association (SAA) to express our club's support for the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society (CLRSS) and its Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project.

This project will benefit the salmon locally and more broadly by improving essential rearing habitat along the shores of Cowichan Lake for hundreds of thousands of immature coho and perhaps a smaller number of Chinook. In our view, with improving returns of adult coho, and rehabilitation and natural recovery of the spawning streams that enter the Lake, rearing habitat in the Lake (and in the delta) is the limiting factor for coho (and Chinook) productivity.

Sidney Anglers Association is concerned with salmon conservation and enhancement. Each year, the Association sponsors a derby to raise funds to finance salmon enhancement, and SAA members raise additional funds through work under contract and other fund-raising activities. This money is hard-earned and we strive to allocate it carefully. A recommendation from SAA's Salmon Enhancement Committee for a \$2,000 grant to CLRSS for this project (conditional on the balance of the necessary funding being raised) has been prepared for approval of SAA's membership.

We believe that the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society is eminently capable of undertaking and managing the lead role in this partnership and hope that the balance of funding for the Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project, beyond Sidney Anglers planned contribution, is forthcoming.

William Stringer
President, Sidney Anglers Association



The Friends of Miracle Creek

To whom it may concern: Support Letter for Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project

The Friends of Miracle Creek are pleased to supply \$1,500.00 cash to support this very worthwhile restoration/ education project. We feel this longterm project will slowly change lakeshore owner behavior and support the ecological benefits of intact riparian areas.

We have worked very closely with the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society (CLRSS) on water quality and signage programs. We are excited with the progress being made by this dedicated group to support the sustainability of Cowichan Lake and its tributaries. The restoration and protection goals of the project are a good start and we are confident the experienced team will meet or exceed these goals.

The cooperation and leadership shown when working with the high school students is commendable and should slowly help to create a much needed shift towards stewardship. This collaborative approach may provide a new low cost method of habitat protection and reverse the current trend of lakeshore disturbance.

If you have any question regarding our involvement or contribution please call me 250 745 3221.

Sincerely:

Bill Gibson- Friends of Miracle Creek

October 30, 2013

Gerald Thom
President
Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
9254 Youbou Road
Youbou, BC V0R 3E1

Dear Gerald:

Re: Eco Action Community Funding Program – Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project (2014/16)

The BC Conservation Foundation and *Living Rivers – Georgia Basin/Vancouver Island* are pleased to endorse the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society's multi-year proposal to the Eco Action Community Funding Program. We have read the proposal and believe that, if approved, it will engender significant positive change in lakeshore resident and developer practices around Cowichan Lake.

BCCF and *Living Rivers* are pleased to be active partners in this important initiative with the CLRSS, and many other organizations in the Cowichan Valley endorsing sustainable growth and an emerging Green Shores philosophy. By providing "on-the-ground," high-profile examples of restored natural shoreline habitats, we can promote a new ethic and impart that knowledge to Lake Cowichan youth interns, who will be directly employed in the project's 3-year delivery.

The energy, passion and commitment of 'involved youth' is what distinguishes this project from so many others. It will be a great hands-on training and education opportunity, exposing Grade 12 students to the science and practice of habitat restoration while helping neighbors and communities become more environmentally aware and responsible.

To that end, BCCF is pleased to offer \$5,000 of in-kind service to the project, mainly through my direct volunteer involvement and that of Peter Law, a retired Ministry Habitat Biologist with special expertise in Vancouver Island lake biology, fish species and lakeshore protection and management protocols.

BCCF also commits to working closely with you to broaden our partnership base for the project, and hopefully accelerate the pace of positive change around the lake over the next three years.

We look forward to the project's favourable review/approval by the Eco Action Program and an early start on logistical preparations in the New Year.

www.livingrivers.ca



Living rivers
GEORGIA BASIN
VANCOUVER ISLAND

Yours truly,

J.C. Wightman

J.C. Wightman, RPBio.
Senior Fisheries Biologist
Living Rivers – Georgia Basin/Vancouver Island
BC Conservation Foundation
P.O. Box 7
#1 – 7271 Lantzville Road
Lantzville, BC V0R 2H0

www.livingrivers.ca

Pacific Salmon Foundation
300 - 1682 West 7th Avenue
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V6J 4S6

t. 604.664.7664 www.psf.ca
f. 604.664.7665



April 16, 2013

CSP 13S 014

Gerald Thom
Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
9254 Youbou Rd
Youbou, BC
V0R 3E1

Cowichan Lakeshore Stewards Project

Dear Gerald:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Pacific Salmon Foundation, we are pleased to advise that Community Salmon Program (CSP) funding has been approved in the amount of **\$1,500** to support your project. CSP funds are raised through Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Recreational and Commercial Fishing Salmon Conservation Stamp Program and PSF dinners, auctions and donations from throughout the Pacific region. As well, a portion of this grant has been contributed by TimberWest.

To release your grant, the attached Release of Grant/Disclosure form needs to be completed and returned to us. If you need to make changes to the project, its objectives, workplan or approved expenses as described in your application please contact us prior to spending the PSF grant portion of your budget.

Please be sure to include the PSF logo on the signage produced by this project.

We ask you to refer to your Application Agreement that requires the submission of your Final Report, with original invoices for PSF authorized payments, within 60 days of the completion of your project or at a maximum within 12-months of the grant period which commences upon your receipt of the grant. Final Report forms are available on our website at www.psf.ca.

The Pacific Salmon Foundation requests acknowledgment of our support and of our program funder(s) named above in your project signage, promotion and media articles. PSF will be publicizing CSP funding results in our media releases and publications, and you may be contacted by media agencies in this regard to discuss your project.

We applaud you for your initiative and trust that this contribution will assist in securing the long-term success of your organization's efforts.

If you have questions or need additional assistance please contact Jim Shinkewski, Salmon Programs Coordinator, at 604-664-7664.

Sincerely,

Brian Riddell
President and CEO

Bee Greenway
9814 Miracle Way
Youbou, BC V0R 3E1
October 30, 2013

(250) 715-5484
beeumz@hotmail.com

Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
Box 907
Lake Cowichan, BC V0R 2G0
Attn: Gerald Thom

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for this opportunity to help restore the lakefront at Youbou. I hope that your society is successful in obtaining funding to enable property owners like myself in undertaking this project.

My home at Youbou is lakefront. The only trees on the property when I bought 18 years ago were along the lakefront atop a bank. At that time a rough shale rockwall was placed in front of them, to try to keep the root areas safe from erosion.

About 5 years ago, as that was disintegrating (poor choice of materials), I had a granite rockwall constructed, following advice from a biologist and in compliance with the CVRD guidelines, forms duly filled out, etc.

However, the erosion of my lakefront has continued. The waves have scooped out more of the pebbles annually, and last year was a startling event...pebbles are gone and its down to hardpan. I did not know what to do about it. If the wall goes, so do my trees.

Thanks to a visit from CLRSS members, I now know there is a remedy, ie restoration using plantings and considerable new material over the hardpan. However it is quite expensive and very labour-intensive. I am very keen about trying to restore my lakefront to a more erosion-resistant state, and to preserve my beautiful trees.

I would be deeply grateful if the CLRSS is able to secure funding to do this. And of course I would work alongside whomever, as a team member if that is possible.

Respectfully submitted

Bee Greenway

Hello Gerald:

Regarding : EcoAction Community Funding Application:

My wife and myself wish to participate in the above noted program to perform any necessary restoration work on our waterfront property.

Street location of our property is 9808 Miracle Way Yubou B.C. VOR 3E1

Legal description: Parcel Identifier 016-771-605 . Lot 22 Block 5

Cowichan Lake District Plan 51348.

Our frontage area on Cowichan Lake is 28.189 meters.

We look forward to having a review of our current waterfront shoreline and riparian area and working forward to protect this area for the future health and welfare of Cowichan lake.

Regards

George deLure.

Lake Cowichan and River Stewardship Society

Attn: Gerald Thom

This letter is to confirm that I am very interested in working with you and your team to re plant my beach front property located at 9188 Meades Creek Road. My beach front is 60 feet wide.

Sincerely

Dean Woods

To Gerald Thom (EcoAction Community Funding Program),

My name is Gina Moore, I live in Nanaimo at 1670 Kelsie Road. Just over a year ago I purchased property on Lake Cowichan as a vacation home and getaway. The address of my property on the lake is 9264 Youbou Rd. I'm definitely interested in restoration of my 175 foot shoreline area and very much in favour of the EcoAction Community Funding Program. I love the outdoors, and appreciate wildlife and I feel it's up to us to do what we can to maintain and support the delicate balance that so often can be disrupted.

To have knowledgeable trained people that know what needs to be done in that area I feel is the best way to go. If you have any other questions or need information please call.

Thanks,

Gina Moore
250 739 0591



Unit 101 – 9706 – 188th Street
Surrey, BC V4N 3M2
Tel: 604-882-9988 Fax: 604-882-9933
Toll Free: 1-888-881-BCWF (2293)
officeinfo@bcwf.bc.ca www.bcwf.bc.ca

July 2, 2013

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Re:

Grant Application by Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society

The BCWF supports the grant application by the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society for their proposal to initiate the Lake Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Program. This involves working with the local high school to educate students about the shoreline habitat and ecosystem and then involving the students in the replanting of several shoreline areas identified as needing restoration.

The BC Wildlife Federation believes this kind of program while educating young people about the importance of ecosystem management and inter-dependence, is particularly important in any community and is indeed a wise use of conservation based funding. The Lake Cowichan ecosystem is also important in rearing habitat for Chinook and Coho Salmon. This habitat forms an important link to the highly productive, National Heritage Cowichan River, and the important recreational fisheries it supports.

Yours in conservation,

BC WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Bill Bosch, President

BB/cwm

cc: Mr. Rick Mayor, Vice-President, BCWF
Mr. Al Martin, Director of Strategic Initiatives, BCWF
Ms. Cheryl Johnson, Director of Operations, BCWF
Mr. Ted Brookman, Chair, BCWF Inland Fisheries Committee
Mr. Paul Rickard, BCWF Representative, South Coast Sport Fishing Advisory Board

MEMORANDUM



To: Gerald Thom
From: Dave Lindsay, RPBio.
CC:
Date: October 25, 2013
Re: Support for Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship

Gerald,

Please accept this support letter for the Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project.

TimberWest has had a relatively close working relationship with the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society since their inception a few years ago and I personally have enjoyed being the lead TimberWest contact person with this group. The following is a list of cooperative programs that we have enjoyed with the Stewardship Society and with Cowichan River enhancement:

- Working on the steering committee for the recent Cowichan Lake Shoreline workshop.
- Working on the Technical Advisory Committee of the Cowichan Water Board including the Riparian Sub-Committee and the formulation of Lake Shoreline conservation goals.
- Working cooperatively through the Cowichan Watershed Stewardship Roundtable.
- TimberWest was involved in the partnership that successfully rehabilitated Stoltz Bluffs. We donated all the rip-rap for the project (approximately \$75,000 worth of rock) but due to the close proximity of TimberWest land and a suitable rock quarry, we were able to significantly decrease the hauling costs of all rock for this multi-million dollar project.
- We have cooperated with and funded several educational and signage projects around Lake Cowichan by the Stewardship Society through our funding partnership with the Pacific Salmon Foundation.

TimberWest is the largest landowner in the Cowichan watershed and has a significant interest in all land use and natural resource issues. The Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society is a strongly motivated group that stresses cooperative working relationships and a deep respect for land and water use. We fully expect to be involved with all aspects of this program including the donation and facilitation of access and mapping needs, as well as financial commitments made through Pacific Salmon Foundation partnerships.

David J. Lindsay, RPBio.
Fish and Wildlife Specialist
Environment and Resource Integration
TimberWest Forest Corp.
LindsayD@TimberWest.com

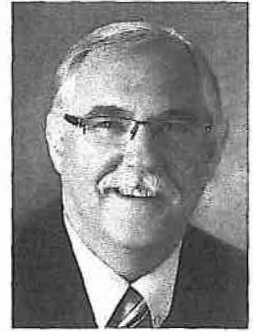
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Telephone 250.387.3655
Fax 250.387.34680
bill.routley@leg.bc.ca



**Province of
British Columbia
Legislative Assembly**

Community Offices:

273 Trunk Road
PO Box 599
Duncan, BC V9L 3X9
Telephone 250.715.0127
Fax 250.715.0139
Toll Free 1.877.715.0127



Bill Routley, MLA
(Cowichan Valley)

October 25, 2013

Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
PO 907
Lake Cowichan, BC
V0R 2G0

RE: Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project

Please accept this letter of support for Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society in their application for Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project.

The following is the project summary...

The Cowichan Lake shoreline habitat is critical to water quality, resilience to climate change, and biodiversity conservation. This habitat integrity is seriously threatened by recreation, residential development, and upland land use practices identified during the Foreshore Inventory Mapping (2012) and Shoreline Habitat Management Workshop (2013). The data clearly shows we continue to lose this critical habitat as 92% of the shoreline is privately owned and experiencing serious degradation due to cumulative impacts.

CLRSS has joined forces with the Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB), the B.C. Conservation Foundation (BCCF), and local stakeholders to develop a plan and set targets to reverse the current trend of shoreline destruction. By 2020, with your support, we will protect 35% and restore 3% of the Cowichan Lake shoreline.

Our non-confrontational, grassroots, stewardship approach will engage youth, volunteers, and private landowners in shoreline education, protection, and restoration to maintain shoreline ecological values. This program will provide exponential growth of stewardship activities to protect and restore critical habitat without huge expenditures for enforcement and acquisition. By combining the vast experience of valley volunteers with the vitality of youth we will create summer student employment, restore lakeshore habitat, and protect the shoreline

Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Telephone 250.387.3655
Fax 250.38734680
bill.routley@leg.bc.ca

Community Offices:

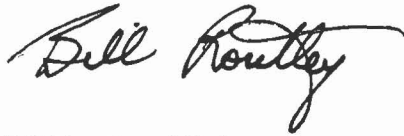
273 Trunk Road
PO Box 599
Duncan, BC V9L 3X9
Telephone 250.715-0127
Fax 250.715.0139
Toll Free 1.877.715.0127

ecological values which prevent erosion, maintain water quality, and support ecological diversity.

I am in full support of this project. I encourage your Ministry to seriously consider their application. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Thank You for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Routley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Routley, MLA
Cowichan Valley

Ottawa

Room 1160, La Promenade
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Tel: (613) 943-2180
Fax: (613) 993-5577
Email: jean@jeancrowder.ca



Jean Crowder

Member of Parliament for Nanaimo – Cowichan
www.jeancrowder.ca

Constituency

101-126 Ingram Street
Duncan, B.C.
V9L 1P1
Tel: (250) 746-4896
Fax: (250) 746-2354
Tollfree: 1-866-609-9998

October 23, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society's (CLRSS) application for funding.

The CLRSS is dedicated to the protection and health of the Cowichan watershed. CLRSS's main goal is to preserve and restore the upper Cowichan watershed by working with community partners. Preservation of the lakeshore riparian area is crucial, as the ecosystems provide a natural filter to protect water quality and provides habitat for a variety of wildlife.

CLRSS is on their way to successfully completing the Saywell Park project, where CLRSS has partnered with the Town of Lake Cowichan to restore riparian areas in the park and demonstrate responsible water access and recreation. CLRSS has encouraged youth involvement in the project and partnered with Lake Cowichan Secondary to offer students experience with: restoration projects, water quality testing, research and boat training.

Future funding will allow the CLRSS to move forward with the Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project (CSSP) and move towards their long-term goal of protecting Lake Cowichan's riparian area. The CSSP will restore 1 km of shoreline and provide protection of 15 km of shoreline over 3 years. The CLRSS plans to combine the experience of valley volunteers and youth to create summer student employment, restore lakeshore habitat, and protect the shoreline ecological values which prevent erosion, maintain water quality, and support ecological diversity.

Furthermore, the CSSP will engage the community and change attitudes regarding the values of riparian areas. The CLRSS's grassroots, stewardship approach will engage youth, volunteers, and private landowners in shoreline education, protection, and restoration in order to maintain valuable shoreline and broaden respect of the riparian area.

I trust that the CLRSS will be successful in its application for funding the CSSP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jean Crowder".

Jean Crowder, MP
Nanaimo-Cowichan

JC/JH CEP 232

What can we do?

1. Leave our riparian areas intact.

Prevention is easier than restoration.

Common changes that can damage riparian health include:

- Clearing vegetation to create beaches, lawns or enhanced views;
- Adding fill, rock, or sand to create beaches and extend property;
- Building docks and boat launches for recreation;
- Building retaining walls for erosion control or landscaping;
- Introducing non-native plants for aesthetics;
- Removing woody debris and aquatic “weeds” for water sports.

2. Minimize impact when accessing the water.

Use only one point of access, build fish-friendly docks, frame views and use gravel pathways.



3. Restore damaged riparian areas.

Let natural re-vegetation take its course or re-establish native plants.

A native plant is one that occurs naturally in a particular region, ecosystem or habitat -- and occurred prior to European contact.

Native plants:

- Are beautiful & low maintenance;
- Provide wildlife with food, shelter, and places to reproduce;
- Help regulate climate, prevent erosion, improve water quality and much, much more.



Do **NOT** collect native plants from the wild; propagated native plants are readily available.

To learn more about native plants and local sources, visit our riparian webpage:

www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca/riparian.htm

4. Respect riparian area regulations (RAR) and avoid fines.

Leave riparian areas intact for erosion control, water quality, habitat protection, coho production and flood prevention.

Any disturbance within 30 metres of the high water mark of lakes and streams requires contact with local government:

Riparian Habitat Contacts

CVRD Development Services

(250) 746-2620

Town of Lake Cowichan

(250) 749-6681

Provincial Government (Environment)

(250) 751-3100

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

(Habitat Enquiries)

1-866-845-6776

For online contacts or more riparian habitat information, visit our riparian webpage.



Who are we?

The Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society (CLRSS) is a volunteer group of caring neighbours dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the Cowichan Lake Watershed. The CLRSS Riparian Education Project promotes a “stewardship first” culture, and acts in cooperation with landowners to protect and enhance riparian areas on private land.

Did you know?

- **92% of the lake shoreline (including forest land) is privately owned.** Owners of ecologically important habitat are responsible to preserve publicly owned resources -- the fish and the water -- now and for future generations.
- **70% of the shoreline of Cowichan Lake is still in an undisturbed state and needs protection.** This land and vegetation adjacent to watercourses (the riparian zone) is essential for water quality, fish stocks and wildlife, as well as flood and erosion control.
- **The shoreline of Cowichan Lake is a nursery for up to 300,000 wild coho salmon annually.** It also contains self-sustaining populations of cutthroat, rainbow, dolly varden & kokanee.

How can CLRSS support you?

- Visit our **riparian webpage** to learn more about the importance, protection, enhancement and regulation of riparian areas.
- Request a **site visit** to evaluate your riparian area.
- Visit **healthy riparian shorelines** that are recreation friendly.
- **Become a member!** Meetings are held locally in Lake Cowichan for details, call us or visit our website:

Gerald Thom
(250) 749-7203

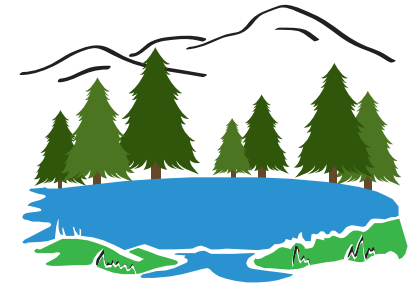
www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca



Join us as we work together for the healthy future of Cowichan Lake.



This brochure has been supported by the Pacific Salmon Foundation.



**Cowichan Lake & River
Stewardship Society**

Riparian Insights



Oxford says: *“The healthy future of Cowichan Lake is in our hands!”*

www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca/riparian.htm