



Boundary Forest Watershed Stewardship Society

The Restoration Project

Citizens of the Boundary have been impacted by climate change and deforestation in a disastrous way. As a result, we are undertaking strategic action, getting prepared, and developing a plan. It is a bold, bright plan that is aimed not only at protecting us from fires, floods, drought, and climate change but also at providing benefits and jobs for the long term.

It is a courageous plan without precedent in BC. Our work lies in energetically creating something new that can serve as a pilot project for other BC communities faced with similar challenges. We are endeavoring to lay the groundwork for the success of the plan by collaborating with stakeholders and government, by researching opportunities, and by exploring alternatives.

There are going to be some tough transitions: social, economic, environmental, and cultural. But change is coming to our community and the planet - it is inevitable. We can either take the reins and steer the change in the direction we want it to go or we can have it forced on us in painful, devastating ways.

Our Goals

Restore and maintain ecological integrity in our watershed and create long-term jobs by implementing an eco-system based conservation plan.*

- Create a framework for management of the Boundary forests and watershed that includes a mandatory citizen-shared decision-making process.
- Protect:
 - Our homes from future flooding and wildfires
 - Our farms and water supply from the effects of drought
 - Habitat and food supplies for wildlife
 - Biodiversity
 - Long-term local jobs
- Mitigate the effects of climate change on our forests, wildlife, towns, farms, water supply, and local economy.
- Create long-term revenue flows for the local economy that result from a transition to ecologically sustainable forestry jobs and value-added end products.

How We Plan to Achieve Them

Combine expert research with community action to actualize a watershed that is:

1. Co-managed by the citizens whose lives are sustained by its good health
2. Co-managed using a framework that embodies the principles of sustainability, ecological governance, and social and ecological resilience.*

* We are exploring possible alternatives such as eco-system based conservation plans, structure based silviculture, structural complexity enhancement, the application of Indigenous practices and knowledge, and any other frameworks that focus on ecological integrity. For the time being, we are using the term Eco-system Based Conservation Plan.

The Plan: A Three- phase process (timeframe unknown)

Phase 1: Initial Report (2019-2020) & Laying the Groundwork

- Generate an initial report to use as a starting point to move towards the eventual implementation of a citizen managed, eco-system based conservation plan (EBCP).
 - The two priorities of EBCP:
 - Protect and restore ecological integrity including the natural composition, structure, and function of the eco-system.
 - Provide for balanced human and non-human use.
- Report will describe the state of the Boundary watershed and give initial recommendations for how to repair it, including:
 - A discussion of economic alternatives to the current industrial forestry model; investigation of value-added profit models and how to transition to long-term jobs – hold discussions with local government and agencies to move the local economy towards diversification
 - Initial description of the condition of watershed and forest (maps, data, photos)
 - Creation of an introductory outline for an EBCP (maps, ecologically sensitive areas, human use areas, areas to protect, wildlife corridors, riparian zones, timber zones, areas to restore, areas to log and not to log, where to minimize logging, identify rare and at risk species, etc).
 - Descriptions of possible management models and case studies of BC communities that already have decision-making authority in forest management.
- Collect and correlate data from existing studies including the Kettle River Riparian Threat Assessment.
- Commence building a database of ecological, social, economic, and management data in order to:
 - Increase our understanding of the problems, solutions, and opportunities for managing our watershed using an ecological governance model (including possibilities under the new Water Sustainability Act).
 - Identify stakeholders and/or partners (including industry)
 - Research practices for community management of our forests to learn what works and what doesn't work, particularly noting how citizens are able to participate in restoration projects and management decisions. This will help us formulate our own distinct path.
- Build community support through an education campaign.
- Collaborate with local and provincial government and other stakeholders to forge a path towards solutions, best practices, and opportunities.

Phase 2: Design the Eco-system Based Conservation Plan & Create a Path to Local Governance

Phase 3: Establish a Citizen's Committee & Implement the Eco-system Based Conservation Plan (timeframe unknown)