

Kwatna River Groundwater Channels

Objectives

To access to existing, and constructed off-channel habitat along sections of the Kwatna river and tributaries.

FRBC Region/ MELP Region/ MOF Region

Pacific/ Cariboo/ Vancouver

Author

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Proponent

International Forest Products, Mid-Coast Division, Hagensborg, B.C.

Watershed

Kwatna

Location

The Kwatna River is located within the Mid-Coast Forest District of the MELP Cariboo Region, approximately 55 kilometers west of the community of Bella Coola.

Introduction

The Kwatna River is an exceptionally productive coastal river. Its major production species are coho and pink salmon but steelhead, chum and chinook salmon also inhabit it. Extensive logging has been conducted throughout the valley. Some of these past logging practices have led to degraded fish habitat.

Assessments and Prescriptions

In 1999 prescriptions were developed primarily to access more off-channel habitat. Prescriptions were based on overview information collected in 1997 (Grizzly Holdings Ltd.) and Level 2 FHAP prescriptions developed in 1998 (LGL Ltd.) International Forest Products (Neil Osborne) completed the design for fish ladders, and LWD placements.

Rehabilitation Work

Rehabilitation works focused on several areas of the Kwatna River and tributaries. LWD placements were undertaken in a few select areas of the mainstem to evaluate their function and practicality. These will be assessed in 2000 and more work undertaken if deemed of value

In Motomaster Creek a 350 square meter groundwater channel was constructed. Excavation occurred within select areas of a small natural spring. Cover components will be considered in upcoming years.

Access to a beaver impoundment was constructed on a tributary to Slousiska Creek. Construction of a juvenile ladder system opened approximately 100 square meters of off-channel habitat.

Cost Summary

Labour	\$22,500
Machine/Aircraft/Vehicle	\$54,000
<u>Camp Costs/Supplies</u>	<u>\$14,500</u>
Total	\$91,000

Outputs

Construction and access projects will provide for 450m² of rearing habitat.

Proposed Work

In 2000 the following works are proposed:

- monitoring and development of old and new channels along the Kwatna and its tributaries
Project monitoring in 2000 will include:
- estimating juvenile salmonid use in the off-channel habitat constructed in 1998 and 1999
evaluation of the mainstream LWD placements

For Further Information, Contact:

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Figure 1: Kwatna River groundwater channel and complexing.



Kwatna
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