

Cumulative Effects Assessment
Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Working Group and Guests
Draft Meeting Summary as at June 26, 2017

Meeting date: June 19, 2017 1:00PM to 3:00PM

Location: Columbia Shuswap Regional District office, Salmon Arm, BC

Present (Shuswap Regional Trails Strategy Working Group):

Aaron Arnouse, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band
Sutra Brett, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Sue Davies, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Wes DeArmond, BC Parks
Anita Ely, Interior Health Authority
Stuart Lee, Splatsin
Ian McLellan, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) (part of MFLNRO*)
Robyn Hooper, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Marshall Kronewitt, Carl Kuster Mountain Park
Chris Larson, City of Salmon Arm
Phil McIntyre-Paul, Shuswap Trail Alliance
Craig McLean, MFLNRO* (to 1:45PM)
Ryan Nitchie, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Mike Overend, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA)
Stephanie Snelling, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA)
Louis Thomas, Neskonlith
Brad Vickerson, Shuswap Offroad Riding Enthusiasts (SORES)
Andrew Walker, MFLNRO* (to 1:45PM)
**Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations*

Present (other guests):

Jeremy Ayotte, Consulting Biologist
Paul Demenok, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Lana Fitt, Salmon Arm Economic Development Society
Luke Gubbels, Canoe Forest Products
Joe Johnston, Browne-Johnston Land Surveyors
Larry Morgan, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator, recorder)
Randy Spyksma, Forsite Consultants
Rob Udy, Landmark Solutions
Barry Wilson, CE Analytics (by teleconference)

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, and introductions were made. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.

2. Context

Phil McIntyre-Paul provided the context for considering cumulative effects assessment as a partnership approach in the Shuswap watershed. He described the use of an environmental screening

tool at a small scale, but needing decision support at a larger scale to make informed decisions about land and resource development across all sectors. At the November 30, 2016 Shuswap Trails Roundtable meeting, the proposal for pursuing cumulative effects assessment was not approved, but it was agreed that the Shuswap Trails Roundtable should pursue and champion the concept, seek buy-in and partners from other sectors who would benefit.

3. Land and Resource Management Decisions Made

Participants noted the following kinds of decisions that they make:

- Management of large game species; balancing conservation, First Nations' needs, hunting
- Timber values - forest composition, age, species, piece size, volume, scheduling for timber harvesting, silviculture and other treatments
- Road systems - locations, maintenance
- Recreation sites and trails - impacts of other resource development activities on values associated with recreation sites and trails
- Local government parks and trails - establishment, maintenance of them
- Local government development - sewage treatment, new development, re-zoning
- Health impacts of different activities; social and community perspectives
- Economic development strategies - assessing historical and future strategies and scenarios; assessing investment opportunities; taking a sector approach to assess highest return on investment

4. Collective Information Needs

The following collective information needs (things that multiple partners might be interested in) were teased out of the discussion:

- How the land in the Shuswap is managed for a variety of values
- Habitat status for wildlife; wildlife population numbers and status
- Downstream impacts of forest management activities
- Water, watershed planning, drinking water source protection, impacts of development and other activities on water quality
- Accurate, relevant local data and not academic, non-local information
- Data that is pooled in one centralized location
- Climate change impacts on the Shuswap and impacts on infrastructure (culverts, bridges, etc)
- Emergency response (floods, interface fires, etc.)
- Investment opportunities for land uses/sectors, assessing the highest return on investment
- Identifying growth or population "ceilings"

5. Current Use of Cumulative Effects Assessment

Mike Simpson gave a short presentation on behalf of Eric Valdal, Section Head, Cumulative Effects and Landscape Level Stewardship, MFLNRO who was unable to attend. There is an interim cumulative effects framework approved; BC government's approach has been value-centred; there are provincial values, and some additional ones in the Thompson-Okanagan region; local use of CE has supported government to government planning, major project reviews, and resource management direction.

Barry Wilson gave an overview of Secwepemc use of cumulative effects tools, on behalf of Dave Nordquist, Adams Lake Indian Band, who was unable to attend. Cumulative effects assessment has been undertaken on numerous initiatives, including assessing impacts of a proposed mine, highway twinning, timber supply review, across many Secwepemc communities.

Jeremy Ayotte noted that the Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology is considering a workshop within the next year on status of cumulative effects assessment and tools.

7. Next Steps

No partnerships were identified from the meeting, however it was suggested to continue the conversation, connect with MFLNRO and others.