



BONANZA WETLANDS ENHANCEMENT PROJECT PROJECT SUMMARY & TIMELINE October 2019

INTRODUCTION

The wetlands and riparian areas in the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (BBC) between Slocan and Summit Lakes are complex and sensitive ecosystems with high biodiversity values. These wetlands support a wide range of critical ecosystems and habitats that contribute significantly to the hydrologic functioning of the Slocan Watershed. The historic Canadian Pacific Railway berm that runs the length of the BBC's valley bottom acts as linear dam and that over time has negatively impacted the dynamic wetland-riparian-floodplain system of Bonanza Creek and its tributaries. The BBC is recognized as a vital wildlife corridor connecting the Valhalla and Goat Mountain Ranges.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project involves the remediation and restoration of three wetland complexes along Bonanza Creek that have been identified for conservation. Site-specific solutions will be tailored for each of the target areas taking into account such factors as current hydro flows, known Species at Risk (SAR), established habitats, existing vegetation coverage and presence of invasive species. The wetland complexes and estimated wetland area subject to restoration are identified as:

- Hunter Siding (2.3 hectares)
- Upper Bonanza (12.9 hectares)
- Summit Lake (South) Wetland (2.1 hectares)

OBJECTIVES

Each of the wetland areas has the following primary restoration objectives:

- Re-establish hydrologic connectivity between the wetland and riparian zones
- Improve existing SAR and sensitive aquatic habitats
- Re-establish native vegetation to improve coverage and biodiversity of plants in the riparian zone

TIMELINE and PROJECT MILESTONES

Project Phase	Timing	Milestones
Planning: Detailed Design and Approvals	Aug. 2019 to Apr. 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration Construction Plans • Provincial Permits Filed for Approval
Implementation: Site-Specific Wetland Restoration and Construction Activities	May 2020 to Apr. 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watercourse Permits Approved • Completed Primary Restorations • Vegetation Planting Plan
Evaluation and Monitoring: Vegetation remediation and plantings; Assess and complete restoration activities to date.	May 2021 to Apr. 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed vegetation plantings • Project Evaluation & Measurement • Ongoing Monitoring Program

RESOURCE PLANS and FUNDING

The Resource Plan for this project will draw upon a team of professionals ranging from ecologists, hydrologists and habitat specialists to restoration construction crews, machinery and equipment. The total budgeted cost of the project and remediation for all three wetland sites is \$342,000. Grant funding for the Project has been provided by the Columbia Basin Trust (Ecosystem Enhancement Program) and through SLSS's partnership with the Kootenay Conservation Program under Environment & Climate Change Canada's Fund for Nature. Other SLSS partners directly involved in the Project include the Okanagan Nation Alliance and the North Slocan Trails Society.